

**OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

**A list of local businesses open during lockdown**



**High Street home is dampner for Oban family**



**Trolley dash triumph for beauty therapist**

# Head teacher's appeal over classroom places

by Ellis Butcher  
ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk



An Oban school has come under pressure to accommodate more children during the winter lockdown.

Rockfield Primary School has reported that requests for places at its hub have jumped from 20 last summer to 80 this time around.

Head teacher Caroline Fothergill has now appealed for parents and carers to consider if their child really needs a place in school.

Vulnerable children and those children of 'key workers' are allowed to attend.

But public service union Unison Scotland has already called for greater clarity on the definition of key workers saying some employees are in the dark about the status.

Although no reason was given for the sudden increase at Rockfield Primary School, there have been national reports that some employers are telling staff they are 'key

**'In the summer we had a maximum of 20 children...we have seen a massive increase in requests for places.'**

workers' – heaping pressure on parents to get their children back into the classroom.

In the post on the school's Facebook page, Mrs Fothergill wrote: 'We need to make you aware of the concerns we have regarding the number of families who have requested a place in school during the period of school closure.'

'We have a total of 80 children who, according to the information provided by parents/carers, require a place.'

'In the summer we had a maximum of 20 children attending and as you can see we have seen a massive increase in requests for places.'

Continued on page two.



## Food parcels offer more 'Hope' to community

Despite the current lockdown, Hope Kitchen's doors are open – for food parcels at least. Staff and volunteers want everyone in Oban and across Mull and Iona who may be struggling financially to know they are still providing food parcels to anyone – individuals and families – in need. Full story, turn to page five.

## Vaccination plan in the pipeline

Plans to vaccinate the wider community against Covid-19 are currently being looked at by Argyll and Bute Health and Social Care Partnership.

Chairman of the Argyll and Bute Integration Joint Board Kieron Green said: 'It is anticipated that as the Covid-19 vaccine rollout continues there will be partnership working with GP surgeries across Argyll.'

'This will build on the successful campaign for delivering the flu vaccine in the autumn. Locations will be confirmed in due course as further stocks of the vaccine become available.'

## HIMDF cancelled for second year

Organisers of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival (HIMDF) have decided to cancel the event for the second year running.

Covid-19 restrictions have once again put paid to plans to stage any kind of music or dance events in the near future.

Last year the festival suffered its first cancellation in 36 years.

Organisers are now concentrating on making the 2022 festival one to be remembered.



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# Oban headteacher's plea after demand soars for pupil places

Continued from page one.

She added: 'Government guidance indicates that numbers in school should be kept to an absolute minimum and be limited to the children of parents/carers who are critical key workers and the very vulnerable.'

She said the emergence of the new variant of Covid-19 meant reopening schools would not be safe. 'Please consider very carefully if you have any other option available to you in terms of childcare. In addition, the authority's position is that if there is an adult at home, then your child should not attend school,' she wrote.

'Under no circumstances should you bring your child to school if you are not on shift. Please only use this facility if you really have no other option. We need to ensure that places are limited to those who are in critical key worker roles and who have no other options, as well as those children we consider to be very vulnerable.'

The school is now carrying out a 'scrutiny process' to monitor numbers and attendance.

UNISON Scotland says some

local authorities are reporting an increase of up to 60 per cent on the numbers of people applying for key worker status to send their children to school.

Oban councillor Kieron Green, depute policy lead for education, also supported the school's call, saying: 'It's important the hubs are available for those who really need them to ensure we can keep important services running locally. If there are alternative childcare arrangements, I would encourage people to consider those to keep space free for those who might need it more and it will also reduce the chance of spreading the virus.'

Schools are expected to stay closed until February 1, but the Scottish Government will announce the findings of a review on January 18.

Argyll and Bute Council said it had seen an increase in demand at schools across Argyll and Bute – one of the reasons may be due to the 'expansion' of key workers in the government's category three definition.

The Scottish Government

has defined key workers for childcare as follows:

**Category 1** – health and care workers directly supporting Covid response and associated staff. Health and care workers supporting life threatening emergency work, as well as critical primary and community care provision; energy suppliers; staff providing childcare/learning for other category one staff.

**Category 2** – All other health and care workers and wider public sector workers providing emergency/critical welfare services – fire, police, prisons, social workers, courts.

**Category 3** – All workers, private, public or third sector, without whom there could be a significant impact on Scotland but where the response to Covid-19 or the ability to perform essential tasks to keep the country running would not be severely compromised.

Have you tried to secure a place but been declined or are you required to work and have no childcare? Please let us know by emailing [ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ebutcher@obantimes.co.uk)

# Retail therapy just the tonic for Dawn

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



**2021 Tesco Oban trolley dash winner Dawn McBay.**

Beauty therapist Dawn McBay has reasons to be cheerful this week after winning the 2021 Tesco Oban trolley dash competition run through the Oban Times.

Dawn, from Connel, can usually be found working at Saint Saviour Spa and Beauty on Stevenson Street, but is currently stuck at home due to the latest round of Covid restrictions.

Finding out she had won the chance to fill her shopping trolley with up to £200 worth of goods, however, has put a shimmer on her week.

'I had sort of forgotten about it to be honest so it was a lovely surprise when I received the phone call on Monday to say I had won,' said Dawn, who also acts as a sole carer to her mum. 'It has really brightened up my week and given me something to



look forward to.' All Dawn had to do was collect four tokens over four weeks from December 12 and get her entry in by January 9 to be in with a chance to win.

No problem at all to the regular Oban Times reader.

'I get the paper every week, so collecting the tokens

wasn't a problem at all,' she added. Included on Dawn's shopping list are a couple of fillet steaks and some not so healthy treats, while she will also be sharing her good fortune around by picking up some extras for Hope Kitchen and north Argyll's cat charity Small Paws.



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## EWM administrators quiet on 'jobs saved' claims

Administrators acting for Edinburgh Woollen Mill (EWM) have declined to comment on newspaper reports that 'hundreds of jobs' might be saved.

A national newspaper, quoting an unnamed source, reported that FRP Advisory had issued sale contracts to a 'potential buyer' - prompting hopes of a rescue deal.

FRP Advisory is acting on behalf of four subsidiary companies - Edinburgh Woollen Mill Limited, Jaeger, Ponden Home and Peacocks.

It declined to comment on the veracity of the article which has been widely republished.

It is not clear whether any 'saved jobs' refers directly to staff at EWM shops or across its sister brands.

The Edinburgh Woollen Mill shop in Oban closed for good on October 26.

Neighbouring Chalmers reopened, as did the unit at McCaig's Warehouse, but due to the national lockdown non-essential shops have had to close once again.

A notice in Chalmers states it will reopen on Monday January 18 but subject to current government guidance at that time.

# High Street home is a dampener for Rachael

by Fiona Scott  
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An Oban mum has come to the end of her tether and fears the damp problem in her High Street flat is beginning to threaten the health of her one-year-old son.

Rachael Cameron has lived in the two-bedroom West Highland Housing Association property for just over a year and claims that in that time her life has been blighted by mould and damp caused by poor insulation and rotten window frames.

She says that her bedroom, the living room and the kitchen in the property are the worst, while son Jayden's room is only habitable due to a continuous cleaning regime and constant heating which she can barely afford.

'It has been an absolute nightmare,' said the part-time care worker. 'It's not just me, the whole block and surrounding flats are affected. I'm constantly having to clean and spend around £100 per week on heating which still doesn't solve the problem. Jayden is forever coming down with viral infections and has a continuous cough. I even went to get him tested for Covid,



One-year-old Jayden Aitken is oblivious to the problem that mum Rachel Cameron spends most of her week trying to wash away.

just in case, but it wasn't that. I'm convinced the damp in the house is causing it.'

Rachael says she has contacted the housing association six times over the last year but despite having had a visit from a housing officer has been offered no solution to the problem.

'I have now cut my washing to once or twice a week and use a dryer so they can't blame the damp and mould on me. Doing this adds to an electricity bill that is already sky high because I have to have every heater in the house on,



Mould and damp around the windows at the High Street residence.

with most of the heat escaping through poor windows with rotten wooden frames,' she added. 'I had a bag and a jacket in the wardrobe that got mouldy due to the damp

and I was told that it would wash. Everyone in our block is having similar problems with damp and I, for one, am at the end of my tether. I just want out of here now.'

West Highland Housing Association chief executive Lesley McInnes told The Oban Times that she had discussed the issues with her team and that they were open to discussions with tenants who are waiting on work to be carried out.

'We very much appreciate that our tenants have had difficulties with the property, particularly around the window area,' she said.

'We have plans to replace windows over the next year which will make a difference and improve the overall energy efficiency of the property.'

'There has been some delay due to the restrictions. However, we appreciate that our tenants have waited some time and we will discuss with them what we can do to help whilst they are awaiting the work.'

## Concerned elderly residents ask visitors to adhere to Covid rules

A housing association has advised visitors to its sheltered housing complexes to comply with Covid rules after elderly residents expressed concerns, writes Fiona Scott.

Tenants at Ford Spence Court, Benderloch, wrote to Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) between Christmas and the New Year after several requests to a residential visitor, who had travelled from another council area, to wear a mask and keep out of communal rooms currently out of bounds went unheeded.

The complex has been without a warden since March and despite a concerted effort by residents and numerous signs advising on how to minimise risks, some visitors were still disregarding the rules.

One resident told The Oban

Times: 'Most of the tenants and our families have done our best to keep Covid out so it's disconcerting when people come in and blatantly ignore the rules. We have six very vulnerable residents among us and everyone is anxious. In addition, spirits are low because our communal kitchen and lounge are currently closed, which is totally understandable. So when a visitor comes in and makes use of both areas knowing full well they are not supposed to it's quite upsetting.'

ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor confirmed the letter had been received on December 31 and that the issues raised were currently being investigated and would be responded to.

'The association, since the start of lockdown, has provided guidance to our tenants

through a variety of routes,' he added.

'Sheltered housing is not a care home and there is not a 24-hour presence. On that basis, adhering to the guidance is something the association would advise residents and visitors to do.'

Mr MacGregor also defended the association's decision to allow its wardens to work from home, stating: 'During the pandemic the vast majority of ACHA staff, including wardens, have been working from home...to reduce the risk of the spread of Covid-19 to and from tenants and staff. These staff provide tenancy support to our tenants and this was provided via daily telephone checks.'

'Wardens have since been back in to carry out a variety of safety checks in and around the complex and tenants' homes.'

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## Light 'not so' fantastic for Glencruitten Rise residents

Residents in Glencruitten Rise are taking a dim view of out-of-sync street lamps, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Despite numerous calls to Argyll and Bute Council's street lighting department, the lights are still coming on at 8pm and staying on until 2pm the following day – leaving people in the street in the dark for almost four hours – then wasting power the following day.

Michael McKiddie first contacted the council on December 18 to report the fault but it has still not been corrected.

Mr McKiddie said calls have been almost daily since but the council is blaming the delay on staff shortages.

The 87-year-old has also been in touch with councillor Roddy McCuish who says he has been in touch with the council twice now about the matter and still no action.

'It's ridiculous. It's only a 10-minute job for someone to change the time clock.'

'There's quite a lot of older folk who live up here so it's not



A power cut has put street lamps in Glencruitten Rise out of sync, leaving residents in the dark.

good the lights are off when it's dark. With the icy weather we've been having lately, we really need to see what the pavements are like. It could be dangerous. The other worry is security.'

Councillor McCuish said: 'If the council can't do the job themselves, they need to get a contractor in to do it.'

A council spokesperson

said: 'The timer that switches the lights on and off at set times was reset just before Christmas.'

'Unfortunately, there was a power-cut last week which reset the timer to manufacture settings. Our electrician will reset the timer when he is next in the Oban area to attend to other work, which should be soon.'



Some of the crew members of Oban Lifeboat.

## Thanks for keeping us afloat, says RNLI

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban RNLI is saying thank you for the 'overwhelming' support it received during challenging 2020.

Despite it being a year no-one expected and its impact hitting the charity, lifeboat volunteers say the generosity of the community to keep raising vital funds has helped keep it afloat during the pandemic.

Many of last year's fundraising activities were cancelled but, as August saw restrictions ease, fundraisers began holding a regular pop-up shop in the town in a bid to bring in much-needed funds – great support was given to eight of the pop-ups in the run-up to Christmas.

A total close to £3,000 was raised through donations and the collection of Betty's Pots.

Additional funds were generated through the sales of RNLI merchandise and Christmas cards.

Phil Hamerton, Oban Lifeboat's Fundraising Chairman, said: 'It's been a challenging year for fundraising, but the support shown by the public has been incredible. Thank you to everyone who has contributed. We'd also like to thank the North Pier and Mark and Laura of Sea Kayak Oban for hosting our pop-up shop and McCaig's Warehouse for selling our Christmas cards.'

'The generosity of our supporters, as always, extended further as some held their own fundraisers, contributed



Luing's Atlantic Island Centre operations manager Lorraine King with a cheque for Oban's RNLI.

by donation to the station or through a collection box.'

It would be impossible to name everyone, said Mr Hamerton, but they included The Atlantic Islands Centre on Luing that organised a raffle before Christmas raising £66 for Oban RNLI.

The centre's operations manager Lorraine King said: 'As an island community, it's important to support our lifeboat. We hope we never need their help, but we might.'

Children from Park Nursery raised £56 for the lifeboat through a sea-themed activity project.

In October, the station's Fish Supper campaign, backed by local fish and chip shops, restaurants and supporters, saw more than £200 raised.

Further fundraising efforts by the Galley of Lorne and Tralee Bay Fish and Chips were

also gratefully received. Tom Lennox's book, From Trout Fly to a Steam Yacht, documenting the history of Oban's Munro family shipbuilding company has so far raised £545 for Oban Lifeboat. Tom kindly offered to donate all proceeds to the station. The digital book is available through a JustGiving page. Email fundraising@obanlifeboat.co.uk for more details.

A spokesperson for the RNLI crew said: 'The station thanks each and every person locally and further afield who has and continues to support Oban's lifeboat. No matter how big or small, it all makes a difference. Every year the generosity of others ensures that lifeboats around the country can keep saving lives at sea but, as the RNLI's income has been affected by the ongoing pandemic, this has never been more important.'

'We thank everyone for thinking of Oban lifeboat. Not only does this ensure our lifeboat can keep launching, but the support shown helped make 2020 a little easier for our volunteers too. During exceptional circumstances, our crew continue to give up their time to go to sea, as volunteers ashore work tirelessly to ensure the safe operation and running of the station. Without such support and generosity, the RNLI wouldn't exist.'

'We hope 2021 soon offers everyone some form of normality and we hope too that we're able to welcome everyone to our usual station events again soon.'



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# Can you solve the mystery of the lady in the locket?

by Kathie Griffiths  
kgriffiths@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Times readers are being called on to help solve the mystery identity of a lady in a locket dating back to the First World War.

When Newfoundland historian and genealogist Ed Barbour first discovered the tale that involves a locket made of rose gold belonging to a Canadian soldier and coming from J McGilvray & Son jewellers of Oban, he contacted The Oban Times for help.

Inside the locket was a photograph of Sergeant Charlie Reid of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. On the other side



**Sergeant Charlie Reid and the mystery woman in the locket.**

was a beautiful young lady whose identity is unknown.

At that time, the regiment was part of the British Army as Newfoundland was not then part of Canada.

'No-one on this side of the ocean knew who this woman was,' according to Ed, who said the Reid family presumed she was Charlie's sweetheart.

The story surfaced when Charlie's great-great nephew Ralph Reid took the locket in to Diamond Design jewellers

in Newfoundland's capital St John's.

The family has no other record of who the woman in the locket was - no letters, nothing explaining how they knew each other. They have been trying to solve the mystery of the lady in the locket for years now but with no luck.

Charlie was wearing the locket on him when he died at Beaumont Hamel on July 1 1916, aged just 30. It was sent home with his other personal effects to his family.

'One can't help but wonder whether this mystery woman waited for her lost soldier,' said Ed, who is researching the story behind the locket for the

family and is hoping someone in Oban will finally be able to solve the mystery for them.

McGilvray's is no longer in Oban's George Street but in its heyday it had a fine reputation as a quality jeweller, eventually taken over by Martin's Jewellers before the building was bought by a property developer for other use.

Anyone with information on the lady in the locket can email Ed at [ewb1945@gmail.com](mailto:ewb1945@gmail.com)

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## Food parcels give more 'Hope'



Hope food parcel volunteers Jean McLuckie and Beth Campbell.

Oban's Hope Kitchen is reacting to the latest lockdown by serving up more food parcels, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Tier 4 restrictions mean it can no longer open as a community cafe, but it can still nourish people in need.

The confidential food parcel service is open to everyone in the community across Oban and over on Mull or Iona who is struggling financially - whether families or people living on their own.

People needing help can contact Hope directly or referrals can be made from any support organisations.

Volunteers are staffing New Hope at 2 Soroba Road from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday. There is a limited delivery service available but people are encouraged to pick



Hope volunteer Aidan MacLeod picks up twice weekly collections from Tesco supermarket.

up parcels from the premise's back door between 11am and 2pm.

The parcels can cater for

different dietary needs from vegetarians to vegan or people with food allergies such as coeliac disease.

Service manager Catriona Petit said she wanted to get the message out that help is at hand for anyone needing it.

'I worry to think there are people with nothing in their cupboards when we are here and can help. We can be very discreet, people can private message our Facebook page,' she said.

And she added: 'We are in it for the long haul but hope we don't have to be and that things will get better.'

Anyone who needs help or knows of anyone needing help can call Hope Kitchen on 01631 565730, private message its Facebook page or email [obanhopekitchen@gmail.com](mailto:obanhopekitchen@gmail.com)

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# Wildlife detective on sea eagles' trail

by Kathie Griffiths  
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This story of a young male sea eagle in Lochaber is like a TV episode of Long Lost Family or Who Do You Think You Are?, says Mull RSPB officer Dave Sexton.

When this particular eagle landed on a nest in a remote area of Lochaber during lockdown this spring, little did he know he was being watched – remotely.

The nest was rigged with a hidden trail camera, under licence from Nature Scot. When restrictions eventually lifted and the nest-cam could be safely retrieved, the resulting image allowed sea eagle field-worker Lewis Pate from Fort William to read the leg ring.

The bird in question turned out to be G1/56. Lewis thought it sounded familiar so checked back at his ringing records and discovered that by chance he had actually been the one to fit the ring to the eagle when it was just a chick back in 2014.

And so began a detective story to trace the family roots of this now six-year-old mature



Above, Itchy fully grown; and left, Lewis Pate ringing G1/56 in 2014. Photograph: Iolo Williams/BBC Springwatch

Williams/BBC Springwatch

chicks were identified by their tags at intervals over the next few months as they moved away from Mull. Scratchy was last recorded a year later near Spean Bridge having survived his first winter and was found to be feeding on salmon on a Highland river.

But there was no sign of Itchy. Years went by until one day an adult sea eagle with red tags was seen on an island to the south of Mull. Dave and the Springwatch crew set off to find the bird and sure enough were able to confirm it

sea eagle. G1/56 was ringed on Jura during a filming trip with the BBC's Springwatch programme and presenter Iolo Williams. Iolo and Dave Sexton had been on a mission to track down a male sea eagle known as Itchy, who had been ringed as a chick in his nest on the Isle of Mull in 2005. It was during the popular series' first

live outside broadcast from Mull that viewers were introduced to the two male chicks Itchy and Scratchy – named by pupils from Dervaig Primary School – and the parent eagles Skye and Frisa.

Itchy and Scratchy fledged successfully and were also wing tagged with red tags, S for Scratchy and I for Itchy. Both

was Itchy. Even better, he was paired up and they had a chick who was ringed G1/56.

Dave then began to trace the eagles back as far as he could and it emerged that they were related to the matriarch of all sea eagles, known as Blondie, now living in Scotland following their successful reintroduction to Rum starting in 1975. The Norwegian-hatched female raised the first chick to fledge in Scotland for 70 years.

He said: 'Blondie was the most stunning, beautiful and striking sea eagle. It was love at first sight – for me anyway! Her pale blonde head plumage extended down her back and breast and we really have her to thank for the growing population of sea eagles we have today. Without her I think the reintroduced population from Norway would have struggled and maybe even died out.'

'She and her mate were very productive over the next 15 years, including in 1992 when she fledged the Mull Eagle Watch female known as Frisa. She in turn paired up with a male named Skye and they are the pair which featured

in that first live Springwatch with their chicks Itchy and Scratchy. It's like an episode of Who Do You Think You Are? The male G1/56 photographed on the Lochaber nest has some royal sea eagle blood in his veins, an historic lineage tracing all the way back to his great grandmother, Blondie.

'It is likely Blondie died in a fight with another eagle but her legacy lives on to this day. Her daughter Frisa fledged a chick this year and her grandson Itchy did too,' said Dave. 'Maybe next year it'll be the turn of her great grandson G1/56 to fledge his first chick?' he added.

There are now about 150 pairs nesting in Scotland. The award-winning Mull Eagle Watch project, managed by Mull and Iona Community Trust, normally attracts thousands of visitors a year to watch a pair of sea eagles at their nest and has distributed more than £50,000 to good causes on the island. Its usual base is hosted by Craignure Golf Club. It is hoped the project might reopen for part of this year if conditions allow.



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## Woodland car parks and trails remain open for local access

Following the Scottish Government announcement of new lockdown restrictions throughout January, Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) has announced that while its visitor centres will remain closed, most of its car parks, walking and mountain biking trails will remain open for local access.

FLS-managed public toilets will also remain open.

The decision aims to support members of the public in maintaining their mental and physical health and wellbeing as Scotland strengthens its effort to slow transmission of Covid-19.

Simon Hodgson, FLS chief executive, said: 'As we all continue our efforts to limit the impact of the virus and to keep as many people as safe as we can, it's now imperative that we support the Scottish Government's 'stay-at-home' guidance.

'However, we also recognise that it is also important that we all look after our health and wellbeing. That is why we are keeping most walking and mountain bike trails, car parks and toilets open so that people

can benefit from visiting their local woods.

'The current advice is to take your exercise locally, so we would ask that people visit woodlands that are within walking, cycling or wheeling distance from their homes. We understand that there will be instances where young children, older people and less able people will not be able to manage that short walk to their local woods, so we have kept our car parks open to help give them as much opportunity as we can in the circumstances.

'We thank our visitors in advance for behaving sensibly and responsibly, and ask them to follow the latest Scottish Government and NHS advice.'

Forestry and Land Scotland has also reserved the right to close specific car parks if they become over-crowded, present health and safety issues or impose onerous demands on staff.

While most walking and mountain bike trails, car parks and toilets remain open, a small number are closed for routine winter maintenance. Check for notices via the FLS Find a Forest tool.

## Support growing for new Ganavan area group

Ideas are growing for a new group promoting Ganavan's heritage and importance, writes Kathie Griffiths.

Late last year Oban woman Jane Terris put out a call for anyone interested in joining the group, and with whole-hearted support from Friends of Ganavan, the group is now looking for people to come forward and take on roles of

office bearers, from treasurer to secretary and chairperson.

And it wants to hear from others willing to volunteer their time as researchers, historians, environmentalists and anything else to put a plan into action that would make 'a meaningful difference' to the popular leisure and recreational haunt.

Jane says after her appeal,

'an amazing number of people have offered some incredible ideas for Ganavan', including forming a heritage group to promote and protect the natural landscape and historical significance of the area, apply for funding for projects, a mural of a Sunderland aircraft and sound effects in a nod to Ganavan's wartime aircraft

maintenance past. Bringing back huts and a playpark, as well as 24/7 toilets, introducing more picnic tables and benches could also be in the plan, plus more parking spaces, a heritage trail and a community buy-out.

If anyone wants to get involved, contact Jane, Monday to Friday, 5-7pm, on 01631 564274 or email: janeterris@btinternet.com



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### Around Oban

ANDREW SPENCE

editor@obantimes.co.uk

As I write this, we said goodbye to some lovely crisp and frosty weather and a return to, well rain!

What a shame as lots of folk were out and about taking advantage of the bright sunshine and nice walking weather. The cold snap also brought on some lovely displays of frost covered trees, frozen ponds and stream.

This week also sees a return to learning for school children, albeit different to attending school, but everyone seems geared up to learning online. From speaking to various teachers, the schools seem well set up to support them from a distance.

Many people have returned to work and, again, many are working remotely. These two situations are not what any of us want.

We all miss interacting with each other and catching up on what is happening locally. This can add to some mental health issues and it is important we all look out for each other with maybe a wee

### WHERE IS THIS?



text or better still a phone call.

In terms of getting out and about given the change in weather there is no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong type of clothing, as Billy Connolly once said.

Rather than staying indoors all day it might be an idea to get the jackets, gloves, and scarves on and brave the elements. It's amazing how a nice walk or a bit of exercise can make you feel a lot better. Especially when we stay in the beautiful west coast.

Stay safe this week and remember to support your community by ensuring we are all following the latest lockdown restrictions.

Last week's photograph was the building above the Etive Restaurant.

# All together >

# 'Inspiring' champions of

After the very worst of years, the very best among us – from frontline health staff to key community volunteers and charity workers – have been recognised in The Queen's 2021 New Year Honours. Here we spotlight some of the deserving stars that Prime Minister Boris Johnson applauds as "an inspiration to us all".

LAST YEAR brought to the fore a new breed of community champions... including those working in the NHS to treat coronavirus patients, scientists developing effective vaccines and key workers keeping essential services operating.

These "ordinary people" who continue to go above and beyond have been recognised for sterling work delivered in extraordinary circumstances.

The 2021 New Years Honours has recognised champions of sport as well as stars of stage and screen but this year, more than ever, it is ordinary people who have been recognised alongside them.

Among the deserving recipients are leading lights who have battled to save lives and keep the NHS afloat and those who have kept the country smiling by spreading kindness.

The list includes medical experts as well as volunteers working with youngsters, the elderly and those with disabilities. Those working in libraries, education and community arts also received recognition.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "In a year when so many have made sacrifices to protect our NHS and save people's lives, the outstanding efforts of those receiving honours are a welcome reminder of the strength of human spirit and of what can be achieved through courage and compassion."

"The 2021 New Year Honours offer us an opportunity to salute their dedication and recognise many who have gone above and beyond in their contribution to our country."

"As we begin a new year and continue to come together to fight this virus, may their service and stories be an inspiration to us all."

■ For more information on Honours recipients, go to [gov.uk/honours](http://gov.uk/honours)



## JACQUIE WINNING

JACQUIE WINNING'S award "recognises the achievements of everyone" at Forth Valley Sensory Centre following "an exceptionally challenging year".

The 55 year-old from Falkirk was recognised for going the extra mile to manage "wrap-around" services to people with sensory loss during the pandemic.

"COVID-19 has been challenging for everyone, but more so for people with sensory loss. Those with hearing loss face challenges due to face masks and social distancing interfering with their ability to lip read. "Those with sight loss face



significant challenges managing to maintain physical distancing while undertaking essential trips out," explained the MBE recipient.

Jacquie's support included providing Braille copies of virus information, establishing telephone, text and email befriending lifelines to address isolation and producing podcasts providing vital updates. "The impact is that some of the most vulnerable people in society have been incredibly well supported during the most challenging of times. Thanks go to the dedication, enthusiasm and willingness to adapt by our team, volunteers and partners, and tremendous support of our board of directors."

## TAMAS SZAKMANY

CABINET OFFICE confirmation of Dr Tamas Szakmany's award made him "astonished, touched and humbled". The 44 year-old from Newport explained: "I thought I was doing my job like everybody else. I didn't think for one minute it would result in this. I'm really surprised."

Once I was allowed to talk about it, the first thing I said was how fortunate I was to work with this team. "2020 was difficult professionally. Personally, I had many successes. It was a double-edged sword. The MBE is recognition for the enormous effort everyone has made to get us through the first wave. I hope

we have similar success again." The Royal Gwent Hospital critical care consultant, recognised for exceptional service to the NHS, spearheaded Welsh Critical Care Network response during the pandemic, rapidly disseminating information on lessons learnt via traditional and social media platforms.

Filming his personal and professional life, he helped produce an emotional deeply personal documentary "Critical: Inside Intensive Care Coronavirus" episode, broadcasted by BBC Wales and included among American Society of Chest Physicians and Society of Critical Care Medicine teaching materials.



Play your part

# communities honoured



## GOLAM CHOWDHURY

A BRITISH Red Cross refugee support staff emergency responder initially thought his honour announcement email was spam!

Golam Chowdhury was then “humbled” when his British Empire Medal was confirmed. “I had no idea I had even been nominated,” said the 51-year-old from Portsmouth.

“It’s been challenging, both personally and professionally, but I am always amazed by human resilience and community spirit. Watching how people

come together to support each other has been incredible.”

Involved in active front-line response to COVID-19 in Hampshire as a Refugee Support staff member, Crisis Response South East tactical cell weekend coordinator and local Emergency Response, City of Sanctuary and Cycling UK volunteer, Golam received his accolade



for outstanding achievements in healthcare during the virus pandemic. “I don’t do my job – or my volunteering – for praise,” said the father-of-two. “I do it because, if the tables were turned and I was the one that needed help, then I would hope that there was someone out there to support me. “I’d like to dedicate my award to everyone in all communities who are helping others.”

## MICHAEL BRIGGS

A BELFAST community worker is celebrating “the surprise of his life” after being honoured. Michael Briggs’ MBE was rewarded for services beyond the call of duty in the voluntary sector and community.

“Even though we’ve hardly moved out of the office, it’s all been pretty busy,” explained the East Belfast Community Development Agency Executive Director.

“We’ve been managing our COVID programme, buying bulk food to get out to groups we support. We developed a network of groups delivering small packages to people who are



vulnerable, shielding or in financial need.” The 57 year-old continued: “There are so many stories from older people who say ‘it’s just good to know people are thinking about us.’”

Thinking the honour email was promotional, Michael initially “didn’t actually take it seriously”.

He revealed: “I nearly didn’t open it. Then I saw it was from the Cabinet Office. “For me, it’s about the efforts of other people as well.

“So many people have been very supportive over the years. I’m the one who ends up getting the award, but other people have been involved in the success of my work.”

# Play your part



Follow the rules. Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

All together >

OT

# Oban Healthy Options team launches funding campaign

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Oban health and wellbeing charity Healthy Options is launching its most ambitious funding drive to date and needs your help to make it a success.

The 5 to 10 and More initiative invites members of the community to contribute in one of three ways to raise much needed funds to keep the charity running.

■ Set up a direct debit: Direct debits of £5 to £10 or more will quickly add up to sustain the service.

■ Set up a sponsorship page: Pledge to walk 10,000 steps a day for five weeks or more; pledge to increase repetitions by five or 10 or more; pledge to take 10 extra minutes of exercise for five days in the week or more; pledge to walk up and down your stairs five to 10 times or more every day.

■ Become a champion: Can



The Healthy Options team.

you give five to 10 hours or more of your time to be a Healthy Options champion?

**Help**

Speaking ahead of the 5 to 10 and More launch tomorrow, Friday January 15, Emma Grant, project manager and fundraiser for Oban Healthy Options, said: 'As a charity

that has emerged from and supported the Oban and Lorn community for the past 10 years, it is now time for us to ask for your help.

'Every year we rely on funders to provide 200k to deliver our service to our community. On average it costs us £540 per client to deliver our holistic

programme which has very high levels of engagement and success, measured by improvements in physical ability, improved mental health and reduction in reliance on NHS and medications.

'We enable people to become more resilient, offering self-managing through a combination of one-to-one coaching, exercise classes, educational sessions and self-management workshops.

**Partnership**

'Our service is additional to the health service, with whom we work in partnership. This year we are coming back to our community to ask for your support in whatever way possible.'

Oban Healthy Options was set up by volunteer directors in 2010 to deliver a specialist service to support people in the community to live healthier lives.

A front-line team, three full-time and five part-time, of

highly-qualified exercise professionals and social prescribers support more than 400 clients each year referred by health professionals such as GPs, physiotherapists or from other third sector organisations.

During lockdown, the team compiled a range of online resources to help their community.

These consisted of a daily 'Message from Mull', from lead exercise professional Rob Graham, Exercise for the Day and video content that relates directly to the Healthy Options programme, such as Education and Move Well classes.

Dr Gregor Smith, Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, said: 'I have been deeply impressed by the approach and impact Healthy Options has had in its community and attracted to the model of provision it has, working so closely with local health and public services.'

## Charity helping people lead healthier lives

Healthy Options is a registered Charity: SCO41998

To donate please visit our Local Giving page at [www.localgiving.org](http://www.localgiving.org)

For more information about the charity or to contact us:

■ [www.lornhealthyoptions.co.uk](http://www.lornhealthyoptions.co.uk)

■ 01631 565113

■ [info@lornhealthyoptions.co.uk](mailto:info@lornhealthyoptions.co.uk)

■ Diocese Centre, Croft Avenue, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5JJ.



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Find out more at [gov.scot/coronavirus](https://gov.scot/coronavirus)

**STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES**

OT

## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBParents need more clarity  
on school attendance

It seems this lockdown is pushing parents and teachers to the limit as they try to ensure their children do not miss out on their education, while keeping everyone safe.

One the one hand you have the plea from the head teacher of Rockfield Primary School and Kieron Green asking parents not to send their children to school unless there is no alternative yet, on the other hand, the government advice, which has seen the 'expansion' of key workers in the government's category three definition, has left many parents unsure what to do, with many trying to juggle their family responsibilities with work pressures.

It is an extremely trying time for everyone, including our teachers, with everyone doing their best to cope with this challenging situation. While we are sure the government is doing its best, and people's health and safety must take priority, more clarity and support for working parents and teachers would be welcomed.

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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## Time for change to CMAL

I would like to compliment Mull and Iona Ferry Committee on its efforts and wish them every success.

There appears that, within CMAL, there is a strongly entrenched bias against the catamaran solution. Despite having a very successful operation on their doorstep – Pentland Ferries – from which they might learn, a Freedom of Information (FOI) request some months ago requesting copies of any evaluations of the vessel carried out the reply was, almost with pride, that there were none.

The CMAL website carries a question and answer section with the people of Islay for suggestions concerning the next new ferry for their route. The question was asked: 'What about a catamaran?'

The answer was 'not operationally suitable'. This is nonsense. With a new build, anything can be made suitable. I failed, under FOI, to obtain any information on the discussions, if any, leading to this extraordinary conclusion.

It would appear CMAL management are still firmly entrenched in the last century and that they have painted themselves into such a corner that any change would constitute a major loss of face. I suspect that nothing will change until there is a change of management at the top that will introduce modern, fuel efficient, effective services at a reasonable cost and with less weather-related disruption.

The introduction, eventually, of the Glen Sannox on the Ardrossan/Brodick route will, due to her size and the unsuitable harbours, condemn the people of Arran to a further 25 years of weather-related disruption.

The cost of these works and the build cost of the new ships could have bought 98 car ferries, such as Alfred, to replace all the large ferries in the fleet, to where required.

It is a disgrace the Scottish Government continues to throw vast sums at CMAL with no apparent effective oversight. It is time for change. It is our money.

J Patrick Maclean, Oban.

## Action needed at the Rest

The Scottish Government spin machine's use of phrases last week like 'encouraging progress' about the work at the Rest and Be Thankful cannot disguise its failure to make any real progress towards a solution.

At an online briefing session last month, I questioned Transport Minister Michael

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

'S fhada bho nochd an abairt gur "fada seachdain ann an saoghal phoiliteigs!" Uill, ann an Ameireagaidh co-dhiù 's neònach gun robh na faclan riamh cho fìor 's a bha iad bho chionn latha neo dhà, agus chan eil fios de tuilleadh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith an dàn eadar seo agus an t-àm a nochdas an colbh seo, ceithir latha romhainn! 'S iomadh càineadh a bhios ga thoirt air a' mhòit 's an t-àrdan leis am bi an dùthaich sin ga cur fhèin air adhart mar thìr saoranachd agus sàr eisimpleir dheamocrasaidh an t-saoghail, agus tha gu leòr cheistean gun fhreagairt air a' bhàrail aice oirre fhèin. Ach 's gann a b' urrainn dha iomhaigh Ameireagaidh barrachd da-maiste fhulang na thachair nuair a thug gràisg de luchd-taice Dhòmhnail Trump ionnsaigh iorghaileach air Ionad Còmhdhail na dùthcha ann an Washington Diciadain seo chaidh. Chaill ceathrar am beatha an lùib na h-ùpraid nàr, a chaidh a chraoladh beò tro mheadhanan naidheachd, agus dh'fhuiling cliù is creideas na dùthcha feadh an t-saoghail shìobhalta!

Tha iomadh ceist gam faighneachd, agus rim freagairt fhathast, a thaobh 's dè dh'fhàg dìon an ionaid cho lag air latha coinneamh a bha gu bhith cho frionasach. Bha làn-fhios gun robh Trump a' brosnachadh dhaoine gus tighinn gu ruige Washington a thogail fianais-taice dha na casaidean foill a tha e fhathast a' togail, a dh'aindeoin dìth fianais dearbhaidh a bhith aige! Air an latha phìobraich e fhèin agus a mhic an sluagh a bhith "làidir" agus "tìr-ghràdhach", agus caismeachd a dh'ionnsaigh Ionad a'

Matheson on why it says it could take at least five years before it even starts work on a proper solution.

He waffled on about planning permission, environmental impact assessments and compensating landowners. This is ridiculous. I've attended 14 years of meetings on the A83 and all we get is fobbed off with pathetic excuses.

We need a government which will deliver results, not spend all its time plotting to get Independence while ignoring the real issues like a closed A83 which blights people's lives.

Alan Reid, Councillor for Cowal ward.

## Register for May election

On Thursday May 6, the Scottish Parliament

Chòmhdhail. Chaill iad rian an sin, a' briseadh thar luchd-dion a-staigh dhan togalach agus a' fàgail sgrios is milleadh corporra, practaigeach, agus poiliteigeach às an dèidh!

'S e moladh a bh' aig Trump air na daoine sin na b' fhaide air adhart is e 'g iarraidh orra tilleadh dhachaigh, ach nuair a thionndaidh fiù 's cuid de bhuill an riaghaltais aige fhèin na aghaidh airson mar a dh'adhbharaich esan na bh' air tachairt chuir mo liagh car-ma-chnoc is dhìt e iad gu làidir! Cha robh riamh smachd air an duine seo bho fhuair e na Cheann-suidhe air tè de na dùthchannan as cumhachdaiche san t-saoghal. Aig àm dhòmhsa bhith sgrìobhadh seo, dà latha dheug mus gabh Ceann-suidhe ùr thairis, agus a dh'aindeoin 's gum bheil meadhanan-sòisealta air glas-ghuib a chur air ri linn a chuid theachdaireachdan brosgalach, tha Trump gun cheannsachadh fhathast 's chan eil fios dè an tuilleadh cron a dh'fhaodadh e dèanamh mu falbh e. Ma shoirbhicheas le casaid Eucoir an aghaidh na Stàite a chur air cha bhith cead aig Trump a bhith na Cheann-suidhe a-ri-thist, agus saoilidh mòran gur e fìor rud math a bhiodh sin a thaobh fear a dh'ainmich nighean a bhràthar mar "an duine is cunnartaiche san t-saoghal!"

Widely accused of disgracing America's standing in the civilised world, can impeachment prevent further civil and political outrage by Donald Trump, described by his niece Mary Trump as 'the world's most dangerous man'?

election will take place. This is an important election. Everyone should register with the Electoral Registry office to vote.

It does not take long. You need to give your name, address, date of birth, nationality and your National Insurance Number.

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Tricia Grey, Lochgilphead.

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## ARGYLL

### Appeal to stop fly-tipping

An appeal to people not to resort to fly-tipping has been made by Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron and Argyll and Bute Councillor Alastair Redman.

The two elected representatives said there was growing concern about the problem even in small island communities like Jura, where it had been raised at community council meetings.

Mr Cameron said: 'We all appreciate the Covid restrictions may be causing some problems for people trying to dispose of bulky waste items but they absolutely must not resort to fly-tipping. It is unsightly, potentially hazardous and extremely unneighbourly.'

Councillor Redman, Kintyre and the Islands ward, added: 'This is understandably causing a lot of upset locally. I am also concerned that our council waste disposal staff are being left with a growing problem to sort out. It's not fair on them or on anyone else and it really needs to stop happening.'



Donald Cameron MSP, left, with councillor Alastair Redman.



Jura is one island where fly-tipping concerns have been raised.

## ISLAY

### Pavement safety concerns

Kintyre and Islands councillor Alastair Redman is raising safety concerns about ungritted pavements.

Councillor Redman says he has contacted Argyll and Bute Council's roads department about the icy and at times un-gritted pavements in his ward after many concerned constituents have been in contact with him on the matter.

'With all that's going on, whether it's the latest lockdown or a decreasing local authority budget, our hard working roads men are thinly stretched and do not have an easy task.'

'However, when it comes to our pavements and roads, safety must always come first. Our pavements must be safe to walk on all year round,' he said.



Councillor Alastair Redman is raising concern about ungritted pavements in his Kintyre and Islands ward.

## Top marks for Arinagour in national maths competition

Pupils at Arinagour Primary School on the Isle of Coll are the best in the west when it comes to figures and formulas, with the school having just been declared the winner of Sumdog's National Holiday Maths Contest.

The clever youngsters also came first in Sumdog's Argyll and Bute maths competition.

Argyll and Bute Council's policy lead for education Councillor Yvonne McNeilly said: 'Maths is one of the four STEM subjects, alongside science, technology and English.'

'These subjects have a huge impact on our everyday lives - they are all around us. From

riding a bike and cooking, to doing your weekly shop and playing a games console, each and every one of these things is a STEM activity.'

'A large number of career paths rely on these subjects, particularly in Argyll and Bute, so we have invested a lot of time and money into STEM in our schools to ensure our young people are given every opportunity to succeed and are prepared for whichever career path they choose.'

'I'm absolutely over the moon to hear that Arinagour is reaping the benefits of this and

want to congratulate every pupil who contributed to this achievement.'

Sumdog's free online maths contests are a fun way to motivate pupils as they compete against other classes and schools, locally or nationally.

Scores are based on accuracy and questions adapt to each pupil's level so everyone has a fair chance. More than 48,000 classes take part every year, answering more than 3.5 billion questions. It's a great opportunity for pupils to practise maths, have fun and boost their confidence.

## At random

MARTIN LAING

editor@obantimes.co.uk



### Woolly hats off to couple's adventurous life change

A few random thoughts this week, prompted by the turning of the new year and the opportunity in lockdown to dwell aimlessly on life.

First, I was intrigued to read in The Oban Times about the couple who took an enormous leap of faith in abandoning their existence in high-powered city jobs in exchange for a new reality of life on Tiree.

Yvonne and Jason Lancaster now earn a living by making woolly hats from their new 'family' of sheep.

Good luck to them. I can only bow to their willingness to embrace wholesale change. Most of us wouldn't have the courage.

It is, of course, January and that means the New Year's Honours being awarded to all kinds of people from hugely diverse ways of life.

Hats off to all those people whose remarkable efforts have been recognised.

I was, however, particularly pleased for Dee Bradbury, the Oban woman who made international sporting history in recent years by becoming the first female president of a tier one rugby nation. She was awarded an OBE.

Dee is recovering, thank heavens, from a serious cardiac arrest last summer and her honour is well deserved.

### Stay and enjoy what we have

Looking ahead, I have commented before on the pandemic and the amazing resilience of Oban and Argyll businesses to endure dreadful trading conditions. So I would echo the call by MSP Donald Cameron for people to consider holidaying at home when the Covid restrictions are eased.

I certainly have no intention of travelling overseas this year - and did not last year - and will remain within our home area.

We have an absolutely fantastic part of the world to enjoy, with stunning scenery, brilliant people and so much to see and do.

I think many people spent their holiday time on 'staycations' last year, possibly for the first time, and had a real eye-opener at how good the 'product' (business-speak jargon) was.

Let's all make new year resolutions to support our own economy and have a great time to boot by holidaying at home.

What do you think? Send your comments to editor@obantimes.co.uk

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# BUSINESS NEWS

## Businesses in Argyll and Bute offered free webinars

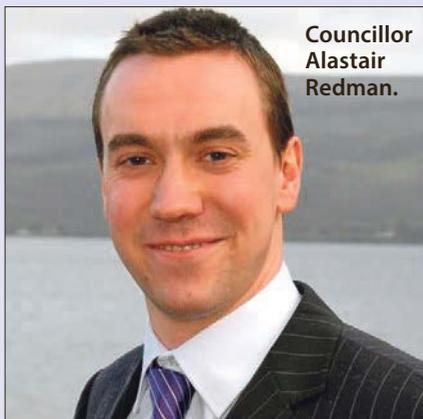
Businesses in Argyll and Bute are being offered a variety of free online webinars to help them through Covid-19.

The webinars are being run by Business Gateway and cover a wide range of topics from adapting tourism business for 2021 to email marketing and website creation.

Argyll and Bute Council's Policy Lead for Business, Regeneration and Commercial Development Councillor Alastair Redman, said: 'The coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on businesses across all sectors, both large and small.

'Many have reported a drop in sales and a number of business owners are, unsurprisingly, feeling a lot of uncertainty about the year ahead. They are looking at alternative ways to plan, change and adapt as we move through lockdown and it's important they know our Business Gateway team is here to help.

'The webinars are free and each one is a useful tool for helping businesses adapt to our current situation. I'd urge people to go on to the website and have a look at what is on offer - [www.bgateway.com/events](http://www.bgateway.com/events)'



**Councillor  
Alastair  
Redman.**

# Sea farms report high fish survival rate and jobs boost

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



Scottish Sea Farms has reported a high fish survival rate and said it created 30 new jobs in 2020 - despite the pandemic.

The company has fish farms across the West Coast of Scotland and on the islands of Orkney and Shetland.

Over the full year, it achieved an average annual survival rate among salmon of 92 per cent across its 42-strong estate, it said.

This brings Scottish Sea Farms' average annual survival rate for the last five-year period to 91 per cent, it added.

Jim Gallagher, managing director, said in a statement: '2020 was a tough year by anyone's standards with the arrival of Covid-19, but particularly so for livestock farmers with animals to be fed and tended to - a duty of care that applies 365 days of the year.

'Thanks to the diligence of our farming teams, the many specialist roles working alongside them and the phenomenal amount of time, energy and focus given collectively to ensuring the best growing conditions, we have successfully safeguarded fish welfare throughout the ongoing disruption and continued to play our part in keeping supplies of highly nutritious, home-grown food flowing.'

He also attributed the 'high survival rates' to the company's long-term strategic investment programme.

'We're working hard every single day to make the best decisions for our fish by adding to our capacity and competence, investing our money where it's needed the most and, crucially, monitoring the results to ensure these investments are delivering the anticipated difference or whether we need to hone our approaches further.'

The company said in 2020 alone, its investments included:

- £1m in the creation of 30 new roles across the



**Jim  
Gallagher,  
managing  
director of  
Scottish Sea  
Farms.**

- £1.9m in a new service vessel, the Fair Isle, to support the company's Northern Isles farms and free up existing vessel the Sally Anne for the mainland region

- £2.3m on the Helen Mary, a hydrolicer and support vessel, to help ensure timely control of sea lice without the use of medicines

- £3.2m new farm at Hunda, Orkney, including a hybrid barge and two dedicated workboats.

It said these investments were in addition to a series of upgrades to existing farm infrastructure, including feed barges, remote feeding systems, predator control netting and environmental monitoring.

Dr Ralph Bickerdike, Scottish Sea Farms' head of fish health, said: 'It's hugely reassuring to see our hard work and ongoing investment deliver 92 per cent average survival amongst a species thought to have a survival rate of just five per cent or less in the wild.

'That said, there's much work still to be done

with regards to understanding and pre-empting the challenges of a changing marine environment - we now know to expect the unexpected.'

One of the company's primary areas of focus is phytoplankton blooms which are attributed to climate change. The company said plankton blooms can 'challenge' fish gills - organs vital to their overall health and wellbeing.

The company revealed that in November 2020, a 'plankton event' contributed to a fall in survival rates at its Lismore East farm in Loch Linnhe.

Survival rates fell from 92 per cent to 63 per cent. This compared to survival rates of 89 per cent and 95 per cent for the same farm's previous two crops, respectively.

Dr Bickerdike said: 'These environmental changes and challenges, whilst isolated, can be devastating to fish stocks and to the farmers who care for them. The more we can learn about what causes them and why, the better able we will be to identify how best to pre-empt and avoid them.'

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# Seafood firms caught in post-Brexit bedlam

Scottish seafood exporters are facing post-Brexit bureaucratic barriers creating queues and confusion, a leading trade body has warned, writes Ellis Butcher.

Donna Fordyce, chief executive of Seafood Scotland - the national trade and marketing body for the sector - has warned of the damaging impact locally for failed exports to Europe.

It follows a Christmas dogged by problems at the UK and French border as a result of the coronavirus lockdown announced across London and the south east.

That was followed by the UK's third lockdown becoming law in the first week of January.

Ms Fordyce said the end of the Brexit transition period had 'unleashed layer upon layer of administrative problems, resulting in queues, border refusals and utter confusion'.

She said: 'IT problems in France meant consignments were diverted from Boulogne sur Mer to Dunkirk, which was unprepared as it wasn't supposed to be at the export front line. There have also been HMRC IT issues on the UK side that need to be resolved as soon as possible regarding certification.'

## Paperwork

'A lack of knowledge and understanding of the required paperwork means some companies are ill-prepared for the new checks, which are taking far longer because of the mistakes being uncovered. When the systems settle down, checks should be carried out on samples from each load but now entire consignments are having to be checked to satisfy requirements.'

Ms Fordyce added that exporters are not transporting 'toilet rolls' but 'high quality, perishable seafood' which has a finite window to get to markets in peak condition.

'If the window closes, these consignments go to landfill,' she said. 'The knock-on effect of export falling over is that the fishing fleet will have little reason to go out. In a very short time, we could see the destruction of a centuries old



Jamie McMillan, managing director of family-run Loch Fyne Seafarms Limited.

market which contributes significantly to the Scottish economy,' she said.

'The problem is no longer hypothetical. It is happening right now. We are working with industry, Government and other bodies to try to mop up the mess to allow trade to flow again. We are doing all we can to help companies get the paperwork done. It will take time to fix - which we know many seafood companies can't afford right now.'

## 'Absolute disaster'

Jamie McMillan, a Tarbet-based shellfish processor and managing director of family-run Loch Fyne Seafarms Ltd, has become a prominent critic of the problems facing the sector.

He called the first week of the New Year an 'absolute disaster'.

Mr McMillan said he had been 'advised' to stop exporting to the EU until the problems at UK transportation hubs and French customs had been solved. Mr McMillan warned that it was probably going to put him 'out of business' as he had to pay the fishermen for the stock he had bought which he could not sell.

These included catches of 'beautiful' live lobster, hand-dived king scallops, brown crab, live langoustines and prawns.

Mr McMillan said: 'Everything we've shipped this week, we've lost. The customers do not want the products. They are still sitting at customs in France.'

'We are going to have to tell our boats to stop fishing.'

'We just can't export to the EU any more until this problem's solved.'

## 'Political choice'

Michael Russell, SNP Argyll and Bute MSP, said: 'The damaging outcome with which we are now faced is the result of a political choice by the UK Government and firmly against the wishes of Scotland.'

'As a responsible government, we are doing everything we can to mitigate against the consequences of the UK Government's actions, but we cannot avert every negative outcome.'

'We know that businesses are already struggling under the burden of Covid-19 and are now faced with the need to prepare for the economic shock of this hard Brexit.'

## Tested

Grant Shapps MP, transport secretary for the UK Government, said on Thursday: 'I continue to urge all hauliers to get tested before getting to the border and only travel if they test negative.'

'To help make this possible, we are offering support to businesses to set-up testing facilities at their own premises, assisting the smooth passage of trucks and goods across the border, as well as setting up testing at information and advice sites around the country.'

## Stay safe and stay connected urges BID boss

Keep calm and carry on supporting each other is the clear message being sent out by Oban's Business Improvement District this week.

With another widely restrictive lockdown upon us, BID4Oban chief executive Andrew Spence said: 'It is disappointing that we start the New Year with another lockdown to contend with and the implications that will have across the town.'

'We have been here before and have learned a lot since March last year. There are many businesses in all sectors open and operating remotely and we would urge everyone to use them safely and in line with current legislation.'

'BID4Oban is committed to supporting the business community and as soon as we receive the latest government advice regarding potential support, we will cascade this to our levy payers.'

Starting this week in The Oban Times, BID4Oban will be publishing a list of services and businesses still operating. BID4Oban will also share this with its partners at Oban FM. There will also be regular updates on BID4Oban's social media and Love Oban Facebook page.

'The most important thing we can do is to stick to the new advice and stay safe,' added Mr Spence.

'Unlike the last lockdown, we have vaccines available and need to look forward to safer Covid-free times.'

If any business would like to get in touch with BID4Oban regarding their operating times or services, please contact them via email, [info@bid4oban.co.uk](mailto:info@bid4oban.co.uk)

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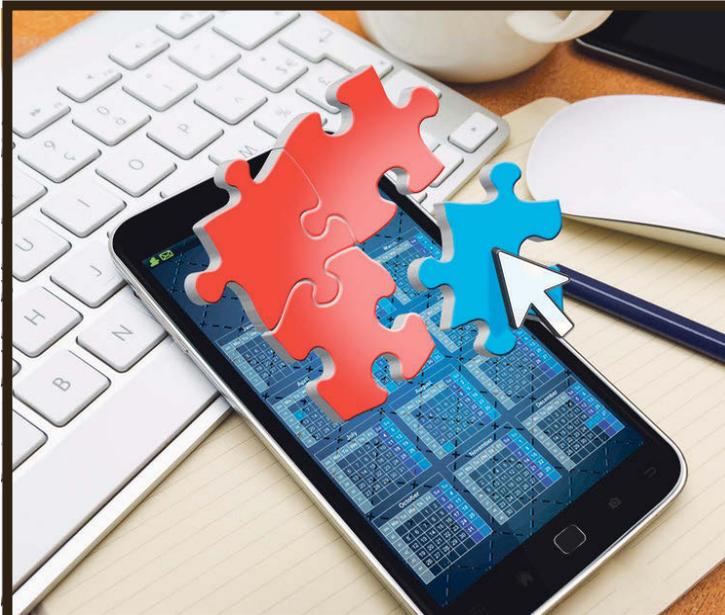
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# A Lismore boating tragedy

## Morvern Lines

IAIN THORNER

ian.thorner@btinternet.com



The Camerons, who owned The Oban Times from 1882 to 1976, were a remarkably talented family.

Waverley, who was drowned off Lismore, was the grandson of Duncan Cameron (1821-1890) the owner of the Waverley Pen company referred to earlier. He made his son – also Duncan – (Waverley's father) editor when he was just 21. Duncan junior, through The Oban Times, backed the crofters when land agitation was at its height.

He stood as the Land League candidate for Inverness-shire in 1885, but withdrew in favour of Charles Fraser-Mackintosh (1828-1901) who was returned as the MP for Inverness-shire for the Crofters' Party.

Lawyer, land developer, politician and editor of one of the most powerful and popular newspapers in Scotland, Mackintosh and Cameron were a powerful duo who, between them, championed Highland history and Scottish Gaelic in Victorian Britain as no other.

Waverley had six siblings of whom (after Duncan Jr) Mary and Flora were the most prominent. Flora (1859-1958) married, firstly, the Rev Dr Robert Blair - a Gaelic scholar and minister of Tarbert, Loch Fyne and, secondly, George Macaulay, an Edinburgh policeman.

After her husband's retirement, the couple moved to Oban where, under the name Flora Macaulay, she replaced her brother as editor of The Oban Times. Flora and her husband lived on the second floor of The Oban Times building on the Esplanade, allowing her to be involved in every aspect of the paper's production. Her editorial style was pro-Gaelic and she supported pipe music and shinty.

In 1947 she established the Macaulay Cup for shinty and remained involved with the management of the newspaper until her death at 99 in 1958. She was eventually succeeded by her nephew Alan E Cameron, who continued to uphold the Cameron family interest and values in reporting life in the West Highlands and islands for almost a century until he gave up and sold to Johnston Press plc in 1976.



Left: Mrs Blair and Her Borzois. 1904, Mary Cameron. Private Collection. Photograph Eion Johnston.

Right: Cameron family portrait, 1887, left to right: Waverley, Mary, Duncan Senior, Alfred, Flora and Duncan Junior. Private Collection: Photograph John Moffat.

**'The Scottish artist Mary Cameron was a woman ahead of her time...however, like many female artists of her generation, her name is now little known.'**

Hanging in Alan's office on the Oban Esplanade was a large, impressive oil painting of Flora in full length with two Borzoi hounds. These dogs, developed in Russia to course and hunt rabbit, foxes and wolves, later became popular as companions for royalty across con-

tinental Europe. Measuring almost six-and-a-half feet square, this striking work was painted by Flora's older sister Mary (1865-1921) whose portrait of her brother Waverley appeared in Morvern Lines on December 31 2020.

Mary exhibited 54 works at the Royal Scottish

Academy between 1886 and 1919 and was renowned for her depictions of everyday Spanish life. In a superb new book called Mary Cameron: Life in Paint (Sanson & Company, Bristol, 2020), Dr Helen E Scott, Curator of Fine Art at the City Art Centre in Edinburgh, writes: "The Scottish



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Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday 14 January, 2021** are listed below with differences for major ports listed alongside. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

<b>14</b>	0019 0.9 0620 4.1 TH 1247 0.9 1837 3.8	<b>16</b>	0141 0.9 0739 4.0 SA 1412 1.1 1950 3.7	<b>18</b>	0300 1.1 0854 3.7 M 1530 1.5 2058 3.4	<b>20</b>	0422 1.6 1017 3.3 W 1657 1.8 2217 3.1	
<b>15</b>	0101 0.8 0700 4.1 F 1331 1.0 1914 3.8	<b>17</b>	0221 1.0 0817 3.9 SU 1451 1.3 2024 3.5	<b>19</b>	0340 1.3 0934 3.5 TU 1611 1.7 2135 3.2	<b>21</b>	0509 1.8 1111 3.1 TH 1751 1.9 2313 2.9	

**WEATHER**

**Thursday**  
Light rain and a gentle breeze  
Temperatures 2°C to 6°C.

**Friday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 5°C to 6°C.

**WEEKEND OUTLOOK**

**Saturday**  
Light rain and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 5°C to 7°C.

**Sunday**  
Sunny intervals and a moderate breeze  
Temperatures 4°C to 7°C.

**FRIDAY FORECAST**



HIGH 6 LOW 5 10 MPH

# y - part three



artist Mary Cameron was a woman ahead of her time.

Born in Edinburgh, she began her career as a portraitist and genre painter in her native city, before venturing abroad to study in Paris. Foreign travel proved to be an enduring source of inspiration. In 1900 she visited Madrid for the first time and was captivated by the Spanish culture, people and scenery.

'Establishing studios in Madrid and Seville, she executed large-scale compositions of traditional peasant life, dramatic bullfights and rural landscapes. Cameron exhibited widely and her talents were recognised by contemporaries such as John Lavery and Alexander Roche. However, like many female artists of her generation, her name is now little known.'

Mary Cameron: Life in Paint places this forgotten artist back in the spotlight.

It explores the fascinating story of Mary's life and career, charting her creative journey from

elegant family portraits to breathtaking Spanish scenes. This book is fully illustrated and draws on rare archival material in private collections.

Of Mrs Blair and Her Borzois, Helen Scott tells us the colour palette is restricted to produce contrasts of light and dark, heightening the visual impact.

It attracted extensive press coverage at home and abroad and was referred to in newspapers from the Scotsman to the New York Herald and even appeared as a cartoon in the French satirical magazine Le Journal amusant.

In addition to being a talented artist, Mary was a capable linguist.

She spoke French and Spanish fluently, had a good knowledge of German and Italian and knew enough Russian to read and translate it.

Copies of Helen Scott's book are available at The City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1DE. Price £20 plus postage. Email [helen.scott@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:helen.scott@edinburgh.gov.uk)

## DOWN MEMORY LANE

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



Rockfield Primary School head master Peter Robertson and deputy John Watson hand over £5.50 to school chaplain Reverend George K Wiggins in March 1975. Pupils at the Oban school had set aside five pence from their pocket money in aid of UNICEF's Feed a Starving Child Appeal.



Reader Bob Miller has been in touch to put some names to faces in this photograph, left, from 2003 which we published in our edition of December 24 2020. Bob said: 'This was taken in the Oban Tesco store on the occasion of the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Appeal. Included in the photograph are Captain Connie McCallum and Bob Miller, Tesco staff and manager Ian Livingstone. And Ken Johnston of Fort William has been in touch regards our Down Memory Lane photograph in The Oban Times of December 17, below left. Ken doesn't know what the occasion was but Colin MacAndrew, plumber with the Highland Council, is third left and Dr Jim Douglas, still practicing as a GP in the Tweedale Practice in Fort William is second right. Thank you Bob and Ken.





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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARGYLL AND LOCHABER

## Celtic Connections tune up for online festival 2021

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Across 19 days, Celtic Connections' online festival will present more than 30 performances between tomorrow, Friday January 15, and Tuesday February 2.

World-class concerts will be available to view online with some of the biggest names on the Scottish music scene and beyond appearing on screens across the globe as part of the winter extravaganza.

Celtic Connections has created unique digital content from specially commissioned projects and performances filmed across many of Glasgow's much-loved venues. International artists have also contributed to the eclectic line-up by



recording performances remotely. Traditionally, the festival welcomes more than 100,000 attendees to Glasgow, a UNESCO City of Music and, on announcing the

digital-first, festival organisers hoped it would appeal to the wide international audience they usually see attending the festival. All shows will be available for a week after they

Innes Watson, Hamish Napier, Donald Hay, Jarlath Henderson and Duncan Chisolm joined forces for the recordings. Photograph: Sean Purser.

are first streamed to alleviate any restrictions for different time zones enjoying the range of content.

Donald Shaw, creative producer for Celtic Connections, said: "The concept for a digital-first Celtic Connections was borne out of a desire to promote wellbeing and optimism amongst fellow musicians as much as it was about still being able to offer entertainment to our loyal Celtic Connections audiences during the dark nights of January.

"The resounding feeling that has come out of the recording days is that they created a space for musicians to come back, to play again and to feel part of the community that they helped to create.

"The last time a lot of the contributing artists performed was at Celtic Connections 2020 and now they are back playing as part of the festival one year on after what has undoubtedly been the hardest year of their careers. We feel incredibly proud that as a festival, along with our funding partners, we have allowed for this safe space for them to play again, embrace their creativity and ultimately give them hope that there is a future for them within this industry."

Opening in unparalleled style, the first online concert

from the festival will include sets from some of the very best musicians on both the Scottish and international music scenes with more than 12 performances packed into the 90-minute show.

Each night's online concert will show an ambitious line-up of various performers.

Although the festival has gone online this year, the education element of the festival still holds as important a place as ever for Celtic Connections 2021, while the packed programme also offers dementia friendly concerts.

Celtic Connections is delivered by the charity Glasgow Life and is funded by Glasgow City Council, Creative Scotland and The Scottish Government Festivals EXPO Fund.

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# 74%

Local newspapers in print and digital (74%) are more than three times more trusted for local news and information than social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn (22%)

Source: YouGov 2018

# CELTIC CONNECTIONS LISTINGS

## Friday January 15

■ Celtic Connections 2021 Online Celebration Concert (Various Artists) 7.30pm-9pm £10

■ Aired on BBC ALBA channel: EP1 Cuirim@Celtic Connections: Duncan Chisholm 9pm

## Saturday January 16

■ BEMIS presents The New Scots in Concert 6pm - 6.50pm £2

■ Shooglenifty - RANT - Fiona Hunter - Paul McKenna 7.30pm-9pm £7

## Sunday January 17

■ Josie Duncan - New Voices 1pm £2

■ Chris Stout and Catriona McKay - Georgia Cecile - Fergus McCreadie - Sona Jobarteh 7.30pm-9pm £7

## Monday January 18

■ Come Away In with Karine Polwart, Eddi Reader, Rab Noakes, Siobhan Miller and Finlay Napier 7.30pm-9pm £7

## Tuesday January 19

■ Dementia Friendly Concert with Catherine Tinney and Luc McNally 1pm-1.45pm free

■ Breabach - Aidan O'Rourke 365 - Rachel Newton - Bassekou Kouyate - Katherine Priddy 7.30pm-9pm £7



Left, Glasgow-based five-piece folk band Imar perform on Saturday, January 23; and above, Sally Simpson from Westward the Light. Photographer: Gaelle Beri.

## Wednesday January 20

■ Blue Rose Code - Karen Matheson - LYRE - Rory Butler 7.30pm-9pm £7

## Thursday January 21

■ Ross Ainslie Band - Talisk - Mànran - Siobhan Miller - Beth Malcolm 7.30pm - 9pm £10

## Friday January 22

■ Blazin Fiddles - Xabier Diaz - Gness - Deirdre Graham 7.30pm-9pm £7

■ Aired on BBC ALBA

channel: EP2 Cuirim@Celtic Connections: The Staves 9pm

## Saturday January 23

■ Dreamers Circus - Kathleen MacInnes - Imar - Rajasthan Dawn Concert 7.30pm - 9pm £7

■ Admiral Fallow in Concert 9pm-10pm £7

## Sunday January 24

■ Charlie Stewart - New Voices 1pm £2

■ The Secret Sisters - Kinnaris Quintet - An Tobar

Presents 7.30pm-9pm £7

■ José González in Concert from Sweden 9pm-10pm £10

## Monday January 25

■ James Grant and Hallelulah String Quartet - Siobhan Wilson - Zoë Bestel 7.30pm-8.45pm £7

■ Aired on BBC Scotland channel: Burns Night with the BBC SSO, Eddi Reader and Karen Matheson 7pm-8pm

■ Aired on BBC ALBA channel: EP3 Cuirim@Celtic

Connections: Bard Mhealboist 10pm

## Tuesday January 26

■ Dementia Friendly Concert with Robbie Greig and Hamish MacLeod 1pm-1.45pm free

■ Fara - Rachel Walker - Assynt - Chloë Bryce 7.30pm-9pm £7

## Wednesday January 27

■ Home on the Sea (sponsored by CalMac) 7pm-8pm £5

■ Cherish the Ladies - Westward the Light - Nae

Plans 8pm-9.30pm £7

## Thursday January 28

■ The Conundrum 2021 - TRYST - Project Smok 7.30pm-9pm £7

## Friday January 29

■ Transatlantic Sessions with Special Guests 7.30pm-8.30pm £10

■ QuebecFest featuring Le Vent Du Nord, De Temps Antan and Isle Gross 8.45pm-10pm £7

## Saturday January 30

■ Elephant Sessions in Concert £10

■ Roaming Roots Revue with Special Guests £10

## Sunday January 31

■ Steven Blake - New Voices 1pm £2

■ Edwin Morgan 100th 7.00pm-7.45pm £5

■ Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi - Kris Drever - Dean Owens with Joey Burns (Calexico) 8pm-9.30pm £7

## Monday February 1

■ Taigh Chearsabhagh 7.30pm-8.30pm £5

## Tuesday February 2

Programming information to be confirmed.

More information on ticketing and programming is available at [www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com)

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**Cowal**  
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Kathy Graham on **07972 678923**

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<b>MONDAY:</b>	8am-12pm 5pm-7pm 12-3pm 4.45pm-5pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast show with Stephen Drive time with Marcus Lunch with Bob G Talking Papers Drive Times with Marcus Highland Fling with Rosemary John McLuckies Show David Cullen Show
<b>TUESDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-12.30pm 1pm-3pm 3pm-5pm 5pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-9pm 9pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Ken Hunter Macky on FM Mental Musings with Mer & Vicky Drive Times with Bob G Highest Praise with Stuart Chalmers Scottish Sounds with Archie Cameron Breakfast Show with Stephen Comfort Zone with Lesley
<b>WEDNESDAY:</b>	10am-1pm 1pm-3pm 4pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Doug in the afternoon Drive Times with Campbell Country meets Rock N Roll with Len Gordon's Grooves
<b>THURSDAY:</b>	8am-11am 11am-2pm 3pm-7pm 7pm-9pm 9pm-10pm 10pm	Breakfast Show with Andy & Sarah Lunch Show with Steve Drive Time with Stephen Christine's Collections Ann's Ceilidh Margo Till Midnight
<b>FRIDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-1pm 1pm-1.15pm 4pm-6.45pm 6.45pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm 10pm	Breakfast Show with Jay The One with Allan Talking Papers Teaney & Tiny Show with Harry Sports View with the Dream Team Country Meets Country with Jackie Craig Evening Show with Peter Rainnie Late Show with Jay.
<b>SATURDAY:</b>	8am-10am 10am-1pm 3pm-6pm 6pm-7pm 7pm-8pm 8pm-10pm	Breakfast Show with Stephen Saturday Morning Live with Linda Jukebox Jamboree with Ken Mc Sports View with the Dream Team Sounds Scottish with Archie Darling Evening Show with Dave Hobbs
<b>SUNDAY:</b>	9am-11am 11am-2pm 7pm-9pm 9pm	Sunday Morning with Breege Sunday Brunch with Stephen New Country Show with Dave & Murdoch Drum & Bass with Graham.

# Robert in lockdown

**ROBERT ROBERTSON**  
[robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:robert.d.robertson@hotmail.co.uk)

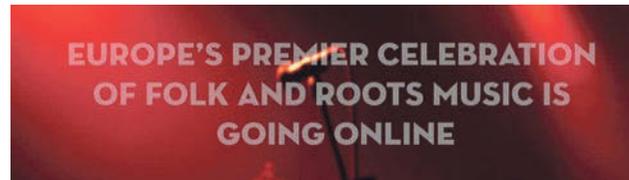


I am thankful this week that, for the first time in about 10 months, this column can at last resemble what it was for years before coronavirus changed everything: the Glasgow Letter.

Every year, my January and February columns are dedicated to Celtic Connections and 2021, I'm glad to say, will be no different thanks to an exciting virtual version of the famous Glasgow event which begins this Friday, January 15.

Like everything else, it won't quite be the same experience I enjoy most winters because the social aspect of sharing the music and the nonsense with other festival goers will, of course, be absent.

The days of getting home in the wee small hours from the notorious Celtic Connections festival club or the sessions in the bar of the Holiday Inn feel a long way off. They will come back eventually, but some days



I fear that by the time they do I'll be too old to last the pace in the same way I did in my 20s!

While we await the return of such events, however, this virtual festival looks like it really will be something to keep us going through the cold days and nights of January.

Across 19 days, the festival will present more than 30 online performances between Friday January 15 and Tuesday February 2. World-class concerts will be available to view online with some of the biggest names on the Scottish music scene and beyond appearing on screens across the world.

ed unique digital content from specially commissioned projects and performances filmed across many of Glasgow's much-loved venues.

International artists have also contributed to the eclectic line-up by recording performances remotely. The opening show, tomorrow, Friday January 15, will include 12 performances packed into 90 minutes.

Over the following days and weeks, the festival will present a myriad of artists including Shooglenifty, RANT, Breabach, Mànran, Blazin' Fiddles, Karine Polwart, Eddi Reader, Karen Matheson, Kathleen MacInnes, Admiral

Fallow, Kinnaris Quintet, Transatlantic Sessions, Simon Neil (Biffy Clyro), Ricky Ross and Lorraine MacIntosh (Deacon Blue)... the list goes on.

Online music has provided a significant and vital boost to the morale of so many people over the last year or so. I've seen proof of this in more social media comments than I can count.

With no live events to attend in person, this column has often been full of stories of golfing, gardening, pizza making and river swimming. It is therefore a relief - I'm sure to the readers as well as the writer - that I now have a music festival to write about.

I will be endeavouring to cover as much of Celtic Connections 2021 as possible.

Who knows, without the presence of the venue bar, I may be able to review the gigs with greater clarity than I have before!

# Call to artists as fresh approach for Scottish

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



Artists throughout Scotland have benefitted from arts funding to support them to deliver projects and work in new ways throughout the pandemic.

And more funds are available to facilitate ways for artists to generate income and continue their creative work during the restrictions, with two deadlines for applications at the end of this month.

Two arts funds, delivered by Gaelic arts organisation Fèisean nan Gàidheal, on behalf of Creative Scotland, launched in September and have so far supported projects with £36,925.50 in funding, with a notable increase in applications. With a straightforward application process and quick decision turnaround, artists across Scotland are being encouraged to apply this month.

The funds, Tasgadh and Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig, which aim to provide support for individuals and organisations to continue delivering projects in their communities and sustain creativity for



Gaelic vocal harmony group Sian received Tasgadh funding in 2018 to allow them to complete a Western Isles tour with Hecla.

musicians and artists at this time, have supported a varied selection of projects during lockdown from online cèilidhs and recordings to new drama pieces.

Funded projects include a series of a socially-distanced small group outdoor performances from Borders-based Riddell Fiddles, online cèilidhs, the creation of a book

of Skye tunes, supporting a musician to learn new digital skills, an exhibition of music, storytelling, puppetry and film and website redesigns and updates.

Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig has been designed to assist the delivery of Gaelic arts projects, with priority being given to applications for projects which are delivered through the

medium of Gaelic; sustain artistic practice throughout the Covid-19 pandemic; from individual artists to create work or address personal development needs; with international partnerships; that will develop business skills for individual artists or arts organisations as a means to creating a market, increasing audience numbers or strengthening stability; or

**CROSSWORD**

1	2	3	4	5	6
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- Across**
- 7 Large upper space in a house (6)
  - 8 One of the vitamin B complex (1)
  - 9 Fill to excess (4)
  - 10 Original explorer (7)
  - 12 Put to the test (5)
  - 14 Elicit (5)
  - 16 Young goose (7)
  - 19 Trick (4)
  - 20 Regarding books (8)
  - 22 Milieu (13)
- Down**
- 1 Window part (4)
  - 2 Reach (6)
  - 3 New worker (7)
  - 4 Southern Arabian country (5)
  - 5 Rubber (6)
  - 6 Austral (8)
  - 11 Unbecoming (8)
  - 13 Drums (3-4)
  - 15 Perpetrate (6)
  - 17 Muscular structure in the upper tract (5)
  - 18 Turning point? (5)
  - 21 Win (4)

**LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION**

B	O	N	Y	T	W	E	Z	E	R	S	
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O	V	E	R	U	N	T	R	A	I	N	
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20A	R	I	S	E	21P	E	N	D	E	N	T
S	N	N	E	G	N	O					
22S	T	A	R	T	E	R	S	23P	A	S	S

# Youngsters receive learning support from BBC Alba

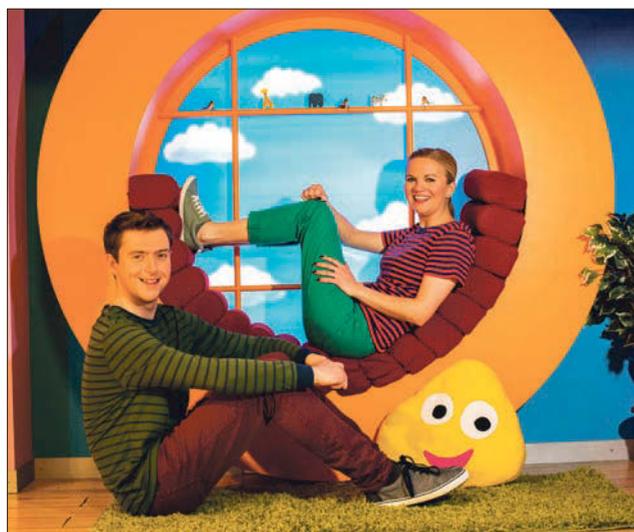
A range of programmes to offer educational support during lockdown is being offered by BBC ALBA, writes Fiona Scott.

Titles such as Baile Mhuilinn, A' Bhùth, Leugh le Linda, Aithne air Ainmhidhean and Saidheans Spòrsail will be screened in the daily CBeebies and CBBC ALBA schedule with all programmes being made available through iPlayer after transmission.

Additional programmes was also made available within a learning collection on BBC ALBA's iPlayer channel from January 11, through to April 2.

This will include primary content with a focus on maths, numeracy, literacy and history.

The collection will also include a range of Bitesize video content produced in Gaelic for primary maths, science, literacy and social studies.



Further learning resources for primary and secondary school children at National 5 and Higher is accessible through the Bitesize website, [bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://bbc.co.uk/bitesize) with

pre-school resources available through [bbc.co.uk/cbeebiesalba](http://bbc.co.uk/cbeebiesalba), and CBeebies and CBBC ALBA content can also be found on BBC ALBA's YouTube channel.

# sh deadlines sh arts funds

which propose online delivery of arts activities during the Covid-19 pandemic. The deadline for applications for Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig is Friday January 22.

Mairi Kidd, head of literature, languages and publishing, Creative Scotland, said: 'The arts have done so much to support us all through the challenging year we had in 2020.

It's a great pleasure to have been able to support the successful projects in this round of Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig/The Gaelic Arts Fund, which are set to bring more valuable experiences to Gaelic audiences and communities throughout Scotland and further afield

in future.' Tasgadh (meaning investment in Gaelic), is designed to provide support for individual artists and organisations to create, perform, tour and showcase work and is open to those with a proven track record in Scottish traditional dance, Scottish storytelling or Scottish traditional music. Awards of between £250 and £1,000 are available and the deadline is January 29.

Arthur Cormack, chief executive of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, which administers the funds on behalf of Creative Scotland, said: 'With these funds we have been able to support a range of projects by groups and individual artists, many of whom have had to change

their practice due to the Covid pandemic.

'We would encourage applications from anyone who has a project in mind, or who would like to undertake some professional development in order to make themselves more resilient.

'The application process for both funds is fairly straightforward and applicants will receive a decision within a month of the application deadline.'

For more information about Tasgadh and details of how to apply, please visit [www.feisean.org/en/tasgadh](http://www.feisean.org/en/tasgadh). To find out more about Maoin nan Ealan Gàidhlig, please visit [www.feisean.org/en/meg-en](http://www.feisean.org/en/meg-en)



Caroline Reagh with Fèis Spè participants in a Tasgadh-funded stepdance workshop.

<p><b>DIARDAIN 14 am Faoilleach</b> <b>THURSDAY 14 January</b></p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Turas a Bhradain (rpt) 19.30 Speaking our Language (rpt) 19.50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 20.00 An La NEWS 20.30 An Lot- An Glasadh (rpt) 21.00 NEW Na Gleidheadairean 21.00 Ceol Duthchasach (rpt) 23.50 Dhan Uisge (rpt)</p> <p><b>DIHAOINE 15 am Faoilleach</b> <b>FRIDAY 15 January</b></p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 An La – News 19.25 Fraochy Bay (rpt) 19.30 Machair (rpt) 19.55 Eòrpa / European Current Affairs (rpt) 20.30 Gàrradh Phàdruig (rpt) 21.00 NEW Cuirm @ Celtic Connections: Duncan Chisholm 21.50 Dhan Uisge (rpt) 22.00 Twin (rpt) 22.40 NEW – ALT 23.00 Manran aig Barrowland (rpt)</p> <p><b>DISATHAIRNE 16 am Faoilleach</b> <b>SATURDAY 16 January</b></p> <p>16.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 17.45 An Là – News 22.00 NEW Scottish Premiership – Ross County v Aberdeen</p>	<p>19.45 Binneas Na Trads (rpt) 19.55 Cearcall (rpt) 20.25 Leugh Mi (Book Show) (rpt) 21.00 Niteworks: Obair Oidhche (rpt) 22.00 Highlands – Scotlands Wild Heart (rpt) 23.00 Scottish Premiership – Ross County v Aberdeen (rpt) 00:45 ALT (rpt)</p> <p><b>DIDÒMHNAICH 17 am Faoilleach</b> <b>SUNDAY 17 January</b></p> <p>16.00 An La – NEWS 16.10 Seachd Là/News Review 17.00 SWPL – Celtic v Glasgow City 19.05 Astrid: The Quay Sessions (rpt) 19.30 Alleluia/Spiritual Praise (rpt) 20.00 An Lot – An Glasadh (rpt) 20.30 Na Tiristich (From Tìree with Love) (rpt) 21.00 Ceòl is Cradh (rpt) 22.00 Niteworks: Obair Oidhche (rpt) 23.00 Twin (rpt) 23.45 Belladrum – Cridhe Tartan Highlights (rpt)</p> <p><b>DILUAIN 18 am Faoilleach</b> <b>MONDAY 18 January</b></p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt) 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 19.50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 20.00 An La – NEWS 20.30 NEW Gàrradh Phàdruig 21.00 Trusadh – Eileanaich Phagastain (rpt) 22.00 NEW Cuirm @ Celtic Connections: The Staves</p>	<p>22.30 Sulaisgeir: an t-Sealg (Sulaisgeir: The Hunt) (rpt) 23.30 TradFest (rpt)</p> <p><b>DIMÀIRT 19 am Faoilleach</b> <b>TUESDAY 19 January</b></p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Turas a' Bhradain (rpt) 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 Na Tiristich (from Tìree with Love) (rpt) 21.00 A' Sireadh Sascha (rpt) 22.00 Trusadh – Eileanaich Phagastain (rpt) 23.00 Fraochy Bay (rpt) 23.05 Machair (rpt) 23.30 Alleluia! (rpt)</p> <p><b>DICIADAIN 20 Am Faoilleach</b> <b>WEDNESDAY 20 January</b></p> <p>17.00 Prògraman Chloinne – Children's programming 19.00 Dealbhan Fraoich (rpt) 19.30 Speaking Our Language (rpt) 19.50 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 19.55 Earrann Eachdraidh (rpt) 20.00 An Là – News 20.30 Leugh Mi (rpt) 21.00 DIY le Donnie (rpt) 21.45 Sgeul Slàinte (rpt) 22.00 Tradfest (rpt) 22.30 Na Gleidheadairean (rpt) 23.30 Trail West aig Barrowland (rpt)</p>
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We are publishing this information in association with BID4OBAN and ObanFM, supported by the Scotland's Towns Partnership. Helping to provide resilience for our local business community. Many of these businesses are working under extreme pressure to bring quality products and services to the people of Oban and beyond.

Please remember to exercise caution when shopping and only shop for essential supplies. Along with our wonderful NHS staff and carers, our local food, fuel, news platforms and home supply businesses are our community champions!

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PLEASE NOTE: You should wear a face covering in an enclosed space or where you will come into contact with people outside your household or support bubble. Take care to use face coverings properly.

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Most banks and building centres have put crowd control measures in place. Please remember to wear face coverings in enclosed spaces.

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[www.cef.co.uk](http://www.cef.co.uk)  
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• Let your GP Practice know which pharmacy you'd like to collect this from;  
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Mon-Sat 10am-5pm  
Closed Sun  
FREE home delivery available Oban-Taynuilt. Contact shop.  
Fresh and frozen fish, meats, veg, milk, breads, jams, coffees, soaps, flours, pasta, cakes, etc...  
Pre ordered ready meals available  
Tel: 07882 226675

## OBAN FOOD HUB COLLECTION @ ROCKFIELD CENTRE

19 Stevenson St, Oban  
Order by midnight Tuesday for pick up  
Thurs 4pm-6pm at the Scout Hall  
Check out the Oban Food Hub Facebook page for strict guidelines on collection and delivery.

## IT SERVICES

Helping you work from home

## MATRIX COMPUTERS

Dunollie Road, Oban  
Providing telephone and remote support to home and business customers, new and existing.  
Email [info@matrixcomputers.co.uk](mailto:info@matrixcomputers.co.uk)  
Tel: 01631 571571

## OBAN COMPUTER SERVICES

Unit 4, Mill Lane, Oban  
The shop is open by appointment. Remote support available.  
Tel: 01631 566561

## LEGAL, PROPERTY & INSURANCE SERVICES

### ANDERSON BANKS SOLICITORS & ESTATE AGENTS

(OBAN AND BENBECULA)  
Argyll Square, Oban  
Open 9am-5pm  
Contact us on our usual numbers for telephone appts or Skype/Facetime video calls can be arranged.  
[www.andersonbanks.co.uk](http://www.andersonbanks.co.uk)  
Oban Office: 01631 563158  
Email: [info@andersonbanks.co.uk](mailto:info@andersonbanks.co.uk)  
Benbecula office: 01870 602061  
Email: [uist@andersonbanks.co.uk](mailto:uist@andersonbanks.co.uk)

### DM MACKINNON SOLICITORS & NOTARIES



IN ASSOCIATION WITH

# Oban Business Improvement District

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



Station Rd, Oban

Contact by telephone/email

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

#### JELF CLARKE THOMSON

19 Aird's Crescent, Oban

Open for business as usual, 9am-5pm Mon to Fri.

If you email us, we will respond.

If you call us, the phone will be answered (or the call returned if a message is left). We are here to help. Please don't hesitate to get in touch

Tel: 01631 567675 (please note calls to this number are being re-routed and thus will not always be answered immediately – please DO leave a message); Graeme Bass mobile: 07872 131073

#### MACPHEE & PARTNERS

1st Floor, 26 George Street, Oban

Open Mon-Fri 9am – 5pm

Estate Agency fully open and legal services with appointment

We remain fully available to assist with your legal and property matters – with protective measures in place.

Tel: 01631 562308

Email: [law@macphee.co.uk](mailto:law@macphee.co.uk)

#### MORHAM & BROTCHE

We are open while working from home – 9am till

5.15pm Monday to Friday

Telephone: 01631 563 721

Email: [admin@morhambro.co.uk](mailto:admin@morhambro.co.uk)

#### SIMMERS & CO

Albany Chambers, Albany Street, Oban

Our experienced, dedicated team of

Accountancy and taxation professional are still here for you

Tel: 01631 562169

#### STEVENSON KENNEDY SOLICITORS

Linndhu House, 19 Stevenson St, Oban

Open for business as usual but our priority has to be the safety of our staff and clients.

We can still meet by appointment and at a safe distance.

Main office line: 01631 562317

E-mail addresses:

[gordon@stevensonkennedy.co.uk](mailto:gordon@stevensonkennedy.co.uk)

[sorley@stevensonkennedy.co.uk](mailto:sorley@stevensonkennedy.co.uk)

[louise@stevensonkennedy.co.uk](mailto:louise@stevensonkennedy.co.uk)

[sarah@stevensonkennedy.co.uk](mailto:sarah@stevensonkennedy.co.uk)

#### WYLIE & BISSET

4 High Street, Oban

Do you have a business that, through no fault of your own, finds itself confronting various pressing business problems as a direct result of the government

restrictions to quell the spread of COVID-19?

CALL OUR DEDICATED HELPLINE – 0141 566 7096

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

and offer free advice.

#### NEWSAGENTS & CONVENIENCE STORES

Most stores have put crowd control measures in place. Please remember to wear face coverings in enclosed spaces.

#### ALBANY STORES

Albany Street, Oban

Mon-Sun 6am-11pm

Tel: 01631 564635

#### SOROBA SHOP

Soroba, Oban

Mon-Thur 9am-9pm

Fri-Sat 9am-10pm

Sun 10am-9pm

Tel: 01631 562999

#### MCCOLLS

128 George Street, Oban

Mon-Sun 7am till 8pm

Tel: 01631 569896

#### DUNOLLIE STORES

Dunollie Road, Oban

Mon-Thur 10am-8pm

Fri-Sat 10am-9pm

Sun 10am-7pm

Tel: 01631 566544

#### HANNAH'S

5 Stevenson Street, Oban

Mon-Sat 6am-8pm

Sun 6am-6pm

Tel: 01631 566913

#### DUNBEG STORES

15 Jane Road, Dunbeg

Mon-Fri 7am 10pm

Sat 8am-10pm

Sun 8am-9pm

Tel: 01631 566576

#### CONNEL VILLAGE STORE

Connel Village

Mon-Fri 6am-3pm

Sat 8am-3pm

Sun 7.30am-1pm

In store post office Mon-Fri 9am-1pm,

Sat 9am-12pm

Tel: 01631 710219

#### THE PINK SHOP

Benderloch

Mon-Thur 7am-9pm

Fri-Sat 7am-10pm

Sun 8am-9pm

Tel: 01631 720201

#### BALVICAR STORES

Balvicar

Mon-Fri 8.30am-6pm

Sat 9am-6pm

Sun 9.30am-2pm

Tel: 01852 300373

#### RESTAURANTS & TAKEAWAYS

While sit in is not allowed, most eateries are offering a takeaway service.

#### BIRCHWOOD FILLING STATION

Soroba Road, Oban

Hot filled rolls, available Mon-Sat

6.30am-2pm

Fuel and essential shopping supplies

Mon-Sat, 6.30-6.30pm

Closed Sunday

Tel: 01631 565359

#### BOSSARDS PATISSERIE

Gibraltar Street, Oban

Open for all things takeaway. Usual

menu including lots of lovely cakes

Monday- Saturday 10am – 2.30pm

Closed Sun

Tel: 01631 564641

#### CORIANDER

8 Soroba Rd, Oban

Wed-Sun 5pm-9pm

Closed Mon & Tues

Tel: 01631 570806

#### GEORGE STREET FISH RESTAURANT AND TAKE-AWAY

George St, Oban

Open 11am-8pm daily

Restaurant serving a range of fresh Scottish seafood, steaks and fine wines. Fish & Chip Shop situated next-door, providing traditional takeaway fish and chips and old favourites.

Tel 01631 566664

#### KEBABISH OF OBAN

99 George St, Oban

Sun-Thur 4pm-12am

Fri-Sat 3pm-1.30am

Offering great tasting currys, Biryani's, Tandoori Sizzlers, Burgers, Kebabs, Pizzas and Popular Indian dishes.

Order online at [kebabishofoban.co.uk](http://kebabishofoban.co.uk).

Collection or fast delivery

Tel: 01631 566885

#### NORIES FISH & CHIPS

88 George St, Oban

Family run takeaway – great fish and chips

7 days a week 11.30am-9.30pm

Tel: 01631 563736

#### OBAN FILLING STATION

Soroba Rd, Oban

Garage: Mon- Sat: 7am-8pm, Sun

8am-8pm

Food: Mon-Fri 7am-2pm, Sat 8am-

12noon, Closed Sun

Your local Londis convenience store

offering a wide range of everyday essentials as well as hot filled rolls, pies and sausage rolls etc

Tel: 01631 571101

#### OBAN GRILLHOUSE

45 Combie St, Oban

Open 7 days, 5pm-11pm Collection or

delivery

Tel: 01631 358246

#### PIAZZA

North Pier, Oban

Fri-Sun 5pm-8pm

Take away service for collection

We are a family friendly pizza/pasta

restaurant on a pier in beautiful Oban

Bay in Scotland.

Now introducing "Take and bake @

Piazza". Take your favourite freshly

topped Pizza home and finish off in your

own oven! 10 minutes @ 180c preheated.

Ideal when living out of town or unable

to eat quickly.

Tel: 01631 563628

#### TASTE OF ARGYLL KITCHEN

9 Argyll St, Oban

Fri 3pm-9pm

Sat & Sun 10am-9pm

Serving field to fork and fine dine.

Visit our Facebook page for more details

From Langoustine Curry to Highland

Beefburgers- lots in between.

Tel: 07882226675

#### SUPERMARKETS & FOOD-HALLS

Most superstores in town are operating crowd control measures to help manage

social distancing, with hand sanitiser for customer and colleague use. They are working tirelessly to restock shelves daily. Please be patient and kind.

#### ALDI

Lynn Rd, Oban

Mon-Sat 8am-10pm

Sunday 9am-7pm

BOOKERS CASH AND CARRY

Glenshellach Business Pk, Oban

Mon 9am-2pm

Tues-Fri 7.30am-4pm

Sat 7.30am-1pm

Closed Sunday

#### FARMFOODS

Dunollie Rd, Oban

Mon-Fri 8am-8pm

Sat 8am-7pm

Sun 9am-6pm

#### LIDL

Soroba Rd, Oban

Mon-Sat 8am-10pm

Sun 8am-8pm

MARKS AND SPENCER

Retail Park, Unit 1 Lochavullin Dr, Oban

Mon 8am-9pm

Tues-Sat 8am-8pm

Sun 9am-6pm

#### TESCO

Lochside, Oban

Shopping: Mon-Sat 7am-10pm, Sunday

8am-8pm

Petrol Filling Station – Mon-Sat 6am-

8pm, Sun 7am-8pm

Post office – Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm, Sat

9am-12.30pm, Closed Sunday

Café – Mon-Sat 8am-3pm, Sun 10am-

3pm- Takeaway only

#### SPORT & FITNESS

#### OBAN CYCLES

George Street, Oban

Shop Tue-Sat, 10am-3pm

Workshop servicing from 19th January.

Book now

Email: [obancycles1@gmail.com](mailto:obancycles1@gmail.com)

Website: [obancyclescotland.com](http://obancyclescotland.com)

Follow us on Facebook

Tel: 01631 566033

#### TAXIS

For essential travel only

#### ARGYLL TAXIS

01631 565293

#### ETIVE TAXIS

01631 566880

#### LORN TAXIS

01631 564744

#### OBAN TAXIS

01631 564148/566676/564666

#### VETS & PET SERVICES

#### OBAN VETERINARY SURGEONS

9B Tweedale St, Oban

Triage service initially. All enquiries by

telephone to book appointments where

necessary

Visit via [www.obanvets.co.uk](http://www.obanvets.co.uk) for full

Covid-19 guidelines with regard to our

services

Tel: 01631 562876

#### PETS AT HOME

Unit 3, Lochavullin Industrial Estate,

Lochavullin Dr, Oban

Mon-Fri 9am- 6pm

Sat 9am-7pm

Sun 10am -5pm

Crowd control system in place to help manage social distancing in stores.

#### CREATURE COMFORTS

9-10 Aird's Cres, Oban

Mon-Sat 10am-2pm

Creature Comforts is your local pet shop for Oban & surrounding area. We stock feeds & accessories for all kinds of pets & wild birds.

Mail order deliveries available.

Tel: 01631 563150

#### USEFUL INFORMATION

#### HOME-START LORN

Are you finding it difficult with your children at home all day, need some adult conversation – our

volunteers are here to help

Tel: 07718 768305

#### HOPE KITCHEN

Hope Kitchen is now delivering/

providing food assistance to people who are experiencing financial difficulty at this time. Please don't hesitate to get in touch either via messenger or on 01631

565730 if you find yourself short of

essentials.

New Hope is staffed Monday to Friday

10am-4pm. Parcels can be picked up

11am-2pm

Those who can afford to pay for food but

are self-isolating and unable to get supplies,

Argyll and Bute Council has a dedicated

phone line 01546 605524 to help you.

#### MOLEIGH RECYCLING CENTRE

Mon-Fri 9am-4pm

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE OBAN TIMES:

TELEPHONE: 01631 568000  
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm  
E-MAIL: adverts@obantimes.co.uk  
Please remember to give your name, address, postcode and phone number.

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



E S Warnock, D Cluckie, C J Husthwaite & G R MacLean an appointed representative of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited (No. 111982).

Around the markets

United Auctions Stirling, Thursday January 7, sold 3,812 prime sheep comprising 3,000 prime hogs selling to an average of 261.35ppk and 812 ewes and rams.  
Old season lambs (3,000) – Doune Farms (BTeX) £149.00 x2 & £148.00; Pitcairn (BTeX) £148.00; Doune Farms (BTeX) £147.00; West Quarter (BTeX) £146.00; Ballinloan (BTeX) £146.00; Ballinloan (Tex) £143.00 x3; Cherryfield (Tex) £143.00 x2; Wester Cambushinie (Tex) £140.00; Grangefield (Suf) £127.50 x2; South Flanders (Suf) £127.00; Wardhead (Suf) £122.00 & £121.50; Ballinloan (Chev) £127.00; Wester Bleaton & Solzarie (Chev) £123.00; Penston (Chev) £121.50; Carse of Trowan (Cross) £123.50; East Bracklinn (Cross) £119.50; Dalchirla (BF) £123.00; Dunruchan (BF) £116.00; Glenferate (BF) £115.00; Penston (BF) £113.50; Auchenrivoch (Mule) £118.00 x2; Wardhead (Mule) £115.50; Drimsynie & Plean Cott (Mule) £114.00. Old Season Lambs (3000) – West Quarter (BTeX) 356.00ppk; Doune Farms (BTeX) 352.00ppk; Dall (BTeX)

343.00ppk; Pitcairn (BTeX) 339.00ppk; Wester Cambushinie (Tex) 343.00ppk; Carse of Trowan (Tex) 341.00ppk; Wester Cambushinie (Tex) 339.00ppk; Ballinloan & Easter Greenhill (Tex) 335.00ppk; Ballinloan (Chev) 288.00ppk; Fridayhill & Wester Bleaton & Solzarie (Chev) 280.00ppk; Invermilton (Suf) 280.00ppk & 274.00ppk; Grangefield, Wardhead & Halkerston (Suf) 267.00ppk; East Bracklinn (Cross) 271.00ppk; Plean Cott (Cross) 269.00ppk; Easter Deans (Mule) 264.00ppk; Drimsynie (Mule) 262.00ppk; Coulshill & Meadowfield (Mule) 257.00ppk; Grange Farms (BF) 264.00ppk; Penston (BF) 263.00ppk; Pitcairn (BF) 258.00ppk; Fridayhill (BF) 257.00ppk.  
Ewes (812) – Aikerness, Orkney (Tex) £185.00; Cairn (Tex) £177.00 & £150.00; Oatfield (Tex) £147.00; Cairn (Tex) £145.00; Southfield & South Flanders (TexX) £140.00; South Flanders (TexX) £138.00; Oatfield (TexX) £130.00 x2; West Lundie (BTeX) £135.00; Cairn (Suf) £129.00; Upper

Firth & Neuk (Suf) £124.00; North Balloch & Montalt (Cont) £127.00; Ballinloan & Cherryfield (Cont) £126.00; Strageath Mains (Cont) £124.00; Cherryfield (SufX) £119.00; Muckraw (SufX) £115.00; North Balloch (SufX) £114.00; South Flanders (Mule) £115.00; Blackcastle (Mule) £104.00; Strageath Mains (Mule) £100.00; Hatton Knowe (Mule) £97.00; Smithy Hillock (Mule) £96.00; Cairn (Cha) £114.00; Auchenrivoch (BFL) £113.00; Lilyburn (BFL) £100.00; Ballinloan (Chev) £112.00 & £94.00; Luckenburn & Coulshill (Chev) £87.00; Easter Cammock & North Balloch (Chev/Mule) £110.00; Coulshill (BF) £84.00; Glenhead (BF) £82.00; Pathcondie (BF) £80.00; Jaw, Drimsynie & Allanfauld (BF) £77.00.  
Tups – Balnacree (Chev) £130.00; Fairview Hill (BTeX) £128.00; Jaw (Suf) £128.00; Wester Cameron (Suf) £127.00; Easter Deans (Tex) £125.00; Kinclaven £123.00; Easter Deans (Suf) £111.00; Milnbank (Blue Tex) £100.00; Dunruchan & Jaw (BF) £93.00.

Virtual hustings for candidates

Candidates standing for top office bearer roles with NFU Scotland will, for the first time, take place in virtual hustings, starting on Friday January 22.  
A traditional part of NFU Scotland's election process, hustings would normally see candidates tour Scotland with all regions holding their own member event. However, due to the exceptional circumstances as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the hustings will now take place online with members urged to register to hear from each of the candidates.  
The four nominations for the two vice presidential posts are, in alphabetical order: Andrew Connon, North Quilquox, Ythanbank, Ellon, Aberdeenshire; Willie Harper, Gryffwraes, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire; George Milne,



Kinaldy, St Andrews, Fife and Robin Traquair, Wellington Farm, Millerhill, Dalkeith, Midlothian. Current vice president Martin Kennedy, who will stand unchallenged for the position of president, will also take place in the following virtual events.  
Friday January 22, noon till 1.30pm, <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9auixHdbQw257tc4-UltQ>  
Tuesday January 26, 7pm till 8.30pm, [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/MKwj\\_i4ROKpu6rcX-6\\_3Vw](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/MKwj_i4ROKpu6rcX-6_3Vw)  
Thursday January 28, 7pm till 8.30pm, [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/WN\\_G7X\\_5K4FQ8yB-4-3h3LBuw](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/WN_G7X_5K4FQ8yB-4-3h3LBuw)

zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_G7X\_5K4FQ8yB-4-3h3LBuw  
Biographies for all five candidates are available on the union's website [www.nfus.org.uk/nfus-elections-2021.aspx](http://www.nfus.org.uk/nfus-elections-2021.aspx)  
The elections will take place at the union's virtual council meeting on Friday February 12, with online voting arrangements for council members in place.  
NFU Scotland Chief Executive Scott Walker said: 'It is hugely encouraging that we have so many excellent candidates standing for election. I wish each one of them the very best and, while missing out on the traditional tour of Scotland, I urge them to make the most of these online meetings. They all have the skills and experience to do a great job for NFUS.'



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Email: farm.gates@yahoo.com

**SPECIAL OFFER EXTENDED FOR THIS MONTH**

**MOBILE SHEEP SYSTEM**  
ON SALE FROM **£1695** + VAT (RRP from £3400 plus VAT)  
The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements  
MAIN FEATURES:  
• Made from high-tensile steel  
• All hurdles are 8 railed x 970mm high  
• All hot-dipped galvanised finish  
• 3000mm (3m) long  
• Includes all joining pins/stakes

**OPTION 1**  
10-foot race and 8-foot holding pen  
**£1695** + VAT  
Comes with an 80-foot holding pen and 10-foot race, 2x 2 feet swing gates and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold fully grown sheep (approx. 45).

**OPTION 2**  
20-foot race, 100-foot holding pen  
**£1975** + VAT  
Comes with an 80-foot holding pen and 20-foot race, 2x 2 feet swing gates and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold fully grown sheep (approx. 90).

**OPTION 3**  
10 x 3m (8 railed) sheep hurdles  
• 12 x joining pins/stakes  
• 2 x 2-foot swing gates

**MOBILE CATTLE SYSTEM**  
FROM **£1850** + VAT  
Crush Gate optional extra £599.00 + VAT.  
As standard, our Mobile Cattle System comes with a 60 feet holding pen and 20 feet race, 1 sliding gate and all joining pins/stakes included. Our system will safely hold 45 full grown cattle (approx.)  
The system is easy to move and erect where required and can be easily modified to suit your requirements. Also ideal for TB testing and the cattle sliding gate gives full control of the livestock from outside the race and stops the race from spreading out.

MAIN FEATURES:  
• Made from high-tensile steel  
• All hurdles are 6 railed x 1.75m high  
• A funnel is incorporated into the race-way  
• All hot-dipped galvanised finish  
• 3000mm (3m) long  
• 20-foot race  
• 60-foot holding pen. Includes all joining pins/stakes  
• Total 200-feet of penning

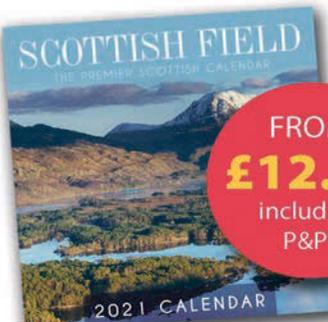
PARTS LIST:  
• 10 x 3m (6 railed) cattle hurdles  
• 12 x joining pins/stakes  
• 1 x sliding gate

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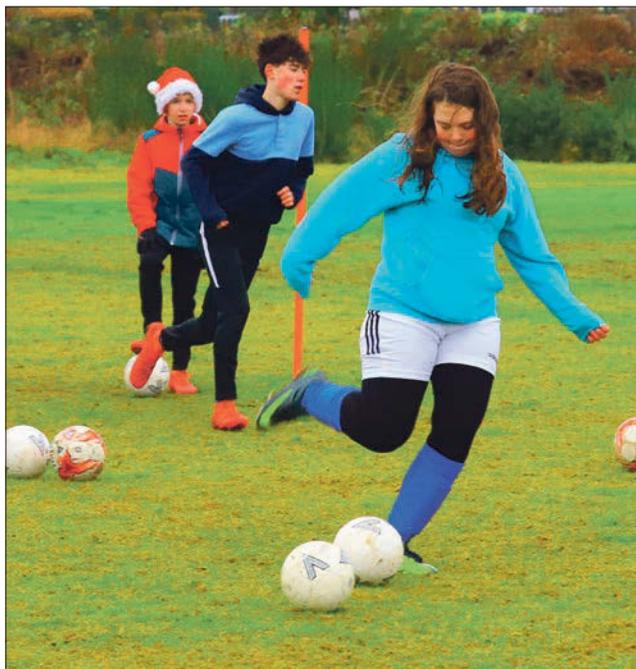


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Warners Group Publications plc, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

# Lochnell Football Club players turn on style at final training session of 2020 season



## SHINTY REVIEW: OBAN CAMANACHD CLUB



The successful 2019 Oban Camanachd squad.

Shinty, like most other sports, fell victim to Covid-19 and, as a result, season 2020 was cancelled.

In 2019 Oban Camanachd Club, which had enjoyed one of its most successful seasons, looked to kick on but with the shutdown this was not possible.

Lifelong supporter Nigel Evans commented: '2019 was

undoubtedly a terrific season for the club at all levels with the first team reaching The Scottish Cup and Macaulay Cup finals. They came up short in both of these but retained the Celtic Society Cup and finished second in the Premier League. This concluded a highly successful season for the management team of Steven Sloss and Kenny Wotherspoon.

'Lochside Rovers, Oban Camanachd's reserve team, completed a notable double, winning the Sutherland and Bullough Cups, and finished high in league one.

'The Under 17s and Under 14s performed well and will continue to provide a pathway for players to compete at the top level of shinty, once Covid restrictions allow.'

## Coronavirus

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

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



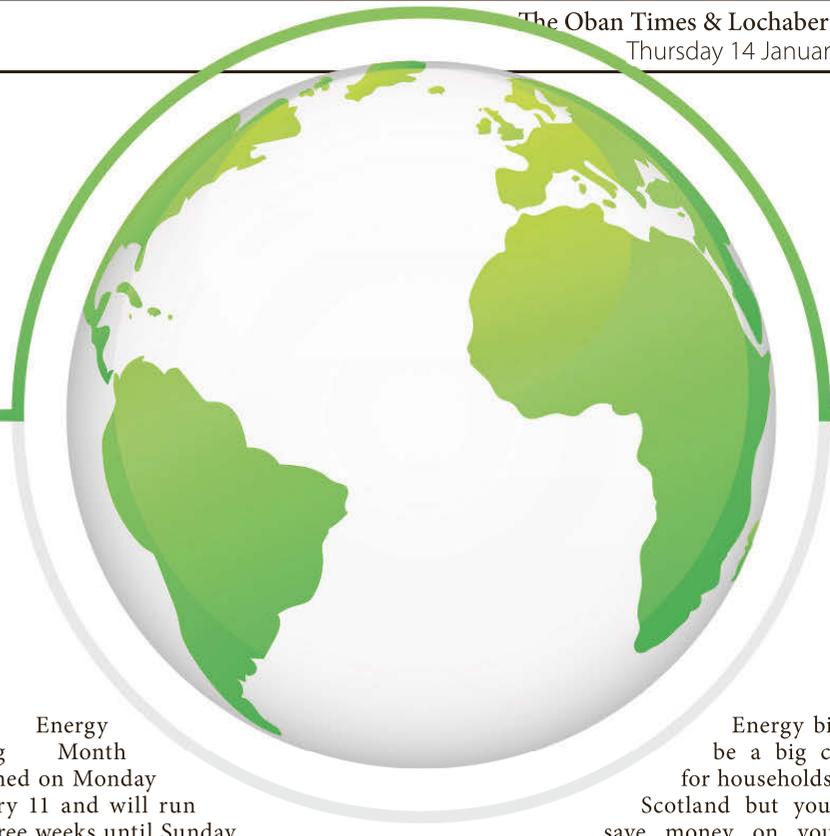
To enable us to keep in touch, please follow BID4Oban on **Love Oban Facebook page** and website **www.bid4oban.co.uk** for regular updates.

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



**Oban Business Improvement District**  
[www.bid4oban.co.uk](http://www.bid4oban.co.uk)





# Big Energy Saving Month 2021

Big Energy Saving Month launched on Monday January 11 and will run for three weeks until Sunday January 31.

This national campaign, bought to you by Citizens Advice Scotland and Home Energy Scotland, aims to help people cut their energy bills and get the financial support they are entitled to.

We all have the power to save energy, money and the environment through everyday actions.

Simple changes such as switching energy supplier

or tariffs, accessing discounts or grants and making homes more cost-efficient can make a big difference.

#### Let's save your energy:

We can give you the power to save time, money and energy. You can get advice on your energy issues on our public advice site by accessing the links below.

#### Save time:

Energy bills can be a big concern for households across Scotland but you could save money on your fuel bill by checking you're not paying more than you need for your energy.

Check you're getting the best deal from your current supplier, switching isn't the only way to get a better deal.

Make sure you're getting all the benefits and help you're entitled to. If you're struggling to pay your energy bills, or simply want to make sure you're getting all the financial help you're entitled

## More than 20,000 people receive help through Warmer Homes Scotland

Warmer Homes Scotland provides free heating, insulation and more to households that are struggling to stay warm and keep up with energy bills.

More than 20,000 households in Scotland have benefited from the scheme's help since it was launched in 2015, each of them saving around £300 a year on their energy bills.

The £224 million scheme provides a step-by-step service to help make homes warmer and more comfortable.

Assistance can include installing new and efficient boilers, fitting new radiators, insulating lofts or working with partners to install gas mains to make heating homes in hard to reach areas more affordable.

All work is carried out by

registered and accredited local sub-contractors who work to rigorous quality standards across the country.

Warmworks is the managing agent of Warmer Homes Scotland and receives referrals to the scheme from Home Energy Scotland.

With the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act 2019 now enshrined in legislation, both the extent of the Scottish Government's ambitions and the scale of the task ahead are clear.

While the end goal for the eradication of fuel poverty may be some years away, there is no question that the help available under Warmer Homes Scotland will play a key role in helping

people become warmer, happier and healthier in their homes.

Ross Armstrong, Warmworks' Managing Director said: 'It has always been important to Warmworks that the delivery of Warmer Homes Scotland results in real and lasting benefits for vulnerable people and communities across Scotland. I am delighted to have helped more than 20,000 households in Scotland and we hope to build on our success as we continue our efforts to move towards greener, fairer and more affordable ways to heat our homes.'

To find out more about Warmer Homes Scotland, or to make an application, contact Home Energy Scotland free on 0808 808 2282.



LOOKING FOR FREE, IMPARTIAL ADVICE TO HELP YOU SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY, AND HAVE A WARMER HOME?

Call Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 to speak to a friendly advisor.

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SCOTLAND



Greener  
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to, your local Citizens Advice Bureau can help you check that you are not missing out on any benefits. You can also call the Money Talk Team helpline on 0800 085 7145.

**Save money:**

Many people stay on the same tariff or with the same energy supplier for a number of years, without realising they could be getting a better deal elsewhere. By switching supplier or tariff you could save hundreds of pounds.

Check whether you could save money with the Citizens Advice energy price com-

parison tool. It's free, uses a full market comparison and is totally independent. [www.energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk/](http://www.energycompare.citizensadvice.org.uk/)

Get advice on switching energy supplier and understanding your energy tariff.

For some, switching isn't simple or it isn't possible due to your energy tariff. If you live in a home with electric-only heating and you're stuck with your existing tariff or supplier or you're looking for practical ways to lower your costs, you can get advice from your local Citizens Advice Bureau. You

can contact Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 for advice on getting the most out of your electric heating system.

**Save energy:**

The best way to pay less for your fuel is simply to save energy around your home. This doesn't mean going without - you can waste less by being energy efficient.

You can contact Home Energy Scotland for free and impartial advice on how you can make your home more energy efficient. Call 0808 808 2282.

**Research from Energy Saving Trust**

Based on a typical three-bedroom semi-detached gas heated house, with an 85 per cent efficient gas boiler and average gas tariff of 4.17p/kWh and electricity tariff of 16.36p/kWh. Correct as of April 2020 and valid for one year.

- Turning your central heating thermostat down by one degree could save you £60 a year - based on turning down a room thermostat from 22 degrees to 21 degrees in the main living areas.
- If everyone in the UK switched from higher temperature washes down to 30 degrees, together we could save more than £230 million on electricity bills a year.
- Electricity is almost four times more expensive than gas. The average electricity tariff is 16.4p/kWh, with gas at 4.2p/kWh. Electricity bills have also been rising faster than gas. Between 2017 and 2018, the average electricity bill across all payment types rose by £39 (7.1 per cent), while the average gas bill across all payment types rose by £3 (1 per cent). (Source: BEIS' Domestic Energy Price Statistics, December 2019)

Let's save on your energy bills today. Visit <https://www.cas.org.uk/BESM2021> to find out more.

**Intelligent heating installed by Team MacLeod**

The Mitsubishi Electric range of Ecodan air source heating pumps is one of the most advanced heating systems available for homeowners and businesses. With an A++ ErP Energy Rating Label across the range, this is the ideal clean and green intelligent heating solution.

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Whether installed in small flats or large detached properties, Ecodan can reduce running costs, lower CO2 emissions and offer reliable, sustainable heating and hot water all year around for the majority of homes and small commercial properties. Ecodan can be installed to replace an existing heating system or work alongside it in a hybrid set up.

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## What are solar panels?

Solar panel electricity systems, also known as photovoltaics (PV), capture the sun's energy using photovoltaic cells. These cells don't need direct sunlight to work – they can still generate some electricity on a cloudy day. The cells convert the sunlight into electricity, which can be used to run household appliances and lighting.

## How do solar panels (PV) cells work?

PV cells are made from layers of semi-conducting material, usually silicon. When light shines on the cell it creates an electric field across the layers. The stronger the sunshine, the more electricity is produced. Groups of cells are mounted together in panels or modules that can either be mounted on your roof or on the ground. The power of a PV cell is measured in kilowatts peak. That's the rate at which it generates energy at peak performance in full direct sunlight during the summer. PV cells come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Most PV systems are made up of panels that fit on top of an existing roof, but you can also fit solar tiles. For more information visit [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) or contact your local installer.

### Cut your carbon footprint

Solar electricity is green, renewable energy which doesn't release any harmful carbon dioxide or other pollutants. A typical home solar PV system could save around 1.3 to 1.6 tonnes of carbon per year, depending where you are within the UK.

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# Storage heaters - expensive hot air

Storage heaters were great in the 1970s when energy costs were low and one solution to Britain's heating needs.

Now electricity costs are way higher and many people are finding them unaffordable and uncontrollable.

The most common storage heater tariff across the west of Scotland, from SSE, is Total Heating Total Control (THTC). This is generally considered to be one of the more expensive on the market. Other energy suppliers struggle to offer a suitable equivalent tariff and many people feel they have nowhere else to go. More info [www.alternativetostorage-heaters.co.uk](http://www.alternativetostorage-heaters.co.uk)

Modern electric heating, using the properties of radiant heat rather than warm air, with cutting edge temperature and timing controls is the solution, [www.economicelectricheating.co.uk](http://www.economicelectricheating.co.uk).

These can either be German clay core heaters, [www.germanelectricheating.com](http://www.germanelectricheating.com), which are now regularly seen advertised on television and in the papers, or far infrared

heaters of various types. [www.scottishinfraredheating.co.uk](http://www.scottishinfraredheating.co.uk)

When changing, disruption is minimal as your new heaters can usually use the existing wiring.

Some small changes are required to the connections in your meter box by your electrician, but it is a straightforward job.

Once you are on a single meter tariff you can then readily shop around for the best price for your electricity and save even more money. We recommend Martin Lewis' cheap energy club to check out your options. [www.moneysavingexpert.com/cheapenergyclub](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/cheapenergyclub)

In 2025, the government is banning the use of traditional oil fired or gas boilers in new homes. Instead new houses will be heated predominantly by state-of-the-art electric heating systems. Why not change now?

Elsco Heating has been supplying economic electric heating across Scotland for ten years from bases in Elgin and Glasgow.



## A Heater for a New Year?

**Its cold outside and could get colder!**

Replace those old storage heaters with our modern German electric heating

### Ten Years Of Happy Customers

Elsco Heating supply top quality German heaters, across Scotland from our bases in Glasgow and Elgin. These are a new energy efficient alternative to old fashioned storage heaters.



Most storage heater owners are unhappy with the quality of heat, the lack of control and the high running costs. Our German Chamotte Clay Core heaters give you complete control over your heating, a quality of heat second to none and a significant saving on your heating bills.

This heating is becoming increasingly popular not only in Scotland but across Britain.

You will no doubt have seen the adverts on TV from other UK wide suppliers of this great heating solution. You can **save** on costs and probably get a **better quality** heater with the same levels of efficiency, by buying your heaters locally from us.

Many storage heater owners in Scotland are on a tariff called Total heating Total Control (THTC), one of the more expensive on the market. Our heating enables you to easily change to a standard (single meter) supply, choose between all available energy suppliers and save even more money.

Costs are similar to what you might pay for a modern replacement storage heater.



We are happy to give you budget prices for your individual requirements over the phone. We can also usually visit you at home to work with you to establish the best



heating solution for your individual needs. This service may currently be restricted due to Covid, but please ask.

We have just built up our stock levels for the Winter and if you act quickly, you might not have to wait very long, but when they are gone, they are gone!

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All touring caravans and motor homes, campers etc, high mileage, MOT failures or damp, all considered, any make or model, will travel.

**Tel: 07546 788945**



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**Tel 07703490572**  
or email [balgowan4wd@gmail.com](mailto:balgowan4wd@gmail.com)  
ask for Robert

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All types of motor homes and caravanettes. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards.

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email [wlmotorhomes@outlook.com](mailto:wlmotorhomes@outlook.com)

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# Subaru XV. 4x4 Magazine's Crossover Estate of the Year 2021

Subaru UK is proud to announce the Subaru XV – has been awarded 4x4 Magazine's Crossover Estate of the Year 2021. To win this award for the second time further strengthens Subaru's on-going dedication to build cars that are incredibly safe, extremely capable and unfalteringly reliable, too.

Beating off strong competition, XV impressed the judges at 4x4 Magazine thanks to its wide range of safety technologies, superior on-road handling and impressive off-road skills thanks to its permanent Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive. Something that comes as standard across the Subaru range.

Hailed by the judges for its safety credentials XV also makes an ideal family car. Perfect for outdoor sports and hobbies, weekends away, or even just the school run you know that with the maximum

5-star Euro NCAP safety rating you will be offered the very best protection for you and your family wherever you go. Alan Kidd, Editor of 4x4 Magazine, said: "It's one of the safest cars there is – as well as having crisp road manners and an astonishing level of off-road ability."

John Hurtig, Subaru UK Managing Director, commented: "We're delighted that the XV has won 4x4 Magazine's Crossover Estate of the Year 2021. We know we have a great product that our customers continue to love and trust year after year, mile after mile. Because they know that owning a Subaru means you are driving one of the safest, most capable and reliable vehicles on the road today. Something we are immensely proud of."

To find out more on the range contact S&S Services on 01292 880080



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# PUBLIC NOTICES



## CLÀRACHADH AIR-LOIDHNE AIRSON CLAS 1 & TRÀTH-IONNSACHADH IS CÙRAM-CHLOINNE ANN AN SGOIL AIRSON 2021

Ma bhios ur pàiste còig bliadhna a dh'aois air no ro 28 Gearran 2022, faodar an clàrachadh airson **Clas 1**.

Tha làn-chòir aig clann a rugadh eadar 1 Màrt 2017 agus 28 Gearran 2019 air àite maoinichte **Tràth-ionnsachaidh is Cùram-chloinne**.

Tha an seisean ùr a' tòiseachadh air 17 Lùnastal 2021.

'S e an t-seachdain chlàrachaidh airson **Clas 1** airson sgoiltean na Gàidhealtachd

Diluain 25 Faoilleach gu Dihaoine 29 Faoilleach 2021.

'S e an t-seachdain chlàrachaidh airson àiteachan **Tràth-ionnsachaidh is Cùram-chloinne** Diluain 8 Gearran gu Dihaoine 12 Gearran 2021.

Gus ur pàiste a chlàrachadh no airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh mu bhith a' lìonadh an fhoirm air-loidhne, pròiseas clàrachaidh, sgìrean-sgoile, Foghlam tron Ghàidhlig, còmhaidh sgoile agus iarrtas an àiteachan-sgoile, tad-hailibh air [www.highland.gov.uk/enrol](http://www.highland.gov.uk/enrol).

Nuair a tha sibh air ur pàiste a chlàrachadh air-loidhne, cuiridh an sgoil fios thugaibh gus inntrigeadh a chur air dòigh.

Ma tha sibh airson 's gun tèid ur pàiste gu sgoil eile seach a' bhun-sgoil ionadail agaibh, thoiribh an aire gum feum sibh an clàrachadh an toiseach ann am bun-sgoil na sgìre-sgoile agaibh agus iarrtas airson àite-sgoile a dhèanamh às dèidh sin.

Mura h-eil cothrom agaibh am pròiseas clàrachaidh a dhèanamh air-loidhne, cuiribh fios gu oifis na sgoile san sgìre agaibh tron t-seachdain-chlàrachaidh.



## ONLINE ENROLMENT FOR 2021 PRIMARY 1 & EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE PLACES IN A SCHOOL

If your child will be five years of age on or before 28 February 2022, they are eligible to enrol for **Primary 1**.

Children born between 1 March 2017 and 28 February 2019 are entitled to a funded **Early Learning and Childcare** place.

The new session starts on 17 August 2021.

The **P1 enrolment** week for Highland schools is Monday 25 January to Friday 29 January 2021.

For **Early Learning and Childcare** places it will be Monday 8 February to Friday 12 February 2021.

To enrol your child, or for further information on completing the online form, the enrolment process, catchment areas, Gaelic Medium education, school transport and placing requests visit [www.highland.gov.uk/enrol](http://www.highland.gov.uk/enrol).

Please note that once you have enrolled your child online, the school will contact you to arrange the necessary induction for your child.

Please be aware that although you may wish your child to attend a school other than your local primary school, you must first enrol at your catchment area primary school and then make a placing request.

If however you do not have access to the online enrolment process, please contact your catchment school office during enrolment week.

[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
20/04600/FUL	21 Leven Road Kinlochleven	Part change of use from shop/store to shop/cafe and residential unit
20/04717/FUL	Forestry Commission Depot Invergarry	Erection of amenity building and 8 No eco holiday cabins
20/05014/FUL	Land 20M West of Cala Lochaline, Morvern	Erection of house
20/04018/FUL	Land 590M NW Of Allt-Na-Reigh Glencoe	Extension of parking area and construction of tarmacadam surface
20/04955/FUL	Nevis Range Torlundy Fort William	Part change of use of overflow car park to form campervan/motorhome pitches, erection of amenities building including chemical toilet waste disposal and access control point

Time period for comments is 14 days

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

## Oban Times 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
20/02151/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and formation of access	Site Adjacent To Moine Mhor, North Connel, Oban, Argyll And Bute
20/02153/PP	Change of use of land for the siting of 2 modular buildings (retrospective) and 1 storage container	Tiree Sea Tours, Tiree Airport, Crossapol, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute, PA77 6UP
20/01842/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	Land 30M West Of 1 Lower Balnoe, Isle Of Tiree, Argyll And Bute
20/01939/PP	Erection of building	Mossfield Stadium, Glencruitten Road, Oban, Argyll And Bute

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

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at: [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)  
Comhairle Earra - Ghàidheal agus Bhòid



### PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF A CROFT

Iain Wilson is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at 1 Bohenie, Roy Bridge, PH31 4AN to Alison Ruth Martin of Crossroads East, Spean Bridge, PH34 4EX.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, [info@crofting.gov.scot](mailto:info@crofting.gov.scot) by 12/2/21

### FIRST REGISTRATION OF A CROFT

Helen Worboys has registered her croft 13a Lower Carnoch, Lismore & Appin on the Crofting Register held by the Registers of Scotland.

Any person who wishes to challenge the registration may apply to the Scottish Land Court by 17th September 2021.

Details of the registration can be found at <http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home>. The croft registration number is C7383

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## The Oban Times

## DEATHS

**BLAKENEY** - Melody (Mel), aged 84, unexpectedly in Oban Hospital on December 29, 2020, after a short illness. Elder daughter of the late Harry and Iris Blakeney, Isle of Seil, sister of Hugh, Mervyn and Joy, and much loved aunt and great-aunt. She will be greatly missed by them and her many friends.

**BROWN** - Peacefully at Tigh a Rudha Eventide Home, Tیره on January 7, 2021, Peggy Campbell, aged 92 years, beloved wife of the late Archie Brown, Kilkenneth, dear mother of Fiona and a dear sister of Maggie, Lochaline. Sorely missed.

**FORGRIEVE** - Mary Jamieson (née MacGill). Peacefully at home on Saturday, January 9, 2021, Mary of 9 Dalrigh, Oban. Beloved wife of the late Duncan (Mick). Loving mum of Linda and David and mother-in-law of Angus. Devoted gran of Karen, Paul and Laura. Much loved gaga of Conor and Ciaran. Dear sister of Barbara, Rhoda and Katherine and the late Ann.

**GALLACHER** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on January 8, 2021, aged 78 years, Margaret Boyd, beloved wife of the late John Gallacher and dear mother to their son John. Margaret will be sadly missed by all her family and her many friends and neighbours.

**MACFADYEN** - Eleanor Scott MacFadyen (née Hannah) passed away peacefully on January 2, 2021 at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Loving wife to Iain MacFadyen, Inveresk, Kyle of Lochalsh IV40 8DA. Much loved mother of Karen and Iain Neil and Nannie to Karen Ann, Kirsty, Archie, Libby and Myles. Funeral service held on Friday, January 8, 2021 at the Church of Scotland, Kyle of Lochalsh followed by interment at Balmacara cemetery. The family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all the cards, calls and kind expressions of sympathy received and to those who lined the route to pay their respects. It was much appreciated.

**MACKECHNIE** - Duncan Mackechnie passed away peacefully, but suddenly, in Forth Valley Royal Hospital on January 6, 2021. Duncan, of Killin, formerly of Tyndrum was the beloved husband of Carol, much loved dad to Yvonne and Simone and father-in-law to Allan. A private funeral service to be held in Killin Cemetery, at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, January 21, 2021. The family welcome you to pay your respects as the cortège leaves from Duncan's home making its way to Killin Cemetery at 10.30 a.m.

**MACLEAN** - Donald (Donnie). Peacefully at home 101 Glenkingie Street, Caol, on January 1, 2021. Beloved husband of Chrissie (Macpherson), dad of Dolina, Robert, Karen and David, a much respected father-in-law of Tom, Elizabeth, Peter, Clair, loving grandfather to his five grandchildren. A private family service was held at Kilmallie cemetery on January 8, 2021.

**PONTON** - Peacefully in her sleep on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, Janette Victoria née

Scott Ponton, beloved wife of Iaian Ponton. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu to RNLI, Troon. Due to Covid restrictions, it's family only at the funeral.

**WRIGHT** - (Strathpeffer). Maureen passed away peacefully after a short illness at The Highland Hospice, Inverness on Tuesday, December 29, 2020, aged 81 years. Loving wife of Bill, much loved mum of Debbie, Andrea, Alec and Caroline and devoted Nanna to Tom, Billie, Amy, Ruairidh and Anna. Also a much loved auntie and sister.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**CAMPBELL** - The family of the late Alex Campbell (Furnace), would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards, messages and phone calls received following their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks to all involved in Dad's care, especially to the nursing staff and home carer's who provided such excellent care, which allowed him to stay at home. Our thanks are also extended to Rev. David Carruthers for a lovely service and tribute both at church and graveside; to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their professional services; and to Morna for beautiful floral tributes. Finally, a special thank you to all who paid their respects by lining the cortege route from Furnace Quarry to Kilevin Cemetery and also to Kilmory Shinty Club members, past and present, for their

personal tribute. He would have been very humbled, but proud of the gesture.

## MEMORIALS

**BRIGHTMORE** - In loving memory of my dear father Eric, who died January 8, 2009 and my dear mother Mary, who died January 21, 2000. Loved and remembered every day.

- Catherine, John, Clair and John, Corpach.

**CAMPBELL** - Precious memories of Christina Campbell (Chrissie) who passed away on January 12, 2004. A much loved and loving wife, Mum, Gran and sister. Always in our thoughts, forever in our hearts.

- Duncan and family xx

**CRUICKSHANK** - In loving memory of Jimmy, a much loved husband, father and grandfather, who passed away January 15, 1999, after a long illness bravely borne.

Always remembered by his wife Kate, sons Iain and Dougie and all the family.

**GIBSON** - In loving memory of my dear husband Kenneth, who died January 17, 2020.

Always in our hearts and thoughts.

- Anne, Bryan and Karen.

Miss you Granddad

- Logan and Kian xx

**MACDOUGALL** - Duncan T MacDougall. In loving memory of our precious and loving son Duncan, taken from us January 18, 2018.

We cannot bring the old days back,

When we were all together,

But memories keep you close to us,

And memories last forever.

- Your loving Mum and Dad.

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of our dear son Mark, who died January 14, 1991, aged 15.

Deep in our hearts you will always stay

Loved and remembered every day

Sorely missed

- Mum, Dad Iain, Frances, Lucy and Cara.

**MACMILLAN** - Mark.

Miss you always.

Love you.

- Jane xxx

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of Mark, died January 14, 1991.

Mark will never be forgotten.

- Love from Maureen and Andrew Jr xxx

**MACRAE** - Precious memories of Len, loving husband, dad and grampa, who died January 18, 2003.

Always loved and sorely missed.

- Kate and all the family.

**PALMER** - Roberta (Gaga), January 14, 2018.

You brought me into this world My hand was on your heart as you left it

Nothing will ever fill the gap you left in mine.

- Mary x.

**SCOTT** - In loving memory of a dear dad and grandad William Scott, Ardtur Farm, Port Appin, passed away January 9, 2017.

Always in our hearts.

- Fiona and family, Kinlochleven.

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## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

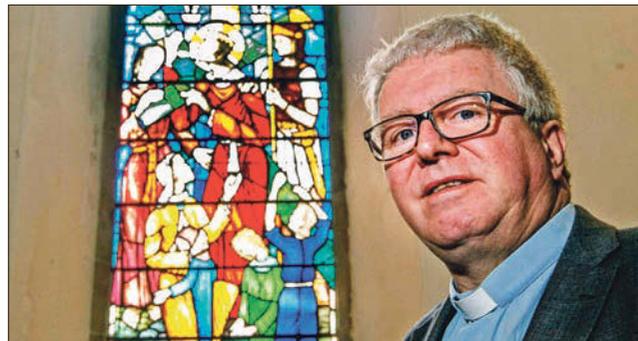
There is a story from Kerala in South India, told by the author William Dalrymple, about a teacher who had two disciples.

He gave each of them one rupee and showed them each an empty room. They were asked to take their single rupee and use it to fill the room.

The first one searched the bazaar and found nothing he could buy with so little money. Then he had an idea. He went to the garbage seller and for one rupee bought a huge mound of stinking rubbish and filled the room with it.

The other sat quietly in his room and meditated for a while, then he went out and for his one rupee bought an incense stick, a small lamp and some matches. He lit the lamp and the incense stick filling the room with light and a beautiful smell.

Their teacher turned away from the first room full of rubbish in disgust, but happily entered the bright, sweet-smelling room. The point of the story is that we can choose



how we want to live and our thoughts. Whatever we choose will determine whether our lives repel or attract, for our friends, neighbours and workmates can recognise whether what is inside us is something good and wholesome or something rotten.

Jesus made the same point when he told those worried about eating or not eating the right foods: 'It is not what goes into a person's mouth that makes him unclean but what comes out of it.'

It's what we make room for in our hearts and minds that others will detect in us.

The same message comes from Paul's words to the Philippians: 'In conclusion, my friends, fill your minds with those things that are good and deserve praise: things that are true, noble, right, pure lovely and honourable.'

So don't make space for rubbish in your thoughts – jealousy, anger, bitterness or gossip. But instead make room for that which uplifts and inspires and encourages.

**Reverend Richard Baxter**  
(Fort William, Kilmallie  
and Kilmonivaig  
Church of Scotland)

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## Applications open for flexible food fund

A new fund has been set up to support adults and families facing financial insecurity across Argyll and Bute.

The Argyll and Bute Flexible Food Fund has been set up to offer financial support and wider professional help to anybody in need.

The fund was set up by Argyll and Bute Council, the Community Food Forum, Bute Advice Centre and ALIEnergy

(Argyll, Lomond and the Islands Energy Agency).

Council leader Robin Currie said: 'Launching the Flexible Food Fund and offering crisis grants will provide a critical lifeline to so many people across Argyll and Bute. The pandemic continues to have a devastating effect on our communities, many through no fault of their own. With loss of income, additional childcare

and closed businesses, there is a real need to provide as much help and support as we can.

'We are working with trusted partners to cover the whole of Argyll and Bute. All cases are handled sensitively and in complete confidence.'

Anybody wishing to apply for the fund should visit [argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/flexible-food-fund](http://argyll-bute.gov.uk/forms/flexible-food-fund) or call 01700 502784.

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# Camanchd AGM goes online

Oban Camanchd are starting 2021 with their annual general meeting online.

Any members wanting to take part on Friday January 22 need to get in touch with club officials to find out details.

President Patrick Steeman said the club now had to be prepared for a delay to the new season they had been looking forward to because of the latest announcement of toughened Covid restrictions.

He paid tribute to players, coaches and committee members for their unwavering commitment during such a difficult year. And he thanked club members and fans for continuing to support the club's monthly Superball that had provided 'much-needed financial security'.

In a message to members, he said: 'With the season just getting started in March and all teams within the club

looking forward to a great season of shinty, we – like all other sports clubs – had to postpone and eventually write off the whole season. Whilst it was disappointing no shinty was played, everyone's priority and focus was the safety of the public. Training had re-started early in November after completing all relevant risk assessments and it looked like we were on course to start 2021 on a positive footing,

with all players getting back to full fitness and preparing for some much-needed pre-season games, but with the recent announcement of another lockdown until mid-January and possibly beyond, we have to be prepared for a delayed start to the season.'

He added: 'The commitment of the players, coaches and committee during this difficult year has been unwavering and I thank them greatly for this.

I'd also like to thank all club members and fans for their support throughout 2020. We have managed to keep our successful monthly Superball draw going and that provides much-needed financial security to the club.

'I'd also like to thank our club sponsors, all of whom have shown fantastic support this year, as they do every year, and we will be in contact with them all soon regarding

our plans for 2021.' Any club members wishing to attend the AGM online should email [patricksteeman@btinternet.com](mailto:patricksteeman@btinternet.com), the club via [obancamanachd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:obancamanachd@yahoo.co.uk) or contact any committee member for details.

'Thanks again to everyone involved. I look forward to seeing some great shinty this year as well as some well-kent faces on the sidelines. Fingers and camans crossed,' he added.

**Season review: page 25.**

## Shinty Bulls bag bragging rights in end-of-year fixture

Oban High School's after school shinty club marked the end of its last term's training sessions with an inter-school Bulls v Sharks match with around 20 players taking part. This brought an end to a successful series of after-school sessions delivered by club coaches Les Kinvig and Stephen Campbell, who had been working hard to provide pupils with extra-curricular shinty while meeting all of the high school and Camanchd Association's Covid-19 regulations.

The game itself was a high scoring affair with the Bulls running out 8-7 winners.

Both teams were supported by Oban High School Shinty Ambassadors William MacEwan and Pearce MacBeth, who will be working in partnership with the Camanchd Association, Oban High School School of Shinty and Active Schools to promote shinty activities within the school for the remainder of the school year.

## Lochnell FC youngsters end 2020 on a high



Santa hats were to the fore when Lochnell Football Club's Under 13s staged their final training session for 2020, before the present tier four restrictions.

The session took the form of a team skills competition and concluded with presentations to those who had been at the club through their primary school years and have now moved on to form the club's first 11-a-side squad.

Despite the circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic, the squad managed to train regularly, until this year,

and played several friendlies against local opposition, all within the strict SFA training and playing safety protocols. They even managed to squeeze in one Glasgow League game against fellow Argyll side Dunoon YFL, coming out on top to end the year with a 100 per cent league record – played one, won one.

'To be able to train and play at all in light of the challenges has been a real bonus,' commented Lochnell FC chairman and lead coach of the Under-13 squad Don McAllister. 'This was made possible by

the tremendous efforts made by coaches, parents and players across all sections of the club in applying the SFA health and safety framework, which allowed more than 100 youngsters across all our age groups at the club to keep physically fit and healthy at a time when it would have been easy to give up hope.'

The club will return to action once the present 'lockdown' eases and wish all their sponsors and supporters a brighter, healthier 2021.

**Turn to page 25.**

**Members of Lochnell Football Club who enjoyed a skills competition to round off 2020.**





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# Glen Etive and Glencoe tourist cash welcomed

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Car parks, paths and visitor management in Glen Etive and Glencoe are to be improved thanks to a £375,000 cash injection.

The funding will be used to address increasing visitor pressures through provision of an 'overarching plan' for better visitor infrastructure and management routes along the A82.

The plan is one of 13 projects across the country recommended for approval – subject to conditions – to receive cash from round three of the Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund (RTIF).

Managed by VisitScotland on behalf of the Scottish Government, the RTIF was created to improve the quality of the visitor experience in rural parts of Scotland that have faced pressure on their infrastructure due to an increase in visitor numbers.

It aims to reduce the impact of visitor numbers on com-

munities and create a more collaborative and sustainable approach to infrastructure provision and its long-term maintenance when it is safe to welcome back visitors.

Glen Etive and Glencoe, along with other popular Lochaber hotspots such as the beaches at Morar and Arisaig, both experienced huge visitor pressure during the easing of Covid travel restrictions in the summer.

Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Project is to receive £192,000, while the Photographers Knoll footpath project at the Old Man of Storr on Skye will receive £151,343.

Round three was open for applications from local authorities and National Park authorities, in partnership with their communities, and is aimed at funding infrastructure improvements such as parking, campervan services – including waste disposal points – viewpoints and toilet provision.

Scottish Tourism Secretary  
**Continued on page three.**

## Arisaig musician Broom hits the right notes with debut album

Arisaig multi-instrumentalist Steve Brown, right, has released his debut album, *Cosmic Ceilidh*, written and mostly performed by himself, under the moniker 'Broom'.

Steve has been a professional musician since 1993 and has co-written and produced albums while in various rock bands.

His 'day job' has been live gigs, so the coronavirus lockdown has given him the time to complete this 'Broom' album, his first foray into World Music/Celtic Fusion/Acid Croft.

Photograph: Catherine Brown.

Turn to page two for full story.



## Warning over fake Covid vaccine scams

Residents of Lochaber and the wider Highlands are being warned to look out for Covid scams.

Highland Council's Trading Standards team and NHS Highland are asking people to be aware of fraudulent schemes which may go beyond financial harm.

The scams take the form of an initial text message or email, pretending to be from the NHS, offering the Covid vaccine. The initial part of the scams offer the victim the chance to jump the queue and obtain the Covid vaccine quicker than the NHS can provide, while the second element may involve a phone call asking for payment 'for the vaccine'. The final element is a visit to receive the vaccine when, it is understood, something is actually injected into the victim. Notwithstanding the enormous health implications of this, this is another tactic to physically see what else they can take from the victim.

Mark McGinty, Trading Standards team leader, said: 'Exploitation in this way needs to end. The best way to do this is to be aware and not engage in the scam.'



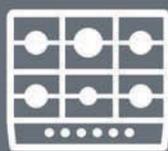
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## First class seat for world's most scenic rail journey

A set of videos showing the driver's view of the West Highland Line, which many consider to be the most scenic rail journey in the world, is now available.

From the bewitching Glenfinnan viaduct to the remote wilderness of Rannoch Moor and up to Fort William, the route has something for everyone.

The videos, shot for the first time in high definition, will transport viewers from the hustle and bustle of Glasgow to peaceful and picturesque Mallaig at the end of the line. It's easy to see why many of the stops along the way have featured in high profile films, including Local Hero, Trainspotting and Harry Potter.

The videos allow viewers to savour a landscape of barren peat moors, seemingly bottomless lochs and magnificent mountains as this great scenic rail journey rumbles north along the West Coast, through Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park then, when the line splits at Crianlarich, onto Loch Awe and Oban or up to Fort William and Mallaig.

The West Highland Line has a few of the smallest and most remote stations on the rail network as well as the UK's highest altitude train station in Corrour. Video viewers will travel through them before savouring cinematic highlights such as the Cobbler, as you approach Arrochar, with its unique rocky pinnacle, Ben Nevis, Britain's highest peak, and the tumbling waters of Monessie Gorge.

It takes five and a half hours to travel the whole route but now it's available on ScotRail's YouTube Channel.

ScotRail's social media team has created almost 13 hours of original content to keep people entertained when they can't enjoy days out on the railway.

Alasdair Smart, ScotRail tourism manager, said: "These videos are a wonderful way for people to savour the magic of the West Highland Line, reckoned by many to be the most beautiful rail journey in the world."

"We hope everyone loves watching the footage and that they are inspired to make the actual trip when everything gets back to some sort of normality."

# Lockdown unlocks Steve's debut album

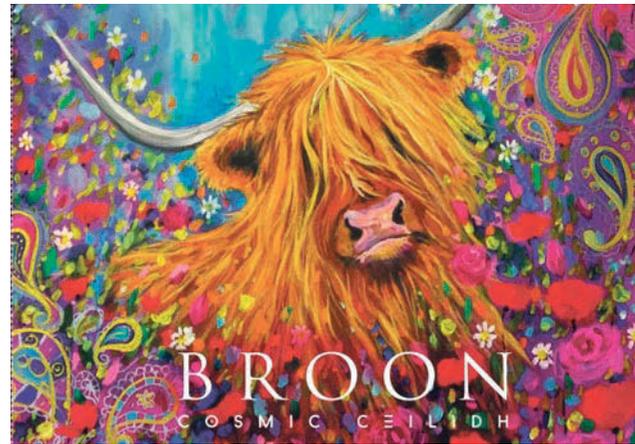
by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

Whether it is Arisaig Boogie, The Devil Came Down to Glenuig, Metal Midge or his Americana-vibed homage to the Hogwarts Express, multi-instrumentalist Steve Brown has covered all the musical bases on his debut album.

The tracks on the Arisaig resident's Cosmic Ceilidh album were written over a six-year period, inspired by friends, family and life in the Highlands, and recorded by Steve in his Rivendell Studio in the Lochaber seashore village.

Steve told the Lochaber Times: "It's a game of three halves. Stylistically this is really two or three albums in one. After a lot of thought, I decided to place all of these styles into the one sonic basket and hope the journey makes sense to some."

"The mellow solo acoustic guitar tracks give some respite from the full band melees and the electric guitar tunes lend



The album's stunning cover artwork by Claire Innes.

local folk legends Eilidh Shaw and Ross Martin in the Arisaig Bar. Witnessing the mighty Shooglenifty live in Glenuig Hall was also a life-changer as he revealed the band's original mandolin player, Iain MacLeod, was hugely influential in inspiring Steve to pick up the instrument himself.

It has been said this album may contain too many differing styles, however, Steve says this became deliberate since it summed up his versatility, adding: "Even though this album has been produced over a few years, it has really come together during lockdown. Not only has it given me the time to finish it, but the mixed styles represent the gamut of emotions experienced during this dry period of not being able to gig."

Cosmic Ceilidh is available to buy direct from [www.broon.net](http://www.broon.net) as well as from [www.broon.bandcamp.com](http://www.broon.bandcamp.com)

some contrast to the main mandolin wonderments.'

On this album, Steve plays mandolin, guitars, bass, piano, accordion and programmed drum loops. Other musicians include John Whyte of Glenfinnan on trombone, Pete Harbidge of New Zealand on cornet and Eoin de Paor of Westmorland on fiddle, whistle, flute and bass.

By the wonders of modern production loops, three tracks

also feature drums by Neil Peart, the recently deceased percussionist from Canadian band Rush.

Steve is a massive Rush fan – he organises an annual Rush fan convention which has so far raised more than £50,000 for cancer charities – and astute listeners may spot familiar themes.

Originally from Stirling, he has lived in Arisaig for 20 years, absorbing many a session run by



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The A82, above, is the second deadliest road in Scotland when it comes to fatal road accident numbers. Photograph: ABrighside Photography.

# Partnership calls for support ahead of elections

by Mark Entwistle  
mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk

The A82 Partnership campaign group says it intends seeking support from all political parties in the run up to May's Scottish Parliament elections to get major improvements made to the trunk road.

Lochaber constituency MSP Kate Forbes and Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron have both been calling for increased action to improve the A82 in recent months.

Recently issued figures confirming the trunk road's position as the second deadliest road in Scotland behind the A9 have focused further attention on the issue - although it should be noted the A9 is actually more than 100 miles longer than the A82.

The partnership told the Lochaber Times it will take advantage of this current political interest and will ask all political parties to include the upgrading of the A82 in their manifesto for May's Holyrood elections.

'With the recent interest in the A82 by local politicians, one may come to the conclusion that there is an election in the offing,' commented the organisation.

The three priorities of the partnership are getting the road between Tarbet and Inverarnan, the Fort William bypass and the road between



The A82 Partnership's Stewart Maclean. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, alba.photos

Onich and Fort William fully rebuilt to a standard that will serve local communities well into the future.

The A82, which stretches from Glasgow to Inverness, via Fort William, has witnessed the deaths of 50 people in the accidents over the last decade.

The partnership's long-held position is that, as well as being such a dangerous highway through much of Lochaber, it also impacts negatively on the economic and social lives of everyone who relies on it for travelling around the West Highlands and Islands and to the rest of Scotland, with road closures due to maintenance works and accidents each resulting in hours of delays or long diversions.

The group claims stimulating the economy will be

critical to coming out of the current coronavirus pandemic and investing in transport infrastructure, such as the A82, is a key factor in meeting this objective.

Partnership spokesperson Stewart Maclean stressed that the group was not seeking 'tinkering around the edges' such as amending speed limits or straightening out the odd corner.

'We seek significant financial investment proportionate to the transport infrastructure investment in other areas of Scotland, for example, the Queensferry Crossing, the A9, the A96 and the Aberdeen bypass,' Mr Maclean told the Lochaber Times.

'The A82 is as important to the West Highlands and Islands as the aforementioned investments are to their respective communities. We wish to ensure a resilient and safe A82 for businesses, the community and future generations.'

Questioning the commitment of the Scottish Government to the upgrading of the road, Mr Maclean pointed out it was now almost three years since the last meeting of the Tarbet to Inverarnan stakeholder group.

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# Glen Etive and Glencoe tourist cash welcomed

Continued from page one.

Fergus Ewing said while the tourism industry is currently on pause due to the national lockdown and the need to keep suppressing coronavirus, it was essential to continue supporting tourism businesses, especially in rural and remote areas, so they are in the best position possible for welcoming visitors again when conditions allow.

He added: 'The Rural Tourism and Infrastructure Fund is key to supporting critical tourism projects in our more remote areas.'

'Thirteen projects will get support in this latest round of funding, enhancing the visitor experience.'

Councillor Niall Maclean, Fort William and Ardnamurchan, welcomed news of the money, telling the Lochaber Times: 'The £375,000 funding coming into our community is welcome good news to address increasing visitor pressures in Glencoe and Glen



The RTIF project at Bla Bheinn, Skye, where 'green' toilets have been created at the popular climbing and visitor site, with improved and extended car parking, signs and information provision.

Etive. I look forward to seeing the results.' Kate Forbes, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, has also welcomed the funding.

She said: 'I've been closely involved with the Glen Etive community for more than two years as they considered the impact of congestion and made plans to improve infrastructure.'

'This funding will make a huge difference to the community and allow them to proceed. Glencoe and Glen Etive are hugely popular destinations for visitors and it's important to protect the environment, support the community and

ensure tourists want to return because it was a positive experience. In a difficult time, this is great news.'

Malcolm Roughead, VisitScotland Chief Executive, said the new funding will help communities improve, as well as enhancing the visitor experience for now and in the future when conditions are right and it is safe to do so.

'Tourism is a force for good and, if managed responsibly, sustains communities in every corner of Scotland, creates jobs, tackles depopulation and improves the wellbeing of everyone who experiences it,' he added.



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## Fort councillor moves home to other side of country

Fort William and Ardnamurchan ward councillor Blair Allan, right has moved to a new home in Fife, he confirmed this week, writes Mark Entwistle.



'I have, of course, been considering the impact this may have on my ability to undertake my responsibilities as a councillor.

The SNP member of Highland Council, who had lived in Fort William and recently retired from his position as chief executive of Lochaber Housing Association, said he is still considering what his new situation means for his role as a councillor.

'Yes, I have recently moved to Fife following my retirement last month from my position as chief executive at Lochaber Housing Association,' Mr Allan told the Lochaber Times this week.

Mr Allan said the move sees him return to his roots in Fife but, more importantly, takes him nearer to the on-going medical support he needs following an extended period of ill-health in recent years.

On the question of his continuing as a Highland councillor, Mr Allan added:

'While I have been successfully continuing to cover these remotely from Fife over the last few weeks, including attending council meetings as required and representing constituents with their concerns and problems, I will be giving the matter further consideration in the coming days and will make a decision in relation to my future soon.'

A Highland Council spokesperson told the Lochaber Times: 'Councillor Allan updated his personal details last week.

'His new home address is in Fife. There is no legal issue.

'The council has no rules on this matter. Issues such as qualification, disqualification etc are regulated by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973. Attendance of meetings is also provided for within the Act.'

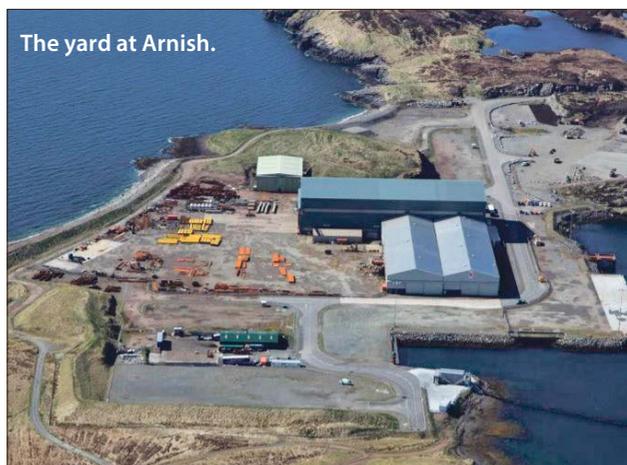
# Lewis unites to demand a part in Arnish yard future

Councillors and campaigners on the Isle of Lewis have joined forces to demand community involvement in determining the future of the Arnish fabrication yard, writes Mark Entwistle.

The yard is currently leased by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) to BiFab, the company which also has control of the Burntisland and Methil yards in Fife, and is now in administration after failing to win key contracts.

There are fears the Arnish lease could be sold by the administrator to a buyer as part of an overall disposal of BiFab without any guarantee this would be in the best interests of the Lewis yard.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Stornoway Trust and the Action for Arnish campaign group have written to the chairman of HIE asking for a meeting at which assurances



The yard at Arnish.

would be sought on conditions for the transfer of the Arnish lease.

Following a meeting of the island interests, a joint letter to HIE chairman Alistair Dodds stated there was strong agreement that the most appropriate strategic approach for both Arnish and the local economy

is for the yard to be decoupled from BiFab and re-established as an independent, free-standing facility.

'This will allow Arnish greater market freedom and flexibility, while opening the potential for multiple use and multiple occupation. To ensure that can happen, it will

be essential there is maximum flexibility and we would be keen to explore with you the options around the existing lease with BiFab – including its early termination,' states the letter's authors.

Comhairle leader Roddie Mackay said there is only a short period of time to ensure the BiFab administrators, the Scottish Government and other interested parties are fully appraised in regard to local aspirations around the Arnish yard.

Chairman of Action for Arnish Iain MacLeod said: 'This is far too important an issue for the island to be left to administrators in Edinburgh or HIE in Inverness.

'We do not want to wake up one morning to find Arnish is now in the hands of another company who may have no real interest in investing or developing its potential.'

## Forestry Land Scotland car parks to remain open for local access

Following the Scottish Government announcement of new lockdown restrictions throughout January, Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) has announced that while its visitor centres will remain closed, most of its car parks, walking and mountain biking trails will remain open for local access, writes Fiona Scott.

FLS managed public toilets will also remain open.

The decision aims to support members of the public in maintaining their mental and physical health and wellbeing as Scotland strengthens its effort to slow transmission of Covid-19.

Simon Hodgson, FLS chief executive, said: 'As we all continue our efforts to limit the impact of the virus and to keep as many people as safe as we can, it's imperative that we support the Scottish Government's 'stay-at-home' guidance.

'However, we also recognise it is also important that we all look after our health and wellbeing. That is why we are keeping most walking and mountain bike trails, car parks and toilets open so that local people can benefit from



Only a small number of facilities will close for maintenance.

visiting their local woods. The current advice is to take your exercise locally, so we would ask that people visit woodlands that are within walking, cycling or wheeling distance from their homes.

'We understand there will be instances where young children, older people and less able people will not be able to manage that short walk to their local woods, so we have kept our car parks open to help give them as much opportunity as we can in the circumstances.

'We thank our visitors in

advance for behaving sensibly and responsibly and ask them to follow the latest Scottish Government and NHS advice.'

Forestry and Land Scotland has also reserved the right to close specific car parks if they become over-crowded, present health and safety issues or impose onerous demands on staff.

While most walking and mountain bike trails, car parks and toilets remain open, a small number are closed for routine winter maintenance. Check for local notices via the FLS Find a Forest tool.



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## A82 road surfacing work under way

Work to improve a section of the A82 between Fort William and North Ballachulish got under way this week.

The £325,000 project will see parts of the A82 between Corran and Drummarbin resurfaced.

The improvements were scheduled to begin on Tuesday January 12 with the intention all work is finished by Monday January 25, subject to weather conditions.

To allow the work to be carried out safely, restrictions will be required as follows: Tuesday January 12 to Friday January 15, 10mph convoy system between 7am and 7pm; Sunday January 17 to Sunday January 24 – six nights, excluding Friday and Saturday nights full road closure between 7pm and 7am each night. As there is no suitable diversion route available, amnesties will be provided at 9pm, 10pm, 11pm, 1am and 3am each night.

### Convoy

During these times vehicles will be safely escorted through the site under a 10mph convoy. Motorists are encouraged to arrive in good time to ensure they are accommodated within the amnesty period.

Access through the work site for emergency services will be maintained at all times.

At each site, traffic management will be removed outwith working hours, however, a temporary 30mph speed limit will remain in place as traffic will be travelling over a temporary surface.

Strict physical distancing protocols, in line with Scottish Government Covid-19 guidance, will be in force to protect workers.

Eddie Ross, BEAR Scotland's North West Representative said: 'Our teams will do all they can to complete the works as quickly and safely as they can and we thank the community and road users for their patience in advance.

'We encourage motorists to plan ahead before setting out by checking the Traffic Scotland website for up-to-date travel information.'

Real time journey information is available from Traffic Scotland on [www.trafficscotland.org](http://www.trafficscotland.org), twitter at @trafficscotland or the new mobile site [my.trafficscotland.org](http://my.trafficscotland.org).

# Warning over the impact of lockdown on tourism

## Business group fears traditional Easter start to season will be hit

by Mark Entwistle  
[mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:mentwistle@obantimes.co.uk)

Concern is growing over the possible impact of the new nationwide coronavirus lockdown on the traditional Easter start of the summer tourism season in Lochaber and the islands, a national organisation for businesses in the Highlands and Islands says.

The Federation of Small Businesses' Highlands and Islands development manager David Richardson told the Lochaber Times the seriousness of the situation in which Scotland now finds itself was extremely worrying.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirmed to the Scottish Parliament last week that there would be a new nationwide lockdown until February 1.

Mr Richardson said, while the Covid vaccination programme is thankfully under way, it looked like the latest severe restrictions on activities announced to curb the spread of the new variant would be in place for some time.

And he added: 'Clearly, Lochaber's high dependency on tourism and hospitality makes the restrictions no less painful for businesses to bear here than anywhere else in the country. Covid has blown what would have been a good winter season apart and now there are concerns for the traditional Easter start to the main summer season.'

### Support

'If ever there was a time for businesses to receive comprehensive, easy-to-access financial support and crystal clear advice it is now and this includes businesses that have received little or nothing in the way of support to date: the forgotten.'

'Announcing new schemes is one thing; getting the cash into businesses' pockets is quite another. Log jams must be removed and the process speeded up.'

'But it doesn't stop there. Closing schools and nurseries undermines the foundations of local economies, placing huge strain on working parents who must juggle childcare with often extremely taxing jobs.'

'While we know Lochaber's small employers will be as flexible as possible, this change



Kate Forbes.

heaps pressures on workers and firms, and ministers must find workable solutions.'

Asked to comment, Lochaber constituency MSP Kate Forbes said businesses across the Highlands had already been hit hard and these latest national full lockdown restrictions will cause concern for businesses still reeling from the switch to tier four rules just days earlier on Boxing Day.

### Freedom

'We've been able to enjoy a lot more freedom than much of Scotland for the past few months so it is a much tougher jump to Level 4,' said Ms Forbes about the initial switch of Highland region into tier four on Boxing Day.

'There is financial support available, through the Strategic Framework Business Fund, that has been open since November, and pays grants of up to £3,000 every four weeks in arrears for businesses required by law to close or modify operations.'

'Separately, we have also decided to provide a one-off top up for retail, hospitality and gyms as the festive period is often the busiest time for such businesses.'

'Payments for the last four weeks were paid before Christmas and £12 million has been given to local authorities to help accelerate the distribution of grants in the next four weeks.'

Ms Forbes told the Lochaber Times she did not dispute how difficult a time this was for local businesses or for elderly residents of care homes who had not hugged loved ones for 10 months.

'It is difficult for family members who could not

travel across borders to spend Christmas or New Year together. It is difficult for those who cannot attend a funeral or a wedding due to the limits on numbers,' she added.

'It is an impossible, heart-breaking situation for all of us and no amount of compensation or financial support will make up for the lost income, grief and separation wrought by the virus.'

Right: David Richardson, The Federation of Small Businesses' Highlands and Islands Development Manager.



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Inverness Chamber of Commerce is now an accredited customs broker, offering customs declaration services as part of ChamberCustoms.

As we're a Highland Affiliate Chamber, Lochaber Chamber of Commerce members benefit



from significantly reduced rates on their documentation and certification services.

If you are a member of Lochaber Chamber and you're currently getting your export documentation done outside of the Highlands, now is the time to support our Highland economy and benefit from great rates and a convenient local service by switching to ChamberCustoms through Inverness Chamber of Commerce.

Contact the team at Lochaber Chamber of Commerce to find out how we can help you access the best value for your exporting business in the Highlands.

In these times of upheaval and change, the Scottish Chambers of Commerce network is here to support you. Join Lochaber Chamber of Commerce today and benefit from being part of the country's biggest business network that speaks up for the needs of your business. Visit [www.lochaberchamber.co.uk](http://www.lochaberchamber.co.uk)

# Lochaber could support beavers, says charity



**A European beaver swimming across a loch at Knapdale Forest.** Photograph: [scotlandbigpicture.com](http://scotlandbigpicture.com)

The crowdfunder closed on January 5, exceeding its target thanks to 1,500 supporters.

'The support for our campaign to protect Scotland's biodiversity-boosting, flood-preventing beavers has been amazing, and every donation is hugely appreciated. Public opinion clearly supports a more nature-friendly, climate-friendly and farmer-friendly approach to beaver management,' said Steve Micklewright, Trees for Life's chief executive.

A judicial review ruling in Trees for Life's favour would mean killing beavers was a genuine last resort as it would allow conservationists and others to identify possible alternative sites around Scotland where beavers could be moved to and be welcome.

Lochaber has the potential to support beaver populations if the Scottish Government changed its policy to allow beaver reintroductions to other areas of Scotland, writes Mark Entwistle.

So said Trees for Life, the charity which operates the flagship rewilding project at Dundreggan Estate, not far from Fort Augustus.

A spokesperson told the Lochaber Times there were currently no plans to look at the reintroduction of beavers in Lochaber, but added: 'There is a lot of good habitat in the area so Lochaber would have the potential to support beaver reintroductions if the Scottish Government changed its policy to allow beaver reintroductions to other areas of Scotland, and should local people - who would have to be properly consulted - then decide they wanted to bring beavers back under the right conditions.'

'Of course, any potential reintroduction would need proper discussion and consultation with local people.'

His comments came after a crowdfunding appeal by Trees for Life to help protect Scotland's endangered wild beavers has now raised almost £60,000 - setting the scene for a court challenge to the Scottish Government's beaver policy, which the charity says is causing needless loss of beavers'

lives. Trees for Life and rewilding charity The Lifescape Project claim the government's nature agency NatureScot is breaking the law by failing to make killing of beavers a last resort when the animals have unwanted impacts on agriculture.

The legal challenge aims to ensure a safer future for beavers, which can be key allies in tackling the nature and climate emergencies.



## Consultation closing soon!

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The KelpCrofting team is looking forward to establishing community scale seaweed farming off the coast of Skye.

## £900,000 for eco projects on islands

Twelve eco-friendly initiatives on the islands are among the first to benefit from a share of a £2 million Scottish Government fund, writes Fiona Scott.

The Islands Green Recovery Programme announced in September has now seen £900,000 allocated to community projects in islands including Lewis, Skye and North Uist.

The funding invests in projects which lower greenhouse gas emissions, help active and low carbon transport and boost 'environmentally-safe' tourism. Projects which help support food sustainability and zero waste are also included as part of the effort to help the islands recover from the pandemic.

The funding is managed by Edinburgh-based venture philanthropy organisation Inspiring Scotland which announced the cash awards.

Eshcol Guest House, at Breasclate on Lewis, has been awarded £60,791 towards its electric multi-purpose vehicles and a green laundry for itself and other tourism accommodation providers on Lewis to help reduce their carbon footprint and deliver more sustainable tourism solutions.

Donald MacArthur, for Eschol Guest House and partners, said: 'Investing in new innovative green technology is critical to securing a sustainable recovery for tourism in the islands and this programme has allowed us to accelerate

that process during the most challenging of times.'

Barvas Community Company on the Isle of Lewis will receive £46,440 to support localised food production.

Also on the island, £46,128 will go towards the development of a coastal path linking the historic crofting communities of Point and Sandwick.

North Uist Development Company/Àrainneachd Àlainn Environment Centre was awarded £100,000 to develop the old school building into a community facility with an environmental emphasis.

Skye-based KelpCrofting Ltd will use its £35,292 to establish community-scale seaweed farming off the coast of Skye, creating jobs and developing products to support food and agriculture supply chains.

Kyla Orr, director at KelpCrofting said: 'The funding will have a big impact on the success of our business and will facilitate growth of this emerging blue-green economy on the island.'

West Coast Organics (Skye) was awarded £8,560 to increase production of seasonal vegetables, salad and meat rearing.

Celia Tennant, chief executive of Inspiring Scotland, said: 'This support will make a vital contribution to the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of island communities and we look forward to working alongside each project to maximise the impact of this programme.'

## MSPs welcome opening of new renal service on Skye

A long-awaited renal service for Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross opened at Broadford MacKinnon Memorial Hospital on Monday.

The development follows almost three years of campaigning by Skye's constituency MSP Kate Forbes and Highlands and Islands MSP Rhoda Grant who welcomed the new service which will serve patients in

Skye, Lochalsh and South West Ross.

Prior to its implementation, some patients had been travelling three days a week to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, which Ms Forbes described as 'intolerable'.

'This is a fantastic day for the many individuals who have had to travel to Raigmore several times a week for years,'

she said. 'I firmly believe that as many services as possible should be delivered in Skye itself and this is an example of positive change. This has been a very long time coming but it will make a huge difference for those that rely on dialysis.'

Mrs Grant said: 'I first became involved in this campaign in 2018, after patients from Lochalsh contacted me

expressing concern that they had to travel for this necessary treatment so regularly.

'It's great news and a great relief that this week this new unit has become available and these patients will be able to receive treatment closer to home.'

The new service is being co-ordinated through the Renal Dialysis Link Nurse at Raigmore Hospital.

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# Covid vaccine roll out well under way in Western Isles

The roll out of the Covid-19 vaccine in the Western Isles is well under way says the area's health board.

Prioritisation is guided by the expert independent Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) to make sure those most at risk are vaccinated first.

Currently in the Western Isles, vaccinations have taken place in older adult care homes – residents and staff – and across the Western Isles for over 80s who are long stay patients in hospital and 'red pathway' frontline NHS staff – those more likely to have contact with patients with Covid-19. Wider groups of patient-facing health and social care staff are currently being offered vaccination.

NHS Western Isles has stated the next stage of the vaccination programme is planning for the arrangement of clinics for the next eligible group – those aged over 80.

Anyone aged over 80 will shortly be contacted by tele-



**Scottish Ambulance Service paramedic D A MacInnes, one of the first people on Uist to receive the Covid-19 vaccination, receives his jab from NHS Western Isles Occupational Health Nurse Marion Campbell.**

phone to arrange an appointment at a venue near them for their Covid vaccination.

NHS Western Isles has stressed individuals will not be offered a preference of vaccine, unless there is a legitimate reason for this, such as allergies.

The health board also says that, following the review of clinical evidence in relation to both the AstraZeneca and Pfizer BioNTech vaccines, the JCVI has recommended that first doses of vaccine are prioritised for as many people as possible on the phase one

JCVI priority list, in advance of second doses, to provide longer term protection.

NHS Western Isles is therefore scheduling second vaccine doses in the 12th week post the first dose.

The priority groups are outlined below, in order. If anyone falls within one of these groups, they will be contacted over the coming weeks/months to invite them for vaccination.

1 – Residents and workers in care homes for older people; 2 – all those 80 years of age and over starting for

logistical reasons with long-term hospital inpatients who are over 80; patient facing, frontline healthcare workers; non-clinical but patient facing staff in secondary or primary care/community healthcare settings; laboratory and pathology staff; social care staff directly involved in the care of their service users and others involved directly in delivering social care such that they and vulnerable patients/clients are at increased risk of exposure; 3 – All those 75 years of age and over; 4 – all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals; 5 – all those 65 years of age and over; 6 – all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality; 6 – unpaid carers, including all adult carers and young carers aged 16 to 18; 7 – all those 60 years of age and over; 8 – all those 55 years of age and over; 9 – all those 50 years of age and over.

## Fort dental practice remains open during Covid lockdown

Fort William-based dental practice M and S Dental Care, which also operates a clinic in Glencoe, has reassured patients it is remaining open during the new national coronavirus lockdown.

In an online statement, parent company Clyde Munro Dental Group confirmed: 'During this lockdown, dentistry has been approved as essential care which means we can see our patients for the majority of dental procedures. Please note aesthetic treatments are not available at this time.'

'Current restrictions also limit travel, however, in this case essential travel includes leaving home for healthcare, therefore you are permitted to travel to the dental surgery.'

Clyde Munro Dental Group founder and chief executive Jim Hall told the Lochaber Times: 'Once again we have gone into national lockdown to keep our loved ones safe, but

we would like to reassure all our patients that our practices will remain open during this period and our practices will be available to carry out essential dental care throughout this lockdown.'

'The safety of our staff and patients is our top priority and we have worked hard to ensure we have in place all the necessary precautions to safely provide the essential care our patients need during this challenging time. Contact your local Clyde Munro practice to find out what treatments are available to you.'



**Two members of staff at Clyde Munro's M and S Dental Care in PPE.**

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## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:editor@obantimes.co.uk)  
or The Editor, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HBPush to make A82 upgrade  
Holyrood election issue

With a Scottish election planned for May this year, the A82 Partnership will be hoping to secure the backing of MSPs from all parties to finally ensure major improvements to the trunk road become a reality.

Lochaber constituency MSP Kate Forbes and Highlands and Islands MSP Donald Cameron have been calling for increased action to improve the A82 in recent months and the partnership now plans to take advantage of this political interest to call on all parties to include the upgrading of the A82 in their manifesto for the elections.

The A82, which stretches from Glasgow to Inverness, via Fort William, has seen the deaths of 50 people in accidents over the last decade and one would have thought this alone would be enough to secure a pledge for improvements. Its importance as a key arterial route also adds weight to the call.

However, promises during election time are easy to give. We need them to be given and kept.

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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## Time for change to CMAL

I would like to compliment Mull and Iona Ferry Committee on its efforts and wish them every success.

There appears that, within CMAL, there is a strongly entrenched bias against the catamaran solution. Despite having a very successful operation on their doorstep – Pentland Ferries – from which they might learn, a Freedom of Information (FOI) request some months ago requesting copies of any evaluations of the vessel carried out the reply was, almost with pride, that there were none.

The CMAL website carries a question and answer section with the people of Islay for suggestions concerning the next new ferry for their route. The question was asked: 'What about a catamaran?' The answer was 'not operationally suitable'. This is nonsense. With a new build, anything can be made suitable. I failed, under FOI, to obtain any information on the discussions, if any, leading to this extraordinary conclusion. It would appear CMAL management are still firmly entrenched in the last century and that they have painted themselves into such a corner that any change would constitute a major loss of face. I suspect that nothing will change until there is a change of management at the top that will introduce modern, fuel efficient, effective services at a reasonable cost and with less weather-related disruption.

The introduction, eventually, of the Glen Sannox on the Ardrossan/Brodick route will, due to her size and the unsuitable harbours, condemn the people of Arran to a further 25 years of weather-related disruption.

The cost of these works and the build cost of the new ships could have bought 98 car ferries, such as Alfred, to replace all the large ferries in the fleet, to where required. It is a disgrace the Scottish Government continues to throw vast sums at CMAL with no apparent effective oversight. It is time for change. It is our money.

**J Patrick Maclean, Oban.**

## Action needed at the Rest

The Scottish Government spin machine's use of phrases last week like 'encouraging progress' about the work at the Rest and Be Thankful cannot disguise its failure to make any real progress towards a solution.

At an online briefing session last month, I questioned Transport Minister Michael Matheson on why it says it could take at least five years before it even starts work on a proper

## Beachd Ailein

ALLAN CAMPBELL

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

'S fhada bho nochd an abairt gur "fada seachdain ann an saoghal phoilitigs!" Uill, ann an Ameireagaidh co-dhiù 's neònach gun robh na faclan riamh cho fìor 's a bha iad bho chionn latha neo dhà, agus chan eil fios de tuilleadh a dh'fhaodadh a bhith an dàn eadar seo agus an t-àm a nochdas an colbh seo, ceithir latha romhainn! 'S iomadh càineadh a bhios ga thoirt air a' mhòit 's an t-àrdan leis am bi an dùthaich sin ga cur fhèin air adhart mar thir saoranachd agus sàr eisimpleir dheamocrasaidh an t-saoghail, agus tha gu leòr cheistean gun fhreagairt air a' bhàrail aice oirre fhèin. Ach 's gann a b' urrainn dha iomhaigh Ameireagaidh barrachd damaste fhulang na thachair nuair a thug gràisg de luchd-taice Dhòmhnail Trump ionnsaigh iorghaileach air Ionad Còmhdhail na dùthcha ann an Washington Diciadain seo chaidh. Chaill ceathrar am beatha an lùib na h-ùpraid nà, a chaidh a chraoladh beò tro mheadhanan naidheachd, agus dh'fhuiling cliù is creideas na dùthcha feadh an t-saoghail shìobhalta!

Tha iomadh ceist gam faighneachd, agus rim freagairt fhathast, a thaobh 's de dh'fhàg dìon an ionaid cho lag air latha coinneamh a bha gu bhith cho frionasach. Bha làn-fhios gun robh Trump a' brosnachadh dhaoine gus tighinn gu ruige Washington a thogail fianais-taice dha na casaidean foill a tha e fhathast a' togail, a dh'aindeoin dìth fianais dearbhaidh a bhith aige! Air an latha phìobraich e fhèin agus a mhic an sluagh a bhith "làidir" agus "tìr-ghràdhach", agus caismeachd a dh'ionnsaigh Ionad a'

solution. He waffled on about planning permission, environmental impact assessments and compensating landowners. This is ridiculous. I've attended 14 years of meetings on the A83 and all we get is fobbed off with pathetic excuses.

We need a government which will deliver results, not spend all its time plotting to get Independence while ignoring the real issues like a closed A83 which blights people's lives.

**Alan Reid, Councillor for Cowal ward.**

## Register for May election

On Thursday May 6, the Scottish Parliament election will take place. This is an important

Chòmhdhail. Chaill iad rian an sin, a' briseadh thar luchd-dion a-staigh dhan togalach agus a' fàgail sgrìos is milleadh corporra, practaigeach, agus poilitigeach às an dèidh!

'S e moladh a bh' aig Trump air na daoine sin na b' fhaide air adhart is e 'g iarraidh orra tilleadh dhachaigh, ach nuair a thionndaidh fiù 's cuid de bhuill an riaghaltais aige fhèin na aghaidh airson mar a dh'adhbharaich esan na bh' air tachairt chuir mo liagh car-ma-chnoc is dhìt e iad gu làidir! Cha robh riamh smachd air an duine seo bho fhuair e na Cheann-suidhe air tè de na dùthchannan as cumhachdaiche san t-saoghal. Aig àm dhòmhsa bhith sgrìobhadh seo, dà latha dheug mus gabh Ceann-suidhe ùr thairis, agus a dh'aindeoin 's gum bheil meadhanan-sòisealta air glas-ghuib a chur air ri linn a chuid theachdaireachdan brosgalach, tha Trump gun cheannsachadh fhathast 's chan eil fios dè an tuilleadh cron a dh'fhaodadh e dèanamh mu falbh e. Ma shoirbhicheas le casaid Eucoir an aghaidh na Stàite a chur air cha bhith cead aig Trump a bhith na Cheann-suidhe a-ri-thist, agus saoilidh mòran gur e fìor rud math a bhiodh sin a thaobh fear a dh'ainmich nighean a bhràthar mar "an duine is cunnartaiche san t-saoghal!"

Widely accused of disgracing America's standing in the civilised world, can impeachment prevent further civil and political outrage by Donald Trump, described by his niece Mary Trump as 'the world's most dangerous man'?

election. Everyone should register with the Electoral Registry office to vote. It does not take long. You need to give your name, address, date of birth, nationality and your National Insurance Number. You can register online at [electoralcommission.org.uk/voter](http://electoralcommission.org.uk/voter), print out a paper form from there and post it, or you can contact the election team by phoning 01586 555300 and ask them to send you out a form to get registered. You can register prior to turning 16. To vote by post, you need to tell the Electoral Registration Office that you want a postal vote. This can be done when you register, or later.

**Tricia Grey, Lochgilphead.**

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# DISTRICT NEWS

## Skye binmen praised for actions in saving fallen elderly man

Two binmen working on Skye prior to the New Year have been recognised and commended by a local councillor for their quick intervention to ensure the safety of an elderly resident.

Ronnie Reid and Kenny Gillies were travelling in a refuse lorry in Ardvassar, in very cold conditions, when Mr Reid spotted something to his near side and alerted his colleague.

They reversed the lorry and found an elderly gentleman had fallen over an embankment and was in the early stages of hypothermia.

The Highland Council operatives immediately alerted emergency services, contacted the man's family and remained with the casualty, speaking to him until his son and medical assistance arrived and he was transferred to hospital.

### Compassion

Praising the actions and compassion demonstrated by both Highland Council employees, Councillor John Finlayson, who represents the Eilean a' Cheò ward, said the employees' quick thinking had ensured a positive outcome from

what could have been a tragic situation. 'I personally would like to thank them for what they did and also thank all our employees on Skye and Raasay, for their support over the festive season as well as in recent months,' said Mr Finlayson.

'I have received many communications from members of the public highlighting a number of situations where workers have gone beyond their contractual obligations to help people in the community.'



Louis is gaining weight rapidly after his roadside rescue.

## Skye charity helps another feisty otter cub in trouble

An otter cub found alone by the side of the road at Harrapool on Skye last month is doing well in the care of the island-based International Otter Survival Fund (IOSF).

IOSF was contacted after the cub, a male, now named Louis, approached a dog-walker as they passed on a nearby pavement.

The walker tried to do the right thing and leave the otter but, given the proximity to the road and its insistence on following them, the IOSF says it was the right thing not to leave it.

'Leaving the little cub would have only led to the possibility of an accident on the road and that was a risk that was not worth taking,' said IOSF on its website.

IOSF was called and immediately rescued the little otter.

The charity added: 'Louis is a fiery little sir and is developing well. After a few meals of salmon, he is now happily eating whole fish and gaining weight, so long may that continue.'

## Delayed Glenfinnan rail bridge project hoped to start in early 2022

It looks like delayed work to replace the Slatach bridge carrying the A830 trunk road over the rail line at the western edge of Glenfinnan and ancillary work to create a new stretch of trunk road, might now start some time early next year.

Asked when the delayed work would finally get under way – work on compulsory purchase orders for the land required were due to be completed by mid-March of 2019 – a Transport Scotland spokesperson told the Lochaber Times there had been some hitches in progressing the transfer of ownership.

'Transport Scotland has engaged with Network Rail in respect of the acquisition of three plots of land in their ownership, which are required for the scheme to progress,' the spokesperson explained.

'Unfortunately, Network Rail's technical and commercial processes that would allow the transfer of ownership have taken significantly longer than anticipated and have yet to be concluded.

'It is hoped that these matters can be resolved early this year, allowing works to begin on site in early 2022.'



## Plockton pair welcome in New Year with a socially distanced cuppa

With the country under stricter coronavirus lockdown restrictions, a traditional New Year celebration was not possible for most people. However, Plockton residents Julia Asiedu and Louise Allan, above, at least managed a social distanced cuppa and a biscuit on the first day of the new year.

## GET INVOLVED

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# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

We are publishing this information **in association with MOWI**. Featuring the businesses in Lochaber that are open and able to offer vital products and services to our community during the current Covid-19 pandemic. Many of these businesses are working under extreme pressure to bring quality products and services to the people of Lochaber and beyond. Please remember to exercise caution when shopping and only shop for essential supplies. Along with our wonderful NHS staff and carers, our local food, fuel, news platforms and home supply businesses are our community champions!

Here we are again, in lockdown! It's a rollercoaster ride but we are here to support you. We have listed many of the essential businesses that are open to locals or operating online. Our deepest empathy goes out to the businesses that have had to close again and we look forward to seeing their doors wide open when things ease up again. Please feel free to get in touch with us if you would like to feature your business, or if you know a business that should be included. Email [nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk) or get in touch via our Facebook page on messenger (Lochaber Times) Let's spread the word as much as we can!

## SUPERMARKETS AND FOODHALLS

### MARKS & SPENCER FOODHALL

Open 8am-8pm Mon-Sat, until 7pm Sun  
Social distancing measures in place  
<https://www.marksandspencer.com/c/shopwith-confidence>  
Tel: 01397 600208

### MORRISONS

Open Mon-Sat 7am-10pm  
7am-8pm Sunday  
Please note all our cafes are currently closed.  
Tel: 01397 700333  
Tel: 0345 6116111 option 5 for doorstep deliveries for elderly and vulnerable (free service), £2 for students, £4.50 all other customers  
Petrol Station: 6am to midnight

### LIDL

Open Mon-Fri 8am-10pm  
Sun 8am-8pm  
Tel: 0800 977 7766

### ALDI

Open Mon-Sat 8am-8pm  
Sun 9am-8pm  
Tel: 0800 042 0800

### FARMFOODS

Open: 8am-8pm Mon-Fri  
Sat: 8am-7pm  
Sun: 9am-6pm  
Tel: 0121 700 7160

### CO-OP STORES

CAOL, CORPACH, MALLAIG  
Mon-Sun: 7am-8pm  
Tel: 01397 703302

### TESCO EXPRESS

Open: 7am-9pm Mon-Sat. Sun: 10am-5pm

## TAKEAWAY FOOD

### SPICE TANDOORI

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Open daily  
Phone orders only  
Payment preferred over telephone by card  
Deliveries from 4pm-10.30pm, daily within 5 mile radius of Fort William  
Fortnightly to further afield – check website for details  
[www.spice-tandoori.com](http://www.spice-tandoori.com)  
Tel: 01397 705192

### MACARI'S FISH & CHIPS

High St, Fort William  
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Tel: 01397 703333

### BEN NEVIS TAKEAWAY

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Tel: 01397706171

### THE STABLES RESTAURANT

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01397 700730 for orders - contactless collection service.

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### LOCHABER LARDER

Blar Mhor Ind. Estate  
Collection or delivery  
Visit Facebook page for full product list  
Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm, Saturday - 8am - 2pm  
And don't worry if you can't make it in to the shop - our delivery schedule is as follows:  
Fort William & Surrounding – daily  
Mallaig & Road to the Isles - Tuesday & Friday  
Strontian/Acharacle – Wednesday  
Ballachulish/Kinlochleven – Thursday  
Spean Bridge/Roybridge – Saturday  
Telephone orders: 01397 703070

### IAIN STEWART FISH SALES

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## WILDCAT VEGETABLES

Deliveries can be arranged locally  
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## ARDSHEALACH SMOKEHOUSE & FINE FOODS

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Tel: 01687 470266

## NEVIS BAKERY

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Tel: 01397 772087

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Tel: 01397 712121  
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## JAHAMA HIGHLAND ESTATES VENISON

Located at North Road, Fort William  
http://www.jahamahighlandestates.com/  
venison-sales/  
01397 902355

## BUILDING, PLUMBING, DIY SUPPLIES

### LBS

Opening hours  
Monday-Friday  
7.30am-5.30pm  
Saturday 8am to 11.45am  
Sunday closed  
Limited to 3 customers in store at any one time  
sales@lochaberdiy.co.uk or 01397 700350  
Deliveries may be possible but please enquire first, we will try our best to accommodate.

## H.I.S (HIGHLAND INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES)

Call/email to order then collect  
Monday - Friday 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Saturday 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM  
Sunday CLOSED  
Visit: www.hisltd.co.uk

## LEGAL SERVICES

### MACPHEE & PARTNERS

Available: Mon-Fri 9am - 5pm  
We remain fully available to assist with your legal and property matters - with protective measures in place. Providing a local and personal service in these difficult times.  
Tel: 01397701000  
Email: law@macphee.co.uk

## GARAGES

### FORT WILLIAM TYRE SERVICES

Open for essential workers and commercial freight organisations  
Tel: 01397 700277 or 07702 433 495

## MCCONECHY'S TYRES & EXHAUSTS

Open as usual Mon-Sat 8.30am-5.30pm  
Sat 8.30am-12.30pm  
Social distancing measures in place  
Tel: 01397 706197  
Email: fort-william@mcconechys.co.uk  
www.mcconechys.co.uk

## FUEL/SERVICE STATIONS

### BP ROAD TO THE ISLES

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Jet wash, shop and off license  
Tel: 01397 703406

### ESSO GARAGE

Open 24 hours, 7 days  
Tel: 01397 702706

### GLEANERS

(Ben Nevis Filling Station Fort William and Onich Services)  
Tel: 01397 702346 ahead of travelling for opening hours

### MORRISONS SERVICE STATION

Open 6.30am-10.30pm,  
Tel: 01397 700333

### GLENCOE FILLING STATION

Open 7 days 8am-6.30pm (from 10am Sun)  
Tel: 01855 811308

### THE FERRY STORES & KILCHOAN FILLING STATION

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Tel: 01972 510201

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For essential travel only:

### A&A TAXIS

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Tel: 01397 701702

### SPEEDERS CABS

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### BOOTS THE CHEMIST

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## CONVENIENCE STORES/ NEWSAGENTS

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Thursday - 9:00am until 5:30pm  
Saturday - 10:00am until 5:00 pm  
Social distancing measures in place  
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www.theemporiumfortwilliam.square.site

### THE HIGHLAND SOAP COMPANY

Inverlochry  
Available to order online  
www.highlandsoaps.com  
Click and collect service, weekdays 10am-12pm after receiving a 'ready to collect' email.

### MARSHALL & PEARSON

Open for essentials: Mon, Wed, Fri - 11am-3pm.  
Visit FB page for more information  
Order on 01397 700500  
Enquiries via messenger

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www.highlandtitles.com/nature-reserves/

## OTHER INFO FOR ESSENTIAL SERVICES

### BALLACHULISH COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP

Visit FB page for more information  
FB: Covid19balla  
Wellbeing Larder  
Tuesdays 5.30pm to 7pm  
Saturdays 10am - 12pm  
Call confidentially on 01855 604311

### FOODBANK LOCHABER

Unit 4, Airds Crossing, High Street, Fort William  
Tel: 01397 700212/07421087463  
Open Mon, Wed and Fri 12pm-2pm  
www.lochaberfoodbank.org  
FB: lochaberfoodbank  
Call confidentially for sign  
High Street, Fort William33 6EUI. 01397 700212 or 07421087463

### LOCHABER CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

We are still working (from home)- we are still here for you. Due to COVID-19, we are running a reduced service. To help keep you and our staff safe, our bureau will only be operating a telephone and email advice service. Tel: 01397 705311 (10 am to 4 pm), Email: adviser@lochaberCAB.casonline.org.uk

### LOCHABER HOPE

Running a fully remote service.  
Tel: 01397 704836  
email: reception@lochaberhope.org.uk  
FB: lochaberhope or www.lochaberhope.org.uk

### SHIEL BUSES AND CITYLINK

Both companies continue to run reduced timetable for essential journeys  
www.shielbuses.co.uk  
www.citylink.co.uk

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Bike Hire & Shop  
Covid Level 4 - we are now open TUESDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY (inclusive) from 10am to 5pm  
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www.glencoebikehire.com

**Information correct at time of going to press.  
Check Lochaber Life for other services including trades and repairs**

**This page will run in the Lochaber Times every week for as long as necessary - printed information will be updated weekly.**

# Young carers net generous donation from footballers

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Men's and women's football teams from the Western Isles Island Games Association (WIIGA) have donated £330 to Pointers Youth Centre's Young Carers Programme.

Pointers Youth Centre has senior carers groups in Lewis and Harris for secondary-aged young people. It also runs a monthly junior young carers group in Lewis and Harris for young carers in primary four to seven.

At these groups, young carers come together to relax away from the stresses and strains of their caring responsibilities. They enjoy fun activities and chill out time, and are provided with a healthy meal.

WIIGA men's team manager and Comhairle Active Schools

Co-ordinator Eric 'Strada' Macleod said: 'Euan Macleod, the women's manager, and I had a conversation about both WIIGA squads donating towards a local charity as part of the Children in Need initiative.

'We are aware of the amazing work young carers in the Western Isles do through our work with them and our conversations with Pointers and the youngsters themselves.

'Both teams were more than happy to donate and were fully behind our recommendation to donate towards the young carers.

'Players from both squads made a personal donation at their respective training sessions.'

A Pointers spokesperson said: Young carers had an especially tough time of it in 2020. Without being able to go



Members of the Pointers Lewis senior young carers group outside Pointers Youth Centre with Holly Martin and Strada Macleod.

to school, some young carers haven't had the usual daily break from their caring roles

and some of them have seen a significant increase in their caring responsibilities.

'Thanks go to WIIGA and all other local individuals and businesses who have supported

Pointers and the young carers. It is very much appreciated.'

Pointers Youth Centre is a purpose designed youth café which opened in its current location in 2000. Ideally situated and open to all young people, it hosts various groups and drop-in sessions.

For more information about Pointers Young Carers, or to find out about any of the other groups run by Pointers, email [pointers@cne-siar.gov.uk](mailto:pointers@cne-siar.gov.uk) or visit the [www.cne-siar.gov.uk](http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk) website and go to the Pointers Drop-in Centre page.

## Climbers' leg up from UK Sport funding

Mountaineering Scotland has welcomed news competitive climbing in the UK is to benefit from a multi-million investment in Olympic and Paralympic sport.

The investment from UK Sport will amount to £450,000 over the next 12 months and will be channelled through GB Climbing, which was developed by the British Mountaineering Council.

Mountaineering Scotland's ClimbScotland team contributed to the funding application and is delighted its input has contributed to such a positive outcome.

The UK Sport Continuity funding will allow GB Climbing to deliver Covid-secure training for the Home Nation and National Talent squads, as well as several Covid-secure competition opportunities, including a paraclimbing event.

Mountaineering Scotland and ClimbScotland will be working with the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) to deliver the work, along with Mountain Training and the Association of British Climbing Walls.



Climber Will Bosi, who received funding to prepare for, and be supported in, competition at the recent IFSC Moscow European Championships. Photograph by Sandy Carr.

There will also be liaison with Mountaineering Ireland.

GB Climbing is also committed to ensuring that solid, effective structures can also be built for the other competitive areas under the BMC's umbrella, such as GB Paraclimbing, GB Ice Climbing and Ski Mountaineering.

Jamie Smith, ClimbScotland development manager, said: 'This is fantastic news for athletes and the future national development of the sport.

'We look forward to working with GB Climbing to make what is written on paper happen. It has been great as a home nation to have been a small part of the large amount of work to make this submis-

sion to UK Sport a success. Congratulations to everyone involved.'

Stuart Younie, Mountaineering Scotland chief executive officer, added: 'With the recent announcement climbing will be in the Paris Olympic Games, this funding will provide a major boost to help us develop the systems that support our young climbers.'

The money allocated for climbing is part of a £352million investment in Olympic and Paralympic sport announced by UK Sport, with Progression Funding for seven sports – including climbing – to uncover and support the champions of tomorrow.

## SCOTTISH FIELD

### January issue



Exclusive  
So that was  
2020 feature

### So that was 2020...

Interviews with top authors, actors & singers...  
James Cosmo talks fishing & Father Christmas...  
Stuart Hogg on horse riding... Father of fantasy fiction...  
Wonderful world of owls... SF Quiz of the Year...  
Recipes from The Seafood Shack...



## Ben aims for dizzy heights

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



Roy Bridge trials rider Ben Dignan has signed a deal that will see him remain a part of the Vertigo Factory Team and a Vertigo Motors UK rider for 2021.

Ben had a strong debut season with Vertigo in the FIM Trial125 World Championship last year with consistent results putting him in the top 10 in the opening round and on the podium three times including a maiden win on the second day in Andorra.

The 17-year-old finished the 2020 season taking home the bronze medal and showing he is a force to be reckoned with amongst the other internation-

al riders. Ben also started to cut his teeth within the Trial 2 UK, competing against an experienced field.

Ben will enter the 2021 season as one of the top Trial125 World Championship contenders with high hopes of another great year with Vertigo, whilst also looking to make his mark on the Trial 2 British National Championship and possibly within the Scottish Six Days Trial as a Vertigo Motors UK rider, backed by trials legend Dougie Lampkin.

Ben said: 'Last year was a whirlwind and it's hard to put it into words what it all means. But I couldn't be happier to have signed for another year with Vertigo and the people connected with it. So following



Roy Bridge trials rider Ben Dignan signs up for another year with top racing team Vertigo.

a short break over Christmas, I will be settling back down to the hard work over the remaining part of the winter with my

coach Alexz Wigg at my side.'  
Dougie said: 'I am delighted Ben will be part of the team again in 2021. There is no

doubt he made a big impact this season and certainly made his rivals sit up and take note.

'With more hard work this winter, Ben has got a real chance of challenging for the Trial125 World Championship next year.

'Once again, Vertigo UK and the Vertigo factory will do everything possible to support him in his title fight.'

Ben added: 'All of this would not be possible without the amazing support of my coach Alexz Wigg, my family and all my personal sponsors.'

'I can't thank them enough and I look forward to doing them all proud in 2021. I would like to wish all within trials all the best for 2021, whatever that will look like.'

## Lochaber Yacht Club's New Year message

For Lochaber Yacht Club (LYC), 2020 was a challenging year.

The sailing season in Scotland is often short, even in a good year, but with lockdown starting the weekend before the Fitting Out Supper, the season didn't even begin.

During lockdown the club started to organise post lockdown sailing.

This included social distancing, single household boats and contingency for no access to the clubhouse.

Changes were made to make LYC Covid-safe which took immense effort from volunteers but it was worth it.

In July, Saturday sailing began and continued until September.

It went so well the club aims to continue weekend sailing in 2021.

Thanks are extended to everyone involved in playing their part to keep the club safely active during this strange time. It was wonderful to see members pull together to continue to enjoy the sport they love.

New members are always welcome and hopefully 2021 will allow more people to experience this exhilarating sport on Lochaber's doorstep.

## Running man Olly completes mission

by Fiona Scott  
fscott@obantimes.co.uk



While people often comment that the past year has just run away, for football coach Olly Stephen, aged 35, that was certainly true, running at least 5km every day to raise money for Fort William Football Club's U12 and U13 squads.

Snow, rain or shine, hot or cold, Olly pounded his way across Lochaber for 366 days - 2020 being Leap year - coupled with push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups and crunches, completing his challenge as planned on the last day of the year.

With support from football fans, both locally and across

the globe, through crowdfunding, Olly has raised a total, to date, of more than £2,000 to help support the keen young players - his son Jack included - in all their activities.

He said: 'Lots of people give up their time free to help run the club and train the boys at all levels. There are always financial challenges facing the club - being so far geographically away from the other teams we play; kit for the boys to train and play in; along with other training equipment and, not least, charges for hire of the facilities such as an astro pitch. They can really add up.'

Running every day, even when on holiday, Olly actually



Fort William FC U13s football coach Olly Stephen celebrates completing his challenge of running 5km every day for a year to raise money for the club. Photograph: Iain Ferguson, The Write Image.

ran 2,662Km (1,654 miles), a third more than he intended and equivalent to 700 times up and down Ben Nevis, which towers over his Caol house. About half way through, he

had to give up the 'extras' after injuring his wrist, but carried on running, even wearing leg splints on a few occasions, without a pause. 'This has most certainly

been a labour of love, with my family helping out frequently,' he added. 'I'm glad I managed to complete it and at this moment, I don't think I will ever run again.'





**Must end  
6th February**

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