

Gairloch & District Times

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The Princess Royal visits local sites | Credits: top, Matt Larsen-Daw; lower left, The Arctic Convoy Museum; lower right, Colin Irvine

Princess Royal visits Wester Ross

We hear from Aultbea Hall, The Arctic Convoy Museum and Old Schoolhouse, Inverasdale about Her Royal Highness's visits in May. More on pages 10-11.

Ten Questions with Julia Barton

The artist talks to Ginevra House about maerl and making visual stories ahead of an upcoming installation at Inverewe Garden. Pages 15-16.



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Our next issue will be published on 5th June. The submissions deadline is 29th May at 10am. For all deadlines see: gairlochtimes.org.uk/deadlines

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In brief...

Meet your new MSPs

Following the Holyrood elections there is now a new group of MSPs that represent the area.

Maree Todd lost her constituency seat to Liberal Democrat David Green.

However, she did retain a place at the Scottish Parliament as she was elected as the only SNP MSP on the Highlands and Islands Regional list.

Other MSPs returned on the Highlands and Islands list are:

- Vic Currie (Reform)
- Ariane Burgess (Scottish Greens)
- Tim Eagle (Conservative)
- Max Bannerman (Reform)
- Morven-May MacCallum (LibDem)
- Kristopher Leask (Scottish Greens)

New constituency MSP David Green is a career Liberal Democrat, having formerly worked for Charles Kennedy, Liam Macarthur, and as the party's Head of Media in Westminster. More recently he worked in public relations for Christian Aid.

Vic Currie was also the Reform candidate for Shetland and was dubbed "Shetland's invisible man" during the campaign for failing to show at local hustings events and apparently having no social media presence. A former helicopter pilot, he is said to be training as a junior doctor in Edinburgh.

Max Bannerman also stood as the Reform constituency candidate for Moray in the last Holyrood election. He has a long history of working for Conservative party politicians, including Malcolm Offord, who is now Reform Scotland party leader.

He was reportedly also an "associate" in Offord's investment firm Badenoch and Co, and he once stood as a candidate for the Conservative Party in Inverness West.

Morvern-May MacCallum is an author and also a Liberal Democrat Councillor representing the Black Isle. After winning a new role as an MSP she says she will not step down from her Highland Council job. Council elections are due to take place in 12 months time.

Kristopher Leask is an Orkney Councillor and has also said that he will not resign from his local authority role. He formerly worked as a campaigns assistant for the other Green MSP to be elected on the list, Ariane Burgess.

Ariane Burgess, Tim Eagle and Maree Todd all represented the area in the previous parliament for the Scottish Greens, the Conservatives and SNP respectively.

Council insists local Health Visitor services are "open and accessible"

Highland Council has sought to reassure locals after the Toybox Children's Centre in Gairloch said it had raised concerns over the service with local politicians. The charity said it was sent a notice by a council official telling them "that we have no Health Visitor for the area from Gairloch to Ullapool and beyond."

The Gairloch & District Times asked the council press office for a comment.

A spokesperson said: "We recognise the concern that has been raised regarding health visiting services in Ullapool and Gairloch, and we want to provide reassurance to families, communities and partners across the locality.

"Health visiting services in these areas remain open and accessible... and it remains our priority to ensure that children and families receive the support they need.

"Recruitment to the permanent Health Visitor post is actively underway. We want to reassure everyone that no family who needs support will be left

without access to health visiting services, and we are committed to maintaining safe, effective care while recruitment is completed."

Road closures delayed until late August

SSEN has said that planned full night-time road closures on the A832 near Dundonnell have been re-scheduled for late August 2026. The works had been set to start in June.

Two more public meetings are planned to provide locals with updated information on the latest work plans. They will both be held on Monday June 8:

- 16:00 – 18:00 at Aultbea Hall.
- 19:00 – 21:00 at Badcaul Church, Dundonnell.

ScotRail adds extra Sunday train

ScotRail has added an extra train on a Sunday for the summer season on the Kyle line.

Here's what the new Sunday timetable looks like:

- Inverness 10:59 → Achnasheen 12:26
- Inverness 17:54 → Achnasheen 19:22 (new)
- Achnasheen 11:31 → Inverness 13:02 (new)
- Achnasheen 16:24 → Inverness 17:53

Extreme Beach Cleaning group gains a quad

The Extreme Beach Cleaning Loch Ewe group have thanked various supporters for their role in providing a new quad bike to help them in their remote rubbish removal work.

CMES Agricultural Merchants, Hawick supplied the quad, and fitted a winch to it for free, after being persuaded to back the cause by a supporter with a farm in the borders. Additional funding for the rugged bike was sourced from the Hugh Fraser Foundation and SSEN / RJ MacLeod.

In brief...

Gairloch First Responders backed by St John Scotland

The St John Scotland public health charity has donated a complete “kit bag” to enable local first responder volunteers to carry out their work more effectively.

In April, the group’s first full month of operation, Gairloch Community First Responders provided 609 hours of emergency medical response coverage to the local area. Gairloch Community Council is still raising funds on behalf of the project. You can donate online via their GoFundMe page at: gadt.fyi/cfrs

Probe launched after air ambulance “ditched” into Loch Torridon

The Air Accident Investigation Branch (AAIB) is investigating after an air

ambulance was forced to make an “unexpected landing” in Loch Torridon. In a statement, the agency said: “The AAIB has started an investigation into an accident involving a EC145 helicopter which ditched into Loch Torridon and subsequently recovered to dry land on Thursday 7 May 2026.

“A multi-disciplinary team have been deployed to gather evidence and make enquiries.”

A Scottish Ambulance Service spokesperson said: “One of our helicopters had to make a safe but unexpected landing in Torridon due to local weather conditions. There was no patient on board and the pilot and SAS crew are safe and well. A back-up helicopter has been deployed. There is no impact on service delivery and operations continue as normal.”

Take a minute...

Community Council Minutes digested.

Gairloch Community Council met on April 13 2026. Full draft minutes can be downloaded from: gairlochtimes.org/uk/ccm

Glebe lease

Gairloch Area Development Ltd advised that it no longer wished to manage or develop the Glebe park. The question of possible ownership was raised.

It was agreed provisionally that the Community Council would decline to renew the lease, but would first advertise this intention to the community. (See issue 9)

Recycling Centre

White goods collection appears still to be a problem.

Cllr Kraft advised that problems had arisen with the contractor, and new arrangements were being made.

Community resilience planning

A second meeting of the working group, focused on identifying practical, deliverable actions.

Priority risks were identified and discussed, common consequences and response requirements mapped, and a number of core resilience needs agreed.

Bob Widdows offered to attend the resilience team if advice regarding back-up power were required.

The June meeting of the Community Council will be the Annual General Meeting.

Planning Updates

EweBrew tap house gets permission to open at Poolewe Village Hall

Local firm EweBrew have been given planning permission to open a scaled-back tap room at Poolewe Village Hall.

Backed with cash from Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the proposal also won the “wholehearted support” of Wester Loch Ewe Community Council. There were no objections from locals to the plans.

It hasn't been entirely plain sailing for EweBrew though. The nearest domestic house is 25 metres away. Environmental Health Officers have insisted on a condition that prohibits the use of deep fat fryers at the new Tap Room over concerns that the smells generated could affect nearby residents.

Initial proposals from EweBrew also set out plans to serve up to 25 people in the building, with room for 10 more people outside. But council building control officials have limited this to just 18 customers at any one time and there will now be no outdoor seating. The restrictions were put in place because there is only one toilet available at the annexe.

The tap room is now open and serving customers.

James Struthers, of the Loch Ewe Brewing Company, said: “We’re incredibly grateful for the support and patience shown by the local community throughout the process.

“The Tap Room is something we believe can become a real asset for Poolewe — showcasing local beer, food, music and hospitality while helping strengthen the wider visitor offering in the area.”

New Interpretation Boards at Laide

The Wester Ross Fisheries Trust have been given planning permission to install four interpretation boards along the coast near Laide.

More details can be found by searching for ref: 26/00253/ADV on the online council planning portal.

Community notices

Blythwood Christmas Shoeboxes

Thanks so much for all items donated this year to date. During May, toothbrushes and toothpaste for adults and children aged 3 upwards will be greatly appreciated, as well as medium sized shoeboxes.

Onie (07900 956324)

Correction note

In our story "The Big Second Home Tax Stooshie", published in issue 9 we quoted William Gray Muir extensively. The introduction to the article gave the impression that the Lighthouse in Gairloch was a second home owned by Mr Gray Muir. We are happy to clarify that this is not the case. The Lighthouse operates exclusively as commercial self catering tourist accommodation throughout the year and is assessed for business rates rather than council tax. We regret the error and any misunderstanding caused.

Gairloch Tides

May 2026

22 FRI	05:54 L: 1.12m	12:05 H: 4.27m	18:03 L: 1.55m		☾ 04:46 ☽ 21:52	☉
23 SAT	00:21 H: 4.42m	06:53 L: 1.41m	13:20 H: 4.03m	19:01 L: 1.85m	☾ 04:44 ☽ 21:54	☉
24 SUN	01:45 H: 4.22m	08:03 L: 1.63m	14:39 H: 3.92m	20:12 L: 2.05m	☾ 04:42 ☽ 21:56	☉
25 MON	03:07 H: 4.17m	09:22 L: 1.72m	15:49 H: 3.96m	21:34 L: 2.09m	☾ 04:41 ☽ 21:58	☉
26 TUE	04:16 H: 4.22m	10:34 L: 1.66m	16:47 H: 4.10m	22:49 L: 1.95m	☾ 04:39 ☽ 21:59	☉
27 WED	05:13 H: 4.33m	11:32 L: 1.52m	17:36 H: 4.28m	23:47 L: 1.74m	☾ 04:38 ☽ 22:01	☉
28 THU	06:01 H: 4.45m	12:19 L: 1.37m	18:18 H: 4.48m		☾ 04:36 ☽ 22:03	☉
29 FRI	00:34 L: 1.51m	06:42 H: 4.54m	12:59 L: 1.24m	18:55 H: 4.66m	☾ 04:35 ☽ 22:04	☉
30 SAT	01:14 L: 1.32m	07:18 H: 4.60m	13:35 L: 1.14m	19:30 H: 4.80m	☾ 04:34 ☽ 22:06	☉
31 SUN	01:51 L: 1.18m	07:51 H: 4.63m	14:10 L: 1.10m	20:03 H: 4.88m	☾ 04:32 ☽ 22:08	☉

June 2026

1 MON	02:27 L: 1.10m	08:22 H: 4.60m	14:43 L: 1.11m	20:34 H: 4.88m	☾ 04:31 ☽ 22:09	☉
2 TUE	03:01 L: 1.09m	08:51 H: 4.53m	15:16 L: 1.17m	21:05 H: 4.82m	☾ 04:30 ☽ 22:11	☉
3 WED	03:35 L: 1.14m	09:21 H: 4.42m	15:49 L: 1.28m	21:37 H: 4.70m	☾ 04:29 ☽ 22:12	☉
4 THU	04:09 L: 1.23m	09:53 H: 4.28m	16:22 L: 1.42m	22:09 H: 4.53m	☾ 04:28 ☽ 22:13	☉
5 FRI	04:45 L: 1.35m	10:28 H: 4.11m	16:57 L: 1.60m	22:46 H: 4.34m	☾ 04:27 ☽ 22:15	☉

All times are in BST.



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Scottish Land Court
G.B.B Estates Limited
Melvaig Common Grazings

SLC/23/26
Section 19A Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993

Notice is hereby given that G.B.B Estates Limited, having its registered office at 2 Friarsgate, Grosvenor Street, Chester, Cheshire, CH1 1XG, has applied to the Scottish Land Court for consent to carry out a programme of peatland restoration works in accordance with a scheme for development which permits pedestrian and vehicular access to the wider common grazings and permits the developer to take temporary occupation of parts of the affected land.

The Crofting Commission or any other party having an interest to do so who objects to the Scheme may lodge written objections, including details of the ground or grounds mentioned in section 19A(8) of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993, with the Principal Clerk, Parliament House, 11 Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 1RQ, within twenty-eight days from the date of this advertisement. The application and productions may be inspected at the offices of the Scottish Land Court, Parliament House, 11 Parliament Square, Edinburgh EH1 1RQ, Tel: 0131 240 6853 or by contacting the applicant's agents: Gillespie Macandrew LLP, 5 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh, EH3 8EJ.

It should be noted that any further orders of the Court, including the final order, will be intimated only to those persons who have lodged written objections to this public notification, the applicant and the Crofting Commission. Copies of any further orders may be obtained from the Principal Clerk of the Scottish Land Court upon request.

Gillespie Macandrew LLP
5 Atholl Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 8EJ
(Agents for G.B.B Estates Limited)

Proposed Assignment of a Croft

Emily John is applying to assign the tenancy of the croft at Inn Croft, Glentorridon, Inncroft, Applecross to Matthew Webster of 2 Darroch Park, Torridon, Achnasheen, Ross-shire, IV22 2EW.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of the advert.

Proposed Short Term Let of a Croft

Kenneth John Macaskill is applying to let the whole croft at 25 Melvaig, Gairloch, on a short-term lease to Donald Alexander Macaskill of 2 Melvaig, Gairloch, Ross-shire, IV21 2EA for 5 years.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot within 28 days from the date of the advert.

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Proposed Apportionment of a Common Grazings

Mrs Danielle Warren is applying for an apportionment of part of the Point common grazings extending to 17.3 ha for the purpose of livestock management.

Written comments from those with a relevant interest (which may be made public) to: Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW, info@crofting.gov.scot by 19/06/2026.

First Registration of a Croft

Rex Henry Long has registered their Croft No. 8 South Erradale 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 28th October 2026.

Details of the registration can be found at www.ros.gov.uk/our-registers/crofting-register
The croft registration number is C11196.

Have your say on new rules for Short Term Lets

Highland Council has launched a formal public consultation on proposals to introduce a Short Term Let Control Area (STLCA) covering much of the rural Highlands, including Wester Ross.

Officials say the aim of the proposed new control zone is to give the council the powers to strike a better balance between tourism growth and local housing need.

The proposed new Highland Rural STLCA, would cover the wards of Lochaber; Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh; Sutherland; Skye and Raasay; Aird and Loch Ness; and parts of Inverness South, including Tomatin and Daviot.

Within a control area, planning permission will always be required for a future change of use of a residential home to a secondary short-term let – where the owner does not normally live in the property but rents it out on a short-term basis. Currently, planning permission is often not required for this change of use.

Control areas do not introduce a ban on short-term lets, or affect second homes, empty properties or purpose-built holiday accommodation.

According to a council statement, “many locations within the proposed control areas experience high concentrations of short-term lets. In some communities, short-term lets account for more than 20% of all homes.”

Across the proposed Highland Rural Control Area, nearly 1 in 10 of all houses built within the last five years now operate as short-term lets.

The consultation also follows concerns raised through local place planning about the impact of high concentrations of short-term lets on local housing and the amenity and character of some neighbourhoods.

Proposed Short Term Let Control Area Highland Rural



Officials add that “Short term lets are not the sole cause of housing pressures in Highland, but they are one of several contributing factors leading to the loss of residential homes in some areas.”

As well as these STLCA plans, other measures to tackle the “housing challenge,” in the region are being pursued by the council. These include charging second home owners additional council tax (see issue 9), and launching a new £1m fund designed to encourage property owners to bring long-term empty homes back into use.

Cllr Bill Lobban, Convener of The Highland Council, said: “We face a housing challenge in Highland and the

availability of local housing for people to live and work in the region is critical to the future sustainability of our communities and the wider socio-economic transformation of our region.

“No decisions have been made yet and the feedback gathered through the consultation, along with the evidence available, will help shape the Council’s next steps.”

The consultation runs until Tuesday 23 June, with drop-in information events taking place in Plockton (14 May), Inverness (22 May), Portree (25 May), and Ullapool (1 June). To take part in the consultation, and find out more, visit: www.highland.gov.uk/STLCAConsult

MP welcomes independent review into banking services

A Highlands MP has welcomed an announcement from the UK Government that an independent review will be held into access to face-to-face banking services.

The Access to Banking Review will be chaired by Richard Lloyd OBE, who will provide a report and recommendations to Government by October 2026. Lloyd has previously worked as a non-executive director (and interim Chair) of the Financial Conduct Authority and as Executive Director of Which?

The Government has pledged to legislate quickly where the review finds evidence that the rules need to be changed.

Since Lloyds Banking Group announced that it would close a number of Highland Bank of Scotland branches, including one in Gairloch, local

politicians have been lobbying the UK Government to change the rules that set out when communities qualify for “banking hubs.” These provide access to face-to-face financial services when all local bank branches have closed.

Jamie Stone, the Liberal Democrat MP for Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross said his persistence had paid off: “As I’ve told the Treasury, we have legislation that ensures access to cash but we do not have legislation that protects face-to-face banking services.

“This causes considerable stress to people all over the country, especially those living in remote and rural communities. What’s more, not everyone has the means of using online banking and not everyone can simply drive to the next town in search of a bank branch.

“It is simply unfair that these people are disproportionately disadvantaged.

“The government needs to realise that financial inclusion does not begin and end with cash access. The presence of bank staff, advice services and in-person problem resolution remains fundamental to maintaining financial confidence.”

Announcing the review Lucy Rigby, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said: “Banking services are a really important part of lives and communities, and it’s critical we can all access what we need – whether through local banking services or strong community-based alternatives like credit unions. We are supporting industry’s roll out of banking hubs, but we also need a clear picture of where communities are still losing out.”

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WELLBEING Weekend, Inverasdale, 17 - 19 July

Saturday 1 August **Pottery Painting** with Prickly Fish 2.30 - 4.30pm

Tuesday 4 August **Arm Knit a Throw** 6 - 8pm

All details and booking links can be found on the Old Schoolhouse website or on our Facebook page.

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School pupils visit Reay Forest Estate

By Olivia Watson

On Wednesday April 29 the S1 group of Gairloch High School travelled to the Grosvenor Reay Forest Estate in Sutherland as an overnight educational trip.

We left at about 1:30 PM on a mini bus and arrived at Kinlochervie village hall around 4 PM where we spent the night.

The next day, we travelled down to the Reay Estate where we spent most of the day.

As stated in the official Reay Forest Estate website "Reay Forest is a traditional rural estate renowned for its excellence in conservation, leading country sports and the beauty of its unspoilt landscape."

While we were there, we learned about all of the different jobs that come with running the estate and how they worked.

My personal favourites to learn about were hospitality work, managing and taking care of the horses and learning about the different kinds of trees and wood on the land.

The estate workers were incredibly welcoming and educational, I thoroughly enjoyed working with them and they've definitely opened me up to a potential job position for the future.

This report was written by Olivia Watson who is an S1 pupil at Gairloch High School.

It is the first piece to be published from a collaboration with the school that aims to get more local young people into print.

Young people urged to apply for Fuaran 2026

Fèisean nan Gàidheal has announced that applications for Fuaran 2026 are open.

The project offers young people, aged 16 – 25, the opportunity to research Gaelic songs and heritage related to their own region, their own family or of other significance to them.

Through Fuaran, participants will work with experts and tradition bearers during a training weekend in order to develop their skills in research, singing, performing and creating digital content.

Participants will have the opportunity to create podcasts, recordings and videos about their own research, and share their work through social media, concerts and public events. The deadline for applications is 29 May 2026. For more information see: gadt.fyi/fuaran2026

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Princess Royal Visits Wester Ross

Following the visit made by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal to Wester Ross on 12th and 13th May 2026, we hear from local organisations about the day.

Pictured right, The Princess Royal at Old Schoolhouse, Inverasdale | Credit: Matt Larsen-Daw



Royal Visitor Recognises Volunteer Achievements Honouring Arctic Convoy Veterans



The Arctic Convoy Museum has welcomed HRH The Princess Royal to its Exhibition Centre in Aultbea. The museum is the only one in the UK solely dedicated to the story of the WWII supply convoys that assembled at Loch Ewe for the perilous journey to the northern ports of the Soviet Union. The objects in its collection have all been entirely donated by Arctic Convoy veterans and their families and tell stories of bravery, hardship and tragedy.

The Princess Royal was visiting Wester Ross to find out more about volunteer led activities in the area.

She was able to meet volunteers and staff, some of whom have been involved in running the museum since its inception in 2011. Her Royal Highness was given a tour of the museum's new displays by curator Dr Karen Buchanan. Chairman Francis Russell introduced the trustees and the team of friendly and knowledgeable volunteers who welcome visitors to the museum and maintain the Arctic Convoy memorial at Cove.

Within the Exhibition Centre, The Princess Royal showed particular interest in the personal stories of Arctic Convoy veterans behind the objects on display. She questioned volunteers on

their roles within the museum and their personal connections to the convoys. Towards the end of her visit, Her Royal Highness unveiled a commemorative plaque and was presented with a scarf in the Arctic Convoy tartan and a ship's crest for HMS Helicon – the naval base at Aultbea during WWII.

Museum Chairman Francis Russell commented "I am so pleased that The Princess Royal was able to visit the museum, meet our volunteers and hear about the fantastic work they do keeping the museum going and providing a first-class visitor experience. Everyone involved with the museum is incredibly dedicated to our mission of preserving the memories of the Arctic Convoy veterans and maintaining a lasting memorial to their efforts."



Arctic Convoy Museum photos credit: Jim Buchanan and Ed Duncan

Aultbea Hall Revival

The official re-opening of Aultbea Hall by HRH The Princess Royal was a celebration of the outstanding collective will to save our historic World War II cinema and NAAFI.

The project was launched at a public meeting in October 2021: three years earlier the building had been condemned as a dangerous structure, following a survey which reported on serious corrosion of the steel reef supports. It took until May 2025 to complete all the repair and renovation work required.



Aultbea Hall photos credit: Colin Irvine



However, much more was achieved than originally planned, thanks to ten grants and thousands of hours of voluntary commitment. The Hall is now a welcoming and vibrant venue for our local young people, including Bualnaluib School and 'Babies to Bairns', for ceilidhs and concerts, craft markets and an increasing range of leisure activities.

On a cool, breezy but bright morning, The Princess Royal met representatives of the contractors, user groups, volunteers and supporters, as well as the trustees and committee which had, post-pandemic, taken on the challenge of bringing the long-loved Hall back into

the centre of community life. Local residents shared their memories, and the children of Bualnaluib School, musicians from Gairloch High School and Sing Loch Ewe provided the entertainment, before Her Royal Highness was presented with a posy, a gift of gorse-scented soaps and unveiled a plaque in recognition of Aultbea Hall Revival!



Wester Loch Ewe Trust welcomes Princess Royal to Old Schoolhouse



It was a pleasure to welcome Her Royal Highness to the old school and share both the work already undertaken by the Trust and our future plans for the building and wider community.

The Princess Royal spent time speaking with guests and community representatives, taking great interest in the projects and initiatives being developed through WLET. Her Royal Highness was extremely supportive of the work being carried out and demonstrated a clear understanding of the unique challenges faced by small and rural communities such as ours. The opportunity to discuss the successes and aspirations of the Trust with her was greatly appreciated by all involved.

The visit was a proud and memorable occasion for the community, and Wester Loch Ewe Trust would like to extend sincere thanks to everyone who came to The Old Schoolhouse to represent the Wester Loch Ewe communities and help make the day so special.

Special thanks are also extended to the children from Poolewe Primary School who met Her Royal Highness at the end of the visit, to the well-wishers who gathered during the visit, to Highland Blooms for the beautiful posy and to our volunteers who worked so hard to prepare and spruce up the school.



A spokesperson for Wester Loch Ewe Trust said: "It was a tremendous honour to welcome Her Royal Highness to Inverasdale. Her warmth, interest, and encouragement meant a great deal to everyone involved and provided wonderful recognition of the dedication and hard work of our volunteers and community."



WLET photos credit: Matt Larsen-Daw

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Let's Walk and Explore: Slattadale, Talladale and Garvaig

Dorothy Malone invites us to put on sturdy shoes and explore the scenery, archaeology and local history of Wester Ross.



All photos courtesy of Dorothy Malone

Along the road to Gairloch from Kinlochewe there is a sign to a carpark on a road leading down to the right. Just beyond a very modern house at the bottom of this road there is a car-parking area on the edge of Loch Maree. From here there are paths which go through woods, beside burns and the loch.

If you carry on along the lochside path you will arrive at Tollie, near Poolewe. This is a longish walk, and it follows an old road – the continuation of the Caulfeild route of 1763. Some of this path is quite well-made although some of it can be muddy. Unless you had someone to meet you at the other end it would be a very long 'there and back' trek, but the views over the loch are beautiful so why not just wander along at your own pace.

Talladale (around the Loch Maree Hotel), Garvaig, and Slattadale were early settlements. Talladale as Allydyll was the place where Gairloch's first Royal Charter was witnessed in December 1494 when King James IV gave Hector Roy Mackenzie, Gairloch's 1st laird, the lands of Gairloch.

Around 1660-1670 there were two named inhabitants in (Telladill) Talladale, Donald McConchie, a variation of the surname Robertson, and his brother, Rorie. Donald was a wright, someone who worked with wood. And in (Sladadill) Slattadale there were two tenants, but these were unnamed.

Garvaig was recorded as Garveck but no tenants were shown. In 1707, the earliest of the Gairloch Rental Records, four tenants were listed in Talladale.

These were Kenneth Murdoson, George Cross, Donald McWircief, and Rorie Bain. Finlay Kemp was shown in Garvaig and John McConil, Donald Kemp and Donald Fraser were in Slattadale.

On the census of 1911 there were still five households in the area, all with connections to farming. But there were none shown in 1921. Traces of old buildings can be found in the fields and woods. The 1st OS map shows the position of several houses which cannot be found today. There was once a limekiln and some iron workings. Surnames such as Cross and Kemp can be traced back to the iron workers.

Another walk may be taken from the bridge on the first walk: turn up to the left rather than going straight ahead. This path follows a small river. The path joins a wide and open area where there is a wide track.

Take this to the right until its end. At the end there is a new path down to the right. Take this. At the bottom of this you will meet the path you have taken on the first walk. Turn right and the muddy path will take you back to your car. This whole round takes slightly over an hour but it's a great walk with lovely views.



Soup ladies win praise at Poolewe Market

£30k grants for empty homes

A Highland Mental health charity has thanked the Gairloch Soup Ladies and stall holders at Poolewe Market, after they helped to raise hundreds of pounds for the organisation.

Mikeysline, which operates a mobile mental health support service, said in a social media post: "Our Hive on the Road was busy in Wester Ross supporting communities by sharing conversations that challenge stigma, reduce isolation & create hope and connection.

"Our main stop was Poolewe, where the wonderful Gairloch Soup Ladies (and Bruce!) kindly took on the challenge of running the Poolewe Tuesday Market café to raise vital funds for Mikeysline - it was a fantastic community effort!

"Huge thanks to:

- The amazing Soup Ladies (and Bruce)
- The Poolewe Tuesday Market stallholders
- Alison from Button Bothy (with her lovely bee charms)
- Jenny Douglas and her beautiful cards
- Everyone who donated to the raffle and made delicious home baking

"Your support and kindness means so much and thanks to you, an incredible £822 was raised which will support us in delivering our lifeline services," they added.

You can find out more about the support available from Mikeysline at: mikeysline.co.uk

A new council fund to help owners of long-term empty homes carry out repairs and refurbishments to bring properties back into everyday use will be launched at the end of May.

There are currently 2,466 long-term empty properties in Highland, with 41% vacant for more than three years. Grants of up to £30,000 in rural areas, will be available to eligible applicants.

In return, properties must be brought back into use and either let at affordable mid-market rent or occupied as the owner's main residence for a minimum of five years. To qualify, properties must have been empty for at least 12 months. Applications for the Empty Homes Challenge Fund will open on the Highland Council website when the fund goes live at the end of May.

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Ten Questions with Julia Barton

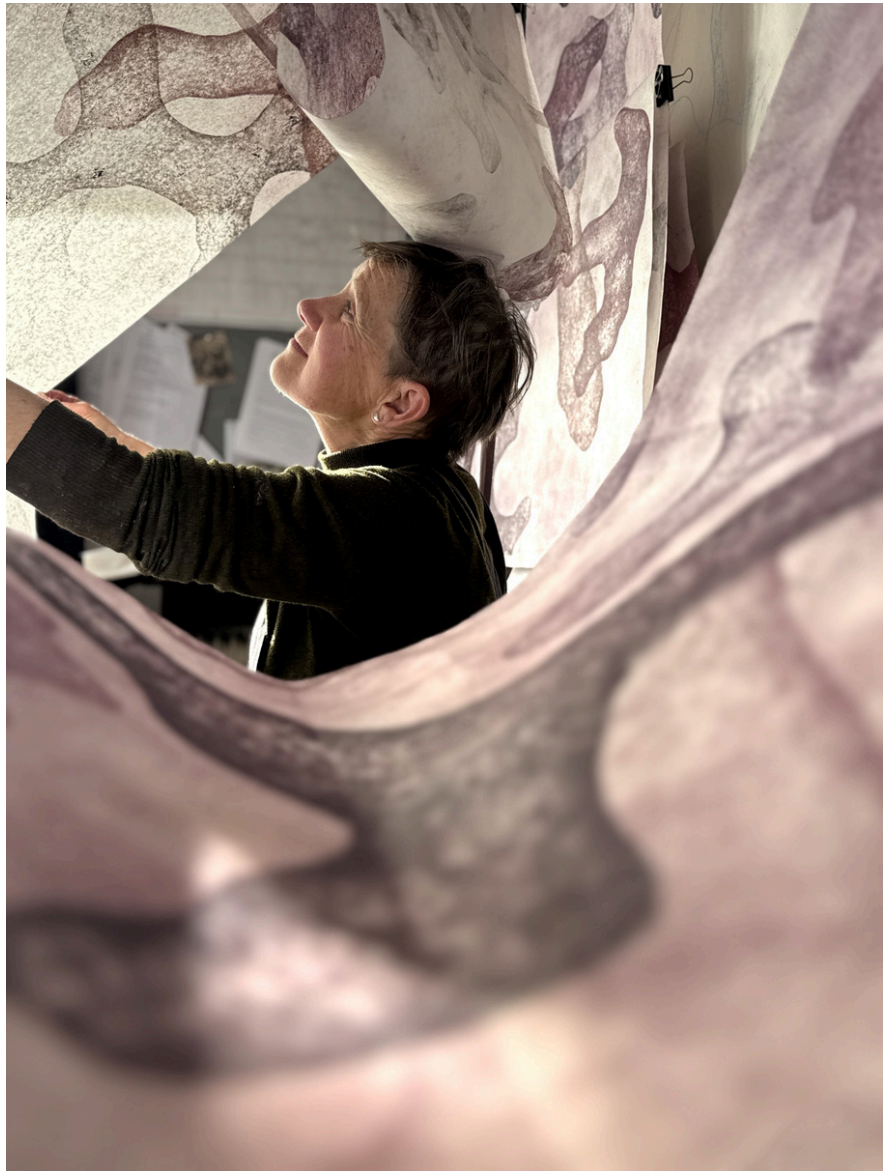
The artist speaks with Ginevra House, Curator of Arts@Inverewe.

1. Tell us about your upcoming installation at Inverewe Garden: MAERL – Seabed Superhome.

My idea is to immerse visitors in the branching architecture of maerl that provides shelter and protection, forming ideal marine nurseries. Visitors navigate their way through large-scale maerl sculptures, surrounded by suspended prints of maerl shapes. Video and soundscapes bring to life the abundant marine life that inhabits these underwater sanctuaries.

2. How did you end up in Wester Ross?

I began working in the Ullapool area in 2013. I was based in the Borders and studying seaweed in Edinburgh, but while learning to identify seaweeds on the Coigach shorelines, I got distracted and horrified by the levels of plastic on the shoreline. I took to the road in my van to do work on marine plastic both on the mainland and Northern Isles.



Above: Julia working with her prints; below left: maerl detail | Credit: Paul Barton

3. What drew you to maerl?

I'd seen photos, but when I actually picked a piece up and started to look at it, it was so understandable, those branching, twig-like forms. When we find it on the beach it's very bonelike, bleached and smooth – you can understand its whole being, growing really slowly (1mm a year), tumbling loose on the seabed.

While drawing it, I looked at the negative spaces between the twiglets and began to think – what could I do with this sculpturally? Could I make an installation that would draw people into seeing it as a shelter, a home, formed of the unusual, dynamic spaces in between?

4. How do you tackle environmental themes in your art?

I create visual stories – it's about immersion in another way of looking.

If I can get people to feel what's so wonderful about the organism, the seaweed, then they might look at it differently, care enough to find out more, protect it.

5. How is this reflected in the materials you use?

I work sustainably, avoiding materials, like plastic or metal, that take lots of energy to produce. For this exhibition I'm using papier mâché clay – everyone around me (thank you!) has been collecting egg boxes, packaging, paper to make the pulp, which is built up on a framework of driftwood off the shoreline to create maerl sculptures.

6. What do you hope the installation will communicate?

Maerl's uniqueness – that it is a seaweed and that some seaweeds are hard. I want people to understand the sculptural

Continued on page 16.

Continued from page 15.

nature of it, this hard but living seaweed that provides an amazing shelter for hundreds of organisms and attracts the herring to spawn. To give people the chance to experience it on land, without donning diving kit, to just be among it, imagine life within it.

7. You call maerl a ‘Superhome’ – what does this mean?

I became hooked by the idea of maerl as the most organic construction block ever. The fact that it’s free and not anchored, it’s just picked up on the swell, forming a constantly dynamic space. So I asked ‘How can I build with that?’ For the children at Scoraig I made cutout pieces they could build and slot together. And they totally got the idea – how the sea urchins and the crabs disguise themselves with maerl and change its form to suit themselves.

8. What threats does maerl face?

Waste, from salmon farms, which leads to blooms of filamentous algae that smothers the maerl. And bottom dredging – the MPA is officially protected, but scallop dredgers still

occasionally operate, whether intentionally or by accident. Other disruptions to the seabed, such as the SSE power cable running from the Hebrides also require close monitoring – in Skye locals are fighting a plan to route a cable straight through a maerl bed.

9. Why Inverewe Garden?

It’s the most perfect place to be, on the southern edge of the Wester Ross Marine Protected Area. And it’s on the coastline that links all the way to my studio. And people can find pieces of maerl washed up on the beaches around here.

10. What’s next? More maerl?

I’m working with Blue Hope Alliance on the Herring and Maerl festival in September. I’ll also be researching sustainable materials, making inks for my printmaking using the rocks and plants around my studio.

MAERL launches on 6 June, 1–3pm, at Inverewe Garden. Free entry to Wester Loch Ewe Council Area residents.

Below: maerl detail | Credit: Paul Barton



Investigating Gaelic Identity in Wester Ross

A UHI postgraduate project needs research participants: can you help?

Madainn mhath a h-uile duine.

I’m completing my postgraduate degree with UHI, investigating Gaelic identity in Gairloch and surrounding areas (e.g. Poolewe, Badachro etc). I’m based in Gairloch, but originally from the Outer Hebrides, where Gaelic has played a significant role in my life for many years.

I am looking to interview some people locally who can help me to better understand Gaelic identity in Wester Ross.

I would love to hear from:

- People in the area who speak Gaelic (whether you are originally “from” here or not)
- People who do not speak Gaelic but are originally from the area and have Gaelic ancestry

If that sounds like you, I would be really grateful if you could spare some of your time to chat to me as part of this research project, which aims to support the Wester Ross Biosphere’s upcoming Gaelic development plan.

If you’re interested (or you know anyone who would be), please drop me a message! I will provide more info about the project ahead of the interview, which will be very relaxed. You can contact me via 15011380@uhi.ac.uk.

Mòran taing!
Kirsty

MAERL

Seabed Superhome

An immersive installation by Julia Barton

6 June to 31 July. The Sawyer Gallery, Inverewe House

Preview: 6 June 13:00 to 15:00

Community Day: 18 July 11:00 – 12:30 and 14:00 – 15:30

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For more information about Inverewe Garden go to www.nts.org.uk

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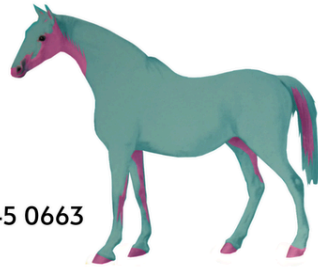


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Closing date: Friday 12th June 2026

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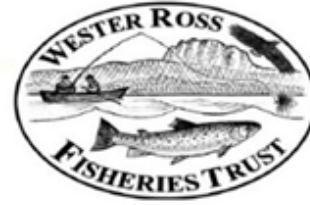
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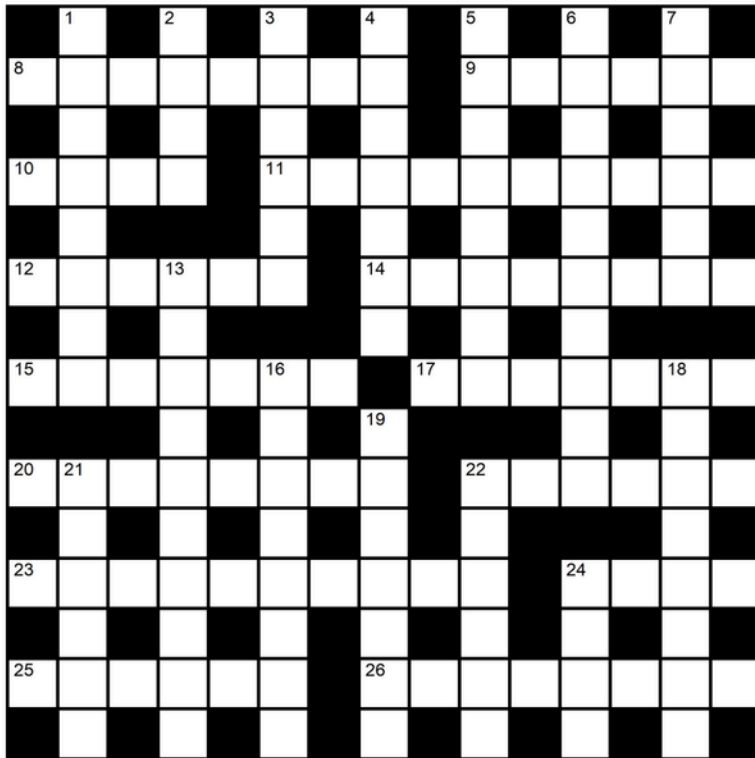
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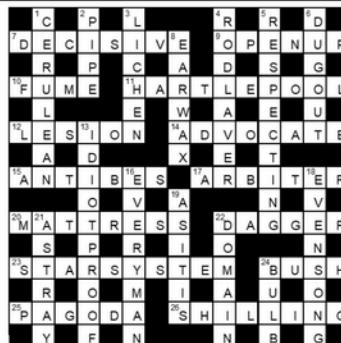
£5 will be awarded for the first correct solution drawn from all entries. Solutions can be sent as images by email to: crossword@gairlochtimes.org.uk or in hard copy by post to our office. Entries must reach us by 9am, Monday 1st June. Solutions and the winner's name will be published in the next issue. Please provide your name and contact details below (email preferred):

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Issue 9 solution:

Congratulations to the winner of Issue 9's cryptic crossword:
Sarah and Mike Daniell

With many thanks to our crossword setters, John Dyke, Pat Gulliver and Liam Ross.



Across

- 8 Perhaps degenerate is warmed, bedding beautiful Greek who needs no introduction (8)
- 9 The Wimbledon Champion Who Could Be Going To Hell (6)
- 10 A flower in bijou setting (4)
- 11 Heed voting in preparation for sign off (4,3,3)
- 12 Extremity the French deal with (6)
- 14 Setter said to rule Romania with Kohl (8)
- 15 Leading anti-Thatcherite Tories knocked back Marmite? (7)
- 17 "Dancing bears" in this language is "плешући медведи" (7)
- 20 Note memory carefully in general (8)
- 22 Girl has social-cohort axe to grind (6)
- 23 Skidmore, Owings & Merrill made it big in Chicago! (5,5)
- 24 Draw model out of fast (4)
- 25 The architecture of Le Corbusier? (6)
- 26 Rude teen, badly dressed (8)

Down

- 1 Difficult girl stamps on books (8)
- 2 Look out front (4)
- 3 Menzies Campbell: liberal European associate (6)
- 4 Stoical type accepts some offal (without a hint of resentment) as a Scottish dish (7)
- 5 Setters writing in a plot, in a manner of speaking (2,2,4)
- 6 Certain nubile Dane "performing" (10)
- 7 Put down Ted for cycling around sensitive youth (6)
- 13 Cheap place to buy feathers? (4-6)
- 16 Colour that's harmonic (8)
- 18 Took opening batter (with endless poor innings) to be hugged by a bloke (8)
- 19 Discovered stupid crank? Even that provides some benefit (3,4)
- 21 Athletic trainers knocked back drink all right! (6)
- 22 Plane's broadcast communications system (6)
- 24 Halt baseball team's rise (4)

Wester Ross Physiotherapy and Pilates

Bridget Williams

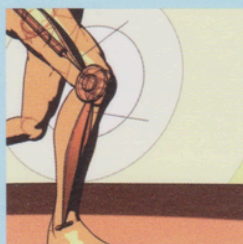
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Pilates Instructor - APPI trained
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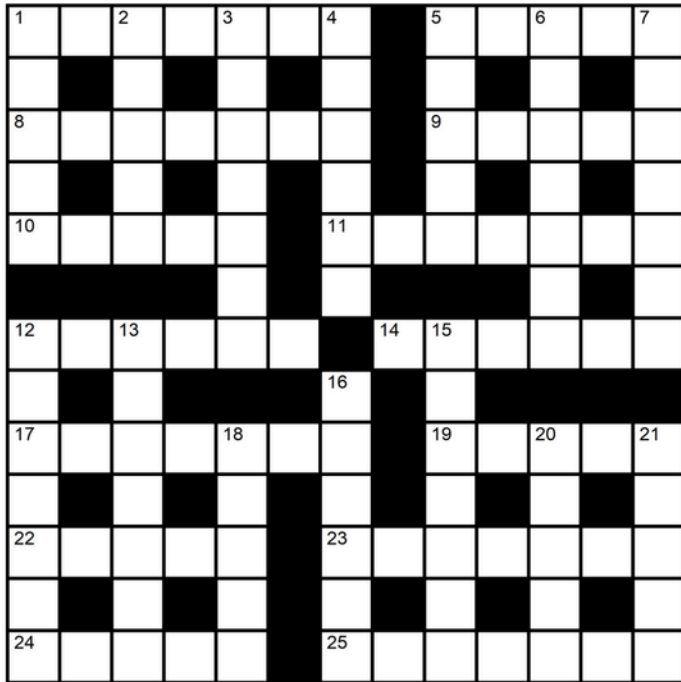


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IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK

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To request a Hive on the Road appointment (Mobile Service) please email: enquiries@mikeysline.co.uk

Concise crossword



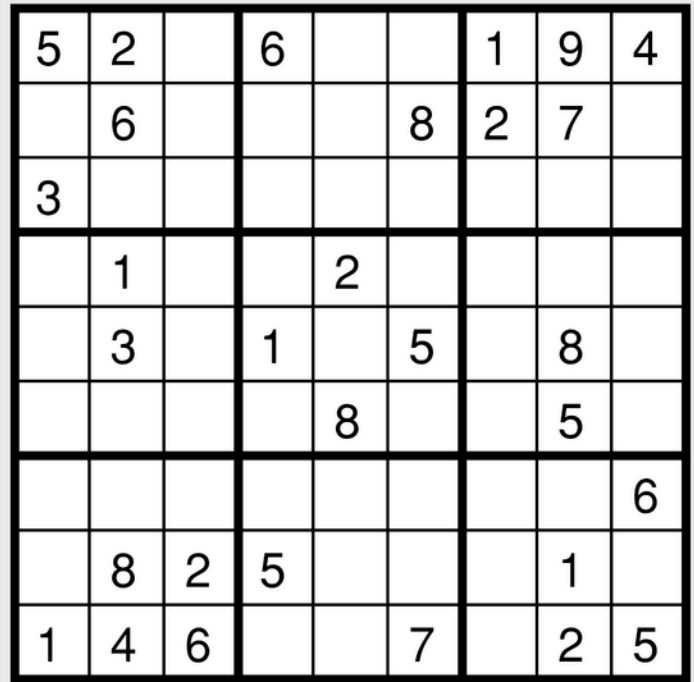
Across

- 1 The setting of the film *Scum* (7)
- 5 Autoimmune disease, also known as SLE (5)
- 8 Rigs act (*anag.*) (7)
- 9 ___ Schumann, German pianist and composer (5)
- 10 A type of brief underwear (5)
- 11 Iris Murdoch's fourth novel, set in a religious community (3,4)
- 12 Aloof, distant (*informal*) (6)
- 14 Steal apples (6)
- 17 Margaret ____, author, sister of A S Byatt (7)
- 19 Conclude from evidence (5)
- 22 Type of bean or a patchy horse (5)
- 23 Californian city, location of Disneyland (7)
- 24 Stable, compact (5)
- 25 Joseph ____, policy analyst whose eponymous window describes what is currently politically acceptable (7)

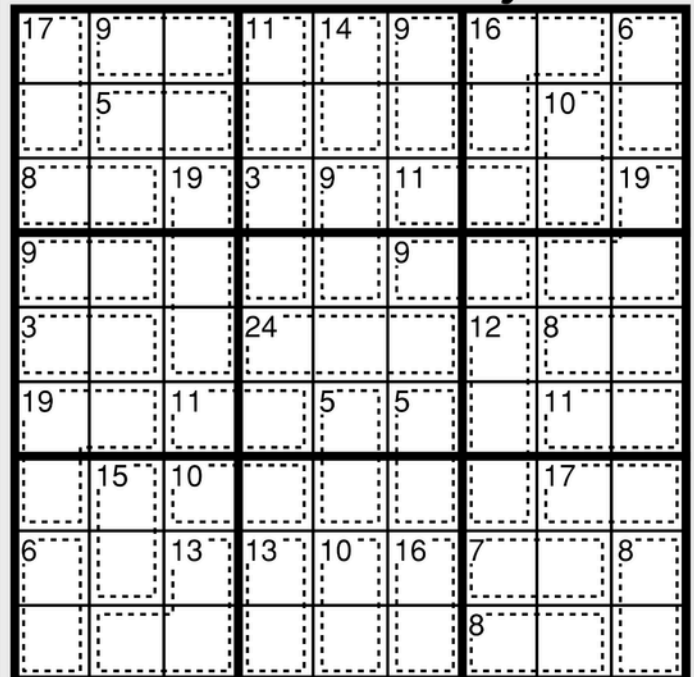
Down

- 1 German ____, a shipping forecast area (5)
- 2 Sticky substance produced by some trees (5)
- 3 1984 film about nuclear war, written by Barry Hines (7)
- 4 What DuPont calls acrylic glass (6)
- 5 John ____ (1632-1704), philosopher, author of *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (5)
- 6 Flatten off (7)
- 7 Complicated situation, traffic jam (5-2)
- 12 Tragic Greek mythological figure who experienced family problems (7)
- 13 Waffle, cloth (7)
- 15 Successive sharp bends in motor racing (7)
- 16 Ice cream in Italian (6)
- 18 Group of baby birds (5)
- 20 A service area on the M3 (5)
- 21 Times New ____, typeface (5)

Sudoku: hard

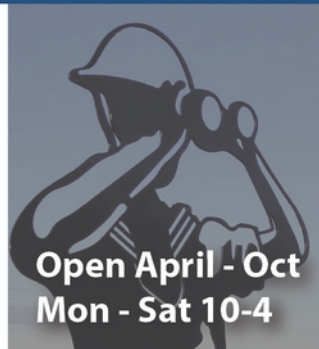


Killer sudoku: easy



Our thanks to John Dyke for supplying the puzzles.
Concise crossword solution on page 33.

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Christ Jesus'
(2 Timothy 3:15)

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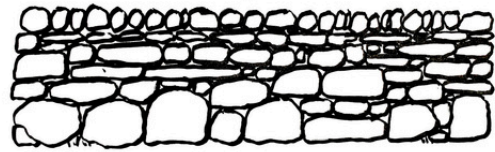


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Catholic Church, Gairloch



Please note that as from
1st January 2026 Masses are
at 2.30pm in St Maelrubha's, Poolewe
on 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month.
There will not be a service on any
of the other Sundays of each month.

Contact: Fr. Maximilian Nwosu
St Mary's Beauly IV4 7AU
☎ (01463) 782232
Email: stmarysbeauly@btinternet.com
Web site: www.stmarysbeauly.org

Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland, Laide

Times of Services, DV
Sabbath Day 12 noon and 5.00 pm

Prayer Meeting as intimated

“Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy”
Exodus 20:8

A Warm Welcome is Extended to All

The Scottish Episcopal Church

with its origins in the Celtic tradition,
invites you to worship at

Saint Maelrubha's Church, Poolewe



Holy Eucharist every Sunday 11am
All welcome

For further information contact:
Rev Heather Widdows Tel: 01445 712176
Jenny Wiseman Tel: 01445 731177

The Scottish Episcopal Church is part of the
worldwide Anglican Communion

For Church Hall bookings please contact Rev Heather Widdows on 01445 712176

Charity Number: SC020389

Worship Services and Weekly Meetings

West Ross Church of Scotland	Gairloch, Kinlochewe & Torridon Free Church	Lochewe Community Church
Sunday Services	Sunday Services	Sunday Services
10.30am Gairloch Church of Scotland	11.00am Gairloch	11am Aultbea (Sunday school and Crèche)
10.30am Badcaul (2nd & 4th Sunday of Month)	2.30pm Kinlochewe (2nd & 4th Sunday), Torridon (3rd & 5th Sunday)	5.00pm Poolewe CDs of both services
5.00pm Aultbea (2nd & 4th Sunday)	5.00pm Gairloch (CDs available)	Youth group Every second Sunday
Bible study, Praise & Prayer: Gairloch Wednesday 7pm	Prayer Meetings: Thursdays 2pm Kinlochewe, 7pm Gairloch.	Wednesday Food for Faith: 7.15pm alternate weeks between Aultbea and Poolewe— check the website or Facebook for details
Contact— Gary Bainbridge (712645) Follow us on Facebook	Contact—Ian Grant (712465) www.gktfreechurch.com	Contact—Dan Paterson (731345) www.lochewechurch.com

Radio Wester Ross: First Light 6.54am Mon-Fri, Sunday Light at 8am—9am

For Radio Wester Ross: 106 and 106.6FM,
www.radiowesterross.scot



For Youthwork: Susan MacLean (731376); susan.youthwork@btinternet.com

Directory

Arts, Sport and Culture

A' Bruidhinn na Gàidhlig / Gaelic Conversation

Weekly Conversation Practice every Friday 16.00 – 16.30. Monthly vocab practice 13.30 – 14.30, after Soup Lunch at Kinlochewe Village Hall. Email: kinlochewevillagehall@gmail.com

Arctic Convoy Museum

Museum and exhibition space.
Tel: 01445 731137
Web: arcticconvoymuseum.org

Aultbea Badminton Club

Meets weekly on Thursdays at Aultbea Hall. 19:00 - 20:00
Tel: Mel Macleod 07713 174 651

Aultbea Clay Pigeon Shooting Club

Meets at Mellon Charles on Saturday afternoons at 13:30
Tel: Jerry 07540 634950

Dolphin Arts Project

Open to anyone living with a diagnosis of dementia or cognitive impairment and their carers / companions.
Meets every Monday at Strathburn House, 10:00 - 12:00.
Email: Justine Ritchie justine@antallasolais.org

Cearcall Còmhraidh

Weekly Gaelic language conversation sessions aimed at both fluent speakers and learners of all ages. Every Friday 14:00 - 15:00 at the Gairloch Museum.
Web: gadt.fyi/museumevents

Crafting together in Aultbea

A group for all (non-messy) crafts. Meeting every second Friday in the Loch Ewe Community Church between 10:30 and 14:30.
Web: gadt.fyi/ctia

Creative Writing in Kinlochewe

Meets monthly in Kinlochewe Village Hall. Everyone is welcome, no experience needed. Email: kinlochewevillagehall@gmail.com

Gairloch Angling Club

Trout angling. Information available from Secretary Ian Johnstone.
Tel: 07899 737 961

Gairloch Aultbea United Football Club

Local team. See: gadt.fyi/khyb

Gairloch Boat Club

Tel: 07762 793 644
Email: secretary@gairlochboatclub.org
Web: gairlochboatclub.org.uk

Gairloch Coastal Rowing Club

Web: gadt.fyi/rowing

Gairloch Golf Club

9 hole course.
Email: gairlochgolfclub@gmail.com
Web: gairlochgolfclub.co.uk

Gairloch Indoor Bowls

Meets Wednesdays at 20:00 in Gairloch Community Hall.
Tel: Mary Gibson 01445 712 537

Gairloch Leisure Centre

Gym, climbing wall and fitness classes.
Web: gadt.fyi/leisure
Tel: 01445 712345

Gairloch Museum

Visitor attraction, gift shop, café, events, monthly book group and exhibition space.
Web: gairlochmuseum.org
Tel: 01445 712 287

Hot Chilli Gamelan

Meets every Tuesday at Waterside Cottage, Poolewe, starting at 19:00.
Email: ginevra.house@yahoo.co.uk

Inverewe Garden

Garden, gallery, and visitor attraction run by National Trust for Scotland.
Web: gadt.fyi/inverewe

Loch Ewe Community Skiff Group

Contact Chloe Hall on:
lecssecretary@gmail.com

Poolewe Swimming Pool

Offers lane swimming, Parent and Toddler and Learn to Swim classes.
Tel: 01445 781345
Web: gadt.fyi/poolewepool

Project Linus Group

Patchwork & quilting in the Gairloch Church of Scotland Hall.
Email: gairlochlinusgroup@gmail.com
Tel: Carol on 01445 712781

Radio Wester Ross

Listen on 106 and 106.6 FM in Gairloch and Loch Ewe area, 96.8 and 102.2 FM in Lochbroom area, and 101.8 in Shildaig.
Web: radiowesterross.scot

Short Mat Bowls

Weekly on Wednesday at 19:00 at Aultbea Hub.
Web: aultbeahub.org

Short Tennis

Weekly on Monday 12:00 - 13:00 at Poolewe Village Hall.
Email: poolewvillagehall@gmail.com
Tel: Alison on 07900602765

Sing Loch Ewe

Sing for fun, connection and community. Meets at The Crow's Nest, Aultbea Hall Wednesdays 19:30 - 21:30.
Email: singlochewe@gmail.com
Facebook: gadt.fyi/singlochewe

Social Badminton

Wednesdays at Poolewe Village Hall from 18:30 - 19:30.
Email: garyjack227@hotmail.co.uk

Social climbing

Bouldering wall sessions at Kinlochewe Village Hall. Most Wednesday and Friday evenings. Email: kinlochewevillagehall@gmail.com

UHI Gairloch

Access everything from short leisure courses to CPD and degree courses.
Web: gadt.fyi/uhigairloch

West Coast Arts

Supports local arts events.
Tel: Howard Swindells 07549130485
Web: westcoastarts.co.uk

Wester Ross Youth Football Club

Training for primary & secondary-aged players. Tel: Neil on 07470536569

West Ross Mobile Library

Mobile library operates a three-weekly schedule of visits throughout area.
Tel: 01445 712469
Web: gadt.fyi/hllibraries

Help us keep these pages updated. Email suggestions to hi@gairlochtimes.org.uk

Directory

Whatever the Weather Wednesdays at Gairloch Museum

In morning Museum objects and other inspiration are used to aid discussion. In the afternoon, we play games. All activities are accessible and dementia friendly. Web: gadt.fyi/museumevents

Zumba

Classes in Aultbea, Poolewe and Gairloch.
Email: janiszumba@yahoo.co.uk

Animal welfare

Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR)

If you find a stranded or entangled whale, dolphin, porpoise or seal that is alive, report at once. Tel: 01825 765546
Web: bdmlr.org.uk

SSPCA

Animal rehoming, advice and investigates animal welfare concerns.
Tel: 03000 999 999 (welfare reports)
Web: scottishspca.org

Children and Families

Active Schools

Various activities on offer. Email: stephen.macdonald@highlifehighland.co.uk

Al-anon & Alateen

Help for families & friends of people dependent on alcohol.
Tel: 0800 0086 811
Web: al-anonuk.org.uk

Archie's Child Bereavement Service

Provides free support to bereaved children and young people, including home visits.
Web: archie.org/bereavement
Email: acbs.highlands@archie.org
Tel: 07563 396155

Aultbea Babies & Toddlers

Facebook: Aultbea Babies and Toddlers
Tel: Kate Macrae 01445 731259

Baby Massage

Weekly classes at Aultbea Hall. Email: olivia.macLennan@highland.gov.uk

Connecting Carers

Support for unpaid carers in the Highlands. Tel: 01463 723760
Web: connectingcarers.org.uk

Free period products

Free period products are available to everyone who needs them.
Web: gadt.fyi/freep

Junior Ranger Club

Fortnightly sessions run in partnership between National Trust for Scotland Torridon and Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve rangers and are designed to get local children outside exploring the nature on their doorstep. Contact Rory Shannon
Email: rshannon@nts.org.uk
Tel: 07596564142.

Just Ask Help Line

Help from Highland professionals about child development and local support.
Tel: 0300 303 1365 on Tuesdays or Thursdays, 1pm to 4pm.

Highland Council Social Work Services

Wester Ross Children Services Family Team: 01478 613825 / 0808 175 3646 (out of hours)

Kids Nature Club at Gairloch Library

High Life Highland Ranger Katie Grant runs a monthly nature club for school kids. Sessions last for an hour and run from 14:30 - 15:30 on the last Friday of the month. Email: Katie.Grant1@highlifehighland.com

Kinlochewe Baby and Toddlers Group

Meets most Mondays in Kinlochewe Village Hall.
Tel: Hayley on 07722037155

NHS Highland Adult Social Care

Share a concern about an adult.
Tel: 01471 820174 / 0808 175 3646 (out of hours)

Poolewe Toddlers

Meets Wednesdays 10:30 - 11:30 in Poolewe Village Hall.
Email: poolewetoddlers@gmail.com

Slattadale

Community-led outdoor education project.
Web: slattadale.org.uk

Toybox Children's Centre

Childcare for children aged 6 months - 10 years.
Tel: 01445 712362
Email: toybox@burach.org.uk or search Toybox on Facebook.

Community Safety

In an emergency always phone 999.

Community First Responders

Local volunteers trained by Scottish Ambulance Service to provide life saving support. Covers Red Point to Badrallach. Non-emergency email: gairlochCFRs@gmail.com

Police Scotland

For non-emergency reports about crime or community safety tel: 101.
Web: scotland.police.uk/contact-us/

Rape Crisis Scotland

Support for people with experience of sexual violence.
Tel: 08088 01 03 02
Web: rapecrisisScotland.org.uk

Ross-shire Women's Aid Outreach Service

Support for women and children with experience of domestic abuse.
Tel: 01349 863 568
Web: rosswa.co.uk

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Tel: 01382 835804

Democracy and Community Development

Aultbea Community Council

Email: aultbeacommunitycouncil@gmail.com

Community Out West Trust

Operates community toilets in Kinlochewe
Web: cowtrust.com
Email: communityoutwest@gmail.com

Gairloch Community Council

Email: secretary@gairloch-cc.gov.uk
Web: gadt.fyi/gcc

Gairloch Area Development Trust Ltd

Operates and develops community facilities, including Gairloch Beach toilets. Web: gadt.fyi/gad

Directory

Gairloch & Loch Ewe Action Forum

Operates café, gift shop, community pub, public toilets, befriending, mens' circle, counselling services and more.

Tel: 01445 712071

Web: galeactionforum.co.uk

Loch Ewe Community Enterprise

Aims to purchase a redundant industrial unit in Poolewe. Web: lece.org.uk

Torridon And Kinlochewe Community Council

Web: tkcc.scot

Torridon and District Community Association

Operates the Loch Torridon Community Centre and other community assets.

Web: lochtorridoncentre.co.uk

Shieldaig Community Association

Manages and develops community facilities and organises events.

Web: gadt.fyi/shieldaig-ca

Shieldaig Community Council

Email: ShieldaigCC@gmail.com

Web: shieldaig.info

Wester Loch Ewe Community Council

Email: wleccsec@gmail.com

Web: gadt.fyi/WLECC

Wester Loch Ewe Trust

Develops and manages community facilities including Poolewe Community Toilets & the Old Inversasdale School House.

Web: westerlochewe.com

Writetothem.com

An easy way to find and email your local councillors, MSPs and MP.

Web: writetothem.com

Environment and Roads

Fixmystreet.com

Report issues with fly-tipping, street lighting, potholes etc.

Web: fixmystreet.com

GAP Litter Busters

Volunteer group that clears litter. Lends out litter picking kit.

Email: gaplitterbusters@gmail.com

Web: gadt.fyi/gaplitter

Gairloch Harbour

Web: gadt.fyi/harbour

Tel: Harbourmaster 07919 690929

Gairloch Recycling Centre

Dispose of waste safely. Open: Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm, Sat 10am - 2pm.

Tel: 01349 886606

Web: gadt.fyi/waste

Highland Council Planning

Planning and building standards advice.

Tel: 01349 886608

Web: wam.highland.gov.uk

Highland Council Roads and Street Lighting

Tel: 01349 886601 / 01349 886690

(out of hours)

Web: highland.gov.uk

Household Electrical Recycling Collection Service

Almost any electrical item can be securely recycled for free. Monthly collection from Aultbea Hall carpark, by ILM Highland.

Tel: 01349 884774

Web: gadt.fyi/ilmcollect

Inverbroom Estate

Scottish Wildlife Trust owned estate.

Regular conservation volunteering available.

More: gadt.fyi/inverbroomvols

Laide & Aultbea Community Woodland

Community owned and managed woodland.

Web: laidewood.org.uk

Scottish EPA

Get flood warnings and report pollution.

Tel: 0800 807 060 (Pollution)

Web: sepa.scot

Scottish Salmon Marine Debris

Get fish farm debris removed by the firms responsible for generating it.

Web: gadt.fyi/fishfarmdebris

Scottish Water

Manages water mains, sewers and drinking water quality.

Tel: 0800 0778 778

Web: scottishwater.co.uk

Food and Craft Markets

Aultbea Monthly Market

Runs first Saturday of the month from May - October at Aultbea Hall.

To book a stall contact Chris Cooper.

Email: scott_cc@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 07901 696 197

Gairloch Markets

Craft market with cafe in Gairloch Community Hall. Fortnightly on Mondays from May 11 - October.

Email: Loulouq1969@gmail.com

Poolewe Markets

Every week from the last Tuesday in March until the last Tuesday in October.

Venue: Poolewe Village Hall

Time: 10:00 - 14:30

Web: gadt.fyi/ptm

Email: buttonbothy@gmail.com

Torridon Thursday Markets

Runs twice a month on Thursdays over the summer months.

Venue: Loch Torridon Community Centre

Time: 10:00 - 15:00

Web: lochtorridoncentre.co.uk

Health

Call 111 for non-emergency help and advice from NHS.

Highland Alcohol and Drug Advice & Support Service

Get help managing alcohol and drug use.

Tel: 01463 717594

Web: gadt.fyi/drugs

Aultbea and Gairloch Medical Practice

Covers Gairloch, Aultbea and surrounding areas.

Gairloch 01445 712229

Aultbea 01445 731221

Web: twolochsgp.co.uk

Change Mental Health Community Link Worker Service

Through social prescribing, Change Mental Health can help people experiencing stressors in their lives due to social problems, which could lead to poor mental health. Referrals to the community link worker can be made via your GP.

Web: changemh.org/clw/

Directory

DefibFinder.uk

Use this website to find your nearest working public defibrillator.
Web: defibfinder.uk

Dental help

There is no NHS dentist service for adults in Wester Ross. People in need of emergency dental care should phone NHS Highland on:
0800 141 2362 Mon-Fri 8.45am-5pm.

Outwith these hours call 111. Under 18s can register for free NHS dental care at the Ullapool Public Dental Service practice.
Web: nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk

Gairloch Aid & Mobility Support

Support for people with limited mobility & seniors.
Fall Prevention Class: Elna Lawrie
Tel: 01445 712274
Outings & Aids: Birgit Joost
Tel: 07749 801386
Email: gamsbirgit2@gmail.com

Gairloch Pharmacy

NHS Prescriptions and other medicines.
Tel: 01445 712 840
Web: gairlochpharmacy.co.uk

Highland Mental Wellbeing

Directory of mental health services.
Web: gadt.fyi/wellbeing

Mindfulness

Informal group practising Mindfulness.
Tel: John on 01445 781333
Email: ajrwood@pm.me

Torrison Medical Practice

Covers Torrison and Shieldaig area.
Web: torrisonmedicalpractice.gp.scot
Tel: 01445 791223

Torrison Wellbeing Walks

Local walking group meeting every Tuesday at 11am. Contact National Trust for Scotland Ranger, Rory Shannon, on
rshannon@nts.org.uk or 07940231954

Housing

Handyperson service

Free handyperson service for people over 65, veterans over 60 and people with disabilities.
Tel: 01349 884774
Web: ilmhighland.co.uk

Highland Council

Housing and homelessness services:
Tel: 01349 886602 or
01349 886691 out of hours.

SSEN Powertrak

Report power cuts and get info on power outages. Register for priority support.
Tel: 105
Web: powertrack.ssen.co.uk

Support and Advice

Citizens Advice Bureau

Advice service on the third Thursday of every month in Gairloch Community Hall. Booking required.
Tel: 01349 883333 Email:
adviser@alnesscab.casonline.org.uk

Local venues

How to find and book community spaces

📍 Aultbea Hall (Hall & Crow's Nest)

Address: Aultbea IV22 2JR
Map link: gadt.fyi/AultbeaCH
Web: aultbeahall.org.uk
To book: Kerry Ann Darlington
0772 558 3293 or
bookings@aultbeahall.org.uk

📍 Aultbea Community Hub

Address: Aultbea IV22 2HU
Map link: gadt.fyi/aulhub
Web: aultbeahub.org

📍 GALE Centre and The Shieling

Address: Achtercairn, Gairloch IV21 2BH
Map link: gadt.fyi/gale
Web: galeactionforum.co.uk

Organising an event?

List it in our events diary.
Share details:

Gairlochtimes.org.uk/submissions

📍 Gairloch Community Hall

Address: Gairloch IV21 2BP
Map link: gadt.fyi/gairlochCH
Web: gairlochcommunityhall.org.uk
To book: Call Julia Mackenzie
01445 712470
or 0771 659 7035 (mobile).
Email: jmackenzie813011@aol.com

📍 Gairloch Museum

Address: Gairloch IV21 2BH
Map link: gadt.fyi/museum
Web: gairlochmuseum.org
To book: Call 01445 712 287 or email
office@gairlochmuseum.org

📍 Kinlochewe Village Hall

Address: Kinlochewe, Torrison. IV22 2PE
Map link: gadt.fyi/KVH
To book: Eleanor Kennedy -
0799 935 5020 or
kinlochewevillagehall@gmail.com

📍 Loch Torrison Community Centre

Address: Torrison IV22 2EZ
Map link: gadt.fyi/TorCC
Web: lochtorrisoncentre.co.uk
To book: Call the Manager on
01445 791 361.

📍 The Inverasdale Old Schoolhouse

Address: Inverasdale Poolewe IV22 2LR
Map link: gadt.fyi/invsh
Web: westerlochewe.com

📍 Poolewe Village Hall

Address: Londubh, Poolewe IV22 2LD
Map link: gadt.fyi/PoolVH
Web: poolewvillagehall.org
To book: Email
poolewvillagehall@gmail.com or call
Alison Kelly on 07900 602 765.

📍 St Maelrubha's Church Hall - Poolewe

Address: 4-26 St Maelrubha Cl, Poolewe IV22 2JP
Map link: gadt.fyi/smch
Web: stmaelrubhapoolewe.org
To book: Call Heather Widdows on
01445 712 176.

Concise crossword solutions:

Across: 1 Borstal, 5 Lupus, 8 Gastric, 9 Clara, 10 Tanga, 11 The Bell, 12 Offish, 14 Scrup, 17 Drabble, 19 Infer, 22 Pinto, 23 Anaheim, 24 Solid, 25 Overton
Down: 1 Bight, 2 Resin, 3 Threads, 4 Lucite, 5 Locke, 6 Plateau, 7 Snarl-up, 12 Oedipus, 13 Flannel, 15 Chicane, 16 Gelato, 18 Brood, 20 Fleet, 21 Roman

Star ascidians and a spotted cowrie, migrating birds, and a singing redstart

By Peter Cunningham

A shallow lagoon forms by the An Dun headland at the far end of Gairloch beach as the tide goes out.

Low spring tides occur in the early afternoons every two weeks. When the sun is shining, the lagoon is an ideal place for snorkelling with many colourful seaweeds and a wonderful diversity of small animals.

We walked over the hill path from the harbour to the end of the beach and paddled in (1/5). The water is still cold in early May; I wear a 7mm wetsuit so was nice and warm. Many small fish and crabs become crowded as the tide ebbs; the centre of the lagoon is deeper than the channel from which water flows out so it is rather like a natural fish trap. In times past, perhaps inhabitants of the nearby dun found their supper in the lagoon? A shoal of small fish swam around the shallow margins; I couldn't get quite close enough to see what they were. . .

There are many hermit crabs. They come in various sizes and inhabit winkle shells, top shells and other empty shells. The receding spring tide may force them into closer proximity with each other than they would prefer! The largest hermit crabs live in whelk shells and can sometime be found in the kelp forest on the far side of the skerry.

We watched a spider crab (sea toad) wearing camouflage of seaweed scuttling across the sand and saw burrowing sea anemones on the seabed, snakelocks anemones attached to seaweed, and found a rather colourful red-brown dahlia anemone in one of the rocky cervices on the far side.

There is much seaweed debris, always worth a gentle rummage. There were sea hares including one of about 15cm long.

Sea hares are one of the largest nudibranchs (sea slugs) that can be found around our coasts. They feed on seaweeds (marine algae) and seagrass; their colour is said to vary according to what they feed on. With a mix of green, red and brown seaweed debris in the lagoon, sea hares do well! Of other molluscs, we found a group of netted dogwhelks feeding on a dead crab.

Beneath the kelp we found star ascidians (colonial sea squirts) and spotted a little cowrie on a kelp frond nearby. I've only seen a live cowrie a few times before; they are specialised predators of colonial sea squirts so never common. Like netted dogwhelks, cowries have a siphon (a bit like a snorkel) which they use to detect their prey.

There were many other little animals including small yellow (?) nudibranchs and other unidentified things. For someone short-sighted like me, the lagoon is a wonderful place for a snorkel safari; a place to see and learn new things every time I go in!

Next day, the wind was from the north and the cloud was down. On the Gairloch Gathering Ground were 20 whimbrel and 20 golden plover; birds en route to northern breeding grounds. The weather stayed cool; whimbrel were seen in several other places around the parish.

One of the most interesting records was of migrating skuas seen from Rubha Reidh on 12/5 (reported on Highland Bird Sightings website): 2 Great skuas, 11 Arctic skuas, 14 Pomarine skuas and 70 Long-tailed skuas. I've never knowingly seen a long-tailed skua!

Arctic skuas formerly bred within the parish; they are kleptoparasites of terns (stealing the tern's prey).

Terns nested on Glas Eilean and on the old pier by Mellon Charles last year; give them some space if they are setting up breeding colonies in these places again this year.

A group of 3 or 4 bottlenose dolphins ventured up Loch Gairloch to within 500m of Gairloch Museum on 6th May.

On 8th May we enjoyed another walk up the hill behind the museum finding the first early purple orchids near the path; and bluebells beginning to come out. I biked out early on 9th May along the road to Kerrysdale and over the bridge towards Shieldaig. I was listening for a redstart; it's over 10 years since I've heard one. No success again! However, maybe I turned back a little bit too soon; a little earlier in the morning the same day, one was recorded singing from an oak tree just a little bit further along the road!

There has been some rain, but still not enough to bring the water levels up in some streams to enable salmon and sea trout smolts to migrate to sea.

Thank you to CG, MM, MM and everyone who reports sightings on the Gairloch and Loch Ewe wildlife sightings facebook page and other pages.

May and June is a wonderful time for wildflowers and singing birds. Enjoy!

Peter Cunningham
cunninghampeter302@gmail.com;
07786 836 003

Getting around

Westerbus operates its main service from Gairloch. The timetable can be found below.

During school term times members of the public may also be able to use some school buses that travel to and from Gairloch Mon-Fri. Call Westerbus on 01445 712 255 for details.

Call Traveline Scotland on 0141 465 1878 for info on other providers.

The Gairloch Community Car Scheme can help people with essential journeys. Call 01445 712867 or see gairlochccs.org.

The South West Ross Community Car Scheme helps people who live in the area between Kinlochewe, Plockton and Achnasheen with essential journeys. Call: 01445 791436 or see swrc-carscheme.co.uk

Fuel, Repairs and Recovery

Aultbea-based Alex Forbes & Son offer repairs and recovery. Call: 01445 731200

MacKenzie & MacLennan in Gairloch offer fuel and repairs. Call 01445 712 255

Repairs, recovery and fuel are available from Lochcarron Garage. Call: 01520 722205

Fuel also available at Laide Post Office and Kinlochewe Service Station.

Bikes can be repaired by The Bike Shack. Call: 07484 620481

See traffic.gov.scot for info on roadworks, public electric car charging points, and more.

Westerbus timetable

700 GAIRLOCH – INVERNESS via DUNDONNELL		Monday & Friday	No services on 25/26 Dec or 1/2 Jan*
Gairloch Old Inn / Pier Road	0745	Inverness (Farraline Pk Bus Station)	1610
Gairloch Strath Square	0757	Tore Roundabout	1624
Poolewe Post Office	0809	Dingwall Council Building	1635
Aultbea Pier Road	0824	Strathpeffer Square	1643
Laide Post Office	0831	Contin Post Office	1650
Badcaul	0851	Garve Hotel	1700
Dundonnell	0856	Braemore Junction	1725
Braemore Junction	0910	Dundonnell	1739
Garve	0935	Badcaul	1744
Contin Post Office	0945	Laide Post Office	1804
Strathpeffer Square	0952	Aultbea Pier Road	1811
Dingwall Council Building	1000	Poolewe Post Office	1826
Tore Roundabout	1006	Gairloch Strath Square	1838
Inverness (Farraline Pk Bus Station)	1020	Gairloch Old Inn / Pier Road	1850

700A LAIDE – INVERNESS via KINLOCHEWE		Tuesday & Saturday	No services on 25/26 Dec or 1/2 Jan*
Laide Post Office	0750	Inverness (Farraline Pk Bus Station)	1610
Aultbea Pier Road	0755	Tore Roundabout	1624
Poolewe Post Office	0810	Dingwall Council Building	1635
Gairloch Strath Square	0825	Strathpeffer Square	1643
Gairloch Old Inn / Pier Road	0830	Contin Post Office	1650
Kerrysdale Junction	0835	Garve Hotel	1700
Loch Maree Hotel	0847	Lochluichart	1710
Kinlochewe	0900	Achnasheen	1720
Achnasheen	0910	Kinlochewe	1730
Lochluichart	0920	Loch Maree Hotel	1746
Garve Hotel	0930	Kerrysdale Junction	1753
Contin Post Office	0940	Gairloch Old Inn / Pier Road	1758
Strathpeffer Square	0947	Gairloch Strath Square	1810
Dingwall Council Building	0955	Poolewe Post Office	1823
Tore Roundabout	1005	Aultbea Pier Road	1838
Inverness (Farraline Pk Bus Station)	1020	Laide Post Office (on demand)	1845

707 GAIRLOCH – ULLAPOOL via BRAEMORE JCT		Thursday only	No services on 25/26 Dec or 1/2 Jan*
Gairloch Old Inn / Pier Road	0900	Ullapool	1312
Gairloch Strath Square	0910	Braemore Junction <i>depart</i>	1332
Poolewe Post Office	0925	Dundonnell	1348
Aultbea Pier Road	0940	Badcaul	1353
Laide Post Office	0947	Laide Post Office	1413
Badcaul	1007	Aultbea Pier Road	1420
Dundonnell	1012	Poolewe Post Office	1435
Braemore Junction	1028	Gairloch Strath Square	1450
Ullapool	1048	Gairloch Old Inn / Pier Road	1500

711 POOLEWE – DINGWALL via KINLOCHEWE		Wednesday only	No services on 25/26 Dec or 1/2 Jan*
Poolewe Post Office	0915	Dingwall Tesco	1305
Gairloch Strath Square	0930	Dingwall Council Building	1310
Gairloch Old Inn / Pier Road	0935	Strathpeffer Square	1318
Kerrysdale Junction	0940	Contin	1325
Loch Maree Hotel	0952	Garve	1335
Kinlochewe	1005	Loch Luichart	1345
Achnasheen	1020	Achnasheen	1355
Loch Luichart	1030	Kinlochewe	1410
Garve	1040	Loch Maree Hotel	1423
Contin	1050	Kerrysdale Junction	1435
Strathpeffer Square	1057	Gairloch Old Inn / Pier Road	1440
Dingwall Tesco	1105	Gairloch Strath Square	1445
Dingwall High Street	1108	Poolewe Post Office	1500

Applecross to Inverness Bus Run

Operates on Monday and Saturday only.

Passengers are advised by the operator, Lochcarron Garage, to book ahead by calling 01520 722997 before 18:00 the day before traveling. r = request stop.

Bus Stop	Time
Toscaig	07.45 r
Applecross	08.00 r
Shieldaig bus shelter	09.00 r
Kishorn Shop	09.15 r
Lochcarron Post Office	09.30
Achnasheen Station	10.15
Garve Hotel	10.35
Contin Tor View Road End	10.45
Dingwall Council Buildings	10.45
Dingwall Royal Hotel	10.58
Inverness Bus Station (arr)	11.25
Inverness Bus Station (dep)	15.00
Dingwall Royal Hotel	15.27
Dingwall Council Buildings	15.30
Contin Tor View Road End	15.40
Garve Hotel	15.50
Achnasheen Station	16.10
Lochcarron Post Office	16.45
Kishorn Shop	17.00 r
Shieldaig bus shelter	17.15 r
Applecross	18.15 r
Toscaig	18.30 r

*Call or email to confirm service details on or around public holidays

What's On?

Do you have an event to promote?

Add it at gairlochtimes.org.uk/submissions

Please note: We do our best to make sure the information here is correct but can't guarantee it. If you are uncertain about anything, please check with the organisers before you travel.

Can't see what you're looking for? Clubs, groups and markets that meet regularly are now listed in our directory pages.

When	Time	Event	Venue Name	More info
Fri May 22	19:00	Film Return - The 50 Year Comeback Story of White-Tailed Eagles in the UK	Gairloch Museum	gairlochmuseum.org/may
Sat May 23	12:00 - 14:00	Soup Lunch in support of the church buildings fund	Loch Ewe Community Church, Poolewe	
Sat May 23	19:00	Film Intern	Aultbea Hub	aultbeahub.org.uk
Tue May 26	10:00 - 11:00	Angus MacDonald MP Constituency Surgery	GALE Centre, Gairloch	Tel: 01463 592543
Tue May 26	12:30 - 13:30	Angus MacDonald MP Constituency Surgery	Loch Torridon Community Centre	Tel: 01463 592543
Wed May 27	18:00 - 20:00	Craft Fair	Hillbillies Cafe, Strath, Gairloch	gadt.fyi/weecrafters1
Thu May 28	15:30 - 17:30	Guided Walk Kinlochewe	Kinlochewe	gairlochmuseum.org/may
Fri May 29	18:30	Family Friendly Quiz Night	Shieldaig Bar	gadt.fyi/wrru0416
Sat May 30	10:00 - 14:00	Slattadale Saturdays Free Fun Family Nature sessions	Slattadale	slattadale.org.uk
Sat May 30	14:00 - 17:00	Dundonnell Garden open day	Dundonnell Garden	See page 8
Sat May 30	19:00	Film Everybody to Kenmore Street	Loch Torridon Community Centre	lochtorridoncentre.co.uk
Sat May 30	19:30	Music The Sorries	Aultbea Hall	westcoaststarts.co.uk
Mon Jun 1	19:00 - 21:00	Ceilidh House Gathering	Gairloch Museum	gairlochmuseum.org
Thu Jun 4	19:00	Shieldaig Community Council & AGM	Shieldaig Village Hall	shieldaig.info
Sat Jun 6	10:00 - 14:00	Gairloch Coastal Rowing and Boat Club Taster Day	Gairloch Harbour	gairlochboatclub.org.uk
Sat Jun 6	10:30 - 15:00	Aultbea Monthly Market	Aultbea Hall	aultbeahall.org.uk
Sat Jun 6	13:00 - 15:00	Maerl Seabed Superhome Exhibition Preview	Sawyer Gallery, Inverewe House	See page 17
Mon Jun 8	19:30	Gairloch Community Council AGM	Gairloch Community Hall	
Mon Jun 8	16:00 - 18:00	SSEN A835 Roadworks information meeting	Aultbea Hall	See page 3
Mon Jun 8	19:00 - 21:00	SSEN A835 Roadworks information meeting	Badcaul Church	See page 3
Fri Jun 12	19:00 - 20:00	Nature Talk: Seals with Matt Larsen-Daw	Gairloch Museum	gairlochmuseum.org
Sat Jun 13	11:00 - 13:00	Coffee Morning followed by talk about Scottish Air Ambulance at 14:00	Gairloch Community Hall	
Sat Jun 13	All Day	Sport Heartbreak Hill 5 Hour Challenge	Inverlael Forest	gadt.fyi/ufr
Sat Jun 13	19:30	Music Luke Daniels Trio	Poolewe Village Hall	westcoaststarts.co.uk
Mon Jun 15	19:00 - 21:00	Ceilidh House Gathering	Gairloch Museum	gairlochmuseum.org
Thu Jun 18	14:30 - 16:30	Creative Writing Workshop: Light & Colour	Gairloch Museum	gairlochmuseum.org
Thu Jun 18	15:30 - 17:30	Guided Walk - Kinlochewe	Meet at Kinlochewe Community Toilets	gairlochmuseum.org
Sat Jun 20	15:00 - 17:00	Film Herring Stories of the Minch	Gairloch Museum	gairlochmuseum.org
Sat Jun 20 - Sun Jun 21	All Day	Open Challenge Regatta	Gairloch Harbour	gairlochboatclub.org.uk
Sat Jun 20	11:00 - 15:00	Gairloch Primary School Parent Council Summer Fair	Gairloch Primary School Field	
Sat Jun 20	19:00	Film The North	Aultbea Hub	aultbeahub.org.uk
Sat Jun 20	20:00	Talent Show	Aultbea Hall	communications@aultbeahall.org.uk

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