



HELLO ALL,

The first WHAM newsletter of the new season. It is so good to see the snowdrops push through and the days lengthening. However, if you are like me that means your thoughts are now drifting to that long 'To Do' list prior to launch that seemed so achievable in the autumn now looks like the insane scribbles of an overly ambitious teenager!

In this newsletter you will find an update from Crown Estate Scotland as well as a few notes from me about the website, some new grants available, Oban Bay and yes, even Covid19. I have also added some information about a new award I have launched with Yachting Monthly which aims to encourage marine environmental writing. Please send it to anyone you think may be interested.

I hope you find the newsletter interesting. If anyone has items to include in the next edition or for the website, please get in touch.

All the best,

Sarah
WHAM Sec.

CROWN ESTATE SCOTLAND / BIDWELLS UPDATE FOR WHAM

As those who were able to attend the WHAM AGM will be aware, Crown Estate Scotland (CES) were at that time evaluating tender submissions for the provision of Management Services for their various portfolios. We are pleased (and relieved!) to be able to confirm that Bidwells' submission for the management of the Coastal Estate was successful and we will be commencing work under the new contract from 1st April 2021.

From a customer perspective, this should mean that there is no change to the current service or personnel. Val will still be your first point of call so far as Association paperwork and agreements are concerned, whilst Rob (North), John (Clyde) and Tony (Argyll) will continue as the Community Marine Officers on the ground or water as appropriate. Our Regional Managers will also be staying the same, with Graeme Ferguson looking after Argyll, Alastair Campbell the North and Darren Hirst the South West. As always, please do contact a member of the team should you wish to discuss arrangements in your local area, a current or future project, or, indeed, any matters of general marine interest. If it's related to the marine environment, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

One question that we are already being asked by a number of Associations is whether or not the mooring fees are going to be increased for this season. We can confirm that no changes are planned for 2021 and we are currently operating on the same basis as in previous years in terms of declarations and payment dates. However, given the evolving nature of the pandemic and the Government's response to it, Crown Estate Scotland are keeping the situation and their Covid-19 policies under continual review and we'll be in touch if arrangements change.

Whilst events of last year meant that many boats remained ashore the signs for the 2021 season look to be more promising. Although many boatyards and marinas continue to be quiet at present, we are aware that preparations are already underway for what we all hope will be a relaxing of rules later in the spring and early summer. We have been advised by the Scottish Tourism Alliance that waterborne visitors from abroad are unlikely to materialise in significant numbers, but there is an expectation that domestic boat owners will be keen to swap one type of cabin fever for another! If that is the case, then there are a couple of recent developments which may be of interest to those who intend to venture forth this season:

- The Colonsay Community Development Company plans to install two trots of visitor moorings in Loch Staosnaig (aka Queens Bay), the next bay to the south of Scalasaig. This will allow visiting boats to avoid the fender-testing exercise of lying alongside the pier whilst still ensuring that those who wish to venture ashore for liquid refreshment do not have to face too much of a hike. Both David Vass and Tony have been working with the islanders to try and bring this about and whilst the final location is less than ideal, we have managed to protect the recognised anchorage and (hopefully!) avoid the power cable which crosses the northern part of the bay.
- Further north, Arisaig Marine recently changed hands and we have been working with the new owners to enable them to expand their operation. After discussions with the boatyard and WHAM we have agreed the location of both an expanded mooring area (to include larger visiting vessels) and a designated anchorage area. The new owners also have plans to install a sizeable landing pontoon that will tie in with the existing slipway and work is underway to bring this to fruition for the 2021 season.

Finally, routine work continues as much as current restrictions allow. The coastal team continue to make site visits where absolutely necessary but, like many others, have become more accustomed to attending meetings and Association AGMs online. As ever, please feel free to contact any of us if you require assistance or information and we will do our best to help.

Best wishes from all in Bidwells' Coastal Management Team.

Relevant Contacts:

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NEW WEBSITE LISTING FOR RELEVANT SERVICES

The eagle eyed amongst you will have noticed a new section on the website which offers free listing for any businesses which offer direct and relevant services to WHAM members, the listing is almost exclusively for mooring servicing operations. If you know anyone who would like to be listed please let them know about the service. See <http://whamassoc.org.uk/help-and-guidance>.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

Two new grant pots were launched by Crown Estate Scotland last year.

Community Capacity Grants will provide early-stage financial support for community enterprise projects that contribute to local regeneration and sustainable development. The fund designed to help communities up to five miles from Scotland's coastline or within five miles of our rural estates. The fund is currently closed but should reopen again in May 2021. Keep an eye on the WHAM website and <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/apply-for-funding/funding-available/crown-estate-scotland> for details.

Environment Grants will provide funding to Crown Estate Scotland tenants for projects on the Scottish Crown Estate which can deliver demonstrable environmental benefits. Typical projects could include:

- Initiatives to increase local biodiversity;
- Making the local environment more attractive through, for example, planting and landscaping etc;
- Facilitating a change to greener ways of operating e.g. measures to support recycling or waste reduction; enabling green travel; activities that reduce flood risk, pollution or carbon emissions; and
- Materials providing information e.g. display boards about the local environment.

Projects which can demonstrate wider community benefits as well as environmental benefits are encouraged.

In the first year £100,000 of funding is available, with individual grants of £5,000 - £20,000.

Again, this grant fund is currently closed but should reopen again soon. Keep an eye on the WHAM website and here <https://www.crownestatescotland.com/what-we-do/sustainable-communities-fund>.

GIANT STRIDES – SCOTTISH MARINE TOURISM STRATEGY

The Scottish Marine Tourism Strategy has taken another step forward and launched a call for supporters to sign up to help deliver the aspirations of the strategy. WHAM has become a signatory and we look forward to playing our part in promoting marine tourism in our waters. For more information have a look here - <https://mymembership.britishmarine.co.uk/giant-strides/>.

NEW AWARD FOR MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL JOURNALISM

Yachting Monthly and the family of Brian and Lesley Black are excited to launch a new award celebrating inspiring journalism about the marine environment. Applications are invited from anyone who has recently used a sailing boat to explore an environmental issue about which they are passionate. The voyage should ideally have been undertaken in UK, European or Arctic waters to reflect Brian and Lesley Black's lifelong commitment to this area.

Entries, between 2,000 and 3,000 words, should be submitted by email to yachtingmonthly@futurenet.com, no later than 8 August 2021. For full details and entry details, please visit the website at:

www.yachtingmonthly.com/brianblackmemorial

COVID 19

As we 'go to press' there is no update as to when we might get to our boats again, however there is a briefing from the Scottish Government due any day. Please check

<https://www.rya.org.uk/scotland/representation/Pages/coronavirus-covid-19-Scot.aspx> for the latest information.

OBAN BAY UPDATE

Much like WHAM the team behind the Oban Bay Community Harbour Trust are keeping work going as best they can in a virtual space. Fundraising is close on the horizon and they need the support of the west coast community as they continue to address the complexity of the legalities of creating the harbour order. If you would like to know more, offer help, or would just like to stay up to date then please visit <http://www.obanharbour.scot/trust-port/>.