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How does Arran's economy recover from COVID-19?

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A plan to ease Arran out of lockdown could see businesses opening to islanders first and ahead of any visitors coming from the mainland.

This Arran for Arran approach could give businesses the chance for a 'soft' opening as it is widely accepted that residents on the island, which has a significant elderly population, have a genuine anxiety of an uncontrolled influx of visitors.

Some businesses are already tentatively opening their doors, including bakers Wooleys, Sliderry Supplies and The Parlour for takeaways. However with tourism contributing £69 million directly and indirectly to the Arran economy, if the island remains closed, 80 per cent of this could be lost and many businesses could collapse.

What is of most concern is daytrippers flocking to the island. However, it emerged



this week that capacity on the MV Caledonian Isles could be as low as 17 per cent meaning that only 170 passengers would be allowed on each sailing, although this has not been confirmed by CalMac.

It is amid all this uncertainty

that a bid is now being made to give residents a say in an island-wide online survey which has been produced for people to record their views on a wide range of topics including, just when and how, the island should open up to visitors.

It comes following the welcome news that there has been no COVID-19 cases recorded on Arran for more than five weeks.

The survey has been produced by representatives from Arran Economic Group, Arran

Council grass cutting resumed this week in Brodick with the magnificent backdrop of Goatfell and the Arran mountains.

01_B22covid01

Community Council, Arran Community for Voluntary Service, Arran Health and Social Care Partnership, Arran Eco Savvy, and VisitArran have been meeting online to discuss how best to move forward.

In a statement the group said: 'Arran is an extremely resilient and caring island environment and the community is to be congratulated for adhering to the medical guidelines, and handling the situation in such a way as to minimise risk to others. However, following the Scottish Government's route map out of the crisis, some restrictions on Arran will/can be lifted, and a level of normality will slowly return.

'For Arran this is a careful balance between community, environment and economy,

especially if we are to open the island up to others.

'As islanders we want to enjoy the safety and beauty that Arran offers, and others will wish to do likewise. Indeed, Arran has a reputation for providing a welcoming environment for everyone, but any island-to-island, or mainland-to-island interaction needs to be managed, positively, responsibly and without division. It is vital that we appreciate and respect there will be differing views.

'To this end, some key island organisations are collaborating on a proposed plan to take Arran forward and through the route map, taking account of the needs of the community, economy and environment, all of which help to make our island the special place it is. Whilst Government agencies will be able to provide input and support as necessary, it is absolutely key that they respond to the Arran residents'

Continued on page two

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New measures in place when coup reopens

North Ayrshire Council has revealed its plans for operating Arran's Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) in Brodick, when it reopens on Monday June 1, writes Hugh Boag.

As reported in last week's Banner, Brodick coup will be among the first recycling centres in Scotland to reopen to the public following a nationwide closure in early April. It's reopening forms part of the Scottish Government's proposed measures to ease the country out of lockdown. However, the plans are subject to ongoing national monitoring of the reproduction rate of COVID-19.

Brodick HWRC opening times will operate as standard: 9am-3pm Monday-Friday, 9am-12noon Saturday and closed Sunday.

However, as demand is



The Brodick coup will open its gates on Monday. 01_B15waste01

expected to be extremely high, the council is urging only those who absolutely need to dispose of excess waste to visit during the initial days of opening.

There will also be some changes on site to ensure physical distancing to keep customers and staff safe.

These include limiting the number of vehicles permitted on site as well as arrangements

to ensure that everyone keeps a two-metre distance from each other at all times and follows the signs and markings that will be located across the recycling centre.

There will also be hand sanitiser stations available which customers will be encouraged to use on arrival at the site.

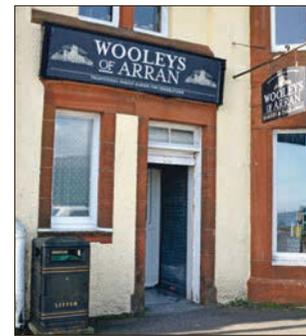
No vans or trailers will be permitted on site until demand eases and there will be

no pedestrian access allowed.

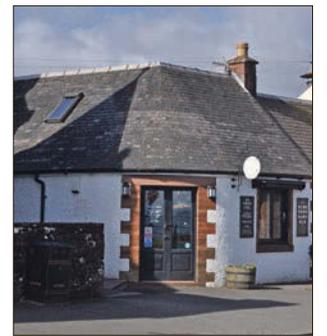
There will be some temporary restrictions on the type of items that will be accepted.

The following can be disposed of straight away: general waste, garden waste, wood and scrap metal, whereas, acceptance of other items will be delayed until demand eases and there is sufficient sailing capacity to transport the material to the mainland for final disposal. These are: soil/rubble, white goods – customers can use the special uplift service for these items, electrical items, household batteries, oil, cardboard and gas bottles.

The council has also resumed grounds maintenance this week. The first priority has been parks and promenades, and some verges with limited sight lines, but other communal grass cutting has also started.



Bakers Wooleys, left, has reopened, with the The Parlour open for takeaways, right. 01_B22covid02 and B22covid03



How does Arran's economy recover from COVID-19?

Continued from page one

definition of what is required.

'Ultimately, if this plan is to reflect the strength of feeling on Arran, the group can do nothing without feedback from you, the islanders.

'Everyone can play a central role in this planning process by taking part in the survey, and any further developments will be fed back to the community through the agencies involved and, of course, the Arran Banner,' the statement added.

Paper copies of the survey are also being distributed

and these can be handed into Bay Kitchen & Stores in Whiting Bay, A&C Cameron in Blackwaterfoot, Pirnmill Stores, or any branch of the Co-op. This can also be done also via volunteers through the community hub if that is easier – 01770 600532.

The survey is now live on the Discover Arran website but only for a limited time as it is hoped to compile the survey results after Monday, June 1. Have your say at: www.discoverarran.com

Where does Arran go from here? Turn to page nine.

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MSP raises concerns with First Minister

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

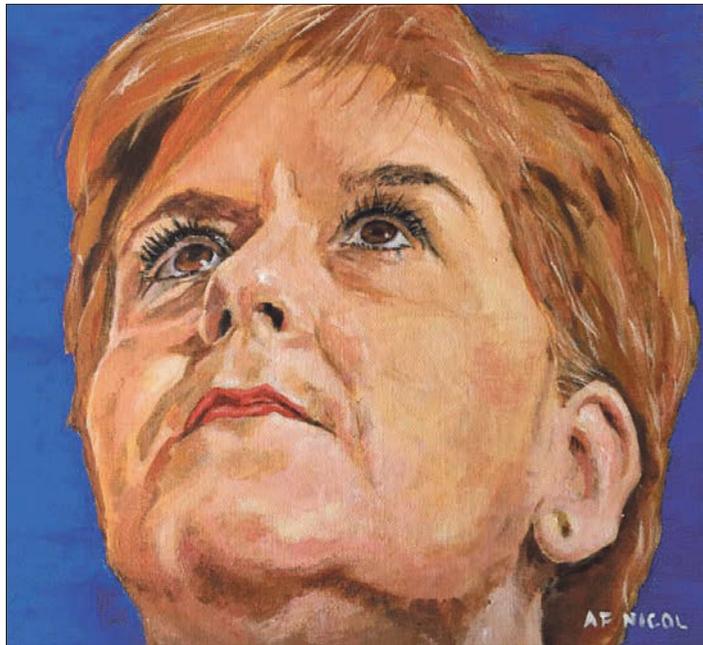


Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson said he had received 'numerous' emails from Arran constituents worried about the easing of lockdown.

He told the Banner: 'I believe it is an issue which will continue to concern many islanders in the days and weeks ahead.'

And he raised the matter at First Ministers questions last week when he asked: 'First Minister, given the demographic fragility of Scotland's island and rural populations, health must remain the primary consideration as the lockdown eases.'

'Many holiday home owners are, understandably, champing at the bit to visit their properties, however many of my island constituents feel that unleashing thousands of holiday home owners and day-trippers from mainly urban areas into their communities will undoubtedly carry the risk of local flare-ups of the virus and even potential animosity. There is little support among island



A painting of First Minister Nicola Sturgeon by Ayrshire artist Alistair Nicol.

able information will be important.

'The general principle of people staying within their community and locality is important because, over the next phase, we do not want to see tourist spots flooded with people out for day trips. I want to be very clear and specific about that. The virus is always looking for bridges to hop across and the more people there are together in crowded places, the more chance that it has of doing that. It is important that people stick to the advice that we are giving, even as that advice evolves through the different phases.'

A Scottish Government spokesman told the Banner: 'We are continuing to carefully consider how best to plan for the restart and long-term recovery of Scotland's hospitality and tourism industries which are so important economically and socially for everyone who lives here and who visits Scotland.'

residents for visitor restrictions being lifted soon. What precautions will be taken to protect rural and island communities as the lockdown

eases and tourists and second-home owners from across the UK begin to return?' The First minister replied: 'That is where having locally avail-

Chamber hosts business talks

Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce brought over 40 Arran businesses together twice this month as part of a series of online events looking at the challenges currently facing island businesses and how they can prepare to come out of lockdown.

The events were held on by video conference with a great panel of speakers including community volunteer Sheila Gilmore, Alastair Dobson of Arran Dairies and John McGuire from North Ayrshire Council.

Afterwards Alastair said: 'The events were a great opportunity to join up business and community leaders on Arran to both share their very real and current issues and to look at opportunities for recovery when appropriate. Arran has a fantastic community as has been further proven over the last few weeks of pandemic lockdown. Hopefully this online and interactive way of meeting will help us all in the future. Thanks to the chamber team for pulling us together and hosting.'

The group also heard from Sean Connaughton of Auditel, who shared advice on getting plans in place for re-opening your business.

Val Russell, CEO of Ayrshire Chamber concluded: 'What a fantastic response we had to these events. It was great to see so many organisations taking part and we hope they found it useful.'

'We are looking forward to visiting the island again soon and can't wait until we can actually do it again in person.'

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.

Last day at high school

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The head teacher of Arran High School Barry Smith leaves his desk for the last time today (Friday).

Mr Smith, who has been the head teacher for five and half years, had told pupils and parents that he was leaving in early March but with the subsequent closure of the school during lockdown it was then not clear just when he would leave. He has taken up the post of head teacher of the Northwest Community Campus, a school with pupils aged two to 18 in Dumfries.

He first took up his post on Arran in August 2014 following his promotion to head teacher. Married to wife Karen, he and his family came to Arran from Kilwinning Academy where he was a deputy head teacher. He brought new ideas and working practices into the school and built positive relationships with the community. He has supported many activities in the school, including school shows, concerts, fashion shows and charity events. One of the highlights of his time at the school was hosting the Scottish Government cabinet meeting.

He has been a driving force in supporting sporting activity in the school and as a result the campus has won



numerous awards, including the prestigious Sports Scotland Gold Sports Award. In addition, Mr Smith spent many of his weekends taking trips to the mainland for primary and secondary pupils to take part in triathlon and cross country events, enabling the students to take part on an equal footing.

He has a passion for outdoor pursuits and has built a posi-

tive relationship with various community groups and the school: during his stewardship he has encouraged and supported the mountain bike club and he has been instrumental in helping to build a very successful junior triathlon club while he has been on Arran.

During his time as head teacher, Mr Smith has focused on building a strong staff team



Barry was happy to throw himself into activities and is seen here, left, in full RNLI gear; and above, Provost Ian Clarkson visited Arran High School in February 2018 where he congratulated the Active Schools young leaders and head teacher Barry Smith on being finalists in the Provost Civic Pride Awards.

across the early years, primary and high school who have worked together to deliver the school values which have enhanced both curricular and extra-curricular activities for all of our young people. In fact, one of his first actions was to encourage all staff to take part in an outdoor day as a team building exercise in conjunction with the Arran Outdoor Centre; some have never quite got over it!

A statement issued by the

school said: 'All the staff, students and parents of Arran High School, Lamlash Primary and Lamlash Early Years would like to congratulate Barry Smith on his new appointment in Dumfries. He will be greatly missed by all after taking the school forward over the last five and a half years. He is leaving us with a positive inspection report following the recent inspection of the High School by HMiE in February.'

'Barry has been an integral part of the island community and his commitment to the young people of Arran High School has ensured that they have received both a high quality educational experience and a positive destination when they leave. All his colleagues, past and present wish him well.'

Mrs Susan Foster will take on the role of acting head teacher until the post can be advertised.

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ool for Barry



A proud day for Barry when First Minister Nicola Sturgeon brought the Scottish cabinet meeting to Arran High School.



Barry at his desk shortly after arriving at the school.

Supporting social care workers

Extra financial support will be provided in the event of illness or death to social care workers in Scotland during the coronavirus emergency.

More than 85 per cent of care workers in Scotland work for private companies or charitable providers of care, who are responsible for their own employees. However, the SNP Government has stepped in to provide additional fund-

ing to ensure all social care workers receive enhanced sick pay if they test positive for COVID-19.

If any social care worker without death in service cover in their contracted pension arrangements dies, the Scottish Government will provide a one-off payment of £60,000 to a named survivor.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'In recognition

of the current exceptional circumstances and to ensure social care workers are given the support they deserve, Scottish Ministers will develop a funded scheme for care workers in respect of sick pay and death-in-service benefits.

'Scottish ministers will continue to work with local government, social care providers and trades unions on further details of the plans.'



If you need help to pay for a loved one's funeral and receive certain benefits, you can apply for Funeral Support Payment. It's a one-off payment towards burial or cremation costs and more. People typically receive around £1500 in financial support and you can apply after a person has died until 6 months after the date of their funeral.

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Or call our specially trained team on

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Social Security Scotland
Tèarainteachd Shòisealta Alba

LETTERS

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

Recovery plan

How does Arran emerge from the COVID-19 crisis is the question on everyone's lips.

The coronavirus pandemic has effectively closed travel and tourism worldwide. It is unlikely that all restrictions will be lifted before a vaccine is available. Best estimates for this remain at 12 to 18 months.

But some restrictions are being lifted, and a level of trade and travel will return, but it is reasonable to assume that people will want a safe environment and open space.

Arran is potentially well placed to take advantage of this but providing and projecting this safe environment will be a very large box to tick for communities and the visitors they may want to attract. Putting it very starkly, communities and visitors need to feel sure their interaction, will not inadvertently kill them.

Arran's strength in community, environment, business infrastructure adds up to Arran as a special place, which in turn is the basis of tourism. Each area above, needs a co-ordinated plan to address the basic safety concern as well as determine the new normal. This will allow Arran to manage and finally exit the current crisis in a stronger position than when we entered it.

Any recovery plan must balance the three main strands of island life, community, environment and economy through each stage of recovery, underpinned by national and local health guidance and support.

Any plan must show how the community can be both safe and sustainable with managed risk.

Thought for the week

'Sing a new song to the Lord; he has done wonderful things! By his own power and holy strength he has won the victory.'
Psalm 98:1

GETINTOUCH

email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk
telephone 01770 302142

Castle closure concern

Sir,
Once again Arran shoots itself in the foot, this time by accepting Brodick Castle will remain closed when lockdown restrictions have eased, Arran Banner May 15 issue.

Do those in responsible positions on the island not realise and understand that Brodick Castle with all its history and wonderful interesting exhibits is the one, if not the main, holiday attraction and place of interest on the island?

I appreciate the castle is under the jurisdiction of the National Trust for Scotland and that finance is limited. But do these people not realise that if they shut the castle once again, as they did last year while it was being upgraded, they are jeopardising the future of Arran as a holiday island. Wandering around the beautiful gardens does not make up for a visit to the castle.

I am sure a request for Arran folk to act as volunteers would attract support and enable the castle to open at least at the weekends. I read in the Banner MSP Kenneth Gibson raised a question in the Scottish Parliament but the 'throw away' answer he received from the First Minister was a polite way of saying 'do not bother me I have more important things to attend to' and thus nothing will be done unless a much stronger voice is heard from the people of Arran who must not allow the problem to be 'swept under the carpet'.

I only have a holiday home on the island, but as a family we have been coming to Arran for many years prior to being fortunate enough to acquire our cottage 15 years ago and I do so much want to see this beautiful island (God's island) prosper and not go into decline due to a lack of understanding by those who govern the island of Arran from the mainland.

Yours, Jack Cowan, Catacol.

No cackling

Sir,
Andy McNamara (Arran Banner, letters May 22) worries about London wielding an undue political influence. The latest official figures for the UK's constituent parts show that Londoners, more than anyone else, put more into the country's pot per head than they take out (nearly £4,500 per head per year net and the gap's growing). Only those in the South East and East of England join them as net contributors.

I'm not sure they seek our thanks but Geordies (me), Celts, Scousers and the rest might occasionally acknowledge it. Churchill is much quoted these days. He praised Blechley Park

as 'the goose that laid the golden egg and never cackled'. We might like to reflect that London doesn't cackle as much as it could.

Yours, Nigel Armstrong, Whiting Bay.

Business sacrifice

Sir,
Arran ferry committee has requested the Essential Lifeline Timetable be extended (Arran Banner May 22).

As I understand, the Ferry Committee does not speak for the people and businesses of Arran in regard to the COVID-19 lockdown and how and when it should be lifted. This is the remit of the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland. It is ironic this request has been readily complied with when many of the improvements sought by the ferry committee and the the Arran Ferry Action Group are not implemented or happen at a glacial pace.

A high proportion of businesses and recreational facilities on Arran survive only because of summer tourist trade and unless these businesses salvage some of this trade they will not survive. Irrespective of whether one agrees with the lockdown, and the scientific modelling it was based on, it will be phased out.

Rather than proposing extended restrictions, the ferry committee and CalMac should be working together to devise how the ferry service will operate safely as restrictions are lifted. This will probably require higher frequency sailings with reduced occupancy to accommodate social distancing. Likewise, businesses of Arran know the restrictions will end at some point and should be working to devise new safe operating procedures.

For islanders concerned by the prospect of more visitors, it should be recognised COVID-19 is not a severe disease for a very large proportion of the people infected. Unfortunately for a small minority it is a serious disease. People in high risk categories, all over Scotland, need to take responsibility for their own safety. Sacrificing island businesses is not the way.

Yours, Dr Douglas Graham, Whiting Bay.

Hidden cross

Sir,
As my son Michael and I returned from a walk round Shiskine golf course recently we passed close to the sports field entrance and Michael saw a cross on the field entrance post. We have passed this way for 40 years and never seen it before. I have not found any other resident who has seen it. It must have been there around 50 years or more. Where was it originally? Who

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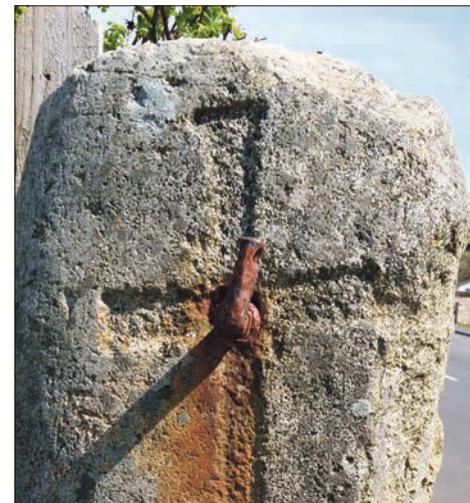
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made it? Who moved it and when? I would love to have answers to these questions and wonder if any readers can help.

Yours, Vic Iutz, Blackwaterfoot.



The Blackwaterfoot cross.

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To help people at increased risk access essential help if they do not have family or other support.

Health

www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus
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Call NHS 24 on 111 for advice if symptoms worsen or if fever is ongoing after 7 days

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Relay UK: 18001 0300 123 1100

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Helping in your community

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SAVE LIVES**

Fundraising ceilidhs off

There will be no summer ceilidhs this year to help boost the funds of Brodick Improvements Committee.

The ceilidhs, held weekly in Brodick hall over the summer, are always popular with visitors but the committee has decided they would be impractical to hold this year.

There is still an outside chance the fundraising beach barbecue could still go ahead in August, depending on how far social distancing restrictions have been eased by then.

Meanwhile islanders, and those elsewhere, can still support the work of Brodick Improvements Committee by joining the 200 Club. It costs just £20 a year and one lucky member wins £50 each month. The 200 Club winner for May is Mary Bucks of Lee-on-the-Solent, Hampshire.

Anyone interested in joining should email bic.contactus@btinternet.com

The committee is also one of the nominated charities for the Co-op community fund this year and residents can sign up to support them on the Co-op website.

Facemasks for Arran winds up operations

Facemasks for Arran is winding up its operations after producing more than 1,500 free masks for distribution on the island.

With facemasks now more widely available to buy, the sewing group is finishing up the masks it has in progress and is no longer taking requests for masks. The online request form has also been closed.

Organiser Barb Taub said that since facemasks could now be ordered for quick delivery, the group didn't feel their work is so urgent.

'Our goal has always been to put ourselves out of business and we think that time has come. We have had a wonderful time making these masks. Our team of volunteers has given selflessly of their time, creativity, energy and expertise. I and all of Arran owe

them a huge debt and heartfelt thank you,' Barb added.

The remaining masks have been divided between Book & Card in Brodick, Bay Stores in Whiting Bay and the Harbour Shop in Blackwaterfoot. They will be free while supplies last.

Also, if anyone wants a 10-mask kit - fabric, nose-bridge wire and links to downloadable pattern and directions - they can email barbtaub@gmail.com. Still no charge while supplies last, but they might have to provide their own nose-bridge shaping wire if they run out of current supplies. Facemasks are also being made by well-known Arran artist Angela Elliott-Walker and other Arran volunteers with all profits going to the Arran Trust: <https://angela-elliott-walker.co.uk/artwork-shop/Facemasks-c50678732>



Carolyn McDonald and her daughter Kerry-Jane Darling Hunter working on Facemasks for Arran in their garden.

Isle of
ARRAN
Cheese Shop

LOADS OF BARGAINS

View loads of bargain boxes on our web and facebook pages



To order call 302788
then come and collect or we can deliver



Local's cheeseboard £15

WIN

A £50 Kinloch restaurant voucher
for when they re-open.

Everyone who orders for collection or delivery on Arran will be entered into a draw for a £50 Kinloch voucher. Competition ends 30th June.

www.arrancheese.com



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TIMBER SUPPLIES



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PAINTS



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Where does Arran go from here?

Asks North Ayrshire councillor Timothy Billings, Conservative member for Arran and Ardrossan

Getting into lockdown was, in hindsight, relatively easy. We shut up shop, took the computer home, listened to the news with growing concern, made contact with our neighbours – and waited.

We now have a route map through and out of the crisis outlining how we could ease the restrictions and get back some semblance of normality without risking our own and others' lives. The final six pages have some detail about what could be allowed during the various phases, but after reading them one starts to think: 'Yes, but what will that really look like?'

We will all need a clear vision on what all this means for us at home and at work. But there are two overriding factors that will influence everything that happens up to phase three and most likely in four as well:

Social distancing will be maintained – that is 2m apart with face coverings in enclosed places.

Public transport will operate with social distancing thereby limiting capacity – ie the ferry.

Anyone who resides on Arran knows the ability to travel freely on and off the island on the ferry is hugely important. Residents need to get off for all sorts of reasons and the vast majority of our businesses and trades rely on visitors for their income. Anything that disrupts this movement is of concern. Well it's about to get worse than we ever imagined.

Michael Matheson, cabinet secretary for transport, stated this week that ferry capacity

is likely to be less than 20 per cent of normal to allow for social distancing on the ferries during the route map phases. In addition getting on and off the ferry will take longer as we will need to have 2m between each person. Longer times in port could mean less ferries each day.

This raises questions about how many people will the ferry be able to carry? What will the new timetable be with the increased loading times? What will the allocation of tickets be? Will we need to book foot passenger spaces in advance? Will residents, supply deliveries, workers, healthcare, tourists get allocations or priorities? Will there be day trippers to the island?

We on Arran have been fortunate that the absence of visitors has greatly reduced demand on our essential services. Access to food is (mostly) easy and stress free, we can get prompt phone appointments with the doctor and a huge range of local shops deliver to our door.

However, as visitors boost Arran's population, what impact will that have on services such as healthcare and food shopping?

A dramatic rise in population may not be a problem while the ferry capacity is limited, but identifying and understanding the issues is essential before planning steps for opening up Arran.

Within our business communities, work must start now to fully understand what the route map is saying. For example, what will reduced

food serving capacity within restaurants, hotels, guest houses and pubs mean? How many breakfasts, lunches or evening meals can be served? Will menus have to change? What staff will be needed and

will there be enough business to make it economically viable?

The answer to all these things will be different for each business, large and small, but many will link back to social

distancing and ferry capacity.

The route map sets out the direction of travel, but what the countryside looks like along the way is not yet clear.

We must be pressing for clarity on each issue within

the route map so that as we move from phase to phase, we have assurance the needs of residents and businesses are taken into account and that there is a safe, orderly and fair reopening of Arran.

Anyone 5 years and over, who is displaying symptoms of coronavirus, can now get tested.

If you have a high temperature, persistent cough, or loss, or change, of taste or smell, you can now get a test.

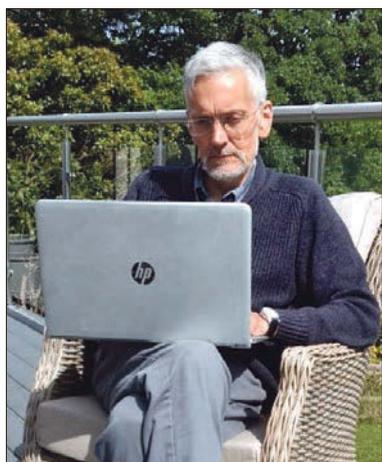
You can book a slot at a drive-through testing centre.

Or request a test kit to be delivered to your home.

If you have symptoms, you should only leave your house to go for a test.

Otherwise, you should follow self-isolation guidelines and stay at home for 7 days. And anyone in your household should stay in for 14 days.

To find out more and book your test go to www.nhs.uk/coronavirus
If you can't get online, call 0300 303 2713.



Councillor Timothy Billings at work in the garden of his home on Arran.



CORONAVIRUS
STAY HOME
PROTECT
THE NHS
SAVE LIVES



Davy with the looming heights of the Drumadoon ahead of him.

All photographs: Fraser Aitchison



All photographs by Fraser Aitchison.



Top left, Davy makes good pace as he heads for Blackwaterfoot in the distance; right, Davy makes his way through Pirnmill; below, Davy has a well-earned rest.

Big Davy's challenge is no barrel of...

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Big Davy's round Arran barrel challenge has already raised more than £4,300 for the Samaritans but it is proving tough going.

He has now completed more than half his challenge to walk the entire 70-mile Arran Coastal Way carrying a 50kg (8st) whisky barrel, but injuries and some tough terrain have made it difficult and he will not complete the challenge in the original 10 days as planned, but is still going strong.

Davy is raising money and awareness of the Samaritans who are facing a funding crisis due to the pressure on their services in these most difficult of times.

He has been keeping a daily diary which he is posting on Facebook and here we cover the first six days.

Day 1

Very difficult first day, at the



Davy had a tough start getting the barrels over the big boulders at the sound end of the island.

Black Cave. Caught by the tide as well. Had to wait for an hour for the tide to go down.

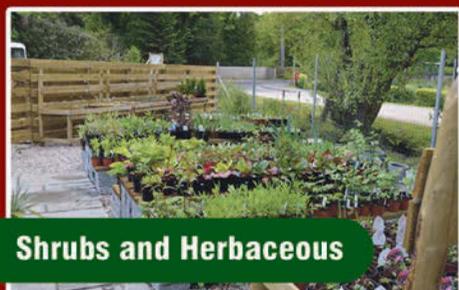
Very slippery and dangerous on the rocks. Had to drag the barrel that bit. Too dangerous to carry it on my back. Had to stop 2 mile short due to a

problem with the strap. So, done five mile.

Day 2

Quite a good day. Got from Shannochie to Slidery. Done about six miles but slowed down having to cross two rivers. Current was quite

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email: cladachsawmill@btinternet.com

www.cladachsawmill.com

Delivery service available if required



Davy gets some social distancing company on the road as he heads to Dougarie.



Top, Davy negotiates slippery rocks at Cosy Den; and above, he has had to encounter some tricky tidal waters on his trek.

Challenge of laughs

strong in the second river, and the barrel took in quite a lot of water. Feeling better than yesterday. Looking forward to tomorrow.

Day 3

A good day today. Done about six miles. Got to Blackwaterfoot. Had to go over the road a bit. Right calf muscle is painful due to a little accident two weeks ago, and small injuries are building up. Still looking forward to tomorrow.

Day 4

We had a difficult but good day. The sun was shining. Lots of different terrain to cross, from deep sand to very rocky terrain. Got passed the Kings Caves. Then we got halted by the high tide. Had to wait for a couple of hours, then finally got by.

We can't go again til Monday. Tomorrow a storm is coming in. I'll be glad to have a few days rest to let the injuries heal.

After celebrating his 59th birthday, Monday got off to

the good start when Big Davy's barrel challenge was featured on STV's Good Morning Scotland programme. Back on the road it was ...

Day 5

Feeling better, feeling a bit stronger. Enjoying the pain more, stepping up a gear. Started about a mile before Cosy Den this morning. Which was very rocky, slippy and slow going. Had to go up the track to the main road because of the rivers. Walked over the road to Imachar.

Day 6

Another beautiful day. Everything went great. Enjoyed seeing a family of otters swimming in the sea. Made good progress. Went from Imachar to just beyond Pirnmill. Feeling good for tomorrow. Thanks a lot for the support everyone.

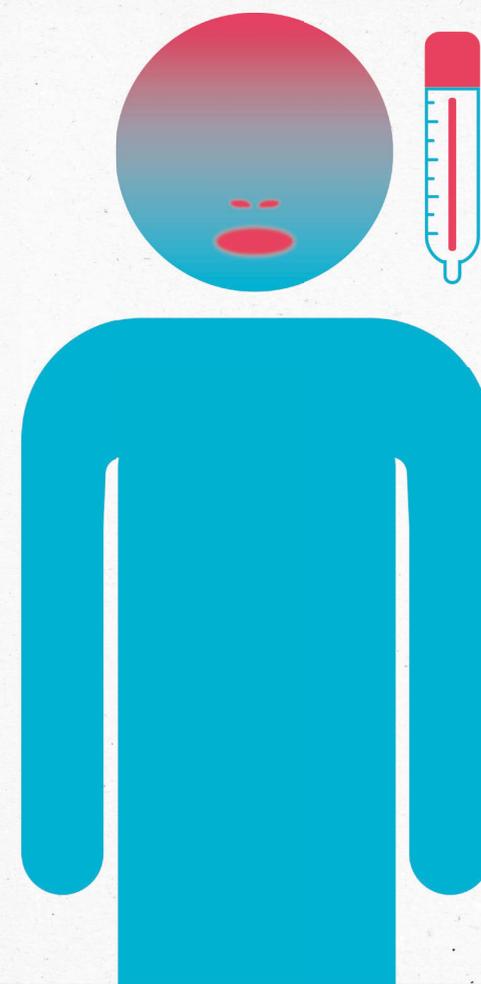
Anyone who wishes to donate can do so at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/davy-ballantyne3>

A loss or change in taste or smell could be a sign of coronavirus.

Evidence shows there are now three recognisable symptoms of coronavirus. If you experience a high temperature, a continuous cough, or a loss of, or change in taste or smell, you should not leave the house for 7 days. Others in your house should not leave the home for 14 days.

For more information visit www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

**COUGH. FEVER.
LOSS OF TASTE OR SMELL.**
STAY AT HOME. GET TESTED.



CORONAVIRUS
**STAY HOME
PROTECT
THE NHS
SAVE LIVES**



Arran in a Day raises vital

Arran High School pupils have helped raise nearly £1,000 for Arran Foodbank by taking part in an Arran in a Day challenge.

The students each ran, cycled or walked at least 6kms – collectively covering more than 90kms – the distance around Arran. They initially hoped to raise more than £100 but the total already stands at £930 and is still climbing, exceeding all expectations.

Taking part were: Kaitlyn Haddow, Reuben Bowers, Jemma Totty, Harry

Gilmore – along with his brothers Alfie and Charlie – Annie West, Annie McKelvie, Harriet Lucas, Megan Green, Brandon Owens, Rhiannon Gardiner, Cameron McNeish, Lewis Gregg and Oscar Urquhart-Dixon.

Challenge

Holly Campbell-Thomson, who is only five years old, also took part with her mum Lyndsay, who teaches history at the school. Organisers Mrs Eileen Gregg, Lyndsay Campbell-Thomson and Mrs Jen Christie also completed the challenge.

Mrs Christie said: ‘The current amount raised stands at £930. I cannot believe it. Eileen and I are most grateful for the willingness of the pupils to take part and the generosity of the community, which has been outstanding.’

All the youngsters who took part will be awarded with a Saltire Award for volunteering when school starts back in August.

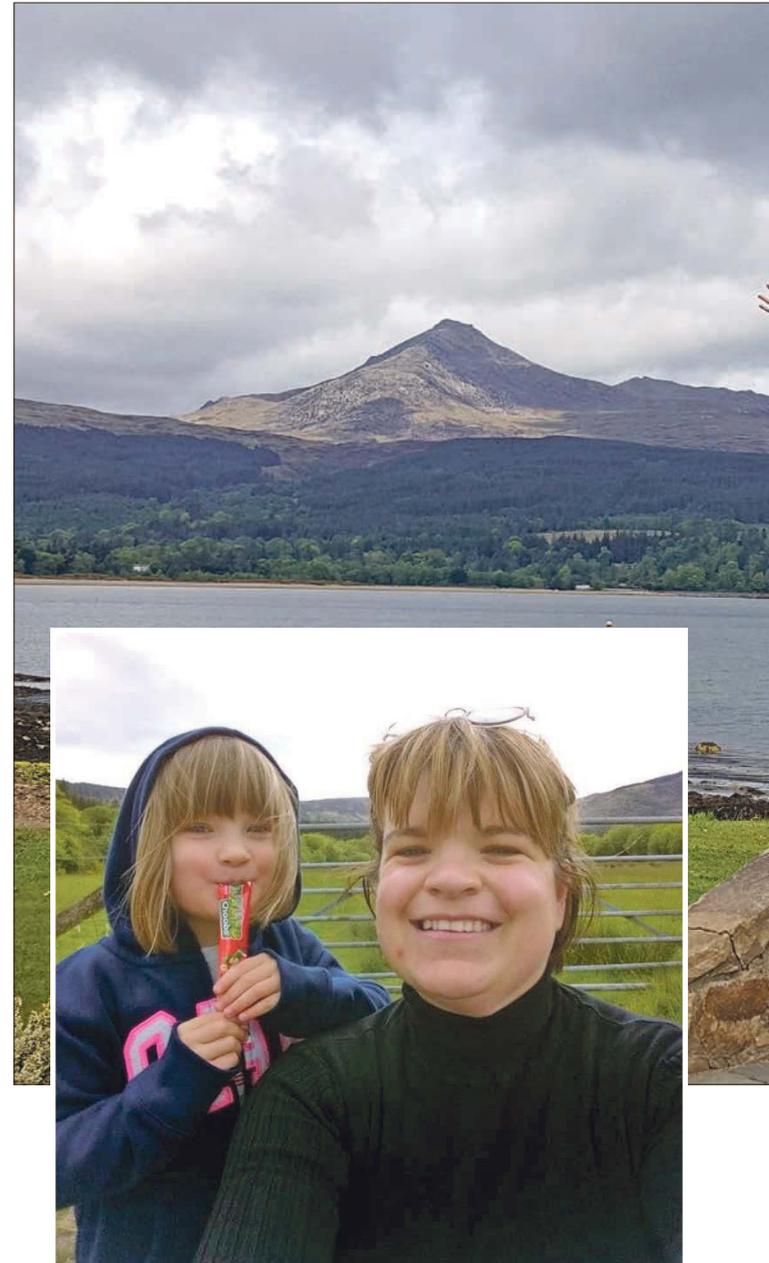
There is still time to donate at www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/arran-foodbank



Brandon Owens walked from Corrie to Sannox and back.



First year pupil Harry Gilmore with his brothers Alfie and Charlie during their charity walk.



Reuben Bowers cycled 10kms from Lagg to Corriearvie.



Oscar Urquhart-Dixon got on his bike for the challenge.

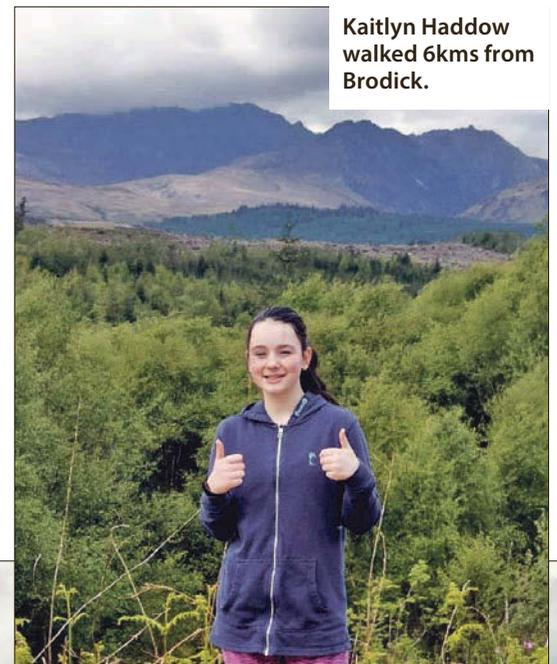


Annie West ran 6kms in Whiting

cash for foodbank



Jemma Totty walked 6kms in Lamlash



Kaitlyn Haddow walked 6kms from Brodick.

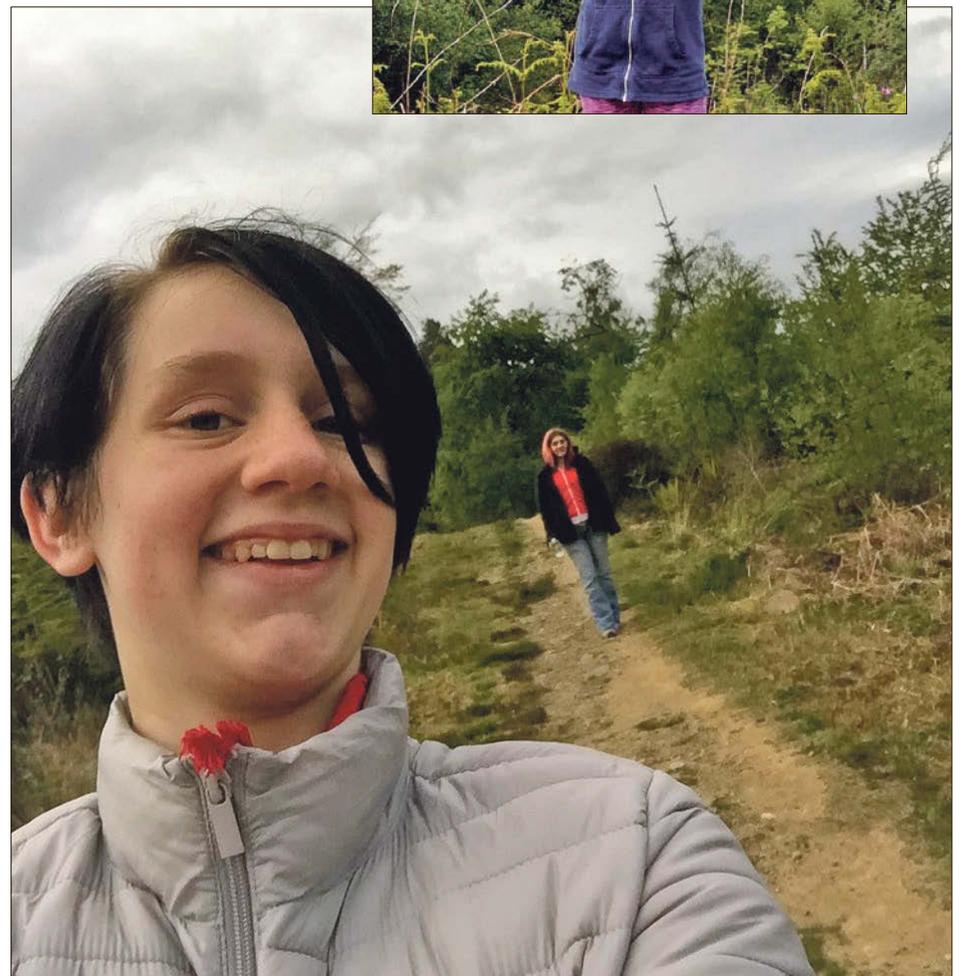
Rhianon Gardiner got on her bike for the challenge.

YOURSTORY
emailusateditor@arranbanner.co.uk
telephone 01770 302142

Above: Annie McKelvie, who ran more than four miles around Brodick, jumps for joy. Left: Holly Campbell-Thomson, aged five, took part with mum Lyndsay.



Lewis Gregg who took part with his mum Eileen.



Megan Green walked nearly six miles around Lamlash.

A message to all local businesses...

Advertising in the Arran Banner, in print and online, is the most effective way to reach out and speak to the people of Arran.

Did you know?

- The Arran Banner's average issue total readership is over 8'000 (there are just over 4000 adults on Arran!)
- The Arran Banner appeared in the Guinness Book of Records in 1984 for its 97% household penetration.
- In 2018, The Arran Banner was named as one of only three newspapers in Scotland with a rise in circulation.
- The Arran Banner is 46 years old!
- The Arran Banner has over 5,000 Facebook followers
- The Arran Banner website had 102% more page views in May 2020 than May 2019.
- Local media – in print and online – is the most effective combination for driving consumer action.
- Local press is globally regarded as the most trusted source for local news and information.

*source: Jicreg/ABC

When you are ready to rebuild and re-address your local target market, we will be there with low-cost advertising packages that include print advertising, website and social media marketing. We have devised advertising, advertorial and digital packages that make it very affordable – we will work to every budget. We will also fulfil all your design needs - for free.

Get in touch with Nicky Murphy on 01631 568014 or email nmurphy@obantimes.co.uk to find out what we can do to help your business's message be heard loud and clear.

We know just how tough it is to be in business right now.

When your doors reopen and you are ready to start building on the promotion of your shops, restaurants, products and services, we will be right behind you.

THE ARRAN BANNER



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 5pm and 7pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday (please do not go to the centre, phone on 01770 830637/615). Payment should be made through their just giving page. Phone for details. They can pick up shopping for people from Pirnmill Stores or the Co-op if you phone the stores direct and place the order. For any other assistance anyone in Pirnmill /Lochranza /Catacol can phone the centre and they will try to 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

Brodick shop reopen. Home delivery and pre-order for collection still available. Tel 302280 or contact via Facebook messenger.

The Parlour, Brodick

Reopened with new opening hours. Wed-Sun 4pm-8pm. Free delivery available in Brodick. Orders can be placed via Facebook messenger out-with opening hours. Call 303823 to place your order.

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

Homemade frozen meals for collection, complete with easy instructions for heating at home. Open seven days a week, 3-6pm. Menu and Daily Specials displayed on Facebook and on our door at The Shore. Gift Vouchers also available. 01770 700161 www.theshorearran.co.uk

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 Kildonan 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. Order via telephone on 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.

Sliderry Supplies

Reopen with COVID-19 safety measures in place. For those unable to come to the store, deliveries will continue once a week. Tel 870225 or email: sliderrysupplies@yahoo.com

Brendarran Electricals

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

Bay Petrol, Brodick

Monday, Tuesday 9am-1pm, Wednesday closed, Thursday 9am-1pm, Friday -1pm-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm. Sunday closed.

Lamlash Garage - John Thomson Engineering

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

Thomson Construction Ltd

The yard at Lamlash will be open for fuel and building materials as follows: Materials 8am-8.30am Mon-Fri. Fuel 4pm-4.30pm Mon-Fri.

Strict social distancing measures apply. Card payments only. Please note our main office is still closed so if you require a VAT invoice for materials this can be posted out upon request.

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 Kildonan. 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

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

Arran Foodbank

If in crisis, Brodick Church 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.

The day my brother Duncan waved to a German bomber

Our Holidays of Bygone Days spotlight prompted a number of submissions from readers which we will be featuring in the coming weeks. This week reader Ian McPhedran of Bearsden shares his wartime memories on Arran – including a close encounter with a German bomber.

We went to Arran for our holidays for the month of July every year of my life and my family went even before I was born.

We went during the Second World War as well, to a rented house on Craig's farm in Corriecravie near the nine-hole pre-war golf course and the Neuk, an isolated house close to the first tee. The course was ploughed up in the war era and has never returned.

At one point in wartime, the ferries were moved from Ardrossan to Gourrock and the Glen Sannox ferry over to Arran had cables put round the sides to magnetise her and repel German magnetic mines which were dropped in harbours to sink ships.

A patrol Swordfish aircraft went past the house every morning and, from memory, I did a painting of the scene which I donated to Arran Heritage Museum.

I also saw two German planes while on Arran. The first flew very low past my older brother and myself on a clifftop in Corriecravie and I saw immediately what it was, but Duncan started to wave at it, thinking it was one of ours which we had

'I had dropped down to the ground and Duncan asked me why I was doing that. I said: 'Why are you waving at a German plane?' Then he noticed a big swastika on the tail.'

often seen flying very low past on morning patrol.

I had dropped down to the ground and Duncan asked me why I was doing that. I said: 'Why are you waving at a German plane?' Then he noticed the iron crosses on the fuselage and a big swastika on the tail.

The aircraft turned out to be a Junkers Ju88 and it was very close. Duncan said later the rear gunner seemed astonished at him waving!

The second was one day when I was out for a walk. The cloud was low when I heard aircraft engines and a German plane flew out of a gap in the cloud heading north at about 1,000 feet. I could see its markings very clearly. Later we heard Oban had been bombed.

On Arran, we checked the waters edge on the shore most days and twice we found an American 'K-ration' tin which was full. We took them home



A Junker Ju88 similar to the one which Ian and Duncan had a close encounter with.

and opened them and found five biscuits, cube sugar, three boiled sweets and a tin inside which was a brown powder. This was the first powdered coffee we had seen and it tasted great. The coffee we had usually was called 'Camp Coffee' and wasn't very good.

I also found a tin of what turned out to be Black German Bread – not very nice – which, with the cap, must have come from a sunken German U-boat. My son just recently found out that one (U33) was sunk near where we were on holiday but at some other time, so we didn't know about it then. Another day while our family and friends were at the beach, a British officer came to us and explained he was in charge of Polish troops who were searching the shore for explosive detonators which had



Ian's painting of the Swordfish patrol off Corriecravie.

accidentally washed overboard. My father asked him if he would show the children what they looked like and he showed us a brown cylindrical object about the size of his hand and two or three inches in diameter.

He said they had found quite a few and would blow them up at the other end of the beach. They did that later. What a bang and flash it made and we learned that lesson all right.

Mr and Mrs Craig had three sons. John, the eldest, was in the Merchant Navy and Duncan, who was a pupil at Keil school.

The youngest was Donald, about my age – I was nine when the war started. When we arrived one year, Donald told us that at Easter his brother Duncan swam out to a crashed German plane and rescued a wounded pilot.

I can't remember the year but it would be interesting to hear if anyone knows more about that incident.

Our family's annual July holiday ceased after the war ended and we three siblings set off in our own careers. I still visit Arran with my wife and family, staying at Auchrannie for a few days, but I miss the piers at Lamdash and Whiting Bay.

CONTACTUS
email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk
telephone 01631 568000

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

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

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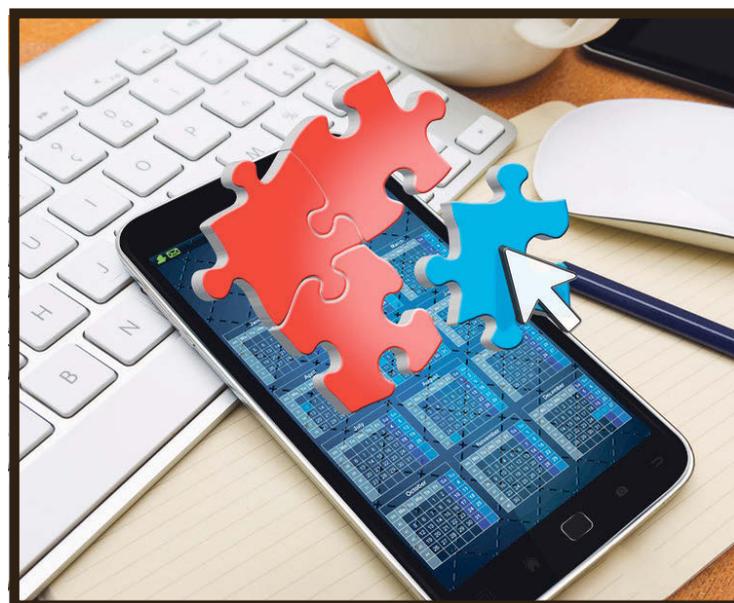
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Arran lockdown birthdays



Hayley Glister had her seventh birthday at the start of the month.



Brother Callum Glister celebrating his 10th birthday.



Katie Morrison with her 22nd birthday cake.

Last week we asked readers if they had a child celebrating their birthday during lockdown.

Since they can't enjoy a birthday celebration with friends and family, we said we would love to give them a shoutout in the paper.

As a result, Mhairi Hartley sent us photographs of her youngest and oldest children having birthdays during the lockdown.

Lachlan McKinnon, age eight, from Corrie, had his birthday on May 13.

All he wanted was to see his Shennie and Pops (grandparents) so Mhairi took him to Lochranza to say hello at the gate when she was delivering shopping to them.

Mhairi also sent a photograph of her daughter Katie Morrison, also from Corrie, who was 22 on May 19. Her mum said: 'Katie was meant to have been graduating from Stirling University on June 24 with a BA (Hons) in English and Secondary Education. Sadly her graduation was cancelled and all her plans and

celebrations have been put on hold until all the family can celebrate with her.'

Hayley Glister had her seventh birthday on May 1 and her brother Callum had his 10th birthday the following day at their home in Lamlash. 'We celebrated with party food, games and video calls from family and friends,' mum Laura said.

While on Monday of this week, Isla McKinnon celebrated her ninth birthday in lockdown at home in Brodick. Mum Michelle said: 'Happy ninth birthday to this awesome kid.

'Thank you to everyone who helped make her lockdown birthday so special.'

Send us a photograph of your wee one enjoying their special day and we will publish it to wish them Happy Birthday.

Remember to include their full name, age, where you're from and a little bit about what you did to make the day at home special.

Send your photographs by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Isla McKinnon with her ninth birthday cake.



Lachlan McKinnon at his grandparents gate in Lochranza.

Keeping our community informed

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

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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Cash for Kilmory and Kildonan pensioners

Kilmory and Kildonan Senior Citizen Association was yesterday (Thursday) awarded £3,470 from The National Lottery communi-

ty fund in the May handouts. The group will use the funding to bring older people from the communities of Kildonan and Kilmory together for a summer outing and Christmas party.

The island project will be open to everyone in the area over the age of 60 and helps

to address the problem of rural isolation.

The community fund, over the next six months, will focus its National Lottery funding in Scotland on those projects that supporting organisations and communities to respond to the challenge of COVID-19.

Listen for corncrake

Island records first report of calling in 12 years

The first report in 12 years of corncrake calling on Arran has been made.

Corncrake is a summer visitor, breeding in Europe and Asia as far east as Western China, migrating to Africa for the northern hemisphere's winter.

On Arran by the 1980s, this once familiar farmland bird, with its distinctive rasping call, was in decline. The decline continued.

In the 1980s, corncrake was reported each year except 1980. Often there was just a single bird calling but in 1983 three or four birds were reported.

In the 1990s, there were reports of a single bird calling in 1990, 1993 and 1997. In the 2000s, again single records in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. Interestingly, the last three were all from the same location.

The last report was one bird calling by Port na Lochan from May 7 to 9, 2008 – then silence. The bird had perhaps moved to its remaining heart lands in the Inner and Outer Hebrides.

This year on May 13 an email was received: 'This month in the early morning whilst I have been checking lambs between roughly five o'clock and seven o'clock I have heard a bird calling from a rashy field. I was not 100 per cent sure it was a corncrake but after watching Landward a few minutes ago it definitely is.'

This is the time of year to listen out for this summer visitor and early in the morning or late in the day are good times to do this.

The systematic name for corncrake is *vrex crex*, reflecting the male's krek krek call. This YouTube link is of the male corncrake calling – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ibUsXObZhEg>. The sound can carry a long distance. It is repetitive and unique.

Corncrake is mainly found in grassland used to produce hay, particularly moist traditional farmland with limited cutting or fertiliser use. Grassland which is not mown or grazed becomes too matted to be suitable for nesting but crops such as cereals, clover or potatoes may be used.

After breeding, adults move to taller vegetation such as reed, iris or nettles to moult, returning to the hay and silage meadows for the second brood.

Although males often sing in

Bird notes by Jim Cassels

intensively managed grass or cereal crops, successful breeding is uncommon and nests in field margins or nearby fallow ground are more likely to succeed.

If you hear corncrake calling on Arran, I would appreciate it if you would take a moment to let me know 'where and when'.

Enjoy your birding and keep safe.

Please send any bird notes

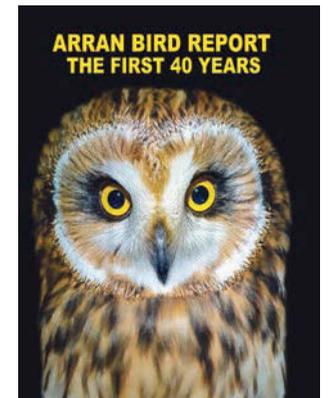
with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report, The First 40 Years which includes the annual report for 2019 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Typical corncrake, just a head sticking out calling. Photograph: Angela Cassels.



Most unusually the bird in the open on a wall. Photograph: Tony Church



A short-eared owl appears on the front cover of the latest Arran Bird Report.

Springwatch spotlight on Arran owl research

The latest findings about the mysterious migration of short-eared owls will feature in an episode of Springwatch at 8pm on BBC2 tonight (Friday).

Some of the findings are based on work done on Arran.

A short-eared owl on Arran was fitted with a satellite tag as part of a tracking project by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Data from these tagged birds has already provided the BTO with amazing results.

A second short-eared owl, also fitted with a satellite tag whilst breeding on Arran in summer 2019, has been tracked to Morocco.

Meanwhile, copies of the Arran Bird Report: The first 40 years are still available.

Arran bird recorder Jim Cassels said: 'I am happy for people to contact me directly for copies of this publication celebrating 40 years of bird reporting by Arran Natural History Society. These will be posted out.'

'These could be for personal use or for friends or family. People who would normally be visiting the island may particularly appreciate a copy.'

'I am happy to arrange to post to any address in the UK or abroad.'

'There is further information in this article which appeared in the Arran Banner at the beginning of April <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/files/Report-in-Arran-Banner3April2020.pdf>

'Priced £5, plus £1.50 postage and packing (UK), the book, with more than 110 pages crammed with information, is exceptionally good value. Any profit goes to Arran Natural History Society.'

'Please do not hesitate to get in touch to get details on how to get copies and methods of payment.'

Sheila Selkirk

May 3, 1928-December 28, 2019

Sheila Marie Phyllis Selkirk of Brodick lived most of her 91 years on Arran but was born and raised in the village of Hockley in the Essex countryside.

Walking in the woods and fields near her home with her father, Gilbert Page, a local government officer who had survived trench warfare at the Battle of The Somme, she learned to love wildflowers and nature at a young age. It was a second marriage for her mother, Eleanor, who had returned to the UK expecting Sheila's older half-sister Noreen after being widowed in Canada.

Sheila was just starting secondary school when the Second World War broke out. She was evacuated to Nottinghamshire for two-and-a-half-years, staying with a mining family in Mansfield Woodhouse. Ironically, she returned to Essex just in time for the doodlebugs or flying bombs whose droning engines cut out ominously just before they dropped and exploded.

She could see the silent V2 rockets as a plume of smoke as they were launched from the French coast.

Once, during a Guide church parade, a loud explosion shattered the church windows as a rocket landed in a nearby garden and her Guide patrol had to put their First Aid skills into practice to help survivors.

The school sports field was carved up by the entrances to the deep and extensive air raid shelters, in which she sat one of her school certificate exams during an air raid alarm.

She adored her brother-in-law who was a Spitfire pilot and was at church with her mother for the King's Call to Prayer when Noreen received the news he had been shot down. Sheila was wearing new white gloves which were turned green by her tears washing the dye out of the cover of the prayer book she was holding.

Noreen moved into the house with her two young children, Tony and Valerie, to whom Sheila became very close.

On VE Day and VJ Day, she danced all night in the street, singing and linking arms with soldiers, sailors and airmen from all the Allied Forces.

After leaving school she worked in a local sweetshop until taking a job recommended by a friend in the Royal Bank

of Scotland in London. Just across the road was the Bank of Scotland, where John Selkirk worked. He was a minister's son from the village of King Edward in Aberdeenshire.

They shared a love of acting and met through the Scottish Banks Drama Group. They married in May 1952 and briefly lived in the village of Stock, but John was keen to return to Scotland.

He had a family connection with Arran as his grandfather had been the schoolmaster at Shiskine, but it was Sheila who persuaded him to request a transfer here, having fallen in love with the island during a holiday in Pirnmill.

Their first child, Barry, was born in 1955, before they bought Ferniehirst, the house in which she would spend the rest of her life.

Daughter Lesley came next in 1957, twins Christopher and Craig in 1959 and finally me, Laura, in 1965.

As she said in her diary: 'What a time to have lived through!'

Another shared love was gardening and together they divided the sloping plot into terraces and beds, a lawn and a small orchard and planted trees and shrubs, Mum's obsession. They would both spend much of their lives in the garden.

They remained active in drama, with dad producing at least one festival winner. He was a freelance photographer; mum painted landscapes in oils.

In 1972 my grandmother died and my grandfather came to live with us for nine years until his death. I left for college in 1982, but just weeks later, dad died of a heart attack caused by rheumatic fever contracted during his army training.

Widowed at 54, less than a year after losing her father, mum filled her life with her interests: painting, hillwalking, her garden and languages, including French, Italian, Russian and Spanish, completing a German O-Grade with students at Arran High School. She became an elder at Brodick Church and began to travel to Canada, Australia and later China with castle gardens volunteers.

She loved family gatherings and Tony's and Valerie's families visited regularly to walk in the hills. She had six grandchildren: Brendan, Ewan, Fin, Eva, Cameron and

Iona who, with Lesley, lived here while at Arran High School. Barry returned home in 2016. Nine years after dad died, I returned home, and for the next 28 years we shared many experiences: charity fundraising, acting together and travelling to Venezuela, Costa Rica, Tasmania to visit Craig, and New Zealand to visit Lesley. But undeniably she sacrificed much of her life to supporting me: from learning to inject her five-year-old diabetic child, count carbs and treat hypos, through sight loss, kidney failure, cancer, stroke and epilepsy, she was there for me, despite her own impaired hearing and mobility, until the end.

Noreen, Tony and Valerie predeceased her. Tony inherited his father's love of flying and died in a flying accident in the Alps in 1985. Valerie died of kidney failure in 2011.

She was adamant she wanted to end her days at Ferniehirst and returned from hospital in Lamlash just before Christmas, where she died five days later. She now lies at rest in Lamlash beside John and her father.

As she said in her own faithfully-kept diary: 'What a time to have lived through!' And she lived it bravely.

Laura Selkirk.



Sheila, with Freagh the dog, surrounded by the Arran hills she loved.



Sheila and John's wedding on 24th May 1952.

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday June 3, 2000



Scenes from the Arran Music and Drama Club production of Irene staged over five nights in Brodick hall. One shows guests enjoying a ball at the Palais Royale and in the other Madame Lucy, who is actually a man played by Canice Donnelly, explains the secrets of his success. 01_B22tweY05 and 01_B22tweY06



While the Banner was still being printed in black and white in 2000, we saw the odd colour image, including this one, creeping into the files. It features Arran quiz champions, Brian Millar's team, who won the quiz trophy and £60 last Saturday night in Corrie hall. 01_B22tweY04

Right: Last week Brodick Guides said goodbye and thank you to their leader Isobel Whitehead who is leaving Arran to live in Dundee. Along with assistant leader Jill Bunyan, Isobel has worked with the Guides for a number of years and was presented with flowers, a table lamp and an oil painting of Arran. Because of the swimming gala, only a few guides could be at the farewell. Our photograph shows Karen Corbett, June Bunyan, Sandra MacIntyre, Katie MacDonald, Catriona MacIntyre and Sarah Whitehead with Guiders Isobel and Jill. 01_B22tweY01



Left: Arran's lifeboat crew were featured training in the BBC TV programme Against All Odds this week. Photographed are: Hazel Connery, Geoff Norris, David Swindale, John Graham, Malcolm Daly and Allan Little. 01_B22tweY03



Maybelle and Jimmy Macmillan show visitors round their garden at Afton last Sunday as part of an Open Gardens scheme to help raise funds for the new Lochranza village hall. 01_B22tweY02

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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.

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- 20-foot race
- 60-foot holding pen. Includes all joining pins/stakes
- Total 200-feet of penning

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

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This is a 2 year fixed term training post which offers experience in all aspects of Primary Care Pharmacy Team work within a GP Dispensing Practice and care homes including: medicines reconciliation, non-clinical medication reviews, medication management advice, and reviews within care homes. Within the GP Practice dispensary, the training will involve the following: generating labels and dispensing medication, dealing with patient/prescription queries, stock control. The post holder will be working across various sites throughout Arran.

The post holder will be supported to complete the Pharmacy Technician Training Programme delivered by training provider - Buttercups (this will be completed via distance learning) as well as completing a comprehensive in-house training package all of which are required in order to register with the General Pharmaceutical Council.

Previous pharmacy experience would be an advantage but full training will be provided.

Applicants should possess the following:

- Four National 5 Grades at level A or B or equivalent including English, Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry
- Numeracy skills
- Good patient care skills
- Good IT skills
- Communication skills (oral and written).

In accordance with AFC terms and conditions you may be required to work over 7 days and or an extended working day. Driving license is essential for above post. Hours: 37.5 hours per week. Closing date 8th June 2020.

Informal enquiries are welcome. Please contact: Fiona Horbury – Practice Manager, Arran Medical Group or Iain Thomson - Pharmacist – 01770 600516

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.org or www.stmolioshiskine.org.uk Prior to this, from 10 - 10:30 a.m. the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Revd. Dr. Martin Fair will lead a service to mark the birthday of the Christian Church with a hope that all congregations of the Church of Scotland will be gathered in fellowship and praise.

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
Revd Canon Simon Mackenzie will conduct Sunday Eucharist at 11 a.m.
online @
ChristchurchLochgilphead
All are welcome to join

DEATHS

KATE MOWATT - Our dearest Kate sadly left us on the 15th of May 2020 to kayak in the clouds. Very much loved daughter of Beth and Chris Mowatt and sister to James, Susie, Lizzie, Tom and Victoria. Kate's funeral is to be held in Stirling at 12pm on Monday 1st June with her immediate family only. A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held as soon as possible.

BULLOCH - Martha Ravey Bulloch (nee Sillars) died peacefully on Wednesday 27th May 2020 aged 93 under the care of the wonderful staff at Arran War Memorial Hospital. Beloved wife of the late Bertie, loving mother of David and Robin and grandmother to Katie and Emma. A small private burial to be held at Lamlash cemetery and plan to have a memorial service at a future date to celebrate her life.

WHAT'S ON

EVERY DAY

Eco Savvy & Co-op Food
Share Big Co, Brodick. 8.15pm
Eco Savvy & Co-op Food
Share Big Co, Lamlash. 7.30pm

TUESDAYS

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

Farmers' union issues reminder on responsible access in the countryside

As Scotland enters Phase One in easing COVID-19 lockdown restrictions, NFU Scotland is urging those enjoying time in the countryside to continue to do so responsibly.

During this phase unrestricted local outdoor activities will be permitted and travelling short distances - up to five miles - to take exercise will be allowed. The Union also hopes that the reopening of domestic recycling centres in the next few days will end the blight of irresponsible fly-tipping seen nationwide during lockdown.

NFU Scotland head of policy team Gemma Cooper said: 'As we enter Phase One, farmers are asking the public to ensure they act responsibly on farmland when accessing the countryside.

'The job of producing food and drink means that farming activities continue in these difficult times. While the Scottish countryside remains open for people to access

and enjoy, care and respect for those living and working in rural areas through these difficult times is requested.'

In particular, NFU Scotland urges the following:

Don't cause damage to young arable crops or fields of long grass being grown for silage and hay.

Don't disturb farm animals or wildlife.

Keep all dogs under control and lift all dog poo.

Avoid farmyards and buildings, keep access to farms and fields clear of vehicles and close all gates.

Adhere to sign requests.

Take all litter home.

NFU Scotland has produced a poster for farmers and crofters urging care to be taken by those accessing the countryside during this exceptional period.

Describing the poster, Gemma said: 'For many, accessing the countryside during lockdown has been a new experience.



During COVID-19 Please Be Responsible on Farmland

-  Keep away from farmyards or buildings
-  Avoid fields of young livestock and arable crops
-  Keep your dog on a lead and take litter and poo home
-  Stay 2m away from all farm workers
-  Leave gates as you find them; if you have to touch gates or stiles use gloves or hand sanitiser
-  Stick to paths wherever possible

Thank You

We want to help guide them on how to continue to do that responsibly and safely in Phase 1, recognising the legitimate concerns of those who are farming and crofting in these unprecedented times. 'To fulfil our pledge to keep Scotland's plates and glasses full throughout this crisis, we need farmers, crofters, their families and staff to stay safe,

healthy and able to get on with the job of producing food and drink.

'We respectfully ask that people please follow these simple guidelines in the poster. It will assist the many people taking access in the countryside and receive the thanks of all living and working in the countryside at this challenging time.'



A golfer putts on the ninth green at Corrie before lockdown, but play should resume today.

Outdoor sports to resume on Arran

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the golf course by providing the names of all golfers plus contact details and the date and time of play. Sign in by emailing hello@corriegolfclub.com.

If you don't have an email address, call 01770 810507 for other options. Please do this

prior to leaving home as phone connectivity is poor at the club.

Golfers are also reminded to familiarise themselves with the code of conduct for this difficult period as issued by Scotland Golf.

Please adhere to these guidelines, enjoy your golf and stay safe.

Brodick Golf Club

Please note that the course will only be open to members who have paid their subscriptions and have pre-booked a tee time.

The club welcomes membership enquiries. Call 01770 302349 or visit the club's Facebook page for more details.

Arran Golfers Association

The 2020 AGA fixture list has been cancelled.

The 2021 competitions will all be played at the same venues as this year.

We remain hopeful that the winter league can be played as normal.

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THE ARRAN
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Outdoor sports get green light to resume on Arran

Golf and hillwalking just two of the activities expected to begin again

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Sport on Arran was expected to resume for the first time today (Friday) since lockdown restrictions were imposed.

Corrie Golf Club was the first to announce they were ready to open for play today, provided there was confirmation this was permitted by the Scottish government yesterday, after the Banner went to press.

Brodick and Shiskine were also preparing to open, and Lamlash and Whiting Bay are also expected to be ready to play this weekend.

Hiking, tennis, bowls, fishing, outdoor swimming and sailing – including canoeing and kayaking – are also now likely to be permitted in Scotland, following the anticipated announcement.

The relaxing of restrictions for hillwalking will be particularly welcome on Arran and the suggested five-mile limit on travel still gives most people on the island access to their local hills.

If we are now in Phase One of the route map, the government advice states that you can continue to participate in unrestricted outdoors exercise adhering to distancing measures. This includes 'non-contact, outdoor activities in your



local areas - for example, golf, hiking, canoeing, outdoor swimming, angling. You will also be able to meet up with members of another household while outdoors.' Public health guidance – including physical distancing – will continue to apply to any activity.

Mountaineering Scotland said this week they were pleased to see 'hiking' referred to in Phase One, which means they can start planning a safe and responsible return to the hills. Further assessment of the route map is needed to establish what this means for

climbers. Mountaineering Scotland will continue to work with the Mountain Safety Group to publish detailed guidelines next week for hillwalking and climbing.

The relaxation of the guidance to include a wider range of outdoor activities is wel-

come news for many outdoor sports, although these opportunities will continue to be limited as a result of the travel restrictions in the early stages. CEO Stuart Younie said: 'We understand the government is having to make some extremely tough decisions and

Hillwalking is expected to be allowed again.

the need to be cautious about easing lockdown. While the document has some good news in it and we can start to prepare for a return to the hills, the next few weeks are going to be hard, particularly for our members living in the central belt and larger cities. They have had limited opportunity to enjoy the outdoors during lockdown and further clarity is required.'

Corrie Golf Club

We are aiming for the golf course to be opened today (Friday) if permitted by the Scottish Government.

The club is required by law to create and retain a record of all players in the event information is required for contact tracing purposes. The golf club therefore requires all players to sign in before heading to

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