

info@forthestuaryforum.co.uk

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Forth Estuary Forum E-News Bulletin April 2020

Welcome to this months edition of our news bulletin

In this edition you will find articles on various Issues affecting the Forth Estuary including:

Forum Coronavirus update

Crown Estate Scotland Support for Coastal Communities

KSB Spring Clean 2020 Postponed

New Strategy to Boost Scotland's Marine Tourism: Giant Strides 2020-2025

Bridge Walk Experience at The Forth Bridge

Cetacean Citizen Science Project

Fife based companies build prototype wave energy converter

Cruise Ships anchor in the Forth

Forum Coronavirus update

Following the government advice, Forum employees will be home working from 25th March 2020 and the office closed until the situation is reviewed. We can still be contacted through e-mail, and the Forum Manager's mobile phone number is 0776 2488572.

We thank you for your understanding, and hope you are all doing well.



Support for Coastal Communities

Coastal businesses and third sector organisations affected by COVID-19 can now benefit from a £7.2 million Scottish Crown Estate fund which is devolved to councils.

The 26 councils in Scotland who have coastlines can use their remaining share of the fund which they have not yet allocated to offer direct support to struggling coastal enterprises and organisations, after agreement by the Scottish Government and COSLA. The fund, from Scottish Crown Estate net revenues, is normally used for projects delivering coastal community benefit.

More details can be found [here](#)



Text source: Scottish Government

Spring Clean 2020 Postponed

In light of ongoing developments in Scotland regarding Coronavirus and having considered carefully the advice available from the Scottish Government and the NHS, **Keep Scotland Beautiful has decided to postpone Spring Clean 2020**

KSB's top priority is to minimise the impact of Coronavirus (Covid-19) on employees, volunteers and supporters, those they work with and members of the public.

Therefore, to avoid any uncertainty, **Spring Clean 2020** and associated events have been postponed.

Please get in touch with KSB here if you have any issues.

New Strategy to Boost Scotland's Marine Tourism: Giant Strides, 2020-2025

Scotland's Second Marine Tourism Strategy, [Giant Strides 2020-2025](#) was officially launched on the 11th March at the Marine Tourism Conference, hosted by Sail Scotland.

The strategy development has been led by British Marine Scotland in partnership with Royal Yachting Association Scotland, Scottish Canals and Sail Scotland, with support from Stuart McMillan MSP, Convener of the Cross Party Group for Recreational Boating and Marine Tourism.

The new strategy represents the next evolution of the successful Awakening the Giant, Scotland's first Marine Tourism Strategy. However, Giant Strides takes a much broader view of marine tourism, its role within coastal and island communities and the significant benefits marine tourism can deliver for communities, the environment and the economy of Scotland.



The strategy provides information that will help planning and development for businesses, community groups or clubs. If you want to partner on one or more of the 14 objectives, the route is through the partnership planning process. This will be convened by the Cross Party Group and will start over the next few weeks. To note your interest, please contact the CPG secretary on admin@ryascotland.org.uk

Click [here](#) to read the new strategy, Giant Strides, 2020-2025.

Text source: British Marine Scotland

Visitors to be able to climb Forth Bridge

Plans for a Forth Bridge visitor centre and bridge walk have been given the green light by councillors.



Under the plans, the public will be able to climb the world-famous structure and learn about its heritage as well as get views from 367ft (110m). The proposals will see construction of a bridge walk and reception hub on the south side of the UNESCO World Heritage site at South Queensferry.

Groups of between 12 and 15 people wearing safety harnesses will be led out onto the bridge's south cantilever, walking up to a viewing point at the top using walkways built into the structure.

More details can be found [here](#).

Text source: BBC News

Great Success in Cetacean Citizen Science Project

The Sea Watch Foundation's 2019 National Whale and Dolphin Watch event (July 27th – August 4th) revealed striking biodiversity with an impressive thirteen species of cetaceans seen around the British Isles, a number which has only been recorded twice before in the history of the event.



The total number of sightings (over 2,000) exceeded last year by 500 and was the highest reported so far. Scotland recorded the highest number of sightings particularly along the western coast and on the Inner and Outer Hebrides. In England, the greatest number of sightings were collected in the South around Cornwall and South Devon with similar numbers also collected in Yorkshire and the North-East. In Wales, the highest number of sightings was collected on the West coast.

More details can be found [here](#).

Text Source: Sea Watch Foundation

Fife-built prototype to be tested in Orkney as carbon neutral energy source

Fife fabricator AJS Production has begun the construction of a 30-tonne prototype wave energy converter set to take to the seas this autumn. The 20-metre-long Blue Star is designed by Edinburgh technology start-up Mocean Energy, which is scheduled to be deployed in Orkney later this year.

Blue Star will undergo quayside ballasting and wet testing at Burntisland following completion, before being transported to Orkney. It will then be subject to a number of sea trials with a view to generating first power before the end of the year.

More details can be found [here](#).

Text source: Edinburgh Evening News

Cruise Ships anchored in the Forth

During this unprecedented period, which has seen cruise lines around the world ground their entire fleet in a bid to

number of which are docked in the UK.



Fred Olsen Cruise Lines' entire fleet: Balmoral, Boudicca, Braemar and Black Watch has taken up temporary residence in the Firth of Forth, just outside the Port of Rosyth.

More details can be found [here](#).

Text source: Cruisecritic.co.uk