

# THE ARRAN BANNER



*Merry Christmas* to all our readers  
and advertisers

## Ferry likely to move to Troon during Ardrossan pier works



### Santa at head of Shiskine tractor run

Santa and his elf assistant in his tractor-pulled sleigh head a long line of more than 30 tractors on The Rodden which took part in the Shiskine Valley Christmas tractor run last Sunday. For more photographs, see pages 10 and 11.

### Exclusive

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



There is a real likelihood the Arran ferry service will move to Troon for the duration of the Ardrossan Harbour improvement works.

This has emerged from the latest meeting of the Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce, led by islands minister Paul Wheelhouse, and comes amid concerns that there could be considerable disruption to services if the ferry tried to operate out of makeshift facilities at the port where £40 million-worth of improvements are planned.

However, there is no question the ferry service would move to Troon permanently, as has previously been advocated, given the money being ploughed into Ardrossan.

A decision on a temporary move will be made by February after an as yet undefined community consultation takes

place. The taskforce had in the past always insisted that the ferry service would only use Troon as a temporary, last resort but several factors have led to a change of mind - notably the fact that the long-awaited MV Glen Sannox should be in service before work finally gets under way in spring 2022.

And there are already regular disruptions when the Irish Berth is used and with the Arran Berth being realigned during the work, that would be the only one available.

In a joint statement issued after the meeting, the taskforce said: "The Scottish government remains committed to ensuring that ferry services continue to operate from Ardrossan in the long term and proposals for a significant programme of capital investment in Ardrossan Harbour are being finalised.

"In developing these proposals, concerns have been expressed over how a suitable service will be provided during the construction period, with the taskforce conscious of

the impact of weather-related cancellations likely to be experienced operating from the Irish Berth and that any disruption and lack of certainty of service would compound the impact that reduced capacity due to the Covid-19 pandemic has had on the island this year.

"It is therefore proposed that full consideration, underpinned by analysis, will be undertaken on whether Ardrossan will continue to operate during the period of construction works, or whether Troon is used as the mainland port for a temporary period.

"This analysis will consider issues such as service reliability given the potential for increased cancellations when vessels operate from the Irish Berth at Ardrossan, the passenger experience given variations in time and public transport connections and cost.

"The final decision on this will be made by the taskforce

Continued on page two.



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# Arran is out of step with other island communities

## Islands officer hired to help kick-start island's economy

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran is 'uniquely out of step' with all other island communities it was said this week as it heads into level four lockdown with the rest of North Ayrshire at midnight tonight (Friday), after Christmas was effectively cancelled.

Islanders hoping to see family and friends from the mainland today were left bitterly disappointed along with the hospitality trade which had hoped for some much-needed Christmas cheer, only to have them dashed by the announcement that the lifting of Covid restrictions was for one day only.

After being inundated with emails, attempts were made this week by Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson and others to try and get the Scottish Government to relax rules for travel to be allowed on Christmas Eve and Boxing Day to the islands as no ferries are running today. However, this was ruled out by the Scottish Government.

Other islands, including Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles, are in a lower level of restrictions, but this

does not apply to Arran, for while cases remain minimal on the island, they remain among the highest in Scotland in mainland North Ayrshire.

The Arran Recovery group says this leaves Arran and Cumbrae uniquely out of step with all other island communities.

A spokesman said: 'If this is justified by the numbers and the support resources, that is good.'

'If not, we should move to the level that fits our risk. This would not necessarily help business but give some relief to the community.'

'Vaccine roll-out suggests restrictions will be in place until May 2021, at least. If Arran businesses cannot open in February, existing support packages will not support the continuation of large parts of our tourist infrastructure.'

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced last weekend that the early five-day window of relaxations was being abandoned as 'firm preventative action' was needed after the emergence of a faster-spreading strain of coronavirus.

All leisure guests booked into any accommodation were told they had to check out and



Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson called for Covid rules to be relaxed for ferries.

return to their homes at latest on Christmas Eve. Guests are not permitted to stay over in hotel or rented accommodation and depart on Boxing Day. A ban on travel to the rest of the UK also applies over the festive period.

It has emerged North Ayrshire Council twice asked the Scottish government if it could shut down schools in the area ahead of the Christmas break and switch to online learning over its concern of the virus spread but the government refused, saying local authorities were obliged, by law, to follow advice relating to coronavirus outlined by the chief medical officer.

Schools on Arran and elsewhere will return later than originally planned after the festive holidays.

Parents at the island primaries and high school have been told classes will not resume on January 7 as planned.

Instead home learning will resume on January 11 until at least January 18, when schools, at the moment, are expected to return. The level four restrictions mean the closure of non-essential shops, pubs, restaurants and gyms and are expected to last for three weeks, ending on January 15 2021. Meanwhile, Arran is to get a new islands officer to support the recovery and renewal of the island's economy. The role, with a salary of around £50,000, is a three-year post and has been pressed for hard by Arran Recovery Group which sees the position as vital for the island to secure funds needed to support business

recovery.

It comes as North Ayrshire Council, the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise are embarking on a new way of working to support Arran and Cumbrae and the delivery of the National Islands Plan.

The new post is currently being advertised by North Ayrshire Council with interviews being held in January. The islands officer will work closely in partnership with island communities, businesses and wider stakeholders to develop and deliver 10-year island plans to maximise the potential of North Ayrshire's islands.

Councillor Alex Gallagher, cabinet member for post-Covid renewal and the islands, said: 'The council has ambitious plans for our island communities of Arran and Cumbrae and I am delighted, as the islands portfolio holder, to be supported by the first dedicated islands officer to be appointed to help our islands.'

The £250,000 pilot will be co-funded by the Scottish Government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and North Ayrshire Council, which will contribute £130,000 towards the pilot.

## CalMac to continue freight service

Businesses have won their fight for the loose freight service operated by CalMac to continue, for the time being at least.

CalMac has deferred a review of the service it provides to Arran, Bute, Cumbrae and Raasay for six months.

The deteriorating effect of the Covid-19 restrictions on island communities has led to the deferment and any review of the service will now be made later next year.

However, this is a complete u-turn from its earlier position after CalMac told businesses the service, which is widely used by garages, florists and small businesses to get parts and goods from the mainland, would stop at the end of the year.

Extended

Talks then saw a stay of execution agreed until the end of February but this has now been extended to beyond June when the consultation process will resume.

Robert Morrison, operations director for CalMac, said: 'Following a year of unprecedented pressures on our communities caused by Covid-19 restrictions, we fully understand the concerns that people may have about the proposed review of the loose freight service.'

'We have recorded the feedback received to date and will ensure this is incorporated when the consultation process recommences in June 2021.'

# Ferry likely to move to Troon during pier works

Continued from page one.

at its next meeting in February with the views of the community a key element in this process.'

Residents can find out the latest developments in the wide-ranging plans to improve facilities at Ardrossan Harbour.

The Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce - comprised of Transport Scotland, North Ayrshire Council, CalMac Ferries Limited, Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, Peel Ports and Arran Ferry Committee - is working to deliver the comprehensive upgrade and redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour.

This aims to improve facilities, operations and the resilience of the Ardrossan to Brodick as well as the Campbeltown ferry services.

The taskforce partners have prepared an information update on a range of elements of the overall project.

This includes an update from Peel Ports Group on the marine works, North Ayrshire Council on the land-

side works, Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited on the Passenger Access System (PAS) and from CalMac Ferries Limited on ferry timetabling and service continuity.

A formal consultation process on the landside work will follow in the new year.

The update on the project can be accessed at [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/ardrossanharbour](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/ardrossanharbour). Paper copies are available on request from [ArdrossanHarbourProject@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:ArdrossanHarbourProject@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) or by calling 01294 310000.

Paper copies will also be available from Ardrossan and Brodick libraries using the call, click and collect service in the coming days. This service can be accessed as follows:

Brodick Library by calling 01770 302835 on Thursdays and Fridays from 10am to 1pm.

Ardrossan Library by calling 01294 469682 on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10am to 1pm.



The MV Caledonian Isles berthed at Troon during an earlier visit.

# Arran schools learn a new way to keep on singing

by Hugh Boag  
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Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, Arran's wonderful, traditional Christmas school shows have been cancelled this year - so schools have had to be resourceful.

Classes in the primaries and early years classes across the island have been learning and practising some songs using Makaton sign language.

Many schools have celebrated the festive period with fun video clips for their school community and shared this through their school learning platform of Seesaw. They have come together on this

project, to share with the Arran community and beyond on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.

Schools would normally sing together during assemblies, however, singing is currently not able to happen due to restrictions related to spreading the virus, so it has been adapted to Makaton 'singing'.

By putting Makaton to songs, the children have been learning a new language in a fun way with songs they helped choose.

Two of the songs reflect positivity, one of the shared values across primaries, which is much needed in these times including the Proclaimers, I'm

On My Way. The third song is a Christmas favourite, Silent Night.

The songs were filmed in the schools and were edited and released this week, just before the schools closed for the holidays. The final videos are available on Facebook, Twitter and the schools' websites, so have a look out for them and enjoy.

Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of lan-

guage and expression. Being able to communicate is one of the most important skills we need in life.

Almost everything everyone does involves communication; everyday tasks such as learning at school, asking for food and drink, sorting out problems, making friends and having fun. These all rely on the ability to communicate with each other.

With Makaton, signs are used, with speech, in spoken word order.

This helps provide extra clues about what someone is saying. Using signs can help people who have no speech or whose speech is unclear.



Two Pirnmill Primary School pupils show their Makaton sign language.



Pirnmill pupils perform on the Makaton video.



Kilmory pupils take part in their school-made tiger masks.



Older pupils at Whiting Bay show their moves.



Younger Shiskine Primary School pupils take part in the videos.



Younger pupils from Whiting Bay take part.

# Santa's visit delights Corrie



Santa delivers a gift to one of the children. 01\_B52santa02

Words and photos  
by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

There may have been no Corrie Christmas Party this year but Santa was determined that would not stop him making an early visit to see the children who attend Corrie Primary School and early years class.

On Saturday night Santa and his helpers – Shona Catriona

Dunsmuir, daughter Loxa and Logan Lambie – visited the houses in Red Quarry Road, where many of the children live, to hand out Christmas gifts.

Social distancing was maintained throughout Santa's visit with sweets being left outside the houses for the children to collect, all accompanied by personalised balloons from Lisa's Balloons, Arran.



Santa with gifts and balloons and helper Logan. 01\_B52santa08



One little boy tells Santa what he wants for Christmas.

01\_B52santa10



Above: Helper Loxa waits patiently for her own present from Santa 01\_B52santa11; above right: Kieran is surprised to find a gift at his door. 01\_B52santa09



Santa waves to well-wishers. 01\_B52santa07



A girl chats to Santa outside her house. 01\_B52santa04



Santa and his helpers on their rounds. 01\_B52santa01

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# e children

## Know your chemist's festive opening times

With Arran Medical Group practices closed for four days over Christmas and New Year, residents are being urged to prepare to cope with any common health concerns.

The chemists in Brodick and Lamlash are open from 9am till 5pm on Christmas Eve and

New Year's Eve and closed for three days thereafter, but will open from 9am till 1pm on December 28 and January 4.

Pharmacists can also answer questions on choosing and using the right medicine and provide easy-to-understand advice on treating everyday

ailments such as coughs, colds and seasonal flu.

NHS 24 has a number of pharmacists who are able to answer medicine and pharmacy-related questions over the phone on 111 and NHS inform has valuable advice on preparing for winter – visit

<http://www.nhsinform.scot> and click on Show You Care, Prepare.

Have a sufficient supply of medicines like paracetamol, sore throat and cough remedies and check existing regular medical supplies and only order what is needed.



Lachlan with his gift and balloon. 01\_B52santa06



Helper Logan leaves one of the gifts delivered. 01\_B52santa05



Santa hears what these girls want for Christmas. 01\_B52santa03



Loxa and mum Shona chat to Santa from their front door. 01\_B52santa12



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or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ

## Troon's time has come

So the people of Arran have been given something else to ponder over Christmas, which at least may take their minds off the pandemic for a little while.

Do they want the ferry service to go to Troon for the duration of the improvement works at Ardrossan? Until now that had seemed unlikely for any length of time - now it feels like a real possibility.

For the government-led Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce to admit it is worried about disruption and a lack of certainty of service at Ardrossan during the works, suggests to me it may have already all but made up its mind.

Certainly the prospect of the new, bigger MV Glen Sannox trying to operate for the duration out of the Irish Berth will not fill anyone with a huge amount of confidence. And this will not be for a few weeks or a few months. With works planned for 18 months, you can bet it could be for as long as two years.

Yes, there will have to be work done at Troon. Certainly some sort of administration centre and the distance to the train station remains a problem, but it is not insurmountable.

With proper preparation and planning it might just work. But what do the people of Arran think? The taskforce has promised an, as yet unspecified, public consultation ahead of the decision, but with that due in February, they had better press on with that. Time will tell, but for the first time it looks like it is Troon's time.

Happy Christmas.

## Thought for the week

'When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary and they bowed down and worshiped him. They opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.' **Matthew 2:10**

## YOURSTORY

email us at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
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## A Christmas like no other

*A Christmas message from Helen Kerr, chairperson, Arran Churches Together*

What a strange Christmas we celebrate this year. Will we meet together? Should we just be patient till another year? Can we risk going over the number the government is permitting? Sometimes we just need to pause and think, what is the right thing to do?

Two thousand plus years ago some people had to work out what was 'the right thing to do'.

There was Mary spending the betrothal time, a kind of engagement period, going about her housework in her parents' house when suddenly a visitor frightened the daylight out of her with his appearance. And the fear did not lessen when he said she would become pregnant. However, the evangel or angel told her how it would miraculously happen and remembering all she had heard and believed as a young girl, she trusted God and his messenger and knew she had to accept.

There was Joseph who wasn't sure about his young fiancée when she told him she was pregnant. In fact he was upset, unprepared to accept her story, prepared to quietly send her packing, put the wedding off. Quite a dilemma. But it was so out of Mary's character - a good lass, a faithful Jewish maid - and there was something impelling about her story. Then, as Joseph slept, he had a dream and heard the clear message that he should trust, trust God and trust his girl. So he stood by her.

There were some foreigners from the East who were convinced that someone unique, very special would be born and then heard that the long-awaited event had happened. They knew the right thing to do was to make a very long journey to honour and give the child special gifts.

Of all the times to have such events, it was

then 2,000-plus years ago; of all the places - an occupied country at the far end of the Roman Empire to an insignificant village in the middle of an empire census; to, of all people, an engaged couple, pretty low on the socio-economic scale, about to have an infant that would change the world and millions of lives over the millennia.

Whatever way we celebrate Christmas this year, will we spare a thought and wonder at the story which even today turns nations' and individuals' beliefs and thinking upside down.

A baby, a boy, a man who showed us through his words and actions that we should care more for the poor, the hungry and oppressed in our society than how to make a pile of personal wealth; that we should speak out against the injustice and be a voice for the exploited in our world. In a word, remember kindness and be there to help others rather than think of self gain.

Let us celebrate with friends and family this Christmas, either face to face or virtually, and remember with gratitude all those in our country and further afield who have worked, served and volunteered throughout this year 'like no other', caring for others, holding hands, delivering shopping and medicines, driving buses and lorries, ambulances and rescue vehicles, and many others. Joy to the World the Saviour Reigns. Have a Very Happy Christmas.

## Community spirit should be celebrated

*A Christmas message from North Ayrshire Provost Ian Clarkson*

When I think back 12 months ago, just as we were looking forward to last Christmas and our hopes for a new year, none of us could envisage what would unfold in 2020.

Sadly, it turned out to be a bleak year for most of us and even more tragic for those who have

lost a loved one to Covid-19. However, with the first batches of the vaccine now being distributed and the promise of more on the way, we have good reason to be optimistic for the year ahead. There is light at the end of a long, dark tunnel.

I would urge you all to continue to look after your friends, family and loved ones by sticking to the rules. With hope on the horizon, there is too much to risk by letting our guard down now. So please, enjoy your Christmas but keep each other safe at the same time.

This might mean not having the same type of Christmas you would usually enjoy but it will be a small price to pay to ensure we can meet up with friends and family in 2021 when we can hopefully have a celebration together safely - and I'm sure it will be one we won't forget.

So many have suffered so much throughout 2020 and, while there has been tragedy and heartbreak for many in our communities, we shouldn't forget the kindness and compassion which has been so evident.

While we may have been apart physically, we still retained the bonds that tie us together through modern video platforms. Although not everyone had experience of virtual meetings beforehand, we adapted wonderfully, whether that was meetings with other elected members or Irvine Burns Club or a number of local organisations which maintained their community spirit in the face of adversity.

So while we prepare for a very different type of Christmas this year, we will offer a prayer to those who are no longer with us in person, but in spirit. We can hold in our hearts a hope and expectation that 2021 will bring us better fortune and be a year in which we can see our friends and family and give our loved ones a hug. That would be the best Christmas present of all.

So, from me, please have a happy and safe Christmas and a wonderful 2021.

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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 timeous, 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).

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# Biggest UK vaccine roll-out brings hope of a brighter and better future for all of us

The UK's biggest roll-out of a vaccine in a generation is well underway, bringing hope to all for protection against COVID-19 as well as the prospect of a brighter, better 2021.

FROM DELIVERY drivers to doctors, warehouse workers to care staff, there is now a dedicated army of heroes involved in the UK Government's nationwide roll-out of virus vaccinations.

Inoculations have already begun with elderly patients as well as hospital and care staff among the first to receive first phase jabs across the nation.

Experts from the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency have already approved Pfizer/BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine for use.

Its introduction follows months of clinical trials and analysis of the data by the MHRA, which confirms the safe, free treatment meets stringent safety standards.

NHS England and NHS Improvement, NHS Wales, NHS Scotland, Health and Social Care Northern Ireland, all of which



have decades of experience delivering large-scale vaccination programmes.

This is a vaccine that is now available for the entire UK. When it's your turn, you will receive a notification.

Vaccines are free at the point of delivery and remain the best way to protect us all from the harmful effects of coronavirus.

■ This article is part of a paid-for partnership with the UK Government



**VIRUS VACCINATIONS:** Inoculations have begun for elderly patients and care staff.

## VACCINE STATISTICS

- The UK Government invested £88 million into research and development
- So far 357 million free vaccine doses have been purchased for UK citizens
- The UK Government invested £230m-plus into manufacturing vaccines
- Vaccines annually prevent 2-3 million deaths globally, potentially millions more
- Vaccines are tested on 20,000 to 30,000 people before being made available to the public
- Hundreds of thousands of people signed up to trials, thousands more continue to be recruited
- Over 600 clinical trials take place every year for other medicines
- Additional £100 million will fund UK Government's vaccine state-of-the-art mass production
- The UK Government has established 'rapid deployment facility' thanks to an extra £38 million manufacturing investment
- An extra £93 million will see UK's first dedicated Manufacturing and Innovation Centre open a year earlier than planned

### 'Fear virus more than injection'

Kit Gov's advice to anyone fearful of having the vaccine is "the fear of contracting the virus must be greater than having the injection".

The 83 year-old trained at Dunfermline College of Physical Education, and was a student in Aberdeen during the Asian Flu pandemic of 1957.

"My main memory of that was



taking medication and food to those lying in bed.

"Most of those in the residence were affected," she recalls. Commenting on the lockdown, she continued: "My really big miss is seeing the family although we speak and email.

"I will have the vaccine as soon as it is offered."

### 'The vaccine spells hope to me'

Retired actress and teacher Sue Herdman will "most certainly" have the vaccine "as soon as they call me".

Says the 81 year-old: "I am an aged person, classed as vulnerable. I think the knowledge of having the vaccine will instil faith in me. It spells hope. That means a great deal to all of us."



And her advice to anyone offered the vaccine - "go for it". Sue, who "hasn't coped well with the second lockdown", added: "Life may gradually return to a semblance of normality once more.

"COVID, and the fear it brings, makes prisoners of us all - if not in the confines of our own home, in the fear it breeds."

### 'It's little short of miraculous'

Retired Advice NI debt adviser Adam Harbinson believes the vaccine "is little short of miraculous".

Apart from concerns for his family, the 73 year-old misses the freedom of visiting the theatre and cinema as well as dining out.

He welcomed the news of the vaccine saying: "The best that most

of us expected was that we would have a vaccine in a couple of years. "And now the first vaccine is being rolled out across the UK.

"Perhaps the main benefit for me and society, apart from the obvious benefit of protecting us from the dreaded disease, is that it

infuses a sense of hope into an otherwise hopeless environment."



# Fight COVID-19

Learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine.  
[nhs.uk/covidvaccine](https://nhs.uk/covidvaccine)

All together >

# 2020 - a year to remember, a year to



JANUARY: Staff from the Douglas Hotel pay tribute at their annual dook to hotel owner Sean Henry who passed away in 2019. 01\_B02sean01



FEBRUARY: Storm Dennis caused widespread flooding and damage across the island with the floodwater submerging part of Brodick car park. 01\_B08Dennis03

As we look forward to 2021 with renewed hope and optimism, without a doubt 2020 will be remembered for a long time as being particularly challenging and the most unusual year we have ever faced.

Despite this upheaval and the challenges faced, Arran residents have once again taken on life's obstacles with stoicism, courage and an indomitable spirit.

And it is with this same resolve that we can all look

forward to a prosperous, happy and healthy new year.

In part one of our customary look at the year in review we examine some of the stories that made the headlines from January through to June.



JANUARY: Brodick Nursery started to make contingency plans to deal with the potential closure of the early years facility prior to the government's introduction of extended hours. 01\_B03BrodickN01



FEBRUARY: Whiting Bay Primary School pupils held a number of fundraising events to support the organisations dealing with the wildfires burning across Australia. 01\_B09WWF01



MARCH: Shiskine SWI celebrated its 100th anniversary with a centenary dinner in Shiskine Golf Club with a flapper theme given that the club was founded in 1920. 01\_B11shiskine01



APRIL: Wellwishers gathered outside the home of well-known and well-regarded Irene Greatorex, who celebrated her centenary this year. Here she is with her birthday flowers and card from the Queen.

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## Arran Active



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# Year to forget - January to June



MARCH: All the winners of the 2020 drama festival with their trophies in Arran Community Theatre. 01\_B10front01



MARCH: The entire Shiskine Primary School joined P7 pupil Olivia McNeice to celebrate her winning the Lamlash Burns Club painting and drawing competition at a special assembly attended by club president Douglas Auld and secretary Andrew Martin. 01\_B12club01



MAY: Head teacher of Arran High School Barry Smith has left the school to take up a post in Dumfries after nearly five and a half years in the position.



JUNE: Nursing staff at the ready at the new Covid-19 testing station which opened at Brodick Health Centre. 01\_B26test01

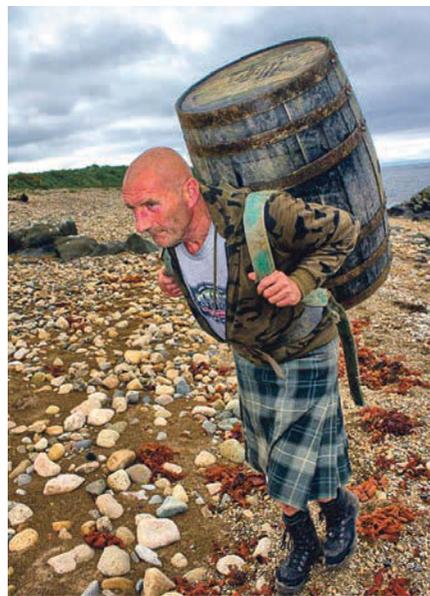


APRIL: The entire crew of the Arran RNLI, right, bid a fond farewell to Allan Little, who retired from the organisation after 35 years' service.



JUNE: Dani Mutch with a gerbera daisy at the opening of the Cladach Sawmill and Garden Centre in Brodick. 01\_B23cladach01

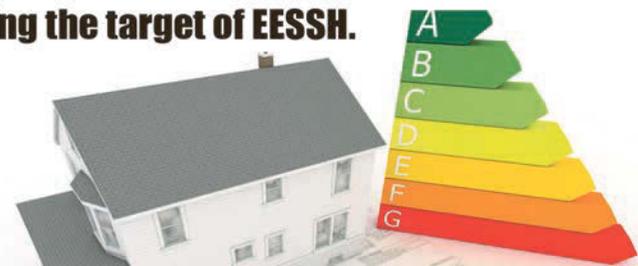
MAY: Big Davy Ballantyne, right, began his Round Arran barrel challenge. He walked the entire 70-mile Arran Coastal Way with a 50kg (8 stone) whisky barrel strapped to his back. Photograph: Fraser Aitchison.



JUNE: School finished earlier than planned this year owing to the lockdown. The 2020 S6 leavers, above, missed their last weeks of school.

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# Tractors bring Christmas cheer



A masked Santa in the parade. 01\_B52tractor06

Words and photos  
by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



More than 30 tractors took part in the Shiskine Valley Christmas tractor run last Sunday. Crowds gathered for the start in Blackwaterfoot and lined the route waving as the tractors, led by Santa in his sleigh, made their way to Balmichael via The Rodden and returning via Bridgend and Shiskine.

Organiser Gordon Kinniburgh said: 'A huge

thank you to the 30 tractor drivers who turned out and a bigger thank you to all you smiling spectators. The smiles and waves are what makes it a great day for the drivers. As usual, folk in the Valley were exceptionally generous and our wee elves collected £1,199.50 - what a fantastic effort. This will be split between ArCaS and the Arran foodbank. There was a prize for the best decorated tractor. This was a two-way tie with Angus and Alan McAllister the winners.'



The Grinch in his blue tractor. 01\_B52tractor04



Janis Murchie is a happy elf on her tractor. 01\_B52tractor13



A huge tyre wreath adorns the tractor. 01\_B52tractor07



All smiles as the tractors keep coming up The Rodden. 01\_B52tractor05

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Santa leads the parade out of Balmichael. 01\_B52tractor12



The tractors lined up in Blackwaterfoot ahead of the start. 01\_B52tractor01

# to Shiskine



Improved Christmas baubles on this tractor. 01\_B52tractor11



A tinsel covered tractor in the parade. 01\_B52tractor15



D G Weir is behind the wheel of this vintage tractor. 01\_B52tractor09



Donald Murchie waves from his vintage tractor. 01\_B52tractor10



Another vintage tractor driving out of Balmichael. 01\_B52tractor14



A driver shields her eyes as she leaves Balmichael. 01\_B52tractor16



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# New book retells the grisly tale of the Goatfell murder

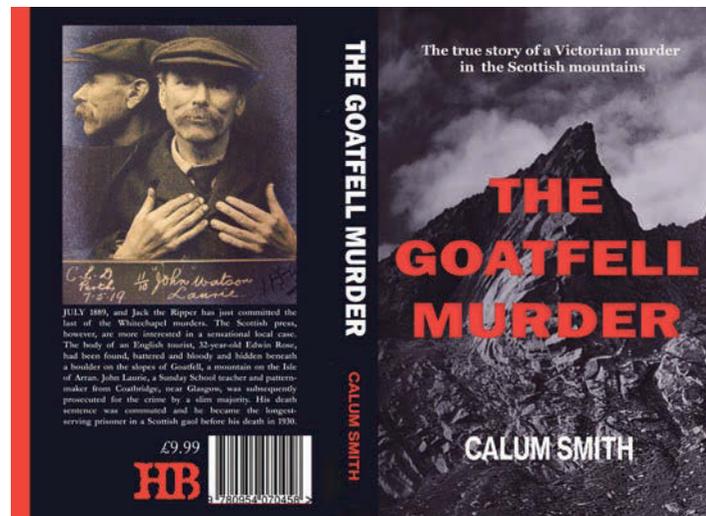
## Book review

A new book has been described as giving the most comprehensive treatment of the circumstances surrounding the Goatfell murder more than 130 years ago.

It is the true story of the infamous murder on Arran. Taking place in 1888, the year Jack the Ripper committed the last of his murders, the murder of an English tourist, Edwin Rose, on Goatfell, was a sensation of the time.

The new book has been written by Calum Smith, who draws on a wealth of local and social history and unpublished letters from John Watson Laurie, subsequently convicted for the crime, who became the longest serving prisoner in Scotland.

Described by one reviewer as: 'The best and by far the most comprehensive treatment of this infamous incident in Victorian Scotland', the



The cover of the new book on the Goatfell murder.

The grave of Edwin Rose in Sannox Cemetery.

book has also been praised by Dennis Gray, the noted veteran climber and writer and one-time general secretary of the British Mountaineering Council.

He called it: 'A work of outstanding research about an infamous crime ... a must-read for anyone interested in

the workings of the law and the development of and the need still for reform of the penal service, to say nothing of the setting of this event, in Arran, on one of finest mountains in the UK.'

July 15 1889 was a busy day on Arran as it was Fair Monday. A number of visitors opted to

climb Goatfell, though many were put off by the cloud lingering on the summit.

It seemed a day like any other, but that evening there would be a tragic event which would lead to one of the biggest manhunts in Scottish criminal history, as well as a sensational murder trial.

Two of the people who set out to climb the mountain that afternoon were John Watson Laurie, a 28-year-old pattern-maker from Coatbridge, and Edwin Robert Rose, a 32-year-old clerk from London. They had met three days previously on the excursion steamer Ivanhoe.

Rose's battered body, 'the face terribly mangled', was found three weeks later concealed under a boulder on a remote part of the mountain.

The discovery sparked a huge search for Laurie, who



was subsequently arrested for Rose's murder after two months on the run.

When captured, he attempted suicide with a cut-throat razor, then stated: 'I robbed the man, but I did not murder him.'

The book tells the story of the Goatfell tragedy and its aftermath, described by the Glasgow Herald as 'the most remarkable tale of crime and

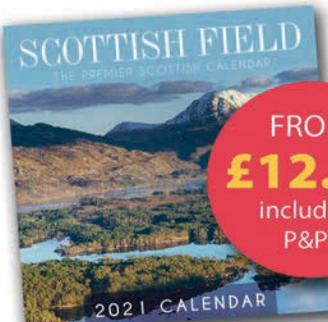
retribution in the annals of Scottish judicial history'.

Calum Smith has been climbing in the Scottish hills for 50 years. He is also the author of *The Black Cuillin* (2020) and a forthcoming history of climbing on Arran, *The Hills of Arran*.

The *Goatfell Murder* can be purchased at £9.99 from Rymour Books <https://www.rymour.co.uk>.

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## VisitArran gets cash from 'loves local' fund

VisitArran and its regional food group Arran's Food Journey have received the backing of Scotland's Towns Partnerships with a grant of £5,000 from their Scotland Loves Local fund.

The money will be used to promote Arran's traders and producers.

It will be spent on developing a website for Arran's Food Journey, social media promotion of local produce and by encouraging the purchase of the Arran Card, Arran's gift card.

Cameron Bruce from VisitArran said: 'The Arran Card makes an ideal gift at any time of the year and has the flexibility and security that it can be spent at more than 60 different outlets around the island.'

'The ever-increasing number of Arran cards sold has proved a great way to keep people spending locally.'

'The person buying the card does so in the knowledge that every pound they put on the card will be spent with an Arran business.'

'Arran's community has a strong tradition of supporting local businesses.'

'Arran's Food Journey will focus on the links between Arran's growers, producers, retailers and hospitality providers.'

'It will encourage locals to reconnect with Arran's food story and show visitors how they can immerse themselves in a food journey from farm to fork.'

'The whole aim is to encourage everyone to keep shopping local on Arran.'

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 23, 2000



Tabitha and Fabienne Robertson-Burnett and their friend Mungo Paul with Mr Christmas Tree outside Arran Craft Gallery in Brodick. 01\_B24tweY04



Above: Katherine O'Donnelly with Santa at the Pirnmill Primary School concert.

01\_B24tweY05



Sophie Marriott with Santa at Whiting Bay SWI's party last Saturday. 01\_B24tweY03



Left: Corrie Nursery School held its party on Tuesday. Santa is seen here with Callum Dixon, Alastair Innes, Fraser Blair and Conal Salmon. 01\_B24tweY06



Left: Pupils dressed up at Brodick Primary School's Christmas concert on Monday. Note: This is the first time this photograph has been published. 01\_B24tweY02

Right: Angelically adoring the new baby in His crib at Brodick Playgroup Nativity play are Fabienne Robertson-Burnett, Ailsa McMillan and Briar Thorne.

01\_B24tweY01



The whole of Pirnmill Primary School during their concert last Friday. 01\_b24TWEy07



Pensioners from Corrie and Sannox met in Corrie Hotel last Wednesday to enjoy their Christmas lunch. 01\_B24tweY08

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messages for 2020

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& a Happy New Year*

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from Mamie  
Stewart  
(Kildonan) now  
Montrose House.

CHURCH NOTICES

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
Parishes of North Arran,  
Broddick, 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 Broddick 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, www.broddickchurch.org, www.lochranzchurch.org.uk

There will be no church services in the north Linkage on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. A Carol service will be recorded and streamed for viewing on Christmas Eve on the church web pages.

**Sunday 27th December**  
Lochranza & Pirnmill Churches- Service at Lochranza Church 10:15am Morning worship. Shiskine Church 12noon. Morning worship. Broddick Church 10.30am Morning worship. Corrie Church at 12noon. Morning worship.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
Whiting Bay and Kildonan  
Church of Scotland**

Charity Number: SC014005  
Regretfully due to restrictions there will be no Christmas Day service

**Sunday 27th December**  
Worship will be a Service of Readings and Prayers conducted by the minister  
Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.

Regretfully due to restrictions there will be no Christmas Day service.

Our capacity will be greatly reduced due to two metre distancing. You are asked to please phone Mrs Enid Halliwell on 600010 by Friday lunchtime if you want to attend Sunday worship.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
Kilmory linked with Lamlash**

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
Sadly there will no Christmas Services this Year in either church

**Sunday 27th 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

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**Christmas Day 25th December**  
Sung Eucharist 10 a.m.  
Rev'd Adrian Fallows

**Sunday 27th December**  
1st Sunday after Christmas  
Holy Communion - 11 am.  
Richard Trewby  
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  
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**

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**  
There will be 2 Masses on the evening of Thursday 24th December and 1 Mass on the morning of Friday 25th December.

BOOKING for these Masses is ESSENTIAL as capacity in Church remains restricted. Email peterdwilko@gmail.com or telephone 600595 to book your place.

We wish our parishioners and island community a holy, peaceful and safe Christmas.

There will be a Vigil Mass on **Saturday 26th December** and a Morning Mass on **Sunday 27th 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 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.

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# Sporting review of the year - January to June

## A look back at some of the sporting events that took place from January to June 2020



**JANUARY:** Georgina Lepley Maclean, left, emerges from the water in Lamlash Bay after taking part in the traditional Boxing Day dook.

01\_B01boxing01

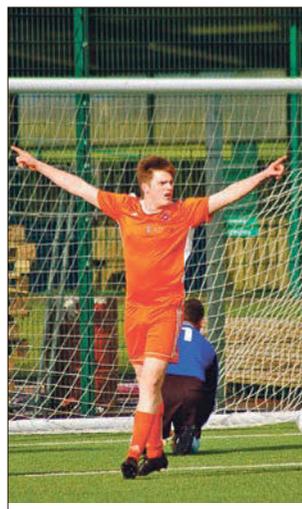
**JANUARY:** Following a nine-week break, Arran Ladies hockey team, right, made a spirited return with a victory against Troon Ladies.



**MARCH:** Lamlash golfers, above, took the AGA Winter League/Duncan Trophy again. The club has now won the trophy five times out of the last six years.



**MARCH:** Broddick Bowling Club prizewinners at the annual lunch and presentation of prizes.



**FEBRUARY:** Joel Small of Arran Amateur Football Club, left, celebrates his fine goal against Irvine CSC who were defeated 6-0. Photograph: Tam Borland.



**JUNE:** Broddick golfers enjoy a return to the game after lockdown restrictions were eased. 01\_B23golf01



**MAY:** Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club celebrated the tenth anniversary of their clubhouse. Pictured are all of the guests at the official opening on Saturday May 29 2010.



# Santas drenched at Pace Makers' dash

It was supposed to be a Santa dash but it ended up more like a Santa drench when Brodick running group the Arran Pace Makers staged a socially-distanced dash last Wednesday night in pouring rain. Six brave members and group leaders Lorna Logan and Gordon McInnes donned their costumes and ran through the village streets. Lorna said: 'It had to be one of the wettest nights so far, especially for our Santa dash. I think the costumes soaked up lots of the water and weighed

us down! Well done to Abbie McKelvie. You looked great with your lights; Emma Elise lit the way with her red nose and Christopher Hogge was our best dressed. Hopefully next year we can organise an actual event again for the Santa dash.'

Three of the runners pass the Christmas tree on Brodick shorefront.

01\_B52dash02



The Arran Pace Makers ahead of their Santa dash. 01\_B52dash01

## GOLF

### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday December 20, Winter Cup Round 3.

Last week's decision to postpone this round proved well founded as 17 played on a dry, if blustery morning.

With the new handicapping system in place, there is no longer a CSS score for the round.

Result: 1 John Pennycott (12) 62 and lowest gross; 2 Douglas Auld (17) 63; 3 Gus MacLeod (12) 65; 4 David Brookens (10) 67. Kevin McAleney bagged the only magic two of the day @ 7th hole.

Fixtures: Sunday December 27, Christmas sweep and bottle, yellow tees.

Sunday January 3, Ne'erday 1/2 bottle. Due to the recently introduced travel ban, this will now be a Stableford from the yellow tees.

The Cross Country will hopefully be played later in the year once our regular visitors are able to join us. Until further notice, there will be no draws for partners and members should arrange their own groupings.

### Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday December 17, Yellow Medal. 1 Andy Smith 79-17=62; 2 Serge El Adm 74-11=63. Magic two Alan Smith @16th.

Sunday December 20, Glenburn Cup. 1 Derek Harrison 86-21=65 BIH; 2 Colin Richardson 81-16=65. Best scratch Ian Bremner 75. Magic two Alan Smith @16th.

Fixtures: Saturday December 26, Boxing Day bottle (Stableford), 11am start. Sunday December 27, Winter Stableford 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday December 31, Yellow Medal, 11am draw.



### Brodick Golf Club

Sunday December 20, Winter Cup Stableford, 24 played. 1 Babbies MacNeil (18) 43pts; 2 John Beattie (34) 42pts; 3 Alistair Hume (13) 41pts.

Fixtures: Sunday December 27, Winter Cup Stableford. Friday January 1, New Year bottle and Hirsell Trophy. Sunday January 3, course backwards competition. Season's greetings to all members and friends.

### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday December 15, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Alex Morrison-Cowan 37pts; 2 Willie Kelso 36pts; 3 Brian Sherwood 35pts.

Fixtures: Tuesday December 29, Winter Cup, tee off noon. Saturday January 2, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee off noon. Tuesday January 5, Winter Cup, tee off noon.

### Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday December 26, Saturday Sweep. Arrange your own matches and record via email. Monday December 28, Monday Cup, noon shotgun start.



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