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# United in celebration of Irene's 100 years

## Village comes together to mark milestone birthday

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



An entire village has united – from the safety of their homes – to help Irene Greatorex celebrate her 100th birthday today (Friday).

Irene ran Greatorex Store in Whiting Bay with her late husband Bill for nearly 30 years. To help her celebrate, Whiting Bay Memories has been gathering stories and birthday greetings to mark her special day.

And the 200-plus contributions show how much Irene has touched the lives of so many people.

Irene still lives in the house above the shop, helped by a team of carers, one of whom will be with her today when she receives her birthday card from the Queen.

The couple came to Arran

from Blackburn in Lancashire in 1967 and as the years passed they became much-loved characters in the village.

Their style was old-fashioned, not hurried. They were always nice to customers and made time to talk. Irene closed the shop in 1993, two years after husband Bill, a real character, died aged 74.

Asked at the time by the Banner what she had enjoyed most of all in the shop, Irene said: 'Meeting the young ones that had come on holiday from abroad and trying to make them feel at home.'

Lots of fond memories and greetings have been shared. They have been carefully handwritten into a special book and card for Irene to enjoy for many years to come.

They have come from people who had their first job with Irene, in the tearoom and the

Continued on page three.



Irene and her friend Helen Paterson inside Greatorex Store with Helen's granddaughter Hannah Armstrong.

## Business on Arran takes a battering

The continued lockdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic is doing severe damage to the Arran economy.

It has led to fears that without urgent government support businesses, including guest houses, B&Bs and self-catering units, may close and never reopen.

But there was some good news in that there has been just one new positive COVID-19 case on the island this week as we went to press. Two cases were confirmed last week.

Ruth Betley, senior manager, Arran Services said: 'We continue to assess people with symptoms of COVID-19 and, among those who can be tested, there has been a further positive case this week.'

'At any one time, 10 to 20 per cent of health and social care staff have been self-isolating but all essential services have been running. I would like to repeat my thanks to all those working in health and caring roles.'

'Everyone is reminded services such as the GP practice and accident and emergency remain open, so if you are  
Continued on page two.

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 Lamlash Garage

# Co-op staff stay safe

## Face shields and checkout screens introduced at stores



**Above: Hilary Crawford stays safe at the Big Co checkout behind the new screens and wearing her face shield.**

**Left: Staff wearing their new face shields keep their distance from each other outside the Big Co.**

Front line Co-op staff are staying safe thanks to new measures at the Big Co and the two other stores on the island, writes Hugh Boag.

Protective screens have been erected at all the checkouts and individual face shields have been donated after being produced at Arran High School by Derek Wilson and Robert McNeice after they found out the store only had a handful.

For more than a week, a strict 'one in one out' policy has been in place if the Big Co gets busy, with manager Liz McLean staffing the doors as long as required to limit numbers in the shop.

Liz said: 'We can't thank Derek and Robert enough for the face shields, but it is just one of the acts of kindness shown by businesses and individuals who have handed in many gifts for staff and helped provide PPE for staff.'

'We thank customers for so

quickly adhering to the social distancing policy, limiting their visits to the shop and only buying what they need, which helps us manage stocks.'

Liz is also training customers who are learning new skills, including some older people who are sending emails to order their shopping for the first time.

### Hired

The number of home deliveries is breaking records and reached 425 this week. Private hire drivers on the island, facing months of uncertainty, are now being hired by the Co-op to help with home deliveries around the island.

Liz is also in daily contact with the community hub in Lamlash which is co-ordinating volunteers across the island.

'It is just great to see the community working together to get us through these trying times,' Liz added.

## Business on Arran takes a battering

**Continued from page one.** unwell get in touch. The stay-at-home advice is working. Thank you again to everyone for following the government advice,' she added.

The Scottish Government has announced extra support for businesses. The funding will help Arran as it includes £120 million to extend the Small Business Grant Scheme to ensure that, in addition to a 100 per cent grant for the first property, small business rate payers will be eligible to a 75 per cent grant on subsequent properties.

A new £100 million fund will also protect self-employed people and viable micro, small and medium sized businesses in trouble. For Arran, this fund will be channelled through North Ayrshire Council, to target newly self-employed people and businesses ineligible for other schemes.

Applications will open at the end of the month and arrangements for the Small Business Grant will be in place to receive applications from May 5.

Concern remains, however, that there is still a lack of support for small businesses such as guest houses and B&Bs who pay Council Tax rather than business rates.

There are also questions about why self-caterers in Scotland are required to meet a higher threshold to access support than other businesses and self-caterers in England.

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'COVID-19 is doing severe damage to Arran's economy and if it leads to a business going bust, that business may not re-open. That's why it's vital to help businesses, proprietors and workers get through this.'

'Of primary concern remains protecting people's health, but the outbreak is having a severe impact on Arran's economy. Having been contacted by many island constituents responsible for two or more business properties, I know these new funding packages, will be welcomed by small and new businesses across Arran.'

'The new £100 million fund will help businesses with immediate cash flow challenges ineligible for other support.'

'Newly self-employed people ineligible can also access this.' Advice for businesses and employees is available at: <https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/>

An HMRC helpline for tax issues is at 0800 015 9559.

## 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.**

**There are various options available to businesses and if you need a sounding board or to speak to a financial expert about your options, we are here to listen and offer free advice.**

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## Arran Farmers Show and other events in doubt

Arran was this week facing up to what could be a long quiet summer with the lockdown expected to continue for several weeks, followed by slow easing of restrictions.

There is serious doubt the Arran Farmers Show will go ahead, in what would have been its 184th year, and which has been cancelled only a handful of times in the war years.

Arran Farmers Society directors are due to hold a conference call next week to make a final decision but with the Royal Highland Show and other mainland farmers shows already cancelled, the chances of the show going ahead on August 5 look extremely slim.

Landowner Kenneth Bone, who farms the show site at Glenkiln in Lamlash, said he thought it was very unlikely there would be a show as it goes against all the advice the government has been giving to contain the pandemic.

However, he said it was up to the directors of Arran Farmers Society to make the final decision.

Mr Bone, who is also chairman of VisitArran, added: 'At VisitArran we are actively encouraging visitors not to come

to the island, something I did not think I would ever see, so it would seem inadvisable to go ahead with the show when there is likely to remain some degree of lockdown until a vaccine is found for the virus.'

Mr Bone said he would not allow a postponement of the show until later in the year as the show field would not recover in time to use next spring. He said it should either go ahead or be delayed until August 2021.

Similarly, Brodick Highland Games three days later looks in serious doubt given other cancellations including the Cowal Highland Gathering in Dunoon at the end of August.

With the effective lockdown expected to be extended to several more weeks, and restrictions only eased gradually after that, earlier events too look unlikely to take place, including Arran Folk Festival in June, with the Arran Malt and Music Festival at the Lochranza distillery at the beginning of July already cancelled.

Gala days and fun weeks at villages are in serious doubt of going ahead as are regular Arran Heritage Museum events.

# Irene celebrates 100th birthday



Bill and Irene in Whiting Bay many years ago.



Irene Greatorex, left, with her late great friend Helen Paterson outside the shop beside the PDSA collection box.

Continued from page one. shop, from residents past and present, and visitors from all around the world. They all fondly remember the warm Whiting Bay welcome from Irene.

Barbara l'Anson, on behalf of the group, said: 'Happy Birthday Irene from us all. Lang may yer lum reek.'

Irene's first visit to Arran was with her husband Bill and good friend and senior foreman Joe and his wife Nora Lenehan. They were on a camping holiday and found themselves in Ardrossan, saw a sign for the ferry, and came over.

They spent two wonderful weeks camping at Alan Currie's farm at Braehead. They fell in love with Arran and returned in September for another week.

Irene and Bill soon found the perfect property for sale – Uneda Tearoom. Joe and Nora continued to visit regularly and a couple of years later, unknown to Nora, Joe had put in an offer on the paper shop. Kathleen Shaw rang to say their offer had been accepted. Now all four friends, who are all well remembered in the village today had, made their way to Whiting Bay.

Bernie Jackson, son of Nora, shared this story. He said: 'Irene was a very clever woman. They all worked for Mullards in Blackburn, where



Irene outside the shop when it closed in 1993. Photograph: Arran Banner.

TV valves were made and then transistors. Irene built these.' It was around this time the pier was demolished, the paddling pool was about to be built and MBS was still a car showroom.

Irene's smile, her cheery greeting, and the great service by her and Bill are well remembered. Around 1973 they closed the cafe, which was on the left. This section became Greatorex grocery, general store and sweetie shop. On the right were the fruit and vegetables.

Large PDSA collection boxes stood at the entrance – Bill and Irene were great animal lovers and always had cats and dogs. Their last dog was Nell and many people have fond memories of her, too.

Another memory of the shop comes from Caroline and Gibby Gillespie.

They wrote: 'When Irene and Bill opened the shop, there was no pavement. As there were so many of us children next door, they decided to keep us safe by removing the coping stone

from the side wall so we could step over to buy our sweets in safety.

'It's still like that and always reminds me of how thoughtful they were.

The kindness went on and when our children came along, Irene never failed to send us beautiful hand-written letters and Christmas cards with pound coins taped safely inside for the children.'

Happy birthday Irene from everyone at the Banner. Have a great day.

## CORONAVIRUS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Scam warning

North Ayrshire Council is reminding people to be on their guard against potential scams during the coronavirus pandemic.

Fraudsters are using the current situation to send emails which try to get people to part with their bank details.

One such phishing scam pretends to be from a legitimate government account about receiving a Council Tax reduction.

Anyone receiving such

an email, can forward it to scam@netcraft.com. Once reported, they will assess it and take action to block it, where possible.

### Helpline numbers

Anyone on Arran requiring help or advice should contact the community hub on 600532 or 07496 658760 or email Cara Miller at caramiller@north-ayrshire.gov.uk who any volunteers should also contact.

A new national helpline has been set up to provide essential assistance for those who do not have a network of support but who are at high risk of contracting COVID-19.

The service, open 9am to 5pm, will offer help for those not in the shielding category but who are over 70;

disabled people; those who require the support of mental health services; those who are pregnant and those who receive the flu jab.

The helpline number is 0800 111 4000.

### Stay at home

The 'stay at home' message would appear to be working if trips to Scotland's west coast islands are a reflection of wider travel patterns.

Ferry operator CalMac had just 163 people travelling on Easter Sunday compared to 21,570 last year – a 99.2 per cent drop in numbers.

Over the four-day period from Friday to Monday, just 1,837 people made a ferry journey on one of CalMac's 28 routes compared to 112,000 for the same period in 2019.

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# Credit unions to get £20m lifeline

Credit unions across Ayrshire and Arran are poised to share in a £20 million support package as they battle to help vulnerable families deal with the financial consequences of the coronavirus.

Credit unions are often the only source of affordable loans for people in crisis situations. But the organisations themselves are also feeling the strain, with many of their members struggling to meet loan repayments.

Now the Scottish government has released details of two dedicated funds to ensure the sector can continue its crucial work during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

The Third Sector Resilience Fund and the dedicated Credit Union Resilience Loan Fund provide practical support offering more than £20million to credit unions.

Ayrshire's credit unions include 1st Alliance Ayrshire Credit Union, which serves Arran and much of the county's mainland population, Sovereign Credit Union and Ayrshire Credit Union.

All offer ethical financial services to many thousands of individuals and families from Ballantrae to Wemyss Bay as well as on Arran. They are among nearly 100 credit unions all over Scotland, providing a financial lifeline to a number of families who can



Robert Kelly, chief executive officer of ABCUL.

now apply for assistance from the Holyrood Government.

The package is recognition that many of the people worst affected by the effects of coronavirus – for example taxi drivers facing a fares slump or those in the retail, hospitality or leisure industries – are often the people who rely on credit unions for affordable loans.

Some credit union customers will undoubtedly be struggling to make loan repayments either now or in the future. Credit unions – by their nature

– do not make big profits from lending to their members. The margins are fine meaning the threat to the credit union business model is greater than in other financial sectors where the business is geared to making bigger profits for shareholders rather than more affordable loans for customers.

The threat to credit unions would be significant if it was not for the fact they, and Britain's largest Credit Union trade body The Association of British Credit Unions

(ABCUL), weren't already working closely with the UK and Scottish governments to deliver effective support to those credit unions who need it most. This includes liaison with the sector's dual regulatory bodies – the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

Reacting to news of the Scottish Government financial lifeline, Robert Kelly, chief executive officer of ABCUL, said: 'ABCUL has hosted online conference sessions with credit unions from all over Britain to identify issues of emerging concern and ensure these are addressed and the business strengthened to deliver essential financial support to members and staff.

'There have been tremendous examples of partnership working. The voices of our credit union leaders are being channelled to government in a robust and effective way and the response has been hugely encouraging.'

Turning to the two specific support packages offered by the Scottish Government, Mr Kelly said these offered a mixture of grants and interest free loans. Further details about both support packages can be found at: <https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus/funding/for-organisations/third-sector-resilience-fund>

## Jobs scheme must help to support seasonal workers, urges Arran MP

Arran's MP Patricia Gibson has urged the Chancellor to amend the Jobs Retention Scheme (JRS) to ensure anyone who started or was due to start a job in March receives support, including seasonal workers.

Currently, an employer cannot access support for an employee taken on after February 28. This excludes most seasonal workers in tourism and hospitality who usually start in March for the spring and summer seasons.

SNP MPs have written to Rishi Sunak urging him to immediately update the JRS to ensure workers employed from February 28 qualify for support.

Mrs Gibson said: 'I welcome the JRS and other measures the UK government has brought in at this difficult time. However, there are still people on Arran and across the country impacted financially by the crisis who are not receiving support.'

'The JRS fails to recognise geographical and sectoral differences and risks leaving many island workers ineligible for help.'

'An otherwise good scheme to reduce unemployment will see many facing unnecessary hardship.'

'Seasonal workers in hospi-



Patricia Gibson MP.

tality and tourism in particular face the prospect of being left with Universal Credit as their only means of support.

'I urge the Chancellor to ensure people with an employment history of being seasonal workers and those on Arran and throughout the country who were due to begin work in March are considered to be employees for the purposes of the Job Retention Scheme.'

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[nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](https://nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)

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## 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

## Economic woes

The stark economic reality of the severe damage the coronavirus pandemic is doing to Arran's economy has hit home this week.

Of course the main concern has to be for the health and wellbeing of everyone but, not surprisingly, the lockdown and advice for visitors to stay away is hitting island businesses hard.

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson told the Banner he has had dozens of emails from islanders worried about how they are going to keep their businesses afloat in these troubled times. And the worry this week is that if they go under they may not resurface again.

But at least there is some welcome news that the Scottish Government is planning to give businesses, including guest houses, B&Bs and self-catering providers, which are so vital to Arran, extra help, but there are some suggestions it does not go far enough or cover everyone facing hardship.

Clearly there is going to be a very big bill - colossal bill - for both the Scottish and the UK governments to pick up at the end of this, both in business aid and paying the firms that put their staff on furlough.

However, if that bill means that businesses which are the lifeblood of, not just Arran, but Scotland survive then it will have been money well spent.

In the meantime we must all just stay home and stay safe, and hope brighter times are ahead.

## Thought for the week

Jesus said to Thomas, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen me and yet believe.' John 20: 29

# GETINTOUCH

email us at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
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## Thanks for the memories

Sir,  
On behalf of Whiting Bay Memories, we would like to thank everyone who contributed the 200 messages and memories for Irene Greatorex 100th birthday book and card, and everyone who has donated towards her gifts.

Special thanks go to our village local hero Tracy for coordinating everything for us at the post office during these difficult times. To Irene's carers for all their help in making this a very special day. Thanks to Bernie Jackson, Archie Nicol and George Mckechnie for their memories. And last but not least, to the memories minions Lynne and Cheryl for the hours you have spend writing all these memories and messages into Irene's book and card. Thank you all.

Yours,  
Barbara I'Anson,  
Whiting Bay

## Skye webcam

Sir,  
Thank you to Steve Kelly for introducing me to the Kildonan Hall webcams. My wife and I are regular visitors to Arran over many years and

have enjoyed walking on the beautiful beach at Kildonan, so it was a very enjoyable substitute to view it through the webcams.

In the same spirit, may I introduce your readers to a webcam here in Portree looking south over Loch Portree to the Red and the Black Cuillins. The webcam is on the website of the Isle of Skye Estate Agency [www.iosea.co.uk](http://www.iosea.co.uk) and is found in the 'About Us' section of the site.

I hope it will not be too long before our two beautiful islands are again open to visitors and we can walk the beach at Kildonan.

In the meantime I hope your readers enjoy the Skye webcam.

Yours,  
Murdo MacSween,  
Portree,  
Isle of Skye.

## Maggie Dunn

In our story in the edition of Saturday April 4, concerning the Arran Bird Report: the first 40 years, we stated that Maggie Dunn, who produced the very first bird report now lived in Hampshire.

We are happy to clarify that Maggie, at 95, still lives in Whiting Bay in Cooriedoon care home, just yards from her former home.

## Farming leader appeals for public help

**Kintyre farmer Duncan Macalister, is the NFU Scotland Argyll and the Islands regional chairman. Here he makes a personal plea for everyone to act responsibly when using the countryside for exercise during the COVID-19 restrictions.**

'For farmers and crofters across Argyll and the islands, the countryside is our place of work, and spring is a particularly busy time of year for us. Calving is well underway, and many will also be lambing, or about to start.

'This is always a stressful time for farmers and the coronavirus pandemic is adding extra strain.

'We appreciate that members of the public, who are having to adhere to the current lockdown restrictions, will be wanting to take their daily walk locally. Of course, we would normally encourage people to seek fresh air and

appreciate the nature that Scotland provides. However, the increasing number of walkers on farmland, particularly around our villages and rural towns, is putting ourselves and our businesses at risk. As livestock owners, we also want to protect our livestock from disturbance caused by dog walkers, some of whom do not act responsibly.

'As an industry we are acutely aware what an important role we have to play in keeping food production going during this current crisis. As essential workers providing the primary product for food supplies, we cannot afford to put our health at risk.

'It is a requirement of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code that we all behave in a responsible way that is considerate of other people. We would ask therefore, that you respect the health and safety of farmers and others working the land - please follow requests and signs to avoid

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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 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).

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!

Scotland's Citizen's Advice Helpline will provide advice to the whole of Scotland. Tel: 0800 028 1456.

## 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/Catcol 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 bellsofarran@gmail.com Call 01770 860597 (Bridgend Campsite) - Whatsapp 07881 400064 (no phone signal at home) / via Facebook bellsofarran.

### 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.

### 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.

### MBS Building and Timber Supplies

Our click and collect service continues to be very popular, however due to the continuing lockdown and for safety reasons we are now only operating Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Fuel will be available between 8am-9am on these days and in store orders, 8am-noon, which can be phoned in 01770 700202 or by email at mbsbuild@yahoo.co.uk. Items can be collected from the shop forecourt by arrangement and the home delivery service for orders over £25 is still available to customers with transportation problems.

### Sliderry 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 sliderrysupplies@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, Tuesday 9am-1pm, Wednesday closed, Thursday 9am-1pm, Friday -1pm-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm. Sunday closed.

### Lamlash Garage - John Thomson Engineering

Open 8am -5pm for vehicle repairs and MOT's. Please call first on 600328 as restrictions apply.

### Whiting Bay Garage

Open 12-2pm Monday-Saturday.

## 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 Christmas. To arrange dog walking call 700541.

### Bogarrie 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. Bogarriekennels@mail.com - we are on the Ross Road.

### Muddy Paws Arran

Dog walking to assisting vulnerable/isolated people (no charge) in accordance with the government policy on walking someone else's dog. Areas covered are Corrie, Brodick, Lamlash and Whiting Bay.

### 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 be ordered via telephone on 600611 or via emailinfo@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.



The Machrie Moor standing stones in all their glory.



Graffiti discovered at the standing stones in January 2018.

# Help monitor Machrie heritage site from home

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The logo of the Monument Monitor project.

Researchers are asking people on Arran to help look after an ancient heritage site from home, using their old holiday photographs.

The Monument Monitor project uses photographs to help manage heritage sites, including the island's Machrie Moor.

While visiting heritage sites is currently not possible for most of us, you can still help with their conservation. Researchers want to see how visiting patterns, climate change and long-term trends have affected these sites, but need photographs to help.

The project team asks anyone who has visited Machrie Moor, Achnabrech in Kilmartin or Clava Cairns, to the east of Inverness, to send them photographs they have of their visits over the years.

'Photographs from over the years can tell us a great deal about the sites we look after. We can track vegetation growth in castles, erosion of peat caps along walls of iron age forts and monitor ground erosion near our most popular sites,' said Rosie Brigham, a doctoral student with the

project. 'As we are all spending more time inside, we ask anyone with old photographs of the sites to send them in to help us understand how they are dealing with changing climate and visitor numbers.'

'We have already had success in modelling water levels at the stone circles at Machrie Moor. The main thing we are monitoring are the levels of flooding at the farthest circle. I have been able to model exactly how much that the circle is underwater, however, more images from over the years would help.'

'The scheme also picked up vandalism to the main stone circle a couple of years ago, which was disappointing to see,' Rosie told the Banner.

Rosie also explained the work at the other sites. 'At Achnabrech, in particular, we are measuring the vegetation growth across the ancient rock art site. Your photographs will

help us better understand the vegetation growth and the flow of water across the around the stone carvings, which are nearly 6,000 years old.'

'At Clava Cairns, we are using submitted images to monitor what we are calling the 'Outlander effect'. Since the popular TV show based on the books by Diana Gabaldon aired in 2014, we have seen a huge increase in visitors. We want to collect photographs of visits before and after this time to model potential erosion around the cairns as a result of increased visitor numbers,' added Rosie.

Please send photographs to [submissions@monumentmonitor.co.uk](mailto:submissions@monumentmonitor.co.uk). To find out more about the project visit [www.monumentmonitor.co.uk](http://www.monumentmonitor.co.uk).

The project is a joint initiative between the Institute of Sustainable Heritage and Historic Environment Scotland.



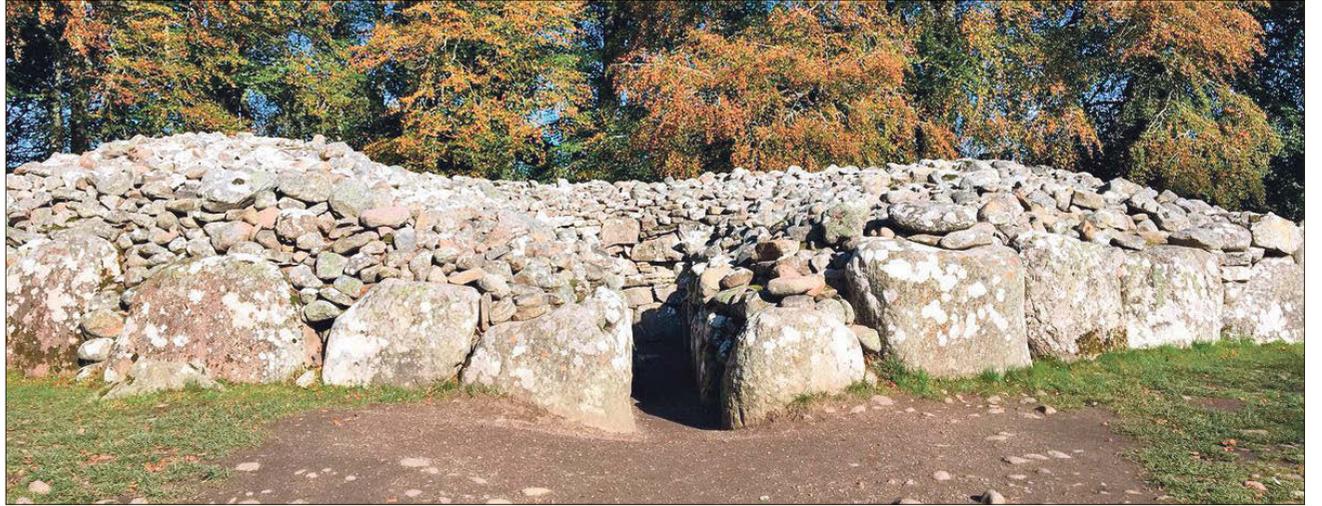
Researcher Rosie Brigham in front of Ness of Burgi in Shetland, another site being monitored.

Resear





Left: Carvings on the rocks at Achnabrech predate the Egyptians.



Right: The project received this image of Clava Cairns last autumn.



Researcher Rosie Bringham takes photographs on the moor.



The furthestmost circle in dry conditions.



Above: Flooding at the furthestmost stone circle.

Left: A moody view across Machrie Moor.

**GET INVOLVED**  
email us at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

# Couple celebrate platinum anniversary with video link



James and Margaret Graham of Whiting Bay celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary last Saturday.

Originally both from Paisley, Margaret is the youngest of three daughters and James has a sister, Jean. They were married in the High Church in Paisley on a Tuesday, April 11, because that was the only day of the week Margaret's father, who ran a butcher shop in Great Western Road, Glasgow, did not work.

James' working life as a consultant meant he had to be away from home and as far away as India, while Margaret ran a happy home for their family, Douglas, Sandra and Gregor. Life always included get togethers with cousins and relatives bringing fun and

**Left: James and Margaret on their wedding day in 1950.**

## Online get-together marks James and Margaret's 70 years of wedded bliss

laughter to all the celebrations over the years.

Summer holidays meant Arran. A trunk would be sent ahead at the end of July to one of the many holiday houses in Whiting Bay. The family would arrive at the start of Paisley fair for the month but James had to return to work after a fortnight, coming back at the weekend with the other husbands and fathers.

In 1973, James and Margaret bought Kincora, in the centre of Whiting Bay. Initially a busy holiday home, Kincora became a main residence once James retired. Their great friends Max and Enid Stevenson bought Avoca adjoining Kincora and the two houses were to be the location of an enduring tradition – Happy Hour.

A time to meet together with family and friends to have a drink and a chat. One drink was allowed on week days unless it was a special occasion or if they were joined by visitors – family counted. It was not unknown for passers-by to be encouraged to come in so a second drink could be poured.

A more recent tradition is the decoration of the tree outside Kincora at Christmas using a variety of beverage cans

which all require emptying beforehand!

Golf, the clubhouse, their Whiting Bay friends and the community are all important parts of their lives. The golf is more of a memory now but the community keeps them going.

Both in their 90s and the last of their generation, they have maintained their independence as best they can. Now, however, they are supported by fantastic carers Phyllis, Pat and Mary, along with Grace for housework and tremendous support from nursing and

medical staff. Mention must also go to their neighbours and friends in the village who regularly drop by with offers of help or just for a chat.

On Saturday, there was a small party with the carers and cake to celebrate their platinum anniversary. In the evening, at Happy Hour, the family got together for a video call which included Douglas and Christine, Sandra and Steve, Gregor and Elaine, grandsons James and Douglas with their partners Becca and Vera, plus a cat and two disinterested dogs.

What James and Margaret made of the technology that brought everyone together from Germany, London, Cumbria and Arran wasn't clear given even a telephone was a rare thing as they grew up. Nevertheless, a happy time was spent together.

**Douglas Graham.**



**Margaret and James with their cake and cards on their anniversary.**

## Housing bid for Fir Trees site refused

An application to build three houses in Lamlash has been refused by planning officials.

The applicant wanted to demolish the existing dwelling house of Fir Trees on Main Road near Lamlash hill and build three detached houses on the site.

However, planning officials rejected the application stating the backland development layout proposed would be detrimental to the visual and residential amenity by excessive overlooking to the detriment of privacy. Planning permission had been sought for the demolition of a detached 1960s style bungalow and erect three

one and a half storey houses. The three proposed houses would have been set out in a 'courtyard' type arrangement with the rear house 'cut' into the rising ground level and two linked houses further forward on the site. The bid had drawn support and objections as Arran Community Council stated in its submission to North Ayrshire Council planning department. It stated: 'On balance, the applications seem to us to be an augmentation of the site and as such we believe it is an over development. Additionally, the sighting of the two front dwellings facing 'gable end' into the main road-

way is a departure from the layout of existing properties, whilst the design of the same two dwellings may not be compatible.'

Concerns had also been raised concerning vehicle access and exit onto and from the A841. However, the community council added that, in principle, it had no objection to the site being developed.

Meanwhile, permission has been granted for the demolition of the Church of Scotland manse of Brodick Church and the erection of a replacement one and a half storey dwelling house in Manse Crescent, Brodick.

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And the Scottish Government additional funding package has just been renewed for another year.

**Arrange a quote from your home in minutes.**

To access the survey simply visit our TK Murray Facebook Page and click on the link "Air Source Heat Pump Survey" or email me on **Norman.paterson@tkmurray.co.uk** and I will send you the link.

Once I have this information I can email you a report for your home within five days. Then if that is of interest to you I can arrange to call round once travel has been deemed safe again.

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# LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN



## Lucky Lochranza Egg

These youngsters went back to nature to create their own Easter bunny.

Pupils at Pirnmill primary were asked to create a piece of transient art as part of their last school day before the

enforced shutdown across the county.

The creation was supposed to be all natural/recyclable products and Michael, Jack and James Innes produced what they called the Lucky

Lochranza Egg. It was made from fir cones, shells, white stones – for the bunny ears – various stones, seaweed, seaglass, daisies, coconut shell with holly berries, green leaves and sticks.

## Children's book festival delayed for a year



Arran's first children's book festival will go ahead, but has been delayed by a year.

Volunteers have been meeting for more than 14 months to gather funds and plans the Wee Mac Arran book festival.

It will be part of the island's McLellan Festival, under the umbrella of Arran Theatre and Arts Trust (ATAT).

Alison Page is leading the steering group and has confirmed the book festival plans are going ahead – but for September 10 and 11, 2021.

Fantastic authors, illustrators and storytellers including Debi Gliori, Alan Dapré, Lindsay Littleton have already confirmed they will be coming to Wee Mac Arran.

The idea of hosting a book festival on Arran has been talked about many times before but for various reasons it never reached fruition. This time, however, when children's author Alison formed the steering group in February last year the overwhelming response was one should be organised, the only question would be how to fund it.

### Experience

Alison said: 'Our children and young people living on Arran can't easily attend mainland book festivals. Due to transport and time logistics, many miss out on seeing and hearing authors, storytellers and illustrators and this wonderful, more relaxed, literary experience

which stays with you all your life.

'How we fund Wee Mac is still another question and much of the last year has been spent applying for funds which will allow us to proceed. We are relying on sponsorship via numerous grant and funding applications we have made, and are still making, to support the festival.

'Whatever the results of this the steering group, everyone agreed there should be no cost barrier to a child, young person or family attending so Wee Mac sessions will be ticketed but free to attend,' she said.

Alison added: 'It is something for the whole island to look forward to next year.'

## What we are doing to help

- We are continuing to bring you accurate and trustworthy news in-paper and online
- We are working with our wholesale and retail partners to make sure that your newspaper is still in the shops

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# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday April 22, 2000

## On the move

Sixteen years ago, the Reverend Andrew Barrie took up his first Church of Scotland charge at Lochranza and Pirnmill linked with Shiskine.

Trained as an engineer, he was then called to God and studied again, this time for the ministry, and he came to Arran to preach.

Since then, he has become well-known and well-established, but in three weeks he will preach his final service on Arran and head for another charge.

Andrew, his wife and their two children, Andrew and Karen, are moving to Denny in

Stirlingshire. In another move, the Rev William Ross is leaving Lamlash for a new charge in Dundee, leaving some church members concerned only a single minister may be appointed to replace them.

## Farming history

At Monday's meeting of Arran Antiquarians, members heard a talk from Colin Bannatyne on 'A century of farming at Shiskine'.

He told the meeting at one time the maritime link was important, cargoes of all varieties, especially coal and fertiliser, being brought into Blackwaterfoot by smack and puffer.

In 1890, an attempt to build a 200-yard long pier at Drumadoon came to nothing. Up to the Second World War, most of the population was involved in farming.

Originally there were three large farms at Shedog, Balnacool and Balmichael, together with numerous small ones.

Potatoes were an important cash crop and even school children helped in the harvesting. It was not until 1938 that the first tractor arrived and from the 1930s milk production rose to become the major 'crop'.

An interesting and informative afternoon was had by everyone.



Sixty runners make their way out of Brodick in Sunday's Ormidale 10k road race, evidence of its growing popularity. 01\_B16tweY01



The Reverend Andrew Barrie with wife Sheila, son Andrew and daughter Karen outside the Red Church before they head for pastures new. 01\_B16tweY05



Trophy winners at the finish of the Ormidale 10k. 01\_B16tweY02



Moira Stark is presented with a cheque for £1,000 for Whiting Bay Primary School raised by weekly quiz nights in the Cameronia Hotel. Also pictured are the hotel's Ross McKay, questionmaster Marc Head and Cathie Steed who runs the raffles, which have now raised £5,000 for local causes. 01\_B16tweY04



Around 60 youngsters made sure the Easter holidays were both fun and a learning experience when they joined SFA coach John McMillan in Ormidale Park for a four day football training session. 01\_B16tweY03

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Keeping our community informed

## What we are doing to help

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Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Jamie Greene MSP

Member of Scottish Parliament for West Scotland Region

Jamie Greene MSP – Coronavirus Update  
Whilst I've had to take the difficult decision to temporarily  
close the regional office and suspend surgeries, my team  
and I are still available to help.

If you want to get in touch or have any questions, please  
email: [jamie.greene.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:jamie.greene.msp@parliament.scot).

Many people will have concerns during these difficult times,  
please go to

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus>

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

or

<https://north-ayrshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/Coronavirus.aspx>

for official guidance on COVID-19

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#### PARTS LIST:

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- 2 x 2-foot swing gates

#### MAIN FEATURES:

- Made from high-tensile steel  
All hurdles are 6 railed x 1.75m high
- A funnel is incorporated into the race-way
- All hot-dipped galvanised finish
- 3000mm (3m) long
- 20-foot race
- 60-foot holding pen. Includes all joining pins/  
stakes
- Total 200-feet of penning

#### PARTS LIST:

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- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 1 x sliding gate

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Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited and the Advertiser on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers,  
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of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

- 1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the  
British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
- 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
- 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving  
reasonable notice.
- 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the  
advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
- 5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the  
publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer  
in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
- 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the  
event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser,  
it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other  
Court as the Publisher may choose.
- 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or  
partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition  
in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or  
omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher  
will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case  
may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund  
or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially  
detract from the advertisement.
- 8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication.  
In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or  
omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the  
particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further  
or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in  
connection with which liability arose.
- 9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all  
costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions  
or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one  
or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions  
supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher.  
All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date  
of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the  
Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a  
daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge  
a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the  
Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional  
invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the  
original invoice.
- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.



Far left, the newly born quad lambs with their mum at Balgowan Farm; and left, Little Tod and Pip the sheep-dog have been helping out with the lambing.

### CHURCH NOTICES

With regret, due to the threat of Covid-19, **ALL CHURCH SERVICES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine  
Although the Church is still closed an internet service at 11am Sunday morning and over the rest of the week can be received at [www.brodickchurch.com](http://www.brodickchurch.com) or [www.stmoliosshiskine.org.uk](http://www.stmoliosshiskine.org.uk)

Please note that Brodick Church is still accessible for the Food bank.

### BIRTH

**DUNCAN** - Annie is chuffed to be a big sister to Iris Nairn, born on 6th April. Ross and Hannah are also delighted! Sixteenth grandchild for Russell and Jan.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**DALE** - The family want to thank, sincerely, Angus, Jean and Liz for the very moving service; Clair and David for sensitive arrangements; relatives, friends and neighbours for touching messages and offers of help; also exceptional, thoughtful and caring support of doctors/nurses throughout his illness, much appreciated by the late Alex and by us all.

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS  
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS  
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## Quads doing well down on the farm

There was excitement down on the farm in Shiskine this week with the arrival of a set of quad lambs born at Balgowan Farm.

The farm is run by Matthew and Jen McNeish, with help from four-year-old son Tod, who, with Pip the dog, has been out helping with the lambing.

Matthew said: 'This is the first time we have had quads. The lambs were all born outside, without any assistance and are doing well. The photographs were taken from a bit of a distance so as not to spook mum.'

### ... and Guinness is getting big too!

Here's Guinness at Kilpatrick Farm this week who made his debut when just days old in the Banner two weeks ago and has certainly grown into a fit and healthy lamb in that very short time.

**Guinness settles into life at Kilpatrick Farm this week.**

Photograph: Stephen James Sparshott



## Zone helps children connect to nature during lockdown

The Scottish Wildlife Trust has created a range of free and fun activities to help children of all ages to stay connected with nature during the lockdown.

The Trust's Learning Zone is a growing collection of nature-based activities and resources that are perfect for springtime. Activities range from egg painting and mask making, to going a mini beast hunt in your garden and learning how to draw wildlife.

Parent and group leaders can search for both indoor and outdoor activities that are suitable for different age groups.

Teachers can easily find resources that link to the Curriculum for Excellence.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust's People and Wildlife Officer Catherine Leatherland said: 'Nature is vital for our everyday lives, but at the same time the current restrictions on being outside are making it really challenging to get out and enjoy a daily dose of wildlife.'

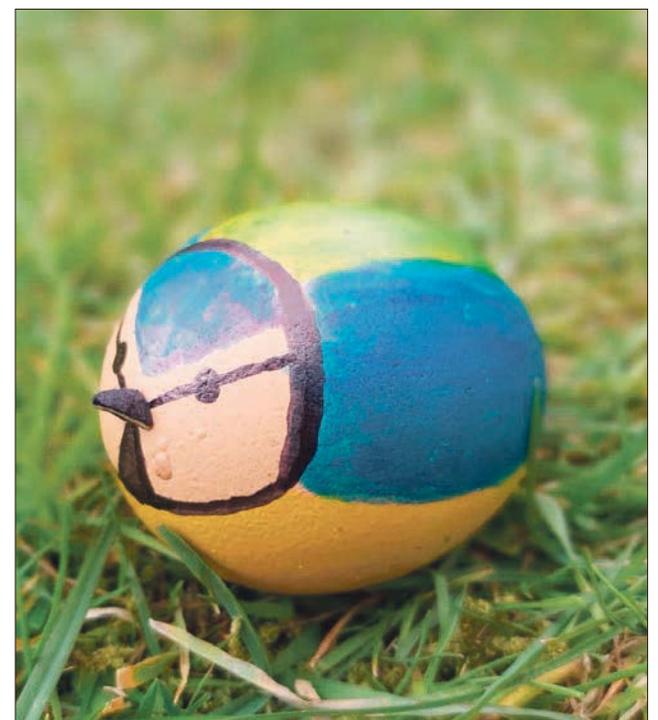
'The ideas and resources in our new Learning Zone are designed to help everyone from parents to teachers come up with ideas to keep children entertained and occupied, but also engaged with Scotland's amazing wildlife.'

'We can't wait to see people share their experiences on social media through #DiscoverLearnPlay.'

'Over the coming weeks and months, we'll be building up our range of free resources to ensure that every child in Scotland has the opportunity to engage with nature and wildlife, both during lockdown and afterwards.'

'We'd encourage people to keep checking back to see what has been added and to send us their thoughts on activities they would like to see included.'

To explore the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Learning Zone visit [scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do/learn/](http://scottishwildlifetrust.org.uk/things-to-do/learn/)



Blue tit egg painting is just one of the activities suggested.

Photograph: Lucy Haskell.

### WHAT'S ON

#### EVERY DAY

Eco Savvy & Co-op Food Share Big Co, Brodick. 6.15pm

#### TUESDAYS

Savvy Film Club | Online-- through Eco Savvy Facebook Events | 7pm

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# Arran Ladies' dismay as hockey season scrapped

Arran's hockey year has ended in disappointment with all district hockey leagues declared null and void for season 2019/20 as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, meaning there will be no promotion or relegation.

It follows the decision by Scottish Hockey in March to suspend all hockey activity in line with government guidelines.

Given the timeframe available and the number of district matches that would be required to be played, it has been decided the completion of remaining district fixtures is not feasible.

Arran were sitting third in the West District Women's Hockey League Division 3. In a disrupted season, because of winter weather, they had played just 11 games and picked up 27 points.

Top of the league were East Kilbride Ladies 2s with 32 points – just five more than Arran having played 15 games. Greenock Morton Ladies were second on 29 points having played 14 games.

Jenny Stark, vice captain and club secretary of Arran Ladies said: 'Whilst this decision from Scottish Hockey is disappointing, particularly as Arran Ladies were on track to top the third division, the team completely understands.'

'We are looking forward to restarting training in due course as we are determined to come back stronger next season.



Arran Ladies, before their first home match against Troon last October, had high hopes for the season. 01\_B40hockey01

We welcome anyone aged 12 years and over to join us. Please join our facebook page if interested as announcements will be made there once the green light is given for training to go ahead again.

'Alternatively, email: [arran-hockey@gmail.com](mailto:arran-hockey@gmail.com) and one of the team will get back to you.'

Scottish Hockey chief executive officer David Sweetman said: 'I would like to thank all the districts for a thorough and

collaborative process to reach this tough decision.

'This is an extremely challenging time and the districts, working with Scottish Hockey, have shown unity in the drive to find a solution for district

hockey. There may be disappointment amongst players, coaches and clubs, but we will work together to make sure district hockey bounces back strongly once the sport restarts.'



## What we are doing to help

- We are continuing to bring you accurate and trustworthy news in-paper and online
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If you want to get the "page turner" version of the newspaper and can't get to the shops we have halved the price of our digital edition for the next 3 months. We will review this on an ongoing basis.

Stay safe, we're in this together **THE ARRAN BANNER**

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