

Choir Newsletter

Volume 5 Issue 1. March 2021



News Round-up : 2020/21

- Coping in a pandemic
- Mhòrag a Mhòrag online sensation
- Mystery Elves spread some cheer
- 1st online Public Ceilidh—26th March

From this to this!

What a difference a year makes - but we got to keep the L&T!!

Like all choirs we have officially been prevented from meeting up , practicing and performing for over 12 months now, choirs became synonymous with being superspreader environments for the Corona-virus 19.

So like the rest of the world we have taken technology to our hearts and are now totally

within our comfort zone zooming about on screen in an effort to maintain some singing skills, as well as to give us a chance to have a bit of crack and a laugh (which are essential ingredients and one of the main benefits of being in the choir.

A massive thanks to Sileas for adapting what we do and finding a way to make it work online

including making a virtual recording of our online premiere of Mhòrag a' Mhòrag (see article).

Apart from meeting every week and continuing to develop arrangements we have also managed to have fun with online ceilidhs, festive quizzes and anything else that helps keep our spirits up and our voices in tune hopefully.



Our last live performance was our Auld New Year Ceilidh in Oban at the beginning of January 2020.

And to say we cannot wait to play live and sing as a collective once more is an understatement.

Hope to see you all this year.

Introducing Oban Gaelic e-Choir!

Thanks to all involved

Thanks to the following people for their help and support in pulling the concept of Mhòrag a Mhòrag together:

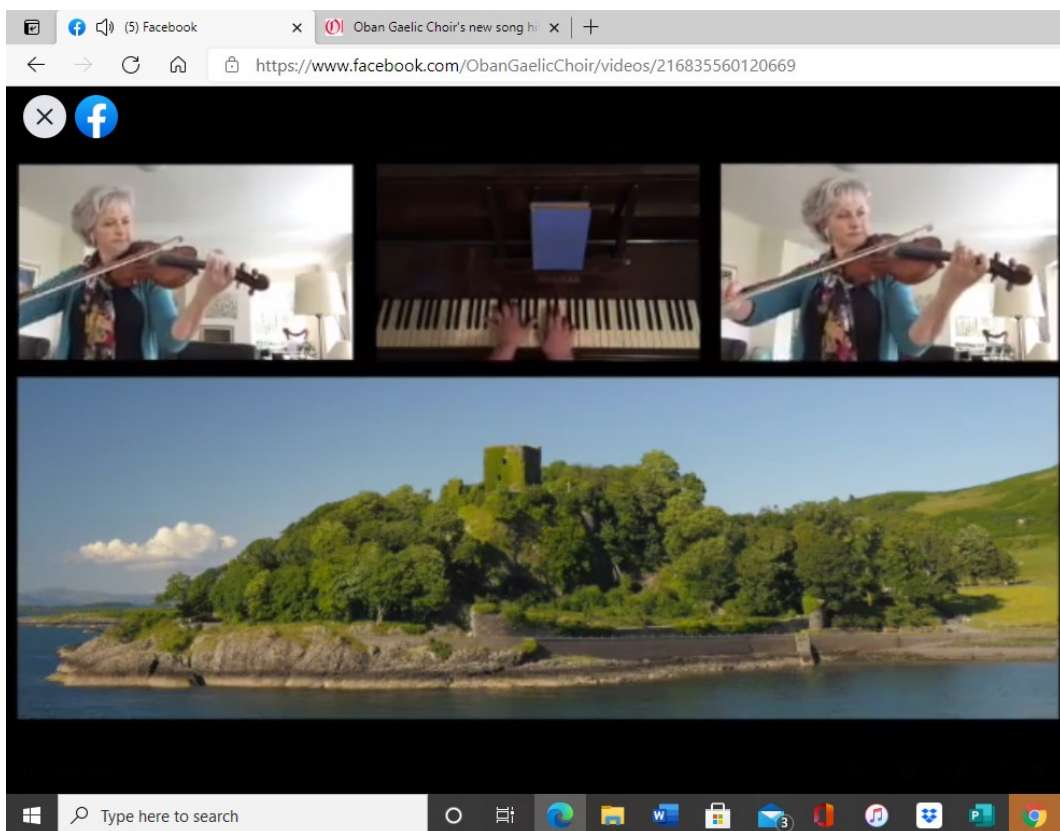
Rachel Walker

Sileas Sinclair

[Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds,](#)

Gary MacCuish and [Sheila McIntyre Photography](#) for permission to include their amazing video and photography of our lovely town, and

[Finlay Wells](#) for adding some extra audio sparkle.



During the Covid lockdown the choir has continued to meet regularly through Zoom online video conferencing, both learning new material and re-visiting old repertoire.

However, the one thing we cannot do online, due to the limitations of the technology, is sing together in real time. Not to be deterred, our conductor Sileas Sinclair directed us through a project in the autumn and winter to put together a performance and video

of a new song, learned entirely at our online meetings.

The song is 'Mhòrag a Mhòrag' and tells a story from the archives of the MacDougall clan of Dunollie, set to a melody by Rachel Walker & arranged in four-part harmony by Sileas. Following detailed technical instructions provided by Sileas, choir members individually recorded themselves singing their part in time to a provided backing track. Sileas then undertook the immense and time-consuming task of layering these individual tracks into a

single performance accompanied by a video which was launched on our Facebook page in late January.

The choir is delighted with the end result which has been viewed over 18,000 times and had a hugely positive response online.

Click here to watch and listen:

[\(5\) Facebook](#)

How do you cheer up a choir at Christmas?

Santa's workers brought Christmas cheer to choristers in mid December. In surprise socially-distant appearances outside homes and workplaces across the district, the elves delivered festive goodies to choir members who had been missing the chance to meet and sing together for nine months since the start of the pandemic. Some

were even willing to pose for photos!



Support Oban Gaelic Choir every time you shop online

Did you know you could help support Oban Gaelic Choir every time you buy something from 100s of the big website retailers?

First go to the website www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Second **click** on the **'Find a Cause to Support'** button then type **Oban Gaelic Choir** into the

'Search for a cause' box.

Thirdly click on the **Join Us** button to register.

You can then collect free donations for the choir every time you buy something online.

It won't cost you a penny extra!

Friends of the Choir – spread the word—it's only £5!

Thank you for being part of our choir family by being a Friend of the Choir – we really value and appreciate your support and hope you have enjoyed this edition of the newsletter. If you have friends or family who would like to become a Friend of the Choir please contact: Margaret Farmer "Morvern", Kilmore, Oban, PA34 4XX or email

obangaelicchoir@hotmail.com



If you're supporting
us remember to

Gift Aid

If you choose to gift aid when you make a donation to us then it means we get an extra 25% back from HM Revenue & Customs!

Our fantastic treasurer recently got back £810!!

We are on the web:

www.obangaelicchoir.co.uk/

Follow us on Facebook:

[www.facebook/
obangaelicchoir](http://www.facebook/obangaelicchoir)

OBAN GAELIC CHOIR

LIVE CEILIDH

LIVE ON FACEBOOK
SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 26
2021

LIVE! LIVE!
LIVE

STARTS AT
19:30

VIEWING INSTRUCTIONS TO FOLLOW

@obangaelicchoir

You can also make a small donation to go towards our next choir project, more details will be given on the night

WWW.OBANGAELICCHOIR.CO.UK

Come along to our 1st live online cèilidh—

Song, music and good cràic

Friday March 26th 7.30pm

Details of how to join will be posted that week on:

www.facebook/obangaelicchoir

To become a Friend of Oban Gaelic Choir contact:

- Margaret Farmer at “Morvern”, Kilmore, Oban, PA34 4XX / Email Margaret Bennett at obangaelicchoir@hotmail.com