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Red carpet as visitors are welcomed back to Arran

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Tourist businesses across Arran rolled out the red carpet this week and declared: 'We're open.'

Wednesday saw the biggest easing of lockdown restrictions so far and the reopening of tourism has seen visitors pouring on to the island after ferry capacity restrictions were eased.

For island businesses the opening could not have been more welcome, with three months of the summer season already lost and a warning that many businesses are already struggling financially.

There has already been a steady stream of visitors in the last couple of days, but that is expected to increase sharply over the weekend, with many hotels full, although operating at a lower capacity.

Many hotels, restaurants, bars, B&Bs, cafes and hairdressers have now opened on the island, all with new

screens, hand sanitiser and improved safety measures in place, others are waiting until nearer the end of the month. Some indoor seating areas have been reduced to one metre +, but others remain at two metres. But with shops, takeaways and tourist attrac-

'It's strange times for us all, but as always Arran's resilience will shine through.'

tions, as well as self-catering, already opened up, Arran may yet salvage some of the 2020 season.

VisitArran chief executive Sheila Gilmore said it was great to see so many businesses opening up and said it was important to get the 'welcome to Arran' message out there.

She said: 'Arran businesses have been working hard to meet all the new criteria under very difficult circumstances,

and it's great to see so many opening up. Some businesses have completely altered their operations and visitors will receive a warm welcome, and I'm sure they will appreciate the efforts put in by everyone.

'There are new rules of course, and we would ask everyone to adhere to these rules - wear masks, observe physical distancing, and wash hands regularly as advised.

'There are still island businesses who are unable to reopen and we can only hope that they, too, will receive everyone's support as and when they are able to open eventually. It's strange times for us all, but as always Arran's resilience will shine through.'

One of those sadly not opening is the Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash, widely known as the PHT. The popular pub, restaurant and music venue states on its website: 'Regretfully, we have had to make the difficult decision not to reopen the PHT for the foreseeable future.'

Owner Jane Howe explained

why the PHT had closed for the time being.

She said: 'We have taken the decision to close our doors for a short time due to the multitude of uncertainties around the risks in this climate. The unpredictability of the ferries, the low numbers of tourists arriving on the island and the inevitable worry that customers just will not want to socialise within a bar/restaurant are just a few of our concerns.

'The mitigations to be put in place to ensure customers are safe is a prime concern for us. Our premises are topped with a beautiful roof terrace overlooking Holy Isle plus our stunning garden, but unfortunately, the access is a long narrow route along which it is difficult to socially distance. All of this, along with the loss of live music, which had become a popular and fundamental part of our business, means we need to take time now to "regroup" and take The

Continued on page five.

Bay Queen for a day



These may be unusual times but the Bay Queen tradition goes on. Whiting Bay fun week may be cancelled but a special ceremony was held to give this year's Bay Queen Rosie McNamara a day to remember. Here she is with last year's Queen Annie West who also played the pipes for the ceremony. For full story and more photographs, turn to pages 10 and 11. 01_B29queen01

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CalMac capacity improves to get more passengers on ferries

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Capacity on the MV Caledonian Isles has been tripled as a result of new distance rules on public transport and some hard bargaining from representatives on Arran.

The main ferry on the Ardrossan to Brodick route now has a capacity of around 300 per sailing, which is still significantly below its normal operating capacity of 1,000 and less than the 50 per cent capacity island tourism businesses said they required.

However, it is a significant improvement, although concern still surrounds the small numbers of between 60 to 80 which can be accommodated on the smaller MV Isle of Arran, – it is hoped numbers may increase on both vessels in the weeks ahead.

The Isle of Arran Ferry committee met on Monday to review progress on ferry capacities following recent announcements that public transport could move from two metre distancing to 1m+.

AFC have been in constant dialogue with CalMac, Transport Scotland and Scottish Government ministers.

The meetings have been focused on providing the maximum capacity in line with



Passengers and cars come off the MV Caledonian Isles after tourism reopened on Wednesday. 01_B29capacity01

health service capabilities and to provide for community and economic viability for Arran.

Provisional numbers had been discussed prior to the government announcement and, in line with the directive, increased capacity numbers were introduced to the booking system, beginning on Friday July 10, together with an extension of the booking window from 14 days to four weeks.

To assist with capacity, 25 external seating tickets will also

be available for turn up and go but will be weather dependent and allocated at the skipper's discretion.

Further discussions with AFC then agreed a further increase which will provide 276 internal seats and increases the potential of the Caledonian Isles to three times the phase one level. These improvements have made a significant difference to the availability of sailings.

The capacity is being released with 80 per cent available to on-

line and advance bookings with 20 per cent retained for 'turn up and go' travel as the community starts to travel for personal and business needs.

A change to the system has also been agreed, which now provides those who wish to 'turn up and go' a confirmed returned sailing assuming capacity is available. This removes the uncertainty in the previous arrangement which only issued single tickets. These arrangements will be monitored

Ardrossan access system repaired

The passenger access system (PAS) at Ardrossan ferry terminal is back in operation following completion of an annual safety and maintenance inspection.

Passengers have had to use the car deck to board the ferry as various repairs were being carried out and wire ropes have been replaced.

The annual inspection was delayed and the PAS was closed in April due to the coronavirus lockdown. The PAS has now returned to full service as CalMac implements an increased timetable.

ed. All of this is estimated to provide capacity for a similar number of passengers as was carried last year with a more focused timetable.

A spokesman for the ferry committee said: 'We would advise anyone intending to travel to check with the CalMac website for availability. Recent changes have improved availability and the new procedures for turn up and go should reassure them of return travel.'

'All arrangements are being undertaken with support from Arran Recovery Group and North Ayrshire Council chief executive Craig Hatton.'

'AFC will continue to discuss opportunities to improve these services as experience and government road map announcements allow. Further meetings are being planned for next week with CalMac and Transport Scotland and we will provide updates via social media and through The Banner.'

CalMac managing director, Robbie Drummond said: 'With island accommodation open for business again and a further expansion of our timetable today we look forward to welcoming visitors on board while maintaining all efforts to keep passengers as safe as possible while travelling with us.'

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Islands minister thanks staff for their efforts during lockdown

The islands minister is urging ferry travellers to plan ahead as the tourism sector reopens across Scotland, writes Hugh Boag.

Restrictions on hotels, attractions and other businesses in the sector are lifted this week, but capacity is still limited across the country's ferry networks due to physical distancing measures.

Passengers should look to book their tickets ahead of their journey and follow guidance once on board.

Speaking during a visit to Ardrossan harbour to thank CalMac staff for their hard work during lockdown, minister for energy, connectivity and the islands Paul Wheelhouse said: 'I'd like to thank staff on all of Scotland's ferry networks

for their hard work, and passengers for following the travel guidance, which has allowed us to keep these vital transport links operating throughout the lockdown period.

'I'm pleased to see both CalMac and NorthLink increase their capacity with the move to one metre physical distancing, but it's important to remember that capacity

challenges will remain.

'Passengers can continue helping ferry operators by booking ahead and spreading their journeys across the full daily timetable to avoiding peak sailings.

'As always, there will be busy periods and people may need to be flexible. Please be understanding with ferry staff, who will do their best to help you.'



Paul Wheelhouse MSP at Ardrossan harbour this week.



Ali Russell at work at the reopened hair salon at Auchrannie.
01_B29ferry02

Red carpet rolled out as visitors return to Arran

Continued from page one. PHT in a new direction.

'We have plans to revamp the seating area outside the front of the premises and to open up the building with patio doors in a more continental style of inside-outside dining, with a welcoming street presence. We aim to provide a more bistro style café/restaurant serving delicious varied menus.

'In the meantime, our premises will be available for private bookings and functions, pop-up dining, along with the possibility of some socially distanced music events once restrictions are eased. We thank you for all your kind messages and support in this difficult time.'

Some small guesthouses and some other business who did not get any funding support have also not reopened.

It should be remembered, however, that the coronavirus pandemic has not gone away, and importantly there are arrangements in place for any new Covid-19 cases which are

diagnosed on the island, which has not had a single recorded case for 12 weeks.

Arran's own testing centre in Brodick is now geared up for visitors and ferry travel can be organised in certain circumstances for Covid-positive visitors so they can return home. A protocol has been developed for this, involving remaining in their car on the car deck, as happened when Arran Covid-19 patients had to travel to Crosshouse. This limits the danger to crew and other passengers, but can only be arranged through the medical team as it is a public health matter.

NHS Ayrshire & Arran is also looking at a protocol for self isolation on Arran if need be - for example if the patient does not have a car - and suitable properties are being investigated for this.

Test and Protect number for anyone eligible for a test on Arran is 01770 601033.

Hotels reopen see pages 14 and 15.

Phase 3

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LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@arranbanner.co.uk
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Local solution is key

Research published this week highlights that 'thinking, resourcing and acting local' is the key to enabling recovery from the impacts of Covid-19 in rural communities across Scotland.

And that could not be further from the truth on Arran where the Arran Recovery Group – an umbrella group of island organisations and bodies – is trying to plough a difficult furrow of pleasing all of the people all of the time.

Likewise, too, the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee is fighting for extra capacity on the ferries not just to get visitors here but to allow islanders to get off and get on with pursuits on the mainland.

But the research, produced by Scottish Rural Action who are a non-profit, apolitical organisation which is completely independent of government, throws up concerns in other areas.

They found there were particular groups of people in rural communities whose needs appear not to be being met, in particular younger people, people with mental health challenges and those with dementia.

There was widespread concern about long-term economic damage and financial hardship in rural areas.

And they found 'positives' associated with lockdown should be safeguarded and built upon to safeguard rural resilience and inform steps towards a wellbeing economy.

As Vanessa Halhead, acting chair of Scottish Rural Action, said 'Rural areas must be resourced, empowered and trusted in developing and delivering the recovery planning that best suits the needs of their local area. There has never been a more important time for government to devolve responsibility and resource to communities.'

We couldn't agree more.

Thought for the week

Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. 3 John 1:2

Sell the silver

Sir,
I refer to the recent letter from Cicely Gill expressing dismay at the presence in Brodick Castle of the Beckford Room, and the reply from Jennifer Williams published last week, Friday July 10.

The Beckford Room contains items collected with the profits of slave-worked sugar plantations in Jamaica, owned by the occupant of the castle at the time, including a large collection of silver. Jennifer believes that we need to keep these artifacts in order to learn from the mistakes of our past.

I fully agree that we must learn from our shameful history, but I disagree that the castle is providing this opportunity for learning. There can be no way to learn about the wrongs of slavery when looking at the Beckford Silver, as there is no relevant information or interpretation present as part of the display. The atmosphere is one of 'come and look at our beautiful and valuable silverware'.

I find the ostentatious display of wealth in the castle distasteful in any case, aside from the immoral origins of many of the artifacts displayed there. In our society, if you steal wealth or life from others, you are expected to pay penance either through fines, time in prison or community service. There is no way to give back the lives stolen by the slave labour on which the Beckford wealth was amassed, but I suggest that the silver be sold and the proceeds used to pay the NTS Rangers whose jobs are currently under threat on the island. We could choose to keep useful and valuable people on the island instead of some old silverware that nobody uses anymore and was bought with dirty money.

That way we can show that we have learned from the past, and now value people over possessions.

Yours,
Elanor McNamara,
Whiting Bay.

Response required

Sir,
Like many, I was moved by the letter from long-time Arran resident Cicely Gill about her family connection, as victims of slavery, to the Beckford Collection of very dubiously acquired silverware in the care of NTS in Brodick Castle.

I was also heartened by the subsequent correspondence from Malcolm Kerr and others. I am, however surprised that Cicely's important

story was not picked up by the media nationally – it certainly deserved to be. And where is the response from NTS?

I recently watched a repeat of BBC Scotland's documentary, Scotland and the Slave Trade, where a NTS representative specifically said the matter of the slavery connection with Brodick Castle and other of their properties would be addressed – and this was originally broadcast in November 2018.

Perhaps these are questions you might have asked from an editorial point of view given the current prominence and importance of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Yours,
Colin Turbett,
Shiskine.

Really in agreement

Sir,
I would like to reassure Jennifer Williams (Lessons from the past, July 10) that I have no plans to attack Brodick Castle, remove the Beckford silver and pitch it to the bottom of Brodick harbour – it has my father's name on it after all!

I assume Ms Williams is taking exception to where I say in my letter of June 19, 'we have no statues on Arran to ask the council to remove but we do have Brodick Castle' and I can see she has a point, though removing Brodick Castle would be a tough call for anyone to undertake!

However, I think the statue topplings were an emotional response to hundreds of years of injustice. Black Bristolians have testified to the pain the Colston statue caused them as they passed it on a daily basis.

Now things have settled somewhat: some statues are going to museums, some are remaining in situ. All are to have honest explanatory plaques. That was what I was suggesting was essential for the Beckford room.

Please Ms Williams, read the last paragraph again of my original letter. I think we are really in agreement: a lot more of our history needs to be understood to engender the kindness our world lacks at present.

Yours,
Cicely Gill,
Whiting Bay.

Unusual litter

Sir
I was able to travel over to Arran on Monday, the first time this year. I went for a walk to Black

Rock, a place I am very fond of. Walking from the road down to the rocks I noticed what I thought was some litter and my immediate thought was why do people drop litter. On going to pick it up I noticed it was a £10 note and a short distance I noticed a second £10. I handed the £20 pounds into Lamlash police office. If you are the person who has lost this money it is there.

What a joy to be able to return to this most beautiful island, an island I have been coming to for in excess of 70 years.

Yours,
R Allan Richardson,
Beith.

Online show

Sir,
As with so many events and shows this year, the Arran Horticultural Society cancelled this year's summer show. However, as we did in lieu of of the spring show, we're going to ask you all to post your photographs of what you would have entered onto the AHS Facebook page – fruit, vegetables, potted plants, cut flowers, decorative pieces, and your baking, produce and/or handcrafts,

And children, we would love to see photos of your posies, bouquets, homemade toys, edible necklaces, and maybe even a garden in a tray.

There will be no judging or prizes, this is all a bit of fun to share in these difficult times.

Please post your photo's directly to [www.facebook.com/Arran Horticultural Society/](http://www.facebook.com/ArranHorticulturalSociety/)

Please help us add colour to all the rainbows as we slowly come out of lockdown.

Yours,
John Sillars, president,
Arran Horticultural Society.

Safe and clean

Sir,
Dear islanders and visitors please wear masks when required, when you are finished with your mask please don't just throw out of your car windows or dump in the street, the island elves don't collect. Dispose of your dog poo bags properly and carefully.

Please please keep our island safe and clean!
Yours,
Derek Shand,
Brodick.

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Happy anniversary reopening



Alice Anderson held a small socially distanced celebration to mark the 40 anniversary of her Brae Salon in Blackwaterfoot, as reported in last week's Banner. She is seen here outside with husband William and daughters Dawn and Faye. The salon reopened on Wednesday.

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Enjoy summer safely by

People across the country are being encouraged to enjoy summer safely by following official advice and staying safe.

Pubs, restaurants, bars and hairdressers are

following UK Government advice and started to make plans to reopen, marking the start of summer.

Safety measures to protect staff and customers are being put in

**ENJOY
Summer
SAFELY**

place, with people asked to be sensible, continue to

follow social distancing messages and stay close to home to support local business.

To help people plan days out, the UK Government has launched the Know

Before You Go website at visitbritain.com/gb/en/know-before-you-go

Here, we look at what action businesses have taken to ensure we can all enjoy summer safely.



SAFE ENVIRONMENT: That Rosie Glow hair and beauty salon opens up again on July 15.

'I want to ensure clients and staff feel safe returning to the salon'

CASE STUDY THAT ROSIE GLOW

EDINBURGH HAIR and beauty salon That Rosie Glow is preparing to open for business on July 15 after almost four months of closure due to the coronavirus lockdown.

A number of safety measures will be in place to help prevent the spread of Covid-19 when the business opens.

The salon has already installed clear screens between each treatment station, and at the reception desk.

Customers and staff will be asked to wear face coverings, and customers will be requested to visit the salon alone where possible, and arrive on time rather than early to reduce time spent in the waiting area. They will have to keep their coats and belongings with them instead of them being hung up by

staff, and there will be no magazines or refreshments available.

Each station and any equipment used will be thoroughly cleaned between customers, and clean towels or gowns will be used with each one.

Salon owner Rosie Fraser said: "We closed on March 23, but we have kept our social media active and positive, and kept in touch with clients." Ms Fraser said she has tried to make the new measures as



comfortable as possible, including the screens bearing the salon's name.

She said: "I wanted to make sure the clients and also the staff felt safe coming back, and we also wanted people to feel like it's a nice experience and not too clinical.

"In this new normal we will be coming into we wanted to have safety but with style so that women still feel like they are having an enjoyable experience. Our whole ethos is to make women feel empowered, beautiful, confident and glowing not only on the outside but on the inside too. With new measures making our usual level of service and attention to detail looking likely to change we did not want to have cheap looking, temporary fixtures.

"We have had bespoke screens made with our logo engraved onto them and frames custom made and sprayed to be on brand."

THE UK Government is helping thousands of pubs, restaurants and hairdressers reopen safely with detailed practical information to help keep staff and customers safe.

The new Covid-19 secure guidance for the hospitality sector and hairdressers meant businesses were able to reopen across England on July 4, provided they met key criteria.

UK Government officials have worked alongside over 300 key industry stakeholders and trade unions to develop clear plans in line with scientific advice and public health directions, building on existing guidance published in May.

The new guidance sets out a range of measures for pubs and restaurants to become Covid-19 secure, including:

- requiring use of table service where possible instead of ordering at the bar and assigning a single staff member per table

- encouraging use of contactless ordering from tables where available, such as through an app

- discouraging non-essential trips by staff within venues, such as between the kitchen and front of house, by using radios and other electronic devices to communicate

- encouraging customers to use hand sanitiser or hand washing facilities as they enter the venue

providing clear guidance on social distancing and hygiene as people arrive on the premises, with signage and visual aids

Business Secretary Alok Sharma said: "We know this pandemic has been particularly hard for people working in hairdressing



SAFETY ADVICE: Business Secretary Alok Sharma.

and hospitality. Allowing pubs, restaurants and hairdressers to open will be another step in our plan to kickstart our economic recovery in a safe manner."

The guidance that is set out provides clear, practical steps businesses can take to open in a way that is as safe as possible for workers and customers.

Separate guidance has been published for hairdressers, which states that a clear visor should be worn by the person providing the service, covering the face and providing a barrier between the wearer and the customer from respiratory droplets caused by sneezing, coughing or speaking.

The government is also consulting with industry on how businesses should record customer information to help keep customers and employees safe and support the new test and trace system.

Guidance for your business

THE UK Government has published guidance to support businesses to reopen and keep workers and customers safe so they feel confident to return.

To find out about measures your business needs to implement to reopen safely, there is an online tool, which will direct you to guidelines specific to your type of workplace

at gov.uk/coronavirus-business-reopening.

If you run a business and would like to know which of the coronavirus support schemes you are eligible for, you can use the business support finder tool. It takes just minutes to complete and will help you easily find support for your business.

visitbritain.com/gb/en/know-before-you-go to plan your days out

following official advice



LOOKING UP: Corgi co-owner Chris Jones.

CASE STUDY CORGI

WHEN LOCKDOWN was announced, luxury knitwear company Corgi knew they had the experience to get through the Covid-19 crisis.

The Welsh firm – which has a Royal Warrant from the Prince of Wales – has ridden many an economic downturn in its illustrious 128-year-old history. Co-owner Chris Jones, who is great-great grandson of the company's founder, said: "We take a view that you can get through anything. I think it

'Orders starting to pick up once again'

makes it easier because we've been through crises before."

It helped that the Ammanford-based firm had been through five fantastic years before coronavirus struck. In March they furloughed 50 of their 65 staff but now many are returning as orders begin to pick up. Corgi

makes hand-finished wool, cotton and cashmere socks and other knitwear and Chris said: "Normally we run two shifts on the sock machine, so we kept going with one. Next week going back to one and a half shifts – we're going to have the other knitters coming in some of the time."

With shops reopening, old customers are beginning to ask for new sales catalogues and Chris expects business to pick up properly in around a month.

What has helped the business survive more than anything though was the package of financial help the Government made available.

Chris said: "The furlough scheme has practically saved us. Without it, we'd have been in a lot of trouble or we'd have managed but we'd have had to let a lot of people go."

Haircuts return with new safety measures

CASE STUDY THE BARBER'S DEN

HAIRDRESSER AND barber Claire McKittrick faced worrying times when she had to close her salon The Barber's Den, which also houses the Hairdresser's Den.

But Claire, her staff and her customers are delighted that the Lisburn business is reopening after putting safety measures in place.

Claire first opened the Barber's Den four years ago and such was its popularity she also decided to expand to include The Hairdresser's Den for all the ladies of Lisburn.

When they had to put the business on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was an understandably worrying time for Claire and her staff.

She said: "I am heavily pregnant. I'm 37 weeks now. When I found out the salon had to close the first thought

was stress, panic, and what is going to happen to my clients. We closed early. We have about 30 to 40 clients a day so that is a lot of footfall and I had a real concern about safety."

Claire and her team have been busy getting the salon ready to welcome back her valued customers.

With the rearrangement of the salon to allow social distancing, the introduction of PPE, risk assessment and team training, Claire is ready for the influx of people who are desperate for a haircut after the long months of lockdown.

Claire said: "The guidelines are good. We have posters up with the guidelines on them and I have held a team meeting to carry out a risk assessment and explain to the staff what is expected of them."

"Hand sanitisers have been installed and everywhere has been thoroughly cleaned."



HAPPY DAYS: Claire McKittrick and her staff are reopening The Barber's Den with rigorous safety measures in place.*



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during this summer

Rosie has her big moment



Attendants blow bubbles to welcome the new Bay Queen. 01_B29Rosie05



Parents and family watch the ceremony from a safe distance. 01_B29Rosie04

There may be no fun week in Whiting Bay due to the pandemic, but organisers were determined that, despite the cancellation, this year's Bay Queen, Rosie McNamara, would still enjoy some of the pomp and ceremony that goes with the position.

Taking place on the beach, chairwoman of the annual event Shonagh Pringle arranged for a socially distanced crowning ceremony complete with handmaidens, a page boy and local spectators.

The thoughtful work of the Whiting Bay Improvements

Committee and Shonagh ensured that Rosie got to enjoy her moment which was made all the more special by the large turnout of people, parents, siblings and grandparents who witnessed the scaled down procession and crowning ceremony.

Bubbles

Last year's Queen Annie West piped Rosie down the old quay where her attendants awaited her while blowing bubbles.

Annie's younger brother and page boy Innes West joined the procession carrying the Bay Queen's sash.

Annie then crowned the new Queen before hastily piping the small procession back onto the beach where Rosie posed for a number of photographs and was congratulated by her peers, friends and family.

The crowning ceremony was short and concise, yet most of the attendees were delighted that, despite the challenging circumstances and the need for social distancing, the ceremony remained charming and special, and they were delighted that some ceremony, however small, could be arranged to mark the occasion.



Bay Queen Rosie McNamara and last year's Queen Annie West join their attendants after the ceremony.



Annie West pipes in the new Queen, Rosie McNamara, while Innes West carries the Queen's sash. 01_B29Rosie06



Bay Queen attendants enjoy an ice cream in the sunshine after the ceremony. 01_B29Rosie01



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The socially distanced attendants await the Bay Queen. 01_B29Rosie02



01_B29Rosie10



Annie West leads the procession following the crowning ceremony. 01_B29Rosie08



Last Year's Bay Queen Annie West places the crown on her successors head. 01_B29Rosie07

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O is for Outdoor Learning, an activity which left a large imprint in the mind of Miss Dong.



T is for Teachers. Miss Dong enjoys a chanter lesson with tutor Ross Miller.

My A to Z of Arran

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 two.

N is for Neighbourly. Arran makes me redefine the phrase – strong community spirit. Now more than ever, folks appreciate it at the heart of Arran.

O is for Outdoor Learning, which makes me always feel grateful being on Arran, for getting outside, walking around, hearing the rustle of trees, feeling the wind on my face, the rain on my back, the sun on my skin.

P is for Pirnmill Primary School, which is a small school but a big family for pupils and for me too. When we sang in Mandarin on the stage of the Christmas show, I believe we were captivating the audiences. They were amazed and I am proud and honoured to be part of the family.

Q is for Quinton Black. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a special

thank you to my lovely mentor Quinton. I have given him a nickname which means Uncle Quinton. Not only is he an uncle's age, but he is also the one who educated me patiently as a pupil, encouraged and inspired me as a new teacher, and took care of me as a daughter. With his support and encouragement, I experienced the real Scotland: St. Andrew's Day, Burn Supper, Chanter Class, Orienteering Championship and so on. I couldn't count everything even with the help of my toes. Thanks again for being such a good mentor.

R is for Robert Burns, the most famous Scottish poet. Thanks to him, I experienced different kinds of Burn Supper at least four times, drank my first shot of whisky and enjoyed hundreds of poems in various ways, however, understood none.

S is for Shiskine Primary School, which is the school that inspired me to deliver Mandarin teaching through the outdoors in games. It also offered me another job as a photographer in Summer Fayre and Christmas show, which proved to be a chance to enjoy myself, experiencing all kinds of local games and snacks. Scottish tablets, yum yum.

T is for Teachers and all the School staff, who are my

dear friends, my lovely advisors, and my private chauffeurs. I sincerely appreciate having had the opportunity to work with you all. Thank you for the support and encouragement you have provided me during my time on Arran. I thoroughly enjoyed having lunch with you in the staff room. I will miss our daily interactions and weekly conversations. You have really been there for me. Love you 3,000.

U is for Unique. Delivering Mandarin on Arran is such a unique opportunity for pupils to get access to a totally different language. It is also a great opportunity for me to grow and transform. I have grown after nearly two years of a unique experience. It transformed Lulu from a scared cat into a courageous lion. I will definitely grow better in the future with what has Arran taught me and deeply rooted in my heart.

V is for Venture. Working abroad as a Mandarin teacher for me is venturing forth into the unknown. When I arrived in Scotland on October 24, 2018, I wondered how I was going to survive in this new country, new culture, among foreigners, and being a foreigner teaching a foreign language for two years. I told myself to hope for the best and expect the worst. With a

strong sense of passion and willingness to take all the risks necessary, not only did I survive but also gained a lot. I have been learning what I need to know and I believe I made a difference on Arran and will definitely bring the valuable working experience back to China.

W is for Whiting Bay Primary School, which is the only school I taught in the hall and so many fun and exciting experiences happened in it. I fixed the projector accidentally, watched the assembly intentionally, and was invited to sing a Mandarin song because of peeking to the House Treat curiously. They all happened in the hall and are fond memories in my heart.

X is for XX. It stands for Xkisses and hugs which is new to me as a Chinese girl. Because, instead of emoji, it always comes at the end of the messages I got from friends on Arran since I have been here. It might be a common way for Scottish people to express love, but for me, it is much more powerful than any emoji. It shows Lulu that she is welcomed with open arms, loved, or even spoiled sometimes by the whole island.

Y is for Yanyan, who is the Chinese Director in CISS. I want to especially thank. Being a wise, diligent, far-seeing, and thoughtful leader, she is like the sun of the constella-



Q is for Quinton Black whom Miss Dong described as an excellent tutor akin to a family member.



V is for Venture. Miss Dong's fears about travel were quickly allayed and she was included and welcomed by many families on Arran.

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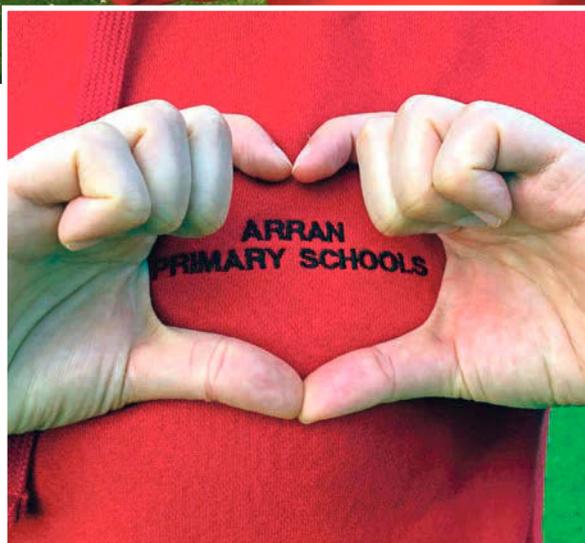
Crofters, Brodick, Isle of Arran

by Lu Dong – part 2

tion that every Hanban teacher centres on. Yanyan offers me a hand and a bunch of opportunities to reach higher than I imagine. Thank you for being such a wonderful leader and role model for all of Hanban teachers.

Z is for Zero Zero, the nickname of my lifelong best friend línglíng (started by Quinton when he was obsessed with Mandarin numbers). We have been discussing, sharing, studying, exploring and adapting to the changes all the way till now, and will definitely go on in the future. Zero - 0 - to Chinese does not mean nothing, it stands for a new beginning. Even the finest feast comes to an end sometime. My teaching time on Arran is coming to an end, but to me this is not the end. This is the beginning. It is time for a new chapter back in my homeland and starts from zero again (We say starting from zero means starting from scratch). And while I will miss Arran immensely, I am beyond excited about new challenges and I know that I will come back and visit Arran someday in the future.

Zài jiàn, the most common term used to say goodbye in Mandarin. It is literally translated to 'seeing you again'. I am extremely grateful and mighty proud to be on Arran and have all of you in my A-Z of Arran. It truly made my alphabet that I love to sing and retell over and over again. Zài jiàn. See you again.



U is for Unique. Which best describes the opportunity provided to her and for her love of Arran.



S is for Shiskine Primary School but it also represents all of the primary schools on Arran which are individually named in the A to Z.



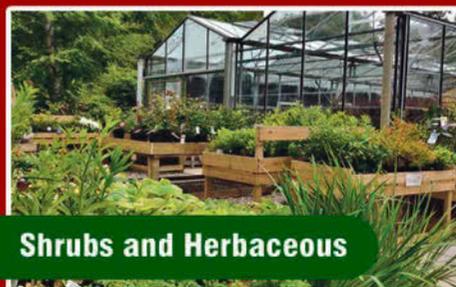
Y is for Yanyan, the Chinese Director in CISS who Miss Dong described as a wonderful leader and role model for all of Hanban teachers.



X is for XX. A symbol for love and kisses which perfectly describes Miss Dong's feelings towards Arran all the places where she worked.

R is for Robert Burns. Not only did Miss Dong teach children on Arran but she also learned a great deal, including the work of our national bard.

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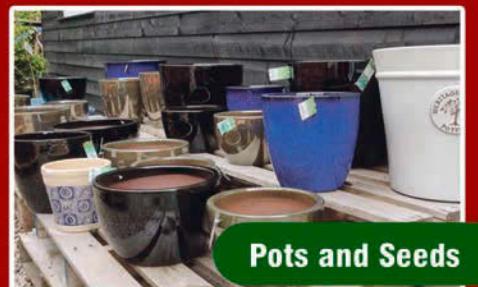
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All change as resort and h for business

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran's biggest hotel complex, Auchrannie Resort, reopened its two hotels, restaurants and bars on Wednesday as tourism continued to open up on the island.

However, the resort's biggest priority at this time is to look after the safety of guests and team members, and initial accommodation availability has been constrained to test new Covid-19 safe operating procedures. The resort will look and feel very different but staff at the Auchrannie are confident of giving their guests the usual fantastic service and welcome.

Auchrannie opened with the resort at almost 50 per cent occupancy, however, by next week occupancy will have grown to more than 90

per cent. The resort expects to operate at this level until the end of October and into the winter, subject to sufficient ferry capacity being available.

For guests checking in it will be a very different experience, with a glass fronted reception and keys, and hotel information contained in a sealed plastic bag. In the rooms ornaments and other unnecessary items have been removed, being replaced with hand-sanitiser. All the rooms have been deep cleaned and this will be carried out after every guest.

Restaurant capacity will be lower than normal due to physical distancing and Covid-19 regulations. Despite the relaxation to one metre for restaurants, Auchrannie has retained two metre distancing principles and also installed screens throughout the res-

taurants and other areas of the resort to make sure that guests feel safe and secure when dining.

Auchrannie first welcomed guests and team members back to the resort on July 3 when the self-catering lodges and retreats reopened. Despite some ferry capacity issues and little notice to open, which impacted booking levels, Auchrannie's occupancy averaged just under 70 per cent for the period from July 3 to 15. Weather was good during most of this period and guests were able to enjoy Brambles beer garden and takeaway service which opened on July 6.

Bike hire, segway and archery reopened on July 11 and all guests are overjoyed to be back at Auchrannie and on the island, even though many of the usual services and businesses were still closed. ASPA will reo-



Restaurant manager Peter Hyslop pours the first pint in Brambles. 01_B29resort04

pen on July 22. As yet, there is no confirmation of a date for reopening of pools, playbarn, gym and games hall.

Co-founder and managing director Linda Johnston told the Banner: 'Incomes for island businesses will continue to be impacted by the effects of physical distancing and coronavirus regulations both within premises and also due to Arran having lower visitor numbers because of constrained capacity for passengers on the ferry.'

'The hospitality industry on Arran has been particularly badly hit in 2020, having suffered heavy losses through ferry breakdowns and cancellations in January and February 2020 and then missing half of the summer season due to Covid-19. The

hospitality industry now faces another hard winter which is loss making even during normal times. The industry is

'It is hoped that visitors and locals will support the hospitality industry

delighted about the reduction in VAT announced by the chancellor last week which has thrown a much needed lifeline to this hard hit sector, giving businesses a better chance of surviving and recovering from the impacts of Covid-19. The temporary reduction on VAT, to 5 per cent until January 2021, will also help to protect jobs and avoid redundancies. It is

hoped that visitors and locals will support the hospitality industry by buying local Scottish products, eating out and holidaying at home this year.'

Meanwhile The Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot also opened its doors this week with the owner Robbie Crawford admitting they were 'all just a wee bit nervous'.

The hotel, which is operating at 60 per cent capacity welcomed its first guests mid-week but is full to its reduced capacity all weekend and has healthy advance bookings. The bar has implemented the reduced one metre rule but the dining capacity is reduced in the restaurant as social distancing here remains at two metres, with plastic screens installed between tables.

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The perspex screens to keep guests safe in Brambles restaurant. 01_B29resort03

Hotels reopen



A very different welcome awaits at Cruise with hand-sanitiser and perspex screens between tables. 01_B29resort01

The hotel has returned to 40 full-time staff, down from the usual 70 at this time of year.

'It is a learning curve for everyone. I just want to keep the guests, the staff and the community as safe as possible,' Robbie added.

The Ormidale Hotel in Brodick also opened on Wednesday for drinks and bar meals inside, after a successful trial with its popular beer garden.

Trevor Helliwell said: 'We're all set up, socially distanced and ready to go.'

'We have taken all precautions and are observing government guidelines and delighted to say we can now operate using one metre physical distancing.'



A receptionist behind a screen with the sealed bag containing the guests key and hotel information. 01_B29resort02

'We have capacity inside for up to 72 but please, please follow signage and instructions from staff. There are no bookings and it is on a first come, first served basis.'



Trevor Helliwell welcomes customers back to the Ormidale Hotel on Wednesday.

01_B29ormidale01



The branded screens which divide tables in The Douglas Hotel bar.

The Douglas takes its time

One major hotel not yet open is The Douglas in Brodick after bosses took the decision to wait until Friday July 31 to reopen their doors to guests, diners, and those looking for a casual drink in the bar and newly extended beer garden, writes Hugh Boag.

Inside, new see-through screens have been erected at the bar and between tables using the new one metre+ distance rules. The a la carte lunch and dinner menus will be available from noon to 9pm daily for which bookings can be made for up to eight guests per table

in either the bar or the bistro.

Hotel manager Kate Russell said: 'We have taken a little more time to ensure we can safely implement all the guideline measures published by the Scottish Government on July 9 and can't wait to welcome our new and returning guests from July 31.'

'As expected, we have had to make a number of tweaks to our operation in order to comply with the guidelines and ensure our staff and customers are safely protected. Please be assured we will contact all future guests prior to arrival to

advise of the changes and what to expect, but for now we wish you the very best of health and look forward to welcoming you to our island where the beautiful mountain scenery, fresh air, gentle sea breezes and warm welcome awaits.'

Meanwhile, the Brodick Bunkhouse will be open from the same date but only for family households or social bubble groups up to a maximum of 12 for a fixed price of £300 total stay per night.

Other hotels still to open include the Lamash Bay and Blackwaterfoot Lodge.

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Did you know that Scottish Water has teamed up with Home Energy Scotland and Arran Eco Savvy to offer householders on Arran free water saving packs?

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Although it rains a lot in Scotland, less than 1% of the rainfall ends up somewhere Scottish Water has access to. In addition, around a fifth of the average household heating bill is spent heating water in the home. So, saving water can help save energy and money too!

Free online water efficiency workshops

Home Energy Scotland and Arran Eco Savvy are running free online workshops this July, where you can pick up some great tips to help you save water, energy and money at home. They will also be talking about the range of free water-saving devices you can order for your home; and the big difference they can make.

Joan Brockie, of Home Energy Scotland says: "Our water workshops are a great way to find out more about where your water comes from, how it gets used and how you can help to reduce your own usage. We'll have hosts from Home Energy Scotland and Arran Eco Savvy to take your questions and give you lots of great water-saving tips and ideas"

Take part in one of the sessions on either Thursday 16 July or Thursday 23 July (7.30pm – 8.30pm).

Visit scottishwater.co.uk/savewaterarran for more information and to book your free place. Why not ask your friends to join too?

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You can request your free water devices pack now by calling Home Energy Scotland on 0808 808 2282 or visiting scottishwater.co.uk/savewaterarran

Why not get involved - you might be surprised by how much you could save!



Photo: Kerr Rankin, Scottish Water employee on Arran

Arran gardens 'awash' with young as birds flourish in lockdown

Bird
notes
by Jim Cassels

JUNE

June was noticeably warmer than May. The mean temperature was three degrees higher. This June was also warmer and drier than last June. The mean temperature was one degree higher and the rainfall was almost 20 per cent less, most of it falling in the last 10 days of the month. This weather was generally conducive to birds raising young during the long daylight hours in June.

This fine weather combined with less human disturbance, because of the COVID-19 restrictions, meant that many species had a successful breeding period.

Observers reported gardens 'awash' with young birds. There were many reports of fledged birds in gardens, including unfamiliar looking young birds, such as goldfinch without the red face of the

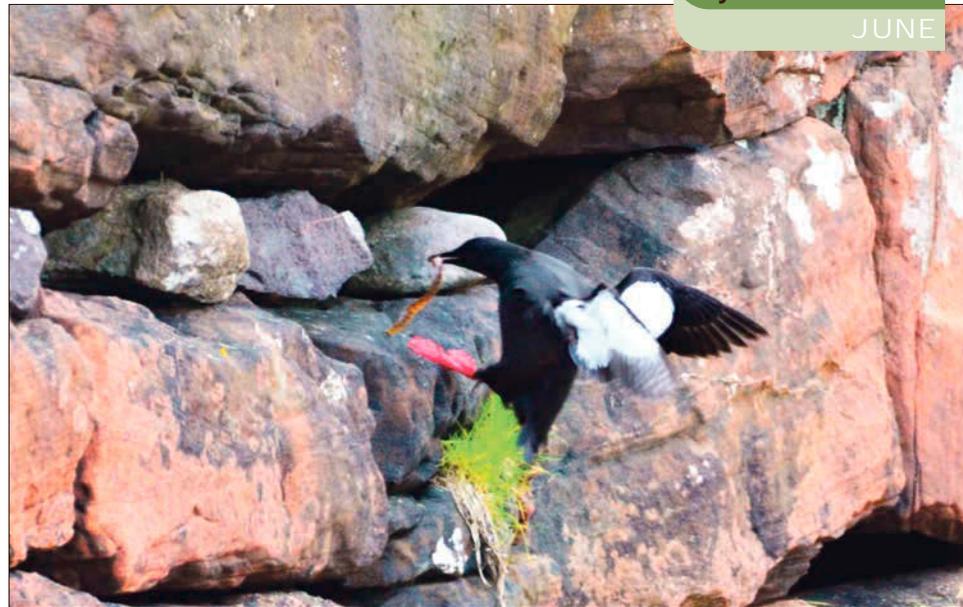
adult birds, and robins with spots and no red breast, as well as the more familiar birds like blackbird, song thrush, blue tit, great tit, coal tit and chaffinch all with young. Most prolific of all seemed to be house sparrow with 20 in Alma Park on 15th being one of the larger numbers. Also, there were many reports of numbers of siskin and goldfinch with young around, including 18 goldfinch in Whiting Bay on 1st and 18 siskin in Cordon on 24th. Like last year, it was again encouraging to get reports of young greenfinch from widespread locations. This species had been decimated by the parasitic disease, trichomonas.

Away from gardens there were many signs of breeding including, a sand martin colony in Glen Catacol with 115 nest holes on 7th, woodcock with young at Leac Gharbh on 10th, curlew holding territory



Spotted flycatcher feeding young on Holy Isle.

Photograph: Howard Sargeant



Black guillemot carrying food into colony. Photo Arthur Duncan

on Machrie Moor on 20th, a pair of hen harrier with four lively young seen from a forest trail close to one of the main villages on the island on 20th and activity at the grey heron heronries in Stronach Wood, Brodick, Lagg and Whitehouse Wood, Lamash by the end of the month. The healthy vole population in many areas was beneficial to some breeding raptors. There was also encouraging reports of young lapwing from four areas. This once widespread farmland breeder is just hanging-on.

Around the coast there were further signs of breeding including: a crèche of 26 eider with 18 young off Silver Sands on 2nd, a pair of mute swan with six young in Catacol Bay on 3rd, three pair of oystercatchers, whose nests were washed away in the storm in May, successfully re-nesting in Kildonan on 8th, 100 starling including many young birds in Blackwaterfoot on 11th, a pair of mallard with 10 young

at Pirnmill on 18th, a family of peregrine on a coastal cliff on 20th, black guillemot carrying food into the Corrie colony on 25th and five pair of fulmar on nests on Drumadoon Cliffs on 30th.

Other highlights in a month with almost 100 species reported included the following: four red-throated diver off Corrie on 2nd, a bar-tailed godwit at Machriewaterfoot also on 2nd, a little grebe and three moorhen at Mossend Pond on 6th, an osprey being mobbed by gulls in Lamash Bay on 7th, a water rail on North Sannox Farm on 23rd and a particular highlight for one observer in a lay-by on the String was an aerial dispute involving two golden eagle being harassed by two buzzard and a peregrine. Another magic birding moment on Arran.

Cuckoos, whose decreasing numbers are a cause for concern nationally, seem to be thriving on Arran. Throughout May and June there have been

many widespread reports. People need no prompting to report the first cuckoo. How about reporting when you hear or see the last cuckoo this year? Most adult cuckoos, taking no part in rearing their young, leave around mid to late July. Juveniles leave breeding areas soon after they fledge, quickly becoming independent of their hosts before also migrating south, usually in late July and early August. These young cuckoos have a white patch on the back of the head.

Finally in July, look out for early signs of breeding being over for some birds this year. These could include the return of some Arctic breeding species to our shores.

Remember July is the time when many birds, having raised their young, go about the process of renewing their feathers by moulting them. As birds are vulnerable when they are shedding flight feathers, they literally make themselves scarce. On any birding walk you may see fewer birds but they are still around.

Enjoy your birding and keep safe.

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

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



House sparrow feeding young. Photo Brian Couper

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Kim McAllister is the host of The Arran Podcast.

New podcast will give its listeners a sense of Arran

A new podcast called The Arran Podcast is set to launch next week in an effort to promote the island and its people, boost tourism, and to welcome back visitors who have been unable to visit owing to travel restrictions.

The venture is sponsored by Arran Sense of Scotland and Connect Communications which will provide the platform, with senior communications consultant Kim McAllister as the host.

The eight-part series will focus on the island and its positive contribution to the mental well-being of islanders and visitors alike.

Kim herself is a lifelong visitor to Arran and her space podcasts for the University of Edinburgh are extremely popular.

Connect sales and marketing director Andrew Russell approached Kim with the idea and she readily agreed to be part of it.

Andrew said: 'I've known Kim forever and knew she could help us put together a really appealing podcast series which would remind people why Arran is such a popular

holiday destination. We discussed all the options and I'm really excited about the format. It's called The Arran Podcast because we want to reflect all aspects of the island.

Special place

'Arran has a really special place in people's hearts and I know many people have really missed visiting during the lockdown. We want to bring a little bit of the island into people's homes and hopefully welcome them back soon.'

Each episode will feature an interview with an islander or a high profile visitor, sharing their stories of special trips and local secrets. The first guest is Rachel Malcolm, captain of the Scottish Women's Rugby team, whose family has a house in Whiting Bay.

Kim said: 'It's a dream project for me, talking about a place I love so much with others who feel the same. It's an island full of surprises, so I'm looking forward to sharing some insider tips and to travel back there with my family soon.'

The series launches on Thursday July 23 and will be available across all podcast platforms.

Reduce plastic waste with new refills

Luxury, saving money and looking after the environment do not often come hand in hand, but new 5 litre handwash refills from body care brand Arran Sense of Scotland in Brodick will help customers reduce their plastic consumption by more than 80 per cent, while enjoying a significant saving of more than £200.

Equivalent to approximately 17 of the

brand's best-selling 300ml handwashes, which retail at £15, and filled with the same indulgent formula, customers can be assured of the highest quality ingredients and nourishing effects, while helping to look after the planet too.

They are perfect for everyone as we have all seen an increased in handwash usage during the coronavirus pandemic, or for people who have struggled

to find handwash in the shops with the increased demand.

Each initial purchase comes with a free pump and bottle to fill.

And there is free delivery, too, so customers needn't worry about a pricey postage fee.

The five litre handwash is priced at £49 and available to buy exclusively online at arran.com

Are you a current or former Postmaster?

If you held a contract with Post Office and experienced shortfalls which you believe were caused by previous versions of Horizon, you may be eligible to make a claim.

If you wish to register a claim, the Historical Shortfall Scheme is open until 14 August 2020.

Cases will be assessed by an independent advisory panel.

For details and to submit a claim please visit onepostoffice.co.uk/scheme





**SHOP
LOCAL**

**STAY
LOCAL**

**EAT
LOCAL**

Why keep it within the community?

During these unprecedented times our local retailers, artisans, food outlets and hotels have been working hard behind the scenes to ensure that your experience is safe, secure and welcome.

Please remember to be patient, be kind and adhere to premises and government guidelines.

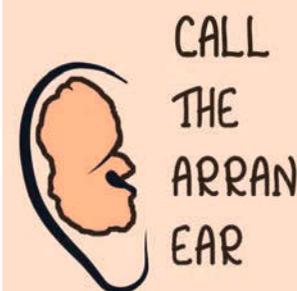
People must, by law, wear a face covering in retail environments and on public transport and public transport premises, such as airports, train and bus

stations. This applies to open air train stations, but not to bus stops. (www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-phase-3-staying-safe-and-protecting-others/pages/face-coverings/) Please spare a thought that by supporting local shops, be they locally owned or national retailers, you are sustaining the local economy. They all employ local people and sustain families. Yes, it's easy to click, click, click online, but if we don't support our own local shops, restaurants, and pubs,

they may not be sustainable. **Supporting the economy!** – Research shows that for every £1 spent with a small or medium-sized business, 63p stayed in the local company. **It is the ethical choice!** – When you shop at the local butchers, bakers, farm shops and producers, it is likely that a percentage of the produce has had a short journey, less packaging and contains more nutrients. **Unique is the best!** – Independent shops often sell locally-made gifts that aren't

available in more commercial outlets. Local shops also support artists and designers, local authors and artisans. Buy something unique to your area! **Charity matters!** – Local businesses often hold charity events, social groups and community gatherings in aid of charities that are closer to home to the benefit of the community. Let's help keep our area a safe place and please remember the Scottish advice on face coverings.

Anxious or stressed
during the COVID transition phase?
Worried about your family or friends?
Trouble sleeping?



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Lamlash opening soon

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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday July 22, 2000

Captured on canvas

Two years ago Corrie put on an exhibition in the village hall of artists, craftsmen and writers who had lived and been influenced by the village and its environment.

Through the decades Corrie has been the home of artists and writers such as John McLaughlan Milne, Robert McLellan, Margo Sandiman, Avril Paton and Alistair Hetherington. Jessie M King and Joan Eardley spent a considerable amount of time in the village, and many other artists have been influenced by their stay in Corrie, notably Charles Rennie Mackintosh, who attended a summer school here.

Two paintings in the 1998 exhibition were by Tony Rampton, who died in 1993. It was only by chance viewing of a catalogue of his work that Tony's existence became known and an approach was made to his wife Joan to exhibit a few pictures for the Corrie Past and Present exhibition.

The Ramptons owned a house in Corrie which they used whenever possible and Tony was a prolific painter of Arran landscapes.

It was a complete surprise to most of the local people who visited the exhibition to see just how proficient an artist Tony was and because of this Joan has been approached again to host a full exhibition of his work. Joan has agreed to this and an exhibition of more than 50 of his works

will take place in the Corrie Village Hall next week.

Maiden voyage

The four-foot long Eilean Mairi was launched in the Brodick sand quarry last Wednesday. And while sounding rather of little importance at first, the event was a small celebration with a heart-warming story behind it.

The scale model boat was built by Dave MacLellan of Altardoch and later Lamlash. Dave got as far as building the hull before he took ill and then, four years ago, he died. The hull sat there for a while and then his widow May approached John Moore of Whiting Bay who also builds boat models. Could John do anything about it? John was pleased to oblige and he set about getting every single detail correct from the lifeboat davits to the ventilators to the hatch covers. And each item he made himself from bits and pieces he had around the workshop.

The name he has given it comes from a rocky islet off the mouth of the Lagg Burn. He began 15 months ago and last week it was complete. Therefore it had to be ceremoniously launched in company, with May MacLellan and her daughter Fiona. The model looked the part and operated perfectly and is a fitting memory to Dave MacLellan.



The Summer Play, as Whiting Bay has called its holiday entertainment for the last 34 years, might be a more apt name for this year's offering with the impossibly long name of *We found love and an exquisite set of porcelain figures aboard SS Farndale Avenue*. Pictured dancing are actors Morven Hedley, Sheila Nicol and Bob Fisher. 01_B29tweYE01



Participants in this year's sports fun during the Kildonan Fun Week discover that the four to a sack race is far more difficult than it appears. 01_B29tweYE03



All of the fun of the Lamlash Gala Week. The Heather Queen's parade, led by Fiona McClure, makes it way through Lamlash. 01_B29tweYE02



Betty McKelvie of Blackwaterfoot receives a painting from Gery McNally, area organiser for the RNLI, for her 14 years of service to the Ladies Lifeboat Guild. 01_B29tweYE04



The under-sixes fancy dress competitors line up for the judging during the Lamlash Gala Week which enjoyed a spell of fine weather. 01_B29tweYE04

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CVs to mail@thomsonconstruction.co.uk
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 07.08.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) 20/00517/PP; Site To North East Of Samye Dechen Shing Retreat Centre, Sliderry, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Construction of a new forest road access from public road.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

PERSONAL NOTICE



Vic Shaw wishes to thank all family and friends for their good wishes on his 90th birthday.

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The Isle of Arran Music School AGM will be a virtual event this year.

Tuesday 4th of August at 6pm

If you would like to attend, please contact

info@arranmusicachool.org.uk

Private sales

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Wanted vinyl records. Good and accurate prices paid for well looked after records. No classical or easy listening. All other genres considered
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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

Our Church will reopen for Mass on Saturday 18th July and Sunday 19th July.

Capacity will be severely limited. Priority will be given to parishioners. Social distancing and hygiene restrictions will be in place, including the wearing of face coverings.

ATTENDANCE WILL BE BY TELEPHONE OR EMAIL BOOKING ONLY. Tel 600595 or email peterdwilko@gmail.com.

Please do not attend Mass if you have not made a booking. IF YOU ARE SHIELDING, DISPLAYING ANY COVID 19 SYMPTOMS OR FEELING UNWELL, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO CHURCH AT THIS TIME. THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS REMAINS SUSPENDED

Mass from Bishop's House, Oban can still be accessed at 10am daily at www.rcdai.org.uk

*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)
Following the Government's opening of churches in Scotland, we will celebrate Holy Communion in St Margaret's, Whiting Bay on Sunday 19th July at 11 a.m. Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Celebrant: Revd Adrian Fallows
ALL WELCOME
We will follow the strict SEC guidelines

WHAT'S ON

EVERY DAY
Eco Savvy and Co-op food share at Big Co, Brodick and Lamlash - 8.15pm
WEDNESDAY
(one week only)
Savvy Film Club: The Need to Grow followed by Director Q&A (all online) - 7pm
THURSDAY
Free online Arran Water Workshop by Eco Savvy and Home Energy Scotland - 7.30pm

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Opening of some churches delayed

There will be no imminent reopening of public worship at the Church the Scotland on Arran as the island's three ministers explain in an open letter to all church goers.

Sir,
We would like to give an update on the situation of the Church of Scotland on Arran.

As we are moving through phase three of the Scottish Government's road map, the First Minister announced on July 9 that churches could open from this week for prayer, worship and contemplation. It was also announced that numbers will be 'strictly limited' and no building will be allowed to have more than 50 people.

However, the need to maintain two metre social distancing means greatly reducing our capacity and many of our buildings will not be able to accommodate a number as high as 50.

However, the Presbytery of Ardrossan has instructed all

churches within its bounds not to open before August 16.

There is a great deal of work to be done before we can safely open for worship.

Each church must write a risk assessment. We must have in place a robust cleaning regime. We must have social distancing worked out and clearly marked out with adequate signage and hand sanitisers in place. There is also a building checklist to complete.

If the present restrictions continue, worship will be very different as there will be no hymn singing, no teas or coffee after the service, and we will all be keeping our distance from one another.

When we have fully met all these requirements, we need



Lamlash Parish Church is unlikely to reopen before mid August. 01_B46church01

to seek Presbytery's permission to open and when we do open, we will need to continue to ensure that our buildings can welcome back members and friends, and give them an

environment that is as safe and secure as it can be.

Yours,
Rev Angus Adamson
Rev Lily McKinnon
Rev Elizabeth Watson.



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday July 5, The Whiting Bay Improvements Stableford. Nine played on a day that started out poorly and went downhill with heavy rain starting mid morning. The early starters very definitely had the best of it.

1 Neil Lucas (13)39pts, 2 Gus MacLeod (14)38, 3 Douglas Auld (20)36, 4 Nicol Auld (5)35. CSS stayed at 63/36

points and there were no magic twos scored.

Wednesday July 8, Summer Trophy. Nineteen played. CSS 62. 1 Nicol Auld (5)57 and lowest gross, 2 Kevin Jackson (10)59, 3 John Pennycott (12)60, 4 Neil Lucas (13)60 acb. Magic twos Nicol Auld @2nd; Nicol Auld, Douglas Auld, Jamie Macpherson and Kevin McAleeny @4th.

Sunday July 12, The Raymond Curtis Salver. Eighteen played and continuing the recent trend of fine scoring CSS came down to 62. 1 Jamie Macpherson (5)59 acb and lowest gross, 2 Neil Lucas (12)59, 3 David Brookens (13)60, 4 Wolfi Kroner (13)63. Sandy Pringle scored the only magic two of the day @4th.

Fixtures: Sunday July 19, Nestor's Jug Stableford (white

tees); Wednesday July 22, The McLintock Cup (rescheduled from July 15). Until further notice there will be no draws for partners and members should arrange their own groupings.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday July 8, May Brandon and Summer Cup, 40 played, CSS 64. 1 Greg McCrae 68-5=63, 2 Tam McNab 77-13=64 acb, 3 John May 84-20=64 acb. Scratch Greg McCrae 68.

Sunday July 12, British Legion Cup, Stableford, 31 played, CSS 34 points (reduction only). 1 Greg McCrae (5)38pts, 2 Ewan McKinnon (Scr) 36pts, 3 Ross Duncan (3)35pts.

Fixtures: Sunday July 19, Marchioness of Graham Trophy. Wednesday July 22,

July Brandon and Summer Cup.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday July 9, Summer Cup CSS 64. par 64. 1 Ian Bremner 66-9=57, 2 Paul Cowan 65-6=59, 3 Neil Young 67-6=61. Best scratch Paul Cowan 65. Magic twos Neil Young@ 5th, Ian Bremner@16th, Derek Harrison@16th

Sunday July 12, Sunday Sweep - non counting for handicap. 1 R Calder 70-8=62, 2 I Bremner 72-7=65, 3 I Murchie 72-6=66 BIH over A Crawford. Best scratch R Calder 70, magic twos D Harrison@16th

Fixtures: Sunday July 19, Sunday Sweep 9.30am and 12 noon starts. Thursday July 23, Summer Cup, make up own groups, see starter for times.

DEATHS

MANN - Peggy Mann much loved wife of Don (Donald Mann, deceased) previously of Caber Feidh, Sannox passed away peacefully at Mount Vale Nursing Home in Northallerton, North Yorkshire on July 4, 2020, and will be lovingly remembered by her family and friends.

MCNICOL - Henry Alexander. Peacefully at Irvine Central Hospital on 11th July 2020, Henry Alexander McNicol aged 88 years, husband of Eunice, father of Bill and Gareth, father-in-law of Alison and Gwen, much loved grandfather, uncle and great-uncle to the family (and Brodick Legend!). Funeral private due to circumstances. No flowers please, donations to Isle of Arran AFC if desired.

SMITH - Derek William. Derek passed away peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Friday, 10th July 2020, aged 83 years. Beloved husband of Maimie. Dad to Derek, Brian and Angus. Proud Grandpa of Yvonne and Vivien, Robin, Scott and Euan, Andrew and Lydia. Great Grandpa to Lexxie, Shaemus, Ayvah and Jaxon. Derek will be laid to rest at Sannox cemetery.

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GRADUATION



Katie Morrison has graduated from Stirling University with BA Hons English Studies with Professional Education (Secondary) and will be teaching at Galashiels Academy from August. She is daughter of Mhairi Hartley of Corrie and granddaughter of John and Kate Hartley of Lochranza. As her graduation ceremony was cancelled the immediate family held their own ceremony in the garden.

THE ARRAN BANNER

Arran welcomes a return to the great outdoors

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



With the reopening of forestry car parks and mountain bike trails the great outdoors of Arran is ready to welcome people back to the hills.

Forestry and Land Scotland has pulled out all the stops to support the recovery of tourism and opened its visitor facilities across the country.

After a Herculean effort to carry out all of the necessary health and safety checks, 95 per cent of car parks, almost all visitor centres and almost all mountain bike trails are now open, with a phased reopening of toilet facilities from Monday July 20.

Check

The FLS website front page carries a live list of the most up-to-date information for all FLS facilities and members of the public are advised to check this before they leave home.

FLS chief Executive Simon Hodgson, said: 'After four months of restrictions I am sure that many people are looking forward to visiting one of our forests to help in their own mental, physical and spiritual recovery.

'Our staff have done an amazing job in getting us to the point where we are ready to welcome visitors back and I am delighted to say that now - in the new normal - we are open for business.



A spectacular view of Lamlash from the path to Loch Urie which can be reached from the Dyemill forestry car park.

Photograph: Hugh Boag, 01_B29outdoors01

'However, this is a critical juncture in Scotland's recovery. Progress to date could easily be reversed, so it is vital that everyone plans ahead, has alternative options ready

in case they arrive at a site that is already too busy and that they follow the latest Scottish Government guidance.

'In supporting this approach we will be implementing

physical distancing in our visitor centres and will also require that anyone entering wears a face mask. We look forward to welcoming people back to our forests, our

mountain bike trails and our visitor centres. Please remember to be considerate of each other and of our staff so that everyone can continue to stay safe and enjoy great days out.'

The majority of FLS car parks are now open, as are the majority of mountain bike trails.

Checking the FLS website for the latest news, and using the 'Our Forest' search facility, will help to ensure that a planned day out becomes a great day out.

While beauty spots are open, waste collection services may not yet be operational

However, FLS has also issued a warning to visitors to show responsible behaviour and take their litter home. Staff are urging members of the public to remember that while many car parks and beauty spots are now open, waste collection services may not yet be operational.

It is hoped that this early appeal will encourage people to think carefully about when and where they want to travel to, and that they will be considerate of local communities, other visitors and land management staff and take their litter home.



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