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United plea for increased capacity on Arran ferries

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran must get increased capacity on to the ferries or the island economy could be ruined for years.

That is the stark warning this week as the island unites to put pressure on CalMac and the government to act on a crisis that could wipe out tourism on Arran this summer.

After initial joy among businesses on the island that tourism in Scotland could recommence on July 15, despair has returned as it emerged this week that the ferry situation has just got worse, with CalMac revealing that ferry capacity will be restricted to just eight per cent of the 2019 volumes due to the 2m social distancing restrictions.

The situation also has huge implications for those living on the island too, as the Arran Ferry Committee made it clear

this week. Initial indications are for the Ardrossan to Brodick service to increase to five return sailings per day in July with a further increase to nine sailings a day in August, following the arrival of a second boat. The Sunday services will also be reinstated.

However, the capacity will be significantly reduced to somewhere between 75 and 100 passenger per sailing meaning that booking will be required for all passengers, including foot passengers, for all journeys.

Currently it does not appear possible to operate the Lochranza to Claonaig service which will continue to operate to Tarbert on the current winter timetable for the foreseeable future.

The Arran Recovery Group said they had a 'very positive' virtual meeting with transport minister Fergus Ewing who has agreed to convene a meeting in the coming days with transport

minister Michael Matheson and Transport Scotland.

Chairman Tom Tracey said: 'It is our strong belief, that with the right encouragement, Transport Scotland could direct CalMac to find a significant increased safe capacity.'

Mr Tracey along with group members Alastair Dobson and Linda Johnston, also have a very positive and supportive meeting with North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane and the council team.

The recovery group argue that Arran needs passenger ferry capacity at a minimum of 50 per cent of the 2019 passenger levels from July onwards. This assumes there will be no day visitors and only locals, visiting friends and family and staying visitors. There also should be the same commercial traffic as 2019. They also say there should be no motorhomes or caravans allowed to protect

Turn to page two.

Summer policing on Arran



Meet the summer police secondees who are having a quieter time than usual on Arran this year. However, while they are enjoying their time on the island, they are hoping to get a little busier when the island opens to visitors from the middle of July.

The secondees this year are, left to right: PC Ewan McCurrach from Edinburgh Division in Drylaw, PC Sarah Jackson from Ayrshire Division in Saltcoats, and PC Will Dove from Greater Glasgow Division, stationed at Govan.

The fourth secondee is PC Fraser Bradley from Greater Glasgow Division local policing team, stationed at Govan, who missed the photocall.

All four are on Arran for the duration of their secondment due to travel restrictions.

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Committee give update on COVID ferry development

A statement from the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee.

The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee – made up of community, health care and business representatives – is a consultative body and its main role is to positively influence stakeholders to deliver the best possible ferry service for Arran.

During this very difficult pandemic, and the subsequent recovery period, the ferry committee is continuing to consult with key stakeholders including CalMac, Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government to ensure Arran, its residents, businesses and visitors have a safe and adequate ferry service, whilst adhering to Government guidelines at all times.

The Arran community can be assured that their views

are being presented and the following priorities are at the forefront of our discussions:

- Health, safety and welfare of the community
- Essential supplies and services to the island
- Residents' travel to/from the island
- A safe and manageable level of tourism

We are currently working within conditions of Phase One which allows for essential travel only.

As the government starts to consider moving to the next phase and relax the restrictions imposed to control the Coronavirus pandemic, travel is a key interest particularly for Arran residents



and businesses and the situation is fast changing.

The ferry committee have contacted CalMac and Transport Scotland to understand the options being considered and to ensure appropriate service is reinstated in line with government regulations.

In conjunction with Arran Recovery Group, we have requested a minimum of 50 per cent of the 2019 actual volumes.

It is clear that there will be no immediate return to normal travel arrangements with social distancing restrictions continuing.

We have communicated to all parties that we must

ensure essential supplies and travel for residents to undertake safe and appropriate travel as a priority and that capacity must consider the needs of the businesses and jobs on Arran.

All decisions are being guided by the local health team to ensure we are not putting the community at any unacceptable risks.

The discussions are continuing and initial indications are for the service to move to five return sailings per day in July with a further increase to 9 sailings in August. The Sunday services will also be reinstated.

The capacity will be significantly reduced to somewhere between 75 and 100 passenger per sailing at the current 2m distancing rules from Scottish Government.

Currently it does not appear possible to operate

the Lochranza to Claonaig service which will continue to operate to Tarbert as current winter timetable for the foreseeable future. This is one key opportunity we are pursuing.

The ferry committee met on June 8 and again this week on 15th to review the proposals and have generated a list of questions we need to be answered.

We have written to CalMac and are arranging meeting with them and Transport Scotland to push for the best deal under the allowed regulations.

It is becoming clear that all travel will need to be pre-booked and this will include foot passengers and we need to ensure that the procedures will ensure a return journey is available.

There is much still to be confirmed in how the oper-

ator will manage numbers and bookings as it is clear the capacity will be stretched to meet demand from non-residents. The practicalities of requiring all travel to be pre booked also highlights some issues which have been requested for a long time and these will now need to be addressed very quickly.

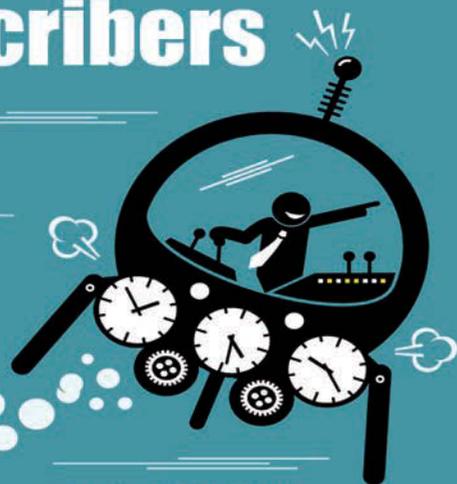
We continue to discuss these matters and will be escalating the concerns to politicians to ensure they are fully apprised of the impact the wrong decisions will have for the community and businesses on Arran.

We will continue to provide updates as and when available.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

United plea for increased capacity on Arran ferries

Continued from page one.

ferry capacity. And the latest recovery plan summary made it crystal clear: 'To restate, current capacity plans mean there is no tourist industry on Arran and travel restrictions on the local community which will impose a probable infringement on Civil Liberties.'

'In this event, local and Scottish Government need to immediately establish an Island Survival Plan. The soft and hard structure that supports this £69m industry will not survive a six-month shutdown.'

However, hotels, B&Bs, self-catering lets and campsites are gearing up for reopening on July 15. Indeed the opening announcement last week drew the biggest booking day at Auchrannie in their 32-year history. Other hotels too, including The Douglas in Brodick, have solid bookings from July 15.

CalMac also has a significant number of bookings in place for July, but with current planned capacity it is doubtful these bookings can be honoured and there is a concern there may be no room for islanders to travel.

This is being addressed by the ferry committee.

The Arran Ferry Action Group also stepped into the debate this week, see letters, page six.

Spokesman Gavin Fulton said: 'Setting aside the economic aspects, normal life on the island is not sustainable with such a limited carrying capacity. Such a reduction in numbers can only be the result of an over-interpretation of the rules and a "can't do" attitude which has been too frequently demonstrated in the past.'

'The cramped cabins of airliners are currently flying with greater numbers than this so what possible justification can there be for such limitations in the voluminous cabins and open deck space of a ship?'

A spokesman for Transport Scotland said: 'We are acutely aware that supporting island communities to move out of lockdown is a complex issue, not least for ferry operators and services.'

'Capacity and logistical issues will be a particular challenge whilst maintaining physical distancing measures, and we are working with operators to

understand the impact of this and likely demand for travel.

'We also appreciate that our islands are particularly dependent on many of the sectors worst hit by the impact of the public health measures we had to take to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and many island businesses are struggling.'

'We will continue to engage with key stakeholders as we consider the options for ferry services through the different phases of the Scottish Government's Route Map, and how best to support our remote communities come out of lockdown, but progress on all of this has to ensure we reach solutions which will be safe for everyone and, most importantly, prevent the spread of the virus and protect lives.'

Robbie Drummond, managing director of CalMac, said: 'We have great sympathy with the position of island businesses – particularly those which rely on tourism and we have been working with tourism representatives across our network to discuss how we can help them rebuild after COVID.'

Pupils to return to school two days a week on Arran

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Pupils on Arran will attend two days of schooling a week, North Ayrshire Council has confirmed to the Banner this week.

However, other arrangements for the return of schools on Arran in August were continuing this week.

Education planners from North Ayrshire Council have been on the island measuring how many children there can be in the primaries and at Arran High School.

It is known all the island's seven primary schools will be closed on a Wednesday to allow a midweek deep clean between the children attending on a Monday and Tuesday and those attending Thursday and Friday.

A council spokeswoman



confirmed: 'Pupils will attend school two days per week and there will be temporary adjustments to start/finish

times and breaks.' It is not known if this also applies to all pupils at Arran High School and arrangements for the early

years classes are also still to be agreed.

Pupils are due to return to a 'blended' model of schooling

Preparations are under way to allow pupils to return to Lamlash Primary School.

from August 11 that will see learning split between home and the classroom and more information is expected next week.

There have been concerns about the impact of part-time schooling on working parents, and on children from deprived backgrounds, and it is not yet known how long the blended model will be in place.

The spokeswoman added: 'We want to ensure a safe return to school for all our young people. We are finalising our plans and will release details very soon.'

The news came the day Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon was accused of 'dithering' over plans to

reopen the country's schools at the Scottish parliament.

The Scottish Conservatives said the government needed to be 'far more creative' in finding ways of getting pupils back into school full-time. And Labour said the government must 'pull out all the stops' to tackle a growing 'education emergency'.

The first minister said her government would 'move heaven and earth' to get schools 'back to normal as quickly as possible'. However, she said she would not 'act recklessly and put the lives of children, teachers and the wider community at risk'.

More schools news on page nine.

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The flowerbeds which have been planted on Brodick shorefront. 01_B25flower01

Brodick is back in bloom

In these abnormal times when we are limited in who and how we can interact with each other it was a pleasure to see volunteers from Brodick Improvements Committee out last Saturday planting up the main flower beds along the front of the village which was all completed whilst ensuring compliance with guidelines, writes Hugh Boag.

The plants were provide

by North Ayrshire to fill the beds and we understand many other villages have been recipients of similar generous allocations to complement their tubs etc.

The improvements group members managed to get the 1,600 or so plants completed just before the showers started which helped water them in.

A spokesman for Brodick Improvements Committee said: 'A big thank you to the

members and their friends who turned out, and to the NAC staff member who gave of their personal time to assist in the work.

'Hopefully they will provide a bright and cheerful welcome back to Brodick this summer. As an island we have great resource in our volunteers and Brodick Improvements appreciates their work, without which we couldn't do the work we do.'



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COVID test centre opening delayed

The opening of Arran's COVID-19 testing station at Brodick Health Centre has been slightly delayed.

The centre had been due to open next week but it is now not expected to open until the end of the month. It is hoped a single, locally-led system will mean quicker testing and response to positive tests.

People will phone a local number to ask about booking a test, final details of which are being hammered out.

Dr Greg Hamill, Arran clinical lead, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, told the Banner last week: 'The Test and Protect system is what we hope will support the easing of the lockdown. There is a slightly different approach to this on Arran than elsewhere and we are implementing testing and contact tracing by local teams, but expanding access to testing to anyone who has possible symptoms and training more people locally to do contact tracing. This work is in tandem with the NHS Ayrshire & Arran Public Health team and the systems will tie in with the national approach.'

Club draw winners

Winners of the £50 prize in the Brodick Improvements Committee 200 Club for June were Hazel and Gregor McPherson from Brodick.

The May winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club draw were: 1 Kate Hartley; 2 Kathy Wells.

Arran just about ready to reopen for visitors

Survey reveals islanders' thoughts on lifting lockdown

More than half of Arran residents believe the island should open for visitors in the next two months, writes Hugh Boag.

That is one of the main findings of The Arran Recovery Group's community survey, conducted at the end of May, which returned almost 900 responses.

Fifty two per cent of those surveyed agreed with the reopening of the island by the end of the July with evidence that respondents were comfortable with self catering and outdoor activities opening sooner.

With the Scottish Government announcing the restart of tourism from July 15, that would seem to be largely in step with the mood on the island.

However, 15 per cent of those surveyed did not want Arran open to visitors until next year.

There has also been a dramatic decline in optimism around the Arran economy from 89 per cent to 11 per cent with 63 per cent of tourist businesses at risk, based on their required tourist volumes.

As the introduction to the We Are Arran survey stated: 'COVID-19 has changed many



Hopefully this deserted view of Brodick in June will not be the scene for much longer.

aspects of life on Arran. As an island, our recovery will be different from the mainland.'

There are many positive aspects to take away from the survey, with many people satisfied with the information and help they have received. They have spent more time focusing on environmental concerns and have used the lockdown to be kinder to themselves.

Among other survey results,

people recognise the economy is essential for Arran but need assurance health will remain a priority. There's an agreement people want to feel more positive about tourism. People are missing their loved ones and lockdown is affecting their mental health. People who are self employed are more likely to have little or no help from government funds, or know what help is available.

There is a perception lockdown has reversed environmental damage to Arran. People want to feel safe, whether that's economically or physically. The fear of uncertainty was felt in equal measures by residents who were suffering financially and those suffering physically.

Arran Recovery Group is led by representatives of island organisations

including the Health and Social Care partnership, Arran Community Council, VisitArran, Auchrannie, Taste of Arran, Arran Eco Savvy, Arran Development Trust, NAC Support, councillors, Arran High School, Arran Community Voluntary Service, Arran Ferry Committee, Highlands and Island Enterprise and Arran Economic Group who have been working with community stakeholders to develop a recovery plan.

The recovery plan will be informed by extensive consultation with the Arran community, the objective being to achieve the widest possible consensus.

Results of this survey, the most comprehensive ever carried on Arran with the island community, was the start of the process and will inform the recovery plan. In turn, the recovery plan will aim to balance the three strands of island life, community, environment and economy through each stage of recovery, underpinned by the Scottish government route map and health and social care partnership guidance.

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Youngsters voice plea to save Arran naturalist club

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



There is little likelihood that the Young Naturalist Club will be able to meet anytime soon at Brodick Castle and country park.

The club, which usually meets every second Saturday of the month, is run by the Arran Ranger Service who have been furloughed by the National Trust for Scotland, with as many as 75 per cent facing the threat of redundancy.

This week two of its young members wrote to the Banner telling of their concern for the future of the club and the ranger service.

Callum Brand, aged six, wrote: 'Hi everyone, I am very sad to hear that the Young Nats Club at the rangers centre might be stopping as there will be no rangers to run it. I love going to this fun club with my friends as I learn lots of new, interesting things and I get to be in the forest!'

While seven-year-old Mac McArdle said: 'I go to Young Nats at Brodick Castle. The rangers run it and it's so much fun! Sometimes you chop down bushes or make fires and



Members of the Young Naturalist Club at the prizegiving last December.

learn stuff about the castle. My mum says it won't happen this year because of coronavirus. Please can you help us get it running again? Thank you!'

At the last prize-giving at the club, last December, outdoor enthusiast Callum Glister was chosen as the young naturalist of the year for 2019 after he and other club members had enjoyed another great year of activities including a bat walk,

tree planting in Glen Rosa, beach safari, rhodie bashing and many other outdoor fun activities.

Meanwhile a national campaign has been launched in support of the rangers and ecologists Scotland wide who are at risk of redundancy. Last Friday night campaigners launched a petition asking NTS and the Scottish Government to save vital countryside jobs and protect Scotland's nature. By Monday morning 3,200 people had signed.

The National Trust for Scotland is Scotland's largest conservation charity and one of the biggest employers of countryside rangers in Scotland. However, the trust has put over half their staff at risk of redundancy, proposing to cut 429 jobs.

Campaigners have set up a petition <http://bit.ly/2B0sHJm> calling for the protection of vital countryside jobs and of Scotland's nature. The #ForTheLoveOfNature campaign takes its name from NTS's strapline 'For The Love Of Scotland', with individuals and organisations urging NTS to recognise the value of Scotland's nature reserves and of the staff who have devoted years and decades to protecting them.

Left, Mac McArdle sent this picture of himself at the club.



Ayrshire councils launch new business support helpline

A new business support helpline has been launched by the three Ayrshire councils to help local businesses navigate the extensive support strands and funding opportunities available to them.

In the wake of COVID-19, the local economic landscape has changed significantly, with many more businesses in need of support and assistance as they try to ride the storm.

At the same time, the menu of options for business support has become increasingly more complex, meaning businesses are looking for assistance to identify the most appropriate support for their individual needs.

Now any Ayrshire and Arran business seeking assistance can contact a single helpline number - 0330 678 1611. And thanks to the wonders of technology, callers will be channelled to a business advisor within their own local authority area.



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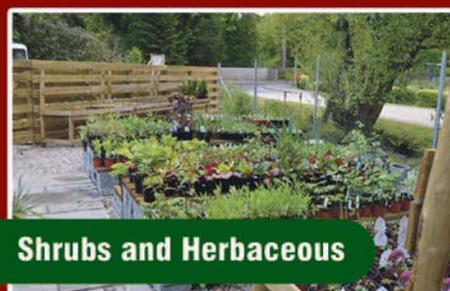
North Ayrshire Council Leader Joe Cullinane said: 'Throughout the COVID pandemic, we have been there for local businesses and we will continue to offer all the help and support we can.'

'We are well aware of the difficulties they have faced and the challenges that still lie ahead.'

'This new helpline will be vital as we help businesses navigate their way through the coming weeks and months.'

The helpline will be operational, Monday-Thursday, 9am to 5pm and Friday 9am to 4pm, with calls being charged at local rate.

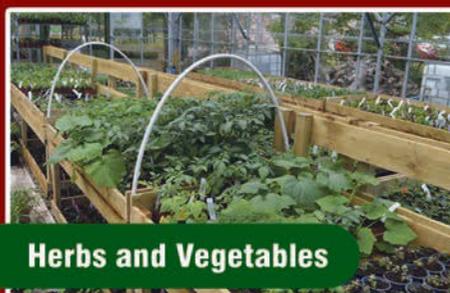
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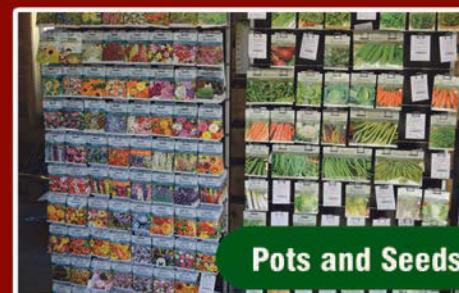
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Number crunching

Make no mistake, future ferry capacity is the most important topic on Arran at the moment – for everyone.

Yes, we must stay safe but going forward a solution must be found to let islanders go about their daily business, and that must include trips to the mainland, as well as welcoming visitors back.

It actually beggars belief that organisations on the island are having to use all their collective might to even get CalMac, Transport Scotland and the Scottish Government to even consider a relaxation of the strict ferry capacity planned.

And, if they fail there will be no tourist industry on Arran and, to be honest, the travel restrictions on the local community are, in all likelihood, an infringement of our Human Rights.

The question was asked this week as to why so severe restrictions are needed on the ferries when they have voluminous cabins and a large open deck space. It seems a fair question to ask.

Here is a quote from a statement this week: 'Ferry travel is the only form of public transport where passengers can socially distance easily.'

Who said it? Not CalMac, of course, but another, even bigger ferry company, Stena Line, outlining its measures for safe ferry travel this summer. The company is also recommending face coverings – a measure we can wholeheartedly support.

So the next few weeks are vital. As the Arran Recovery Group says, the request is simple, we want the same right to survive, business and community, as the rest of Scotland. No less, no more.

Thought for the week

'When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak.' **John 16:13**

HAVE YOUR SAY

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Arran's slavery link

Sir,
I am thinking about everything that is going on as a result of George Floyd's death. 'No man is an island' as the poet said, though here on Arran it is easy to think of ourselves apart from the world.

We have no statues to ask the council to remove but we do have Brodick Castle.

Before I go on, I should declare an interest: my father's name was Beckford. He was Jamaican. His forbears were plantation slaves.

Many of you will have seen the silver in the Beckford room in the castle, acquired with money made through the plantations. I was utterly dismayed on a visit last year to find there was nothing in the accompanying explanatory notes to indicate there was anything untoward in the way the plantations were run – the exploitation, the cruelty, even the fact the people being employed had been forced away from their country of origin into slavery.

I would have expected that after the much-heralded overhaul of the castle, an effort might have been made to rectify this. I could not stay in the room. I felt sick. No exaggeration.

I meant to write a letter then to complain and did not, but now – although the castle is unfortunately shut – with racism being the number one topic at the moment I decided it would be timely to raise the matter.

Surely, given the thousands of tourists of all ages and from many different countries who pass through the Beckford room, it would be responsible to educate and inform and shine a light of honesty on the silver.

Yours,

Cicely Gill, Whiting Bay.

Safe to open island?

Sir,
I would like to ask Arran islanders when they will feel safe to open the island?

The people managing Scotland's health still say there is no safe period as although the virus may reduce, it will never go away. The question will be asked during the winter when it will no doubt raise its head again.

My worry is the island may not be able to sustain no visitors coming to the island in the few months that are left this year.

These few months could keep some businesses afloat till the 2021 season as the government has promised to pull the support for businesses before the end of the year.

Yours,

I have a caravan on Arran. I have not been allowed on the island this year. I buy all my groceries and stores on the island, I eat out every weekend on the island and I drink in the pubs and hotels. I support all the special days, including the Highland Games. I am a member of a golf club and I pay rent and rates for my caravan.

At seven years of age, 65 yes ago, I sat in the Aldersyde Hotel watching and listening to my granny playing the piano for residents and island visitors. I have brought my two grandchildren, now aged 17 and 19, to the island since they were babies.

I would not like to see Arran going back to the 1980s when some pubs were only supported by islanders because of the lack of tourists when Lamash was, at one time, the European sea fishing capital. I understand it's down to locals when the island opens but I would advise sooner rather than later. The virus will eventually arrive so you could also be looking at losing 2021 trade. I hope the people of Arran make the right decision to save businesses on Arran.

Yours,

Alex Kay, Glasgow.

Great impatience

Sir,
I note with concern there is impatience from non full-time residents to visit Arran.

I would firstly ask they obey the guidelines laid down by the Scottish government and do not threaten the biological security of our island and secondly that they remain patient until lockdown regulations are lifted. Remember, it is better to come and go by ferry when authorised and not to leave by helicopter. We can't leave Arran unless we have a valid reason.

Yours,

Derek Shand, Brodick.

Charity donation

Sir,
I write in response to the letter from Clive Mark of Glasgow and Corrie in The Banner's June 5 edition:

Dear Mr Mark,

I wish you every luck in your endeavour to receive a second home tax rebate from a council that bears no responsibility for COVID-19 lockdown measures.

If successful, would you consider donating it to a charity for people who cannot afford to keep their only home due to the pandemic?

Yours,

Jill Jeffries, Merely of Kildonan.

Form of internment

Sir,
For younger readers, it was in 1975, following an earlier ferry debacle, 'Caledonian McBrayneless' was immortalised by the late cartoonist and banjo player Malky McCormick ... and here we are again.

In implementing its decision to extend its 'essential timetables' till the end of June at least, CalMac claims to be taking its lead from the Scottish government and Transport Scotland.

Presumably, therefore, CalMac is not solely to blame for the draconian measures its staff have been asked to employ to keep islanders safe, not only from others but from themselves, by requiring the submission of written proof of the necessity to travel, residency qualification – whatever that is – before boarding is permitted.

As a consequence, a form of internment has been imposed on Arran residents, whether permanent or temporary, accidentally or otherwise, which arguably breaches their human rights, at least as the European Court of Justice might see it. So desperate are some to circumvent these procedures, they have resorted to escape ploys, albeit less imaginative than those famous wartime successes at Colditz and Stalag Luft III.

Given the times we live in, one could probably overlook such heavy-handedness and woeful public relations, but this triumvirate has form. Together they are responsible for the appalling and still deteriorating ferry service which, over the winter, plumbed new depths in terms of cancellations as a result of mechanical breakdown and restricted manoeuvrability in bad weather. The primary vessel should already have been withdrawn from service but labours on with no prospect of replacement on the horizon.

The incomprehensible procurement solution is to persevere on the same course with a nationalised shipyard, bankrupted by a dispute over the escalating cost of the new vessel, the original design of which was rendered unfit for purpose by the construction of a new ferry terminal, which has its own short-comings, necessitating a major structural alteration.

The cunning plan is to throw good money after bad and sprinkle on some magic dust. Meanwhile, the silence on the anticipated date of delivery of the new ferry continues to thunder.

However, maybe these three bodies, which ultimately have the same parent and appear to mark their own homework, are smarter than we think. The Machiavellian explanation to all of the above is that, if the current lockdown

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procedures are kept in place for the next two years, the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland and CalMac need not worry about carrying more passengers, implementing a summer timetable or apologising for breakdowns, as it will have few customers. It is about time the cloak of anonymity is cast off and those responsible for CalMac policy in the Scottish government and Transport Scotland are named, held accountable and compelled to reveal how they will resolve this ferry crisis.

Robbie Drummond of CalMac should not have to take all the flak and, instead, could devote his spare time to devising a plan-B, as no one else seems to have one.

**Yours,
Downie Brown, Whiting Bay.**

Alternative view

Sir,
The Banner is always a welcome arrival in my inbox as a way to catch up on island news, but it was disturbing to read a rude and entitled letter in the Banner of June 12 – ‘Second home owners have rights’.

A response by an Arranach may only get dismissed by the author, so perhaps I may express an alternative view as a regular visitor.

Whilst there are a variety of political views on Arran, the community has been careful and transparent in exploring the challenges the island faces. There are also many second home owners who may make a significant contribution to the island, but no one should be speaking on behalf of second home owners, as the author appears to.

It is presumptuous to dismiss the outcome of an island survey by making assumptions about who completed it and it is further presumptuous to allege older residents have no interest in the island's economy.

Those who live on the island are at the heart of Arran's economy, one that has become more and more reliant upon tourism as a result of the fragile economic infrastructure.

One of the reasons for this is the increase in second home ownership. This pushes up the cost of housing and with only eight per cent of affordable housing in rural areas, issues for young people and those wishing to get on the housing ladder are more difficult.

Rather than feeling second home owners are in some way benevolent to the population of Arran, there needs to be a realisation this is one

of the reasons villages are dark and quiet in the winter. The economic instability is partly down to the recycling of funds through local businesses being throttled by second home owners every time they take their spending back to their first home. If there were substantially fewer second homes on Arran and more affordable housing, the resident population would be higher, the economic base would be more secure and there would be greater opportunity for sustainable growth.

It is absolutely right Arran is protected and preserved for future generations, not just those who are fortunate enough to have enough disposable income to have a summer playground.

**Yours,
David Phillips, Leicestershire.**

Inflated house prices

Sir,
I write in response to the letter in last week's Banner from Jack Cowan, Catacol and Glasgow.

Whilst making a considerable assumption about the age of those surveyed and extolling the virtues of visits to the island by holiday home owners, Mr Cowan fails to acknowledge the fact second homes artificially inflate house prices which puts even small properties beyond the reach of young people who want to live and work on the island.

If those properties were affordable, those houses would be occupied throughout the year bringing more economic benefit to the island than holiday home owners.

Island business owners have packed up and left because they have been unable to afford housing, yet there is a holiday home in our village that, to my knowledge, has been visited about six times in the 14 years it has been built. As a consequence of the second home market, developers only build properties to target that market.

Consequently, these houses, which are usually outside the salary range of islanders, stand empty most of the year whilst depleting available building land.

**Yours,
Peter Lythgoe, Kildonan.**

A sincere thanks

Sir,
A sincere word of thanks to the young couple who helped and assisted my wife and I during our recent misadventure along the Corrie shore.

Their response to our predicament was an immediate comfort to both of us and consequently resulted in our safe return home. Very much appreciated.

**Yours,
Gus Robson, Brodick.**

Planning needed now

Sir,
Arran Ferry Action Group has watched with great interest, the recent debate about opening up Arran and restoring ferry services.

Unlike some others, we have felt we could not add to the discussion given we had no access to the appropriate scientific advice available to those in authority.

Without this, any opinion on our part would have been inappropriate. It will be our elected representatives at the Scottish government to decide if, and when, unrestricted travel is permitted in Scotland.

A ministerial statement states tourism in Scotland will be opening up in early July. Two things are essential at that moment of time and must be planned for now.

Firstly, we must have a full service with two boats on the Ardrossan/ Brodick route. The proposed passenger numbers are patently not going to achieve any significant access and are unacceptable.

The Scottish government urgently needs to find a solution to this dilemma. Perhaps it is time for people to wear face masks and accept

Splash of Lamlash rainbow cheer



The 'Banksy' of the Arran public art world strikes again. This beech bow recently appeared at the bottom of the Lamlash hill. On closer inspection it looks like a rainbow painted onto a bent beech wood plank. Nice to see something where, at this time of year, there would be banners for various events, including Lamlash Heather Queen, RNLI and Arran Coastal Rowing Club Regatta.

their own responsibility for social distancing on board, thereby increasing passenger numbers to an agreed overall capacity.

Without onboard services, the crew could largely shield. Essentially passengers would make their own judgements about travelling under such circumstances. We are, after all, generally sensible travellers and do not really require CalMac to tell us how to keep safe, which is ultimately our own responsibility.

Secondly, a full or even enhanced capacity must be restored to the Lochranza/Claonaig service, where complete isolation is possible by remaining in vehicles, with toilets available at both terminals.

The journey time is only 30 minutes. It is beyond belief the current proposal remains to operate once daily from Tarbert.

Both route services should continue into the winter, or for as long as it takes. Without such measures, the island's threatened economy will slip even further compared to the mainland and our future will be bleak.

Our elected representatives have a responsibility to resolve this problem and must act now.

**Yours,
Robert Cumming, John Ford, Gavin Fulton,
Sam Bourne, Donald McNicol, Bob Haddow,
Sharon Shenhav, Sally Campbell and Chris
Attkins, Arran Ferry Action Group.**

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Above: Callie Gregg turned six; while left, triplets Harry, Finn and Reece Popplewell have turned nine.



Tia McKinnon.



Isaac Hunter on his new go kart.

Lockdown birthday bonanza

A bit of a treat this week with five lockdown birthdays for the price of one – and all of them in the same P1/P2 class at Brodick Primary School

Isaac Hunter turned seven on June 7 and celebrated by spending the day on his new go kart and by visiting the new Arran Alpacas – from a distance.

Noah Scott turned seven on June 10, the

same day Callie Gregg turned six and celebrated by enjoying a day in the sunshine and having pizza and ice cream from The Parlour for tea.

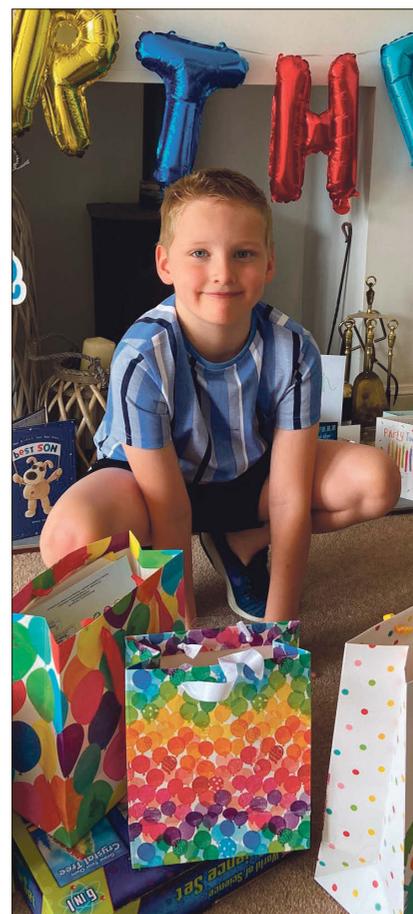
Alisha McLaren turned seven on June 11, then Tia McKinnon turned seven on June 12 and celebrated by playing party games in the sun with her sister and two of her cousins. The cake is meant to be

her pet lamb, Nibbles! And that's not all, as recently there have been four birthdays in the Popplewell family, also in Brodick. Grace turned 11 on June 13 and triplets Harry, Finn and Reece turned nine on May 23. Happy birthday to everyone.

If you have a lockdown birthday photograph send them, with details, to: editor@arranbanner.co.uk.



Alisha McLaren.



Noah Scott.



Grace Popplewell.

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

School's out forever for Arran high's class of 2020

For sixth year pupils leaving Arran High School this summer, the end came sooner than they had planned. When lockdown started and it was announced schools would not reopen until August that was it – school was out forever. Here one of the leavers, Eilidh Hamill, gives her personal account of what it was like and her hopes and fears for the future.

For the Arran High School class of 2020, leaving school wasn't exactly what we thought it might be ... safe to say, times are surreal.

Despite counting the days, when the end came sooner than expected it was a bit of an anti-climax. The plans we had: last day 'leavers do' and goodbyes, like so much, the reality is they will not happen. It is not a tragedy, as so many have lost so much more. It is just a bit of a pity.

The abrupt end to our final year has set us on an unsteady course to our future. Small things we would take for granted – summer jobs, 18th birthday parties and the hope of a driving licence – have been put on ice.

Larger concerns loom on the horizon, however, as coronavirus is predicted to have a great impact on the future of our

'Small things we would take for granted - summer jobs, 18th birthday parties and the hope of a driving licence - have been put on ice'

generation. In recent years, almost all young people leaving Arran High School move to, in education speak, a 'positive destination'. This year may be different.

For some, promising job prospects or apprenticeships have evaporated. For some, another year of school is back on the table. For some, there are worries about what a first year at college or university will look like. Is it the right time

to leave home, be away from family or best to defer plans?

The Resolution Foundation think tank said the 'coronavirus class of 2020 – the 800,000 school leavers' will be most exposed to the 'unemployment surge' caused by COVID-19.

The BBC adds that 'one in three school leavers' gain employment in the sectors hardest hit by the pandemic 'such as cafes, bars and retail'. What does that mean for Arran and will more young people have to leave the island?

Suddenly the future is more precarious and unclear. Lockdown has given us plenty time to think about it ... anxieties are high.

Matt Mathers in The Independent reports 'three-quarters of young people are feeling more anxious as a result of COVID-19'.

While Mental Health UK stress it is 'completely normal' to be 'feeling anxious or stressed during this time', it can be hard to remember that on the bad days.

Mental issues are already common in young people and



The 2020 S6 leavers who missed their last weeks of school.

Phillipa Roxby, BBC health reporter, stresses those with pre-existing conditions are most 'vulnerable' in these times.

Now, more than ever, it is essential to take care of our mental health and look out for each other.

Mental and physical health come hand in hand and should be equally prioritised. Different things will work best for different people.

I use exercise to destress. It has been my anchor in all that is going on.

The overwhelming amount of information from every media source is hard to escape.

So, we have to cut ourselves some slack too.

A good day can be wearing your pyjamas all day and watching an entire series on Netflix.

Sometimes taking a step back helps. We are unsure of our next steps but so many have much greater worries.

The beating heart of our economy is tourism and we don't yet know the full impact on jobs and businesses on Arran.

Who knows how hard life will become in North Ayrshire, where in some towns one in three children already live in poverty. Maybe this crisis will

force us to do things better. It isn't all bad. Look at how lucky we are – where we live and what we have. Our empty island is beautiful and maybe others, like me, have realised how easily we can take that for granted.

Though uncertain times lie ahead, lockdown will end. It may not be the future we planned but it can still be a positive one. Maybe even a better one.

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

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S6 senior prefects, back row left to right: Ellie Wood, Hannah McCartney, Adam Aitken, Robbie Milton and Daisy Urquhart-Dixon. Front, left to right: Laurie Miller, Elyse Aitken, deputy head Suzie Dick, former head teacher Barry Smith, acting head teacher Susan Foster, Eilidh Hamill and William Downing.

All together >

How financial support

Thousands of companies have been taking advantage of an unprecedented package of UK Government support to protect jobs and support businesses during the coronavirus outbreak. The financial support is helping firms across the nation to adapt, innovate and protect jobs. Here are two examples of how companies have been helped, and what support is available.

CASE STUDY 1 Q-MASS

AN UNPRECEDENTED package of UK Government financial support has helped firms like Q-Mass in East Kilbride weather the coronavirus crisis.

Director Ronnie Robertson said lockdown hit his company's order book, but the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has been vital to help them hang on to their valued staff.

Ronnie said: "Before this, we had quite a good order book, with three to four months of work planned, so we were pretty worried where it was going to take us."

At first, he was worried how he would keep Q-Mass' 47 staff on the payroll, but then the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme was announced.

It offers UK Government support to pay 80 per cent of staff's wages up to £2,500 a month, and the scheme has now been extended until the end of October.

Q-Mass manufactures bespoke parts for the oil, gas and defence industry so staff training is important.

Ronnie said: "Our staff are very highly skilled. We've gathered a bunch of people here and trained them up and taken on apprentices. We do a

SCOTLAND IN NUMBERS

628,000 jobs furloughed through the Coronavirus Jobs Retention Scheme up to May 31
146,000 claims amounting to £425 million through the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme up to May 31
Across the whole UK 70 per cent of those eligible for SEISS made a claim. The average value of a claim is £2,900

Source: Her Majesty's Treasury

lot of training, we've got good people, we train them a lot and we want to hang on to them."

He found applying for the furlough scheme quick and straightforward.

He said: "It was surprisingly easy and we were surprised that the money came through relatively quickly."

Now staff at the firm who've been furloughed are gradually returning to work, with strict safety measures in place.

Ronnie said: "We've put a day shift back on and we've still got a few office people working at home, with quite a few still on furlough.

"We're just ticking over. We're trying to cover our costs every month, trying to break even, to stay still. We're looking at it that if we can stay still we're doing very well."

And because of the size of the building, maintaining a two-metre distance hasn't been a problem for returning staff.

Ronnie said: "It's been really easy. We've got a big workshop with wide corridors and we've got a lot of the doors propped open internally so no-one has to touch doors or handles.

"We've got a few toilet areas with restrictions on them and a couple of one-way corridors, but the offices are open plan, so there's no real need for people to be near each other.

"The workshop's a big, wide open space and we have to keep cleaning things like photocopiers and touch screens, but it's been quite straightforward."

Now Ronnie's looking forward to a brighter future.

He said: "I feel like we're on the side of the valley and we're looking across to the other side and it looks absolutely fantastic. Getting through the next few months is crucial for us. We have a really good bunch of people and we want to hang on to them. The furlough scheme has helped us to do that."



'SURPRISINGLY EASY': Q-Mass director Ronnie Robertson praises the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme.



CASH HELP: The Shnuggle team.

'We were able to diversify

CASE STUDY 2 SHNUGGLE

Planning, forward thinking and invaluable help from the UK Government has enabled a Northern Ireland firm to diversify and remain solvent.

When Covid-19 struck, Newtownards baby product manufacturer Shnuggle's owners Sinead and Adam Murphy were prepared thanks to advice from their export colleagues in China.

Sinead said: "We reduced our out-goings, put on pause our marketing spend in the business. We just tried to protect the cash that we had.

"The first impact was our customers that we sell to in Asia. They all went into lockdown so our orders and sales to them stopped. But also a lot of our production happens out in Asia so our factories went into lockdown.

"Luckily we had bought a lot of stock beforehand. We were so relieved that we had, at least



we could carry on trading with our UK and European customers."

With around half of the company's sales in the UK and Ireland and half in the export business, Shnuggle had to rely on their local retail-base.

Sinead continued: "Baby items were classed as essential goods which was a huge relief to us. This meant as long as we

is helping firms adapt



Money for business and staff

Here are some examples of the support available for businesses and workers.

- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme has enabled businesses to put employees on a period of temporary leave (furlough) and apply for a UK Government grant to cover 80 per cent of those workers' usual monthly wage costs, up to £2,500 a month.
- The Self-Employment Income Support Scheme will allow eligible self-employed individuals to claim a taxable grant of 80 per cent of their average monthly profits, up to £7,500.

- UK VAT-registered firms have been given the option to defer VAT payments until the end of June. There will be no interest or penalties on any amount deferred.
- Commercial tenants who cannot pay their rent because of coronavirus will be protected from eviction.
- The UK Government's Bounce Back Loans Scheme provides loans of up to £50,000 to small businesses, with a 100 per cent government-backed guarantee for lenders.
- The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme is

- available for loans or finance of up to £5m. The UK Government will provide the lender with an 80 per cent guarantee to support the lending.
- The Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme will repay employers the current rate of Statutory Sick Pay they pay current or former employees for sickness starting on or after March 13, 2020.
- The Future Fund will issue loans between £125,000 to £5 million to innovative companies which are facing financing difficulties due to the coronavirus outbreak.

■ Details of the support available to businesses across the UK can be found at gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support

while remaining solvent'

could socially distance within the warehouse we could continue trading and selling online.

"All of our business is supplying other retailers like John Lewis, Mamas and Papas, Amazon. But our online sales actually grew because everyone was at home and maybe an element of panic buying."

Shnuggle took advantage of the furlough and Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme (CBILS) schemes.

Sinead said: "We furloughed five out of our 16 team, and were able to access the Business Interruption loan through Ulster Bank.

"We were relieved to get the money in quickly, so we weren't worrying about paying wages or our biggest overhead was our suppliers in China who were calling in all of their debts.

"That was our biggest headache and stress, we owed significant amounts of money to them and we didn't have

the cash as we needed time to sell our products."

Shnuggle also received a £10,000 Small Business Grant.

Adam said: "Furloughing was brilliant, and the CBILS was the one that was the best for us because it meant that we could keep all our suppliers happy.

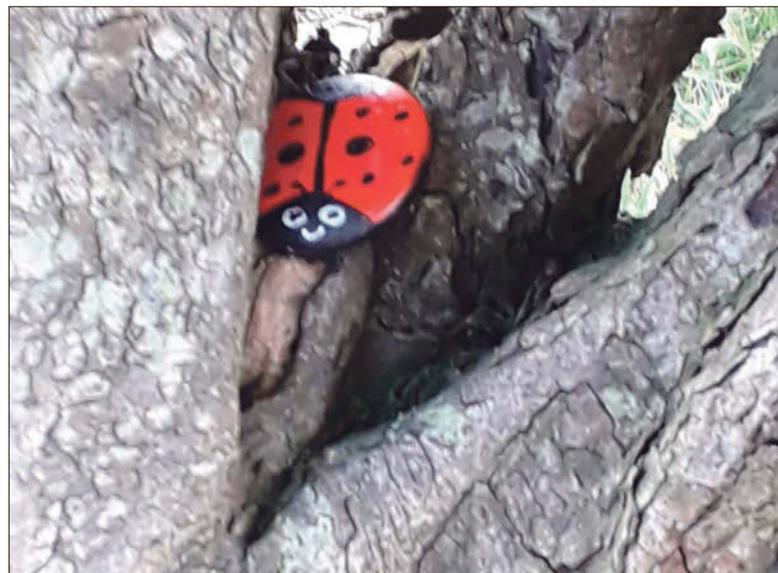
"So even though we had a temporary dip in our sales, and obviously the inventory was sitting there ready to sell, it just kept us solvent and the cash flow moving."



**Keep our distance,
wash our hands, think of others
and play our part.**



Michael, Jack and James Innes with their finds.



A ladybird hiding on a gatepost, top left; left, a ladybird hiding in a tree; and above, one concealed in the rocks for children to find.

The hunt is on at the

An Arran arts and crafts group that wanted to do more for all the young children missing out on their summer fun has launched a new project.

Creatives Spirits is a small art and craft group based in Lochranza. Most of their work to date has been with children in the older age groups who have been isolating since before lockdown began. They say they have been well looked after by the many volunteers in Lochranza and around Arran.

However, volunteers felt that there should be more focus on young children who are missing out on all the summer fun they usually have with friends and family. One of the group, Jenny Baboolal came up with the idea of painting ladybird stones.

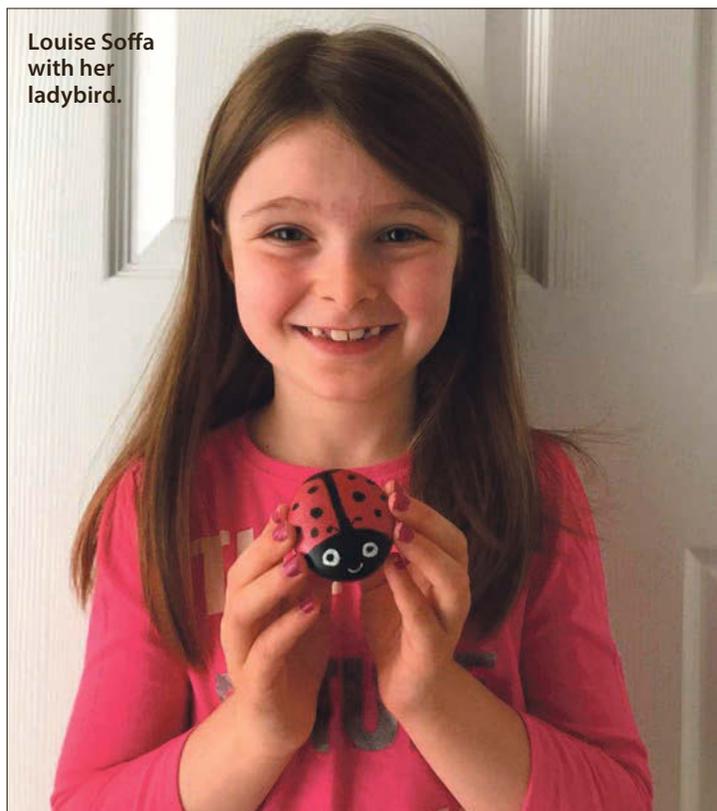
Jenny duly painted more than 50 stones and the group hid them in plain sight around Lochranza Bay. Families with children from around the north-end of Arran were alerted to

the fun activity and the event took place on Sunday June 7 in glorious hot weather.

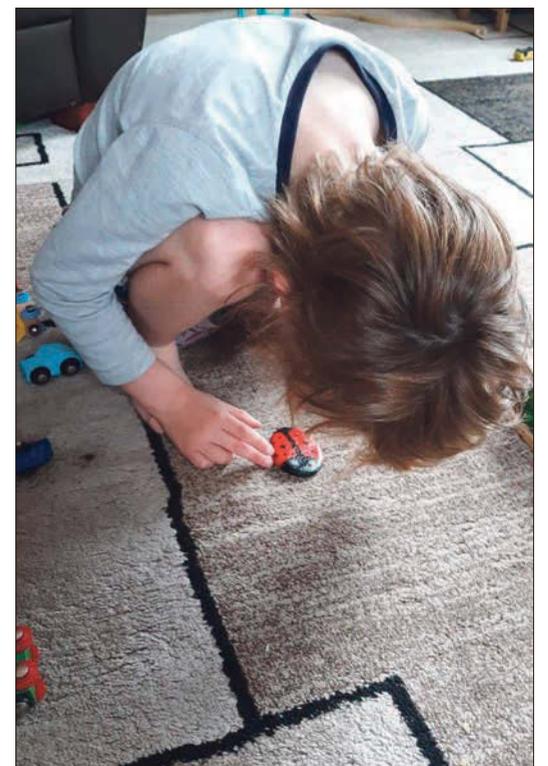
The children had a lovely time and golfers on the nearby golf course heard the whooping and squeals of children discovering the ladybirds. Parents were delighted to be able to take their children to a safe and distanced outdoor event.

Children went home tired but happy, clutching their very own ladybirds, with one ladybird being sent to a child who was shielding and unable to take part. Parents also received a leaflet with lots of interesting information about ladybirds to help with home education.

The ladybirds were left in place for a few days so everyone else in the village could enjoy them. The group hopes the event will stimulate people to think creatively about how they can have safe, distanced and fun events for Arran's children.



Louise Soffa with her ladybird.



Callum Traill inspects his ladybird.

Local mediator ready to step in to resolve COVID conflicts

An experienced local mediator will volunteer with a new mediation service that has been launched across Scotland to support individuals or organisations to resolve conflicts that have arisen as a result of the social distancing and self-isolation requirements under lockdown, writes Hugh Boag.

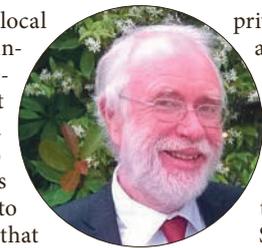
Patrick Scott, pictured, from Whiting Bay, will work with Scottish Mediation which has launched the service with the support of Scottish Government's Wellbeing Fund.

The nature of the conflict can be wide ranging - it can be a personal relationship that is under duress as a result of self-isolation or a dispute with an employer about returning to work during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Anyone is eligible for the service if: They live in Scotland, the conflict is connected to social distancing or self-isolation, the conflict is not part of a pre-existing dispute e.g. divorce proceedings or formal contact arrangements, and all of the people in the conflict agree to participate in mediation.

Provided by a group of professional volunteer mediators, the service is free to individuals and organisations with up to five employees. Organisations with more than five employees will be charged £300 for up to one day's mediation. The service can be accessed through the Scottish Mediation website or by emailing admin@scottishmediation.org.uk.

Scottish Mediation was established to raise the profile of mediation in Scotland, act as a professional body for mediators in Scotland, maintain the Scottish Mediation Register of mediators and provide access to quality assured mediation services. The organisation seeks to promote a wider understanding of the appropriate use of mediation in conflict management and prevention, support and promote education, training and research in skills and best practice, create and encourage links between mediators and Scottish public,



private, voluntary and community organisations and promote and organise standards of professional conduct and training.

Speaking about the new service, the director of Scottish Mediation, Graham Boyack said: 'This is a challenging time for everyone and the isolation and stress of living in close quarters can cause, or increase, conflict for families, friends, and room-mates, and can create challenges for work teams, charities and businesses, and more.'

'As with any disagreement or dispute if we aren't able to have a conversation about it and if it remains unresolved the frustration that can create ongoing problems for those involved that can end up being greater than the original reason why there was a disagreement. That can often have impacts on mental health and wellbeing so it is good if people are able to speak about what's happening.'

'We're delighted to be able to offer this service at a time when people may really need some additional support, and our message to people and organisations is that we're here to help - use us.'

Patrick added: 'Mediators are able to help create the space for that conversation in a way which allows the parties to use creative ways of resolving disagreements and in some instances to repair relationships too.'

'In terms of what might be a suitable dispute for mediation we will be able to speak to you about your dispute and advise on each instance. As a general guide, the sorts of disputes include those around family matters including care of older relatives, flatmates/housemates, landlord/tenant, cooperative or social housing, workplace concerns related to working from home or shared workspaces and those involving neighbours.'

'It is possible that some issues may have existed before and were being managed successfully but the additional pressures have pushed them into conflict.'



Beth Fearon and her yellow ladybird.

ladybird walk



A selection of the of the ladybirds painted for the event.

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

An unexpected guest checks in to The Douglas

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



At this time of year The Douglas Hotel car park would be bustling with activity.

But this year it lies quiet and deserted for now - which at least attracted one unexpected visitor.

For a pair of common sandpiper decided it was an ideal spot for their nest.

Bird expert Jim Cassels explained: 'Usually they nest in cover on the shore or close to the shore or fresh water. With the lack of people at The Douglas the pair have obviously found a quiet spot that suits their need. When the young hatch they are not helpless like blackbird young, which are blind and naked, Common Sandpiper young are ready to run about and feed!'

We hope they are off before the hotel reopens next month.



Top, the common sandpiper protecting her eggs. 1_B25douglas02; and right, the deserted car park of The Douglas with the nest in the foreground. 01_B25douglas01

Council leader backs basic income pilot scheme

Partners involved in exploring the feasibility of a Citizens Basic Income (CBI) pilot in Scotland have completed the draft final report on their findings.

The report concludes a CBI pilot is desirable, but recognises the significant challenges involved.

Over the past two years, Fife, North Ayrshire, City of Edinburgh and Glasgow City Councils have worked together with NHS Health Scotland and the Improvement Service to explore the feasibility of a Scottish CBI pilot. The concept is based on offering every individual, regardless of existing welfare benefits or earned income, an unconditional, regular payment.

As well as the resources provided by the partners involved, the Scottish Government provided £250,000 to support the feasibility work in Scotland.

Led by the Citizens' Basic Income Feasibility Study Steering Group, partners have now developed a proposed model for a CBI pilot which would aim to understand the impact of CBI on poverty, child poverty and unemployment, as well as health and financial wellbeing, and experience of the social security system.

Now, the draft final report is being released as the four councils involved prepare to go through the formal democratic process to discuss and debate the findings, before formally passing to the Scottish Government at the end of the month.

The Steering Group commissioned two significant pieces of research over the course of the study.

The Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland researched the potential interactions between a CBI pilot and the current social security arrangements. This work explored how a pilot study of CBI could impact on eligibility for other welfare benefits and associated 'passport' benefits.

Economic modelling of the potential impacts of a Scotland-wide CBI was led by the Fraser of Allander Institute at the University of Strathclyde in collaboration with the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) Scotland and Manchester Metropolitan University.

The steering group have now designed a preferred model of CBI for piloting in Scotland which would run over the course of three years. This would allow sufficient time for the realisation of short and some medium-term outcomes. A one year preparation period would also be needed.

Two levels of CBI payment are proposed. The high level is based on the 2018 Minimum Income Standard (MIS) produced by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation in order to have a model that is likely to be able to substantially reduce or eradicate poverty. The second level of payment is more closely aligned with current benefit entitlements and provides an opportunity to test the effect of a CBI which is set at a lower income level.

Councillor Joe Cullinane, leader of North Ayrshire Council, said: 'The study clearly shows why we should pilot a bold and radical Citizens' Basic Income.'

'It has the real potential to combat poverty and tackle economic insecurity. A pilot would not only assess the impact and possible benefits on people's lives but it would also test what economic choices individuals make with the greater economic freedom over their relationship with the Labour market that CBI would offer.'

'As we rebuild our economy post-COVID, we must consider innovative solutions in recreating the social security safety net and now would seem the ideal time to test Citizens' Basic Income as we face a global economic recession that will risk pushing more families below the poverty line.'

Thrive – the health and wellbeing benefits of a sensory garden

Sensory gardens are great for helping to reduce anxiety and stress, providing a natural retreat to relax in and offering us a place that encourages wellbeing and mindfulness.

A sensory garden is really just a collection of plants and materials with different textures, shapes, colours, scents and heights that are laid out in such a way to stimulate our senses through smell, sound, touch, taste and sight.

Adding visual interest to a garden can be easily achieved by being clever and selective with your planting. Use flowering perennials, layer plants at different heights, use screens or hedges to form backdrops and plant rows of the same species to elongate areas. You can also make sure your

planting has the desired effect by using colour to provide focal points and ambience.

For stimulating, invigorating areas use hot, vibrant colours – reds, pinks and yellows. Think sunflower, echinacea, marigold, salvia, dahlia even ornamental veg such as swiss chard with its multi-coloured stems and leaves. For a more gentle, calm effect use cool, relaxing colours such as whites, blues and greens. Lavender, foxglove, hydrangea, delphinium and climbers that also provide height such as jasmine and honeysuckle. Plants and trees that change colour through the seasons also provide interest with blossoms and berries and leaves that turn to shades of gold, red and brown in the autumn.

Changes in colour and appearance of materials like paved and pebble pathways when they get wet also add colour and visual appeal. Shapes are also important in a sensory garden, so try using materials like crazy paving and rough-cut flagstones. You can also create interesting routes and pathways through the garden to promote a sense of discovery and orientation.

Movement catches the eye, so think about trees that wave in the wind such as willow or grasses that sway in the breeze. Water features provide wonderful focal points and also attract wildlife. Make sure you have a variety of plants that attract pollinators such as bees and butterflies as well – lovely to watch of a summer's afternoon.

Our general wellbeing is intrinsically linked to the natural world which is why Thrive – the gardening for health charity – has developed the Thrive Gardening Club. Fortnightly tips on getting the most out of your garden, whatever you age or ability, and information on how gardening can keep you healthy and feeling good.

Visit www.thrive.org.uk/get-involved/keep-in-touch/subscribe-to-gardening-club

Gardens and gardening are great for helping to reduce anxiety and promote health and wellbeing.



It's no myth that White Stag is new Bellevue cheese

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



There is a brand new cheese on Arran to savour and enjoy.

White Stag has been created by Calum Chaplin at the Bellevue Creamery in Blackwaterfoot which he describes as a 'wee love letter to Arran'.

He says its unique taste makes it hard to described. But if he was to try, Calum says it is a cross between a Caerphilly and a Swiss-style cheese - semi-hard but with a sweet nutty taste.

He says it a lovely mild cheese which you can cook with, have it on a sandwich or with oatcakes and it will melt well on pizza, lasagne, jacket potatoes and the like.

Calum said he has wanted to make a white cheddar for a long time and the fact that there is surplus Arran milk at the moment from the island's only

'It's a wee love letter to Arran...and all the farmers on the island.'

dairy farm at Tigheanfraoch, given the current situation, he wanted to put it to good use.

He has now been perfecting it for two months and it went on sale, for the first time just last week.

Calum told The Banner: 'There is a lot of work involved. While it is a white cheese, the cultures I am using means there will be a bit of blue and it will pick up a lot of other tastes that makes the cheese the way it is. It is now being waxed to extend its shelf-life.'

The name, is of course, a reference to the rare Arran animal of the same name and the myths and legends which surround it.

Calum added: 'It is really a wee love letter to Arran, diary farming, and indeed all the farmers on the island who are working incredibly hard to keep us all fed.'

It is the first new cheese produced at Bellevue, which began production in 1996, since the Skinny Blue produced using Arran Dairies semi-skimmed



Above, Calum Chaplin with the White Stag cheese he has just made; and left, all ready for the cheeseboard with some relish and, of course, Wooley's oatcakes. Photographs: Alice Kinniburgh



Calum carefully measures ingredients for the cheese.

milk. Calum said he hoped to continue producing White Stag when the creamery is back to full production with its other products but he said: 'It is all down to whether people like it when they try and customers buy it when

the cheese shop opens again. As an initial island-only offer The Cheese Shop is selling pieces of just over 200 grams for £4. To order this, or any other of their cheesy bargains, call the shop on 302788 - you can collect or they can deliver.

Can't get to the shops?



SPECIAL OFFER
3 months
for just
£3.30

PAGE TURNER

version of the Arran Banner
available online

subscribe at arranbanner.co.uk/subscriptions

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. 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 Lamlash Dental Clinic

Lamlash Dental Clinic is treating emergencies (severe toothache, swelling, trauma, that cannot be remedied with pain relief). If anyone thinks they have a dental problem we can be contacted at the surgery on 01770 601067. If staff are busy, leave a message (make sure to leave name and contact number) or alternatively call the dental helpline on 01563 507950. They will alert staff to arrange an appointment for patients. The front door is locked as appointments are strictly for patients who have been triaged.

Mon-Fri we ask if patients do need to be seen that they call as early as possible after 9am. There is cover on Saturday and Sunday until the ferry is back on all day, but call 111 out of hours – we are on call from 10am to noon on Sat & Sun.

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 5pm and 7pm on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday (Do not go to the centre, phone 01770 830637/615). Payment to 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.

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. Bank details are: Name: Pirnmill Village Store – sort code: 83-23-13, account no: 00601644.

Wooleys of Arran Bakery Shop, Brodick

Open to the public from 7am –2pm. Lamlash CLOSED.

The Parlour, Brodick

New opening hours. Wed-Sun 4pm-8pm. Free delivery available in Brodick. Orders can be placed via Facebook messenger out of hours or call 303823.

Co-op, Brodick

Groceries for home delivery – for vulnerable and self-isolating residents. Order via telephone on 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. The Co-op now has a new online delivery service available to everyone on the island - visit quickshop.coop.co.uk for more details. Also Click and Collect is available to everyone seven days. Pick, Pack and Deliver will also continue for now.

Foodshare at the Co-op, Brodick and Lamlash

Short-life orange label food (use by and best before) will be available free to the public every evening at 6.15pm from the foodshare table within the big Co-op in Brodick and Co-op, Lamlash. The scheme is open to all, help yourself to stop food 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 bring your shopping 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 on 700229 Mon-Sat 9-4pm. Sunday CLOSED. The seating area is now closed, FREE hot drinks to any NHS and Coastguard/helicoptering staff/any front line staff ... and their spouses.

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 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 www.facebook.com/bakehouseblackwater for developments. Bread also available at usual locations elsewhere on the island.

Arran Meals 2 Go, Shiskine

Deliveries this week – Lamlash Thursday and Saturday night at pick up points. Deliveries to Brodick, Shiskine and Machrie on Friday and Saturday nights. Please find our pizza and kebab menu on our Facebook page. Send us a message or phone 860572. Pre orders essential online payments available and free delivery.

Kilmory Hall and Community Centre

Groceries available as usual for those who need to use it. A review will be made at the end of April. Contact us by 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 either call 01294 551734 or visit 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. 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

Cladach Sawmill and Garden Centre, Brodick

We are open for the garden centre, fencing and ironmongery. Open Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm with social distancing guidelines in place. Tel: 302622, cladachsawmill@btinternet.com

Home & Gardens, Brodick

Household items or essentials can be delivered free by arrangement or left outside for collection. Call 302648 to order – card payment via phone.

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

Armitage is providing regular services and Arran Haulage are still delivering goods, animal feed, coal and gas as normal, island wide adhering strictly to national guidelines. Call 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.

Mackenzie Logs

Delivering as normal, adhering to guidelines. Call 700348 to order.

MBS Building and Timber Supplies

We are 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 home delivery service for orders over £25 is available to customers with transportation problems.

Slidery 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: slidery-

supplies@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. Call 07956 324546.

Bay Petrol, Brodick

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

John Thomson Construction

The main office is open 8am – 5pm. Social distancing measures apply – please only attend the office in person if necessary – orders and payments can be made over the phone on 600 242. Lamlash yard is now open 8am – 4.30pm for building materials and fuel.

Lamlash Petrol Station

The fuel station at Thomson's yard in Lamlash is open for petrol & diesel sales Monday to Friday, 8am to 4.30pm. Social distancing restrictions apply and fuel will be served by our yard attendant.

Lamlash Garage

The garage is open 8am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday for vehicle servicing, repairs and MOTs. Social distancing measures apply. Card payments preferred and can be made over the phone. Call 600 328 to book in.

Blackwaterfoot Garage

Open for fuel as usual 08:30-17:30 Monday- Friday. 09:00-17:00 Saturday. Closed Sunday. Please email or phone for more information. blackwaterfoot@btconnect.com 01770 860277

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

Newspapers, books, puzzles, batteries, stationary etc can all be delivered - in Brodick only at moment. Payment over the phone. 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 from any of our makers and crafters, contact them direct first. Items can be delivered from the shop. Orders via Telephone: call Kat and Steve Sparshott on 600110 or Linda MacCallum on 302875 with requirements.

Ad Astra Jewellery & Gifts, Brodick

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

The Whins Craft Workshop, Lachranza

Open everyday from 10am-6pm

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

Lots of customers purchase dog food from us and 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

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 contact Susan Dobson 01770 302365. Food and other donations for the foodbank would be greatly appreciated 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@hearinggloss.org.uk

Arran Sound – talking Arran Banner

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

Life's on hold – your future doesn't have to be!

Learning after lockdown might feel a little bit different than it did before, but Argyll College UHI has been pioneering the use of digital and online technologies since 1999 to reach remote and rural communities, so we know how to make it work for you.

We draw on award-winning expertise to deliver courses using a blended approach to teaching. This combines video conferencing, which we've all become so used to with the weekly family Zoom call, with inventive online technologies, real time support from tutors and support staff, and some face-to-face teaching for learners across Argyll and Bute and beyond.

3rd year student Charis says, "during lockdown we carried on with our Video Conference classes as normal, and with



assignments available on the secure online portal, we didn't notice too much difference. I'm going to be continuing with the BA Business and Management in September and am looking forward to working from home once the kids are back in school."

When courses restart on 7th September, life on campus will undoubtedly be slightly different. Our priority is to provide a safe learning environment for all staff and students. Any return to face to face learning will be safely planned in line with the current and developing

Scottish Government public health measures, including social distancing.

Increasingly it will be normal for students and staff to connect with each other from home, travelling into our local college centres for practical activities, assessments and to access individual support.

This doesn't mean that activity will be any less, and in fact this 'new normal' will make it easier than ever for you to fit your studies around other commitments using our blended learning approach.

Signing up to study with Argyll College could be a great alternative to a gap year abroad. It's the perfect option if you are thinking about a career change or if you want to gain some essential study skills and experience before thinking about a move to the big city.

Our virtual online open day on Wednesday 24th June is the ideal way to find out more about how we do things; chat online or on the phone with friendly and knowledgeable staff about what your options are; or just browse our range of subject areas and listen to what our tutors have to say.

Because we combine different teaching technologies

our students can study from anywhere: a remote Scottish island, the heart of Glasgow or the Scottish Borders, and with a full range of higher and further education courses, we have options which are ideal for school leavers or adult returners. Don't let your IT skills, equipment or slow broadband stop you – speak to us about anything you think might stand in your way, we may be able to help.

Local Centre Manager Judi Worthington says, "Our buildings are closed, but applications are open. Staff are working at home now, and throughout the summer, so there's always someone you can contact and we want to hear from you."

2020 is the time to stay local. Don't put your future on hold – find it with us.

Find out more at www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/openday

A young woman with blonde hair, wearing a yellow sweater and blue jeans, is sitting on the floor and smiling while looking at a tablet. The background is white with purple and yellow geometric shapes and confetti. In the top right corner, there is a logo for the University of the Highlands and Islands Argyll College, consisting of a stylized 'A' in teal and purple, followed by the text "University of the Highlands and Islands Argyll College".

24TH JUNE
ONLINE
OPEN DAY

University of the Highlands and Islands
Argyll College

It might feel like life is on hold right now, but your future doesn't have to be. Maybe you're thinking about a change of career, or just want to find out what you can study from home? We have over 20 years' experience in providing distance and online learning. Book now to speak to our friendly team!

www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/openday



Wildlife assistant April Sorley tends to Martini, a rescued fawn.

Be wildlife wise around fawns says Scottish SPCA

The Scottish SPCA is asking members of the public to be #WildlifeWise around fawns after a number came into its care after being uplifted by passers-by.

Of the nine fawns brought to the society, seven were taken from their natural environment by people who have potentially mistaken the animals as abandoned by their parents.

Scotland's animal welfare charity recently launched its #WildlifeWise campaign to educate the public on when they should contact them about young wildlife. The aim of the campaign is not to create orphans unnecessarily.

Female deer will leave their young from an early age while they forage for food. The doe will leave its fawn in long grass or under bushes to protect it from predators.

The charity is asking people to be #WildlifeWise and stay a safe distance away from fawns and not to contact its helpline unless the young deer is showing signs of needing assistance. A mother will return to the fawn and feed it, so if someone does return later and the fawn does not show any signs of needing help, it should be left alone.

Mike Flynn, the Scottish SPCA's chief superintendent, said: 'Deer can find situations stressful and by removing a fawn when there is no need to, it can cause great distress to mother and baby.'

'We've had instances where people have phoned our animal helpline about a fawn and have chosen to ignore our advice and uplifted the animal. One fawn was less than a day old and died shortly after arriving.

'Some people have taken the fawns into their homes which is incredibly stressful on the animal. These are not domestic pets used to human interaction.

'These are wild animals and being petted and taken in to a home is not natural to them and they will be terrified. Sadly, this can cause so much stress the animal can die.

'Our teams work incredibly hard to rehabilitate these fawns and get them ready to be released back in to the wild. This usually involves regular bottle feeding through the night. As incredible as our wildlife team is, there is no substitute for an animal staying with its family in the wild.

'Our concern is also with the doe that finds her fawn missing. Unfortunately, this can also result in the deer dying as a result of extreme stress.

'If you come across a fawn, please stay well back and do not alert it to your presence. Make sure dogs are kept on a lead. Monitor the fawn over several hours. A mother will return to feed its young and then go off again. If there are still no signs of the fawn needing help when you check back, please leave it alone.

'People should only intervene if the fawn is injured or the mother is deceased nearby.

'Please help us to keep wild families together and only phone when it is needed,' added Mike.

To report an injured or distressed animal, contact the Scottish SPCA animal helpline on 03000 999 999. Visit www.scottishspca.org/wildlifewise for more information on the #WildlifeWise campaign.

High flying birds

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

MAY

The first half of May was dry with the little rain there was in the second half including a storm during the weekend of May 23.

In comparison to last May, this May had similar rainfall but was warmer, with a mean temperature one degree higher. The temperature range was large, from 24 degrees to minus 1.9 degrees. The lower range reflected the northerly wind direction this May, with temperatures gradually rising after the storm.

There was a feeling that while spring was arriving it was a little late. Conditions were generally good for birds trying to get on with breeding but swallow and house martin seemed to be delaying nesting, perhaps because of the dry conditions. In addition, the storm, with resulting high tides, swamped the nests of a number of breeding shore birds round the coast.

It was a good month with more than 110 species recorded, two of which had not been recorded on Arran for a number of years.

Corncrake had not been recorded on the island for 12 years and this year there were reports from two areas.

Called

One called in a rashy field in Sannox throughout the first two weeks of the month. It was last heard on 13th.

The other was heard in the Rodden area of the Shiskine Valley on 14th. In addition there was a report of a pair of garganey on Sliderry Shore on 3rd.

The only other record of this summer visitor on Arran was eight years ago in 2012.

Throughout the month, the numbers of familiar summer

visitors like swallow, house martin, sand martin, willow warbler, whitethroat, sedge warbler and cuckoo continued to build up.

In addition to the 'firsts' reported in the April notes, here are more 'firsts' with the 2019 arrival dates in brackets for comparison: spotted flycatcher in North Newton on 8th (11th); wood warbler in High Kildonan on 9th (17th); Arctic tern on Silver Sands on 15th (14th) and two swift over Sliderry on 30th (10th).

To date, there have been no reports this year of lesser whitethroat, common redstart, nightjar or common tern.

Species who breed further north continued to pass through including: two great northern diver in Whiting Bay on 1st; 11 sandwich tern at Drumadoon Point, also on 1st; seven whimbrel on Sliderry Shore on 3rd; three white wagtail in Blackwaterfoot, also on 3rd; 10 turnstone and 26 dunlin on Blackwaterfoot shore on 11th; 10 sanderling at Drumadoon Point on 19th; one bar-tailed godwit at Cosyden

on 24th and two black-throated diver in breeding plumage off Claulchlands on 27th.

In May, breeding was well under way for many species. Encouraging signs included reports of golden eagle, golden plover, hen harrier, red-throated diver and short-eared owl holding breeding territories. Activity was reported from all the monitored heronries on the island and four areas held small numbers of breeding lapwing.

Cliffs

A number of coastal cliffs held single figure numbers of nesting fulmar which seem to be in serious decline on Arran.

I would be interested to receive any reports of young birds. None were reported in 2017, 2018 or 2019 from any colony.

By contrast, black guillemot colonies seem to be thriving. Other breeding records included: 10 skylark singing in Doire Bhuide on 6th; two woodcock roding over Machrie Moor on 15th; pair of shelduck with nine young at Dhunan on 18th; pair of mute swan with six

young at Machrie Bay on 26th and three pair of common sandpiper holding territories by the Fallen Rocks on 30th.

Towards the end of the month, there were lots of reports of garden birds carrying food and feeding recently fledged young, including young goldfinch without the red face colour of the adult birds.

Other highlights: a little grebe on Mossend Pond on 2nd; 40 gannet by the mouth of Loch Ranza on 16th; a leucistic herring gull in Blackwaterfoot on 18th - this 'white' herring gull was ringed on Arran in June 2018; three pair of goosander on Sliderry Shore on 19th; a pale-breasted brent goose, an occasional winter visitor, on the shore at Silver Sands on 27th and three moorhen on Mossend Pond on 30th.

There were a number of reports of a single magpie in May. Magpie, a familiar bird on the mainland, is a vagrant on Arran with no records some years. The records could all have been the same bird - Dippen Head on 2nd; Glenloig on 7th; Sannox on 26th; Marganaheglish on 28th and Sannox on 29th.

With the long daylight hours, it is a great time of year to be birding. Most birds are breeding.

Please take a moment to report any signs of breeding birds to me, but remember under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is being built or used.

Do not hesitate to report any criminal activity to the local police. Particularly take care on our shores and please keep dogs on their leads at this time of year.

Enjoy your birding.

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

For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report, the first 40 years, which includes the annual report for 2019, and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

CONTACTUS

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



Arctic tern numbers built up on Pladda during the month. Photograph: Dennis Morrison.

Left:
many
May.
young
colour
Robert

in lockdown



Above: Leucistic herring gull, a 'white' herring gull first ringed on Arran two years ago. Photograph: Simon Davies.



The corncrake's last appearance on Arran 12 years ago. Photograph: Angela Cassels.

Goldfinch, one of many young species in Arran. Unlike adult birds, young have no red on face. Photograph: Simon Lambie.



Above: Sanderling – an Arctic breeder heading north. Photograph: Simon Davies.



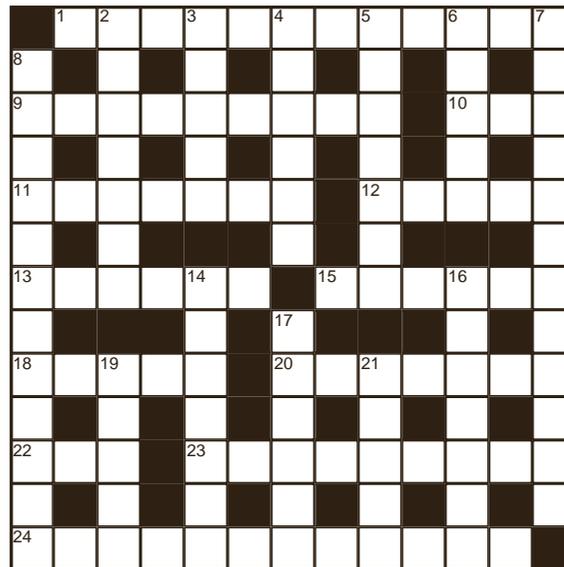
Left: Black-throated diver in breeding plumage heading north. Photograph: Colin Cowley.



Right: Song thrush, one of many species feeding young in May. Photograph: Brian Couper.

Double Crossword

The puzzles are different but both use the same grid



Cryptic Across

- 1 & 9. The one standing in the blue corner (12,9)
10. Disbelieve part. This part? (3)
11. Ian felt remarkably swell (7)
12. Half the ice cream for all the performers (5)
13. Possibly sees about 90 too many (6)
15. It accepts cap is altering the gap (6)
18. Used to point out two or more items (5)
20. Overseas posting? (7)
22. Pierced first part of the crusty concoction (3)
23. Clearly without a silver lining? (9)
24. Schoolmaster perhaps, and a suitable place for him (3,9)

Cryptic Down

2. Initially one made name in forming it clearly to be all-creating (7)
3. Antelope found in Lhasa, I gathered (5)
4. Grim sort of harvester (6)
5. I meant a different mental deficiency (7)
6. A small detached area has tenants (5)
7. Form of late education (7,5)
8. Mistake place often considered black (8,4)
14. Pattern sent round before leading cartographer and I left (7)
16. Replace bottle containing dummy drug (7)
17. Well-known fellow has a blind rodent? (6)
19. Daisy has a neat look (2-3)
21. Method of detection going up or down just the same (5)

Quick Across

1. Poor diet (12)
9. Exceeded one's welcome (9)
10. Greek letter (3)
11. Moscow citadel (7)
12. Islamic deity (5)
13. Snuggle (6)
15. Tropical grass (6)
18. Donated (5)
20. Cattle thief (7)
22. Astern (3)
23. Keeper of book collection (9)
24. Deadly grip (12)

Quick Down

2. Thespian (7)
3. Relating to birth (5)
4. Endeavouring (6)
5. Central US state (7)
6. Urge forward (5)
7. Adjacent (12)
8. Mirror (7-5)
14. Wool grease (7)
16. Oxford college (7)
17. Clannish (6)
19. Trove (anag.) (5)
21. Long cut (5)

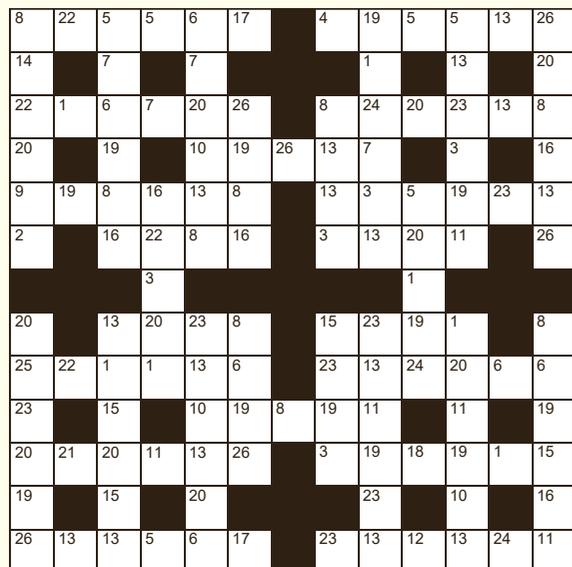
All puzzles on this page are supplied by Sirius Media Services.

To try our new puzzle, Zygolex, go to www.zygolex.com - available in book form or as an app.



PZW1471 © Sirius Media Services Ltd

CROSS CODE



ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	L	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		H			I								

Each number in the Cross Code grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. You have three letters in the control grid to start you off. Enter them in the appropriate squares in the main grid, then use your knowledge of words to work out which letters should go in the missing squares.

As you get the letters, fill in other squares with the same number in the main grid and control grid. Check off the alphabetical list of letters as you identify them.

Quiz Challenge

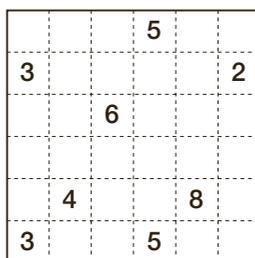
1. Which Speaker of the House of Commons became Lord Tonyandy when raised to the peerage?
2. "Send me a postcard, drop me a line, Stating point of view" is a lyric from which Beatles song?
3. What L is a seven-letter room found in the game of Cluedo?
4. Peeters and Janssens are the two most common surnames in which European country?
5. In 1992, which country replaced its Soviet-era flag with one featuring a carpet?



Laurence Fox - see Question 7

6. The name of which US general, born in 1741, became a byword for treason or betrayal?
7. Laurence Fox played Detective Inspector James Hathaway in which ITV drama series?
8. Where do arboreal creatures live?
9. An Asda store stands on the site of the old Burnden Park football ground in which town?
10. The paintings Mr and Mrs Clark and Percy, and A Bigger Splash are by which artist?

BOX CLEVER



Fill the 6x6 grid with as many boxes as there are numbers printed. Each box must be either square or rectangular and must contain just one of the numbers. The numbers show how many squares there should be in each box.

COMMON LINK

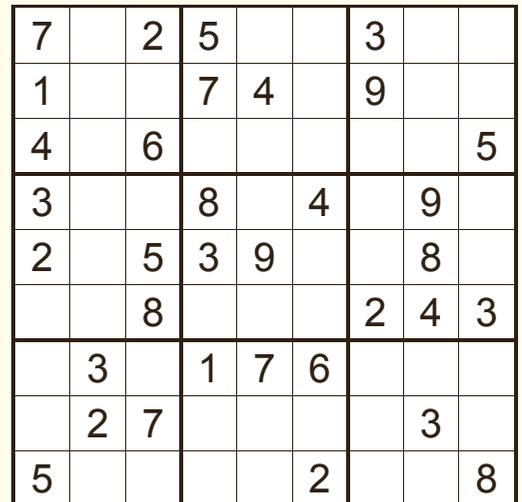
The answers to the following five questions contain a word or words which have a common theme. Can you find the link?

1. In the Shrek movie franchise, which character is voiced by Eddie Murphy?
2. What name is given to water in its hot vaporised form?
3. Vulcan was the Roman god of which element?
4. What name is given to a group of people sent out to look for a missing person?
5. Which German mechanical engineer died mysteriously during a North Sea crossing in 1913?

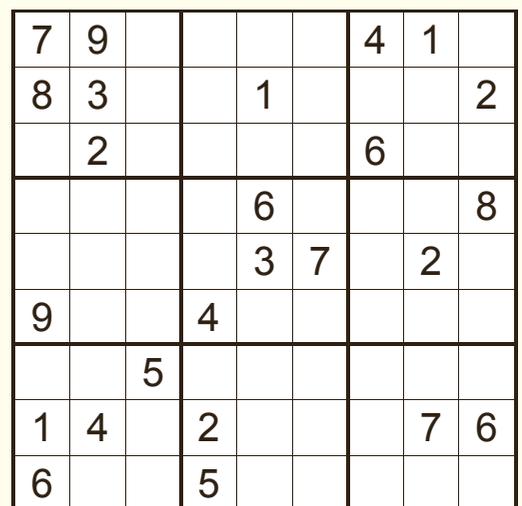
SUDOKU

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

Easy

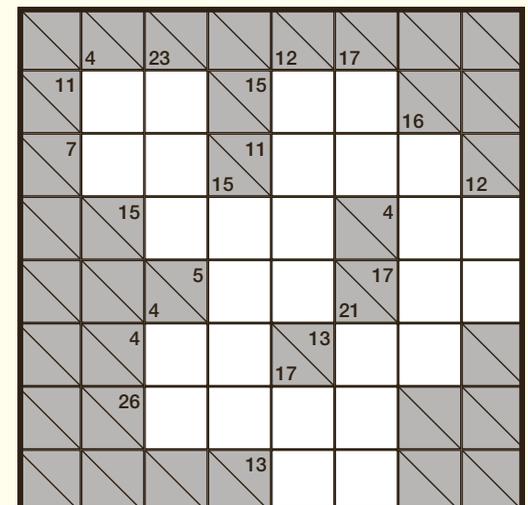


Hard



KAKURO

Fill in the blank squares in the grid with numbers so that each horizontal or vertical line adds up to the total given in the box either to the left or above it. Horizontal totals are given in the top right corners of the shaded boxes; vertical totals in the bottom left corners. You can use the numbers 1 to 9, but may not use the same number more than once in any run. The number may be used again, however, in the same row or column but as part of another run.



SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD:
 Across - 1. Mahatma; 9. Unstayed; 10. Lie; 11. Inflame; 12. Thrill; 13. Excess; 14. Accident; 15. Bamboozle; 16. Placebo; 17. Famous; 18. Given; 19. Ox-eye; 20. Airmail; 21. Radar; 22. Pierced; 23. Cloudless; 24. The classroom.
 Down - 2. Acre; 3. Salsa; 4. Reaper; 5. Amenta; 6. Islet; 7. Evening; 8. Strangeland; 9. Omnifit; 10. Try; 11. Librarian; 12. Airmail; 13. Airmail; 14. Airmail; 15. Airmail; 16. Airmail; 17. Airmail; 18. Airmail; 19. Airmail; 20. Airmail; 21. Airmail; 22. Airmail; 23. Airmail; 24. Airmail.

COMMON LINK:
 1. Shrek; 2. Steam; 3. Fire; 4. Search party; 5. Rudolf Diesel; 6. Common link: precede engine.

EASY SUDOKU:
 1. Poor diet (12)
 9. Exceeded one's welcome (9)
 10. Greek letter (3)
 11. Moscow citadel (7)
 12. Islamic deity (5)
 13. Snuggle (6)
 15. Tropical grass (6)
 18. Donated (5)
 20. Cattle thief (7)
 22. Astern (3)
 23. Keeper of book collection (9)
 24. Deadly grip (12)

BOX CLEVER:
 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9

QUIZ CHALLENGE:
 1. George Thomas; 2. When I'm 64; 3. Library; 4. Belgium; 5. Turkmenshan; 6. Benedict Arnold; 7. Lewis; 8. In trees; 9. Bolton; 10. David Hockney.

CROSS CODE:
 Q G H Y X L A B U R C F D
 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
 N 2 K M Z P L O S W V T J E
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday June 24, 2000



Arran has its own ice cream for the first time. Alastair Dobson of Arran Dairies has been looking for way to diversify his business and, at a time of static milk sales, this seemed the natural course to take. Here Mr Dobson, right, and Iain MacDonald show off four flavours of the ice cream which, along with traditional, comes in chocolate, strawberry, mint, rum and raisin and raspberry ripple. 01_B25tweY05



Almost all of the pupils from Whiting Bay Primary School travelled to Edinburgh last Saturday to take part in the JC2000 project, the largest millennium event in the UK this year. One of 10 schools chosen from more than 18,000 throughout the UK, Whiting Bay pupils took to the stage in Edinburgh's Queen's Hall in the grand finale of the National Millennium Arts Festival with their song Care for Others and a short drama, The Message Never Changes. 01_B25tweY02



Shiskine Golf Club champions Karen Haggarty and Willie Kelso take a well-earned rest after last Sunday's hard-fought finals. Karen played Pat Adamson in the ladies final and Willie beat Colin Allison in the gents. 01_B25tweY06



Lamlash Primary School pupils had a visit from a seven-foot penguin this week. Penguin Pete is the brainchild of Strathclyde Police and he was visiting the island as part of a campaign aimed at protecting children. 01_B25tweY01



Left: Shiskine Primary School's nursery was officially opened last Monday. It is the first purpose-built accommodation for pre-school which has been up and running since last August and nursery teacher Barbara Crawford has seven charges in her care. Pictured at the front with Mrs Crawford are nursery pupils Stephen Judge, Jenna Taylor, Lois Crawford, Emma Lawson and John Parkhill.

01_B25tweY04



Thirty two runners took part in this year's Glen Rosa Horseshoe Hill Race which is 12 miles long with 5,500 feet of ascent and is now recognised as a classic among Scottish hill races. 01_B25tweY03

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

PUBLIC NOTICES



We're sorry that due to COVID-19 we have had to postpone our 2020 AGM: the provisional new date will be **Thursday 17th September 2020 at 7:30pm.** We will advertise further details in the Arran Banner in due course as Scottish Government guidance evolves.
Thank you for your support

Can't get to the shops?



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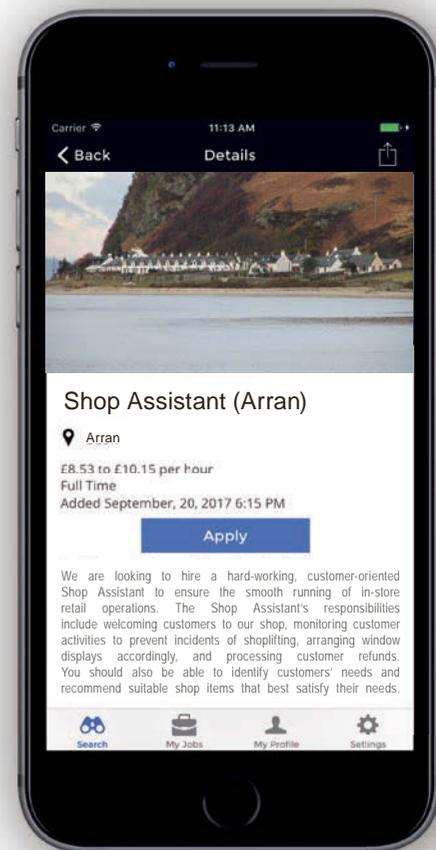
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CHURCH NOTICES

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 11 a.m. Sunday morning and over the rest of the week can be received at

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

BULLOCH - The family of the late Martha Ravey Bulloch (née Sillars) of Hamilton Terrace, Lamlash wish to acknowledge the many expressions of sympathy and the kindness shown to us following our sad loss. We offer our heartfelt thanks to the many friends, neighbours and extended family members who turned out to pay their respects to the funeral cortege, on its way to the small private burial service. It was very moving and a beautiful tribute to Ravey in these difficult times. We also wish to express our immense gratitude to all the nurses and doctors of Lamlash Medical Centre, the War Memorial Hospital and the ambulance service for their exceptional care and to the Reverend Angus Adamson, whose tribute at the graveside was both poignant and uplifting and would have been much appreciated by Ravey herself. A final thank you to Clair and David Hendry for their thoughtful attention and professionalism.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Continued from back page.

Day 15

Whiting Bay to Porta Leacach. Good day but very windy. The wind blew me over at one point so we had to come off the beach, up a very steep track onto the main road. We met two kind guys from the Arran MCC who offered us a dram and gave us a very kind donation, so thank you Arran MCC.

We carried on to Porta Leacach where we will start from tomorrow morning. Look forward to finishing tomorrow afternoon.

Day 16

Kildonan. So close, the finish line is in sight. Never been so glad to see the Boathouse again. Time for a rest and a dram now.

There is still time to donate, visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/davy-ballantyne3

All photographs:
Fraser Aitchison

Top right, Davy finds the going hard on the boardwalk between Lamlash and Whiting Bay; right, Davy strides across Lamlash green; far right, heading out of Whiting Bay to Porta Leacach.



Davy and Fraser began and finished the walk with a dram at the Boathouse.



Davy passes the rainbow landmark in Lamlash.



Davy makes his way out of Brodick to Lamlash in the shadow of Goatfell.

THE ARRAN BANNER

Barrel challenge is no match for Big Davy

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Big Davy Ballantyne has completed his latest herculean challenge and in doing so is well on his way to raising more than £20,000 for the Samaritans.

He reached the finish line of his 70-mile challenge of walking the entire Arran Coastal Way with a 50kg (8st) whisky barrel strapped to his back in just 16 days.

He took on the challenge to raise money and awareness of the Samaritans who are finding their services under severe pressure at these difficult times. At the time of going to press Davy had raised £15,420 on his JustGiving page. In addition, workers at the whisky makers Grants have donated £3,000 and the Lagg whisky barrel he carried is to be auctioned at the next dinner of the Isle of Arran Distillers White Stag Community.

Afterwards Davy posted on Facebook: 'I would like to thank everyone for their kind words, support and donations. Your enthusiasm has helped me greatly and I am proud of your generosity. Your support from all over the planet was great. My deepest thanks go to Fraser and to my wife Lies for putting this challenge on the internet, I don't even own a mobile phone and the coverage would have been beyond me.'

'All I would say now I look



after yourself and others. It's been a pleasure. Love and happiness, Big Davy.'

In last week's Banner we left Davy in Lamlash. Here he takes up the story of the final days.

Day 14

Start the day in Lamlash. Weather was kind to us. Still tired from yesterday though and the barrel was heavy.

Tried to take the wooden walkway but due to too many overhanging branches we had to go back down to the beach. Decided to go up through the Viking fort then back down to the beach again. Good of the people at The Shore, Whiting Bay to leave us out a cold beer.

Continued on page 23.



Main, nearly home. Davy reaches the end of the road; above right, Davy struggles with the barrel along the rocky shoreline; above left, Davy takes a well earned rest in a cave. All photographs: Fraser Aitchison.





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