



THE HEBRIDEAN TIMES

HEBRIDEAN ISLAND CRUISES

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Contents

View from the Bridge	4
Captain Richard Heaton	
Crew News	5
News in Brief	6
A Celebrity Guest	7
The Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland	8-9
Orkney and Shetland Cruises 2023	10-11
Meet the Team	12
Neil Shorthouse, Chief Purser	
Crew Refresher Courses	13
Louise Campbell, Senior Purser	
Hebridean Princess Easter Escape Cruise	14
Amanda Clare	
Sea Changers Update	15
Word Wheel Puzzle	16



10-11



7

A Celebrity Guest



4

View from the Bridge



12

Chief Purser, Neil Shorthouse



When you have finished reading this newsletter, please recycle.

Cover Image: Fair Isle Puffins

Welcome to the Summer 2022 edition of The Hebridean Times

After leaving Greenock in March, *Hebridean Princess* has spent the spring and early summer operating out of her home port of Oban, sailing the scenic waters off Scotland's west coast. In July, she left Scotland in her wake and headed south for her summer sojourn, exploring hidden gems and bustling ports along the coast of the Irish Sea and English Channel.

In this issue, we look forward to our summer out of area cruises next year, when we will re-discover the far flung islands of Orkney and Shetland. You can read more of what makes these remote archipelagos unique, and the history which has shaped them, on pages 8 and 9.

Our Crew News feature welcomes a new woman at the helm, and you can find out about a surprise celebrity guest who travelled on board in May. News in Brief includes details of how HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was celebrated on board *Hebridean Princess*, in the most westerly location in the British Isles.

Meet the Team introduces you to Chief Purser Neil Shorthouse who joined our on board team at the beginning of this season, and I should like to thank guest Amanda Clare for sharing a poem she wrote on her Easter Escape cruise - you can read this on page 14 and tax your grey cells with our Word Wheel Puzzle on the back cover!

I do hope that you enjoy this issue of The Hebridean Times and that we have the opportunity to welcome you on board sooner rather than later.

Louise.

Louise Pratt
Editor



Muckle Flugga, Shetland



5

Crew News

View from the Bridge

Captain Richard Heaton



So here we are with our 2022 season in full swing and *Hebridean Princess* has headed south for her summer programme in the English Channel - usually, I would say to warmer climes, but I think we are all going to be enjoying an exceptional heatwave this year!

As July draws to a close and I look forward once more to sailing through Tower Bridge, it is only fair to look back at the ground we've covered so far this season. The West Coast of Scotland is a truly magical place and we are blessed to be able to enjoy the variety of landscapes, wildlife and weather that it has to offer.

Both early on and just a few weeks ago, we enjoyed some spectacular cruising, venturing northwards along the Sutherland coastline. Spectacular views of Suilven, from both the land and the sea, were a welcome sight for both strollers and walkers on the couple of cruises that took us to Lochinver. On land, making our way around the River Inver and Glen Canisp circuit, a most memorable sight indeed - a couple of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers perched high in the fir trees, then a short while later a white-tailed sea eagle soaring majestically above.

Back on the water and moving into the summer, sightings of minke whales and bottlenose dolphins have increased in both pod size and frequency. There have been a few occasions this year when we have been fortunate to anchor at the Shiant Isles - a special place which affords us a great opportunity to be in the very heart of so much bird activity in the skies, on the water and on the rocks. Whilst we get to enjoy the 'clowns of the sea' - the beloved puffin, the experience is certainly not as close up and personal as guests experienced when they visited the Isle of Lunga! Taking in a different variety of wildlife on the west side of the Isle of Skye, Clan Chief Hugh MacLeod welcomed us at Dunvegan Castle and Gardens with trips in their boats to visit the resident seal colony. At this point, I should like to reassure you all that our Chief Engineer is not moonlighting as the Clan Chief and vice versa!

I think my most memorable occasion, so far this year, has to be taking an anchorage on the west side of the Isle of Raasay. On good advice from our Mull RSPB Officer, David Sexton, we were able to position the ship close to the nest of a breeding pair of white-tailed sea eagles. Prior to, during and post dinner, the Skye Deck was a hive of activity with binoculars, spotting scopes and cameras in constant use enjoying views of not just the adults, but tops of two new offspring!

On a final note, it is always sad to see a friend and colleague leave our Hebridean Family after so many years, but I do wish Captain Kirk Blacker all the very best in his new endeavour as he joins the pilotage team at the port of Dover. However, this gives me the opportunity to welcome Captain Caroline (Caz) Palmer into her new role as Master and my opposite number on board *Hebridean Princess*!



Hebridean Princess - piper welcome at Inverewe

Crew News

Farewell Captain Kirk

After 10 years of working on board *Hebridean Princess*, Captain Kirk Blacker has decided to move on to pastures new and has accepted a pilotage role with the Port of Dover, which will allow him to be closer to his young family.

Kirk joined *Hebridean Princess* in 2012 as a cadet, working his way up through the ranks until he successfully achieved his Masters Certificate in 2019 and was promoted to Captain in 2021.

We wish Kirk all the very best in his new role and thank him for his many years of loyal service.

As *Hebridean Princess* sailed into Dover on 28th July, Kirk was assigned as our pilot.

Kirk is pictured on the Bridge wing with (L to R) 2nd Officer Jack Buchanan, 1st Officer Gary MacDonald, Pilot Kirk Blacker, Captain Caz Palmer and 3rd Officer Daniel Gardner.



Congratulations Captain Caz

Caz Palmer has been appointed as Hebridean Island Cruises' first ever female permanent Master and will work opposite Captain Richard Heaton.

Caz joined *Hebridean Princess* in 2014 as First Officer and achieved her Masters Certificate of Competency Unlimited, more commonly known as the 'Masters Ticket', in 2016. Caz has since worked as Chief Officer on board *Hebridean Princess* and took temporary command of the vessel in 2021. Most recently, she was seconded to the role of Fleet Safety and Compliance Officer.

Chairman, Roger Allard, sent congratulations from himself and the board of Hebridean Island Cruises.



Of her new role, Caz commented:

“ *Having worked on board Hebridean Princess for the last 8 years as Chief Officer and within the Fleet during the last year, I am excited and honoured to take this next step.*

If I have learnt one thing from my time with Hebridean Island Cruises, it is that one is never truly isolated on board. Whilst I will be taking the lead role, it is the team supporting (both on board and ashore) who make the Hebridean Princess the ship for me.

I do not believe in problems, I believe in challenges. In stepping up to Command I expect challenges which I have not imagined. But with the team that we have I am looking forward to facing them.



News in Brief

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



Royal Toast

Celebrations for HM The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee began on board *Hebridean Princess* on Thursday 2nd June 2022 as we departed from St Kilda, the archipelago which contains the westernmost islands of the Outer Hebrides.

The ship was decorated with Union Jack bunting and Jubilee banners and a tea party was held as we sailed away from St Kilda and cruised the sea stacks. Captain Caz Palmer proposed a Royal Toast and we gifted some Champagne to the St Kildans for their party the following day. We think this may have been the most westerly jubilee party in the British Isles!

The deck department dressed the ship with code flags spelling out ‘QEII Platinum.’

On Saturday 4th June in Stornoway, a further party was held on the Skye Deck. Guests led the singing of the National Anthem and Chief Purser, Neil Shorthouse, proposed a toast to Her Majesty. On the Sunday morning a church service, led by one of the guests, was held in the Tiree Lounge and was very well attended.



Patriotic Headgear



Jubilee Banners



Village Bay, St Kilda

Lord of the Highlands 2023

Our route researchers are currently working on the cruising schedule and itineraries for *Lord of the Highlands* 2023 season, and these will be available soon. Featuring cruises through the intricate waters of the Caledonian Canal and the Inner Hebrides, *Lord of the Highlands* carries a maximum of 40 guests in elegant style and a relaxed atmosphere.

A Celebrity Guest

On the 17th May cruise this year, we welcomed a surprise celebrity guest on board *Hebridean Princess* who will be familiar to many of you.

Morph was created by Peter Lord and David Sproxton to feature in the children's BBC programme *Take Hart* alongside the artist and presenter Tony Hart. Peter and David made a very simple terracotta-coloured figure who could change shape, and because he could metamorphose they called him Morph. Morph's first ever TV appearance from the first episode of *Take Hart* was broadcast on BBC1 on 15 Feb 1977.

Morph has always been hand-made out of one lump of clay, stands 12cm tall and weighs 5.5oz. We are not sure whether his visit to the Bridge was more of a hindrance than a help, but it looks as though he was thoroughly enjoying his cruise!



Creator Peter Lord with Chief Purser, Lyndsey Milne and Morph



AB, Alastair Edwards with Morph

The Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland



Muckle Flugga Lighthouse



Churchill Barriers, Orkney

Orkney and Shetland are two archipelagos, looking like a paint splatter off northeast Scotland at the very top of the map of Great Britain. They are unique and have managed to retain many of their original, unique customs and traditions resulting from their long and eventful history.

The Shetland Isles are located in the North Atlantic, as close to Norway as to Aberdeen. Shetland consists of a group of 100 islands, of which 16 are inhabited, with approximately 900 miles of coastline and a population of around 23,000. The Orkney Islands are located six miles north of the Scottish mainland. There are about 70 islands within the archipelago, 17 of which are inhabited.

Most of the 21,000 strong population live on the largest island, the mainland, though many of the inner and outer islands of Orkney also support thriving communities, each with its own distinct identity.

In the early 8th and 9th centuries the Vikings arrived in the Shetland Islands looking for land and, for the next 600 years or so, the Norsemen ruled both Orkney and Shetland. Although the Vikings had a reputation as fearsome warriors, they settled down and became farmers.

In 1468, the impoverished Christian I, King of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, pawned the Orkney Isles to James III of Scotland in lieu of a royal dowry for 50,000 florins. The Shetlands were pawned for a further 8,000 florins.

The islands are awash with Nordic inflections and Viking place names, and are a blend of Norse, Celtic and Scottish tradition. The Norsemen left their mark on the islands and some of the Norse legends and customs are still kept alive during festivals held throughout the year on the islands and many other old customs dating back to the Norse occupation are still followed.





Shetland Ponies

Pirates and smugglers were part of life for the people of Orkney and Shetland for centuries and smuggling was the most profitable of all the island's trades. As late as the 1860's customers could buy smuggled gin over the counter of a Kirkwall bank!

Fair Isle in Shetland gave its name to the unique, multi-coloured knitting designs on the islands famous woollen sweaters. It is claimed that these designs were copied from the clothing worn by shipwrecked Spanish sailors from the Armada.

The islands are awash with prehistoric remains; on Orkney, Skara Brae is a prehistoric village by the sea, whilst Stenness prickles with standing stones two storeys high.

An Italian chapel lies a long way from home on Lamb Holm, built by prisoners of war in WWII. The Old Man of Hoy is a famous chip off the old block on Hoy.

Orkney and Shetland have long been a haven for wildlife. Towering sea cliffs are home to thousands of birds - puffins, guillemots, gulls, gannets and kittiwakes can all be seen here - while the marshlands and sweeping moorlands are natural habitats for the likes of curlew, red-throated divers, hen harriers and other birds of prey.



Standing Stones of Stenness, Orkney

The clean, clear seas surrounding the islands host an incredible range of marine life, there are regular sightings of seals, whales, dolphins and orcas.

Britain's northernmost point is spectacular; Muckle Flugga lighthouse sits on a little water-buffed stack, just beyond the northern edge of the Hermaness headland on Unst. Local Norse-inspired myth has it that Muckle Flugga was formed when the giants Herma and Saxa fell in love with the same mermaid, hurling rocks at one another in rage. The mermaid called a truce, offering to marry whichever giant could follow her to the North Pole, but both drowned in pursuit.

A *Hebridean Princess* cruise is the very best way to experience the rugged beauty and fascinating heritage of these remote and inaccessible islands, with the luxury of only having to unpack once!



Fair Isle Puffins

Orkney and Shetland Cruises 2023



Italian Chapel, Orkney

Following the Fleet

18th to 26th July 2023
8 nights including 2 Gala Dinners

Tuesday 18th July Oban - Embarkation.
Wednesday 19th July - Cruise Kyle Rhea. Inverarish, Raasay - Former WWI POW camp.
Thursday 20th July - Cruise Inner Sound. Gairloch - Russian Arctic Convoy Museum.
Friday 21st July - Stornoway, Lewis - Arnish Gun Emplacements. Cruise The Minch and Cape Wrath.
Saturday 22nd July - Stromness, Orkney - Stromness Museum and Ness Battery. Kirkwall, Orkney - St Magnus Cathedral.
Sunday 23rd July - Kirkwall, Orkney - Churchill Barriers and Italian Chapel. Cruise Scapa Flow.
Monday 24th July - Lyness, Hoy - Scapa Flow Visitor Centre and Museum. Stroma - Walks ashore.
Tuesday 25th July - Scrabster - Castle of Mey or Mary Ann's Cottage. Cruise East Coast.
Wednesday 26th July - Inverness - Disembarkation.

Prices per person	Brochure Fare	New Fare
Single Cabins		
Scresort	£8,380	£7,960
Mull; Sleat	£11,420	£10,840
Canna; Eigg; Rum	£13,330	£12,660
Cabins with Double/Twin Beds		
Crinan; Harport; Torridon	£6,210	£5,890
Ardvreck; Lews; Muck; Raasay		SOLD
Duart; Kinloch; Torosay		SOLD
Danna	£12,410	£11,780
Coll; Iona	£12,410	£11,780
Cabins with Private Balconies		
Barra; Benbecula	£12,410	£11,780
Bute	£14,270	£13,550
Suite		
Arran	£14,270	£13,550

Northern Isles Explorer

26th July to 4th August 2023
9 nights including 2 Gala Dinners

Wednesday 26th July - Inverness - Embarkation.
Thursday 27th July - Inverness - City tour and Culloden Battlefield.
Friday 28th July - Cruise East Coast. Wick - Wick Museum.
Saturday 29th July - Stronsay, Orkney - Vat of Kirbister. North Ronaldsay - Walks ashore/bird observatory.
Sunday 30th July - Cruise to Fair Isle. Fair Isle, Shetland - Bird Observatory.
Monday 31st July - Burray, Yell, Shetland - Old Haa Museum. Baltasound, Unst, Shetland - Island Tour and Muckle Flugga Lighthouse.
Tuesday 1st August - Whalsay, Shetland - Symbister Pier House Hanseatic Museum. Lerwick, Shetland - Shetland Museum.
Wednesday 2nd August - Cruise to Orkney. Sanday - Walks ashore.
Thursday 3rd August - Kirkwall, Orkney - Churchill Barriers and Italian Chapel. Kirkwall, Orkney - St Magnus Cathedral.
Friday 4th August - Inverness - Disembarkation.

Prices per person	Brochure Fare	New Fare
Single Cabins		
Scresort		SOLD
Jura; Mull	£13,450	£12,770
Canna; Rum	£15,690	£14,900
Cabins with Double/Twin Beds		
Crinan; Harport; Torridon	£7,310	£6,940
Ardvreck; Lews	£10,230	£9,710
Kinloch; Torosay	£11,320	£10,750
Danna	£14,610	£13,870
Coll; Colonsay; Iona; Staffa	£14,610	£13,870
Cabins with Private Balconies		
Barra; Benbecula	£14,610	£13,870
Berneray; Bute	£16,800	£15,960
Suite		
Arran		SOLD



Churchill Barriers, Orkney

Hidden Outposts of the Northern Isles

Friday 4th to Monday 14th August 2023
10 nights including 2 Gala Dinners

Friday 4th August - Inverness - Embarkation.
Saturday 5th August - Cruise North East Coast to Orkney. Stronsay - Vat of Kirbister.
Sunday 6th August - Sanday, Orkney - Quoyness Chambered Cairn. North Ronaldsay, Orkney - Walks ashore / Bird observatory.
Monday 7th August - Cruise to Fair Isle. Fair Isle, Shetland - Bird observatory.
Tuesday 8th August - Whalsay, Shetland - Symbister Pier House Hanseatic Museum. Housay and Bruray, Out Skerries, Shetland - Walks ashore.
Wednesday 9th August - Fetlar, Shetland - Interpretation Centre / Walks ashore. Baltasound, Unst, Shetland - Boat haven.
Thursday 10th August - Cruise Muckle Flugga. Papa Stour, Shetland - Walks ashore.
Friday 11th August - Foula, Shetland - Walks ashore. Cruise to Orkney.
Saturday 12th August - Papa Westray, Orkney - Knap of Howar. Cruise past the Kitchener Memorial & Old Man of Hoy.
Sunday 13th August - Stroma - Walks ashore. Cruise the East Coast.
Monday 14th August - Inverness - Disembarkation.

Prices per person	Brochure Fare	New Fare
Single Cabins		
Scresort		SOLD
Islay; Jura; Mull; Sleat		SOLD
Canna; Eigg; Rum		SOLD
Cabins with Double/Twin Beds		
Crinan; Harport; Torridon		SOLD
Ardvreck	£11,430	£10,850
Kinloch; Torosay	£12,650	£12,010
Danna	£16,320	£15,500
Coll; Colonsay; Staffa	£16,320	£15,500
Cabins with Private Balconies		
Barra; Benbecula		SOLD
Berneray; Bute		SOLD
Suite		
Arran		SOLD



Fair Isle



Sandy, Orkney

Orcadian Adventure

14th to 22nd August 2023
8 nights including 2 Gala Dinners

Monday 14th August - Inverness - Embarkation.
Tuesday 15th August - Cruise East Coast. Scrabster - Castle of Mey.
Wednesday 16th August - Cruise Pentland Firth. Stromness, Orkney - Skara Brae.
Thursday 17th August Stromness - Ring of Brodgar and Maes Howe. Kirkwall, Orkney - Orkney Museum and St Magnus Cathedral.
Friday 18th August Kirkwall, Orkney - Churchill Barriers and Italian Chapel. Stronsay, Orkney - Vat of Korbister.
Saturday 19th August Sanday, Orkney - Quoyness Chambered Cairn. Westray, Orkney - Knotland Castle.
Sunday 20th August - Papa Westray - Knap of Howar. Cruise Pentland Firth.
Monday 21st August - Wick - Wick Museum. Cruise North East Coast.
Tuesday 22nd August - Inverness - Disembarkation.

Prices per person	Brochure Fare	New Fare
Single Cabins		
Scresort		SOLD
Islay; Jura; Mull	£12,020	£11,410
Canna; Eigg; Rum		SOLD
Cabins with Double/Twin Beds		
Crinan; Harport; Torridon	£6,530	£6,200
Ardvreck; Lews; Raasay	£9,140	£8,680
Torosay	£10,120	£9,610
Danna	£13,060	£12,400
Coll; Colonsay	£13,060	£12,400
Cabins with Private Balconies		
Barra; Benbecula	£13,060	£12,400
Berneray	£15,010	£14,250
Suite		
Arran		SOLD



Ring of Brodgar, Orkney

History & Heritage of the Northern Isles

22nd to 31st August 2023
9 nights including 2 Gala Dinners

Tuesday 22nd August - Inverness - Embarkation.
Wednesday 23rd August Cruise East Coast. Wick - Wick Museum.
Thursday 24th August Kirkwall, Orkney - Churchill Barriers and Italian Chapel. Kirkwall, Orkney - St Magnus Cathedral.
Friday 25th August Cruise to Fair Isle. Fair Isle, Shetland - Bird Observatory.
Saturday 26th August - Lerwick, Shetland - Scalloway. Lerwick, Shetland - Shetland Museum.
Sunday 27th August Baltasound, Unst, Shetland - Boat Haven. Baltasound, Unst, Shetland - Island Tour.
Monday 28th August - Cruise to Orkney. Westray, Orkney - Noup Head Lighthouse.
Tuesday 29th August - Stromness, Orkney - Skara Brae. Stromness, Orkney - Ring of Brodgar.
Wednesday 30th August Scrabster - Castle of Mey. Cruise East Coast.
Thursday 31st August - Inverness - Disembarkation.

Prices per person	Brochure Fare	New Fare
Single Cabins		
Scresort		SOLD
Jura; Mull; Sleat	£13,450	£12,770
Rum	£15,690	£14,900
Cabins with Double/Twin Beds		
Crinan; Harport	£7,310	£6,940
Ardvreck; Lews	£10,230	£9,710
Torosay	£11,320	£10,750
Danna		SOLD
Coll; Staffa	£14,610	£13,870
Cabins with Private Balconies		
Barra; Benbecula		SOLD
Bute	£16,800	£15,960
Suite		
Arran		SOLD



Skara Brae, Orkney

Island Kingdoms of the Vikings

31st August to 8th September 2023
8 nights including 2 Gala Dinners

Thursday 31st August Inverness - Embarkation.
Friday 1st September Cruise East Coast and Pentland Firth. Kirkwall, Orkney - Churchill Barriers & Italian Chapel.
Saturday 2nd September South Ronaldsay - Tomb of the Eagles Visitor Centre. Stromness, Orkney - Ness of Brodgar.
Sunday 3rd September - Stromness, Orkney - Skara Brae. Stromness, Orkney - Ring of Brodgar & Standing Stones of Stennes.
Monday 4th September Scrabster - Castle of Mey. Cruise Cape Wrath and The Minch.
Tuesday 5th September Stornoway, Lewis - Callanish Stones & Carloway Broch. Shiant Isles - Beach landing.
Wednesday 6th September Lochmaddy, North Uist - Tour of Uists & Pobull Fhinn. Lochboisdale, South Uist - Guests rejoice the ship.
Thursday 7th September Cruise the coast of Mull. Craobh Haven - Kilmartin Glen
Friday 8th September - Oban - Disembarkation.

Prices per person	Brochure Fare	New Fare
Single Cabins		
Scresort	£8,380	£7,960
Islay; Jura; Mull; Sleat	£11,420	£10,840
Canna; Rum	£13,330	£12,660
Cabins with Double/Twin Beds		
Harport; Torridon	£6,210	£5,890
Ardvreck; Lews	£8,690	£8,250
Duart; Kinloch	£9,620	£9,130
Danna		SOLD
Coll; Colonsay; Iona; Staffa		SOLD
Cabins with Private Balconies		
Barra; Benbecula		SOLD
Bute	£14,270	£13,550
Suite		
Arran		SOLD

Meet the Team

Neil Shorthouse, Chief Purser

Neil's hospitality and cruise career spans more than three decades, working within top luxury brands, including Disney Cruise Line, The World, Regent Seven Seas, Soneva, Six Senses, Anantara Hotels & Resorts and Cheval Blanc Randheli by LVMH.

He has overseen several resort openings within the Indian Ocean and the UAE. Neil was part of the launch teams for both the Disney Magic and Disney Wonder, later on within his cruise career he provided consultancy support to Royal Asian Cruise Line, as well as conducting companywide audits that included offices within Europe and on board fleets of ships for a leading UK based cruise line.

Neil worked as a consultant for a number of years, on unique projects and with clients such as the Saudi Royal Family, and most recently supporting the Maldivian government in the return to safe tourism post COVID.

When not providing a unique and memorable experience for our guests on board *Hebridean Princess*, he can be found providing mentoring and support to upcoming hospitality professionals. Neil also sits on the board of Multi Academy Trusts within Kent, and as Chair ensures the growth, development and education to pupils within the trust.

A highlight of his career was being appointed a Fellow of the Institute of Hospitality in 2016, which not only acknowledged his passion for the industry, but also supported his experience within talent development, operations and guest experiences. Most recently he was appointed a Fellow of the Global Peace Institute for his youth work within the Maldives, allowing him to provide support, guidance and aspiration to the next generation and the opportunity to prepare individuals for the world of hospitality.

Neil says, "joining *Hebridean Princess*, allows me the opportunity to constantly create memorable experiences for our guests, and to also ensure that our crew are developed within their own career aspirations. Sailing on board is a real privilege and one that I enjoy each and every day."



“ Sailing on board *Hebridean Princess* is a real privilege and one that I enjoy each and every day.

Refreshments at Loch Scavaig

Crew Refresher Courses

Louise Campbell, Senior Purser

During the winter refit months, I work from home completing all the logistical prep work for the upcoming season for the ship. I have now been with *Hebridean Princess* for just over 20 years and in that time, all of us as crew have to refresh certain courses in order to work on the ship, or indeed on board any cruise ship. As hotel crew, we have to refresh our Personal Survival Techniques (PST) and our Fire Fighting and Fire Prevention (PFFPF) every 5 years. In January 2022 it was my turn.

Luckily for me, there were a few of us that were required to refresh these so we were all booked on to these courses at Clyde Training Solutions based in Clydebank. Our first one was the PST and our trainer was John Taylor (who some of you may remember as an Able Seaman on board *Hebridean Princess* in the past). This is a half day course which involves a theory refresher and then the practical side in the pool. In the practical part of the course you are required to right an overturned life raft and be able to get in and out of this whilst in a boiler suit and life jacket (good for the arms!) There is always the possibility of the life raft being launched upside down so we do need to know how to turn it back over. Other tasks are knowing how to bring someone into the life raft if they are not so strong in the water, knowing ways of how to keep warm in the water and basically looking out for each other.



Maintenance Supervisor Darren Sutcliffe and Senior Purser Louise Campbell

Our second course was the PFFPF and this was a full day course. The morning was the theory refresher and donning the firefighting gear and breathing apparatus sets. Later in the morning, we were outside having a go at putting small fires out with various extinguishers (Water, CO2, Foam etc). The practical side, during the

afternoon, was a fire in the engine room. We were put into teams of four and had to put the fire out using all the correct procedures. The fire was at the bottom of three containers which are all on top of each other and we entered at the top of the first container and worked our way down to where the fire was to be extinguished. All in all - great fun!



Hebridean Princess Easter Escape Cruise

by Amanda Clare, April 2022

We were piped on board last Tuesday
Starting the cruise in style
Everything on the Princess
Is designed to make you smile.

We can't see smiles for face masks
Since Covid got in the way
The pandemic notwithstanding
We are on board the ship today.

Every day is different – Crinan, Tayvallich.
Kilmartin, Jura, Ulva, Mull
And there are so many things to eat
To taste a bit of everything
Is actually quite a feat.

The Starship Enterprise
Has loaned us Captain Kirk
He seems to be well acquainted
With this down to earth type of work.

Don't forget your wet weather gear
Don't think the crew are joking
An exhilarating speedboat ride
Can end up in a soaking.

No sooner had breakfast finished
And relaxation well deserved
Lyndsey's on the tannoy
Saying lunch is being served.

Saturday saw no internet connection
No uninvited news
Just peace and tranquillity
And uninterrupted views.

Easter Sunday saw the weather
Try to derail the master plan
To follow Columba's footsteps
The captain said we'll get there if we can.

We made the service on Iona
As Captain Kirk ruled the waves
But the weather won the war
We couldn't get to Staffa's caves.

We are relaxing in the Tiree lounge
Enjoying cocktails and champagne
Lyndsey's dulcet tones ring out
And it's time to eat again.

It has been a wonderful cruise
The chefs have been fantastic
But next time we come on board
Our waistbands need to be elastic.

A visit to Tobermory
On our final cruising day
Such a beautiful location
And the sun came out to play.

So raise a glass to the staff
To the places we've been
To the people we've met
And God save the Queen.





Hebridean Island Cruises continues to support Scottish Marine Conservation

Over the past six months 27 UK-based marine conservation charities and projects have benefited from Sea-Changers' grants with a total of nearly £37,732 being distributed.

Hebridean Island Cruises is one of a number of marine businesses working with Sea-Changers to raise money which is then distributed via the charity's biannual marine conservation grants programme. Hebridean Island Cruises has been working with guests to raise funds for Sea-Changers over the past ten years and during this time they have raised nearly £48,000 through donations from customers and from the company itself. The amazing generosity of Hebridean guests has significantly contributed to Sea-Changers being able to award over 250 marine conservation grants to projects right across the UK.

The latest round of grants will help support a diverse mix of marine conservation work including projects targeting ocean plastic, education, rewilding coastal areas and specific projects looking to protect under threat seabird populations.

Recent projects funded in Scotland include:

International Otter Survival Fund - IOSF's Team Otter Club Broadford - Team Otter Broadford is an environmental education programme that is focused on children of both primary and secondary school age on the Isle of Skye. The younger, primary group are working on projects such as reducing plastic, litter picking and learning more about the amazing wildlife on Skye. The high school group are working on conservation campaigns around topics such as ocean pollution and waste.

Beachwatch Bute - were given a grant for purchasing litter storage benches to encourage coastal litter picks. Sea-Changers is supporting the expansion of this project which is proven to help reduce marine litter and enable the community to easily beach clean using the right equipment for the activity. Benches are placed near coastal litter black-spots which, when used regularly, will return to being local beauty-spots. Participants can then sit and enjoy the view, and their handiwork!

Ullapool Sea Savers - have been funded to undertake remote beach cleans in the Wester Ross Marine Protected Area. This is enabling the local community to do beach cleans in remote areas where rubbish removal is particularly difficult, as there is no access for land vehicles to uplift and remove waste. This project enables the whole community to get involved in efforts to tackle the severe marine plastic pollution problem in remote areas of the Marine Protected Area.

Scottish Seabird Centre - Blue Wilderness Ventures. This project aims to help disadvantaged young people gain confidence, social skills and mental health and wellbeing benefits through learning and taking part in a marine conservation programme. The programme will focus on marine habitats and wildlife, the threats facing the marine world and how youngsters can take positive action to protect it for the future. Blue Wilderness Ventures is a partnership between the Scottish Seabird Centre, and the Venture Trust, a charity supporting disadvantaged young people to achieve their potential.

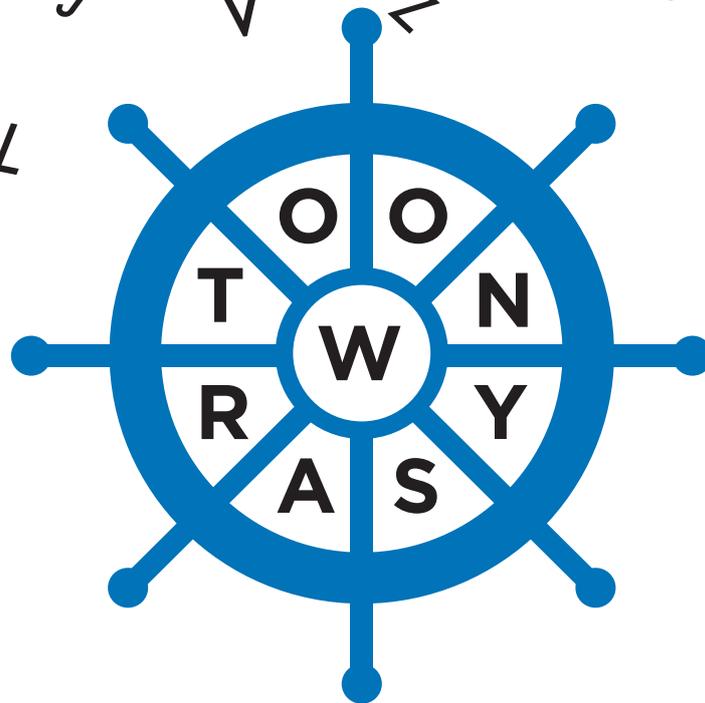


Beach Clean

“ We are so proud to have had such a long and supportive partnership with Hebridean Island Cruises and their customers. Together they have enabled a significant amount of important and impactful marine conservation work to take place, much of it in or around the areas that guests are visiting on their cruise itineraries. We are so grateful to all involved.

Helen Webb,
Co-Founder of Sea-Changers

WORD WHEEL PUZZLE



Your target is to create as many words of 4 letters or more, using the letters once only and always including the letter in the middle of the wheel, plus the one 9-letter word which uses all letters.

Here is a clue to finding the 9 letter word: A port in the Outer Hebrides regularly visited by *Hebridean Princess* which is famous for black pudding.

Four lucky winners will be chosen at random from the entrants with the most correct words and will receive a *Hebridean Princess* umbrella.

To enter email the answers, together with your name and address to louise.pratt@hebridean.co.uk by Friday 30th September.

ANAGRAM COMPETITION in ISSUE 38

Our thanks to all who entered the anagram competition in the last issue and congratulations to everyone who submitted the correct answers:

Acuteness Painters **NEPTUNES STAIRCASE**

Fathoms Retold **THOMAS TELFORD**

Egg Rental **GREAT GLEN**

Chin Hell No **LOCH LINNHE**

Cosh Lens **LOCH NESS**

Aft Gurus Oust **FORT AUGUSTUS**

Lava Unengage **LAGGAN AVENUE**

Airflow Milt **FORT WILLIAM**

Arch Cop **CORPACH**

Dogfish enthrall hold **LORD OF THE HIGHLANDS**

The lucky winners were Jackie Beswarick and Edmund Marshall who have received a £250 voucher to be redeemed against on a *Lord of the Highlands* cruise in 2023.

*Please note email addresses may be used for marketing purposes.
If you would prefer not to receive email communications from Hebridean Island Cruises, please state this in your entry.*



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