

# THE ARRAN BANNER

No. 2177 Arran's Weekly Newspaper

Friday 24 April, 2020

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

85p

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# Summer is **CANCELLED**

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Summer is cancelled ... and that's official as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic wipes out events across Arran.

As predicted in last week's Banner, both the Arran Farmers Show and Brodick Highland Games were cancelled by the organisers this week. The SWI handicraft show, which has been held on show day since 1926, has also been postponed till 2021.

This year the farmers show was due to have been held on Wednesday August 5, which would have the 184th staging of the event. The Highland games was due to be held three days later on Saturday August 8 when Ormidale Park is turned into a sea of fun for visitors from near and far.

Indeed Ormidale Park should have been packed tomorrow (Saturday) for the Arran Rugby Sevens, which, like last year, would have been bathed in sunshine. And the crowds would have been back for the Ormidale 10k on Sunday.

Highland games secretary Sheila Gilmore said: 'It's the busiest event on the island,

but realistically having 4,000 plus in such a busy space at one time is probably not what people want this year. Easier to cancel now and let people know. We'll have a blast next year instead.'

A statement the games organisers said: 'Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and possible restrictions that may still be with us in August, it is with great regret that the decision has been taken to cancel this year's Brodick Highland Games.'

'This is not a decision that has been taken lightly, but we feel it is in the best interests of all involved to cancel now. Stallholders will be advised tomorrow and any payments refunded.'

'There have been very few times Brodick Highland Games have had to be cancelled: during the war years, in 2007 when the park was under reconstruction, and this year as a result of the pandemic.'

'Please keep safe, and we will look forward to welcoming you all on Saturday August 7, 2021, when we will have an even more super games to make up for it!'

In a statement the Arran

Farmers' Society echoed the sentiment when they said: 'It is with a heavy heart that we would like to advise that, in light of the current situation regarding COVID-19, this year's Arran Show has been cancelled.'

'This decision was not taken lightly and followed consideration of all possible options in respect of this year's show. We feel that this decision is in the best interests of the residents of Arran and all of those involved in the show.'

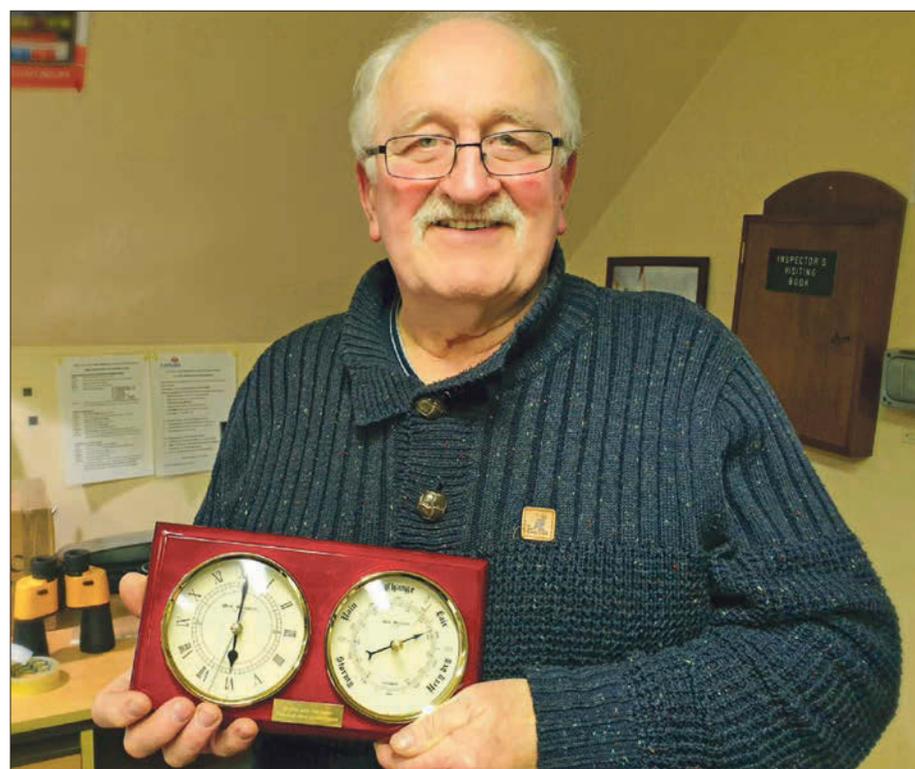
'We look forward to a fantastic Arran Show in 2021 and hope you can join us then. Best wishes and stay safe.'

Gala days and fun weeks in the villages around the island are also likely to be badly hit over the summer and the Arran Heritage Museum will also be seriously impacted by the lockdown.

A spokesman said: 'There seems little doubt that we shall not be open again until late summer, so the Motorcycle Show in June, the Craft Day and Children's Day in July, and Tractor Rally in August, are almost certainly casualties.'

Continued on page two.

## Little ticks of time...



In the words of the famous Scots folk ballad Allan Little can watch the 'little ticks of time' with his feet up on the engraved clock and barometer he received on his retirement after 35 years with the RLNI on Arran. For the full story, turn to the back page.

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Lamlash Garage

# Puma chopper called in for first evacuation from Arran

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The transfer of a critically ill coronavirus patient on Arran has become the first island medical evacuation in Scotland to be carried out by an RAF Puma helicopter based at Kinloss.

Three Pumas are currently based at Kinloss Barracks in Scotland as part of a new Aviation Task Force which was set up to support the government's response to coronavirus.

The crew were called at 1am on Wednesday to support the transfer of the critically-ill patient from Arran to the University Hospital Crosshouse in Kilmarnock.

The three-person helicopter crew flew to Arran, where they landed at Sandbraes in Whiting Bay and met the emergency medical care team



on site. On its arrival on the island, the aircraft temporarily shut down while the emergency medical team attended to the patient and prepared them for transfer.

The Scottish Ambulance Service emergency medical retrieval team travelled on the aircraft with the patient and

met their special operations response team and divisional crew on landing for onward transfer to hospital.

Using procedures previously rehearsed with the emergency care teams, the patient was then swiftly loaded onto the aircraft and transported to the Intensive Care Unit at

**A Puma helicopter, like the one used in Arran evacuation, seen during detachment training exercise.**

Crosshouse Hospital. The patient is now receiving the enhanced care required to support their recovery.

The aircraft crew were wearing PPE for the duration of the flight and both the crew and aircraft underwent strict decontamination procedures on their return to Kinloss.

UK government minister for Scotland Douglas Ross said: 'I would like to wish the patient a speedy recovery and thank the team from Kinloss Barracks who were involved in the airlift. This is another example of the fantastic effort the UK's Armed Forces are providing to support patients across the UK and help health professionals tackle coronavirus.'

Defence secretary Ben Wallace said: 'The medical evacuation is a great example of the UK Armed Forces' ability to support our most remote communities across the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.'

'I am proud of the skill and professionalism of our personnel and their support to colleagues in the NHS and social care.'

The Scottish Ambulance Service has significantly increased capacity for airlifting patients off the islands and to ensure that any patients from our island communities, including those with coronavirus symptoms, can be transported to receive the appropriate healthcare when they need it. This includes the use of SAS resources, ferries, maritime coastguard, Logan Air and the armed forces.

Squadron Leader Johnny

Longland, Detachment Commander said: 'Just over three hours after the crew received the call, they had travelled 162 nautical miles and the patient was in the Intensive Care Unit.'

'The training that we conducted with the emergency medical teams across Scotland ensured that, when the time came, we were all ready for a quick and smooth transfer of a patient. We're extremely proud to be able to help the NHS in Scotland and it's rewarding to see the team pull together so quickly and effectively when they were needed. Our thoughts are with the patient and their family, and we wish them a swift and full recovery.'

**YOURSTORY**  
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At the Cheese Shop we are all well, still open and working safely.

We have created lots of bargains, to enable you to get a great deal whilst supporting several Arran producers. These can be viewed on our Facebook page and our website.

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Stay safe, best wishes, Gordon.



David Henderson's Texel ewe was the overhead champion at last year's farmers show with daughter Emma, but there will be no overhead champion this year. 01\_B17events03

## Summer is cancelled

Continued from page one.

'They, of course, are our principal fundraising events of the year, so we shall miss that income, but on the other hand, we are fortunate in having started the year with fairly decent reserves so can cope with the standard outgoings such as insurance, electricity, albeit depleting our bank balance.

'We must hope that we are not too precipitate in relaxing the reins on social mobility too early, and as a consequence incur a new outbreak, so patience is going to become difficult for many as the weeks go by.'

There is still a glimmer of hope that the Arran Rock 'n



The mass bands performance at the Brodick Highland Games will fall silent this year. 01\_B17events04

Blues Festival would still go ahead at the end of September in Lamlash, but it seems unlikely.

Organiser Jane Howe of the PHT in Lamlash said: 'I was really disappointed to see that

the Brodick Highland Games has been cancelled, I suppose that brings the reality of the situation home, however we are at the end of September so will wait a little longer before making that decision.'

# Community effort is getting Arran through COVID crisis

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A community driven effort is helping get Arran through the coronavirus pandemic.

An army of volunteers and community support groups are getting non medical help to those who need it most while others who sheilding and self-isolating are being looked after by neighbours and friends while they are maintaining social distancing.

The measures being taken on Arran continue to keep the number of positive COVID-19 test cases down, which remained at three earlier this week, ahead of the medical evacuation, although there are also thought to be several cases of symptomatic coronavirus in the community.

However, as elsewhere A&E attendances on the island have fallen a great deal. This was most stark through the Easter weekend, which was the quietest in memory and there is a worry among health professionals on the island that people needing help are not getting in touch, which they are being urged to do.

Meanwhile, the Community Support Hub, based at the Arran Outdoor Centre in Lamlash, has everything required now in place and is even busier than ever.

The hub, using their coordinators and volunteers across



**Darryl Urquhart-Dixon updates the mapping room which pinpoints the most vulnerable on the island; Locality leader Ian Staples behind his desk at the hub.**

the island, helped to deliver during the last 10 days: 55 prescriptions, 95 Co-op deliveries and 61 food bags.

Most calls and emails they receive are from those who are needing support with collection of prescriptions and food provisions, as well as supporting the Co-op with deliveries up at the northend of the island. Much thanks to Fiona Laing and Chris Traill

or on a Sunday when we have no service. This we can do, through the generosity of Howard Wood who has very kindly allowed us to utilise his RIB, this is now ready to be deployed, as and when its needed, at the hub slipway.

'We have also had help with mapping and post codes which we now have displayed in the main hub here in Lamlash. This has really helped us to pinpoint those who are most vulnerable and where exactly they are on the island it also helps us with tasking coordinators and volunteers. Thanks to Mark Wickstead for his support in this.



for managing that aspect.

Locality leader Ian Staples said: 'We are working closely with the hospital, in the eventuality that they needed to get testing swabs across to the mainland urgently outwith of the times the ferry is sailing

'We are helping to distribute the masks that are being made by Facemasks4Arran, who are very busy making masks for people on the island.

'We are also helping those who are living in supported retirement housing in Brodick

and Lamlash, some of its residents are unable to get simple things like laundry done due to not being able to accept visitors that would normally carry out this task. However we have a bank of five machines at the hub which means we can get this task done very quickly.

'We have also been supporting those who are in most need who affected financially. Whilst they are awaiting their wages, with the support of NAC and local village shops we have been able to support these families with basic food provisions, until payments come though via the furlough system. On behalf of the North Ayrshire Council we would like to thank all village shops and the Co-op for supporting this initiative which is assisting those in most need.

'The centre's accommodation is being utilised by some key workers from the hospital and Montrose House. Again the centre has come into its own allowing its facilities and staff to be used as a means of supporting the community.

'As you can see this is very much a community driven effort across the island and I would like to thank everybody for the support they have shown the hub but also all of our community members who are needing it the most. Without the continued support of all the coordinators, volunteers, ACVS, local elected members

Ellen McMaster and Timmy Billings. We would not have been able to achieve a fraction of what we have done,' Ian said.

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](mailto:caramiller@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) who any new volunteers should also contact.

## Replacement boat for Arran

As the Arran Banner went to press, the essential lifeline ferry service to Arran was being operated by the MV Hebridean Isles after the MV Caledonian Isles developed engine failure.

Later sailings on Tuesday and earlier sailings on Wednesday had to be cancelled because of a technical issue affecting the starboard engine of the regular boat.

As a result, the MV Hebridean Isles was brought from Campbeltown to take up service on the Ardrossan to Brodick route until repairs are complete.

CalMac's crisis timetable has been extended to May 7.

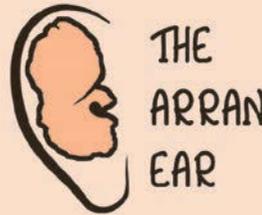
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**THE ARRAN BANNER**

## 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

## Quiet summer

As we widely expected, summer has been cancelled on Arran with all the major events called off.

However, someone forgot to tell the weather, which has been glorious over the past week, and if anything positive is to come out of lockdown, apart from the obvious lower death rate, it will be there will be some magnificent looking gardens.

That may be a trite flippant but if we can't have a laugh and a smile during these dark days we are in more trouble than we thought. That is why it is good to see an initiative such as Keep Arran Talking being launched.

This is not to help those in need of physical and mental support, who are being catered by other sound support, this is just for people looking for a wee chat, who may not be digitally connected to the outside world. We wish the project well.

Similarly, the excellent work being done by Ian Staples and his team at the community hub should be recognised and applauded. Ian is always quick to thank those who are helping him. So it is only right that he, too, should be thanked for all his efforts along with the weekly applause for NHS staff, shop assistants and other key workers on the island and around the country for their continued devotion to their duties.

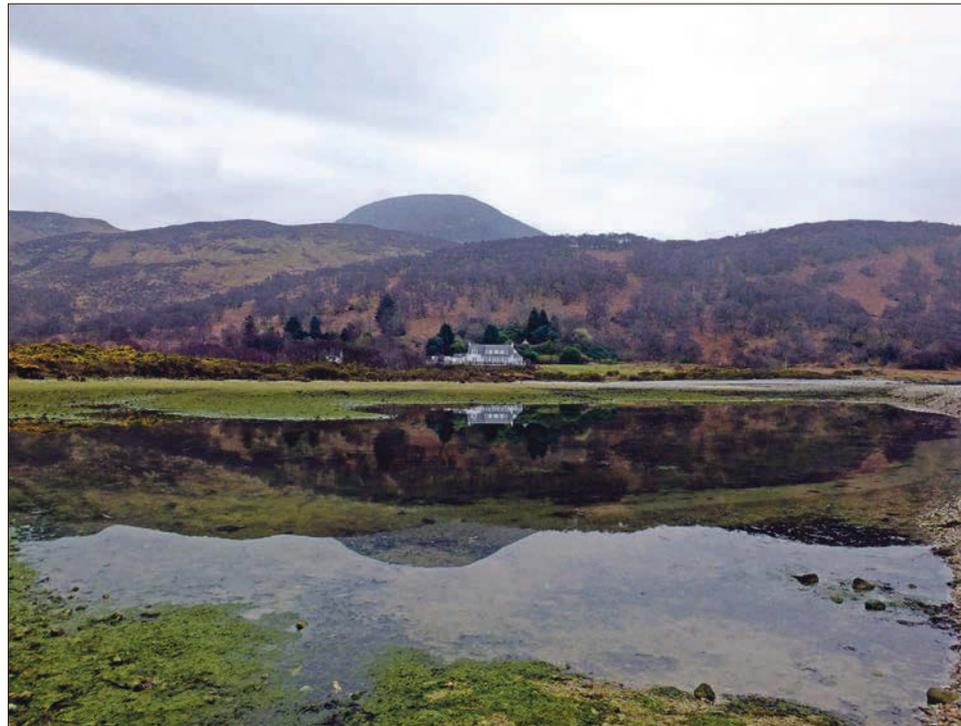
Yes, Arran will be quiet this summer – but wait for the summer of 2021...

## Thought for the week

'So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to things that are seen but to the things that are unseen.' 2 Cor 4:17

GETINTOUCH

email us at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
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## Photograph of the week – Catacol Burn

Our photograph of the week is a reflective image taken by reader Allan Napier out for his daily exercise near his home. It shows the flat calm mouth of the Catacol burn on Easter Friday. If you have any photographs you would like to share please send them to [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

## Openreach praise

Sir,  
I wanted to let you know how wonderful the two Openreach guys have been to me over the last few weeks. Ian and Scott must have visited me in Lochranza seven times over the last month. All is well now. Without their continued effort I would have had to go over to the mainland to work. Just wanted to say a big thank you.

Des Creasey,  
Lochranza.

## Call for urgent changes

Sir,  
The Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign is calling on the government to take urgent action to help WASPI women who have been badly affected by the outbreak

of COVID-19 and are experiencing greater financial hardship as a result.

WASPI is calling on the government to make two urgent changes. The first is to give early access to Pension Credit for WASPI women who are otherwise eligible. This group is currently falling through the gaps as their income is low, but they can't access other support such as Universal Credit. The second is early access to the State Pension for WASPI women due to reach State Pension age this financial year. This would mean the government would not have to support these women through other measures such as furlough payments or benefits.

WASPI's Campaign Director Chrissie Lord said: 'We're increasingly concerned about the disproportionate impact the outbreak is having on 1950s born women. Like others, many WASPI women are seeing a significant impact

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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 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.

on their livelihoods as a result of income uncertainty and difficulties accessing affordable food and other essentials. For women who were already in serious financial difficulty as a result of mismanagement of changes to the State Pension age, the impact is huge.

'This all adds up to reports of poverty among WASPI women who were struggling to make ends meet before the pandemic. Those who are hardest hit have been unable to retire as planned and are now unable to work. We have always campaigned for fair transitional arrangements for all women affected by the WASPI issue and we will continue to work towards this aim. However, in these exceptional circumstances we have taken the decision to campaign urgently for vital support specifically for those who have been impacted the most severely.

'WASPI women have fallen through the cracks too many times before. It is time for the government to act to ensure WASPI women who are struggling to make ends meet are protected and supported.

Susan Bolland,  
Cunninghame WASPI group.

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

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

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

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

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 on 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.

Slidderly 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 slidderysupplies@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 for petrol, diesel, Calorgas, logs, kindling, also some repair work.

## 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, stationery etc can be delivered too - in Brodick only at moment. Payment over the phone - Order via telephone - call Tom on 302288

The Harbour Shop, Blackwaterfoot

Opening hours are Monday to Saturday, 10am-2pm. Sunday CLOSED. We are also delivering newspapers and any other items required.

Phone 860215.

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.

Arran Vets

We are currently open 9am-2pm Monday-Friday, 9.30-11.30am Saturday. Everyone must phone first before travelling to the surgery and inform us if they are self-isolating or have symptoms. Call 01770 302511 for all enquiries and emergencies.

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.

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. Bogariekennels@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.

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.

# A day to remember as Irene

It's not every day you get to celebrate your 100th birthday.

And last Friday villagers of Whiting Bay made sure Irene Greatorex had a day to remember – while making sure everyone stayed safe.

The day began with the unfurling of a banner from the upstairs window of her home, which was once the Greatorex Store she ran with her late husband Bill, proclaiming she was '100 years young'.

A single carer took in her gifts and Irene's birthday card from the Queen, which she recorded on camera, before Whiting Bay pipers Beverley and Patrick Scott played a medley of stirring Scots tunes

in Irene's front garden. A number of locals, complying with social distancing measures, joined in the celebration from the safe distance of the putting green across the road to help make Irene's day.

As reported in last week's Banner, Whiting Bay Memories gathered more than 200 contributions for a special book of fond memories and greetings, which was presented to Irene on her special day.

Irene and Bill came to Arran from Blackburn in Lancashire in 1967 and as the years passed they became much loved characters in the village and ran the Greatorex Store and tearoom for nearly 30 years.



Wellwishers on the putting green. 01\_B17centenary06



Irene with her treasured birthday card from the Queen.



Irene's still lives above the shop which was

## Bored and Stuck at Home?

Given most of us are self-isolating why not use this time to start your research into air source heating and find out if it's suitable for your home.

The Government's Renewable Heat Incentive grant can cover as much as 75% of the total cost.

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](mailto: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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E-mail: [info@tkmurray.co.uk](mailto:info@tkmurray.co.uk)



Pipers Patrick and Beverley Scott play outside Irene's home. 01\_B17centenary09

# Irene celebrates her centenary



was Greatorex Store. 01\_B17centenary10



Above: Irene Greatorex with her birthday flowers and her card from the Queen.



Left: Villagers gathered to wish Irene happy birthday. 01\_B17centenary07



The banner proclaiming Irene is '100 years young'. 01\_B17centenary11

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# Rare hoopoe spotted 14 years after last sighting

On Wednesday April 8 Fiona Laing was on her regular early morning delivery route when she saw a bird she instantly recognised as a hoopoe.

She wrote: 'I'll admit I think I yelled hoopoe when I saw it fly in front of the van.'

And no wonder. The hoopoe is an exotic looking bird about the size of a mistle thrush. It has a pinkish-brown body, striking black and white wings, a long black downcurved bill, and a long pinkish-brown crest which it raises when excited. With broad, rounded wings, it has a characteristic undulating flight which is like that of a giant butterfly as the wings half close at the end of each beat.

Fiona saw it below Levenecorach and stopped and got a photograph as it landed in the hedgerow trees. The image was more than good enough to confirm identification. It then headed off towards the houses.

At around the same time, Pauline Nicolson was heading in the opposite direction from her home in Shannochie to her workplace in Cooriedoon, Whiting Bay. She also saw the bird but did not know what it was. However Maggie Dunn, the resident bird expert in Cooriedoon, was able to help with identification.

The Eurasian hoopoe is widespread in the warmer parts of Europe, Asia, and North Africa and northern Sub-Saharan Africa. Most European and north Asian birds migrate to the tropics in winter. It does not breed in the UK, but does turn up from time to time, mainly in the spring, when

Bird Notes special by  
Jim Cassels



This rare hoopoe was spotted by Fiona Laing on Arran earlier this month.

birds heading north overshoot their usual destinations and finish up much further north.

From the Arran Natural History Society records, there have been three previous reports of hoopoe on Arran. The last occasion was in July 2006 when a single bird turned up

in a garden in Thurguy. It was photographed by Graham Ross.

I will leave the last word to Fiona who wrote after her encounter: 'A stunning bird and in these sad times has really cheered me up.'

Meanwhile, there was another

special visitor to the island this week, but one which has been here before, showing that life goes on whatever the circumstances.

A whimbrel spotted by Dave Smallwood on the shore in front of the Kildonan Hotel this week was not any whimbrel but A2.

A group of bird ringers on Arran had caught and ringed this bird in April 2017 with the intention of trying to learn more about the movements of whimbrel, which are related to curlew.

Having been ringed and released from a south Arran shore in April 2017, the bird continued on its journey. To date there have been no reports of A2 from any breeding area nor any wintering ground, but on 26 April 2018, one year after it had been ringed, it turned up on the shore at Porta Buidhe. Another year later almost to the day, it turned up yet again on the same shore on the 28 April 2019 and again for a fourth time this week. Almost incredible.

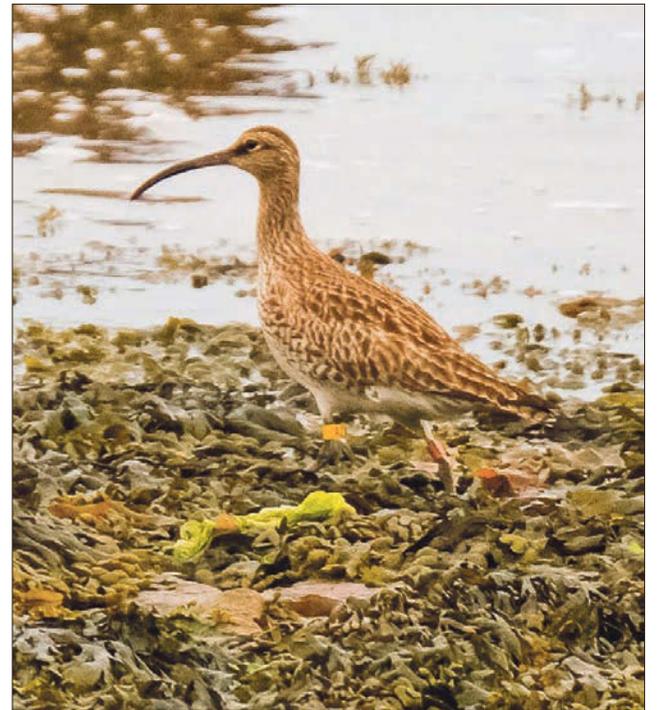
Enjoy your birding and keep safe.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report, The First 40 Years which includes the annual report for 2019 and visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)



Graham Ross photographed the last hoopoe seen on Arran when it visited his garden 14 years ago.



This photograph by Joan Thomson is of whimbrel A2 taken on the shore at Porta Buidhe in Kildonan on April 28 last 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

Keeping our community informed

All the information on our website is available free - you don't have to log in

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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# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday April 29, 2000

## Roads meeting

A public meeting is to be held on Monday May 8 to discuss the condition of Arran's roads. It will be hosted by the community council in Whiting Bay hall.

Chairwoman Sheila Gilmore said she was inviting hauliers, councillor John Sillars, MPs Brian Wilson and Allan Wilson and perhaps also the emergency services. She said it would give people the chance to air their views and keep up the pressure on North Ayrshire Council to improve island roads.

It follows a campaign by Moira Starks who is gathering support for her bid to take the council to court to fulfil its duty to maintain the roads. A final decision has still to be made on whether there is sufficient support to proceed.

## Rugby guest

Among the crowds enjoying the rugby sevens in Brodick last Saturday was former Scottish

international player Kirsty Henderson. Not only has she played rugby for her country, she twice captained the Scotland A side.

After leaving Arran High School, Kirsty pursued a career in sport and during her student years she returned to the island for several summers to take charge of the North Ayrshire Council beach leader scheme. She is now a sports lecturer at Cardonald College but her real passion remains rugby and, for the last four years, she has captained Glasgow Southern women's rugby team. Now Kirsty has reached the pinnacle of her playing career and has represented Scotland in England, Wales and Spain, which of her international matches has she most enjoyed?

Obviously they have all been special, but the one which stands out most for her, said Kirsty, was when she captained Scotland to a thrilling 25-23 victory over Wales.

Liz Stewart from Shiskine has also represented Scotland in the past.



The Arran team which took part in the 2000 rugby sevens tournament which attracted 13 teams last weekend and, inset, Kirsty Henderson. 01\_B17tweY05 and 01\_B17twe06



Minister of Brodick Church, the Reverend Ian MacLeod, with some of the church members who bedecked the church with flowers to celebrate Easter and the millennium. There were flowers were everywhere and their scent was immediately noticeable on entering the church. 01\_B17tweY02



Above: President's wife Margaret Griffin bowls the first wood of the season at the opening of Brodick Bowling Club last Saturday. 01\_B17tweY04



The Corrie longship builders who have just put a skin of glass fibre gel into their boat mould, the first stage in creating Arran's own Viking longship. From left: Mark Brown, Matthew Goochild, Simon Gee, Neil Bulger, Nigel Wilde, Peter McKinnon, John Malpas and Frank Halliwell. 01\_B17tweY01



Left: Agnes Lynch, front centre, was presented with a Celtic brooch to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Lochranza Art Class at its annual Daffodil Tea to raise funds for the village hall where it meets. 01\_B17tweY03

# BANNER CLASSIFIEDS

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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

The cost of this publication has been met from parliamentary  
resources. The SPCB is not responsible for the content of  
external websites.

## RECRUITMENT

### Job Opportunity with North Ayrshire Council

**Workshop Supervisor (Arran) | NAY06365**  
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**Transport Garage, Lamlash, Isle of Arran**

**Closing date 3 May 2020**

**For further details and to apply visit**  
[www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/  
north-ayrshire-council](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/north-ayrshire-council)



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- 10 x 3m (8 railed) sheep hurdles
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#### OPTION 2

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race, 2 x 2-feet swing gates and all joining pins/  
stakes included. Our system will safely hold 150  
fully grown sheep (approx.)

#### PARTS LIST:

- 14 x 3m (8 railed) sheep hurdles
- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 2 x 2-feet 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:

- 10 x 3m (6 railed) cattle hurdles
- 12 x joining pins/stakes
- 1 x sliding gate

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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.

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St. Margaret's, Whiting Bay  
During the shutdown  
Rev'd Canon Simon Mackenzie will conduct Sunday Eucharist at 11 a.m. online @ [ChristchurchLochgilphead](mailto:ChristchurchLochgilphead)  
All are welcome to join

**DEATH**

**CAMPBELL - Jimmy** (James Dawson Green)  
Born in Glasgow on 27 August 1936. Lived on Arran (Strathwhillan Farm, Brodick) from 1939 to 1973. Died in Hobart on 20 April 2020, aged 83. Son of Angus (dec) and Annie (dec). Brother of Ian (dec) and Angus (dec). Loved father of James, Rhoda and Calum. Respected father-in-law of Sheila and Eric. Adored grandfather of Janelle, Matthew, Laura and Gabrielle. His ashes will be returned to Arran for a proper Island send-off when we can all be together again.

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**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



A completely off-road walking and cycling route is the ultimate aim. Photograph: Sustrans

# Views on off-road cycle route sought

Proposals for an active travel route between Brodick and Lamlash are making good progress, writes Hugh Boag.

The project team from Edinburgh-based WYG, an environmental transport planning company, is at a pivotal stage where it requires your opinion and help. To allow the team to gather the public's opinion, an interactive online consultation is being held from now until May 20.

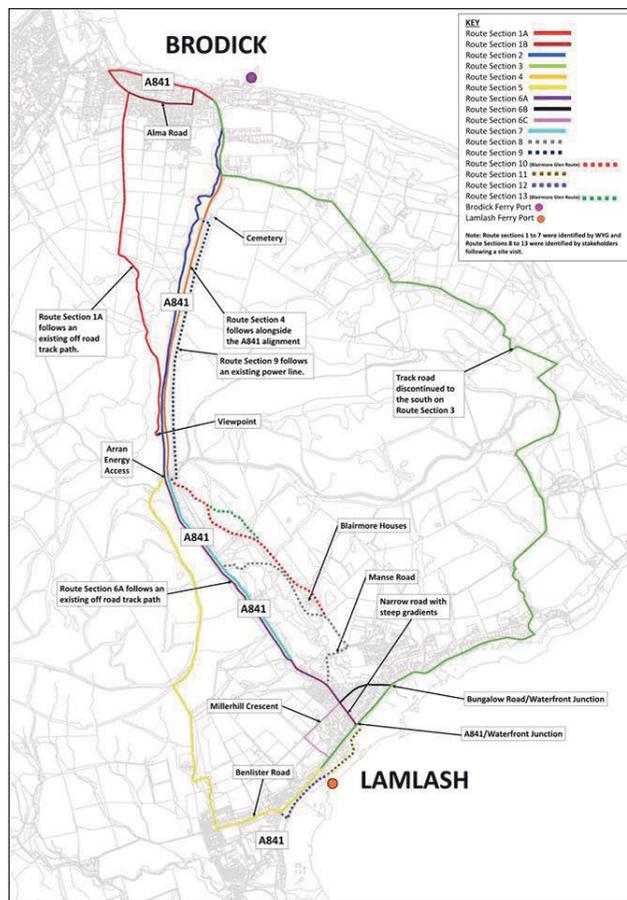
WYG, working in partnership with North Ayrshire Council, have been commissioned to develop an active travel route between Brodick and Lamlash.

Web links to the online survey will be made available on the North Ayrshire Council website [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) and the project's Facebook page Brodick to Lamlash Design Project.

Those with family and friends who do not have internet access are encouraged to show these materials to them and fill in the survey on their behalf.

The study is being funded by Sustrans through the Places for Everyone funding. If successful, the route design will provide a high quality alternative route between both settlements and support walking and cycling, ideally avoiding any on-road travel.

The WYG team is led by Mark and Jordan and their



The many possible routes for the active travel path.

commission currently only allows for stage 1 – evaluation of route options – and stage 2 – development of a preferred concept option. It is anticipated that should a successful concept option be developed,

further funding will be procured to allow progression to detailed design and ultimately construction.

The study only started in late January 2020 and is anticipated to take around three to four

months to complete. The route is to start and end at Brodick ferry terminals and Lamlash pier and they are currently working through the stage 1 examining all land based potential route options to get between both towns.

However, they do need your help. Nicky Garrity, assistant transport planner at WYG, said: 'As locals you will know the landscape, landowners, issues and opportunities better than anyone else so we would really like to get your views. Ultimately, what we come up with will be for your everyday use, so it needs to work for everyone. Despite setbacks due to the situation with COVID-19, the WYG Team is trying its hardest to progress the project. The ambition at this stage was to have a consultation evening at a local community centre, or similar venue, to discuss these options further and to get direct feedback from members of the community on what they want to see in the design.'

'Knowing that group meetings will be suspended for the foreseeable future, we're looking to alter those plans and to rely more on gathering your comments using Facebook and the online survey. We appreciate this isn't ideal for everyone and will impact those that don't have access to the internet.'

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THE ARRAN BANNER



# Fond farewell after 35 years on lifeboat crew

## Volunteer Allan launches into retirement with fond memories of RNLI work

Deputy launch authority (DLA) Allan Little has retired after 35 years volunteering with the RNLI on Arran.

The milestone, and sad occasion, was marked by the entire crew of the lifeboat station in Lamlash when they presented him with a special gift at one of their final training sessions before coronavirus curbed regular training events.

Born and raised on the island in Lamlash, where he has lived all his life, Allan has finally been forced to retire having turned 70 last month.

He joined the crew in 1985 to give something back to the community.

Over the years, there is hardly a position within the RNLI he has not held. He has been crew, helm, tractor driver and press officer among many other positions.

His knowledge and versatility has ensured he has been an integral part of the team.

These factors, along with his friendly disposition, means he will be much missed by his colleagues.

Over the years Allan has experienced many shocking and heart-warming incidents, but

the ones that stand out most for him are the amusing ones.

One memorable rescue was when he was part of the crew which responded to a call out in Brodick Bay where a speedboat was out of control and circling towards the shore.

The sailor had 'abandoned ship' and it was up to the crew to work out how to get to the boat to cut the engine whilst it was speeding around the bay.

They settled on the idea of strapping the paddles on the lifeboat together and getting close enough to the boat to hit the throttle lever on its next pass. Luckily their timing was perfect and their plan worked.

### Memory

Another memory was the time he found himself being 'rescued' by his crew mates. While out in Lamlash Bay on his boat with his children, they spotted a harbour porpoise and he suggested they hit the water gently with the paddle to attract its attention. While they were busy with this, Allan leant over the side of the boat to try and fix the engine which needed attention.

Unbeknown to Allan, his children waved the paddle



Allan is presented with his retirement gift at a special training session where the entire crew bade him farewell before the lockdown.

in the air which was seen as a distress signal from some well-meaning people on the shore who immediately alerted the coastguard.

### 'Rescue'

He greeted the lifeboat crew by asking where they were on their way to, only to discover

they were there to 'rescue' him!

When speaking about how things had changed over the years, Allan remarked on how things are more structured now and how impressed he is with the amount of training the crew undertakes to keep themselves, and their casual-

ties safe, and to make sure they know what to do in just about any circumstances.

Allan says he has experienced good times and bad times, such as when they were really short on crew, but he is pleased to see new, committed people coming through to ensure the

station can continue to provide essential life-saving work.

But mostly he remembers his time as a volunteer crew member for 35 years as an adventure made so enjoyable and memorable because of his fellow crew volunteers.

**Amanda Pirie**

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