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Today we're gonna party like it's 1945

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk 

Arran was set to party today (Friday) like it is 1945.

It is hoped the VE Day celebrations may lift some of the gloom the coronavirus pandemic lockdown has brought.

Today is the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day – marking the formal acceptance by the Allies of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender on 8 May, 1945.

With many people self-isolating, furloughed and others off on today's Bank Holiday, islanders are being encouraged to get out into their gardens and celebrate the anniversary.

But there can be no repeat of the street parties seen across the island on the 50th anniversary 25 years ago, with strict social distancing required.

Nationally, a virtual service of remembrance will be broadcast live from the Legion

Scotland Facebook page at 10.40am. The service will be conducted by Legion Scotland Padre Rev Dr Karen Campbell and will include a two-minute silence at 11am.

At 3pm people can join in the 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' by standing up and raising a glass of refreshment of their choice.

And households on Arran are being encouraged to have their own VE Day celebrations from 4pm to 6pm by taking their tables and chairs out to their gardens and make their own picnic food and have a few drinks, keeping the two metre rule.

To get in the party mood it is suggested you could play some music, decorate the front of your house red, white and blue, decorate your front window and dress up in 1940s clothes or in red, white and blue.

And poppyscotland is encouraging people to have a

Continued on page two.



The way we were. There will be no mass street parties like this one to celebrate the 50th anniversary of VE Day in Ladeside, Shiskine, in 1995. 01_B19day01

Tough times for tourist trade

The tourist trade on Arran is going through a tough time with many businesses ready to write off the entire 2020 season, writes Hugh Boag.

With no significant changes expected to lockdown soon and months of restrictions ahead, the summer forecast looks bleak.

At the moment the restriction on CalMac to bring visitors to Arran ends on July 15, but this could be extended, with many believing it could be September, at the earliest, before any visitors will be allowed onto the island.

A recent survey conducted by VisitArran involving 68 participants from across the leisure sector found that while 56 per cent of businesses were able to apply for COVID-19 grant support, 44 per cent were not.

Businesses were asked if a potential continued COVID-19 lockdown would totally jeopardise their business. More

Continued on page two.



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 Lamlash Garage

Today we're gonna party like it's 1945 – VE Day

Continued from page one.

the virtual VE Day party by combining the spirit of 1945 with modern video chat technology including FaceTime, Zoom and Houseparty.

This year's significant anniversary was to have been commemorated with events across the UK but the COVID-19 pandemic has meant most public events have been cancelled.

Provost Ian Clarkson is urging North Ayrshire residents to join him from their own homes in remembering those who gave

their lives in the conflict by joining him in the Nation's Toast.

The provost said: 'I'm so disappointed we will be unable to gather together and pay homage to the men and women who gave so much for the generations which followed.

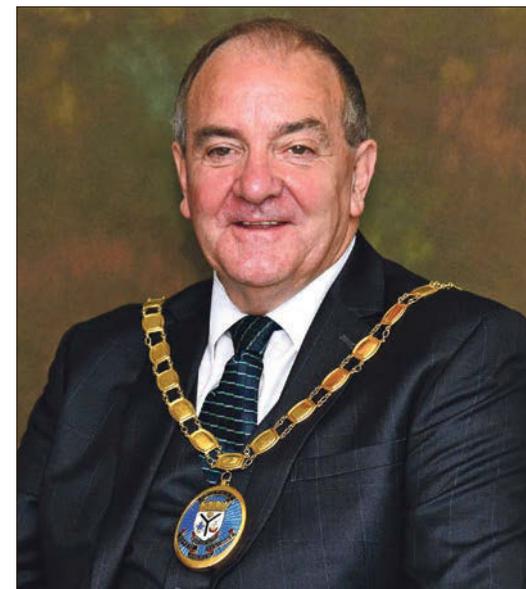
'Millions of them paid the ultimate price and we cannot forget their sacrifice.

'Even though we cannot gather to publicly honour them, we can still pay tribute from our own homes by taking part in the Nation's

Toast to the Heroes.' Those taking part in the toast are asked to raise a glass and say: 'To those who gave so much, we thank you.'

North Ayrshire Council's Heritage and Cultural Services will be commemorating VE Day 75 online.

Please follow North Ayrshire Heritage and Cultural Services on Facebook and @NACHeritage on Twitter.



Right: Provost Ian Clarkson.

Tough times ahead for Arran tourist trade

Continued from page one.

than 10 per cent warned it could happen by the end of May, with a further third warning they could go out of business by the end of September without any trade, and more than half – 53 per cent – in serious jeopardy by the end of the year. Only 16.67 per cent said their business would not be jeopardised.

Asked what support would help their business, most responses came from self catering providers who said a lack of parity with England saw many ineligible for grants as a result of the criteria. They also called for a rebate in agency fees, support for loss of lets, a rates reduction and easier access to the Job Retention Scheme. They also said there would

have to be a new model for changeovers, given COVID-19 spread.

Bed and breakfast owners said they needed business support grants, recognition B&Bs pay council tax and not business rates and said insurance is unclear.

An Arran webinar, hosted by Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, looked

at challenges for the island and planning for recovery after COVID-19.

John McGuire from NAC Business Development was on the panel along with VisitArran director Alastair Dobson from Taste of Arran.

The informal meeting was well supported and proved a great opportunity to share ideas and gain an insight into how

other businesses are faring. Another meeting is planned.

Meanwhile, Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson has urged islanders to have their say as the Scottish Government publishes an update on what life might look like when coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

COVID-19: A Framework for Decision Making says the current lockdown is pushing

the number of infectious cases down but concludes the virus continues to pose a serious threat to public health in Scotland.

Mr Gibson is also encouraging islanders to read the Scottish Government's 'Test, Trace, Isolate, Support' paper, which will be a 'key aspect' in the next phase of the battle against coronavirus.



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Michael Nellany Rhona Nellany Gordon Ghee

Facemasks for Arran keeping everyone safe



Alison Page ready to start another mask at home in Lamlash.



Louise Milroy and her son wearing their brightly coloured masks.

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A community group set up to try to keep Arran residents safe by covering up their faces has turned into a cottage industry across the island.

With an original plan to produce 200 homemade masks, the Facemasks for Arran collective had by last weekend produced more than 800 facemasks and was still going strong.

All masks are made from donated materials, sewn by Arran volunteers, and given away free to Arran residents.

With the Scottish Government now recommending the wearing of facemasks in some public places and the likelihood they will be required, at least, on public transport when lockdown restrictions are relaxed, there is a demand.

Founder and the inspiration for the project is Barb Taub of Whiting Bay.

She told the Banner: 'I began sewing facemasks in mid-March after reading about Operation We Can Sew It, a volunteer group in Denver, Colorado, whose members have made more than 25,000 facemasks for use and distribution there. Following their pattern, I made and distributed my first handful of facemasks. New requests came in and I gave away more than 50 facemasks by the time Scotland and the UK were put on lockdown.'

'We then began to hear about shortages of personal protective equipment for medical use, but also about the dangers faced by vulnerable or elderly residents, and by essential workers providing



Facemasks for Arran founder Barb Taub at her sewing machine.

'Today our 48 members are sourcing fabric and supplies, sewing facemasks and co-ordinating deliveries. People across Arran offered their help.'

services. After floating the idea on the Arran Community Forum, a handful of founding members joined me in forming Facemasks For Arran to make free facemasks for Arran residents. Today our 48 members are sourcing fabric and supplies, sewing facemasks, and co-ordinating deliveries.

'Even more importantly, people across Arran offered their help. The Co-op in Brodick and Bay Stores in Whiting

Bay accepted fabric donations. Stacks of freshly laundered and bleached donated fabric colonised my dining room as offers of supplies and help came in. Experienced quilter Patricia Templeton came up with a quick method for making mask folds, making a video and photo assembly instructions. Several volunteers agreed to make bias tapes for mask ties, while others are sewing facemasks while others deliver the finished masks across Arran. Other community organisations such as the Arran Community Hub and Isle of Arran U3A are also helping with deliveries.

Masks can be ordered online at www.123formbuilder.com/form-5378880/

Bay Stores in Whiting Bay are also distributing the facemasks free of charge.

Wet Wet Wet's Marti gives shout out to Arran

Scots singer Marti Pellow gave a shout out to Arran as he dedicated a song to the healthcare heroes at NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

The Wet Wet Wet legend has been treating fans to daily lockdown sessions during the coronavirus pandemic on Twitter and on Monday the 55-year-old paid tribute to frontline staff in Ayrshire & Arran.

But before he did so, he said he remembered visiting Arran with his dad.

Key workers

Viewed thousands of times from his Twitter page, Marti sang *Wishing I was Lucky* for the vital key workers in the region after Helena Wallace suggested the popular singer give a wee mention to the health board's procurement team following 'a frantic few weeks'.

Marti, now living in Windsor with former Miss Scotland wife Eileen Catterson, has been delighting his followers with his online performances, with many praising his youthful appearance, 'infectious smile' and pitch-perfect performances.

Advert apology

The Arran Banner wishes to apologise for not picking up on an artwork error that resulted in a silhouette of Kenneth Gibson MSP appearing in his advert last week. We have now rectified this and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Opening hours

The pharmacy opening hours for the bank holiday today (Friday) are: Arran Pharmacy, Brodick and Lamlash, 9am to 5pm. Whiting Bay, 11am to 4pm.

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Kenneth J Gibson MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Cunninghame North Constituency

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, my office remains closed until further notice. However, staff and I continue to work from home full-time.

Should you require any assistance or information, please email me on kenneth.gibson.msp@parliament.scot or call 01294 833687.

kennethgibson.org

[Kenneth Gibson MSP](https://www.facebook.com/KennethGibsonMSP)





The gates of the waste transfer station look like they will be staying locked. 01_B15waste01

Community council call to reopen recycling centre

The waste recycling centre in Brodick should at least be partially be reopened, say Arran Community Council.

They say opening the Brodick coup would help people on the island dispose of their garden and other waste, and prevent the potential of flytipping and bonfires.

The call came as the community council held their second meeting using Zoom video conferencing.

All household waste transfer station's in Scotland are closed as visits to them are seen as non-essential travel during the lockdown, however, some councils in England have reopened their waste centres.

The community council say the main problem is the large amount of garden waste being generated at present and the fact that Arran has no dedicated garden waste brown bins.

Chairman Bill Calderwood said the reopening of the coup 'once or twice a week' would be

a 'big gesture for a small cost'. He said he was aware of the issues but said that safe social distancing could be maintained and that only a single supervisor would be required at the site.

However, there seems little chance of the recycling centre opening any time soon.

A North Ayrshire Council spokeswoman said: 'All HWRCs across Scotland are currently closed. This is in accordance with national advice regarding non-essential travel.'

'Many local authorities have had to suspend or alter household bin collections, however in North Ayrshire we have re-deployed staff from other areas to keep all kerbside collections running as normal.'

'We are advising that while Household Waste Recycling Centres remain closed, we continue to monitor national guidance and will be ready to re-open our centres at the earliest opportunity.'

Heartfelt thanks from foodbank volunteers and the customers

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran Churches Together Foodbank volunteers have been overwhelmed yet again by the generosity of the Arran community.

Coordinator Susan Dobson told the Arran Banner this week: 'We have people who are able to shop for themselves continuing to donate non-perishable food items in the collection basket at Brodick Co-op; people who are receiving the Co-op delivery service are adding extra items to their shopping list for the Co-op staff to put in the collection basket; shop owners and customers in villages outwith Brodick are donating items and arranging to have them dropped off at the church.'

'As some businesses have had to temporarily close, they have also donated food items which were in stock. Brodick Co-op staff continue to be great supporters. Our treasurer, Jean Hunter, has also taken receipt of many monetary donations from individuals including two lots of people who donated prize winnings. All of this when so many people are feeling the pinch but still thinking of others; we think of all of you



The Arran Foodbank stocks a variety of foods and toiletries and items can be delivered if required.

while applauding on Thursday evenings. Foodbank use has greatly increased over the last six weeks as many people have experienced changes to their income and all of these donations make a huge change to what can be offered.'

'However, the foodbank at Brodick Church has made a few changes in response to COVID-19. We are now offering a delivery service to anyone needing support. We have a bank of delivery drivers who have agreed to safeguarding and confidentiality statements. You can arrange to have food

delivered by calling; Ann Hart, 303530; Ann MacKay 600944; Catriona Smith 302464; and Susan Dobson 302365 who will treat all calls with confidentiality.

'The front doors of the church remain open 24/7 allowing access to the food shelves and freezers in the vestibule.'

'High touch areas, such as door handles, light switches, and fridge doors are being cleaned on a daily basis. There is advice on the church door about how to keep a social distance while using the foodbank and hand sanitiser is available

with advice to use before and after using the foodbank.

'Our regular volunteers continue to collect donations from the Brodick Co-op collection basket and keep the vestibule shelves in Brodick Church stocked, for those who are struggling financially to be able to help themselves.' Susan added.

As has always been the case, the foodbank at Brodick Church is unmanned, open 24/7 and available to everyone in the Arran Community needing some extra support and no reference is needed.

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Spurred on by lockdown

Growers out in force – two metres apart – to tend community land

Lockdown has spurred on activity at Arran Community Land Initiative (ACLI) in Whiting Bay.

The allotments, reclaimed from abandoned farmland, have been lovingly tended by holders who have been working hard to prepare their plots for planting as well as enjoying welcome sunny weather.

For many it's an excellent way to exercise and produce tasty food, all in splendid self-isolation in fresh air and peaceful surroundings.

In addition, a small number of volunteers, working several feet apart as per government regulations, have been putting in the hours on the 'community' areas. They have prepared new vegetable beds and will be planting a range of vegetable seedlings waiting for suitable weather, as well as tending

soft fruit bushes. The present spell of dry sunny days may be delightful but some rain would help our crops! The intention is to produce extra, locally-grown food for Arran residents later on in the year, if local and national outlets find supplies are short.

The land initiative is dependent on grant funding and has to operate on a shoestring. The team is short of a variety of things: fruit/cage netting to keep the birds off, rolls of fencing or chicken wire, bamboo canes, very large containers/pots and fish boxes. If anyone has any of these things to spare we would be pleased to collect. We would also be pleased to welcome anyone who might like to spend time outdoors helping with a variety of gardening tasks. Contact us on arranacli@gmail.com



Above: Planting is under way at the land initiative in Whiting Bay.



Right: Preparing for a busy summer at the ACLI in the hills above Whiting Bay.

With people spending more time in their gardens during lockdown, ACLI has come up with a few tricks of the trade and offer these tips.

- Don't rush to plant out it may get colder again. Handle seedlings by the leaf if possible when 'potting on'.
- Cheap plant food ... soak any of these – seaweed, comfrey, nettles, chicken or horse muck in water in a bucket with a lid for two weeks. Use diluted as a feed.
- Be inventive keeping pests off ... wood ash from log burners for slugs; fencing or prickly branches for rabbits; orange peel deters some cats.
- If you are a novice buying small plants of leeks, tomato, courgette may be more successful than sowing seeds; MBS, Home and Garden and Co-op are selling them.

IF IT'S URGENT, IT'S URGENT

GP surgeries and hospitals are still here for you.

If you have an urgent, non-coronavirus health concern, please don't wait. Promptly seek help for emergencies, present possible cancer signs and attend immunisation appointments.

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@arranbanner.co.uk
or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJWorrying times for
tourist trade

We are all struggling with the ramifications of the coronavirus pandemic, the lockdown and the uncertainty of the future.

But spare a thought, if you would, for those who rely on the tourist trade on Arran, and elsewhere, for their livelihoods. Or as they are finding in these troubled times, what livelihoods?

It's not just the hotel, restaurant, B&B, self-catering, campsite owners etc who are affected, but shopkeepers and suppliers and everyone who relies on these businesses to put food on the table for their families.

A mere glance at the results of the business survey, produced on behalf of VisitArran this week, shows just how tough this year is likely to be, with some already writing off the entire 2020 summer season.

As many as a third of tourist establishments on the island risk being out of business by the end of the year unless they get the urgent help that they need.

Yes, there is government assistance out there, but worryingly 44 per cent of the businesses surveyed were not able to apply for COVID-19 grant support.

Of course, not too much can be read into one small survey. However it does drive home what most people in the industry already knew.

And there is another dilemma. While tourism needs visitors - just when is it going to be safe to allow them back on Arran? As one business told the survey: 'It is not appropriate to market the island this year. Would be nervous of opening up too soon.'

Worrying times for the tourist trade indeed.

Thought for the week

The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all. **Psalm 118:22**

Opening up Arran

Sir,
I live on the island and have worked here in the past. I have been involved with security on the mainland concerning threat and risk assessment.

I have recently been advising jewellery businesses on how to operate safely when lockdown restrictions are lifted. I take into account the threat, which is COVID-19 and assess the risks to the area by looking at statistics of cases and then looking at ways of restarting the business within guidelines of health and safety for staff and customers.

Arran has a low threat of COVID due to its unique location of being an island and the risks are extremely low because of the lack of visitors. Also there seems to be very few cases on the island. It is difficult to get actual figures of cases because Arran is combined with North Ayrshire.

If there have been a few cases and with none in the last two weeks, the opportunity is there, within safe guidelines, for businesses to reopen to islanders in my opinion. The risks go up if tourism is allowed to restart, but visitors to the island should have had basic body temperature checks at least, weeks ago.

I am currently waiting to hear about COVID-19 and antibody test kits that are cheap at £30 and easy to use with instant results. Why the government has taken so long to get testing going is beyond me.

To clarify my point. Pubs and other businesses could easily reopen with some rudimentary social distancing. Measures such as body temperature checks at ingress, with a handheld monitor that cost £60, would need to be in place. And I would suggest no hanging around at the bar and widely spaced tables. Beer gardens, now the weather is better, should primarily be used.

My daughter, who lives near Ipswich, says her local pub is doing a thriving trade in take-out dinners and drinks, with trading standards endorsing the pub serving food and drink out of the serving hatch for a limited amount of people in the beer garden. It is time to think positively about post lockdown. Let's get Arran up and running safely again.

Yours,
Richard Elliot, Kildonan.

Start again with ferries

Sir,
Roy Pederson, ferry expert and author of Who pays the ferryman?, posted recently in the

Sunday Herald a damning account of the status of the ferry replacement programme.

Among many indictments, he stated: 'The original (very high) £97 million contracted price for the two ferries is now estimated at more than £300 million. What has not been mentioned, however, is that, as these over-specified vessels cannot berth at existing terminals, a further £120 million has been earmarked for terminal alterations. This means the total cost for these two replacement ferries is now approaching half a billion pounds.'

He concludes his polemic with the recommendation to 'scrap Glen Sannox and 802 and start again with more sensible spec vessels'.

How we got to this point will I hope be a matter for an independent public enquiry. However as a frequent user of the ferry, I'm primarily interested in a resolution. But it seems to me our politicians have dived for cover, kicked this issue into the long grass and allowed COVID-19 to dominate the headlines.

It would be helpful to have a clear understanding of what actions are being taken, what deliverables will be available and in what timescale. As well as what risk management and risk containment plans are being developed, especially to handle the interregnum, given it is clear our existing lifeline ferry service is not fit for purpose.

As this is a devolved issue, perhaps our constituency MSP could find these answers on our behalf.

Yours,
Douglas Templeton, Whiting Bay.

Businesses shortchanged

Sir,
The story about the Scottish Government giving grants to businesses to help them survive the pandemic is misleading (Arran Banner, May 1).

The government received money for grants from Westminster, in the form of a £2.2 billion cash boost, with a further £600 million to be added. That means the money comes from the British government, not the Scottish Government.

Furthermore, it is worth noting two Scottish companies, Bruce Taverns and Kilimanjoro Coffee, are seeking a judicial review into why the Scottish Government will only give Scottish business chains a one-off grant of £25,000, regardless of how many business properties they operate, whereas business chains in England and Wales can receive up to £25,000 per property.

As an example, the owner of three coffee shops in Scotland will be getting £25,000, whereas an

owner of three coffee shops in England or Wales will get £75,000. Scotland has received the same amount of financial aid from the Chancellor Rishi Sunak. So the question is: 'Why is the SNP not treating Scottish businesses the same as businesses are being treated in Wales and England?'

Yours,
Beverley Scott, Whiting Bay.

SNP putsch

Sir,
The Scotland Act 1998 created the devolved Scottish parliament and Scottish Government, containing several political parties.

It was therefore with concern I read in the May 1 Arran Banner that 'Grants from the SNP government to help businesses survive the coronavirus pandemic totalling £13.87 million have been awarded to 1,246 businesses across North Ayrshire, including Arran'.

When exactly was the putsch whereby the nationalists ceased the Scottish parliament?

Yours,
P W Yates, Catacol.

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

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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.



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NHS

Coronavirus Got symptoms – even mild ones?

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Do not go out even to buy food or essentials.

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nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

Coronavirus: Helping each other

Extraordinary kindness

The United Kingdom is pulling together as one, with people from all regions and all four nations of the country helping each other through the coronavirus pandemic.

As we all know, we must only leave our homes if we are key workers or cannot work from home, to do essential shopping

and for one period of daily exercise.

By doing this we will all help protect the NHS and save lives.

Despite the absolutely necessary restrictions on our normal lives, people are being encouraged to help neighbours in need where possible. This has led to some amazing acts

of kindness on every street, in every village and town across the country. Communities have never felt stronger. Today, we shine a light on just some of the people from communities across the country to showcase examples of ordinary people doing extraordinarily kind and helpful things.



CASE STUDY GAIL REDMOND

A CHARITY that supports families has noticed a sharp rise in requests for help due to widespread redundancies.

Gail Redmond of Via Wings' in the County Down town of Dromore, in Northern Ireland, says the charity normally gives out 85 food bags a month to people in need.

"But last week we gave out 105 already, many of which are going to people who are self-isolating," she said.

"One guy who contacted me on Friday, said: I have never asked anyone for help like this before.

But I have lost my job and can't afford to feed my kids right now.' You could tell that he was absolutely mortified and so humble. So many people have lost their jobs.

"We have told pensioners not to answer their door when we deliver, but one old lady insisted. We told her she shouldn't be doing that, but she replied: I just want to say thank you'.

"The older generation are so apologetic when asking for help, they all say:



GAIL REDMOND: 'Dromore area hit hard by redundancies'.

I'm sorry to bother you."

Christian charity Via Wings is offering food deliveries and befriending to anyone who is self-isolating, elderly, vulnerable, an NHS employee, key workers, or those financially impacted by Covid-19.

Volunteers observe social distancing guidelines and food is carefully wiped down before being packed. Food and toiletry donations can be made

at Eurospar, Supervalu and Vivo in Dromore and Tescos (Boulevard) and Lidl in Banbridge.

Via Wings works with local schools and churches, social workers, care workers and other agencies.

"Working in unity is what our grandparents used to do, and that is what we need to get back to doing, caring for each other," Gail added.

"There is no ownership, we are just working together."

CASE STUDY NEIL MUSGROVE

AN ULTRA-MARATHON runner is putting his best foot forward after several running events planned for this year had to be cancelled or postponed.

Last year Neil Musgrove ran seven ultra-marathons and with none looking likely for this year he is running one in his back garden.

He is doing a mile a day in his back garden according to his running watch and is hoping to reach his goal of the 30 mile starting distance for an ultra marathon by the end of April.

For every mile completed, Neil is donating £5 to Leeds Cares and hopes that friends and family will join in with the challenge at their own homes and donate after every mile completed.

He said: "With no ultra-marathons to run I thought I'll run one of my own. Any experience I've had with Leeds Hospitals in the past has been positive, I want to support all of our amazing NHS staff who are currently under huge pressure and working in extremely tough circumstances.

"It is quite a few laps. All being well this takes me to a 30 mile ultra marathon distance. Yes it might get a little tedious but I am thinking of it as an ultra with a checkpoint, food and drink at every mile.

"My young niece and nephew have already got involved and I'm hoping to get my own



MARATHON MAN: Neil Musgrove putting his best foot forward for an ultra marathon in his back garden in Leeds.

PIC COPYRIGHT - NEIL MUSGROVE/SUBMITTED BY LEEDS CARES

kids involved too. I'm sharing the challenge with my colleagues and running club teammates so hopefully lots of us will get involved. Make it as interesting as you like. I am thinking about obstacles, singing, dancing, whatever. I would love it if people joined in. The only rules are it has to be a minimum of one mile. It has to be fully within your own property boundary. If you don't have a garden, special dispensation is given to use your street but remember the two metre rule."

All funds raised through Neil's challenge will go towards Leeds Cares' Support Your NHS Hospitals Appeal and provide vital support to frontline staff at Leeds Teaching Hospitals.

This includes, paying for care packages, assistance with travel

and accommodation where needed, as well as helping to fund other health and wellbeing initiatives to boost morale across the wards. He set a target of £750 on his JustGiving



page and has raised more than £550 already. Leeds Cares is the official charity

partner of Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The organisation supports NHS staff to deliver the best care for patients and their families, by raising funds for equipment, services, education and research.

Leeds Cares works collaboratively with all of the hospitals across Leeds (including Leeds Cancer Centre, Leeds Children's Hospital, St James' University Hospital and Leeds General Infirmary) to identify charitable projects and causes.

Nominate a community hero

Do YOU know a volunteer who deserves to be recognised for making a change in their community?

The Prime Minister recognises one person a day with a Point of Light award.

Read more or nominate someone at www.pointsoflight.gov.uk/



across our communities

CASE STUDY
HARRY RAGLESS

A BOY with spina bifida and his father are both doing their bit for the community - but in completely different ways.

Harry Ragless usually spends 80 per cent of his time in a wheelchair due to his condition, which means his spine did not form properly in the womb and he has neurological damage to his legs and back and cannot feel his feet.

But inspired by the efforts of 100-year-old war veteran Captain Tom Moore, which have seen him raise around £30million for the NHS, Harry decided to raise money by walking with his frame and leg supports.

The determined six-year-old from Oaksheath Gardens in Durrington, near Worthing, has raised £2,400 and rising within days of his parents launching a fundraising page for his efforts - smashing his £100 target.

He said: "I feel really good. I was shocked."

His proud mother Selina Ragless said: "He has shocked us all. Because of his condition he tires easily but the other day he walked from our house to Vancouver Road, which is really far for him. We couldn't believe it."

As word of his exploits spread, Selina said people were coming out of their homes to applaud Harry, who attends West Park School in Marlborough Road, Goring, when he went out for a walk.

She said: "I feel overwhelmed to be honest. We owe the NHS so much; they have been there for him since he was born and will be there for him for the rest of his life. If we can give something back, that is all we want."

In fact, Harry's exploits grabbed the attention of Captain Tom himself - and his



WALKING TALL: Harry Ragless has raised £2,400 with the help of his father and his walking frame and leg supports.

picture was featured on the Second World War veteran's Instagram page.

Harry is not the only person in his family who is raising a smile in the community.

By day, his dad Steve is a warehouse manager - but during his daily walk, he dons his Stars Wars outfit to bring a bit of fun to the neighbourhood. The 45-year-old said: "I love it. From my own experience, I remember the first Comic-Con I went to in Birmingham and I saw all these stormtroopers standing outside, and I went into full fanboy mode."

The opportunity for him to get his own suit arose when a friend was selling theirs.

He said: "When I finally put it on, I just



STAR MAN: Steve in his dramatic outfit.

felt amazing in it. I love seeing the looks and smiles, and people tooting their car horns and waving. It brings a few smiles in these very strange times."

Selina came up with the idea for him to wear it after they were put in lockdown, and during their walks around the estate Steve has posed for 'socially-distant' photos with some of the children who have come out to see him.

In his spare time, Steve has donned the costume to a variety of events, including birthday parties, weddings and charity events.

When the Connaught Cinema has done showings of Star Wars films, Steve has turned up in his gear to raise money for Sussex Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, a charity which has helped Harry.

When asked if there was anything he wanted to say to the people who have donated so far to his campaign, Harry said: "Thank you."

To donate, visit justgiving.com/fundraising/selina-ragless1.

CASE STUDY
STENHOUSEMUIR FC

A FOOTBALL club initiative is supporting hundreds of families by delivering school meals to pupils during the coronavirus lockdown.

With the season shut down indefinitely, Stenhousemuir FC set up its community help hotline in mid-March to assist the most vulnerable members of society as the effects of the global pandemic began to take hold.

A 30-strong squad of volunteers was assembled in the first week to carry out everyday tasks like shopping or dog walking for those in isolation or for whom such activities would prove difficult. Since then, the number of volunteers has hit 80 although extra help remains welcome.

Government guidelines mean the volunteers can leave their homes to help a vulnerable person and, with almost every volunteer already assigned to an individual, more support is likely to be needed in the weeks ahead.

The idea has been well received by those who live in the Stenhousemuir and Larbert areas and beyond, so much so organisers opted to branch out and ease the strain on mums and dads by collecting and distributing school lunches purchased by Larbert High School to youngsters stuck at home.

Pupils from Larbert High and its cluster primaries are benefitting



ON THE BALL: Stenhousemuir FC players and coaching staff.

from the move.

On just one day last month, volunteers delivered more than 130 meals to schoolchildren.

Stenny chairman Iain McMenemy, who helped to organise the initiative, said: "We put out a few requests for further volunteers and the response to each has been really encouraging.

"We're doing one-to-one tasks for people like dog walking and shopping and we're putting in calls to make sure they're okay.

"The advice was clear: if you're going out for your own shopping, if you have to go to work, if you're going out for one bit of exercise or if you're helping a vulnerable person you're able to go out, particularly because some people have got nobody else.

"We have even had members of family from farther afield saying they have a relative in the area and they want to give you a call.

"We're still looking for volunteers as we're only in week three and the smart money is probably on this being extended for three months. We've also expanded out to do school meal deliveries for

a number of the schools. Carron Bathrooms got in touch and offered two vans so we now have three. On top of that, we're doing deliveries for Falkirk Foodbank."

Though Stenny officials admitted concerns over the impact COVID-19 would have on the club itself, their focus has always been on the "health and well-being" of the community.

When the community help initiative was first announced, Mr McMenemy wrote in a statement: "With the continuing spread of the coronavirus, Scottish football faces an uncertain future.

"It is quite clear that there will be a significant impact on football operations and finances and Stenhousemuir Football Club will no doubt be affected by this.

"However, there are other, more important matters to think about. The coronavirus is a very serious disease that will affect thousands within our communities.

"The health and well-being of friends, neighbours and members of our community should be our top priority."



HOME ADVANTAGE: Stenhousemuir players brought food directly to people's houses.

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

The service 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.

Woolleys 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/Machrie and Brodick Kebab and 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

Open 9am until 4pm for collection of orders safely at the door. Orders can be phoned in on 302788. Also delivering to Shiskine Valley most days and island wide on a Friday. Loads of deals on cheese, deli and ice cream - see our Facebook page, or website www.arrancheese.com, or call and ask. Also deliveries to the mainland via Parcelforce - send your loved ones an Arran treat.

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.

Wiltshire Farm Foods

Frozen meal deliveries to Arran are every two weeks to order you can either call 01294 551734 or via website http://www.wiltshirefarmfoods.com/If you require to be put on the referral list please contact Social Service on 600 742 for a brochure. For any further enquiries you can also contact Chris on 830252.

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) and spring clothing. Full e-commerce store online - www.chameleonarran.com/shop. Free delivery island-wide. Email lynn@chameleonarran.com. Messages may be left on 07740 866522.

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

Home & Garden, 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.

The Shiphouse, Lamlash

Newsagent, pet supplies and hardware store. Open 8am to 1pm Monday to Saturday. Deliveries available - please call 600231.

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.

Slidery Supplies

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

Brendarran Electricals

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

Mackenzie Logs

Delivering as normal adhering to government guidelines. Please call 700 348 to order.

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, stationary 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.

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

We are able to walk dogs of vulnerable or isolated people in accordance with the government policy. We only cover Corrie, Brodick, Lamlash and Whiting Bay. If you are vulnerable or isolated there is no charge for this service. Tel 01770 302054 or 07789 730548 or email info@muddypawsarran.co.uk

Astra Jewellery & Gifts (formerly Castle Bay Studios (Brodick))

A new website has been created for Ad Astra Jewellery & Gifts. Free delivery or pickup option available for Arran residents. Telephone 601341 or 302400 www.adastrajewellery.co.uk

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 email info@arrancvs.org.uk and will be posted out.

Hear to Help

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

Talking Arran Banner

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

LOOKING FOR HELP DURING CORONAVIRUS?

We know times are tough right now. So, to help, here's a list of organisations that can offer support. Please cut out and keep this page of useful contacts for use when you may need them.



National Assistance Helpline

Staying at home stops the spread of coronavirus, and some need extra help.

If you are over 70 or receive the flu vaccine for medical reasons, you do not have any access to the internet, and do not have anyone to help you get essential supplies like food or medicine, then we have created a helpline just for you.

Call: 0800 111 4000 (Open office hours Monday to Friday)

Textphone: 0800 111 4114 (Open office hours Monday to Friday)

Please remember the helpline and textphone service are dedicated to helping those who cannot leave their home and who cannot get help online.

Health

www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus
0800 028 2816

(8am –10pm everyday)
for general information only

Call NHS 24 on 111 for advice
if symptoms worsen or if fever
is ongoing after 7 days

Shielding local support
www.gov.scot/covid-shielding-contacts

Feeling anxious or depressed?

NHS Inform:
www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus-mental-wellbeing

NHS 24:
Call 111

Breathing Space:
www.breathingspace.scot
0800 83 85 87

**Scottish Association
for Mental Health:**
0344 800 0550
info@samh.org.uk

Samaritans Scotland Helpline:
116 123 / jo@samaritans.org

Advice for pregnant women

www.nhsinform.scot/ready-steady-baby or contact
your midwife if concerned.

Easy-read coronavirus guidance

[www.sclد.org.uk/
information-on-coronavirus](http://www.sclد.org.uk/information-on-coronavirus)
Helpline: 0141 248 3733

Social welfare and financial help

Citizens Advice Scotland:
www.cas.org.uk
0800 028 1456

Struggling with energy bills?

Home Energy Scotland:
0808 808 2282

Consumer issues

Advice Direct Scotland
www.coronavirusadvice.scot
0808 800 9060

Employment rights advice

www.acas.org.uk
Helpline: 0300 123 1100
Relay UK: 18001 0300 123 1100

Support for accessing your rights at work

www.stuc.org.uk
Email: info@stuc.org.uk
Call: 0141 337 8100

For business support

[www.findbusinesssupport.gov.
scot/coronavirus-advice](http://www.findbusinesssupport.gov.scot/coronavirus-advice)
Helpline: 0300 303 0660

Helping in your community

www.readyscotland.org

Advice for parents

www.parentclub.scot/coronavirus

Parentline Scotland:
08000 28 22 33

The Money Talk Team:
0800 085 7145

Information for Young People

www.young.scot/coronavirus

Information, friendship and advice for older people, their carers and families

www.ageuk.org.uk
0800 12 44 222

For people with dementia, families, friends and professionals

Alzheimer Scotland
[www.alzscot.org/living-with-
dementia/getting-support](http://www.alzscot.org/living-with-dementia/getting-support)
24-hour Helpline: 0808 808 3000

Scottish Autism Advice Line

www.scottishautism.org
01259 222022

Domestic Abuse Helpline

www.safer.scot
Helpline: 0800 027 1234

Rape Crisis Scotland Helpline

www.rapecrisisscotland.org.uk
Helpline: 08088 01 03 02

CORONAVIRUS

**STAY HOME
PROTECT
THE NHS
SAVE LIVES**

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday May 13, 2000



Police relay

Twenty five years ago Strathclyde Police was formed from a number of smaller forces including Renfrew, City of Glasgow and Ayrshire. It is Scotland's largest police force and celebrations were held throughout the region to mark this special anniversary.

One celebration took the form of an Olympic-torch run through every local authority area in Strathclyde, calling at primary schools along the way. PC Stewart Croll, who organised the Arran event, told us this was symbolic of relaying a goodwill message from the Chief Constable John Orr to every community.

Bridge collapse

A new bridge, completed on the Ross Road in March, has collapsed. The bridge had been constructed on the sharpest bend on the single track road after it was damaged by a heavy vehicle last year.

However, last week the gabions used to build up the river bank became dislodged during a night of torrential rain. They have been deposited in front of the two pipes which are forming the bridge and, in any further heavy rain, will block the free flow of water and perhaps cause further damage. Engineers from North Ayrshire Council are investigating.



The collapsed bridge on the Ross Road. 01_B19tweY03

Above: PC Croll, along with his three running colleagues with staff and pupils at Brodick Primary School. Also in the picture is Arran Sergeant Jim Weir, who was not running.

Below: Two of the PCs with the torch in Brodick. 01_B19tweY01 and 01_B19tweY02



As part of the third Dalriada gathering on Arran last week, Skye storyteller George McPherson visited some of the island's primary schools to tell his tall tales of Highland folklore. Here pupils of Brodick primary are all ears. 01_B19tweY04



This mammoth garden shed being built in the lower garden of Brodick Castle, which will be the new base for the castle gardeners, has one considerable oddity. It is being built beside the castle wall but it cannot be touched as it is listed, so the new shed had to be built around it. 01_B18tweY05

Birding in lockdown

We may be in lockdown, but for birds life goes on as normal.

In April migration continued and breeding got under way.

As the bird recorder for Arran Natural History Society, I rely on people sharing their bird observations with me and in lockdown I was heartened not just by the quantity of sightings I received in April but also by the quality of them.

I did wonder what impact the lockdown would have on the number of records received and the number of species seen. April with Easter can be a busy holiday period on the island but not this year. This April there would be no contributions from visiting birders. The contributions from resident birders were, as always, first class.

While the number of species reported was a few down on the average for the last three Aprils – 109 this year compared to average 118 – the number of records was a few hundred up on the average for the last three Aprils – 2,500 this year compared to average 2,100. A possible interpretation is resident birdwatchers, while more restricted in movement than normal, produced more records from their immediate area.

Here is just a small selection of extracts from the many observations shared with me:

'This morning was a joy with four whimbrels right in front of our house on the beach, sandpipers, a heron gliding over the water, gannets diving and resident sparrows nesting – all from our window/garden and on such a beautiful day.'

'I have about five starlings that come to my table for a bath most evenings. I have an old milk churn lid I put water in. It's a joy to watch. Afterwards they sit on the hedge and preen themselves. I have never thought much about starlings but their colours up close are beautiful.'

'While out on our permitted exercise this morning, about 200 metres along the path, we heard our first whitethroat. We also saw it. While we were watching it, we suddenly became aware a grasshopper warbler was reeling nearby. Very satisfactory.'

'Upstream of the bridge and making a racket were five common sandpipers. A lot of displaying almost like vertically clapping wings.'

'Bit of thieving from the otters today...was surprised the

Bird notes by Jim Cassels

carion crow went in first for a quick grab but was ably backed up with the great black-backed gull!

From these shared observations, birds were a source of delight, wonder and solace for many people during these anxious times. Long may that continue.

If you are in a higher-risk group, want to self-isolate or are in lockdown there are many things you can do from the comfort of your own home to remain connected to nature. Here are just a few ideas taken from an excellent article by Dan Rouse on Bird Guides called 'Enjoying wildlife from home: some self-isolation tips'.

Join the BTO Garden BirdWatch. It is free. This scheme monitors the amount of wildlife we see in our gardens, with the prime focus on birds. Sign up via their website. From the same organisation there is also the BTO Nest Recording Scheme. It is more time consuming, but we are not short of time.

Use your technology to find webcams across the world. There is no shortage of these. Here are three different ones: Cornell Lab Feeders in America, Poole Harbour in the UK and African Animals Camera – live video from Africa. The list is endless.

In a similar vein, you can follow the progress of various satellite-tagged birds around the world. The BTO cuckoo project is just one example.

Finally, use this time to improve the organisation of your personal records of the birds you see by making use of online data-sharing sites like BirdTrack and remember to share these with me.

Enjoy your birding and keep safe. Please send bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk.

For more information on birding on Arran buy the Arran Bird Report, The First 40 Years, which includes the annual report for 2019, and visit www.arranbirding.co.uk



Thieving from the otter ... the birds stole its catch. Photograph: Arthur Duncan.



Through the window. Photograph: Angela Cassels.



Starling showing its iridescent colouring. Photograph: Dennis Morrison.

Coronavirus Help is here for those that need it most.

Staying at home stops the spread of coronavirus, and some need extra help.

If you:

- Have received a letter advising you to stay at home for the next 12 weeks
- Are a disabled person
- Receive mental health support
- Have dementia
- Are over 70, pregnant or received the flu vaccine for health reasons

We've created a helpline to assist you with essential things like food deliveries, medication or practical and emotional support.

If you can't get this help from family, friends or neighbours, call now on **0800 111 4000** or textphone 0800 111 4114

Or go to readyscotland.org for more information.



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PUBLIC NOTICES



The Scottish Parliament
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.

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.

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 29.05.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) 20/00317/PP; The Wee House, Alma Road, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Erection of single storey detached bungalow including demolition of existing cottage.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1987

Applications for Listed Building Consent.
20/00331/LBC; Boat House, Dougarie Lodge, Machrie, Brodick; Conservation, repair and internal alteration.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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 - 60-foot holding pen. Includes all joining pins/stakes
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 - 12 x joining pins/stakes
 - 1 x sliding gate

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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 or www.stmoliosshiskine.org.uk

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

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Bishop Brian McGee, of the Catholic Diocese of Argyll
and the Isles, will celebrate Mass daily at 10am from
his Oratory at Bishop's House, Oban.

You can access these Masses and other services, live or
recorded, via the diocesan website www.rcdai.org.uk

If you are not receiving a weekly Parish Bulletin but would
like to do so please email peterdwilko@gmail.com.

Bless O Lord this Isle of Arran
St Roch, patron of the sick, Pray for us
Our Lady of the Isles, Pray for us
St Columba, Pray for us

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

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

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery 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.

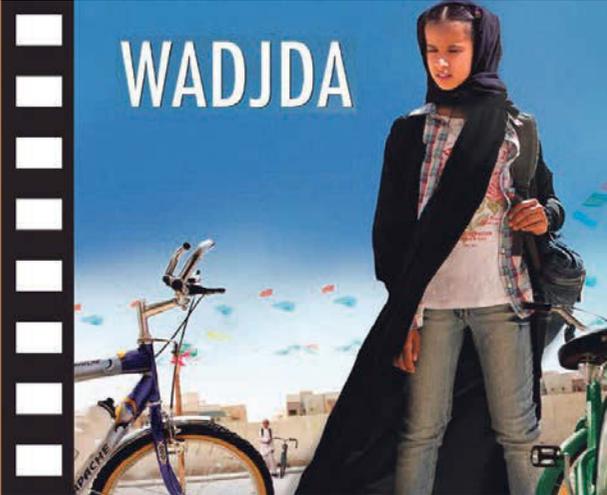
12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Eco Savvy
Presents... **7pm TUESDAY**

SAVVY FILM CLUB

Join us ONLINE
to watch this
inspirational
feature length
film, with
discussion
after!

WADJDA



A poster for next week's Eco Savvy film.

Eco Savvy takes you to the movies

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Eco Savvy invites folks on Arran, and further afield, to join them every Tuesday night for the Savvy Film Club which offers free online film screenings to be enjoyed from the comfort of your own sofa!

The film club has been running for six weeks now and has shown a variety of films, ranging from a shocking documentary about fashion's effects on the world's rivers (you'll never look at a pair of jeans in the same way again!), to a food film which interviewed some of the world's finest chefs taking an inspirational look at transforming food waste into delicious dishes, to a high octane mountain sports film asking how we can experience travel

and nature in a way that considers the environment.

After the film viewers are invited to join an optional discussion online to chat about their thoughts on the film. There has been some lively debate, some shared frustrations and some constructive discussions about how issues might be relevant to Arran.

Next Tuesday's (May 12) film will be the second travel and transport-themed screening, following the last one which looked at how cycling has shaped life and society in the Netherlands (where they have the 'happiest' children in the world).

This week's film, Wadjda, follows the story of a young Saudi girl determined to have a bicycle in a culture that frowns on female cycling.

This is an inspirational and emotional story for all the family.

If you would like to join Eco Savvy online for the next film please email ruth.ecosavvy@gmail.com - you will be sent simple instructions on how to watch the film for free. Please also get in touch if you have any film suggestions or queries.

Visit the Eco Savvy website or facebook page for latest updates: <https://www.facebook.com/arranecosavvy/>

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Will golf courses reopen this month?

Golfers on Arran are hoping that the Scottish government may follow the lead of the UK and other European governments in allowing golf to resume this month.

Golf is likely to be one of the first sports allowed to resume and the R&A has already outlined a set of proposals for golf courses to safely re-open for play including maintaining social distancing.

With UK government expected to announce an easing of coronavirus lockdown restrictions on Sunday, it is thought courses in England and Wales could be allowed to re-open for play from Monday, May 11. However, it is far from certain Scotland will follow suit.

The French Golf Federation has announced that its courses will also be re-opening on May 11, with restrictions expected to be lifted on the same day in Switzerland and Spain.

Meanwhile, both Portugal and New Zealand allowed its golf facilities to resume business earlier this week, and golf courses in Ireland will be allowed to re-open on Monday, May 18.



No gangway at Ardrossan for foot passengers

The passenger access system (PAS) at Ardrossan harbour has been temporarily closed last week until a regular annual inspection can be carried out, writes Hugh Boag.

As a result the small number of foot passengers on the Arran ferry services are having to embark/disembark using the vehicle linkspan, following the supervision of CalMac staff.

The routine safety and main-

tenance inspection, which includes electrical testing and wire rope changes, requires multiple contractors to be on-site to work simultaneously, which cannot be undertaken with current lockdown and social distancing measures in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A spokeswoman for Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) said: 'CalMac is currently operating all ferry

services on a significantly reduced timetable in line with lockdown measures and only essential travel is permitted.

'Only two services per day are operating between Ardrossan and Brodick, Arran. This means there is a vastly reduced volume of passenger and vehicle traffic on ferry services and CMAL and CalMac have assessed that the PAS is not critical at this time.

'The small number of foot

passengers on services will be able to embark/disembark using the vehicle linkspan, following the supervision of CalMac staff.'

CMAL's contractors will be ready to attend to the inspection as soon as this type of activity is permitted.

Meanwhile, the MV Caledonian Isles returned to service on the Ardrossan to Brodick route after engine repairs on Monday.

THE ARRAN BANNER

New Arran arts heritage trail a rare opportunity

Project aims to get visitors to island locations that have inspired artists

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Work on a new Arran Arts Heritage Trail is pressing ahead, despite current lockdown restrictions.

Arran Theatre and Arts Trust has received support from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for the trail which will celebrate Arran's rich arts heritage.

The trail, which it is hoped will be established next year, will be an interactive way for people to travel around the island and visit locations where artists have painted landscapes of Arran.

It will see the creation of an archive, physical place markers, a website and a leaflet.

The trail will make it possible for locals and visitors to visit, learn about and appreciate the locations which have inspired so many prominent artists.

It will be a tourism draw, an educational tool and a chance for the community to come together and learn new skills. A new arts archive will be added to the fantastic collection held at Arran Heritage Museum.

Core to the project, a heritage research group will be recruited to comprise what will be the archive and the detail for the physical trail. Participants in the group will have the opportunity to learn and expand



Arran Theatre and Arts Trust arts co-ordinator Eileen Kerr.

archiving and research skills, working with an experienced researcher to undertake vital research.

Group activities will initially be co-ordinated digitally, with

the aim of meeting in person later in the summer when COVID-19 restrictions are relaxed.

Those interested in getting involved with the research group should contact Simon



'The creation of this heritage trail will help put the island on the radar of the wider arts community and put the talent of local artists on the map.'

Ross-Gill on arranartsheritage@arranbanner.co.uk.

The trust will also be looking for a filmmaker to document the research process and two young people to intern with the website development company.

This project is being funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Arran Trust and is being overseen by the trust, a charity which supports the continual development of the arts on Arran. For more information or to get in touch visit www.arrantheatreandarts.co.uk.

Arran Theatre and Arts Trust arts co-ordinator Eileen Kerr said: 'We're delighted we've

received this support thanks to National Lottery players and through the Arran Trust. This is an exciting and important project for Arran. I'm particularly looking forward to seeing the communities of Arran coming together as part of it.'

Caroline Clark, director Scotland of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: 'The fund wants to inspire as many people as possible to explore and enjoy the heritage around them.'

'The arts heritage trail will do just that, encouraging visitors and locals to discover more of the island's wonderful natural heritage while celebrating its rich contribution to the arts.'

Sheila Gilmore, on behalf of Arran Trust said: 'The Arran Trust is pleased to have been able to offer support to this innovative project which will look at the heritage of arts on Arran. This will offer something unique for visitors and residents.'

Councillor Louise McPhater, cabinet member for communities at North Ayrshire Council, said: 'The launch of the arts heritage trail is fantastic news for Arran.'

'Thanks to the recent funding boost, the creation of this exciting heritage trail will help put the island on the radar of the wider arts community while boosting the economy and putting the talent of inspirational local artists on the map.'

'This really is a rare opportunity to celebrate the cultural and artistic heritage of Arran while working together with the extended community to promote one of North Ayrshire's most idyllic tourist spots.'



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**

www.arranbanner.co.uk

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