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# THE ARRAN BANNER

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## Stay safe this Easter

#stayathome

# Ray of hope comes with health warning

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



There was a ray of hope this week that Arran may escape the worst of the coronavirus pandemic.

But the news came with the warning people must follow the government guidelines or the outbreak could spread rapidly across the island.

There was clarification, too, of the number of confirmed cases on Arran after the concern caused to many by a statement on social media last week that there were 'multiple' cases on the island. That concern was heightening by the fact the Ayrshire and Arran health board area has the fifth-highest toll in Scotland with 312 confirmed cases.

In a statement this week, Dr Greg Hamill, Clinical Arran Lead, North Ayrshire Health and Social Partnership, said: 'There are several cases of COVID-19 in the community on Arran. National limitations mean we have been testing only those presenting to hospital or in cases where it helps front

line staff return to duty. This has shown two positive tests. We will have positive cases and testing capacity is expanding. For reasons of confidentiality we will not be able to provide more detail about the cases.'

Dr Hamill continued: 'Thank

**'Thank you once more to everyone following government guidance.'**

you once more to everyone following government guidance. There are some signs the measures may be slowing the spread on Arran, but it remains vitally important to continue to follow government guidelines and to stay at home. If people choose to ignore this an outbreak could spread rapidly on the island.

'The last few weeks has seen a great deal of work to keep services going when many staff have been affected by the need to shield, self-isolate or have been unwell. So many have gone above and beyond to keep services going and

make sure we are as prepared as possible.' A lot of work has been carried out at Arran War Memorial Hospital to prepare the premises should they be required.

Dr Hamill continued: 'Thank you to those who have helped with the work at the hospital and other sites. Thank you to the 90-plus people who have come forward to offer to join the workforce and to all the staff who have switched to new roles or shifts and who are working extra hours. Thank you to all the businesses who, in such difficult times, have helped with work, donations and support. Thank you to everyone else who has given, sent messages of support or stood clapping on the doorstep. We are immensely proud of the people of Arran.'

Meanwhile, the non-medical needs of hundreds of the most vulnerable residents on Arran are being cared for by an army of volunteers.

In the last week, village co-ordinators and volunteers worked with the Community Support Hub and delivered

more than 400 grocery deliveries, collected more than 20 prescriptions and helped deliver food parcels for 84 families.

All that is on top of the daily acts of help and kindness being shown in every village on the island as the community rallies to help all those who are self-isolating and shielding during the coronavirus crisis.

The hub, based at Arran Outdoor Centre in Lamlash, has even re-deployed some of the centre's domestic staff to carry out other vital services across the island in places like Arran War Memorial Hospital and Montrose House.

The hub has been established by North Ayrshire Council to provide an information service and signposting to statutory services while helping the council and community teams to deliver food parcels and prescriptions to people in need. The hubs are not open for the public and work on a rota basis to keep to a minimal number of people.

Last Thursday co-ordinators

Continued on page two.



There will be no Sunday sailings to Arran. 01\_2071312501

## Sunday sailings off

All Sunday sailings to Arran have been cancelled with immediate effect.

The appropriateness of continuing to offer a Sunday sailing was questioned, and with very limited travel being handled, it has been agreed that as of tomorrow (Sunday), until further notice, there will be no Sunday services from Ardrossan to Brodick.

The Arran Ferry Committee has agreed to the removal with the condition that the decision will be reviewed should needs change or the number of evacuations increase. The decision has been taken with the involvement of the local NHS representatives who have discussed the move directly with CalMac.

The move will also help support the government guidelines to stay at home unless

your journey is essential. A ferry committee spokesman said: 'Some residents are still expecting to travel for purposes which do not align with the criteria set out from Scottish Government and NHS announcements, and we ask everyone to help the efforts to overcome this pandemic and think again if their travel is essential.'

'We appreciate this will restrict supply of papers etc but feel the community will agree we need to do what we can to help our emergency services.'

'General supplies to outlets are currently accommodated Monday to Saturday so there is no reduction or risk for stocks at the major stores.'

'AFC continues to work with CalMac to support the essential services and supplies for Arran during these unprecedented times.'

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# Ayrshire police chief warns visitors do not go to Arran

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The new Ayrshire police chief has warned visitors this Easter weekend they are not welcome on Arran.

Ayrshire divisional commander Chief Superintendent Faroque Hussain had this frank message this week for any would-be travellers.

'Ayrshire has some wonderful destinations including parks, beaches and the islands of Arran and Millport. If you are thinking of travelling to any of these over the Easter weekend, my message to you right now is, please do not come. While coronavirus is with us, it is essential you listen to the advice to stay at home and to help us keep you and your loved ones safe.'

The message follows the demands in the Banner



Chief Superintendent Faroque Hussain.

last week for all advance Easter ferry bookings to be cancelled. CalMac is urging that there should be nothing but non-essential travel over the holiday weekend.

A spokesman said: 'All bookings should have been cancelled for non-essential travel. If someone turns up looking to come over for the weekend they won't be permitted to board.'

This would normally be the start of the summer season on Arran but this year the coronavirus pandemic has left the island in vital lockdown.

Mr Hussain in his message to the people of Ayrshire and Arran said: 'I want to take this opportunity to thank the overwhelming number of Ayrshire's residents for following the new regulations on social distancing, designed to save lives and

protect the NHS during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

'Police Scotland has been carrying out significant work with our partners to ensure we are prepared for the days and weeks ahead.

'The National Co-ordination Centre is fully operational, supporting multi-agency arrangements and identifying resources to support and strengthen local policing. Having a single force to respond to a national emergency means we can make decisions very quickly. We can quickly move people to where they are needed to respond to any given situation and to address gaps opening up elsewhere due to illness or extra demands of local circumstances.

'We are co-ordinating support for those most vul-

nerable in our communities through close collaboration with North, East and South Ayrshire Councils and NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

'Over the coming weeks and months, there is no denying the demand on us all will only increase, but I can assure you that we will continue to deal appropriately and robustly with those who break the law.

'There have been very few occasions where officers have had to issue fixed penalty notices.

'Indeed, they only did so as a last resort and after individuals persistently flouted the regulations or refused to comply with requests to abide by them. Due to the exceptional nature of these powers, the regulations will be reviewed at least every 21 days to ensure they are still needed.'

## CORONAVIRUS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Volunteer update

All details of volunteers who have come forward have been recorded and many passed over (with permission) to NAC or Health and Social Care areas requiring support. It has been confirmed that currently not all volunteers are being used but this may change as things go forward. If you have not been contacted yet please be patient.

To safeguard yourself and others, formal volunteering for an organisation or service will provide you with any information you need. If you intend to volunteer informally by being a good neighbour, please ensure you access the correct guidance to protect the vulnerable people you are supporting and hard as it may be, do not enter their homes.

### Opportunities

Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland is seeking volunteers to assist with a phonenumber service.

They have new roles that will really make a difference to the people most at risk in our communities, including:

Kindness Caller – to provide regular 'kindness' calls and a check-in service for people who are worried, scared or lonely because of self-isolation

You can find out more at [www.chss.org.uk/kindness](http://www.chss.org.uk/kindness) or tel:0131 225 6963.

Loneliness advice Additionally Age Scotland is offering good advice on tackling loneliness during the coronavirus outbreak at:

[www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland/latest-news/2020/march/tackling-loneliness-during-covid-19-outbreak/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland/latest-news/2020/march/tackling-loneliness-during-covid-19-outbreak/)

Or people can call the Age Scotland helpline for advice or a friendly chat on 0800 12 44 222

### Pensions

For those concerned about collection of pensions the post office is offering the following advice [www.postoffice.co.uk/post-office-card-account](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/post-office-card-account).

You can nominate someone you trust to become a Permanent Agent on your behalf. This person will be given their own card and PIN to collect cash on your behalf. To nominate a Permanent Agent, please complete the 'Permanent Agent access form' (P6163), available from most Post Office branches.

You can ask someone to take the form to the Post Office on your behalf as long as the form is complete and has been signed by yourself.

Reminder: No volunteers should be accepting bank



cards or pin numbers.

### CalMac donations

With the shut down of its retail outlets due to the COVID-19 crisis, CalMac has decided to donate food that's shortly going out of date to local food banks.

Staff from the west coast ferry operator are currently sifting through stock and anything with a sell by date within three months will be donated. The type of goods being handed over will include soft drinks, confectionery, crisps, cakes and biscuits. CalMac has retail outlets on 14 of its larger vessels.

'Given that we are not in a position to determine when

our on-board retail outlets will be open again, it makes sense to find a use for products that will be out of date soon, other wise they would just end up being thrown out,' said CalMac's head of sales Kurt Hart.

### Think farmers

Further urgent discussion and action is needed around public access to farm land, writes Gemma Cooper, NFU Scotland, head of policy team in her latest blog.

'There can be no doubt we are living in extraordinary times. For farmers and crofters, farming life goes on and vital activities such as lambing, calving and spring arable work continue. For the general

Ian MacLennan, Donna Maxwell and Keith MacMillan from CalMac's MV Isle of Mull prepare a shipment for distribution.

public, life does not look quite as normal.

'Lockdown has led the UK governments to tell the public to stay at home. One form of exercise per day is allowed and social distancing is always required.

'Whilst in the current circumstances this makes complete sense, for farmers, the impact of this has been immediate and acute. The volume of access taking, behaviour, and the type of public taking access has instantaneously changed and members are reporting problems to NFUS in substantial numbers.

'For NFUS, it is clear in these strange and unprecedented times, it is vital farmers can carry out their business without impediment and public access must not be allowed to stand in the way of personal safety or food production.'

### Forestry car parks

Ahead of the long Easter weekend, Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) is reminding people that all of its car parks

and visitor facilities remain closed as part of Scotland's response to the challenges of COVID-19.

Simon Hodgson, FLS Chief Executive, said: 'We have made the difficult decision to close our car parks, mountain bike trails and all visitor facilities.

'Initially our car parks were open but this resulted in a high number of visitors over the Mothers' Day weekend.

'We appreciate fresh air and being outdoors benefits physical and mental health and well-being – especially on long weekends – and local forest trails are open for local visitors.

'If you can get to one of our forests by walking, by bicycle or by wheelchair, you are very welcome – as long as you follow social distance guidelines. I would urge everyone to follow the current government and NHS health advice.'

### News and info

The Arran Banner will continue to provide updates and information on developments relevant here on Arran and further afield.

Free access has also been provided on our website at [www.arranbanner.co.uk](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk) for all the important updates and information on the pandemic.



Claire Robertson and Lois Bell of Arran Sense of Scotland with some of the free soaps given to Arran residents, in a photograph taken last month. 01B13soap01

# Arran-made hand cleanser gel on sale

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



An Arran homeware brand has launched a new range of anti-bacterial hand cleansing gels to fill the gap in the supply chain during the COVID-19 outbreak.

To assist in the crisis, Arran Sense of Scotland has produced 20,000 units of 50ml hand cleansing gel at its Home Farm factory in Brodick providing another example of how companies are diversifying in the current climate to meet the needs of the population and temporary changes in lifestyle.

The latest move came after the firm distributed 15,000 bars of its signature Arran soap which they made available free of charge to everyone on the island.

The generous initiative has already seen the business distribute thousands of 25 gram bars of soap to schools and nurseries on the island, before they closed, along with special treat packs being sent to front

line workers at Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock.

The company has also provided all of its staff with special hand care packs which include hand wash and hand cream.

NHS employees are also being offered reductions on their online purchases with generous discounts on offer.

The new hand cleansing gel has a light fragrance and contains naturally derived sugar beet alcohol and aloe vera leaf juice to soothe, hydrate and protect, making it perfect for anyone whose hands are bearing the brunt of extra washing to prevent illness.

Hand Cleansing Gel from Arran Sense of Scotland is available to buy online now from <https://arran.com/> priced at £4 each or £10 for three. Limited to three per customer.

Chief executive officer Kevin Meechan said: 'As consumers look to protect themselves against the COVID-19 outbreak, shops all over

the country are reporting a shortage of hand cleansers amid unprecedented demand. We took the decision to diversify our product range to help meet the needs of the public and immediately began creating this new product that is now available from our online store.

'Our new cleansing gels are made to the high quality that our customers expect and is formulated with 60 per cent naturally derived sugar beet alcohol and extracts of aloe vera to effectively cleanse and help protect the skin's natural moisture barrier.

'To ensure we can help as many people as possible and avoid stockpiling, we've set a limit to three bottles per customer.'

Residents can still collect their free soap supplies from The Bay Kitchen and Stores in Whiting Bay and A & C Cameron in Blackwaterfoot, while stocks last.



## Ray of hope comes with warning

Continued from page one.

had a very positive meeting with the Co-op, which is now more able to meet the demand without using the volunteers so much through the screen process prior to taking home delivery orders, thus releasing some of the pressure on the volunteers.

Co-op manager Liz McLean and the hub are in contact daily.

The hub is supporting the hospital with the storage of vital equipment, including radios so they are able to communicate with each other in the hospital.

The centre will also make available the accommodation should the need arise for additional NHS staff from the mainland.

Locality leader Ian Staples said: 'I would just like to thank all the co-ordinators and volunteers for their continued support to the community. Also, can I thank Duncan Russell from Sense of Arran for supplying us with over 200 individual bottles and decanting 10 litres of hand sanitiser into them, so that we could give them to our volunteers across the island. Seeing Arran as a community come together is such a wonderful thing to witness.'

In other news, the government



Hub co-ordinator Darryl Urquhart-Dixon 01\_B15driver01; and left, locality leader Ian Staples. 01\_B15driver02

has allocated a further £1,038,000 to North Ayrshire Council (NAC) to help deliver supplies to people unable to access food due to the coronavirus.

The funding will support those most in need, including families with children who are eligible for free school meals, older people, folk with long-term health conditions and pregnant women.

NAC will have flexibility to use this additional resource in ways that best meet emerging local needs and circumstances, working with community groups and businesses to support home delivery, provide financial help and meet dietary requirements.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'Coronavirus has brought enormous disruption to all of our lives, and some people will be concerned about accessing food.'

'This investment will ensure community groups in Arran who are assisting their fellow islanders at most risk can better access food supplies through this unprecedented crisis.'

Anyone on Arran looking to volunteer is asked to do so through the community hub. Please email Cara Miller at [caramiller@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:caramiller@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) or contact the support hub on 01770 600532 or 07496 658760.

Anyone requiring help or advice is also asked to contact the numbers above.



Wylie & Bisset giving free business advice to steer Scottish businesses through Coronavirus lockdown

We have launched a helpline to help steer companies through the Coronavirus lockdown period.

We want to assist those businesses that, through no fault of their own, find themselves confronting various pressing business problems as a direct result of the government restrictions to quell the spread of COVID-19.

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4 High Street, Oban, Argyll PA34 4BG

Tel: 01631 562478

[info@wyliebisset.com](mailto:info@wyliebisset.com)

[www.wyliebisset.com](http://www.wyliebisset.com)



## Free support from Business Gateway

North Ayrshire Council's business development team is hosting free Business Gateway webinars throughout April.

Businesses can sign up for a variety of helpful webinars including funding your business in the short term; get the most out of remote working; crisis public relations; managing your reputation and producing engaging online content.

Any company completing either 'funding your business in the short term' or 'business planning for short term funding needs' webinars will be sent a link to an online business planning tool.

This will allow business owners access to complete an online course taking them through how to write a business plan. At the end of the course, business owners will be able to download an excel file with their financial forecast and their business plan template. Councillor Alex Gallagher, cabinet member for

**'The variety of topics to choose from will provide them with the key skills and support to help their company deal with the economic impact of coronavirus'**

economy, said: 'We understand coronavirus is having a significant impact on businesses, employees and our economy.'

'It's an uncertain time for companies and we want to offer as much help and advice as possible.'

'I would encourage business owners to register for the free Business Gateway webinars. The variety of topics to choose from will provide them with the key skills and support to help their company deal with the economic impact of coronavirus. As well as the online webinars, our business advisers are here to offer you business support.'

To register for one of the Business Gateway webinars visit [www.bgateway.com/events](http://www.bgateway.com/events).

**CONTACTUS**  
email us at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
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# Call to relax waste disposal measures

A call has been made to reconsider the closure of the Brodick waste recycling centre and the cancellation of uplifts by North Ayrshire Council (NAC) without providing alternative services.

At a recent meeting of Arran Community Council, held using the conference app Zoom, the concern was the move raised the risk of fly-tipping which would require more resources to address.

A community council spokesman said: 'The local authority actions are consistent across the full council area, however, Arran does not have the 'brown bins' which other areas have for garden material.'

'We appreciate the restrictions which staff are required to work within in these exceptional times, but requested alternative suggestions are considered to ensure white goods, household items and gardening waste is accommodated in a safe and effective manner.'

'Perhaps disposal facilities in major villages or at least north, south and west could complement Brodick.'

'Other suggestions included an arrangement to control vehicle access to the Brodick site to one or two at any time on the clear understanding any journeys be done while undertaking shopping or other allowed travel purposes. We do not suggest disposal alone



The closed gates at the Brodick recycling centre are thankfully clear of irresponsible fly-tipping, which has been seen on the mainland. 01\_B15waste

justifies travel and encourage all residents to comply with the guidelines,' he added.

The general view was this should be discussed further with minimum arrangements put in place which proactively recognise the significant effort that would be required to clean up random fly-tipping.

NAC island officer Brodie Pierce had advised the meet-

ing: 'Services are continually under review and we are protecting the workforce where we can to ensure the delivery of essential services which in this case are bin collections.'

'At this time we would ask people to use their domestic bins where possible as these continue to be serviced and to store large items until we can offer an uplift service or the

transfer station re-opens to the public.'

The community council urges everyone to recognise these restrictions. Any fly-tipping should be reported to a NAC office.

'We need everyone to act responsibly and protect our essential services and our environment,' the spokesman added.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

# Coronavirus

## How you can stay home and be active safely.

We value everyone in our society -- and we want you to stay safe and well. And that particularly applies if you are over 70, pregnant (in early pregnancy and after 28 weeks) or eligible for the flu vaccine for health reasons.

So, to help, here's some ways to stay mentally and physically active safely while you're at home.

- Keep busy with some cooking, baking or gardening – even a wee spring clean
- Settle down with a good book, some crosswords or puzzles, or just put some music on
- If you're up to it, try some light exercise by using an online yoga or exercise video

Older people or those who may be concerned can call Age Scotland for information, friendship and advice, FREE on **0800 12 44 222**.

You can find the latest information and practical advice at [readyscotland.org](https://www.readyscotland.org)



CORONAVIRUS

**STAY HOME  
PROTECT  
THE NHS  
SAVE LIVES**

## 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

## Helping hands

The figures this week showing that 60 per cent of all deaths from COVID-19 were people aged 75 and over is a worry on Arran.

The figures confirm the very real danger the virus poses to older people and highlight how important it is to ensure the growing number of older people on the island know their lives matter.

The data, published by the National Records of Scotland, showed that 354 deaths were linked to coronavirus by April 5. It was the first set of figures to include deaths outside of hospitals and those in which COVID-19 was cited on the death certificate as a 'suspected' cause of death. In total 224 people over the age of 75 lost their lives.

It is little wonder then that Age Scotland say it is important older people need to know they are not facing this alone, and that is where everyone on Arran can play their part.

The army of coordinators and volunteers are already doing a terrific job looking after the most vulnerable across the island. But what about those who are self-isolating or shielding who do not consider themselves vulnerable? There is an increased risk of them becoming more isolated and lonely as this challenging situation continues, and access to food and medication is important to them too.

Perhaps spare a thought for a neighbour, an acquaintance, a friend who might just need that little extra support.

## Thought for the week

'On the first day of the week the disciples went to the tomb and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.' **Luke 24:1**

# GETINTOUCH

email us at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
telephone 01770 302142

## Burning issue

Sir,  
I was moved this morning when I read a post on Facebook from a friend in Glasgow who has been struggling with the COVID-19 virus.

Fortunately, she is now recovering but she feels strongly she has to warn people how they may be unwittingly causing those who have the virus much more distress than they are already suffering. The virus had affected her breathing and this had been improving until neighbours, some in neighbouring streets, started burning their garden rubbish. The effect of this on my friend, already having breathing difficulties, was distressing.

She asked her Facebook friends to make this known and has also written to her MP to see if anything can be done to publicise what the effect of burning rubbish, and having barbecues, could have on those already suffering.

I know on Arran there is a great sense of community spirit and helpfulness towards others, which is wonderful, and I'm sure we are all especially glad to be living here just now. I only want to share this because perhaps, like me, some of us won't have thought of this. I suspect that most of us also have friends and relatives in towns and cities. Perhaps we could heighten awareness of this problem by mentioning it to them.

Yours,  
**Diana Hamilton,  
Lamlash.**

## A health prayer

Sir,  
How good to hear that paean of thanks to our NHS workers on Thursdays.

On an island, there is little excuse not to participate. These workers are our neighbours. Some are friends and we are in their debt.

May I also invite readers of faith, at some quiet moment, to join in a prayer for them such as this or similar:

'Loving and living God, whose Son our Lord healed the sick in mind or body, bless and uphold our doctors and nurses in that work today. In danger, give them courage; in anxiety, peace; in weakness, strength; in weariness, rest; in despair, hope. Keep them safe under the shadow of your wing and aware that they, who care for others, are cared for by You. For your love's sake, Amen.'

Thanks should also be said to key workers who provide essential services, volunteers who care for the elderly, island clergy who offer support

while complying with government restriction on movement and to Angus and Jean whose ingenuity provides an act of worship on Sundays by internet.

Yours,  
**Ian MacLeod,  
Brodick.**

## Live webcams

Sir,  
During these difficult times of restricted movement and isolation, it may be of interest to Arran Banner readers that Kildonan Hall has two live webcams looking out to Yellow Port, towards Ailsa Craig, and the other towards Bannan Head.

Also on the site is information about Kildonan and Arran. The site can be found at [www.soundofpladda.com](http://www.soundofpladda.com)

Yours,  
**Steve Kelly,  
Hall secretary.**

■ Editor's note: The Arran Banner also has a live webcam showing Brodick Bay on our website.



The webcam looking towards Pladda and Ailsa Craig.

## Soothend Bunnies

Due to coronavirus, the Soothend Bunnies are unable to deliver Easter eggs to all you children as usual.

We are self isolating, go out once a day for exercise and as we live together in our burrow we don't want to be hopping all over the place.

The less we move, hopefully this virus will slow down and we will then be able to deliver your eggs.

Please keep washing those little hands and, most importantly, have fun and stay safe.

Yours,  
**Oreo and Dotty.**

## Political restraint

Sir,  
It has been most encouraging to witness the collaboration between the devolved governments of the United Kingdom and the Westminster Government in respect of the coronavirus crisis – underlining the strength of the Union.

However, it was disconcerting to read the message in the Arran Banner edition of March 28 from Patricia Gibson MP in which she clearly claimed any credit should be laid at the door of the SNP Government, stating 'the SNP Government has announced £2.2 billion to keep businesses trading and retain workers'.

What Mrs Gibson omits to mention is that this funding has come directly from the Westminster Government. Not even the Scottish Government gets a mention, just the SNP Government. In these troubled and desperately anxious times, it could surely be expected our elected representatives refrain from blatant party political propaganda. Or am I asking too much?

Yours,  
**Bobby Whitacre,  
Glasgow.**

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## 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.

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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.

# We're here to help on Arran

This list of business services has been compiled by the Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS) to assist everyone who is self-isolating or unwell. There are a range of food delivery services and other resources to keep you busy while staying at home. Please bear in mind that although most of the deliveries are free, the businesses are doing this by goodwill and if you are placing an order be considerate of volume vs cost. Thanks to all concerned for providing information and adapting what they do in these challenging times. Shop local, support your community!

## Message From pharmacy

Please do not hand in repeat prescriptions at this time. Instead telephone the surgery order line on 01770 600516. Order all items on your repeat and collect from here in no less than four working days

## FOOD:

### Lochranza Centre

Hot meal orders delivered between the hours of 5.00pm and 7.00pm on Tue, Wed and Sun (please do not go to the centre, phone on 01770 830 637). These are in a 'disposable' takeaway form. Kitchen is fully compliant with food safety regulations and we have sufficient stocks of sanitiser etc. Payment should be made through their Justgiving page. Phone for details. Lochranza Centre can be contacted on 01770 830637. They can pick up shopping for people from Pirnmill Stores or the Co-op if you phone the stores direct and place the order. For any other assistance anyone in Pirnmill/Lochranza/Catacol can phone the centre and they will try and help.

### Pirnmill Shop

Grocery provision orders to be picked up or delivered via the following means: Order via telephone: 850235 or email: pirnmillpo@gmail.com - Facebook message: www.facebook.com/pirnmillvillagestore/ Payments by card over the phone or by bank transfer, the bank details for this are as follows Name: Pirnmill Village Store - sort code: 83-23-13, account no: 00601644.

### Wooleys of Arran Bakery Shop, Brodick

Shops are now closed to public. Fresh bread, rolls, potato scone and frozen pies and quiche can be ordered and delivered to Brodick and Lamlash. Order via telephone - 302280 by 11am for next day delivery or contact via Facebook messenger.

### Co-op, Brodick

Groceries for home delivery, call the store to order. For vulnerable and self-isolating residents. Order via telephone - 302515 or email elizabeth.mclean@coop.co.uk (preferred) including your name, address, telephone number and membership details - it may take up to one day to be called back. Delivery schedule: Monday: Corrie, Sannox, Glen Estate, Brodick. Tuesday: Lamlash, Cordon, Whiting Bay. Wednesday: from Whiting Bay to Blackwaterfoot. Thursday: Lochranza, Pirnmill, Machrie. Friday: Brodick and surrounding areas.

### Foodshare at the Co-op, Brodick and Lamlash

Short-life orange label food (use by and best before) will be available for the public to collect for free every evening at 6.15pm from the foodshare table within the big Co-op in Brodick and Co-op, Lamlash. This scheme is open to all, help yourself to stop food from going to landfill. Please adhere to the 'touch it and take it' policy.

### Bay Kitchen and Stores, Whiting Bay

Drive thru groceries - call ahead - we will bag and bring your shopping (even if just your paper) out to you. Delivery service, suggested spend no less than £10 for Whiting Bay and £20 if further away please, free contactless payment. Order via telephone - 700229 Mon-Sat 9am-4pm - Sunday noon- 3pm deliveries and kerb side pickups. The seating area is now closed, however takeaway coffees/teas and pastries still available. Free hot drinks to any NHS and Coastguard/helicoptering staff/any front line staff and their spouses who all deserve medals too. Deliveries are not only for self-isolators but for any front line staff who need a break.

### The Shore, Whiting Bay

Frozen meals available for collection and will come complete with easy to follow instructions for heating in your oven at home. Order via telephone - 700161 - visit www.theshorearran.co.uk - seven days a week, 3pm - 6pm

### A & C Camerons, Blackwaterfoot

Home delivery from the shop as normal for those distancing, or lambing! Home deliveries cover the whole Shiskine Valley, Machrie and as far as Lochranza and Kildonnan on specific days. Order via telephone - 01770 860 220 or email blackwaterfoot-po@live.co.uk.

### Blackwaterfoot Bakehouse

Opening times Tuesday-Saturday weekly, please see Facebook page for developments. www.facebook.com/bakehouseblackwater/ Their bread will also be available at their usual locations elsewhere on the island.



### Arran Meals 2 Go, Shiskine

Shiskine Pizza deliveries available Friday and Saturday Nights. Pre-order anytime before 5pm or call between 5pm and 7.30pm. £8 a pizza, toppings: Buffalo Chicken, Pepperoni, Ham, Mushrooms, Pineapple, Sweetcorn, Red Onion, Jalapenos. Free delivery and online payments available. Social distancing rules adhered to, we will leave them on your doorstep knock the door and run away Call 860572.

### Kilmory Hall and Community Centre

Groceries available as previously at the little community shop for those who need to use it. A review will be made at the end of April. Contact us please email kilmory.hall@btinternet.com.

### Arran Cheese Shop

Still trading, shop closed to public. Your order can be collected at our shop where we will bring it to your car. You can order by phone 302788 or emailgordon@arrancheese.com If emailing please leave a phone number and don't include card details. If ordering on Arran you will get a free piece of Arran Brie, Arran Camembert or Arran Blue as Easter stock of these will eventually go to waste. Our products can be viewed on website.

### Arran Butchers, Blackwaterfoot

Still trading, shop closed to public. Orders can be placed by phoning the shop to arrange a non-contact delivery anywhere on the island - pay for by card. A full range of stock remains at all three Co-ops and at Bay stores. A 20 per cent discount on all home delivery island wide. Order via telephone - 860354.

### Blackwaterfoot Lodge (Hotel)

Take our meals for drive thru collection or home deliveries available Friday and Saturday nights from 5pm-8pm. Delivery in Shiskine Valley area. Weekly menu available on Facebook page or phone 860202.

## CLOTHING:

### Bells Boutique, Brodick

Most of the clothing stock can be viewed with prices on Facebook and Instagram, some photos of stock is also available on Google page Bell's of Arran. Contact Elizabeth via email bellosofarran@gmail.com Call 01770 860597 (Bridgend Campsite) - Whatsapp 07881 400064 (no phone signal at home) / via Facebook bellosofarran.

### Arran Active

Any kind of stock requirements can be delivered for free or can be picked up from outside the store. Payment taken over the phone. Order via telephone - call Andrew on 700508 to arrange.

### Chameleon Arran

Basics (T-shirts, underwear etc). See Facebook page or website at www.chameleonarran.com for photos and price. Payment over the phone. Full e-commerce store coming soon on the website. Free delivery island-wide. Email lynn@chameleonarran.com. Phone messages may be left on 600201.

### Old Byre Showroom

Although the doors are closed we are happy to deliver. Online sales receive a 10% discount, use MAYUBESAFE at checkout. www.oldbyre.co.uk/ you can also contact on Facebook or telephone 01770 840227.

## HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

### Homestyles, Brodick

Household items or essentials can be delivered free by arrangement or left outside for collection. Order via telephone - 302648 - card payment via phone contact.

### Arran Haulage Service/Armitage, Brodick

Continue to deliver all items as usual adhering strictly to all preventative measures and national guidelines. Armitage is providing regular services and Arran Haulage are still delivering goods, animal feed, coal and gas as normal, island wide. Order via telephone - 302777 - Can be paid online.

### MBS Building and Timber Supplies

Shop and forecourt closed to public - still trading via delivery service where possible. Order and pay using your card over the phone. Forecourt may reopen for key workers. Order by phone on 01770 700202 Monday to Saturday 8am-noon or email mbsbuild@yahoo.co.uk

### Albion Gas

Free delivery on bottled gas, 01770 600113/07884258837

### Arran Heat Pumps

Quality heat pumps supplied and installed. Service and repair, 24 hours call out island wide. Please call for a free estimate 07385 215 140 01770 601214 or email arranheatpumps@btinternet.com.

### Slidery Supplies

Deliveries on Tuesday and Friday. Phone or email your orders as early as possible to allow us to collate orders and plan delivery times. Order via telephone - 870225/348 - or email sliderysupplies@yahoo.com

### Brendarran Electricals

Carrying out repairs on appliances but only essential appliances like cookers, washing machines, fridges and freezers. Non-essential repairs will only be carried out when the lockdown has been lifted. Taking all necessary precautionary measures as outlined in government guidelines. Telephone - 07956 324546.

### Bay Petrol, Brodick

Monday to Thursday 9am-1pm, Friday -1pm-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm.

## LEGAL ASSISTANCE/ESTATE AGENTS:

### Jas. Campbell & Co, Brodick

Solicitors, financial advisers, estate agents. Normal services but appointments will be by phone rather than face to face. Telephone: 302027

### Arran Estate Agents, Brodick

Normal services but by phone or email rather than face to face. Telephone - 302310 or email: sales@arranestateagents.co.uk

## CRAFT SUPPLIES AND OTHER ITEMS:

### Book and Card Centre/ Brodick Post Office

Newspaper delivery. Books, puzzles, batteries, stationary etc can be delivered too - in Brodick only at moment. Payment over the phone - Order via telephone - call Tom on 302288

### Bay Wool & Crafts

Wool, haberdashery and craft supplies. To purchase anything from any of our makers and crafters, please contact them direct first - these can also be delivered from the shop. Also operating a delivery service. Orders via Telephone: call Kat and Steve Sparshott on 600110 or Linda MacCallum on 302875 with requirements.

### Bay Pet Care

Dog walking, veterinary transportation, waits with dog and returns. Cover from Brodick to Kildonnan. Uses own leads. An element of paperwork will be required, possibly online. Julie is police checked and insured and hasn't been off the island since xmas. To arrange dog walking call 700541.

### Bogarie Kennels

We have lots of customers that purchase dog food from us and at this time we can still possibly deliver. We are asking for email communication and bank transfers to ensure safety. Bogarienkennels@mail.com - we are on the Ross Road.

### The Harbour Shop, Blackwaterfoot

Will be delivering newspapers and any other items required. Phone 860215.

### Arran Foodbank

If in crisis, Brodick Church Building remains open and the foodbank is still operating just inside the front doors for anyone who needs this service. If deliveries are required due to self isolation or otherwise please contact Susan Dobson 01770 302365. Food and other donations for the foodbank would be greatly appreciated, especially during this difficult time, and can be dropped off at the church or big co-op or can be collected by contacting Susan.

### Arran CVS Office - hearing aid batteries

Hearing aid batteries can ordered via telephone on 600611 or via email info@arrancvs.org.uk and will be posted out.

### Hear to Help

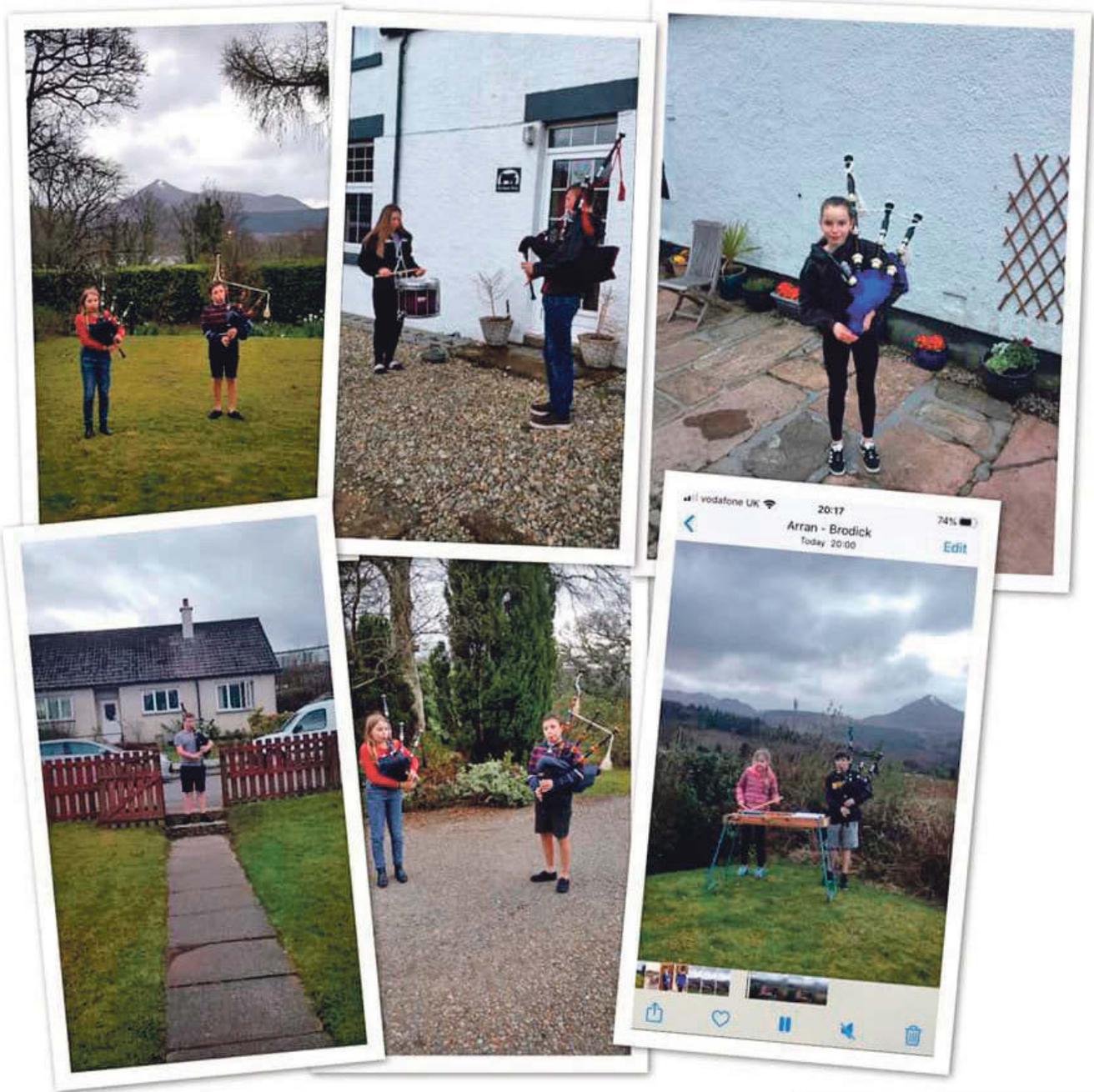
To order hearing aid batteries or get support for your hearing aid telephone 07391 017781 or email: heartohelp.ayrshire@hearingloss.org.uk

### Talking Arran Banner

Enjoy your favourite local paper in audio format. Equipment is available for those with sight impairment. For more information call 07743 367866 Or 302158.



Fiona Bulger performs in Sannox.



A collage of young pipers and drummers from the music school who took part across the island.



Frances Corbett outside her house in Brodick.



Ali Hume playing the pipes at his home in Brodick.



Patrick and Beverley Scott outside their house in Whiting Bay.

**GETINTOUCH**  
email us at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
telephone 01770 302142

# Pipers of all ages join in tribute to key workers

## Residents clap as Scotland the Brave echoes round Arran



by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran pipers of all ages last week joined the nationwide salute to the NHS and key workers keeping society moving during the coronavirus crisis.

The pipers joined hundreds of residents across the island who took part in the second Clap for Carers tribute last Thursday which, as well as recognising the work of front line NHS staff, also honoured health and social care staff, care workers, delivery drivers, supermarket staff, bin collectors and other essential workers.

Households clapped and banged pots and pans, while others played Scotland the Brave on the bagpipes and drums to show their support. The event is now expected to happen every Thursday at 8pm.

On Arran, members of Isle of Arran Pipe Band, Arran Schools Pipe Band, music school students and individual pipers took part after a plea by the National Piping Centre in Glasgow.



Malcolm and Frances Wheeler perform in Corrie.

The centre's director of piping Finlay MacDonald had issued the appeal to bagpipers all over the world. He said: 'We thought it would be a nice thing for pipers to play a mass rendition of Scotland

The Brave so all these amazing key workers can hear us play a tune for them to show our appreciation.

'The pipes are known for stirring the emotions so it should be an amazing sound.'

Pipers from Canada, the USA, Japan, Spain and Italy also joined in as part of the global gesture.

*With thanks to Beverley Scott for helping compile the photographs.*



Billy Paton performs on Catacol beach.



Above: Andrew, Jo and Daisy Earle play in Kilmory.



Left: Donald Currie plays his pipes in Blackwaterfoot overlooking the Kilbrannan Sound.



Ross Kerr in his garden in Brodick.

# Memories of Arran childhood

Colin Bowes has fond memories of his childhood holidays on Arran. Although he now lives in Lytham in Lancashire, he has compiled them into an essay which has been serialised in the Banner. This is final instalment of the three-part series. We hope our readers enjoy this trip down memory lane.

Cycling and walking was a big part of any holiday on Arran. Pedalling to Sannox and back in the evening was not uncommon. On one of these occasions, and don't tell Mr Anderson, the chain on my hired bike kept coming off and if you have tried to put an oily bike chain back several times with midges trying to eat your face and thus finishing up with an oily face from swatting them, you too would have thrown your bike into the sea at Sannox! My pals calmed me down. We recovered the bike, cleaned it up a bit and I got it back to Brodick where the next day Mr Anderson got out his spanner and tightened things up so the chain would not keep coming off.

'There's a good bit o' sand and salt in the workings which may have caused the problem.'

'Is there Mister Anderson?'

We would cycle up to the castle and spend time messing about. The best bit was when we left to return to Brodick, belting down the drive at breakneck speed back to the main road and after getting up a good head of steam freewheeling with legs off the pedals and sticking out at 90 degrees. Wheeeee!

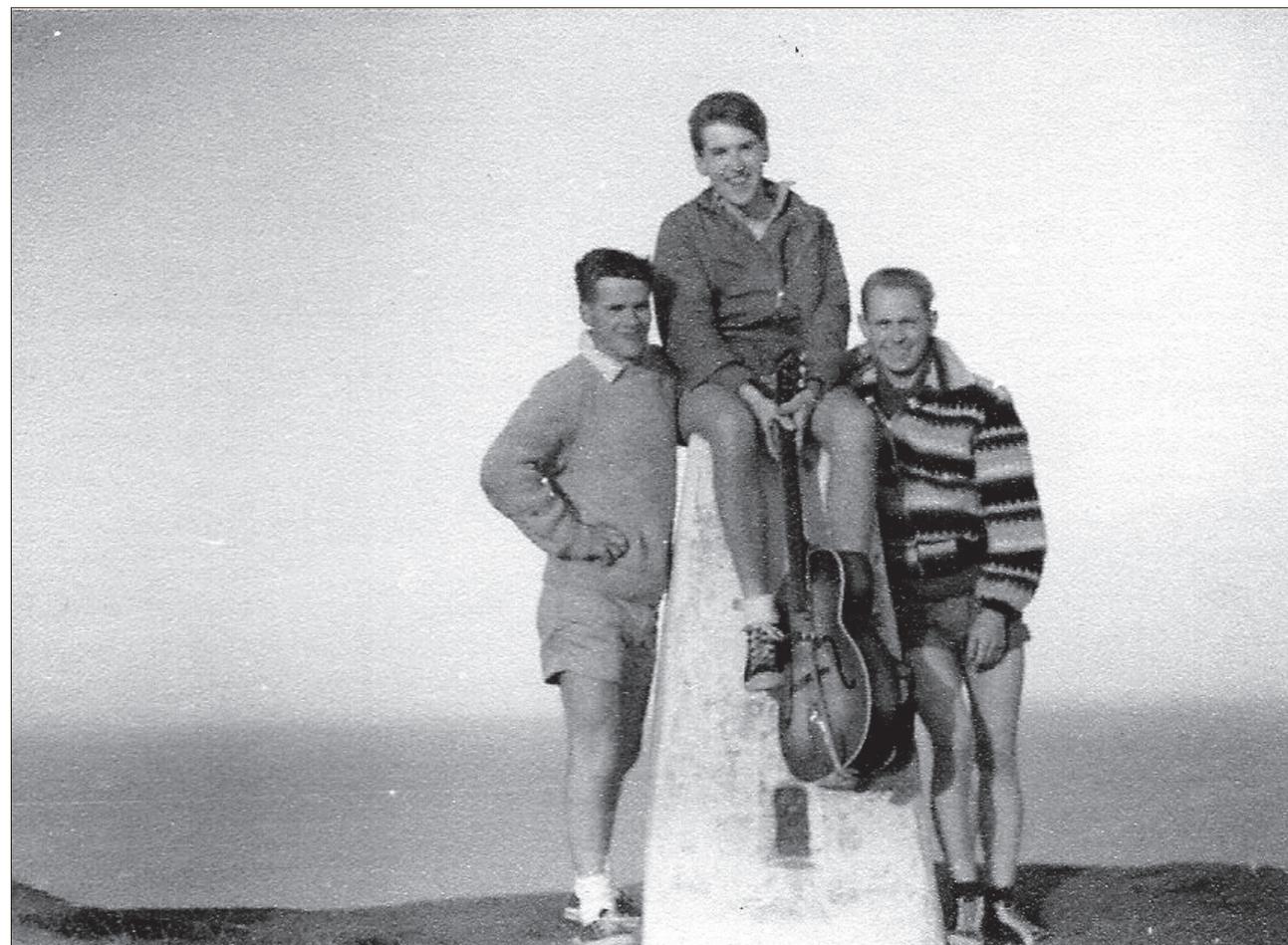
We walked up Dunfin (Dun Fionn) regularly and usually called on the way back at The Sheilin tea rooms in Corriegills for an ice-cold Coke. We thought we were so trendy.

We loved Glen Rosa and, of course, Goatfell where we would just go at the drop of a hat in our pumps.

Dad encouraged me to play golf and even made me a member at Rochdale Golf Club, but I was more keen on playing my Hofner Congress 14 guinea guitar and forming a pop group in the style of The Shadows. I took the guitar to Arran a few times to impress my pals. We would sit in the evening in a shelter near to the putting green and attempt to sing our favourite pop songs.

'Why must I be a Teenager In Love?'

After being 'encouraged' by dad, I reluctantly played a few rounds of golf at Brodick with one of my chums using dad's



John, Colin (with his treasured Hofner Congress guitar) and friend Ian Crook atop Dunfin in 1962.

nearly 60-years on when my wife Denise and I go on the Fisherman's Walk I look up into the trees to see if the wee rascal is still there!

Another memorable event happened when my brother John and I plus two pals got the bus from Brodick to Lamblash to spend some time there and to sample the ice cream sodas at the Pier Café, my favourite being based on limeade. Really tasty!

Instead of returning on the bus, we decided to quick march in single file back to Brodick. A lively pace was set and off we went singing 'Onward Christian Soldiers' non-stop and at the tops of our voices. We knew the hymn well as we were all Sunday School boys back at our various home towns. We did march unnaturally quickly as it was heading for lunchtime and we could sense the aroma of Baxter's Royal Game soup wafting from the beach huts!

'Brothers we are treading where the saints have trod.'

clubs. I was no good and the holes over the Rosa Burn were a nightmare. I tried to pretend, as advised, that the water was not there. It didn't work. To me the waters of the burn were effectively a golf ball magnet.

'What do you mean there are no golf balls left?'

'Sorry dad!'

Never mind the golf balls. On one occasion I was on the tee of what is now the 8th hole with trees to my left hand side. After having lost two balls in the burn a few holes before and being a bit wound up, I thought I am going to give this ball such a belt that it won't want to see me again. I took an almighty swing at it. The ball scurried along happily for about 15 feet now sporting a wide grin on its face. Unfortunately the club after having decided it had had enough of me left my grip and, travelling much further than the ball, finished stuck high up in a tree. Despite frantic attempts to recover it the club had to stay where it was. Dad was not happy. To this day

Which brings me nicely to one of mum's two brothers (who were both ministers of the Church of Scotland), my Uncle Jimmy. The Reverend James L Dow minister of Lochranza and Pirnmill from 1965 until his death in 1977. I was honoured to be one of the pallbearers at his funeral. We visit his grave at Saint Brides Church in Lochranza when we are on the island.

He took up the island ministry following 23 years as minister of Cartsburn Augustine Church in Greenock. We were all thrilled when he accepted this position on our favourite island and were very proud of him and his achievements. For those who don't know Uncle Jimmy, in addition to being a very accomplished preacher and minister to his flock, was a radio and television broadcaster, a journalist, novelist, a Robert Burns expert and an accomplished amateur actor.

I have mentioned the old pier and the unrestricted access thereto which often made the arrival and departure of The Glen Sannox an event in itself. Friends and family would gather at the pier head to greet old pals and shake hands as they stepped from the gangway. You could almost touch the boat.

We would always gather on the pier to say goodbye to any of our crowd who were leaving the island before the rest of us. Sometimes the 'seeing off' would be accompanied by the playing of bagpipes, trumpet blowing, guitar strumming, singing and streamers being thrown. Some of the streamers were actually toilet rolls which as 'The Glen' sailed away were thrown back and forth from ship to shore until the gap between land and sea became too great. It was always sad to see the boat becoming smaller and smaller on its way to Ardrossan, heralding the end of the holiday of a friend and the imminent arrival of a new school term.

'Will ye no' come back again?'

Oh well, I've reached the end of my nostalgic journey and now in my seventies can tell you that my wife Denise and I still rent a bungalow on Arran for two weeks each springtime where we are joined for a few days by uncle Jimmy's son Tom and his wife Eilidh who live in Clackmannanshire.

We sadly lost dad who died suddenly from a heart attack in 1965 at the young age of 55. Mum, who lived in Alma Park, Brodick in the late 80s early 90s, passed away in Largs, the last town in which she lived, in 2000. Dad only knew one grandchild and I hope would be delighted to know that he has eight grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

Alice lives in Germany, John lives in Australia, Helen in Weardale, County Durham and me in Lytham, Lancashire. We are all regular Arran visitors save for John, although he was with us on Arran in June 2017 for a family gathering and for the celebration of Alice and Helen's birthdays, both being born on the June 1, albeit 13 years apart.

According to my Letts School-Boys Diaries the surnames of the families that we befriended all those years ago are Dingwall, Gourlay, Kelso, Lindsay, Main, McPherson, Pagan, Rose, Roberts, Webster and Watson. Of those families we are only now in touch with the McPhersons.

I hope that those of you who remember the days to which I refer have enjoyed the memories and that those to whom it is all ancient history have enjoyed the read.

Colin Bowes is also the author of the book, *All Claims Great and Small*, which tells the story of how the insurance claim investigation system works as it follows the life of a loss adjuster from 1960 until 1977. The book is available as an e-book via Amazon or as a self published paperback by contacting the author directly at [cdbowes4@gmail.com](mailto:cdbowes4@gmail.com)

# Childhood holidays – part 3



Dad, mum, Colin, John and Helen seeing off friends in 1958.



A general view of folk seeing off the Glen Sannox in 1959.



Wee Helen at Hillcrest in 1958.

## Arran Banner Leisure Section

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# Pioneer migrants show first signs of summer

Arrangements to control the spread of COVID-19 started to have a major impact on our lives in March, but in terms of the number of bird species reported on Arran the arrangements had no impact.

There were 94 bird species reported on Arran in March 2019 and exactly the same number this March. Some of the species were different, for example, in terms of winter visitors brambling was reported in 2019 but not 2020, whereas fieldfare was not reported in 2019 but was reported this year.

Irrespective of COVID-19, spring is an exciting time of year, awaiting the arrival of summer visitors and seeing the last of our winter visitors leaving. The timing of the northerly spring migration is dependent on the weather, not just locally but the length of the migration route. This March had around half the rainfall of March 2019 and the second half of March this year was particularly dry with the wind coming from a northerly direction.

It was during this more settled spell that a few pioneer summer migrants arrived.

The first chiffchaff was reported from the track from Lamlash to Brodick on 21st. By the end of the month, chiffchaff were widespread including seven singing in

## Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

MARCH

Auchenhew Bay on 31st. The first wheatear was on Holy Isle on 22nd followed by three on Porta Buidhe the following day. On 30th a white wagtail was reported at Kilpatrick Point.

April should see improving weather and the arrival of other migrants like sand martin, sandwich tern, swallow, house martin, willow warbler, common sandpiper and cuckoo – all signs of the approaching summer. Please keep me posted.

### Winter visitors

In March, winter visitors were still to the fore including: 63 wigeon at Machriewaterfoot on 4th; one Iceland gull by the Fisherman's Walk on 15th; five white-fronted geese in

Torbeg on 17th; 370 greylag geese in Feorline on 22nd; 75 fieldfare at Cosyden on 23rd; 20 pink-footed geese and 30 redwing in Shiskine on 24th and 34 teal at Kilpatrick Point on 28th.

In March, there were many signs of migration including: 20 whooper swan flying over Clachaig on 2nd; a flock of more than 200 chaffinch and Linnet at Machrie on 4th; 30 pied wagtail on Lochranza Golf Course on 17th; 36 turnstone at Dougurie on 19th; two common scoter off Cosyden on 23rd; 200 starling at Tormore on 25th; six black-throated diver off Imachar on 28th and after 19th there was a huge decline reported from several areas in the number of goldfinch and siskin at feeders as these species began to move north.

Here is a small selection of other interesting March records: 152 eider off Cosyden on 4th; three goosander by the mouth of the Black Water on 5th; a little grebe and two moorhen at Mossend Pond on 8th; 17 gannet off Plada on 13th; two dipper in Machrie Water on 14th; 15 shelduck at Cosyden on 23rd; six common crossbill at Cnochach Biorach on 28th and a white-tailed Eagle off Pirnmill on 31st was the fourth record this month.

Spring is a great time to be birding as most birds are getting on with the business of breeding.

The business of breeding involves attracting a mate by song, courtship display and

ritual, defining a territory, nest building and generally establishing relationships. In March, the signs were there, including: skylark singing Creag Ghlas Cuithe on 19th; wren displaying in Cordon on 20th; great spotted woodpecker drumming at Shedog on 24th; grey herons nesting in Lagg on 25th; 50 shag, many with breeding crests off Kilpatrick Point on 26th and a Kestrel chasing a Raven from its territory by Brown Head on 28th. In addition, a fledged woodpigeon was photographed in a garden in Cordon with its parent on March 5th. The young would have hatched early February, the egg having been laid in mid-January.

I am interested in all records of arriving summer migrants and any signs of breeding birds. Even if you are only looking out of your window or checking your garden, there are still plenty birds 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, buy the Arran Bird Report, The First 40 Years which includes the annual report for 2019 and visit [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)



Wren in full display with its extra loud song attempting to attract a mate. Photograph: Arthur Duncan.



Chiffchaff was the first migrant to arrive in March. Photograph: Dennis Morrison.



Wigeon one of the winter visitors still around in March. Photograph: Dennis Morrison.



Wheatear was the second migrant to arrive in March.

Photograph: Nick Giles.



Large numbers of these vocal eider ducks were around in March. Photograph: Brian Couper.

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday April 15, 1990

## Chocolate paradise

A new chocolate shop and factory has opened in Brodick.

James of Arran has taken over a former butcher's shop and been set up by 26-year-old James McChlery, the son of Ian and Alison McChlery who came to Arran almost 10 years ago to set up the very successful Island Cheese Company.

Indeed James, who came to Arran just after he left school in Edinburgh, has been making chocolates at Home Farm for a couple of years now and selling them in local shops. But now he has changed his operation from a small manufacturer to a visitor attraction. For as well as selling the perfect take-home

gift he has a viewing window so people can see how it is done and perhaps even see their own sweets being made.

Just how the chocolate factory came about James is not quite sure. He told the Banner: 'It was something that wasn't being done here. It just kind of happened.'

## Outdoor centre

Outline planning permission is being applied for a permanent base for the Arran Outdoor Education Centre.

The proposed site is about half a mile short of Clauchlands Point.

This will give the resource its first 'home' since the closure of Corrie Croft in 1992.



James of Arran with his staff – Carol Pyott, Jane Roberts, Jan Murchie and Irene McGill. 01\_B15tweY01; and right, a concentration of confection at the new chocolate factory. 01\_B15tweY02



The ladies of Lochranza SWRI met together to celebrate their 73rd anniversary with a lunch at Butt Lodge Country House Hotel. Before the meal, president Helen Poole presented honorary member certificates to Mrs Janet Gilmour and Mrs May Fenton. 01\_B15twe03



June Bunyan and Amy Middleton represented Brodick primary school at the North Ayrshire Council Burns speaking competition held at Saltcoats Town Hall. June won the trophy for P5/7 girls for her rendition of To a Louse. 01\_B15tweY04



Arran took on Hamilton XV in a friendly at Ormidale Park ahead of the Arran Rugby Sevens next weekend. They recorded a handsome 47-7 win. 01\_B15tweY05



A new golfing competition has been played for the first time, the Arran Golfers Association Senior Crystal Bowl, and was won by Lamlash. The team left to right were: Ken Barclay, Hamish McArthur, Ian Bremner, Eddie Cannon and Jim Henderson. 01\_B15tweY06

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PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)  
(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Planning Services, Cunningham House, Irvine, between 09.00-16.45 weekdays (16.30 Fridays) or at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

\*and at The Council Offices, Lamslash

Comments should be made online at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk).  
Written representations may also be made to the Head Of Service (Economic Development & Regeneration) at the above address by 01.05.20.

Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT  
PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)

20/00250/PP; Site To The North Of, Heathfield, Blackwaterfoot, Brodick;  
Erection of dwelling house on plot 6.

Craig Hatton  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

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Please note that Brodick Church  
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**10 April: Good Friday 1pm Liturgy of the Passion**

**11 April: Saturday 7pm Vigil of Easter**

**12 April: Easter Day 11am Eucharist**

**Daily: Morning Prayer 8.30am**

**Evening Prayer 6.30pm**



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**WHAT'S ON**

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Eco Savvy & Co-op Food  
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**A message of hope at Easter**

**An Easter message by the chairman of Arran Churches Together, Helen Kerr.**

These are strange times in which we are living. Normally many would be going off on holiday, holidaymakers would be coming to our island and Christians would be celebrating the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are saddened this year we are unable to have the Good Friday Walk of Witness in Brodick. We often need reminded of the most important events in life.

In William Barclay's book, The Mind of Jesus, we read: 'Jesus' entry into Jerusalem (on a donkey) was an action of supreme courage; it was an assertion of royalty and an offer of love; it was at one and the same time royalty's claim and love's appeal.'

The ass was the beast on which kings rode when they came in peace. Only in war did they ride on horses. The entry of Jesus into Jerusalem was the claim to be King.

He came deliberately refusing the role of the warrior Messiah and claiming to be the Prince of Peace. He was appealing for a throne but the throne was in the hearts of people, and saying to them, 'Will you not even now, even yet, accept me as your Lord and King, and enthrone me within your hearts?'

At Easter we celebrate that Jesus' crucifixion on Good Friday was not the end. On the third day he was raised to life.

This is the day the Lord has made and we will rejoice and be glad in it.

**A new foundation for young people on Arran**



Chris Attkins receives his volunteer runner-up prize.

**Continued from page 16.**  
more use of the centre, widening the scope of events and activities on offer on the island while supporting Arran Youth Foundations with income.

As part of the process of applying for a Community Asset Transfer, AYF created a survey to ask members of the Arran community if they supported the bid to own the youth cabin. The survey was promoted by word of mouth, social media and email, and AYF leaders also visited Arran High School. Nearly 300 people took part in the consultation.

Youth work project manager Graeme Johnston said he was 'delighted' on the outcome which they had been working on for a number of months.

Meanwhile, AYF had success at the National Youth York Awards held by YouthLink Scotland in Glasgow last month. Nominated in two categories, volunteer Chris Attkins was named runner-up in the volunteer of the year category, while AYF was named runner up in the community-based youth work award category.



Graeme Johnston collects the runner-up award for AYF.



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# Building a new foundation for young people on Arran

## Council agrees community asset transfer

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Councillors have agreed to the asset transfer of Arran Youth Centre and its grounds from North Ayrshire Council to Arran Youth Foundations (AYF).

It will pay just one per cent of the property valuation of £20,000 – £200 – for the centre at Arran High School's playing field in Lamlash.

The temporary nature of the cabins means that, at some point in the future, a replacement will be necessary. So the AYF had been keen to ensure it acquired ownership of the cabins and land to be able to build a more permanent base.

The decision was taken by the council at one of the last meetings held before all committee meetings were suspended as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

In a report before the meeting, AYF stated the asset transfer would provide it with 'the autonomy to develop plans for

a 'fit for purpose' centre and offers a long-term solution to the sustainability of permanent accommodation from which to deliver their work.

'The transfer of Arran Youth Centre will provide a sustainable base for local youth provision in a facility which has been declared surplus to service requirements by North Ayrshire Council. Proposed uses include a range of events and activities.'

The report also stated the cabins are well equipped to provide a conducive space for young people to meet and that once the transfer is complete, they will continue to be used to for the delivery of youth provision.

Until the enforced shutdown, this included 16 weekly sessions including activities that support young people to learn new skills, make friendships, increase their social circle, grow in confidence and increasingly take on responsibility through active engagement. Activities help tackle social isolation and



Arran Youth Centre which has been transferred to AYF. 01\_B14youth01

feelings of exclusion and support with well-being and good mental health. Many young people attend to discuss issues including depression, stress,

grief, bullying, sexual assault, sexual orientation and other issues.

A Duke of Edinburgh group, HSCP, an arts and crafts chil-

dren's group and sign language classes currently use the centre. It is anticipated these will continue with others making

**Continued on page 15.**



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