



CAITHNESS

BUSINESS NEWS

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Caithness is **open**
for business

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CAITHNESS
CHAMBER of
COMMERCE

STRONGER
TOGETHER

From Houston to the Highlands

Jacobs provides programme management, engineering and technical support for the clean-up of the Dounreay nuclear site. We're also the largest supplier of professional services to NASA. That's why we're so excited to see the developing plans for Space Hub Sutherland, the first satellite launch site on UK soil.

A close-up, low-angle shot of an astronaut in a white space suit, looking out from a spacecraft. The astronaut's helmet and visor are visible, reflecting the bright light of the Earth. The Earth is a large, curved horizon in the background, showing blue oceans and white clouds against the blackness of space.

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Challenging today.
Reinventing tomorrow.



Chamber Comment

Even by comparison to the rest of this uniquely challenging year, the past two months have been a rollercoaster for businesses. The easing of many restrictions and the reopening of tourism and indoor hospitality in mid-July brought welcome relief to many of our members here in the North Highlands.

Yet that initial relief and optimism has been marred by confusion and challenges as a result of poor and mixed messaging from Government. We have seen changes to guidance at the last minute – a notable example being the shift from 2m distancing to 1m with mitigations in place – and businesses left unclear as to what is required of them, leading to expense and confusion at a time when they can least afford it.

This has sadly led to some backwards steps, with a local lockdown in Aberdeen and Scottish Government proposing to bring in tighter restrictions on the hospitality sector. We will be working closely with our members to understand what impact these changes might have and ensuring that their needs and concerns are represented at both UK and Scottish Government levels.

With all that said, as you will see over the coming pages, there remains an optimism and strength of spirit amongst businesses in the North Highlands. This may be the greatest challenge we have

faced, but we will stand together with our community and overcome whatever it brings.

I am honoured as ever to represent these fantastic businesses, and hope to continue to bring you more positive news from them in the coming months and years.

Until next time.

Trudy Morris

Chief Executive,
Caithness Chamber of Commerce

PREMIER PARTNERS



Dounreay



subsea 7



cavendish
nuclear

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Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

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Ice & Fire delivers **over 2000 litres of free hand sanitiser**

Ice and Fire Distillery in collaboration with Beatrice Offshore Windfarm, Camster Windfarm and Caithness Voluntary group have delivered over 2000 litres of free hand sanitiser throughout Caithness and Sutherland.

Iain Black, the Ice and Fire Distiller was diagnosed with terminal neuroendocrine cancer three years ago and decided to show his gratitude to those who have cared for him by trying to keep them safe from infection.

The distillery shifted production from gin and rum when the pandemic started to hand sanitizer allowing it to be delivered free to NHS services, care homes, Doctor's surgeries and the general public. A number of refill stations have been located in villages allowing members of the public to take along their own bottles and refill them when they run out of supplies.

As the schools begin to open up they have also been supplied with sanitizer for the classrooms and businesses have also started coming forward as they consider how to keep their staff and customers safe once they reopen.

A further 2000 litres of hand sanitizer will be available throughout the rest of this year and the distillery can be contacted on rookums@aol.com for enquiries.



Switch & Save with Fibre 1

Fibre 1 can provide a hassle free switch and save service helping companies to start saving money on their telecom and connectivity needs. Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic now is the ideal time to review company costs and highlight any potential savings that can be made.

Our switch and save service is a quick and effective way to highlight these savings and the best part is we take care of all the hard work for you. We are inviting all companies to get in touch and let us carry out a full review of their bills with the aim to save them money and improve services while guaranteeing there will be no compromising on quality or customer service.

Along with being able to help our customers save money we can also provide an excellent remote working solution helping companies to seamlessly transition to home working in situations like the one we are currently facing.

Our VoIP solution is a reliable easy to use telephone service which we can now fully integrate with Microsoft Teams. This allows employees to make/receive calls wherever they are. Included is also the added benefit of being able to screen share, instant chat, file share & video chat using their mobile or other handheld device making this an excellent remote working solution.



Caithness CAB supports community through COVID-19

Caithness Citizen's Advice Bureau is delighted to have become part of Caithness Chamber of Commerce and already found many benefits of joining.

A little bit about us...

Caithness CAB delivers free confidential, impartial and independent advice to the citizens of Caithness and North Sutherland regardless of race, religion, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation or social class.

We dealt with 12,500 enquiries in 2018-2019 to access the welfare benefits to which they are entitled, deal with debt and money worries, remain in their homes and many other ways.

We advise on Benefits, Work and Money matters, Debt, Immigration; Citizenship, Housing; Homelessness, Family; Relationship issues, Legal and Court processes, Access to Health Services and other topics.

Last financial year we helped clients to obtain £3.4 million in financial gains, which is money brought into our local community.

Isobel Mackay, Bureau Manager highlighted that our local team of staff and volunteers have continued to work to support clients throughout the pandemic, from either home or office (following SG guidelines). 3 members of the team have also supported the National Call Helpline which has supported clients throughout Scotland.

With the help of local funding, we are now busy preparing the offices in Thurso and Wick so we can start face to face meetings and home visits with clients.





Royal Marine reopens with new additions


Now that we have re-opened at the Royal Marine Hotel and Links Apartments in Brora we wanted to tell you about a couple of new additions to our food and beverage facilities. We now have a covered outdoor eating/drinking area immediately adjacent to the hotel for those sunny Highland days and nights. It is open to the public and all we ask is that, where possible, you book a table in advance so that we can effectively manage the flow of guests.

We are also now providing a great takeaway service – our new menu for both can be viewed on our website at www.royalmarinebrora.com. For further details on our takeaway ordering service please do contact the hotel on 01408 621252.

The same contact details can also be used for information on some of the great golf and leisure breaks that we have on offer at the hotel this summer. It's a fantastic opportunity to get away and enjoy a relaxing, or energetic, break. For those who prefer the self-catering option we have some excellent offers at the Links Apartments where you also have the option of using the hotel facilities if you prefer.



Decommissioning, Waste Management and Radiological Protection Capability



Introduction

Nuclear Waste Management is a key area that Atkins/SNC-Lavalin has been developing and delivering for several decades. With a specialist Decommissioning, Waste Management and Radiological Protection team possessing a wealth of experience across the NDA estate. Atkins/SNC-Lavalin can provide Suitably Qualified and Experienced Personnel (SQEP) to solve the most challenging decommissioning and waste management problems.

Programme & Project Planning

Characterisation & Assessment

Design

Manufacture & Fabrication

Commissioning

Operations incl Logistics

Waste Treatment

Waste Disposal & Recycling

Stages of Waste Management

To discuss how we can help, contact:
Ross Beveridge
Ross.Beveridge@atkinsglobal.com or 07887758123



Anubis Security supports communities across Scotland

In these uncertain times which have affected so many, Anubis is proud to say we have not only survived but flourished and supported clients, and our local communities across Scotland.

From shopping runs for local people, who are sheltering to providing crowd management and access control to over 150 supermarkets thanks to our incredibly robust health and safety policies and being one of the most dynamic and industry leading security companies when these events unfolded.

To the current situation where we have seen major upscales on remote sites such as wind farms, building projects and mobile patrols, as well as providing security, crowd management and customer service to Scotland's largest transport hubs, Glasgow central and Edinburgh Waverly stations

Anubis would like to keep working alongside business within the north of Scotland and our opening of our norther office in Thurso is still moving ahead. Therefore if there is anything other Chamber members need we are carrying on our discount of 15% for any services required.

Say hello to the HM Virtual Show Stand

This is the time of year when traditionally the Harper Macleod Rural team dig out their best (or least worst) gear and hit the show circuit. Our Rural Economy team were gutted when the Caithness Show had to be cancelled, as it's one of our highlights of the year.

But we were determined not to let the circumstances stop us from trying to meet friends old and new, so we decided to lay on a Virtual Show Stand instead.

Five members of our team – David Eason, Angela Gray, Calum MacLeod, Tom Gray and Graeme Nisbet – lined up for the camera in HM Show TV, touching on some of the topics we'd have been talking about this year. There are also some great recipes for our scones and cordial (this is very much a BYO stand!) and some news and insights from the wider team at Harper Macleod – from our Thurso, Inverness, Elgin and Lerwick offices and beyond – that we hope you'll find of interest.

As always we'd love to hear from you on any subject, so please do feel free to give us a call for a chat.

And there is one consolation – at least we won't get rained on this year!

<https://bit.ly/HMvirtualshowstand>



Wick Managing Partner recredited by the Law Society of Scotland

BBM Solicitors continue to go from strength to strength with continually growing teams in both their Wick and Edinburgh offices. As the firm approaches its 10th birthday this year, they are delighted to announce that The Law Society of Scotland has recredited their Managing Partner and Head of Insolvency and Restructuring, Eric Bajjal, as a specialist in Insolvency Law for a further five years.



Eric is one of only fifteen specialists accredited by the Law Society of Scotland in this field and is the only specialist in Insolvency Law based in the Highlands and Islands. Eric leads BBM's team across Scotland, dealing both with domestic and cross-border issues where there is some Scottish element. Having a solicitor with experience of dealing with Insolvency and Restructuring at the highest level in Scotland is a significant benefit to Caithness and Sutherland, particularly at such a challenging time for local businesses and when the legislation and range of options for struggling companies continues to change so rapidly.

Eric received congratulations on his recredited from a number of Scotland's leading insolvency practitioners who appeared to be in universal agreement that the recredited is well deserved.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Health & Safety Webinar

Date TBC
Delivered in partnership with
Dava Dawn Ltd

Keep up-to-date with the latest news and events:

visit caithnesschamber.com, follow us via
[Facebook.com/caithnesschamber](https://www.facebook.com/caithnesschamber) or
Twitter @CaithnessCoC

Alternatively, email the team to be added to our mailing list.