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Council calls for urgent plans to aid island recovery

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

North Ayrshire Council is calling for immediate action and targeted measures to support island communities such as Arran and Cumbrae in support of their recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

While cognisant that local economies across Scotland and the rest of the UK have suffered as a result of the pandemic, it has been recognised that island communities are likely to face greater social and financial challenges than most.

Council leader Joe Cullinane has written to Scottish Ministers with proposals aimed at helping the islands of Arran and Cumbrae survive the current economic and social upheaval.

The proposed measures include the creation of a bespoke Island Fund, more financial support for island businesses and increasing ferry capacity safely.

Both Arran and Cumbrae – home to about 6,500 residents – rely on ferries as the primary means of welcoming goods and visitors, and accessing many essential services.

But the reduced capacity and frequency of ferry crossings as a result of essential public

'There is no doubt that national interventions and investment will be fundamental to securing an inclusive economic recovery'

health measures are having a significant and disproportionate impact on the islands' economies and communities and will continue to do so unless urgent action is taken.

Councillor Cullinane, Cabinet Member for Community Wealth Building, has written to Michael

Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, and Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, to request immediate action to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 and build strong, sustainable and inclusive economies.

Councillor Cullinane said: 'Our islands face specific and unique challenges in restarting their economies, not least the constraints of ferry capacity. We are continuing to work closely with representatives from the island communities, including Arran Recovery Group, to develop plans as part of our wider economic recovery planning.

'Central to our approach will be Community Wealth Building and a place-based approach to ensure a more inclusive economy going forward.

'We are fully supportive of the Islands Act and the National Islands Plan and be-

Continued on page three.



Pubs, restaurants and takeaways on Arran enjoyed a resurgence this week as many opened for the first time since March. Venues with outdoor areas welcomed people at the start of the week and those with indoor facilities will be opening next week. Visitors are having to comply with social distancing rules and leaving contact details with proprietors, however that, and the fine weather, was no obstacle for those who returned to public places with friends and family. Enjoying the sunshine and food and drink at The Wineport in Brodick are the Sheridan family who were returning to Arran from Glasgow. 01_B28business01

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Arran group publish their Recovery Plan Summary

The Arran Recovery Group (ARG) is a voluntary group of individuals who represent a number of organisations on Arran which includes Health and Social Care Partnership, Community Council, Visit Arran, Auchrannie, Taste of Arran, Eco Savvy, Arran Development Trust, North Ayrshire Council support, Local Councillor, Arran High School, Arran Community Voluntary Service, Arran Ferry Committee, Highlands and Island Enterprise, Arran Digital Blacksmith Arran Economic Group.

Its aim is to develop a recovery plan dealing with community, environment and the economy at its heart by consultation with the relevant bodies and the community on Arran.

The group meet weekly and publish their progress, aims and challenges on their

website. Below is the summary of their Recovery Plan as published on their website at www.arranrecoverygroup.co.uk on Friday July 3, 2020.

Arran Covid-19 Recovery Plan Summary: (Based on SG Route Map).

Summary: The 'ask' is simple, we want the same right to survive, community and business, as the rest of Scotland. No less, no more.

Critical Issues: Credibility of Islands Bill determined by response:

1. Tourism contributed £69m and 1516 jobs 2019. Need minimum of 50 per cent 2019 capacity from July to deliver best cast £32m for 2020.

2. Auchrannie in Employee Consultation process while continuing to seek increased ferry capacity and Government support. Indicative of all business.

3. Government support pack-

age that recognises tourism in general and islands in particular as a special case requiring additional support

Outcomes from 1, 2 and 3 determines the size for Island Survival Plan.

Critical Path: Ferry capacity impact on business and civil rights.

CalMac will issue an enhanced summer schedule with capacity limitation based on social distancing (SD). Additional good news on SD this week. Still no numbers, so no change to last week's status. That is; No viable tourism in 2020 and restricted travel for the local community. The situation has improved but we need the numbers and a prioritisation process. In addition, we need passenger ferry capacity at a minimum of 50 per cent of the 2019 passenger levels from July onward. This assumes there will be a

prioritisation process for: essential workers, locals, visiting friends and family, and staying visitors, in that order. Same commercial traffic as 2019.

We are currently 55 per cent behind last years tourist revenue with the balance depending upon achieving the requested capacity and a booking/ticketing system, both at best, uncertain. In parallel, we need Government, at all levels, to urgently establish an 'Island Survival Plan'. The infrastructure that supports this £69m industry employing 1516 workers will not survive further significant constraint.

The Route Map to recovery operates on the island but constraints do not allow most island business to operate, in any practical sense. If not urgently addressed, this contravenes the spirit and legal framework of the Islands Bill.

Who participated in the

Arran Recovery Group?

Health and Social Care Partnership, Community Council, Visit Arran, Auchrannie, Taste of Arran, Eco Savvy, Arran Development Trust, North Ayrshire Council support, Local Councillor, Arran High School, Arran Community Voluntary Service, Arran Ferry Committee, Highlands and Island Enterprise, Arran Digital Blacksmith Arran Economic Group.

Sources of information:

1. Knowledge from all of the above.

2. STEAM report for Arran 2019.

3. CalMac actual capacity data for 2019.

4. Questionnaire May/June 2020; 900 respondents or 20 per cent of the population.

Background:

Covid-19 has effectively closed travel and tourism.

Restrictions will not be removed before a vaccine is available (12 months plus). Tourist revenue is the primary income for Arran and will be reduced by at least 80 per cent for this fiscal year.

Recovery Plan:

Develop a Recovery Plan which balances the three main strands of island life, community, environment and economy through each stage of recovery, underpinned by national and local HSCP guidance. The plan must show how the community will be safe, responsible and sustainable, while managing risk.

Reset:

Ferry capacity is the primary constraint and will influence most reset actions.

Restart suggestions: Scottish Government Route Map, used unless island dispensation given. Dates are indicative only. 'Reset' must be achieved.

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

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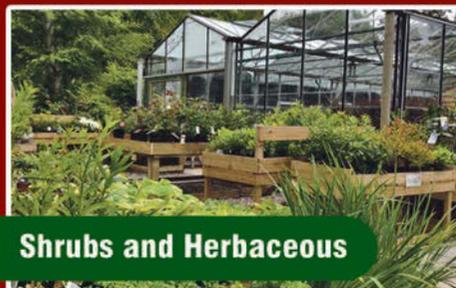
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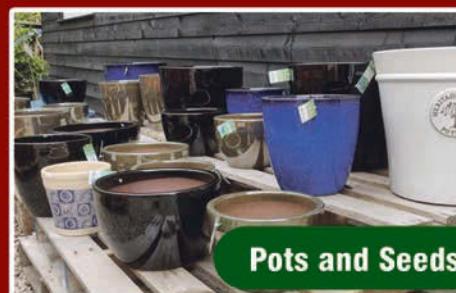
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Hotel uses hi-tech solution to fight Covid-19 pandemic

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash has adopted a hi-tech approach in its hotel and restaurant to help combat the spread of Covid-19 in an effort to protect its staff, patrons and members of the community.

Proprietors Neil and Anne Kennedy have invested in automatic thermal screening technology which will scan customer's faces – avoiding the impersonal use of handheld temperature sensors which are aimed directly at clients' faces – and issue an alert if elevated temperatures are recorded.

The technology, installed by Ian Turton-Smith of Indigo Unified Communications is being used by large hotel chains, including Hilton, and utilises a simple camera which can automatically detect if a client's temperature is outwith

the normal range. The hotel, which opened its outdoor seating area, serving food and drink, earlier this week will reopen its accommodation offering this Wednesday and the owners are keen to make sure that patrons, staff and everyone in the local community can be assured that all steps



are being taken to prevent any spread of the virus.

The advanced technology will help to automatically monitor customers as they come in the door and additional steps, such as touch-less hand sanitiser dispensers and branded face masks for residents, will also

be provided for customers visiting the establishment.

Naturally additional cleansing, social distancing and a number of other operational measures have also been put in place to comply with Government guidelines and recommendations.

Owner Neil Kennedy is pleased with the new technology and said that he will be even happier if the expense turns out to 'not have been required', if there are no further cases on Arran and if it helps to protect public health.

Speaking to the Banner from a safe distance he said: "The temperature monitoring is part of a raft of measures that we have introduced to protect the local population and visitors to the Glenisle Hotel and restaurant. Arran has been Covid-19 free for 10 weeks now and we wish to help keep it that way. These measures

will ensure that visitors and staff can be assured that the Glenisle Hotel is a safe venue and place to work, and that every precaution is, and will continue, to be taken to protect public health."

Visitors are invited to make use of the outdoor facilities, or socially distanced indoor facilities, with minimum person-to-person interaction by using a cashless ordering and payment system which is available for patrons. Of course, customers wishing to speak to a human being will still find staff available for those who prefer 'old-fashioned' human interaction.



Glenisle Hotel owners, Neil and Anne Kennedy, who have installed temperature monitoring technology in their hotel. 01_B28Glenisle01

Plans to aid island recovery

Continued from page one

lieve this is an ideal opportunity for the Scottish Government to provide island-specific interventions, and funding, to recognise the unique impact of Covid-19 on our islands.

"There is no doubt that national interventions and investment will be fundamental to securing an inclusive economic recovery for our islands and hope to work with both our island communities and the Scottish Government to address this as a matter of urgency."

North Ayrshire Council has developed four 'asks' of Scottish Government:

- That CalMac explore creative solutions to implement an increase in ferry capacity, while aligning with necessary public health measures, to ensure an economic recovery for the island in a safe and sustainable way.

- Ticketing systems for ferry journeys should prioritise journeys that will contribute to the economic and social recovery of the islands.

- At the same time as encouraging the UK Government to consider how the Job Retention Scheme can provide the required levels of sectoral support, businesses on the island will require financial interven-

tion to support operating costs until such times when a viable number of tourists can access the island. This financial intervention should address issues such as remobilisation costs for business, infrastructure and training costs to support physical distancing and should also address reduced productivity during the transitional period out of Covid-19 constraints. Areas such as further taxation relief and other financial business relief should be considered as a wider package of required measures.

- The creation of a bespoke Island Fund. This should include support for short-medium term recovery and resilience by focusing on place-based initiatives, circular economy, digital innovation, sustainability and inclusive growth. Place-based initiatives should be developed in line with Community Wealth Building principles.

In the meantime, North Ayrshire Council is commissioning research on the disproportionate economic impact of COVID 19 on the island economy and have also called on the UK and Scottish Government to assist with the regions' finances and recovery, warning that if immediate action is not taken the impact

of Covid-19 will have repercussions that will be felt by local residents well beyond the virus itself.

At a cabinet meeting held last week, a report presented to the Cabinet outlined the cost of the pandemic which is estimated to exceed £23.5million for the period up until March 31, 2021.

Weighing up the cost implications against the £7.4million of funding received from the Scottish Government, the Cabinet agreed that the leader of North Ayrshire Council, Joe Cullinane, will appeal to the UK and Scottish Government to demand additional central government support to address the financial gap.

The figure of £23.5million on North Ayrshire Council's finances has been calculated through a cost collection exercise by Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) which is the national association of Scottish councils who estimate the total impact on all 32 councils to be in the region of £739million

North Ayrshire Council has pledged to continue to support COSLA's own lobbying of both the UK and Scottish Governments for additional resources to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 upon local government.

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Residents encouraged to make use of online cultural services

'That's why it is vital that our Hubs continue. But to do so, they need our passionate, kind and hard-working staff at the driving seat'

Residents on Arran and across North Ayrshire are encouraged to take advantage of online cultural services while libraries remain closed over summer, writes Colin Smeeton.

Across North Ayrshire, where libraries and museums have been shut, staff from libraries, museums, ranger service, youth services, active schools and locality teams have been redeployed to Childcare Hubs, looking after children who need extra support and those whose parents are carrying out essential work on the front line. This provision will continue over the summer holidays.

This means that libraries and museums will be unable to reopen at the moment and users are being urged to take advantage of a wide range of alternative heritage and cultural services.

During this time, residents will continue to have access to an extensive digital library service offering ebooks, audio books, music, magazines and newly introduced communi-

ty activities such as Bookbug session and author talks.

During lockdown, these services have seen a 143 per cent rise in Facebook engagement compared with the same period last year – showing how flexible and adaptable service users have become.

More than 1,000 digital devices and wifi boxes are



being provided to families across North Ayrshire giving children and young people online access to carry on with their learning.

A further 180 devices will be available to eligible adults through the Council's partnership with Connecting Scotland.

The council is also monitoring the digital access needs of

job seekers and working in partnership with employability partners to ensure they can get access safely to complete online job applications.

Councillor Louise McPhater, Cabinet member for Participatory Democracy, said: 'The decision to keep our libraries and cultural services closed was one that was not taken lightly, but was taken out of necessity. It is no secret that the Covid-19 crisis has hit our communities hard, particularly those already vulnerable and struggling.'

'Our council's vision is to create a 'North Ayrshire that is fair for all' – and we hope our response to the pandemic has shown just how serious we are about this commitment.'

'A large part of our response has been the introduction of our Community and Childcare Hubs and we are extremely proud and grateful to all the staff and volunteers who have helped make this possible and who are providing support and advice to our residents throughout the crisis.'

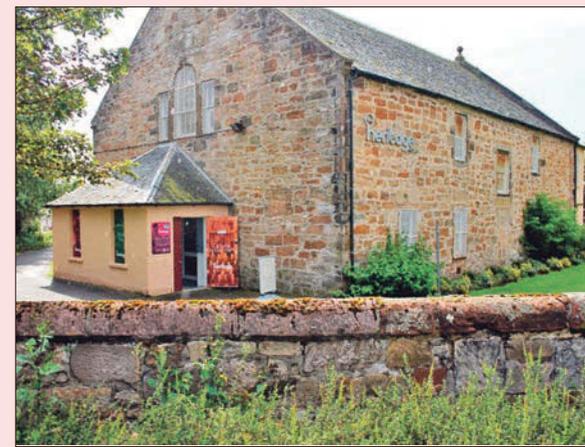
'We're not yet over the hurdle with the virus and it's almost certain that it will have a detrimental effect on our communities for many weeks and months to come.'

'That's why it is vital that our Hubs continue. But to do so, they need our passionate, kind and hard-working staff at the driving seat – and that is why our libraries and cultural services have to remain closed for the time being.'

'While we cannot confirm a date as to when our libraries and cultural services will reopen to the public, we will keep this under constant review.'

'In the meantime, we have a fantastic digital offering available, free of charge, and an exciting new 'Click and Collect' service on the way – look out for more information on this shortly.'

Further details on all of the cultural services can be found by searching for the council's Libraries and Cultural Services Digital Resource Pack on their website at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk



North Ayrshire Heritage Centre in Saltcoats will preserve the stories and artifacts from the pandemic for future generations.

Heritage Centre to document life in Covid-19 lockdown

North Ayrshire Council's Heritage Centre has embarked on a project documenting life during Covid-19 in an effort aimed at recording the event for future generations so that they can have accurate and personal accounts of life during the pandemic.

The centre is looking to record and preserve these memories with the project which will cover all aspects of our current lives including work, home schooling, exercise, shopping, how we kept in touch with friends and family, how we celebrated special events and how we kept ourselves entertained.

Your help is needed to grow a collection of:

- Physical artefacts that demonstrates life during the pandemic including letters from the Government, face masks, children's artwork, personal cards, letters, poems and stories

- Personal, unique stories – written, video and audio – from residents of all ages that illustrate life during the crisis (these can be kept anonymous)

- Digital photographs capturing what our towns looked like during the lockdown

If you would like to send in your photographs and/or stories, or if you would like more information, please email naheritage@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Brae Salon

Delighted to announce that the salon will be reopening on Wednesday 15th July
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Heritage Museum all set for summer reopening



The Arran Heritage Museum will once again provide visitors with an insight into Arran's history and heritage when it re-opens to the public later this month, writes Colin Smeeton.

The opening on Wednesday July 22, for the remainder of the summer season, will see the museum and Cafe Rosaburn returning to their normal summer hours of 10.30am to 4.30pm, seven days a week.

Changes

There will however be some necessary changes to the usual running of the museum and cafe in order to comply with Covid-19 restrictions.

Owing to this, the special events schedule which usually includes the motorcycle show, crafts day, children's day and the popular tractor show, are all cancelled for this year but will return next year.

A spokesperson from the Isle of Arran Museum Trust said: 'The whole complex will be working according to the social distancing regulations so there will be some restrictions on numbers in any area at one time.'

'We are delighted to add that the Spinners and Weavers



Volunteers at the Arran Heritage Museum pictured last year for their 40th anniversary celebrations.

group, who are regulars each summer at the museum demonstrating their unique skills, will also be coming along each Thursday this summer to provide an added attraction.'

The Arran Heritage Museum first opened to the public in 1979 with the purpose of recording, preserving and il-

lustrating Arran's history. The items on display have been donated by the people of Arran or those with Arran connections.

On display are items showcasing Arran's social history, archaeology, geology and a number of permanent displays illustrating life on Arran dating back more than 5,000 years.



Erin Mulholland is the 2020 schools link student of the year.

Erin lifts student of the year award

Erin Mulholland, fifth-year pupil at Arran High School has been named the 2020 Schools Link Student of the Year for Arran. Erin has recently completed Argyll College's Skills for Work Childhood Practice course at SCQF level 5.

Erin was nominated by tutor Isobel MacDonald who said, Erin is an extremely conscientious student. She is very caring and will take the time to listen to others, contributing well in class discussions.'

Erin said: 'I was happy to get the award and I loved the course; it has given me a clear idea of my future career choice.'

Arran High acting head teacher Susan Foster said: 'We at Arran High School are delighted with this news. Erin is a worthy winner and her achievement helps to highlight the fantastic potential that a successful collaboration with Argyll College can unlock for our young people'

Alice and the Brae Salon celebrate 40 year anniversary

Alice Anderson of the Brae Salon in Blackwaterfoot is celebrating 40-years of business this week.

It was 40 years ago that Lawrence Crawford gave her the opportunity to open the salon and as Alice says, 'I have never looked back.'

Over the years Alice has worked at the Douglas Hotel with her aunt Catherine Smith, then briefly on her own there, but it is at Blackwaterfoot that she has amassed a large and loyal client base who depend on her for all

aspects of hairdressing and styling options, finishing and beauty treatments.

Alice said: 'Thanks to all my clients past, present and future present for their support, it's been great, hopefully I've still got a few years in me to continue!'

The Brae Salon will reopen on Wednesday July 15 and Alice, who will be adhering to Scottish Government restrictions at the salon, is looking forward to welcoming clients back again.

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LETTERS

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

The eerily quiet streets and deserted facilities of Arran have sprung back to life this week. Visitors and locals have tentatively ventured out further than they have in months and even the mini golf course has had families taking advantage of the seafront attraction.

The easing of lockdown restrictions as we drift gently in phase three of the route map back to normality is certainly a welcome sight, not only for businesses and the Arran economy but also for those longing for a semblance of normality in their lives. The elderly, those with children or mental health issues and anyone else who has struggled with the quarantine, will see the easing of restrictions and outdoor socialising as a literal breath of fresh air.

It is still far too early to gauge if the delicate balancing act of stimulating business and protecting public health will be achieved on Arran but the warnings are plain to see in Leicester, Spain and Australia from where lessons can be learned.

This delicate equilibrium will undoubtedly be helped by Chancellor Rishi Sunak's announcement of a VAT cut on food, accommodation and attractions which will play a large part in helping businesses on Arran survive and start to recover financially.

And coupled with concerted efforts from the council and various groups and individuals on Arran there is light at the end of the tunnel and as long as we approach it steadily, with caution and optimism, we may all find that a new sense of normality returns far quicker than predicted.

Thought for the week

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. **1 Peter 5:6-7**

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Lessons from the past

Sir,
I write in response to Cicely Gills letter about her experiences when she visited Brodick castle and was appalled at the display of Beckford silver that had been purchased from the profits of slavery.

These artifacts produced such a strong reaction she felt compelled to write and state her case. Surely this is the point of preserving relics and artifacts, large and small, from history to promote dialogue and debate and inspire change.

Humanity's past, good and bad, must be preserved for future generations, how can they learn about the bloodshed, torture and conflict committed in the name of religion and intolerance if there is not reminders to provide the catalyst for discussion and learning?

We are a species who deal in inhumanity to fellow humans and animals and have been that way since time out of mind but we must be wary of looking at history through modern eyes.

Much of history fills us with horror when we read of children being hanged for stealing bread or sent up chimneys and down mines. We read that from Roman times public executions, burnings and torture were seen in times past as a day out with hundreds in attendance.

As to the slave trade it is little known that slavery was banned by English law in 1102. In 1700 a Lord Chief Justice ruled that as 'soon as man sets foot on English soil he is free.'

African slaves brought into this country could not be seen as English because there was no naturalisation.

One slave, a James Somerset, escaped his master and was eventually recaptured to be shipped to Jamaica. He had gained supporters however who said he had been on English soil, baptised and therefore a free man, he won his case and was released. Slaves only accompanied their masters.

Slaves were not kept in Scotland. Ten to 15 thousand were freed in England. From the 17th century onwards the Quaker and Christian settlers in America fought to abolish slavery. The movement eventually became the Clapham Sect and went on until 1807 when William Wilberforce made the buying and selling of slaves illegal.

Profit was made on the backs of many with the trade in sugar, tobacco and cotton but the driving force was the divisions in the class society of the time. The rich got richer and the poor remained poor.

We must preserve our past. We have as yet

learned little, we are still divided, intolerant and in conflict. We need to be reminded of the past in order to go forward.

Yours,
**Jennifer Williams,
Brodick.**

School risks statistics

Sir,
Richard Henderson (Education fears, Banner 3/7/2020) states that the risk from Covid-19 to schoolchildren is trivially low, but not zero. Perhaps parents will be reassured by the following metrics.

According to the UK statistical guru, Sir David Spiegelhalter, in the 10 weeks up to June 5 there has been three Covid deaths in the five to 14 age group, out of a UK population of 7,159,102.

That's one death per 2,386,367.
Your odds on being struck by lightning are one in 1.2 million.

Yours,
**Douglas Templeton,
Whiting Bay.**

Housing shortages

Sir,
Having recently read about the mythical hordes of second home owners descending on Arran during lockdown, it appears they are now being accused of 'artificially' high house prices on the island. It is generally accepted that house prices in desirable locations influence the cost, especially in rural areas and towns (eg Glasgow West End one bed flat £200K), but not to the extent stated. House prices in Scotland have risen dramatically in the last 20 years, by over 170 per cent. This increase has been largely caused by escalating land value and the Blair/Brown (mal) administration, handing out mortgages like sweeties with unrealistic terms.

I have been coming to Arran since the 1950's (even earlier as a baby). Tourism has always been the main contribution to the island economy. Local businesses (and CalMac, with RET) also benefit from the home owners, highlighted in previous letters. Perhaps David Phillips (19 June) can clarify his statement about economic instability being partly down to recycling of funds through local businesses being throttled by second home owners going back to their own homes in the winter. Sounds more like a murder in Maryhill!

Successive Scottish and UK governments have failed to tackle the affordable homes shortage,

especially in rural areas, and this major problem will continue until a firm financial commitment is made, allowing private development on sites (even existing green belt), provided a proportion of the houses are 'affordable', is not the answer

Yours
**Robin Gardner
Lamlash and Milton of Campsie**

Vic celebrates his 90th

Well known face on Arran and former Banner photographer, Vic Shaw of Lamlash, recently celebrated his 90th birthday with his wife Margaret.

Vic first arrived on Arran in 1971 with his wife and family, and while his main occupation was restoring antiques and cabinet making, he also enjoyed photography.

Soon after the Banner started in 1974 Vic started submitting photographs on a regular basis to the previous editors of the paper, Mark Head and John Millar. The Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald picked up on this and requested that he send photos every week for the Arran page, which he did for many years.

Over the years Vic has covered as many events as he could and his work was included in the Banner, Scotsman, Herald, Daily Record, and even the police requested photos of special events and emergencies.

When Vic started, photography was still in black and white and he was kept very busy with passport photos and identity photos and travel cards as there was nowhere else on the island at that time to get them.

His work led to portraits, weddings, and other commercial photography, and while he is now retired, he still enjoys taking photographs to this day.

We at the Arran Banner wish Vic a very Happy 90th Birthday.



Vic Shaw celebrates his 90th birthday with his wife Margaret.

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

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Lockdown birthdays



Noah MacLean of Brodick thoroughly enjoyed his birthday earlier this week when he turned four. He enjoyed a dinosaur hunt and a party with his family in the living room which was decorated with balloons, dinosaurs and a huge birthday banner.

Noah got to spend the day with his family and his brother Grayson who helped him

play with his new toys and eat the birthday cake. Noah described his birthday as, 'The best day ever.'

Another Arran youngster who celebrated his birthday during the lockdown was Oscar Smeeton of Brodick who turned four at the start of last month.

Oscar spent the day playing with his new

toys, eating birthday treats – including his favourite chocolate cake – and spoke to his extended family via a video call.

Fortunately the weather was kind and Oscar finished off his birthday with a short walk along Fisherman's Walk and spent some time in the garden where he picked flowers for his mum.



Oscar, who turned four, enjoyed a fun-filled day on his birthday.
01_B28birthday01



Noah, also four, enjoyed his birthday party in his well decorated living room. 01_B28birthday01

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All together >

Getting back to work with

Thousands of companies have been taking advantage of an unprecedented package of UK Government support to protect jobs and support firms as they attempt to get back to business during the coronavirus outbreak.

As more and more companies continue to get back to work, we look at how the financial support is helping firms across the nation to adapt, innovate and protect jobs.

Here are examples of how companies have been helped, and what support is available.

CASE STUDY MADEMOISELLE MACARON

RACHEL HANRETTY, of Mademoiselle Macaron, fell in love with macarons while living in Paris.

After eating far too many patisseries, she enrolled at the Alain Ducasse cookery school to learn how to make macarons.

She said: "They're just so pretty. They're so delicate. And they're quite hard to make because there's a lot that can go wrong."

Once Rachel returned to Edinburgh and noticed a gap in the market, she decided to set up her very own macaron business.

She said: "I wanted to have that little bit of Paris with me. I focused on taste bud tourism, so when you eat these macarons you're transported to the Champs-Élysées." After nine months of

trading from home and going to food markets, Rachel set up her first bricks-and-mortar store.

She said: "It was in the centre of Edinburgh, it had a view of the castle. It was beautiful."

But since launching their online store in 2015, and realising that they could send macarons across the country, plus the fact that they had large bookings from both wholesale and wedding customers, the bricks and mortar became unnecessary.

The company, which employs eight people, lost all their wholesale customers overnight due to Coronavirus.

Rachel said: "It was really scary. All the weddings, all the wholesale customers, and the bulk of our production disappeared. And then, of course, you have phone calls from people wanting to cancel future orders and refunds.



PICTURE: CAROLYN HENRY

TASTY TREATS: Rachel Hanretty, below, has used the furlough scheme to keep Mademoiselle Macaron going.

"We entered the cash flow situation whereby the wholesale customers stopped paying the invoices. And we've now got over £30,000 worth of overdue invoices."

But, it's not all doom and gloom, as Mademoiselle Macaron has started to see an increase in online orders. It's thanks to the UK Government's furlough scheme that her business has kept afloat. Rachel said: "The furlough scheme has been a real lifeline in this time of crisis. I asked people to volunteer for furlough. So the people who wanted to and were happy to, they were the first ones to go. I cried.

"I just felt like I was stuck in this moral quandary. Do we keep going and safeguard the business, so there's a business for everyone to come back to? Or do I shut down because I can

see that this is causing people severe anguish? We managed to recall stock that was sitting in hospitality clients freezers. That is the only reason we survived. What

you make, you keep in the freezer and you use when you need to. It's not like it's a cupcake, if we were perishable goods we would never have survived."

Now everyone is back at work at Mademoiselle Macaron, they've had to be creative in terms of changing shift patterns and splitting the team in half, so there's less contact.

"We have a big kitchen so the space isn't the issue. It's more that we wanted to keep the team safe," adds Rachel.

Mademoiselle Macaron's online sales have increased so much that they're potentially in a position to hire more people on temporary contracts. Ideally, Rachel would like to help younger people and develop a training program with a college. "They've been so much more affected, and it's just something close to my heart," she said.



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

financial support package

‘We were able to pay our creditors’

CASE STUDY THE SEREN COLLECTION

WITH PLANS for a new spa at his five-star hotel, a Michelin-star chef in his restaurant and the launch of a tour operator business underway, Neil Kedward was looking forward to a good year in 2020.

But when the Covid-19 pandemic struck, the managing director of Wales-based The Seren Collection required urgent assistance from the UK Government’s support schemes to pay his creditors and maintain supplier relationships.

Mr Kedward and his wife Zoe entered the hospitality industry almost by accident in 2007.

He said: “We just happened to come home to South Wales for the weekend and stumbled across The Grove. It was a calamitous trip with lots of wrong turns and family arguments, but we found the owner in, made our offer and that was that.

“Our aspiration was much smaller than that, in fact we just wanted to convert the six outlying

buildings into self catering units – now we’re a 25 bedroom hotel.”

Neil and Zoe went on to open two restaurants in Saundersfoot and Oxwich on the back of the success of The Grove.

As if that weren’t enough to keep the team busy, he also spotted a gap in the tour operator market.

Neil said: It struck me that there weren’t enough tour operators bringing people into the country. So we started a business called routescape.com, which had a hugely encouraging start, launching at World Travel Market before a big business development trip in 2019. We had built up all our bookings for this financial year.

“And then of course the whole project was wiped out by the virus. We lost every single booking. Not just for Routescape, but for The Grove too.”

Neil added: “The loan from the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme has allowed us to pay off all our creditors and we will be able to relaunch owing nobody any money.



FINANCIAL AID: Neil Kedward, of The Seren Collection.

Help available to companies and workers

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.

VISIT THE WEBSITE
Details of the support available to businesses across the UK can be found at [gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/business-support)

‘Loan and furloughing helped keep us solvent’



ON THE RIGHT ROAD: Norman Kerr, of Kerr’s Tyres & Auto.

CASE STUDY KERR’S TYRES & AUTO

WHEN COVID-19 struck, one of Northern Ireland’s leading providers of tyres and automotive services, had just invested £2.5m in a new head office and distribution centre in Antrim and cash reserves were low.

But thanks to their ability to adapt, diversify as well as the invaluable support from the UK Government, Kerr’s Tyres & Auto has been able play a vital role in servicing and keeping the province’s key workers on the road.

Managing director Norman Kerr said: “The Antrim site used up our cash reserves and had a big impact on our cash flow.

“Unfortunately the coronavirus kicked in three months later, when we still didn’t have a chance to build up any cash reserves that we would normally have. So it had a massive impact on ourselves.

“But the problem was we had to continue trading because we supply the food sector and the white delivery van man.

“So our business had to continue. We had to pay suppliers, we had no choice in it.”

However thanks to a UK Government Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme loan of £500,000 through the Ulster Bank, as well as the furlough scheme, the family-run business was able to remain solvent and save over 50 jobs.

Norman said: “Had we not been able to get the UK Government loan scheme, it would have had a huge impact on our business. Our business, in essence, dropped probably 75 per cent within the first month.

“Thankfully that has grown steadily back since then.”

My A to Z of Arran



G is for gratitude. Miss Dong at the opening of Scotland's National Centre for Languages in Glasgow.



E is for enlightenment. Miss Dong enjoys a school field trip.

As she prepares to return to China, Lu Dong Hanban, teacher with North Ayrshire Confucius Classroom Hub, reflects on what has made her experience on Arran so special. Lulu lived and worked on the island for two years as a Mandarin teacher. This is her Arran – letter by letter – part one

A is for Arran, an amazing island in the Firth of Clyde, nicknamed Scotland in Miniature. Arran may not be a big city, but it is big enough for me to experience a lot. I've loved working and living on Arran for the past two years, with phenomenal friends and colleagues, unbelievably amazing, sparky kids, and a warm, inclusive, supportive community. How am I so lucky to be here on this lovely island?

B is for Brodick Primary School, the first school I went to on Arran and could not restrain my amazement at its loveliness! The farm trip made me realize how many different sounds the animals could make. The staff room conversation is always inspirational and considerate. Nothing makes me feel more inclusive than being invited to be part of the school group photo.

C is for Corrie Primary School, which threw my

very first Halloween party and it made me feel like I was part of a large family. A lovely fuzzy feeling came over me when I was being hugged by the children and holding hands with the families. I will never forget the morning song and the "happy dance" with the children and staff to start that memorable Wednesday morning.

D is for Dreich, the first Scottish word I picked up but most frequently used. It is such an evocative word with the ability to explain the Scottish weather perfectly. I will definitely teach that specific vivid word to my pupils back in China.

E is for Enlightening, the adjective I'd like to use to describe the feeling that Arran schools impressed upon me. The comfortable teaching and learning environment enlightened my teaching in various ways: the shows, the parties, the trips, the treats, and so on.

The surprises were hidden in every corner at the school waiting for me to uncover them. As long as they were uncovered, surprises would be changed into opportunities giving Lulu and Mandarin more ideas to shine.

F is for Friendly Folks, who are always willing to provide help whenever and wherever I need. The miraculous island cultivates people who are easygoing, amicable, helpful, and responsible. I am so grateful for all of the people who have supported me and encouraged me on my island adventure.

G is for Gratitude, words are powerless to express my gratitude, even though I am trying to do so.

H is for Haggis, the first authentic traditional Scottish Haggis that I have eaten was on Arran. It tasted not bad. Who said that Scottish people don't eat stomach?

I is for Islander, which is the word I may proudly call myself after almost two years based on Arran. On my journey to becoming an islander, I've realised that the magical Arran nature is more like an ever-shifting kaleidoscope enticing me to twist it as I find myself fascinated by beautiful patterns

J is for Joyful, the word I'd like to use and depict Arran in general. Arran makes me believe she is a joyful little girl, who always says yes to life, and projects positivity to people all around it.

K is for Kilmory Primary School, who gave me a birthday surprise in the staff room. It will always be my best and most healing memories. The V-shaped gesture picture at Christmas is one of my favourite. By the way, the outdoor learning on the beach took me back to my childhood and I will never forget the experience of being chased by curious cows!

L is for Lamlash Primary School, who gave me the most special Chinese New Year. The fortune cookies, the dragon

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M is for Mandarin. Children use chopsticks to learn Chinese words.



G is for gratitude. A presentation at her leaving dinner, where there were some familiar faces.



H is for haggis. Miss Dong enjoyed her first haggis on Arran.

by Lu Dong – part 1

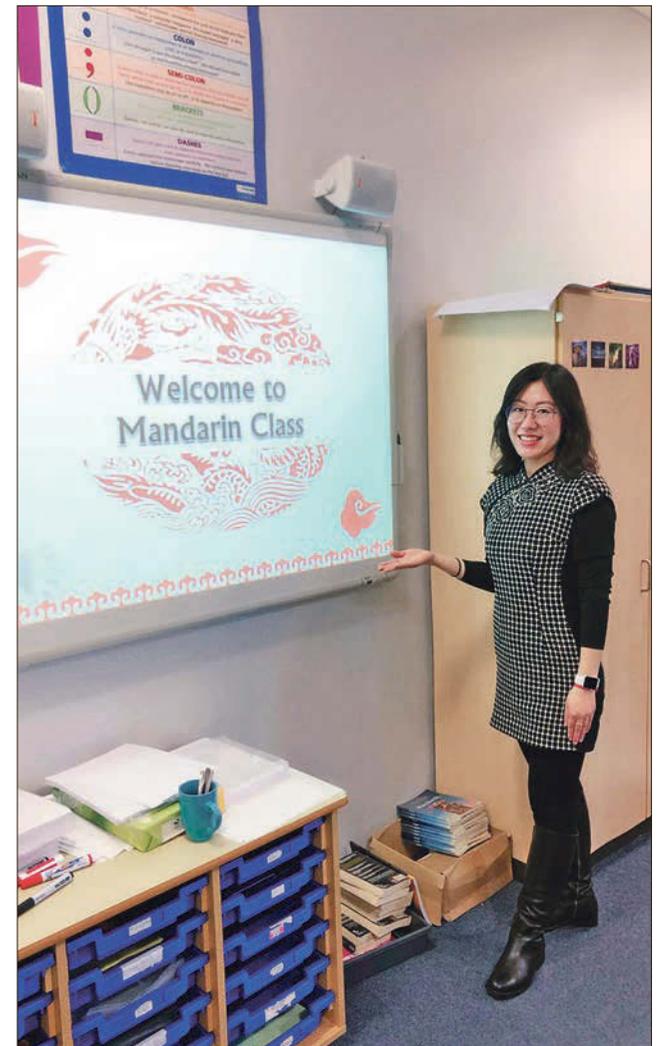
dance, the New Year gift, the red envelope with real money in it, their effort was impressive. Thanks for everything you have done, pulling me out of the homesickness I was drowning in. You also gave me the chance I have always wanted, to eat noodles and rice just by hand.

M is for Mandarin, the language I taught makes me the very first Mandarin teacher bound closely to all eight schools across the lovely island. Mandarin! The best class ever! was heard many times, not because I look younger than my age, but because I led them into the adventurous world of Mandarin and of China. Numbers, colours, animals, self-introduction, and family members, we played panda games, we experienced Chinese New Year, we played shuttlecocks, we practiced chopsticks, we put on traditional Chinese costumes like the Hanfu, and we made dumplings. Our adventures in class were all about the mysterious world of Mandarin and China.

Read part two in next week's Banner.



F is for friendly folks as Miss Dong finds at this book launch.



M is for Mandarin. Miss Dong welcomes pupils to her Mandarin class.



I is for islander. A word Miss Dong is proud to call herself.



J is for joyful. Miss Dong had a happy time.

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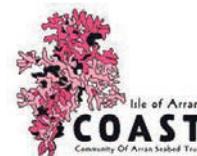
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We look forward to welcoming you back

COAST sets a precedent in UK Highly Protected Marine Area review



The hard work, commitment and dedication of members of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) has been acknowledged in an independent UK Government review which has resulted in the community conservation efforts at Lamlash Bay being used as a model on which to

base Highly Protected Marine Areas (HPMAs) around England.

This year, COAST celebrates 25 years since Don MacNeish and Howard Wood set out on their venture to gain community support to lobby Government into establishing a marine reserve off the Isle

of Arran. Today the results of the community's hard-fought efforts – the Lamlash Bay No Take Zone (NTZ) and South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA) – have led to the dramatic recovery of marine biodiversity within the site boundaries.

Last year the former Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon visited Arran, along with a number of officials from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). They sought insight into the success behind COAST, to help inform a review led by a panel of independent experts, including scientists, industry representatives and wildlife trust leaders. Published last month on World Ocean's Day, the Benyon Report calls for the introduction of HPMAs in English waters.

Using the Lamlash Bay NTZ as a case study, the report states



Simon Ross-Gill speaks with delegates about the Octopus Centre and the work that COAST undertakes. 01_B28COAST01



Attendees at last year's meeting with the former Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon – Ruth Stubbles, LEFT, Paul Chandler, Howard Wood, Richard Benyan MP, Aisling McGarrigle, Simon Brockington and Simon Ross-Gill. Not pictured, Jenny Stark. 01_B28COAST01

that the NTZ establishment 'demonstrated how community support, strong science and political will can be a deciding factor in a successful 'protection designation'.

Mr Benyon has gone on to say: 'There is this site in Scotland, Lamlash Bay, on the Isle of Arran. Inspirational. Because the community on the island have driven it and they police it, it has seen a restoration of that small area of the sea. We have seen how nature can recover in a short space of time. What's happened on Arran, can be replicated around our coasts.'

The review recognises that HPMAs will not only protect and promote biodiversity recovery, but will protect vital blue carbon stores and increase our resilience to climate change. Richard Lochhead, former Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment, had the foresight in the mid 2000s to recognise just this and, with the support of local MSP Kenneth Gibson, he was the parliamentary driving force supporting the community for the establishment of the Lamlash Bay NTZ.

A key challenge considered

in the report is one faced by COAST and other communities around the UK: that of enforcement and compliance within protected areas. It stresses measures must be 'consistent, proportionate and delivered equally to all marine users'; once again the review turned to Arran for an example on how to best address this: 'when we visited the Lamlash Bay MPA, we saw how voluntary monitoring by the community has deterred non-compliant fishing within the NTZ. It also helps to recover habitats and shellfish populations.'

Jenny Stark, COAST Outreach and Communications Manager, said: 'We are delighted that the hard work of the Arran community and COAST, to establish and achieve success of the Lamlash Bay No Take Zone, has played such a prominent part in this review.'

'The worrying thing, however, is that the NTZ is a Scottish project but the English Government are the ones using it as a precedent. COAST urge the Scottish Government to heed advice and recommendations within this report to put Scotland at the forefront of marine conservation.'



Former Fisheries Minister Richard Benyon listens intently as COAST co-founder Howard Wood shares detail about how the Arran MPA was established. 01_B28COAST01

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday July 15, 2000

Sports field open

The official opening of the new Shiskine Valley sports field was held on Saturday July 8 ahead of the annual sports day which was not favoured by the weather this year.

The Shiskine Valley Trust was founded in 1991 by the late Robin Crawford to coordinate developments within the valley, and the sports field is the first project to be completed after three years work.

In all £12,000 was raised by the Shiskine Valley Sports Committee and other organisations, and the land was made available by the Robertson family. Another £15,450 was awarded by the sportscotland lottery fund and money was also give by Argyll and Islands Enterprise. However, this is not the end of the fundraising as the trust must pay for the maintenance of the field.



Happy treasure hunters on Kildonan beach held as part of Kildonan Fun Week on Monday. 01_B28twe07



Two Arran ladies who have proved themselves to be sharpshooters this week. On the left Jill Hollick of Dippen who won the ladies' high gun section in the Jura Open Clay Shoot, in fact she beat all the men as well. On the right, Shiona Murchie became Lamash ladies' golf champion and at 16 the first 'Miss' to do so. 01_B28tweY04 and 01_B28tweY05



Senior football champions at the Shiskine sports day, Loci's Layabouts. 01_B28tweY02



Young performers at the Celebration of Youth concert, with organiser Moira Stark, held in the drawing room at Brodick Castle last weekend. 01_B28twe06



Competitors in the four-legged race get themselves in a tangle at an obstacle during the sports day. 01_B28tweY03

The Crawford family in front of the beautiful wooden seat in memory of Robin Crawford which was unveiled at the opening ceremony. 01_B28tweY01



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Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 31.07.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 Regulation 20(1)

20/00488/PP; St Elmos House, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8DW; Erection of flatted development comprising 5 dwelling flats and partial demolition of building.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

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

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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

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

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THE ARRAN
BANNER

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DEATHS

MCQUEEN - Alan David. Peacefully passed away at Arran War Memorial Hospital on the morning of 2nd July 2020. Alan David McQueen, husband, father, brother, friend. "Shine on his path loves light. While he is walking in the night"

SMITH - July 4th 2020, peacefully at Arran Memorial Hospital, Lily dearly beloved wife of John and much loved mother of John, Billy, Brenda and Jacqueline. Mother-in-law to Rhona, Jacqui and Alistair. Proud gran of Leona, Cameron, Connor, Taylor, Lauren, Scott and Kerr. Great gran to Miles and Faith. Private family cremation due to current restrictions.

WATT - It is with much sadness that Glenda, Shauna and Thomas announce that their beloved nanna Greta Watt, age 90 years, passed away on 3rd July 2020 at Montrose House, Brodick. She was nanna also to her great grandchildren Talor, Morgan, Lucy, Irvin, Megan and Bessie. The grief of losing her son Tom, in March this year was too much to bear. Many thanks to Arran War Memorial Hospital, Lynne McVicar and Arran nurses, Montrose House, Isabelle McDonald, Kirsty West, Danny Watkins, Angus Adamson and Co-Op Funeralcare. Nanna you are at peace now. Funeral 11.00 am on Monday 13th July at Brodick New Cemetery. RIP Auntie Greta.

If it is true that you can die of a broken heart then that is what happened to my Auntie Greta, when young Thomas died, she missed him every single day. On the days she remembered he'd died, she was sad and days when she'd forgot it was like a whole new grief experience. She loved her grandchildren and

they loved her, she was so proud of all that they have achieved with their lives and her face lit up when she told you what they had been up to. She fell out her bed in the caravan and ended up in the hospital but we could still see her from the ward window, she loved the chat. She went into Montrose and we didn't see her again, only phone calls. She was 90, ate Lawson's fried sausages every day, ate butter and cream, had 4 teaspoons of sugar in her tea made with loose tea, social services tried to get her to eat a healthy diet, she was having none of it, Ayrshire new potatoes with salt and butter and she loved to sook on tic tacs all day! I regret not being more of a help to her and only started going to see her when Tommy died and I will miss her stories of growing up in the Southend, the jobs she had, the life she had with her love, Uncle Tommy. She said the nurses with masks had muzzles on, she told me the wee boy was in hospital-Boris Johnston, she loved the Queen - we're just the same. I took Loc up one night with me and she told him I'd a different man with me every time I was up there! Rest in peace Auntie Greta a life well lived, hope you've met up with your boys now xx

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

BUNYAN - The family of the late Margaret Bunyan would like to thank everyone for their cards, letters, phone calls and expressions of sympathy received during their recent bereavement. Special thanks to all at Montrose and Cumbria Lodge Care Homes, Rev. Jean Hunter for graveside service, Eleanor for beautiful flowers and Clair and David Hendry for funeral services. At peace now mum with dad.



An aerial view of the cycling participants at last year's Rob Worboys's Arran Challenge event.

Sporting event goes virtual to help raise charity cash

Continued from page 16
industry always pulls together to help others and this time was no different.

Camaraderie

'We weren't sure what to expect from a virtual competition but there was an incredible sense of camaraderie from competitors and it was amazing to see the pictures

posted on social media of people joining in with the challenge, with backdrops from the Angel of the North to the parks of Edinburgh.

'I would also like to say a massive thank you to all the families and friends who sponsored our competitors, to the Worboys family for allowing the event to be honoured in

Rob's name; and also to law firm CMS UK, to property investor London and Scottish, to developer Parabola and Cushman and Wakefield - who collectively donated an incredible additional £12,000 to the total.'

Benefit

Charities to benefit from the challenge in previous

years include mental health charity SAMH, the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice and Cardiac Risk in the Young.

Rob Worboys, who worked in the Edinburgh office of Cushman and Wakefield, was a keen sportsman and played American Football for East Kilbride Pirates, taking part in trials for the GB team.

Sannox Cricket Club confirm fun day cancellation

Sannox Cricket Club have confirmed that the annual fun day which takes place at the Ormidale pavilion in Brodick will not go ahead this year owing to safety concerns regarding Covid-19.

The fun day, which sees summer visitors and locals dressing up for a day of not-too-serious cricket, usually takes place a week before the Brodick Highland

Games and is a highlight of the summer calendar for many.

In addition to the cricket there is usually a tombola, food stalls and lively music and a beer tent which helps to ensure that the six-a-side tournament is very well attended each year.

Organiser Eric Dunn said: 'We've held off as long as possible to see if we

might be able to hold the event this year. Unfortunately, it's just not practical for us to adhere to social distancing rules, especially when most people are crammed into the beer tent when the rain is lashing down.

'Therefore, with a heavy heart we regret to advise that this year's fun day is cancelled but we will see you again in 2021.'

back from John Pennycott.

1 Douglas Graham 14, 59, ACB and lowest gross, 2 John Pennycott 14, 59, 3 David Brookens 12, 64, 4 Wolfi Korner 13, 66. CSS stayed at 63. Magic Twos, Jamie Macpherson at 4th and 17th, Douglas Auld at 17th.

Fixtures: Sunday July 12, The Raymond Curtis Salver. Wednesday July 15, The McLintock Cup. For the duration of the current pandemic there will be no draws. Players are to make up their own groupings and the maximum grouping allowed is three balls. Scores are to be submitted electronically to WBGClubhouse@gmail.com. See the club website for further details.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday July 1, March



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday July 1, Summer Trophy. A total of 12 played in the second Summer Trophy round of the season. The morning players had the pleasure of damp weather and midges while those brave enough to venture out in the evening had to contend with persistent rain. No surprise perhaps that the 'places' went to early starters with Douglas Graham scoring a fine net 59 yet winning only on a count-



An unusual view of Brodick Golf Course taken in the 1930s and showing a section of the older course which eventually became the Ormidale Sports Park. Photograph: Russell Duncan.

Brandon and Summer Cup, 29 played, CSS 64. Gordon Hendry 67-6=61, Derek Roxburgh 72-9=63, Alastair Dobson 76-12=64, ACB, scratch, Ewan McKinnon 65.

Fixtures: Sunday July 12, British Legion Cup. Wednesday July 15, June Brandon and Summer Cup.

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THE ARRAN BANNER



Supporters from last year's Rob Worboys Arran Challenge pose for a group photograph.

Sporting event goes virtual to help raise charity cash



Participants scale Goatfell during the 2019 challenge.

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The popular annual event, the Rob Worboys Arran Challenge, has adapted to the Covid-19 pandemic by becoming virtual and has raised over £31,000 for the NHS Charities Together appeal.

The sporting event organised by real estate services firm Cushman and Wakefield was established four years ago in honour of agent Rob Worboys, who died suddenly at the age of just 27 in 2016, and which has now raised more than £100,000 for various charities.

In previous years the challenge has been held on Arran, with participants cycling, running and climbing to various points around the island. This year saw the event take place

online for the first time in order to overcome Covid-19 restrictions, allowing more than 410 Cushman and Wakefield employees and clients from across the UK, Ireland, and overseas to take part.

Instead of completing the gruelling 56-mile cycle round Arran, followed by an 874m climb to the peak of Goatfell in a single day, 62 teams of five competed the challenge remotely over seven days between June 13 to June 19, 2020.

Each day saw participants cycle, run or walk as far as they could outdoors within an hour, with times recorded on the Strava app and collated by Cushman & Wakefield. There was also the option to take part in the Half Worboys individual challenge, a 27-mile walk that is equal to the dis-

tance from Machrie to Brodick on Arran.

The participants were updated daily via email and social media (#RWAC2020) with images of their equivalent distance travelled on the Isle of Arran, competitor league tables and images of where and how other participants were taking part.

David Davidson, chairman of Cushman and Wakefield in Scotland, said: 'This event is extremely important to us locally to remember our former colleague, Rob, so we were delighted that we were able to turn this event into a virtual challenge in 2020.

'One of our main goals was to promote the Rob Worboys Arran Challenge to our clients and colleagues based outside Scotland and with more than 300 new participants taking

part in this year's event we couldn't have asked for a better response. 'Arran is a very special place and we really hope we will be able to return to the island in 2021.'

Stuart Dorward, Head of Scotland for Cushman and Wakefield, added: 'We were really overwhelmed by the number of clients and colleagues who signed up to take part - not just from across the UK but from Singapore, Boston, Athens and Paris too. In times of crisis the property

Continued on page 15.



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