

# THE ARRAN BANNER

rightmove Smarter about property  
 Zoopla  
 FOUR WINDS  
 3 BED BUNGALOW  
 Balm  
 Offer **SOLD** 000  
 01770 302310 sales@arranestateagents.co.uk



# Quicker Covid test being trialled at Montrose House

## But scheme is adding pressure to health services already at 'full stretch'

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Visitors to Montrose House in Brodick are taking part in a pilot scheme aimed at giving them better access to loved ones in the care home.

They are being offered faster Covid-19 tests as part of a trial at 14 care homes across five local authority areas – North Ayrshire, Fife, Argyll and Bute, Inverclyde and Aberdeenshire.

Designated visitors are able to take the test to indicate whether they have the virus ahead of seeing friends, relatives and loved ones who have spent months without visitors during the pandemic.

However, the pilot scheme has put more pressure on the island's health services which are at 'full stretch' as they are also dealing with the new Covid vaccine, ongoing flu inoculation and normal winter

pressures. There has been a single new case of coronavirus recorded on Arran in the last seven days.

The lateral flow tests, being given to visitors, do not need to go to labs and can give results in under an hour. Visitors who test negative will still have to wear PPE. If there is a positive result the visitor will be advised to leave the home, self-isolate and book a PCR test at a coronavirus testing centre.

After the Montrose House pilot scheme has been evaluated, testing kits will then be sent out to all care homes in Scotland from next week.

Scottish health minister Jeane Freeman has called the move a positive step for care homes, residents and their families and friends.

She said: 'This will provide another important layer of protection against Covid,

alongside the essential PPE and infection prevention and control measures already in place.

'I'm very pleased to say we will be able to significantly accelerate the delivery of testing kits to all care homes from December 14, following the necessary trial phase to ensure we have the right guidance and training in place.'

She added: 'This will require a significant amount of work from care homes, and we will continue to work closely with Health and Social Care Partnerships, Scottish Care, CCPS and COSLA as test kits are rolled out to ensure they have the support they need to deliver testing for designated visitors.'

'However, it's important to remember that testing does not replace the other vital

Continued on page two.

## Bernie's Christmas lights are back



Bernie Jackson stands beside the latest additions to his annual Christmas lights in his garden in Whiting Bay. For the full story, turn to page three. 01\_B50lights01

**JTC** John Thomson Construction Ltd  
HOUSE BUILDING | CONSTRUCTION | HAULAGE | AGGREGATES | PLANT HIRE

WE'RE OPEN...

Main Office: Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm

Building Materials & Petrol Station: Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm

Social distancing requirements apply.

Card payments and orders accepted by phone.

www.thomsonconstruction.co.uk | 01770 600 242 |

Merry Christmas  
to all of our staff, customers, suppliers and contractors!

Please Note: Our offices, yards, quarry, petrol station and Lamlash Garage will all be closed from 5pm on Fri 18<sup>th</sup> December, reopening on Mon 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**THE DOUGLAS**  
Hotel • Bistro • Bar  
www.thedouglashotel.co.uk



**OPEN 7-DAYS** from  
**FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER**



under current LEVEL 3 restrictions  
**Non-Residents are welcome:**

**8am - 6pm daily**

for Breakfast, Coffee, Lunch,  
Light Bites & Early Dinner  
(last orders 5pm)

Booking is not essential, but can be  
made online via our website  
or call us on **01770 302 968**

**TAKEAWAY @ THE DOUGLAS**

**5pm - 9pm**

available 7-Nights a week!  
FREE delivery to Lamlash & Brodick



We look forward  
to welcoming you!



## Montrose House Covid test pilot

Continued from page one. layers of protection we have against Covid, and all of these – reducing contacts, keeping our distance, wearing face coverings, and vaccines when they come – work most effectively to stop the virus when they are used together.

Not all care homes are expected to be able to offer the tests to visitors by Christmas, so the government has confirmed PCR tests will be available for visitors at coronavirus testing centres.

A Health and Social Care Partnership spokesperson said: 'The scheme commenced on December 7 and Montrose House was chosen to allow for any learning from an island setting to be fed into the national roll-out.

'This is an additional layer of protection to enhance existing safety protocols and practices and to provide additional confidence to care homes, staff, residents and visitors.'

## Bernie's tradition goes on

It was a tradition he could just not let go.

In spite of Bernie Jackson saying his Christmas light display last year would be his last – they are back again this year.

Bernie has delighted and entertained children with his impressive Christmas illuminations adorning his house in Whiting Bay for more than 30 years and he has now vowed to keep the tradition going as long as he can.

Having first started with just a single Christmas tree in his front garden in 1989 the display has now grown to such extent that his garden is filled with Santa, snowman, reindeer, bell or sleigh in his terrace garden.

And this year has even seen new additions, including Santa riding a polar bear and a gingerbread man.

The illuminations not only entice visitors to go and have a look each year – many returning night after night – but a voluntary donation box at the gate also collects money for worthwhile causes.

This year the collection is for the Arran Hospital



Bernie's house is a Christmas delight. 01\_B50lights03

Supporters League. Bernie said: 'I am getting a bit too old to be putting these up every year and I am no longer fit to be scaling the ladder to fix the decorations to the side of the house.

'Every year I say this is the last year but when I see the smiles on the children's faces and see that the donations help good causes, I go ahead with it anyway.

'I have all of the decorations, so why not?

'It is also very difficult to say there will be no lights this year when so many children ask me when the lights are going to be put up and switched on.

'But it is all worth it for the number of smiles and visitors that come and look at the lights every year.'

The lights, in Montrose Terrace, Whiting Bay, are switched on around 4pm every evening and remain on until around 9pm.

# Covid-19 vaccinations under way across region

NHS Ayrshire and Arran received its first delivery of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine this week and Tuesday saw the start of the vaccination programme that will be delivered over the coming weeks and months.

The programme will follow the independent advice received from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on the prioritisation for receiving the vaccine. The first to be vaccinated will be vaccinators.

As the first eligible groups are prioritised and vaccinated it remains vitally important that everyone continues to follow FACTS and the Scottish Government guidance to protect themselves and others from the virus.

John Burns, NHS Ayrshire and Arran chief executive said: 'We are delighted to have received our first delivery of the vaccine into NHS Ayrshire and Arran and to have started our vaccination programme.

'Delivering a vaccination programme of this size will be

challenging, however, we have planned carefully to ensure we have an effective programme to deliver vaccination in the weeks and months ahead.

'As we follow the JCVI prioritised cohorts we will ensure timely communication at each stage of the programme.

'I realise how challenging these last months have been, however, I would ask that we all continue to follow the FACTS advice to ensure we continue to protect ourselves, our families and friends.'

The vaccine, which must be stored at -70C, is being transported to 23 locations in refrigerated lorries, with people who vaccinate others, those aged over 80, and health and social care workers being the first to receive the injections.

Vaccines, which each person must receive two doses of – spaced between 21 and 28 days apart – will be administered according to clinical priority.

The news of a vaccine which offers 95 per cent protection against Covid-19 has been

welcomed by many, albeit with the caveat that despite 40 million doses being ordered by the UK Government, it may be some time before everyone can get a vaccine and that people are still to follow the recommended precautions.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'The announcement confirming delivery of a safe and effective vaccine is the best news about the virus since the pandemic began.

'It's worth remembering that everyone will require two vaccines, 21 and 28 days apart, so even for those amongst the first to receive it, very few will be completed before early next year.

'Vaccinators will be vaccinated first, followed by the priority groups recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.

'NHS Ayrshire and Arran must also consider the challenges around transporting the vaccine to care homes and individual homes and in rural

settings, such as on Arran. For all the difficulties that lie ahead, it gives us all real hope that the end of the pandemic is in sight. Of course, the full vaccination period is three to four weeks, and the roll-out of the programme itself will take some time.

'I therefore ask everyone, whilst we can see some light at the end of the tunnel, to keep protecting yourself by physical distancing and adhering to the restrictions that come with the tier we are in, which is currently tier three.'

Commenting on the roll out in Scotland, West Scotland MSP Jamie Greene said: 'This is a momentous day for Scotland and the rest of the UK, and hopefully represents the beginning of the end of our long fight against Covid-19.

'I would urge everybody eligible to get the vaccine, but not just protect yourselves but also the people around you. After a challenging year there is finally light at the end of the tunnel.'

# Arran Active takes silver in top awards

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



At the end of a year that has been difficult for so many businesses, some good news. Arran Active has won the silver award in the prestigious The Great Outdoors readers' awards independent retailer category.

The popular Brodick store faced opposition from 10 independent retailers – with five or fewer stores – from all over the UK, including some strong contenders from the Lake District. Only one other Scottish shop in Braemar was shortlisted.

'We are thrilled to have been recognised in this way,' said owner Andrew Walsh. 'The award is a public vote and we were up against some of the UK's biggest and best outdoor shops, so to collect



the silver award is really fantastic.

'From the long-serving staff members to the students who energise us in the summer months, we have a wonderful team who go above and beyond to support us, and this award is recognition of all their dedication, hard work and good humour!

'And we wouldn't be where we are without our lovely customers. We started off in that wee shop at Cladach and would not have had the confidence to grow without the support of islanders and visitors alike, for which we are very grateful.

'We do our best to support

the island community in return. Let's hope that 2021 will be a good year for everyone, especially for island businesses hit hardest by the pandemic and that we can all move forward with greater sustainability and resilience.'

It is the second time in five years that Arran Active has been nominated in the prestigious TGO magazine readers' awards, which this year attracted more than 12,000 votes.

Andrew added: 'It is especially nice to know that the nomination comes from customers putting our name forward. Initially we only found out on social media.'



Andrew Walsh and award winning staff are socially distanced in the spacious Brodick store.

01\_B50active02

**Arran Active** Tel: 01770 302113  
facebook.com/arranactive  
Email: info@arranactive.co.uk

**The Great Outdoors AWARDS 2020**  
**SILVER WINNER**  
**INDEPENDENT RETAILER**

We could not have won this coveted award without the considerable support of our local community and our loyal and dedicated staff.

*Thank you*

Open Hours  
Mon-Sat 10am - 4pm Sun 11am - 4pm

*Happy Holidays from Crofters*

Reservations recommended croftersarran.com T: 01770302579

**CROFTERS ARRAN**  
Restaurant open 11-6pm  
18th Dec - 3rd Jan  
(closed Christmas Day)  
Lunches, Soft & Hot drinks

Christmas Selection Boxes  
Curated "hampers" made by us  
Order online or in house  
www.crofterslarder.com

**CROFTERS LARDER**

**CROFTERS MUSIC**  
Live music online  
Crofters Musicians "take to the stage"  
MyPlayer.uk/Crofters £5

# Young Scot Awards open

Young Scot is calling on people in Arran to nominate the most inspirational young people in their lives and communities for the Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards 2021.



Now in its 15th year, the awards recognises outstanding 11-26-year-olds from all backgrounds who are making a difference. The Young Scot Awards 2021 are the most high-profile awards that highlight the contributions made by young people to all aspects of our communities – from sport and the arts, through to enterprise and volunteering.

Nominations are now open on [youngscotawards.com](http://youngscotawards.com), closing on February 14, 2021. Winners will be announced in April 2021 during an online ceremony that will be broadcast live on Young Scot's YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/YoungScotTV](http://www.youtube.com/YoungScotTV)

The new Young Scot Award 2021 winners will join a prestigious rollcall of previous recipients, including Sir Andy Murray, Olympian Laura Muir, and top vlogger Jamie Genevieve. Recent winners include actor, Ncuti Gatwa from Netflix's Sex Education, Singer-songwriter Be Charlotte and, overall winners, the phenomenal team behind the Scottish Youth Climate Strike.

Louise Macdonald OBE, chief executive, Young Scot, said: 'The Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards is a way for us to celebrate the achievements of Scotland's young people who've given so much to our communities recently. If you know a young person in Arran who impresses you, or someone who's gone above and beyond to help others, then we want to hear about them.'

To nominate a young person or to find out more about the awards, please visit: [youngscotawards.com](http://youngscotawards.com)

# Islanders must be heard in new ferry decision-making

by Hugh Boag  
[editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)



A Holyrood probe into the construction of the overdue and over-budget MV Glen Sannox and her sister ship for CalMac has branded the management process a 'catastrophic failure'.

In a damning report, MSPs call for 'root and branch' reform of the system for procuring ships for Scotland's publicly-owned ferry network.

Former bosses at Ferguson shipyard in Port Glasgow, ministers, state-owned CMAL and Transport Scotland are all criticised. The ships are four years late and will cost twice the £97million contract price.

The committee also said the views of islanders – some of whom questioned the suitability of the ferry designs – should be given greater weight in future decision-making, the committee said.

There have been complaints that the ferry is too big, leading to the redesign of Ardrossan harbour, and there are fears she may have difficulty berthing at Brodick in certain weather conditions

The contract for the ships was awarded in 2015, a year after businessman Jim McColl stepped in to rescue Ferguson, the last commercial shipyard on the River Clyde.

The first ship was meant to enter service on the Arran route in the summer of 2018 but is now expected to be ready late next year. Hull 802, destined for an Outer Hebrides route, is still being built on the slipway. The latest estimated cost for



Convener Edward Mountain, right, tours the Ferguson yard during the inquiry with turn-around director Tim Hair.

Photograph: Andrew Cowan/Scottish Parliament.

both ships is just short of £200m.

The Ferguson Marine shipyard in Port Glasgow has since gone into administration and been nationalised by the Scottish Government, meaning the money will be met from public funds.

A 129-page report from Holyrood's rural economy and connectivity committee concluded that things

started to go wrong from the outset.

While praising the skills and dedication of the Ferguson workforce, the MSPs said the system for procuring CalMac ferries was 'no longer fit for purpose' and should be overhauled, with some agencies reformed or even abolished.

The Scottish Government's approach to the procurement of the

ferries was described as 'short term, piecemeal and lacking in strategic direction'.

And the 'green' credentials of the new hybrid ships – which can use both marine diesel and liquefied natural gas (LNG) – were also questioned.

The LNG is currently set to be imported from the Middle East and transported by lorry from southern England, and could have an 'overall negative environmental impact' unless Scotland develops its own facilities.

Branding it a 'fiasco', committee convener Edward Mountain said: 'All parties involved must share in the responsibility for the catastrophic failure to deliver this contract on time or on budget. A lack of due diligence, poor project management and a failure by all parties to take the necessary action to resolve problems as they emerged means that the cost of the contract has increased from £97m to almost £200m while the island communities which are relying on these ferries to be delivered continue to suffer.'

The Scottish Government promised to study the report and said it would respond to its recommendations in due course. CMAL said it had given 'robust' evidence to the committee that the problems were driven by 'supplier failure'.

**Campbell Fuel Oils**  
Is your current supplier letting you down?  
**Why not contact Campbell Fuels for a reliable service**

The most frequent service on the Isle of Arran supplying heating oil, tractor diesel, derv and a wide range of lubricants

**Call us on 01563 521925**  
Hurlford Road, Riccarton, Kilmarnock KA1 3LS  
[www.campbellfuels.co.uk](http://www.campbellfuels.co.uk)

**Fourteen years of digital archives**

**Available to Digital subscribers**

**THE ARRAN BANNER**

All change for island restaurants

Helicopter 'rescue' at sea

MV Claisman returns

John Thomson Construction Ltd

# Extraordinary discovery in South Arran MPA by divers

## Community researchers find extensive flame shell living reef

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



An extensive flame shell bed estimated to be 10,000m<sup>2</sup> – about the size of 30 tennis courts – has been discovered in the South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA) by island recreational divers.

As only the second known remaining flame shell bed in the Clyde marine region, this is a significant discovery not just for Arran but for biodiversity interests throughout the whole of Scotland. Seabed habitats are the foundation of a healthy marine environment.

Records show that 70 to 150 years ago, Scotland's seas and the Clyde had a wide array of living seabed habitats; seabeds that were literally alive with habitat-forming species of bivalve molluscs, such as horse mussels and flame shells, and worms like the honeycomb worm and tube-worm serpula.

Of these, the flame shell is a particularly amazing species. Gaining their name from the neon orange flame-like tentacles protruding from their shells, flame shells on their own are beautiful and unusual looking creatures rarely seen or even heard of by the public.

This is despite playing a very important role in the marine ecosystem. By producing thin, strong threads (byssus threads), flame shells literally knit the seabed together to build a nest which supports a large variety of other marine life that lives on and within this mass of seabed material.

As a result, living reefs like this create an important habitat and enhance biodiversity in the area; research on the only other known flame shell reef in the Clyde recorded 265 different animal species within samples of the flame shell bed.

These living reefs are not only biodiversity powerhouses, providing key nursery grounds for juvenile fish and commercially important scallops, they are vital blue carbon stores which can help increase resilience to climate change.

'It is very encouraging to hear of the discovery of an extensive and previously unknown area of flame shell reef in the Clyde,' commented Heriot-Watt University's Dr Dan Harries, whose research focuses on marine benthic communities. 'These reefs support diverse and abundant communities of marine organisms so it is not just about the discovery of the flame shells themselves – it is a discovery of an entire marine community of exceptional biodiversity.'

The true significance of this find in Arran's seas is revealed by understanding what the extent of these living reefs used to be in the Clyde prior to bottom-towed scallop dredging and seabed trawl fisheries.

More than a century ago, the Clyde had at least seven large flame shell reefs, covering many dozens of square kilometres; Sanda-Southend, Skelmorie Bank, Stravanan Bay, Tan Buoy, Great Cumbrae, Inchmarnock, Otter Ferry and Lamdash Bay. Five decades of scallop dredging reduced

these biodiversity hotspots to just one known reef at Otter Ferry in Loch Fyne, and it has only survived due to high power sub-sea electric cables rendering the ground too dangerous to fish.

Professor Jason Hall-Spencer of Plymouth University said the discovery was: 'Absolutely amazing and very welcome news.'

Hall-Spencer spent years researching the biodiversity associations of a flame shell bed while at the Millport Marine Biological research station 20 years ago.

He said: 'This discovery re-ignites the possibility that, with adequate protection, the once widespread Clyde flame shell beds could one day fully recover along with wider marine and fisheries improvements. I cannot commend the community on Arran highly enough for the dogged determination to recover the seas around their island and the wider Firth of Clyde.'

The flame shell bed is within the South Arran MPA, designated following a campaign led by the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) – a marine conservation charity – supported by the passionate island community.

Although the MPA was designated for other habitats and species, the discovery of this flame shell bed is testament to the importance of the decision in 2016 by the then cabinet secretary, Richard Lochhead, to afford wider protection to the South Arran MPA.

It is an excellent example of why better protection for the marine environment is needed from destructive fishing practices such as bottom trawling and scallop dredging.

COAST's MPA project officer, Lucy Kay, who was one of the divers who found the reef, said: 'Important discoveries like this are helping to improve our collective knowledge of Scotland's seas. This discovery highlights the invaluable contribution of community groups and citizen scientists in helping to survey and monitor the marine environment around our shores, much of which is currently done on a voluntary basis without any financial assistance from Marine Scotland.'



Close up of flame shell. See COAST opinion page 6. Photograph Paul Kay



Flame shell bed biodiversity. Photograph Paul Kay

### GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCE MARCH 22 CLOSING DATE FOR AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP INCENTIVE

Arrange your home survey today to make sure you do not miss out

*"My house is now always warm and cozy and my bills have halved"*  
*"I no longer worry about the cost of heating my home in the winter"*  
*"I have been delighted with the Service provided by T K Murray: from initial contact they were friendly, helpful and professional. The staff were all really great: no mess, tidy installation and they did the job in less than two days"*

- Funding available from both the UK and Scottish Government
- Over 175 heat pumps installed on Arran alone.
- Full systems installed in less than two days

Air source heat pumps are set to become the most popular way to heat your home. Right now there are very generous Government incentives which cover most of the cost.

To find out how they work and how much you would get, contact us today.

## T K Murray Electrical Ltd



Contact Norman Paterson on:  
**07912 346360**

2 U.P. Road, Kilsyth, Glasgow, G65 0BH.  
Telephone: (01236) 730 579  
FAX: (01236) 730 579  
E-mail: info@tkmurray.co.uk

## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ

## Effective protection

## COAST opinion

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust is delighted to share the news that community researchers have discovered an extensive flame shell reef in the South Arran Marine Protected Area off Arran, which we estimate to be in excess of 10,000m<sup>2</sup> (about 30 tennis courts). This is only the second known remaining flame shell bed in the Clyde marine region and is a biodiversity powerhouse.

Most importantly, this discovery is a celebration for folk on Arran as it demonstrates the value of all the work the people here put in to get protection for the seas around the island to help recover marine wildlife. If they hadn't fought for it, would the bed still be there? This is an unanswerable question, but given the fishing that was happening around the island, there is a distinct possibility that the reef could have been damaged if the MPA wasn't in place.

The need to recover our natural world has never been greater. In the sea, as on land, Scotland continues to fail to meet biodiversity targets and take meaningful action to halt biodiversity loss. If we want to pass on a better marine environment – and the social and economic benefits of that – to the next generation, we need decisive action now. This means proper protection and management of our MPAs alongside spatial limits on damaging bottom-towed fishing.

COAST is calling upon the Scottish Government and Marine Scotland to urgently bring in effective protection for Scotland's seas and to better support communities to survey, monitor, research and manage their coastal waters in line with the recent Edinburgh Declaration, which recognises the vital role communities have in taking action to address biodiversity loss.

It is time for the protection and management of our inshore waters to be aspirational and fit for purpose to meet the biodiversity and climate change challenges we now face.

## Thought for the week

Jesus looked at them and said: 'With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.' **Mark 10:27**

## Say no to fast food

Sir,  
Most of us would recognise the efforts CalMac have made to ensure safe travel during the pandemic and the award reported in your columns last week is a testament to the efforts of their staff.

However, no one would expect the temporary arrangements made to become lasting, but that could be the case with meal provision. A customer 'survey' currently being advertised on the MV Caledonian Isles, and available online through the CalMac website, carries an implicit threat that the traditional service of fresh food on china plates from a variety of choices, may be permanently replaced by a cardboard boxed set of fast foods – albeit cooked on board the vessel. This would reduce choice, increase waste in terms of packaging, and reduce staffing – all in order to cut costs.

I would urge your readers to respond to the survey with clear statements that they do not want to eat on board out of cardboard boxes and that they look forward to a return to the previous catering service once the pandemic is over.

Yours,

**Colin Turbett, Shiskine.**

## Make your own choice

Sir,  
A few people got in touch with me to show me a letter from last week's Banner. The letter from animal abuse charity Animal Aid and was about reducing the use of turkeys as part of the staple Christmas dinner in exchange for a vegan option.

My problem doesn't lie with there being a vegan option for Christmas. Not at all in fact! I often talk about the fact that there are three reasons why someone would be against the use of animal-based products in their diet and lifestyle – Health, Believing animals shouldn't be used for our benefit, and Environmental impact (the only one I would ever dispute).

Where my problem lies with last week's letter is the fact the writer, Tod Bradbury, offered a 'cruelty-free' Christmas which means they assume turkeys experience a cruel lifestyle. This will happen in places but as the consumer you should care about where you buy your meat. What you can do is source your products from a reputable producer that you know has reared their animals with welfare at the core of their values. Then you can eliminate the possibility of buying a product derived from an animal which has suffered.

If an animal lives its life with access to energy and water requirements to meet their specific needs, freedom from fear, stress and ailments while being allowed to behave naturally then there is no welfare sacrifice.

The slaughter process is where things get confusing, but I'll leave you with one question as I'm not here to tell you what to do: Is death a harm?

Think deeply about and fund your own morals, where do you stand and make the decision for YOU, not someone else.

Yours,

**Wallace Currie, Rural2Kitchen, Shiskine.**

## Tickler tragedy update

Sir,  
I was interested to read your article on the loss in 1862 of the fishing smack Tickler of Lochranza in last week's Banner. Apart from the gravestone at Ardglass, Gilbert McMillan also erected one in Lochranza cemetery which names the son who died at Dundrum as Donald rather than Daniel – a good illustration of how in a number of Scottish families of the time these two names were interchangeable.

Gilbert was married twice. Rather confusingly, both wives were named Elizabeth and both of them had the maiden name McMillan! Donald/Daniel was a son of the first marriage. An older son, Captain Alexander McMillan, also lost his life as a result of going to sea. He died in 1873 of yellow fever while the ship he commanded, the brig Zuleika of Leith, was lying at Rio de Janeiro.

Gilbert's first wife Elizabeth (McMillan) McMillan was a sister of my great-great grandmother Catherine (McMillan) Sillars and also of Susan (McMillan) Macalpine. All of them lived in or around Lochranza.

I first came across the Dundrum tragedy a number of years ago, but your article has added detail I was unaware of – for example the name of the fishing boat. I wonder who the Tickler belonged to?

Yours,

**Peter Macmillan, Dollar.**

## A distant descendant

Sir,  
With reference to your article in last week's Arran Banner about the Arran fishermen's graves in Ireland, I have known of their existence for a considerable number of years since I met an elderly Irish lady (residing in Scotland) who was over on a day trip to the island and on a

## CONTACTUS

Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ. Phone: 01770 302142

**News editor:** Hugh Boag:  
[editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

**Reporter:** Colin Smeeton:  
[editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

**Advertising:** Cecilia Paul:  
[adverts@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:adverts@arranbanner.co.uk)

**Head office:** Wyvex Media, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

## PRESSPOLICY

At The Arran Banner, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

However, we realise that mistakes happen from time to time. If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk); telephoning the chief reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter, by emailing: [inquiries@ipso.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk).

The Editor welcomes letters for publication on this page. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, should also be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ. Fax: (01770) 302021. Email [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk). Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.

bus tour driven by my husband, whom she asked for particular local historical information.

He advised she speak to me and stopped the bus briefly to let us meet. We did exchange letters later (which I still have) and she came from Ardglass originally, and was particularly wanting information on the Arran locations and names to pass on to her brother who, with a friend and, in a spirit of sympathy for the lads with their boat foundering and their drowning so far from home, tended their graves regularly.

I do know of direct descendants of Whitefarland Kerrs on the island and so, very possibly related – and, who knows, I may even be myself, if distantly, with Kerr ancestors from very close-by.

Yours,

**Elizabeth (Kerr) Dale, Pirnmill**

**ARRAN DELIVERIES**

*We deliver the goods, not excuses*

**Daily collection throughout Ayrshire, Glasgow and surrounding districts**

[www.arrandeliveries.co.uk](http://www.arrandeliveries.co.uk)



## Glasgow Depot

c/o Hebrides Haulage  
149 Balmoral Street  
Glasgow, G14 0HB  
**Call us on 01475 676255**  
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

We've been in our Glasgow depot for 25 years, our long time friends Hebrides Haulage operate it and provide a great service. We can accept all size of deliveries into Glasgow. Our trucks call in daily to collect all goods destined for Arran.

Anything in before 1pm is guaranteed next morning delivery on the Island. Let us know your requirements when you book in with our office, as well as our speedy parcel service, we offer 2 man delivery and Tailift Service throughout the island. Forklift at depot.

## Ardrossan Depot

Arran Deliveries  
Parcelpoint Ardrossan  
Ayrshire, KA22 8BZ  
**Call us on 01475 676255**  
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

We are open to accept all your deliveries large and small. A lot of companies won't deliver to Islands, why not use us as your mainland address and let us bring it to your home. We have all the national parcel companies and pallet networks calling in daily to our Parcelpoint. If you are ordering from a few different companies we can

hold it until all your goods have arrived and deliver it all together to your home. If you're needing special arrangements for your delivery we can help. Just let us know your requirements when you book in. Forklift on site for pallets and as well as our speedy parcel services, we offer a 2 man and tailift service throughout the Island.



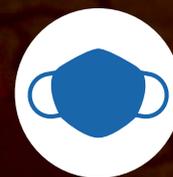
UK Government  
Scotland

**NHS**

**Let's keep  
wearing  
our face  
coverings  
to help stop  
the spread.**



**HANDS**



**FACE**



**SPACE**

## Kenneth wins his reselection battle

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson has won a reselection battle within the SNP for his Cunninghame North seat, ahead of next year's Scottish Parliament elections.

Mr Gibson faced two challengers in a ballot by party members from former Amnesty International director Osama Bhutta and former Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock MP Corri Wilson, but returned with a comfortable win.

He said: 'I am hugely grateful to SNP members on Arran across the constituency for their continued support.'

'Next year's Holyrood election will be massively important as Brexit transition ends on December 31 and we move closer to defeating the Covid-19 pandemic, and winning Scotland's independence. Together with Arran's dedicated SNP activists, I look forward to leading a positive election campaign. In the meantime, I continue to serve the people and communities of Arran as I have done since 2007.'



# Labour choose former MP to fight Cunninghame North seat

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Former MP Katy Clark is making a bid to get back into politics by standing in the Scottish Parliament elections in May next year.

Cunninghame North Constituency of the Scottish Labour Party have confirmed that the former MP for North Ayrshire and Arran will be their candidate after being selected at a virtual hustings meeting.

A Labour spokesperson said: 'We were extremely lucky to have candidates of such a high calibre. Any of them would have been an effective representative for this constituency, in contrast to the representation we have had for many years.'

'We had a very respectful and friendly selection process, due to the quality of the participants. We are delight-

Former MP Katy Clark, has been selected as the Cunninghame North Labour candidate in next year's Scottish parliamentary elections.



ed to have a candidate with a wealth of experience and knowledge of the problems facing Cunninghame North

and with such a positive vision for this area and for Scotland.'

Commenting after the an-

nouncement Ms Clark said: 'I was MP for North Ayrshire and Arran from 2005 to 2015 so have experience of repre-

senting all of Cunninghame North and taken up issues for constituents, businesses, community groups and organisations. I opened two local offices, held surgeries in 43 places and with the help of a strong constituency team helped thousands in many different ways.

'Cunninghame North needs a powerful voice who will put the needs of constituents first, fight for jobs and investment and recognise the real challenges we face as a result of deindustrialisation, lack of investment and now the economic difficulties caused by the pandemic. I have a track record of being independently minded, taking principled positions and of listening to the community. I will be the strongest voice for the constituency and always put the needs of individuals first. I am really looking forward to the campaign.'

## Cladach Sawmill and Garden Centre

### CHRISTMAS TREES

FRESHLY CUT AND POTTED

LARGE RANGE OF SIZES

NORDMAN AND FRASER FIR FROM SCOTTISH CHRISTMAS TREE GROWERS

STOCKIST OF LOCAL TREES FROM FOREST ENTERPRISE

WREATHS, LIGHTS AND GIFTS

GIFT VOUCHERS

AVAILABLE FROM MONDAY 30TH OF NOVEMBER UNTIL CHRISTMAS EVE.

Open Monday - Saturday 10am - 5pm  
subject to government guidance

Tel 01770 302622

email: cladachsawmill@btinternet.com

www.cladachsawmill.com

Delivery service available if required



LITTLE ROCK

Re-opening the Wee Deli and Takeaway on 16<sup>th</sup> December for some much needed festive cheer!

16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> - 11am till 4pm

18<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> - 11am till 6pm

Christmas Eve - 11am till 4pm

27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> - 11am till 6pm

Wee Deli offering fine wines, Champagne, prosecco, craft beers and liqueurs... lots of Christmas goodies, gift packs and our usual deli range.

Takeaway available for food, cakes, shakes, hot chocolates, tea and of course coffee!

Thanks for your patience during these last few weeks we have been overwhelmed by your support and kindness.

We will reopen the café for sit-in in the New Year.



# Lottery award will see community radio on air

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran's new community radio, [arransound.com](http://arransound.com), has been awarded a grant of £9,945 by the National Lottery Fund, Awards for All, to enable them to make Arran news, views, music, entertainment and information, available by digital radio - via Alexa, Echo dot, internet etc - all around the island.

Chairwoman Mhairi-Aileen Smear said: 'Thank you to all you National Lottery players out there for making this possible. The radio is already making a difference in our community and this award will mean that, finally, all our sight impaired, disabled and dyslexic listeners will be able to hear their local news via various digital devices, at any time they choose.'

'The radio group, our student and adult volunteers and readers are working hard to bring some special programmes to the whole community over the Christmas season. As this year, so many of our community events, clubs and organisations have been very much missed, we are going to try something new, hopefully with your help, we can have some "joined up" community fun.'

'We would like you to record (video) yourselves singing Silent Night on your telephone and send it to us at [\[sound.com\]\(http://sound.com\). You can sing solo, sing with your bubble or sing outside, socially distancing with others. By the magic of technology we hope to merge all the videos together and produce a choir which will be available on \[arransound.com\]\(http://arransound.com\) website to cheer us all up before Christmas. Instructions on how to take and send us your video will be posted on the Facebook community forum and also on \[arransound.com\]\(http://arransound.com\) website.'](http://arran-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

'We would also like to invite you to record a short audio message for your loved ones in Montrose House or Cooriedoon who you may not be able to visit on Christmas Day. Or if you have a relative or friend on Arran who lives alone we will be happy to give them a call out too. Again this can be done on your mobile and simply emailed to us. We will then play it on the radio during Christmas Day.'

'Please remember to give your name and your relative or friends name and if they are in Cooriedoon or Montrose House, otherwise please do not record any addresses as we will not be able to broadcast your message for security reasons. [arransound.com](http://arransound.com) is your community radio, please take part and help us end this very difficult year, and very different Christmas for us all, with a little more fun. Thank you from everyone at [arransound.com](http://arransound.com).'

## Huge incentive for new Co-op members

Signing up to become a Co-op member by the first of January could be very lucrative, according to a new campaign, writes Hugh Boag.

Those who have signed up for Co-op membership since the end of September this

year have been automatically entered into a prize draw for a whopping £1,000!

'We already have a high number of members per capita on Arran,' says Scott Harwood, Co-op Member Pioneer for Arran. 'But with

this new incentive, there has never been a better time to take up and enjoy the benefits of membership. For example, every time you spend a pound on our own-brand products, you get two pennies returned to you on your membership card. And also, we'll contribute two pennies to our Altogether Fairer Fund; a penny will go to your chosen local cause, plus a penny to our Community Partnerships Fund.

'Registering for membership

is easy, Scott said. 'You can become a member via our Co-op App on your smartphone, online, or by registering a temporary card you've purchased in-store.'

In all 100 prizes of £1,000 each will be issued across the United Kingdom, with the exception of Northern Ireland. Prizes will be added to the winners' membership cards in monthly increments of £100 from February to November next year.



## THE WAY WE ACCESS URGENT CARE HAS CHANGED

If you think you need **A&E**, but it's not life-threatening, you can now call **NHS 24** on **111**, day or night.



**CALL NHS 24  
ON 111  
DAY OR NIGHT**

**CONTACT  
GP PRACTICE  
DURING THE DAY**

**CALL 999  
OR GO TO A&E  
FOR  
EMERGENCIES  
ONLY**

**Right Care  
Right Place**

[nhsaaa.net/right-care-right-place](http://nhsaaa.net/right-care-right-place)

# Tourism on Arran virtually re

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran has taken part in an inaugural virtual event run by VisitScotland to link Ayrshire and Arran tourism businesses with global tour operators and travel agents.

The pilot has been hailed a success by those who took part.

The Scotland Reconnect 2020 event, which took place at the end of November, saw 264 buyers from 23 countries connecting online with 240 Scottish suppliers for business meetings aimed at booking and creating tour packages for future visitors. Seven of the suppliers were from Ayrshire and Arran and 21 of the buyers were new to working with VisitScotland on a travel trade event of this kind.

Included was VisitArran, and executive director Sheila Gilmore told the Banner: 'The online event was an interesting concept offering virtual meetings with potential buyers, who will hopefully add Arran to their portfolios for 2021.

'I received great support from Craig Harkness, industry relationship manager, who was able to smooth the way with the technology and, as a result, VisitArran managed to engage positively with clients from America, France, Germany, Netherlands, Ireland, London and Edinburgh.'

Scotland Reconnect 2020 was also the first of its kind to be delivered by the national tourism organisation and also gave tour operators and travel agents the opportunity to rebook visits and tweak programmes that were cancelled this year due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Events, including VisitScotland's annual Expo travel trade showcase and programmes of business development missions, have long been critical platforms for making these connections. Having been rendered impossible by Covid restrictions this year, new digital platforms like Reconnect have been developed.

In addition to allowing more than 5,000 business meetings,

there were live webinars, round table discussions and breakout sessions and an online presentation hub.

Participants also heard from global tourism speakers and took part in round table discussions, as VisitScotland's head of engagement Denise Hill met in conversation with Tom Jenkins, CEO of the European Tour Operators Association on the impact of Brexit on the German and US markets; and Joss Croft, the CEO of UK Inbound, who looked ahead to 2021 and discussed what businesses need to consider when seeking to address current issues and challenges in global tourism.

Gordon Smith, regional director of VisitScotland, said: 'I am thrilled to announce that our inaugural Scotland Reconnect 2020 event was a great success, demonstrating both enthusiasm and an appetite to return to Ayrshire and Arran as soon as it is deemed safe – and I hope all those who participated would echo that.

'This event has started us on the road to recovery as we

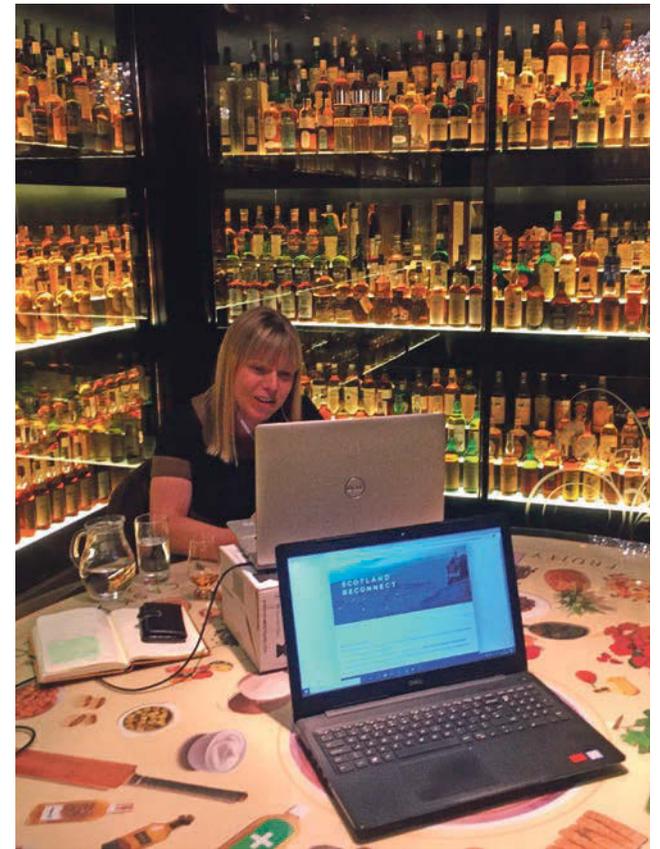
look forward to the time when we can welcome international visitors back to our region.'

Anke Schoen, head of department GB and IRE at the German packager Behringer-Touristik said: 'Scotland Reconnect worked very well for us. Of course, browsing a live event offers even more opportunity for inspiration, but as this was not possible this year, VisitScotland pulled together a very good alternative.'

Sally Gale, business development ad marketing manager of The Coig touring routes, which includes Arran, said: 'Scotland Reconnect 2020 was an effective and Covid-safe opportunity to meet international travel trade buyers during the current pandemic.

'We are grateful for the opportunity to build these important relationships during such a difficult time.

'Huge thanks to all that facilitated this event, we were buoyed by the optimism and positivity from the travel trade buyers for 2021/22 and we look forward to the next online event.'



A representative of the Scotch Whisky Experience taking part in the event. Photo courtesy Scotch Whisky Experience

## N<sup>16</sup> Sixteen Arran

Number 16 Arran are currently taking bookings for Christmas Dinner home deliveries! We will deliver a four course meal straight to your door on Christmas Eve anywhere on the island, no delivery charge.

If you'd like to make a booking, please call, text or WhatsApp Joel on 07957423615

### Menu:

Tomato, clove and Arran Gin Soup

\*\*\*

Duck liver and orange parfait, quince chutney, toasted soda bread  
or  
Crayfish cocktail, horseradish, avocado, rocket, preserved lemon,  
Bloody Mary dressing

\*\*\*

Turkey breast, duck fat roasties, honeyed parsnips & carrots,  
scutéed Brussels with panchetta, Number 16 stuffing, pigs in  
blankets, braised red cabbage, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy

\*\*\*

Number 16 sherry trifle with white chocolate mousse  
or  
Christmas pudding with brandy custard

\*\*\*

Petit fours

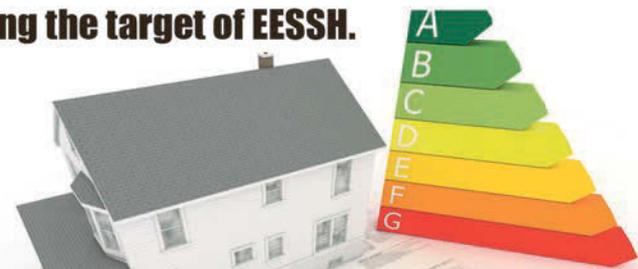
\*\*\*

£40 per person

(Christmas crackers & our own mulled wine included!)

## Eco Energy 2

**FREE LOFT, INTERNAL WALL & CAVITY WALL INSULATION**  
**FREE ELECTRIC HEATING UPGRADES**  
**AVAILABLE UNDER THE ECO 3 GOVERNMENT SCHEME**  
**To improve your energy efficiency to at least a band D, meeting the target of EESSH.**



Energy Efficiency Rating		
	Current	Potential
Very energy efficient - lower running costs		
A (92-100)		
B (81-91)		
C (69-80)		73
D (55-68)		
E (39-54)	37	
F (21-38)		
G (1-20)		
Not energy efficient - higher running costs		

This work is Government funded and is carried out at no cost to you provided someone residing at the property is receiving an income related benefit such as:

1. Child Tax Credit
2. Working Tax Credit
3. PIP or Disability Benefits
4. Child Benefit
5. ESA
6. Income Support
7. Job Seekers Allowance
8. Pension Credit

**REMEMBER, THIS INCLUDES CHILD BENEFIT, SO IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN, YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS FUNDING.**

Also available for paying customers

Please contact our David Coogan, on **07949 091 294**  
or **0800 074 8674** to arrange an appointment.

# connects with the world

## Meanwhile, VisitScotland encourages everyone to support businesses in its new festive campaign #ScotlandLovesLocal

Despite the challenges of 2020, Scotland's tourism industry has opened its doors and hearts to people across the country and VisitScotland believes now is the time to return the love and show support.

In a new festive campaign, the national tourism organisation is calling on Scots to 'love local' this Christmas and support tourism during its time of need.

The Arran Banner has been heavily promoting shopping locally in the run-up to Christmas and the latest campaign highlights that supporting local businesses this winter offers the best chance of protecting them for the future.

Working with partners across the country, the campaign will use the organisation's hugely popular website and social channels to showcase the vast range of gifts, products and experienc-

es people can enjoy on their doorstep. Worth more than £11.5 billion to the Scottish economy, and supporting one in 12 jobs, the Scottish tourism industry has been devastated by the Covid-19 pandemic, subsequent lockdown and travel restrictions.

Regardless of this, throughout the pandemic stories of innovation and kindness emerged as businesses offered free stays to front line workers, made hand sanitisers for communities, and reinvented their products and services to make life easier for those unable to travel.

When tourism reopened on July 15, those within the industry worked tirelessly to make experiences safe and enjoyable once again.

The arrival of new restrictions, in what is traditionally a quieter time of year, has once again hit the industry



VisitScotland is urging Santa to shop local.

hard, prompting VisitScotland to call on people across the country to return the favour, supporting the sector that supported them through it all.

Examples of kindness and innovation during the pandemic have been numerous on Arran among shops and businesses and the Isle20 marketplace

is a fantastic collaboration of products from across the Scottish islands including Arran.

The national tourism organisation has also created a dedicated advice page at [visitscotland.org](http://visitscotland.org), where businesses can learn how to get involved, as well as accessing advice

on promoting themselves. Gordon Smith, regional director for VisitScotland, said: 'We know that 2020 has been tough for everyone, particularly for those in our valuable, vibrant tourism industry. Yet many of our tourism businesses in Ayrshire and Arran selflessly put the public's needs first – creating takeaway services and adapting their offerings so we could safely enjoy exploring our own area. Now many of these tourism businesses are worried for their future and it is our time to support them. Our new love local campaign aims to help people in Ayrshire and Arran support their local businesses and in turn their communities.'

To find out more about #ScotlandLovesLocal and learn more about some great ways to support local businesses this December visit: [www.VisitScotland.com/LoveLocal](http://www.VisitScotland.com/LoveLocal)

### No festive bin pick-up changes

There will be no change to bin collection arrangements on Arran for the festive period.

The household collection service will continue on the normal days – although the timings may vary, particularly if adverse weather affects the area. Residents are therefore urged to have their bins out for 7am on their collection day.

Additionally, the Brodick household waste recycling centre will be closed on December 25 to 28 December and January 1 to 4. Special uplifts will stop on Friday December 18 and can be requested again from Tuesday January 5. Any surplus cardboard should be flattened and placed next to the blue bin on the day of collection.

The team will also collect any real Christmas trees in sections of five feet or less. Refer to the collection calendar for specified uplift dates at: [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/mybinday](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/mybinday)



**FACE COVERINGS**



**AVOID CROWDS**



**CLEAN HANDS**



**TWO METRES**



**SELF-ISOLATE**

Book a test if you have symptoms.

Stopping the spread starts with all of us.

#WeAreScotland

[gov.scot/coronavirus](http://gov.scot/coronavirus)

# Wartime mine detonated by Royal Navy Northern Diving Group experts

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A wartime mine which was discovered by a vessel in the Firth of Clyde south of Arran, and which contained around 350kg of explosives, has been detonated in a controlled explosion.

The Royal Navy's bomb disposal experts based at HM Naval Base Clyde were informed of the discovery by a trawling vessel near Ailsa Craig, which contacted the Maritime and Coastguard Agency on Tuesday December 1.

The trawling vessels' crew were evacuated by Troon Lifeboat and Rothesay Coastguard Rescue Team and the boat, with the suspected ordnance onboard, was sailed to Ettrick Bay on Bute to meet with Northern Diving Group.

There, Northern Diving Group's bomb disposal team examined the item and identified it as a Second World War German submarine-laid, moored influence mine.

The ordnance was lowered



The German Second World War mine which was trawled by a vessel in the Firth of Clyde.

to the seabed off Ettrick Beach where a controlled explosion was conducted the following day to dispose of the mine.

Lieutenant Commander Mark Shaw, commanding officer of Northern Diving Group, said: 'The mine was trawled in the vicinity of Ailsa Craig. Considering it had been in the water for around 80 years, it's condition was remarkable.

'From the initial pictures we were able to easily identify the mine type and importantly determine that the explosive fill was intact and therefore presented a significant hazard.

'The vessel was diverted to Ettrick Bay and met by my team, led by Petty Officer (Diver) Robert McCann, who safely dealt with the situation.

'Items of this size are relatively uncommon, however,



Northern Diving Group detonate the ordnance at Ettrick Bay on Bute.

NDG are approaching 100 call-outs this year supporting civil authorities with all types of explosive ordnance disposal, ranging from mines and torpedoes to hand grenades and improvised devices.

'On average, across the

UK, Royal Navy clearance divers are tasked once a day for explosive ordnance disposal assistance. This highlights the remaining presence of historic ordnance. Even small items can be unstable and present an explosive hazard; carrying-out

a controlled explosion is the only safe way of dealing with them and neutralising the hazard. If anyone comes across a suspected piece of ordnance they shouldn't interfere with it and should immediately contact the emergency services.'

## Erskine charity launches fundraising lottery



Erskine residents James Crawford, private with Royal Army Ordnance Corp, and Findlay McQuarrie, sergeant with the Royal Army Service Corps, are on hand to launch the new Erskine Lottery. Photograph Jamie Williamson

Erskine is urging people to be in it to win it as it marks the launch of its first ever lottery.

Scotland's biggest veterans' charity is offering players the opportunity to scoop a stunning jackpot of up to £25,000 every single week, whilst at the same time supporting veterans and their families at Erskine.

Running every Friday, tickets are priced at just £1 and offer a range of cash prizes. Each £1 entry has a 1 in 63 chance of winning one of four fantastic prizes.

Sara Bannerman, Erskine head of fundraising and communications, said: 'By playing the Erskine Lottery, you'll be in with the chance of winning incredible cash prizes every week.

'But most importantly, you'll be helping to improve the lives of veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much.

'As a charity, we rely on donations.

**'By playing the Erskine Lottery... you'll be helping to improve the lives of veterans.'**

'We identified the lottery as a new, fun and exciting way for our supporters to get involved along with an opportunity to win big prizes and it is so easy to play online.'

Each year, Erskine provides crucial support to nearly 1,000 ex-servicemen and women.

However, it must raise around £10 million every year in order to maintain this level of high-quality care.

Veterans living in Scotland can receive support across the charity's network of four care homes and Veterans Village – with 44 cottages, an activity centre, five assisted living apartments, and

24 single living apartments. Erskine is working with the providers of Unity, a lottery platform designed to help charities raise vital funds via a weekly lottery.

Unity is a number match game, which means the odds are fixed to therefore ensure every lottery number has an equal chance of winning a prize.

While a player matching six digits takes the jackpot, there are also prizes of £1,000, £25, and five entries into the next draw for those who match five, four and three digits respectively.

For more information about how to play and full terms and conditions, visit: [www.erskine.org.uk/lottery](http://www.erskine.org.uk/lottery)

**SUBSCRIBE**  
[www.arranbanner.co.uk/subscriptions](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk/subscriptions)

# White-tailed eagles spotted around Arran's west coast

## Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

NOVEMBER

November in terms of weather was almost a re-run of October. November was also mild and wet.

In comparison to last November it was milder and wetter. The mean temperature was three degrees higher. The rainfall this November was more than double that of last November.

October highlights continued to delight in November with reports of little egret between 7th and 24th mainly from the south end of Lamplash Bay but also in the Rodden in the Shiskine Valley. All records were of a single bird. In addition, the nuthatch reported in Pirnmill in October continued to visit a range of gardens throughout November. The nuthatch will feature in a future Banner bird note

Not surprisingly in November, winter visitors were to the fore. Throughout the month there were widespread reports of foraging fieldfare and redwing, sometimes in mixed flocks. The largest groups were 100 fieldfare at Lochranza on 10th and 60 redwing in Slidderly on 21st. Last November there were 14 reports of snow bunting but none so far this winter. A single brambling was in Whiting Bay on 2nd and six yellowhammer in Slidderly on 9th.

Other records of wintering birds included: 16 turnstone in Whiting Bay on 2nd, 36 rook in Slidderly on 7th, seven Lapwing Kilpatrick also on 7th, a Merlin at Slidderly on 9th, 52 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot on 12th, three purple sandpipers at Silver Sands on 25th and a Jack



Great northern diver by Nick Giles the largest of the three divers in Arran's waters at the moment.

Snipe on Slidderly Shore on 28th.

Reports of wintering wildfowl included: 27 whooper swan at Clachaig Farm on 2nd, 70 teal and 52 wigeon at Kilpatrick Point on 17th and 239 greylag geese and 70 pink-footed geese in the Shiskine Valley on 28th.

Gardens are safe refuges during the winter months with many people providing regular food and water for their feathered friends.

These are a small selection from the many reports from gardens round the island in November: six goldcrest in Kildonan on 5th, 12 coal tit in Whiting Bay on 18th, five great tit in Brodick on 22nd, five greenfinch in Kilpatrick on 27th, 22 long-tailed tit in Shiskine on 28th and perhaps not so welcome, a magpie in Lamplash on 1st. In addition, there were reports of wintering blackcap in gardens in Brodick, Pirnmill and Slidderly often attracted by cut up apple.

Finally, here is a further selection of highlights from what has been another exceptional month for bird-watching on Arran.

After the dearth of eider round Arran in September for the annual Clyde eider census, in November there were widespread reports including 250 in Lamplash Bay on 16th, 100 off Cosyden on 26th and 150 in Whiting Bay on 28th.

At Kildonan there was a returning shelduck on 9th and a lingering gannet on 13th. All three divers were recorded throughout the month including two red-throated diver in Whiting Bay on 2nd, four great northern diver in Machrie Bay on 10th and 25 black-throated diver off Cosyden on 20th.

Among the almost 100 species recorded in November there was a long-eared owl on Corriecravie Moor on 7th and a kingfisher by the Fisherman's Walk on 10th. Last, but by no means least, was the appearance of two white-tailed eagles. First seen in Machrie Bay on 22nd, they were later that day photographed north of Dougarie and for the rest of the month there were records of these majestic birds from that stretch of coast. Whether or not this is a pair looking to establish a territory remains to be seen.

Enjoy your birding and keep safe.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report, the first 40 years, which includes the annual report for 2019 and visit this website [www.arran-birding.co.uk](http://www.arran-birding.co.uk)



White-tailed eagle by Helen Logan. Last week saw a pair of these huge eagles on Arran's west coast.



Fieldfare by Nick Giles a regular a widespread winter visitor.



Blackcap by Dennis Morrison winter visitor enjoying Arran's gardens.



Eiders by Sarah Cowan large rafts of these ducks courting in Arran's bays.



Purple sandpiper by Eddie Maguire an Arctic breeding winter visitor.

# Arran Banner



### Arran Active

so much more than an outdoor shop with lots of gifting ideas for all the family. Great offers and in-store promotions. Mail order and vouchers also available to purchase. Tel: 01770 302113 follow us on Facebook



### Arran Gin

Festive Arran Gin & Cassis available at Cladach Beach House for Christmas! Open 12-4pm Thursdays through Sundays. Merry Christmas from your Arran Gin team



### Arran Butcher - Delicious handmade Arran Haggis & Arran Black Pudding.

3 sizes available.  
01770 860354  
[www.thearranbutcher.com](http://www.thearranbutcher.com)



### driftwood

Open Monday -Saturday 10.00 – 4.00  
Sun 11.00 - 4.00  
10% off



**Bay Wool and Crafts**  
Large range of goods and gifts handmade on Arran, plus wool and haberdashery

### Gift Vouchers now available!

Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay  
Open Tuesday-Saturday 11am-3pm  
01770 700481

# Christmas gift guide

Christmas has come round again, the festive lights are on around the island, Bernie's in Whiting Bay and Shiskine Valley are well worth a visit. So now it's time to sort out your gifts for the family, friends and loved ones with the Arran Banner's Gift Guide.

To help get your mind in the festive spirit, we've got a super range of gift guides with suggestions for everyone. Whether it's to help Santa with toys for children, a present for a wife or girlfriend, husband or boyfriend, something for your parents or a novelty prezzie for your co-worker there should be something here to fit the bill this year – all of which can be found on Arran. Shop Local this Christmas and support our local businesses!

**Merry Christmas and happy shopping!**



**Chameleon Ladies' Boutique, Lamlash**  
**Cosy snoods, wrist warmers, scarves and**  
**artisan jewellery - fabulous gifts from £20**  
**Gift vouchers available**  
T: 01770 600201  
Shop online at:  
[www.chameleonarran.com](http://www.chameleonarran.com)



**Isle of Arran Distillers**  
**The classic Arran 10 Year Old Single Malt**  
**is presented this Christmas in a stunning**  
**new gift pack complete with two nosing**  
**glasses. The perfect gift for any whisky**  
**lover. RRP £43.99.**  
From [arranwhisky.com](http://arranwhisky.com) and  
Lochranza Distillery.

## Arran Gin Company

Starting in Brodick some might tempt you with a refreshing glass of Prosecco or mulled wine. At Cladach you will find the Arran Gin Company - What an exciting year at Cladach Beach House! – making Cassis; serving-up beach cocktails.... and now they aim to make people feel as Christmassy as possible in their beach front shop. What's on offer:

Limited edition Arran Cassis, made from this year's local blackcurrants -squished and delightfully fermented on Arran, large & small bottles of gin

NEW - denim bags, aprons and branded facemasks. Hand-selected Corney & Barrow wines, champagne and port, lets you create your own perfect Christmas drink. With roaring fire and Christmas spirit – they promise to make it fun this year at Cladach! [www.isleofarrangin.com](http://www.isleofarrangin.com)

## Red Door

Christmas shopping is going to be a bit different this year, and the girls at Red Door have tried to do the hard work for you! They have a great selection of gift ideas for the whole family, all behind one little Red Door! There are stunning new cashmere blend scarves, with matching gloves for a touch of luxury! Gents scarves, wallets and gloves for those hard to buy for men of the family! There is a HUGE selection of beautiful kiddies goodies, from a Wooden Doctors Kit, Milk Bottle Baking Kits, and a vast array of Activity Books! Not to mention all the exquisite jewellery, handbags, Christmas decorations, candles and more. Contact 01770 303549.

## James of Arran Chocolate Shop

Within walking distance, Arran's only chocolate factory has been producing the finest hand crafted chocolate delights for over 18 years. And at their shop, James of Arran, their years of experience is plain to see, and taste. Offering a tempting array of sweet treats including their Brandy Christmas pudding truffles, fresh cream truffles and mint truffles, Christmas gifts, chocolate bars, gift boxes and what woman doesn't love her shoes, they are amazing! Mail order service available. [www.jamesofarran.com](http://www.jamesofarran.com) or call 01770302873

## Arran Active

No visit to Arran is complete without making a visit to Arran Active, which is so much more than just an outdoor store, with great gifts for all the family. Arran's specialist outdoor shop has a huge amount of space and an equally large range of outdoor clothing, footwear, rucksacks and equipment. With a great deal of new stock having just arrived it may be worth your while to pay them a visit. In addition to the expected range of active items they extend further than just that and also stock ladies fashion wear, pet supplies, toys, Arran gifts and an impressive collection of whiskies and gins, perfect for Christmas. Tel: 01770 302113, Email: [info@arranactive.co.uk](mailto:info@arranactive.co.uk)

# Arran Banner



### Janelle's

Lots of beautiful homeware & Christmas decorations in stock  
Gifts for those special people in your life  
f 01770 600723  
Open Monday - Saturday  
10am till 5pm

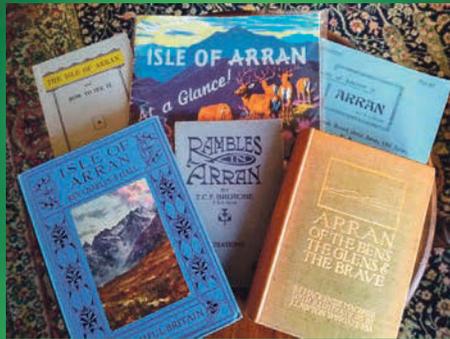


**Red Door**  
Gifts for the whole family, private shopping available!  
Red Door, Brodick  
01770 303549



These beautiful Christmas Stags at £26 and a wonderful selection of collectable handmade, bespoke gifts available from  
Island Porcelain, Lamlash  
Tel: 01770 600919  
web: [www.islandporcelain.com](http://www.islandporcelain.com)  
E: [info@islandporcelain.com](mailto:info@islandporcelain.com)

# Christmas gift guide



**Huge selection of old Arran books (including the original Book Of Arran for that really special present) at**

Johnston's Arran Bookroom,  
Atholl House, Bungalow Road, Lamlash  
600344



**James of Arran Chocolates**  
**Delicious handmade range of quality**  
**Chocolate Gifts to suit everyone's palette**  
**from James of Arran Chocolates. Open 10-5**  
**7days and a mail order service available**

James of Arran Chocolates,  
01770 302873,  
[www.jamesofarran.com](http://www.jamesofarran.com)

## Driftwood

Next to that, Driftwood strives to capture the essence of Christmas, and you are certain to find a wide selection of tempting gifts for friends and family. With a knack for stocking items that are all carefully selected to match the style of the charming shop. As well as their collection of Christmas decorations and present ideas, they have lanterns and candle holders, lamps and mirrors, clocks, cosy throws. .... they are proud to stock local products: Arran prints by Catriona Tod, Jewellery by Ailsa McNicol, Candles by the Arran Wax company, Arran Bee products. As well as have a huge selection of Jellycat soft lovelies! Driftwood also sell Peppermint Grove candles and diffusers, East of India and Gisela Graham. Driftwood offers something for everyone. And as a thank you for being there and all your support they are offering 10% off everything in stock (not including Ailsa McNicol jewellery) right up to Christmas!!

Call 01770 303970

## Johnston's Arran Bookroom

Johnston's Arran Bookroom is a small bookshop in Atholl House, Lamlash specialising in rare and out-of-print books about the Isle of Arran. There are also many collectable nautical and old children's books.

The Bookroom will be open to individual customers during December but please get in touch to arrange a time. Phone 01770 600344, message me on Facebook or email: [heather@johnstonsarranbookroom.co.uk](mailto:heather@johnstonsarranbookroom.co.uk). If you are looking for a particular title, Arran related or otherwise get in touch. I can send photos and even deliver to your home. Some of my books are listed online at [www.abebooks.co.uk](http://www.abebooks.co.uk)

## Janelle's

Round in Lamlash, a particular highlight for many is Janelle's, the interior design gift shop which stocks a wide range of unique giftware and home décor, and which always manages to stock tastefully selected and ultra-desirable items. It's all about Christmas this year at Janelle's even more so this year as everyone needs a bit of cheering up and they are happy to deliver to Lamlash, Brodick & Whiting Bay (all other villages would post) Very happy also to post to mainland also, just message them on Facebook.

## Island Porcelain

Next door, at Island Porcelain, if their wonderfully cute celebration mouse, which can be personalised for that special occasion, be it birth, wedding or engagement doesn't get you, the charming porcelain sheep, seals, birds and sea animals certainly will. These elegant and collectable porcelain designs are uniquely charming, will enhance any home and make ideal gifts. With no two the same, each piece is individually hand crafted and hand painted, ensuring that every single piece is a unique and collectable keepsake. Well worth a visit to pick your favourite or buy online at [www.islandporcelain.com](http://www.islandporcelain.com)

## Chameleon Ladies Boutique

Further along the road is Chameleon Ladies Boutique for all your wardrobe needs and enjoy an 'Awesome Autumn 20% Off' everything in the shop (except sale goods and Gift Vouchers). They have a range of seasonal collections from leading European brands, as well as a great range of basics. Don't forget they also stock winter boots & cosy lined leggings.

For Christmas, they have a selection of great gift ideas including snoods, scarves, costume jewellery and bags. Open Wednesday to Saturday 10:30am – 5pm and can also offer personal appointments outwith those times, just get in touch.

Chameleon are also online 24/7 at [www.chameleonarran.com!](http://www.chameleonarran.com!)

# Arran Banner

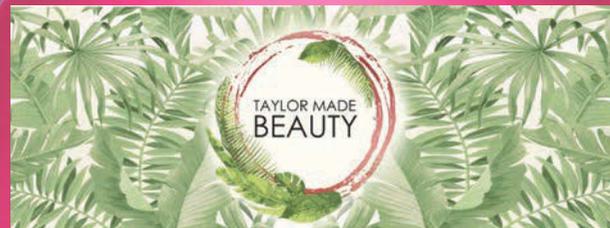
### Arran Butcher

Further around the island at Blackwaterfoot is the Arran Butcher who have turkeys with all of the trimmings. But be sure to order yours by Friday 11th December! Along with their famous haggis and black pudding they also have gammon, steak pies and a selection of fish along with their usual quality selection of beef, pork and lamb.

Please phone 860354, E-mail [Info@thearranbutcher.com](mailto:Info@thearranbutcher.com) or Facebook @thearranbutcher for more information or to place your order.

### Old Byre Visitor Centre

Another unmissable stop is the Old Byre Visitor Centre in Machrie where there is the Old Byre Showroom stocking sustainable clothing, stocking fillers, beautiful knitwear, handbags, throws and accessories. This is mirrored in the sister shop The Byre at Brodick. The extensive new addition Shoe Bothy offers an exciting range of shoes, boots and sheepskin slippers for all the family with the team trained in feet measuring. Some ranges are rarely seen elsewhere in the UK and are that little bit different, there are also well known brands such as Dubarry of Ireland, Hunter and Start-Rite, if we do not your size we are happy to order it for you. This year why not join their loyalty scheme to enjoy 10% off your shopping until Christmas Eve and gain points throughout the year for vouchers. While there why not enjoy a delicious lunch at Café Thyme and let the kids let off steam in the play area. Tel: 01770 840227



### GIFT VOUCHER

**Taylor Made Beauty**  
Gift vouchers available,  
please contact Taylor on  
07789043108 [contact@taylor-made-beauty.info](mailto:contact@taylor-made-beauty.info)

## The Ideal Gift

### SCOTTISH CALENDARS 2021



FROM  
**£8.99**  
including  
P&P\*



FROM  
**£8.99**  
including  
P&P\*



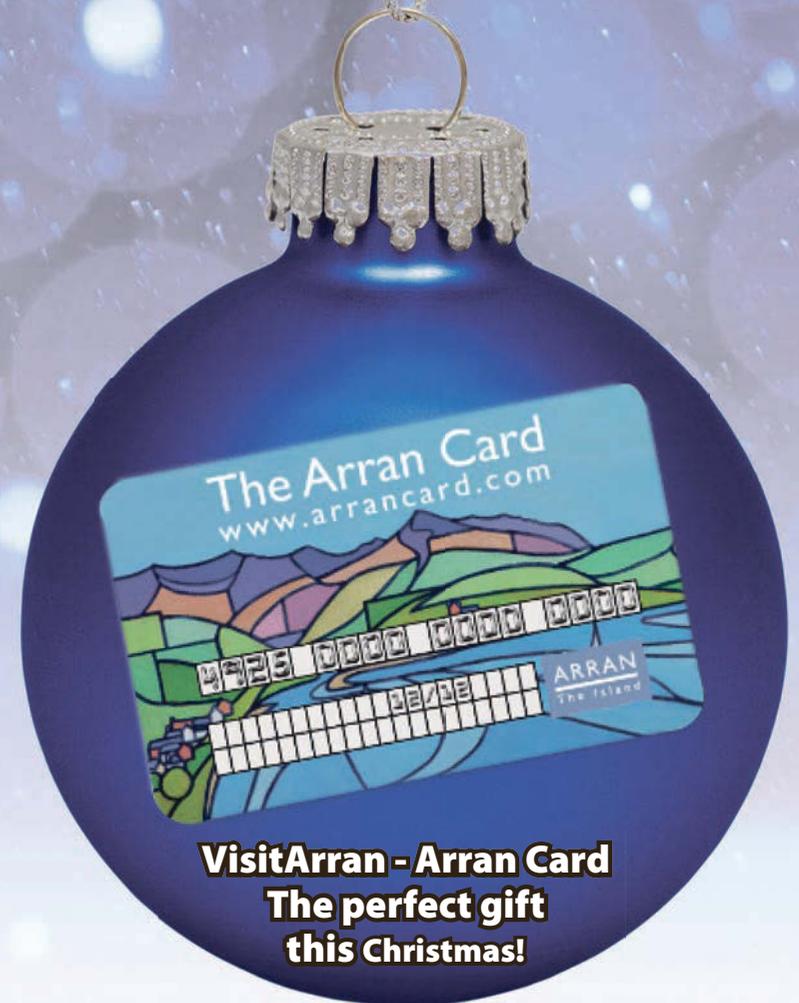
FROM  
**£11.99**  
including  
P&P\*

Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. To see all the images from our 2021 range visit:

[www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

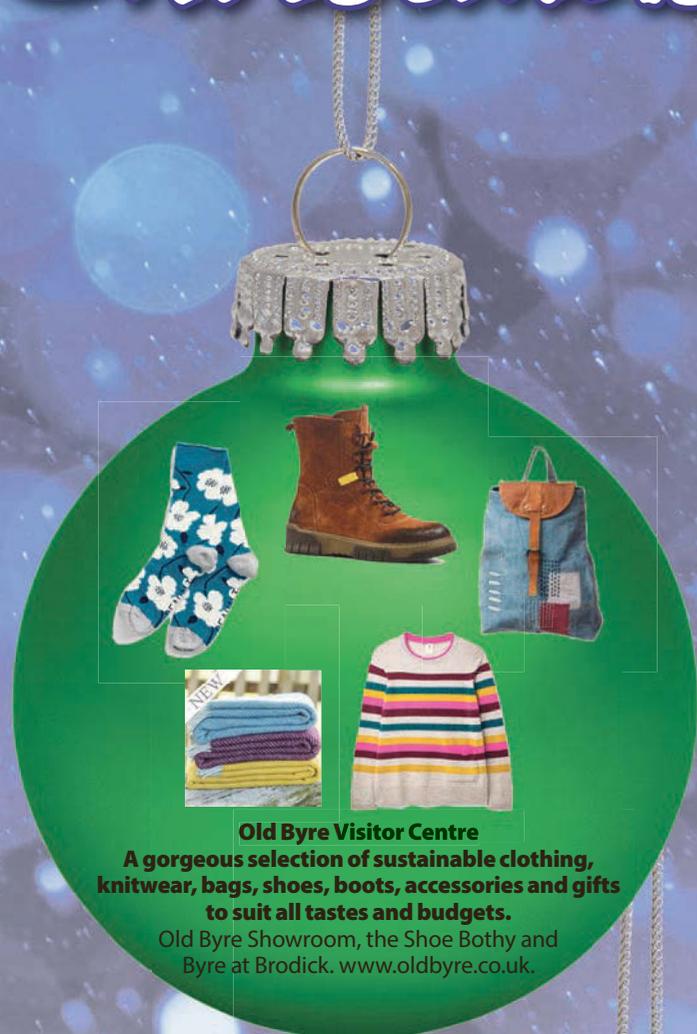
\* additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW

**ORDER ONLINE at**  
[www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)



**VisitArran - Arran Card**  
The perfect gift  
this Christmas!

# Christmas gift guide



**Old Byre Visitor Centre**  
A gorgeous selection of sustainable clothing, knitwear, bags, shoes, boots, accessories and gifts to suit all tastes and budgets.  
Old Byre Showroom, the Shoe Bothy and Byre at Brodick. [www.oldbyre.co.uk](http://www.oldbyre.co.uk).



**Hand painted stone characters and animals, decorative candles and woodwork.**  
The Whins Crafts Workshop  
T:01770 830650

## Taylor Made Beauty.

If you fancy a bit of pampering, or treating that special person in your life then why not get a voucher from Taylor Made Beauty. Taylor offers a range of professional beauty treatments in the relaxing setting of a small salon based in Machrie. Whether it's nails, facials, make up or eyebrows and lashes there is something to suit everyone! Contact Taylor on 07789043108 or email: [contact@taylormadebeauty.info](mailto:contact@taylormadebeauty.info)

## Whins Craft Shop

Whins Craft shop is the home of the Arran Stonemen, a collection of painted stones which have been collected from around the shoreline of Arran. The stones are wonderfully sculpted into little stonemen, all with their own unique appearance and character. Situated up the NorthNewton track on the north side of the loch at Lochranza it is well worth a visit even if just for the stunning views. Tel: 01770 830650

## Lochranza Distillery

The Lochranza Distillery gift shop is still open this month with lots of beautiful Christmas gift ideas and of course plenty of our delicious local Arran Single Malt. The Visitor Centre shop is open every day 10am – 4pm and the team is on hand to help make sure that you get what you need in a safe and socially distant way. You can also place your order over the phone for collection if this suits you better. Call 01770 830 264 where one of the team will be delighted to take your order.

## Bay Wool & Crafts

If you're looking for that special gift, unique and handmade, look no further than Bay Wool & Crafts! They have work from 30 craftspeople, in a wide range of disciplines and also offer gift vouchers in your choice of denomination; a great Secret Santa present! You can also gift a new skill in the form of embroidery and cross-stitch kits and there is always their wide range of wool, plus knitting and crochet supplies.

Bay Wool and Crafts offer free island delivery. Call 01770 700481, visit the website: [www.baywoolcrafts.co.uk](http://www.baywoolcrafts.co.uk), or visit in person Tuesday - Saturday 11am-3pm

## The ArranCard

A great idea from VisitArran, the ArranCard is a pre-paid gift card that offers an easy way to get someone an Arran present when you don't know exactly what they might want! The ArranCard is accepted in over 50 businesses, including accommodation, food & drink, activity and retail. You can order online at [www.arrancard.com](http://www.arrancard.com) and balance on the card, and where to spend it, can be easily checked this way too.

So if you're looking for an Arran gift, why not consider an ArranCard? This is a sure-fire way of supporting island businesses whilst also offering a choice to the recipient!

**Thank you for supporting your local businesses, it is because of you they are still open!**



*Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year*

to all friends and  
neighbours from  
Betty, Andy  
and Gillian

*Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,  
friends & neighbours  
from Archie Nicol,  
Largybeg

*Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year*

to all my family,  
friends and  
neighbours from  
Betty Bunyan,  
Corrie

*Donald and Mary  
McNiven*

would like to wish  
all family, friends  
and neighbours a  
Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New  
Year.

*Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year*

to all my friends  
and neighbours  
from  
Frances Steel

*Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year*

to all my friends  
and neighbours  
from Helen  
Macfarlane

**SEASONS GREETINGS**

to all my relatives,  
friends & neighbours  
from John and  
Jean Lammie

*Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year*

Best wishes  
to friends and  
neighbours from  
Liz Lawrie

**SEASONS GREETINGS**

TO ALL MY  
RELATIVES AND  
FRIENDS FROM  
BESSIE SILLARS,  
MONTROSE HOUSE,  
BRODICK

*Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,  
friends & neighbours  
from Margaret  
Hamilton, Shiskine

**SEASONS GREETINGS**

HAPPY NEW YEAR  
to all my neighbours,  
friends and relatives.  
Margot Saint-Yves,  
Whiting Bay

**MURIEL TOD**

would like to wish all  
their relatives, friends  
& neighbours a merry  
Christmas and a Happy  
New Year

**MERRY CHRISTMAS &  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

to our relatives, friends  
and neighbours from  
John, Pat and Johnny  
Turner, Sliderry.

*Sandy and Marjorie  
McDougall, Lamlash*

would like to wish  
all their friends and  
kind neighbours a  
Merry Christmas  
and a good New  
Year

*Merry Christmas  
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives,  
friends & neighbours  
from Sandy Kerr,  
Whiting Bay

# SUBSCRIBE

to Scottish Field and choose a  
**FREE** bottle of  
Glasgow Gin, Leith Gin  
or Arran Malt\*

**The Perfect Christmas gifts for those that love all things Scottish**

**Save 25% on the cover price only £10.69 per quarter delivered direct to your recipients door.**

Call 01778 392014 and quote Noell or go to [scottishfield.co.uk/subscriptions](http://scottishfield.co.uk/subscriptions)

The award winning monthly glossy lifestyle magazine. Scottish Field brings you the very best interiors, antiques, gardens, wildlife, motoring and country news along side entertaining and informative writing. Get ahead of the field and Christmas wrapped up with a subscription to Scottish Field magazine

\*Terms and conditions apply. For over-18s and UK-based subscribers only. Minimum one year subscription to Scottish Field. Offer ends 31 Dec 2020. While stocks last. Limited stock available. first come, first served basis. By claiming this offer, you agree that you are of UK legal age for purchasing and consuming alcoholic drinks.

for the facts  
[drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)

# The Ideal Gift

## SCOTTISH CALENDARS 2021

**FROM £8.99** including P&P\*

**FROM £8.99** including P&P\*

**FROM £11.99** including P&P\*

Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. To see all the images from our 2021 range visit:  
[www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

\* additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW

**ORDER ONLINE at**  
[www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 9, 2000



Isle of Arran Taste Trail was the winner of the Scottish Tourist Board Thistle Award for excellence. Proudly holding it is Maureen McKenna of Arran Taste Trail, tourist board chairman Ronnie Mann with Councillor John Sillars and Tourist Information Centre manager Aileen Aitcheson.

01\_B50tweQ03



Right: George Donald and Deborah Stewart entertained an audience at Brambles recently with a show called Scotland the What?

01\_B50tweQ02



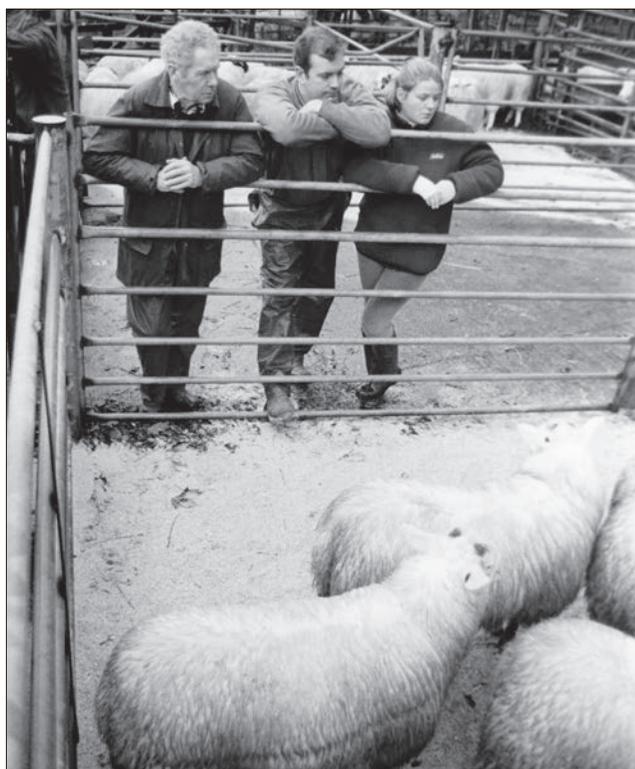
The entire cast of Lamlash Drama Club's production of Pinocchio which was staged at Lamlash Community Centre this week.

01\_B50tweQ01



Hazel Simcock, of Lamlash, winner of the amateur section in the castle art exhibition, with Lady Jean Fforde, left, and Jane Cowal, who bought Hazel's picture.

01\_B50tweQ04



Jack Murchie, Donald McKelvie and Fiona Morris survey the sheep at the Arran farmers' Christmas show and sale.

01\_B50tweQ05



Arran junior rugby players resplendent in their new kit, courtesy of John Thomson Construction and Sportsmatch, with Graham Thomson and trainers Bert Ramage and Robert Primrose.

01\_B50tweQ06

# CLASSIFIEDS

**PAINTER AND DECORATOR**



**FULTON**  
decorators

LAMLASH  
TEL/FAX 01770 600705  
Est. 1985

- All paintwork undertaken
- Any job, large or small
- Paper hanging
- Floor sanding & sealing
- Phone Gavin Fulton for a free estimate

**INSURANCE SERVICES**

Sponsored by NFU Mutual  
Campbeltown. Call Chris Husthwaite  
on 01586 552 428 for your  
insurance needs



**NFU Mutual**  
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

**SELF STORAGE**

**ARRAN SELF STORAGE**



- small & large cabins
- climate controlled
- condensation free
- CCTV monitored

Gavin Fulton 01770 600705  
www.arranstorage.co.uk

**TAXI SERVICES**

**8-SEATER TAXIS AVAILABLE**



**ARDROSSAN HARBOUR TO:**

Glasgow Airport FROM £37.00  
Prestwick Airport FROM £27.00

enquiries@directtaxi.net - Return bookings and other prices on request.



like us on  
**facebook**  
www.facebook.com/  
arranbanner

**PRIVATE SALES  
WANTED**

WANTED VINYL RE-  
CORDS. Good and accurate  
prices paid for well looked  
after records. No classical or  
easy listening. All other genres  
considered. Contact Jamie on  
07983624634 Or 01770 600969

# PROPERTY

**FOR SALE**  
Magdala Whiting Bay  
Isle of Arran KA27 8PZ  
**Offers Over  
£300,000**

**IMPRESSIVE DETACHED SEVEN APARTMENT HOUSE**

If you would like to arrange a viewing, please call  
Jas Campbell Estate Agents & Co Tel: **01770 302027**  
or visit our office at Unit 2, Douglas Centre, Brodick, KA27 8AJ  
Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for financial services

**JAS CAMPBELL & CO**  
ESTATE AGENTS

Find our properties at: rightmove onTheMarket PrimeLocations espco Zoopla

**PROPERTY FOR SALE**



Occupying an enviable setting  
in Corrie, with spectacular  
open views over the Firth  
of Clyde, this traditional  
detached villa has been  
modernised and extended to  
create a wonderful home.

- Breathtaking views
- Exceptional dining kitchen
- Large front and rear gardens
- Shower room with sauna
- EPC Rating - E

Benvarren, Corrie  
**OFFERS OVER  
£405,000**

**ZOOM**  
PROPERTIES  
KELLERWILLIAMS

For more information or to arrange  
a viewing contact Alistair at Zoom  
Properties on **07961 202906** or  
alistair.lee@kwuk.com

# PERSONALS

**Looking for .....**

Would you consider sharing your life  
with an adult, high functioning autistic man  
(38 years)?  
Using the Shared Life model with support  
from Social Services and his family.

Might suit a family or couple.  
He enjoys walking (especially with dogs), light  
farm/woodland work, weaving, cinema, cooking  
and creating art.  
He thrives on a well organised routine.

Generous remittance.

For more information contact  
**Mrs Sophie Bell**  
opi.bell@gmail.com  
Tel **07771734788** (Please leave a message or a  
text and I will return your call asap)

BANNER BANNER  
CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS  
BANNER BANNER  
CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS

# RECRUITMENT

**Job Opportunity with  
North Ayrshire Council**

**Streetscene Operative | NAY07021**  
37 Hours per Week | £19,970 to £20,550

Council Offices, Shore Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran  
Closing date 6th January 2021

For further details and to apply visit  
www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/  
north-ayrshire-council





We are an equal opportunities employer so please inform  
us of any special needs you may have.

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL  
COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980  
CHOICE OF SCHOOL**

It is customary for children to attend the designated school for the area in which they live, other than in the case of St Matthew's Academy. Admission to St Matthew's Academy is achieved through attendance at one of its associated primary schools. However, parents/carers may make a written request to place their child in any other school under the management of the Council. Such a request is referred to as a placing request.

Information about catchment areas, the Council's schools and the procedure to be followed to submit a placing request application is available on the Council's website www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk [north-ayrshire.gov.uk] or by telephoning 01294 310000. Placing requests for the school session beginning in August 2021 should be submitted prior to the closing date of 15 March 2021.

Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2021, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should make arrangements to register for education in accordance guidelines on the Council website or the advertisement on registration of children.

**Andrew McClelland, Head of Service (Education)**

**Craig Hatton, Chief Executive**  
Cunninghame House,  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



**Love Whisky?**

Take a look at the latest issues of **Cask & Still** magazines, and previous issues for **FREE** at:  
**issuu.com/caskstillmagazine**



**THE NEW APP  
FROM CASK &  
STILL MAGAZINE**

**#ScottishWhiskyTrail**

**START EXPLORING!  
DOWNLOAD OUR FREE APP TODAY**




## CHURCH NOTICES

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Parishes of North Arran, Brodict, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine

*Independent but  
working together*  
Parish Assistant:  
Mrs Jean Hunter:

As numbers will be limited at all services places will need to be booked by the Friday. Congregations will be advised who to contact for each Church to book a place. For Shiskine please contact John Kerr on 01770 860498. For Brodict please contact Liz Lawrie 01770 302782.

There will be a streamed service weekly, this can be found on the three Church websites, [www.stmoliosshiskine.org.uk](http://www.stmoliosshiskine.org.uk), [www.brodictchurch.org](http://www.brodictchurch.org), [www.lochranzchurch.org.uk](http://www.lochranzchurch.org.uk)

### Sunday 13th December Lochranza & Pirnmill Churches-

Service at Lochranza Church 10:15am Morning worship.  
Shiskine Church 12noon.  
Morning worship.  
Brodict Church 10.30am  
Morning worship.  
Corrie Church at 12noon.  
Morning worship.

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland Charity Number: SC014005

### Sunday 13th December Worship for

**Third Sunday of Advent**  
will be conducted by the minister Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.

Our capacity will be greatly reduced due to the two metre distancing.

You are asked to please phone Mrs Enid Halliwell on 600010 by Friday lunchtime if you want to attend Sunday worship.

BANNER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
BANNER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
BANNER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
BANNER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Need something from our archives?

Digital subscribers get automatic access to fourteen years of digital archives.

**Subscribe now.**

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

### Sunday 13th December Kilmory 10 am

Lamlash Church Hall 11.30 am  
Due to our reduced capacity, if you wish to attend Sunday Worship in Lamlash, please phone Mrs Vivienne Haigh on 600092 by midday on Friday.  
All welcome

We will be observing all socially distancing procedures  
Scottish Charity SC015072

### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide  
Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

### Sunday 13th December Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion - 11 am.  
Revd Canon Simon Mackenzie  
ALL WELCOME

We will observe strict  
SEC guidelines

### ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

A reminder that our mini-service is still available every week on our website: [www.arranbaptistchurch.btck.co.uk](http://www.arranbaptistchurch.btck.co.uk)  
If you go to the homepage and look below the map picture you will find the link to pick up the service. To access click on the first letter of the link.

We would love you to join us.

### HOLY CROSS

### CATHOLIC CHURCH

### Third Sunday in Advent.

There will be a Vigil Mass on **Saturday 12th December** and a Morning Mass on **Sunday 13th December.**

Please note that capacity is restricted and attendance is by booking only. Social Distancing and Hygiene measures apply, including the wearing of your own face covering.

Please email [peterdwilko@gmail.com](mailto:peterdwilko@gmail.com) or telephone 600595 to reserve a place.

BLESS O LORD THIS ISLE OF  
ARRAN ST ROCH, PATRON  
OF THE SICK, PRAY FOR US  
OUR LADY OF THE ISLES,  
PRAY FOR US ST COLUMBA,  
PRAY FOR US.

## ARRAN BANNER GOLF



Jack McNally, winner of the Duisky final at Shiskine with club captain Fiona Henderson.



Mary Jo Tod, winner of the ladies bronze final at Shiskine.

### Continued from page 24.

12=52 and scratch, 2 A McDonald 67-11=58. Congratulations to Ian McMillan 'Young Bung' who started strongly at the first with a delightful five wood tee shot which finished in the hole!

Fixtures: Saturday December 12, 18-hole sweep Medal tees. Arrange your own games and

register as per normal. Monday December 14, Monday Cup, draw at noon prompt.

### Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday December 3, ladies 18-hole medal. Silver: 1 and scratch Ann May 75-6=69, 2 Jenni Turnbull 88-18=70, 3 Alice Anderson 92-18=74. Bronze: 1 Carole Stewart 97-22=75, 2 Sally Brookes

102-25=77, 3 Elizabeth Kelso 101-21=80. Magic twos Ann May x 5, Jenni Turnbull x 2.

### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday December 5, Lochranza Hotel Cup. First was Phil Betley 38pts, second was Reuben Betley 32pts, with John Pennycott

taking third on 30pts BIH. Tuesday December 8, Winter Cup. 1. Campbell Laing 59, 2. Brian Sherwood 69, 3. Phil Betley 71.

Fixtures: Tuesday December 15, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee off noon.

### Brodict Golf Club

Fixture: Sunday December 13, Brandon qualifier.

# Start planning for the gardening year ahead

### Gardening column for January

It may be cold outside but there is plenty of gardening you can do with your feet up inside at this time of year.

Now is the best time to see the overall structure and shape of your garden which means you can assess what you already have and plan on how to improve it.

You don't have to spend a fortune and your garden can be any size, whether in the country or in a town. Have a good look through the seed catalogues for summer flowers you can grow from scratch and flick through gardening books and manuals for ideas and easy to implement garden tips.

If you're thinking of growing your own fruit and veg then it's a great time to plant seeds indoors for some early crops such as lettuces, summer brassicas such as cabbages and



cauliflowers, spinach and salad onions. A job for January is to get seed beds ready and now is also the time to prune currant and gooseberry bushes.

A simple garden solution for January is to bring colour to container evergreens. It's a good idea to invest in a basic collection of container evergreens - box, conifer, holly and bay - that you can customise

through the seasons by adding bedding plants around the base of each bush. You can create a mix of containers that look great grouped together or scattered through the garden with a variety of colourful plants decorating them such as white cyclamen for winter, lavender and blue pansies in spring, and white and pink daisies in summer.

Another plant which is great for instant winter-spring colour is the Primula. When planting Primula in containers, use multi-purpose compost and ensure they never dry out - and remember to dead head regularly to encourage a longer flowering period.

### January's garden checklist

- Clean and oil garden tools.
- Scrub pots so they are disease free.
- Sharpen secateurs.
- Get the lawnmower serviced.
- If it snows, shake it off evergreens, hedges and conifers to stop the weight causing damage
- Treat timber fences, archways and sheds with preservative.
- Bring mature shrubs to life by pruning older branches as close to the stem as possible.
- Keep container plants protected from frost and check to see if they need watering.
- Remember to put out food and water for birds.



THE ARRAN  
BANNER



# Ian lands a hole in one



## Corrie Golf Club

A Corrie golfer scored a hole in one at the first hole during the weekly Monday Cup tournament this week.

Ian McMillan, known as 'Young Bung', started strongly at the first with a delightful five wood tee shot, which finished in the hole!

The match ended with A Smith winning with a round of 64-12=52 and scratch, A McDonald was runner up with a score of 67-11=58.

Monday November 30, Monday Cup. 1 Q Oliver 79-24=55, 2 R Burke 68-12=56 and scratch.

Fixtures: Saturday December 12, 18-hole sweep Medal tees. Arrange your own games and register as per normal. Monday December 14, Monday Cup, draw at noon prompt.

## Arran Golfers Association

Sunday December 6, AGA Winter League/Duncan Trophy second round at Whiting Bay Golf Club. Many thanks to Whiting Bay GC for hosting. This match was played with teams of four due to safety concerns over Covid. This format of teams of four will remain the same for the rest of the winter season. There is no catering all winter.

Whiting Bay 1.5 beat



Machrie Bay 0.5, Brodick 2 beat Corrie 0, Lamlash 1 drew with Shiskine 1.

So the table after round 2 looks like:

**Brodick 4 points**

**Whiting Bay 3 points**  
**Lamlash 2 points**  
**Machrie Bay 2 points**  
**Shiskine 1 point**  
**Corrie 0 points**

Fixture: Next round (R3)

will be played at Corrie Golf Club on Sunday January 10, 2021. Corrie v Lamlash - 9am, Machrie Bay v Brodick - 9.30am and Whiting Bay v Shiskine - 10am.

A delighted Ian McMillan who scored a hole in one at the first hole at Corrie golf course.

## Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday December 6, AGA Winter League Rd 2. The club hosted the second round of this season's event and happily we had no weather issues to contend with other than a hard frost and bitter cold. That improved as the morning progressed and most of the golf was played in fine winter sunshine.

The WBGC team prevailed over Machrie by 1 and 1/2 to 1/2 with John Pennycott and Dougie Auld winning against Campbell Laing and Brian Sherwood, while Stan Rainey and David Blair halved their game with David Jeffery and A Morrison-Cowan. In the other ties Brodick beat Corrie while Lamlash and Shiskine halved their match.

The January round is played at Corrie on Sunday January 10 when Whiting Bay play Shiskine GC.

Fixture: Sunday December 13. Winter Cup Rd 3. Until further notice there will be no draws for partners and members should arrange their own groupings.

Saturday December 5, ALGU Drumadoon. A total of 20 Arran ladies played in the Drumadoon at Whiting Bay and enjoyed a beautiful winters day overhead conditions ideal for golf. Scoring was difficult however and CSS went out to 65.

Local knowledge was clearly no disadvantage and three of

the top six placings went to Whiting Bay members. Lynda Blair topped the list to win by 2 shots from Mary Jo Tod of Shiskine. 1 Lynda Blair, WBGC (21)63, 2 Mary Jo Tod, Shiskine GC (28) 65, 3 Lesley Wood, WBGC (22)66, 4 Doreen Mainds, WBGC (11)68. Ann May of Brodick GC scored the lowest gross of 76 strokes.

## Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday December 3, Yellow Medal. 1 Graeme Andrew 73-10=63 BIH, 2 Derek Harrison 84 -21=63 BIH over Andy Smith. Magic twos Graeme Andrew @5th, Alan Smith @13th and 16th.

Sunday December 6, Sunday Sweep. 1 Martin Wallbank 75-12=63, 2 Paul Cowan 72- 6 =66. Best Scratch - Paul Cowan 72. Magic twos Martin Wallbank @4th, Paul Cowan @ 16th

Result of Winter League match at Whiting Bay: Lamlash 1 - Shiskine 1.

Fixtures: Sunday December 13, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday December 17, Yellow Medal, draw at 11am.

## Corrie Golf Club

Monday November 30, Monday Cup. 1 Q Oliver 79-24=55, 2 R Burke 68-12=56 and scratch.

Monday December 7, Monday Cup. 1 A Smith 64-

Continued on page 23.



## LAMLASH GARAGE

SERVICE & MOT APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

ALL VEHICLE MAKES SERVICED & REPAIRED.  
CAR & MOTORCYCLE MOT TESTING. LASER WHEEL ALIGNMENT

For fast, efficient, friendly service - contact our reception on: 01770 600328  
Strict COVID-19 operating rules apply. Garage office closed to the public. Card payments by phone only

f Lamlash Garage

