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# Major study to check if tourism can recover

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Tourism on Arran was back with a bang this week. Sometimes it felt like old times with visitors galore in hotels, bars and cafes and the village streets busy with cars and visitors.

Increased ferry capacity and a further relaxation in booking has meant that Arran can now let visitors know that it is a safe, responsible and welcoming destination.

But VisitArran say: 'We need to let people know we're open and ready to welcome them back - of course still asking them to take every precaution. It's great to see so many of the #WeAreArran posters on display in businesses.'

This week there were more welcome recovery signs with the Arran Heritage Museum opening on Wednesday which will be followed by the Isle be Wild playpark at Brodick Castle next Thursday. The Whiting Bay putting green



The volunteers ready to welcome visitors back at the Arran Heritage Museum. 01\_B30tourism01

is also open for business. Museum manager Tom Macleod said it was great to have their doors open again and the volunteers back. 'We have all the social distancing measures in place and we look forward to welcoming back visitors and salvaging what we can of the 2020 season.'

Hotels, restaurants and cafes all reported brisk trade over the weekend with two cafes running out of food and at

least one Brodick hotel having to turn customers away on Saturday night.

However, considering the summer season is into the Glasgow Fair, tourism numbers are still significantly below last year's figures, so the island is far from out of the woods yet.

This week it was announced North Ayrshire Council is commissioning the respected Fraser of Allander Institute to

carry out a study on the Arran economy to provide quantitative assessments of what reduced tourism revenues mean to the Arran economy and the community. This is seen as essential in relation to further discussions on an Island Support Plan. Work is due to start next week and the first results are expected by the beginning of September. A separate business survey is being carried out by the Arran

Recovery Group which, they say, is really important for future planning and lobbying purposes.

In a poll conducted this week by VisitArran the general feeling was that self-catering businesses were doing very well and forward bookings are excellent. There are some businesses still under threat and a few who have chosen to delay opening, but it is felt this may be as a result of a lack of marketing. However, international travellers are not booking in the same numbers as previously and businesses also felt the communications coming from CalMac/Transport Scotland were changing too quickly making it confusing and hard to keep up with the current guidelines.

There remains concern too about continuing restrictions on the Arran bus service but this is being pursued by Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson. A review of the situation by the

Continued on page two.

## Bookings extended on ferries

Bookings can now be made on CalMac ferries seven weeks in advance.

This move, announced this week, gives greater flexibility to passengers than the four-week rolling programme brought in when ferry travel restrictions were relaxed.

It came as talks were continuing between the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee and the Arran Recovery Group with CalMac and Transport Scotland about further extending capacity on the ferries.

As reported in last week's Banner, considerable progress has been made to accommodate more passengers on the MV Caledonian Isles and the MV Isle of Arran on the main Ardrossan to Brodick route.

And while this has seen few complaints or cancellations this week it is still below the 50 per cent capacity businesses say they need to survive.

CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond said: 'I'm pleased to say from July 22 customers will be able to book travel within a rolling seven-week period. We will soon be able to open a further stage of bookings for the rest of the season - up to October 18.'

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# Council visitor moorings bring boats back to Arran

Arran had a bumper weekend of visiting boats after North Ayrshire Council re-laid the visitor moorings around the island to provide a welcome boost to marine tourism, writes Hugh Boag.

The visitor moorings are extremely popular and well used from Easter to the end of October, however due to Covid-19 the council could not lay the moorings as usual until last week.

There are 15 moorings at Brodick, 12 at Lochranza, six at Whiting Bay, three at Blackwaterfoot and two at Pirnmill. Commercial moorings are also available at Lamdash and Catacol. The council also has 16 moorings at Millport on Greater Cumbrae.

There has been a steady increase in the number of boats using the main harbours of Brodick and Lamdash since

Boats tied up at the council moorings in Brodick Bay this week. 01\_B30moorings01



restrictions were eased on sailing. However, it has also brought the return of jet skis.

Council leader Joe Cullinane said: 'We are delighted to welcome back visitors and boaters to North Ayrshire. The council is fully committed to supporting marine tourism on the Clyde by safely encouraging visitors and boats back to North Ayrshire.'

'Providing moorings for the rest of the sailing season will benefit our businesses and

communities who rely on tourism to welcome back visiting boats and encourage spending in the local economy.'

He added: 'I would encourage visitors to check ahead, prepare for what to do on arrival and to think about how best they can support local businesses and produce.'

The council is backing the #RespectTheDestination campaign launched by our partners Sail Scotland, RYA Scotland, British Marine

Tourism and Wild Scotland.

The campaign reminds leisure and commercial boaters to plan ahead and consider the changes to marine tourism, levels of service and local access controls that may be in place at popular sailing and boating destinations.

The visitor moorings are installed by North West Marine a specialist company working with the council to install the moorings safely, quickly and efficiently at short notice.

The moorings, which are free to use, are for visitor use only. They are not for resident boats or long-term berthing. Boats must weigh no more than 15 tonnes to berth on a mooring. Any larger vessel will damage the mooring and could be dangerous to the boat or users. The moorings are blue hippo type buoys and are available on a first come, first serve basis.

## Major study to check if tourism can recover

Continued from page one.

SPT is expected shortly. All public ferries remain cancelled to Holy Isle with the ferry only providing a lifeline service to the Buddhist retreat.

Meanwhile, all accommodation providers have been provided with a protocol to follow should any visitors become ill with Covid-19. Anyone with symptoms MUST self isolate and book a test. If Covid positive then the visitor will need to isolate for seven days in their accommodation if they can stay on, if they have friends and family with them this will need to be for 14 days.

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



Above, visitors pack the outdoor seating at the Little Rock cafe in Brodick.

01\_B30tourism02



Youngsters make the most of the sunshine and the clear blue sea. 01\_B30tourism03



The guard of honour staged by the Brodick fire brigade crew. 01\_B30henry01

# Brodick bids Henry a fond farewell

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



There was a big turnout of people in Brodick on Tuesday to pay their respects to a Brodick legend Henry McNicol who died earlier this month. He was 88.

Due to the fact that his many friends could not attend his funeral at Old Brodick Cemetery, his family made it known that the funeral procession was leaving the McNicol workshop, where he spent all his working years, and making its way via Shore Road to the cemetery.

The crowd, who gathered and applauded as the hearse



Henry makes his way to the cemetery under the shadow of Goatfell. 01\_B30henry02

passed, stretched from the Book and Card Centre to the far end of the Ormidale Park. Members of Scottish Fire and

Rescue Service from Brodick fire station, where Henry served for many years, latterly as the station sub officer,

formed a guard of honour and were among the first to pay their respects along with members of Henry's beloved Brodick and Isle of Arran football teams.

Afterwards, son Gareth posted on social media: 'Sincere thanks to everyone who lined the village to pay their respects to my dad. The turnout from the fire brigade and the football lads was a really special gesture.'

'It was impossible to spot everyone, but was greatly appreciated by all the family at a very sad time. My dad would have wanted to stop for a blether with you all.'

## Arran iCentre to reopen before end of August

VisitScotland has announced its plan for the reopening all of its 26 iCentres by the end of August following a four-month closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the one in Brodick.

Some centres have reopened in a phased approach, which puts the safety of staff and visitors at the centre of the plan, but no actual date has yet been set for Arran.

This approach is due to the team at VisitScotland having to make internal changes to every one of the 26 iCentres to ensure that they are adapted for physical distancing, but also to continue to give visitors a warm welcome. There will be a range of safety features installed including Perspex screens, hand sanitisers and signage to ensure physical distancing with some dates possible to change on the dependence of materials and suppliers.

The reopened iCentres will initially only offer an information service to visitors with the hope of reintroducing ticketing, accommodation booking and retail as soon as safe to do so.

Throughout the lockdown, VisitScotland's information service never really closed with iCentre staff delivering visitor information through a range of other channels including a new messenger service, an iCentre telephone and email service, as well as other customer channels.

Manuela Calchini, head of information at VisitScotland said: 'Our iCentre staff have

been working to get the centres reopened and are looking forward to being able to help visitors with face to face enquiries for the first time in four months. The information services never really closed however, and I'd like to pay tribute to the team for all its hard work in getting to this point.

'Our iCentres are a significant part of the community and we understand that there will be a desire to open them as soon as possible – we share that desire and want to support the tourism industry and communities as we come out of lockdown, however the safety of our staff and visitors is paramount.'

Visitor information from the national tourism organisation is delivered through a range of channels – from 20million annually to two million customers using the iCentres. As with many businesses during this period, the team has adapted its ways of working with iCentre staff dealing with thousands of email and telephone enquiries since lockdown began and over 1,800 accommodation bookings managed remotely.

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## Safer Summer Days Out

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# Expansion plan at island's only sand and gravel quarry

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A bid is being made to expand the island's only sand and gravel quarry at Sannox.

Arran Aggregate Ltd has made a request for a screening opinion by North Ayrshire Council for a proposed extension of the Sannox Sand and Gravel Quarry which is said to be virtually exhausted. The proposed new area is less than 2Ha.

The effect of the screening request is to afford the council discretion as to whether the subsequent development application should be accompanied by an environmental impact assessment report in order to address any likely significant effects on the environment.

The applicant, Arran Aggregate Ltd, is a subsidiary of John Thomson Construction Ltd and the land is in the ownership of Charles Fforde.

In a statement to planning officials the company state: 'The purpose of this application is to maintain a local supply of sand and gravel for construction and development. Sannox Sand and Gravel Quarry is currently the only local source of sand and gravel on the island and without this local supply; we would have to import all the sand from mainland quarries, increasing costs



Arran Aggregate wants to extend the Sannox quarry seen here. 01\_B30sand01

and transport distances. There are several projects due to start soon on the island and without this local resource, these will be made much more difficult and costly. The proposed planning application is to extend the working life of the quarry and also make a change to the current boundaries.'

The site is enclosed by the Sannox Burn to the North and by the garden of Sonaburn to the East, by the A841 to the South East and by open fields to the South and South West. The banks of the Sannox Burn are heavily wooded on the south side with a thin line of trees on the north side.

West of the site are two navigation beacons, which are clearly visible from the Firth of Clyde. Next to the entrance, is the remains of an old concrete loading bay, which used to serve the mineral railway for the barytes mines further up Glen Sannox.

The extension area is cur-

rently rough grassland with a thin veneer of soil and is occasionally used for the grazing of sheep. The proposed extension area takes us further away from existing properties.

Sand and gravel has been excavated from the quarry since 1983 with the purpose of providing local industry

and private individuals with a source of local sand and gravel for construction and other purposes.

It was originally operated by J W Boal and Sons, but it is now operated by Arran Aggregates Ltd.

Unlike most mainland quarries, operations at Sannox are very simple. The sand is removed from the face into

**'There are several projects due to start soon ...and without this local resource, these will be made much more difficult and costly.'**

stockpiles. These stockpiles are removed from site as and when required for separating into sand and gravel at Dereneneach Quarry on the String Road. This means that potential for pollution is virtually non-existent as the quarry does not produce any waste and we do not use any water, either mains supply or from the Sannox Burn for separating the sand and gravel onsite.

The screening opinion is under consideration by North Ayrshire Council planning officials.

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# Television producers seek farmers who are keen to diversify

Producers are looking for farmers who are interested in creating new sources of revenue from their farms, for a brand new TV series due to film later this year and early 2021.

It might not be easy to be a farmer these days, with rising overheads, Brexit, bad weather

and disease all playing their part, but it is a generations-old industry that Brits are known for and this series wants to celebrate that heritage.

STV Productions, which makes Catchphrase and Antiques Road Trip, would like to speak to farmers who would be interested in diversifying or

making adjustments to their businesses, in order to develop new revenue streams. Experts will be on hand throughout the journey to help them explore opportunities and realise their ambitions.

The series will be hosted by farmer, author and presenter Adam Henson, who is passion-

ate about local communities rallying round local farms.

Executive producer, John Redshaw, said: 'We're keen to meet with farmers from across the UK to take part in what we know will be a hugely positive and upbeat experience - and might even be life changing.'

'By learning about the

history of their farms, and studying the potential within their agricultural landscapes, we want to join farmers on their journey to make their diversification dreams a reality.

'Whether farmers are at the ideas stage, have already started their plans, or have successfully diversified, we'd

like to hear all about it. Please spread the word, get in touch and help us celebrate the next chapter in our great farming community.'

If you'd like to take part in this new series, get in touch with the team for a chat with no obligation at [farming@stv.tv](mailto:farming@stv.tv) or call 0141 300 3806.



The Great Food Guys team: Dougie Vipond with Jane McCarry, Bryde Marshall and Nick Nairn.

## The Great Food Guys visit Arran

A fresh series of The Great Food Guys, with Nick Nairn and Dougie Vipond, is back on the TV with its third episode this weekend, which includes a visit to Arran.

In this series, which was filmed before lockdown, the duo are celebrating the fantastic range of food and drink Scotland has to offer from their country kitchen in Fettercairn, Aberdeenshire.

Dougie said: 'We are back at our countryside kitchen to cook some great food inspired by our road trips.'

In this episode of this eight-part series, they focus on plant-based food and on the menu is a Buddha Bowl with Cauliflower Rice and Onion Bhajis. Joining them in the kitchen are vegetable grower Bryde Marshall from the Falkland Kitchen Farm in Fife and Still Game actress Jane McCarry who selects a ginger wine to accompany the food.

Dougie and Nick will also be seen out with the Food

Van tempting locals to some tasty fayre in St Andrews and Ayr. And Dougie will have reports on beetroot growing on Arran and barley growing at the James Hutton Institute near Dundee.

Other guests who will feature later in the series are comedian farmer Jim Smith, TV presenter JJ Chalmers, Call the Midwife's Laura Main, River City's Sanjeev Kohli and weather presenter Judith Ralston.

The Great Food Guys, which is produced by BBC Studios The Documentary Unit Scotland, goes out on BBC One on Saturday mornings at 11.30am, with Arran featuring tomorrow. The series is also on the BBC Scotland channel on Thursday nights at 8pm.

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or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ

## Study needed

If ever the Arran economy needed to be closely examined, that time is now.

And it is great to see North Ayrshire Council has had the foresight to commission the respected Fraser of Allander Institute to carry out the much-needed audit.

The Institute at the University of Strathclyde entered Scottish public life in 1975. In the 40 years since, it has become established as a leading independent economic research institute focused on the Scottish economy.

Ahead of its work on Arran, which will provide quantitative assessments of just what reduced tourist revenues mean for the island economy, it recently published its quarterly commentary on the Scottish economy and this is what it found.

That the Scottish economy is now in its deepest recession in living memory and points out that while the depth of the collapse in GDP is largely artificial and entirely due to the lockdown, what matters is how quickly activity bounces back once the restrictions are lifted.

All signs are, however, that there will be some scarring and it will take some time before the economy recovers to a 'new normal'.

The commentary considers a range of scenarios from a more optimistic viewpoint where confidence builds momentum, through to a more pessimistic scenario which includes a second wave of infection.

In the optimistic scenario, the economy is projected to take until the end of 2021, at the earliest, to fully recover lost output. In the pessimistic scenario, it could be 2024 before a 'new normal' is reached.

The Institute also points out that even when the economy returns to growth, the underlying structure of Scotland's business base will be altered forever.

## Thought for the week

'Ask, and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.' **Luke 11:9**

## Debt of thanks

Sir,  
It's been a very busy time for the Arran Churches Together Foodbank over the last few months and as usual we've been overwhelmed by the support received from the Arran community.

We've had many one-off and regular monetary donations, including one of £1,000 from pupils at Arran High School who completed a sponsored activity. We've also benefited from two grants which boosted our funds. Foodbank money is managed by our treasurer, Mrs Jean Hunter, and is used by the foodbank volunteers who shop several times a week keeping supplies topped up. The volunteers collect the food donations left in the Co-op collection basket on a daily basis and use supplies to keep the vestibule shelves stocked.

Over the last four months we have continued with deliveries to people who requested them, but the majority of our customers collect what they require from the foodbank in Brodick Church vestibule. The delivery service will cease at the end of July in line with the end of shielding. Figures compared with the same period last year indicate that foodbank usage has increased by 300 per cent.

Brodick Co-op continues to offer fantastic support, from making space available for the collection basket, to adding items to the basket on behalf of customers who continue to use the home delivery service, to saving items which are almost at their date and can be frozen.

On behalf of everyone who benefits from and is involved in Arran Churches Together Foodbank, a huge debt of thanks is owed to each and every one of you who has helped in any way.

**Yours,**  
**Susan Dobson,**  
**Arran Churches Together Foodbank.**

## Education is the answer

Sir,  
Having read the recent letters in the Banner about the Beckford Collection and its links to slavery, I feel inclined to add to and widen the debate.

I must state at the outset so that there is no room for misinterpretation, slavery in all its forms, is as abhorrent as it is repugnant. No right-minded person in this day and age could think otherwise. However, we cannot judge people in the past by the standards and mores of today any more than we can turn back the clock to right the wrongs. People centuries ago, didn't think they were doing anything wrong, either legally or morally. A hard concept, I know, for us to swallow today.

What we can do and must do is learn from the past, educate ourselves and have a proper, wide ranging debate about the slave trade, including the involvement of other nations and West Africans themselves, who were also culpable in this diabolical trade.

The answer is not to remove, destroy, pull down, erase etc. Indeed, if that were taken to its logical conclusion we would probably have to physically remove most city centres, including Glasgow. Also let's face it, that 'dirty money' has probably benefited a lot of us indirectly not least because of the funding of some of our civic institutions by wealthy, philanthropic Victorians, some of whom would have inherited wealth gained on the backs of others. I could go on, but I hope you get my point.

The answer must be to educate in the wider context of inhumanity and injustice perpetrated by some on their fellow human beings. Historically ordinary vulnerable people have always suffered injustice and harshness by their 'masters' but some still found the humanity to support their fellow men and oppose slavery even at great cost to themselves - look up Lancashire Cotton Famine and its links to the American Civil War. There is always good and bad in all levels of society.

Wealth is still being made by the unscrupulous on the backs of ordinary people. Before we start judging people in the past should we perhaps be looking at ourselves? How many of us are wearing cheap clothing made in the sweat shops of the world - some probably not a million miles away? How many of us use hand car wash places - well-known as situations for trafficked workers? How many of us clamour after cheap products and food not knowing where and how they were produced? Etc etc.

On the subject of the Beckford Collection I have to say that the NTS, in its wisdom, got rid of virtually all the regular and volunteer guides at the time of the refurbishment of the castle. Tragic - but that's another story. These guides had a wealth of historical knowledge, in general, and a depth of knowledge about the castle in particular. I have to tell you that we often had conversations with visitors about the Beckford Collection/wealth and its place within the Hamilton story.

To the correspondent who suggested that the collection should be sold to fund the Ranger Service, I don't believe the answer is to sell off the 'family silver'. I think the suggestion is short sighted and, with the greatest respect, small minded. I think the NTS proposal to get rid of a lot of Rangers is also short sighted and counter-productive, and I speak as a volunteer ranger.

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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](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk); telephoning the chief reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter, by emailing: [inquiries@ipso.co.uk](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk).

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Can I suggest that if anyone wants to support the Rangers Service that they could join NTS, if they are not already a member, donate to their appeal, possibly leave a legacy in their will or even join the Healthy Outdoors Team of volunteer Rangers.

In conclusion, please don't destroy, erase, judge and divide, but educate. We should resist inhumanity and injustice wherever we find it. As my old grandma used to say, 'two wrongs don't make a right'.

**Yours,**  
**Marilyn Woods,**  
**Shiskine.**



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# Arran round house found to date back 3,300 years

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



An ancient round house uncovered on Arran has been found to date back 3,300 years.

It has taken nearly 20 years to discover this and it is still not certain what the building was used for. However, radiocarbon dating of burnt wood unearthed on the highest altitude round house on Arran, has given archaeologists at the National Trust for Scotland an insight in to Bronze Age life on the island.

In 2017 the trust's Thistle Camp participants joined the charity's head of archaeological services, Derek Alexander, at an excavation of the island's highest round house at 384m above sea level, in Coire a' Bhradain above Glen Rosa.

The dig revealed a central hearth area of stone and



The round house site high in the hills of Arran. 01\_B30round03; and inset, Thistle Camp participants surveying and digging the round house in Coire a' Bhradain. 01\_B30round02

clay, with remnants of hazel charcoal. The charcoal was submitted to the laboratory at the Scottish University Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) for a radiocarbon date, which revealed

that the round house was occupied around 1400-1300 BC. The conservation charity commissions radiocarbon dating on a number of select items each year to aid in the charity's work to protect



Scotland's heritage. With no chronologically diagnostic artefacts on the site, the dating process was the only way to place the round house in to the timeline of the island's past.

In a report published on the findings, Derek and his team suggest the Coire a' Bhradain site was used as temporary shelter during deer hunting trips through 'the Bowman's Pass' at the top of the coire. Alternatively, it could have

been used as seasonal shieling site to keep grazing animals out on the hill.

But the site of the round-house was originally discovered by accident in 2001 by Henry Murdo and Ali Hume of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team. It was exposed by the huge wild fire which burnt off the tall heather to reveal a raised circle with two prominent 'doorway' stones.

Derek said: 'This was a challenging site to investigate, as it required a physically fit team for the long walk up to the site, carrying all our digging equipment.'

'The post-excavation analysis helps us to build a picture of life on Arran over three thousand years ago and our findings can be used to shape the visitor experience at the replica round house at Brodick Castle and Country Park.'

'Given the great weather and

spectacular views we experienced it's easy to understand why Bronze Age people would also have been attracted to this spot. Round houses are characteristic of the later pre-historic period in Scotland. The date of the site indicates it is of a similar date to some of the larger round houses, excavated at Tormore on the western side of Arran.'

The National Trust for Scotland has been badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic, creating a £28 million loss in essential income. The charity is running the Save Our Scotland appeal to raise £2.5 million to help it continue its vital work to protect Scotland's built and natural heritage.

Check [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk) for latest information on all properties and to donate to the SOS appeal, go to [www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/emergency-appeal](http://www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/emergency-appeal)

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## New flats for Brodick

A new bid is being made to build flats on the site of the former Anchor Hotel in Brodick.

Auchrannie Leisure Ltd has applied for planning permission for the erection of a flatted development comprising of five dwelling flats and partial demolition of the single-storey former hotel. It is thought they would be used as staff accommodation.

The site is adjacent to St Elmos House, opposite Brodick golf course, which was recently sold.

An application for a similar development was approved by North Ayrshire Council planners three years ago but planning permission has now lapsed.

## Draw winner

The winner of the Brodick Improvements Committee 200 Club draw for July is Janet Kelso of Brodick who wins the £50 monthly prize.

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# Discovering the wildlife treasures in deadwood

Environmental community groups, schools and nature enthusiasts are being invited to join in a Scotland-wide survey to find out more about deadwood in Scotland.

Decaying and rotten trees, known as deadwood, are nature's own recycling machine, slowly releasing nutrients in the soil and helping to grow other plants.

Deadwood is also hugely important to biodiversity as it provides habitats for a range of animals including insects and birds, plants and fungi.

Scottish Forestry is working with TCV Scotland to promote the survey which will record details of deadwood across the country and its associated wildlife.

Sally York, Scottish Forestry's education advisor said: 'Deadwood is tree-mendous as it provides so many benefits for our woodland



The Scotland-wide survey to find out more about deadwood.

biodiversity. The survey is aimed at community groups, schools or individuals with an interest in the environment but anyone can join in. We

hope that by getting involved, more people will increase their knowledge and understanding of the importance of deadwood.'

The survey takes about an hour to complete and can be done in any piece of woodland as long as it is at least 100 square metres in area.

Ancient woodland, forestry plantations, trees growing on urban wasteland, wood pasture and scrub are all good examples for the survey to be carried out in.

Kirsty Crawford of TCV Scotland added: 'A key part of the survey also records the wildlife found in the piece of woodland so budding nature detectives will find the survey of interest.'

'Community woodland groups will find the survey useful as it will help them take important decisions about how they manage their woodland in the future.'

'All the materials needed for the survey can be found on our website to download. Please get in touch and we will be very happy to help explain the survey in more detail.'

Contact: <https://www.tcv.org.uk/scotland> for more information about the surveys and how to take part.

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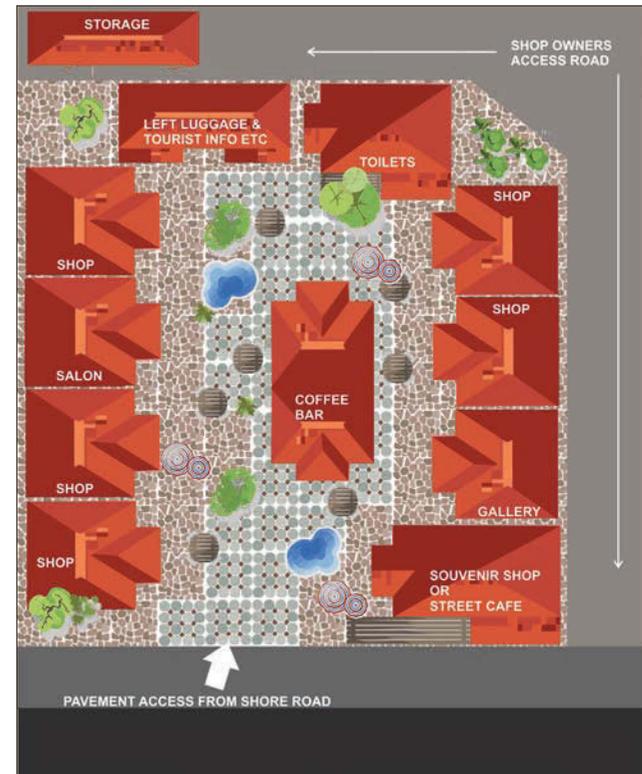
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The McLaren occupies a prime position on Brodick shorefront, far left, and left, Graham's idea for the site.

# Graham touts idea to revamp hotel eyesore

The site of the former McLaren Hotel, in the heart of Brodick, is a complete eyesore. It has now lain derelict since it closed its doors five years ago. After much wrangling planning permission was finally granted for a new £9 million aparthotel in December 2018 but since then nothing has happened. Now local businessman Graham Chappell has come up with a plan he thinks could breathe new life into the prime location. It is just an idea and would need the co-operation of the owners, but it is worth giving some thought.

The McLaren site is clearly struggling and I have often wondered about alternative uses for it. In today's uncertain times, I feel that flexibility is the key, rather than sinking money into another hotel or other single-use idea which could easily become unstuck in a crisis, such as we have at the moment.

Brodick has no mixed commercial indoor or outdoor space that you would feel okay about 'loitering in' if the weather wasn't great or you were meeting someone. We have no shopping mall and I have often wondered what an outdoor Arran mall could look like given that it would need to be natural, friendly, and aesthetically pleasing.

To keep the budget down, to keep flexibility high on the agenda and to offer something in keeping with our beautiful island, it would also need to attract small business owners. As one myself, I know how hard premises are to come by

and the shore front of Brodick is absolutely the best place to be if you want to benefit from the island's key area for footfall.

With that in mind, may I present an idea to stir some interest perhaps in the minds of the current owners of the land, whether they'd see fit to operate this themselves, or sell the land to interested investors in the community.

The idea would obviously start with levelling the current building and starting with a blank canvas. Then, construction of large sweeping paved area, with up to a dozen log cabins, perhaps 6m by 5m, with some larger ones included too. One could serve as a toilet block, another as a street-side decked café, a central one as a coffee bar and the surrounding ones as shops, hairdressing salon, tourist information centres and so on.

At, say, £10-£15k per annum rental on each unit, with pop-

up stalls and other sources of income readily achievable, the site could cover the costs of the initial outlay in less than 10 years. Patio paving throughout, you could have picnic tables, water features, potted trees and even large shade sails to cover some of the pedestrian areas from any strong sun or sudden summer showers (these would need to be removed in winter). But then, in the winter, the area could look stunning with Christmas trees, lights and patio heaters or barbecue stalls – a real 'all round' attraction and offering tenants the best of an area where a relaxing shopping atmosphere could easily be achievable.

I'm no architect or landscape designer, so excuse the crudeness of the drawing. But it does, I hope, merely suggest an idea for a low cost - possibly less than £1m - investment in a critical part of Brodick where something needs to be done as soon as possible.

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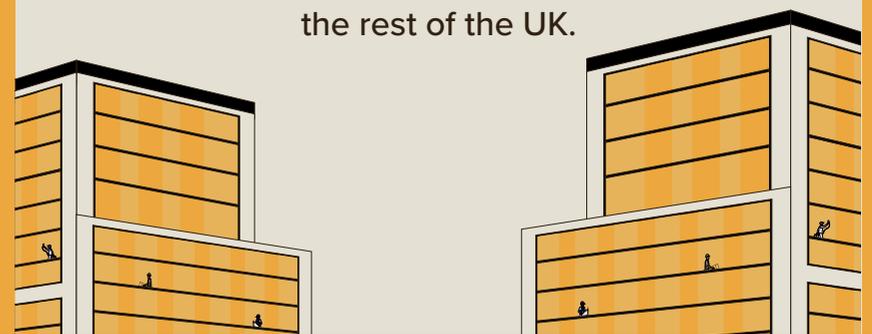
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# Get involved in student's marine research survey

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A student is asking residents and visitors alike to get involved in a survey of the marine environment around the island.

Arran's No Take Zone (NTZ) and Marine Protected Area (MPA) have proven that, with the right protection, seabed habitats and biodiversity will recover. Research by the University of York, published earlier this year, showed a dramatic increase of lobsters, scallops and marine biodiversity within these reserves.

The NTZ and MPA in Arran are flagships for marine conservation in the UK, and the world, and serve as an inspiration to other communities along Scotland's coast; they are important not just for marine conservation, but also for the



fishing industry. This summer, Lucy Howarth-Foster - a masters student from the University of York - is conducting research on the social attitudes towards

the marine environment of residents and visitors to Arran. Lucy said: 'I am aware that the success of the NTZ and MPA on Arran is driven by

local community involvement in marine conservation. I am interested to see if attitudes of Arran residents are different from those who visit the island from mainland Scotland and further afield. To do this, I will be comparing results from this project to a recent Marine Scotland survey, and I will also compare them to results from a survey completed in 2011 by another MSc student to assess if peoples' attitudes have changed with time.'

If you would like to contribute to this research Lucy would be very grateful. Please input this link <https://bit.ly/2B4W2Tr> into your web-browser, or scan the QR code in the image to complete the survey (closing date August 16, 2020). The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete and has been designed to work on smart phones, tablets and desktops.



Lucy Howarth-Foster carrying out marine research, left, and above, the poster inviting people to complete the survey.

## ... and watch out for dolphins too!



Thirteen species of whales and dolphins were found in UK waters during last year's survey.

This year's Sea Watch National Whale and Dolphin Watch takes place from tomorrow (Saturday) until Sunday August 2, and members of the public are being asked to help.

Collecting data about our resident cetaceans has never been more important. Rising sea surface temperatures and anthropogenic activities have been impacting marine species in the British waters for many years now. The most recent human lockdown has most certainly had an effect on marine species, which is also

worth investigating. Last year's Watch revealed an impressive 13 separate species of whales and dolphins in British waters, and the highest (more than 2,000) ever recorded number of cetacean sightings. Scotland recorded the highest number of sightings particularly along the western coast and on the Inner and Outer Hebrides.

No previous experience is needed; anyone who is in the UK and near the sea during the event and wants to help can. All that people need to take part is safe access to the coast,

patience, a lot of enthusiasm, binoculars, a copy of the Sea Watch recording forms and a cetacean identification guide (downloadable from the Sea Watch website).

However, in order to ensure everyone follows UK-government Covid-19 restrictions and to comply with social distancing rules, Sea Watch advises people to conduct watches individually or with a member of their household, unless government guidelines instruct otherwise by the time of the event.

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# Follow the official advice a summer of family fun in

WITH BEER gardens entering their second week of opening in Scotland and the five-mile restriction on non-essential travel lifted, the country has begun to look forward to a summer of fun.

While social distancing measures are still in place and it is important not to take undue risks, there are plenty of things to do safely.

Zoos and animal parks around Scotland re-opened on June 29, and now that the five-mile restriction has eased they can welcome visitors from near and far.

Edinburgh Zoo, Five Sisters Zoo in West Lothian, Blair Drummond Safari Park in Stirling and the Highland Wildlife Park in the Cairngorms National Park have all reopened, with customers asked to book in advance.

Fife Zoo suffered a devastating fire just days after reopening after the Covid-19 lockdown, but no animals were harmed and owners have said they hope to return to normality as soon as possible thanks to support and fundraising from the local community.

Stately homes and gardens have also reopened, with several National Trust for Scotland properties now open to visitors.

These include Culzean Castle and Country Park in Ayrshire, Threave Garden in Dumfries and Galloway, Brodie Castle's garden and grounds, Arduaine Garden in Argyll and Crathes Castle's garden and estate in Aberdeenshire.

Historic Environment Scotland has said that it will monitor the situation and reopen properties in due course.

Unstaffed outdoor sites are already open, so visitors can enjoy walks around Edinburgh's Holyrood Park and West Lothian's Linlithgow Peel among others.

Walkers and climbers are now welcome to visit the country's national parks to enjoy some outdoor exercise.

Guidelines remain to avoid touching surfaces or opening gates where possible, to follow signs and avoid coming into contact with farm workers where applicable, and to keep dogs on leads and avoid areas known to be busy.

Pubs and restaurants with

Summer is here and people from across the country can enjoy the many attractions that we have on our doorstep, as long as we follow UK Government advice and enjoy summer safely. There are plenty of places to go and things to do to suit every budget. Here is our guide to the numerous great days out in across our region.



**CITY:** Edinburgh's historic Royal Mile.

outdoor space have also been allowed to reopen. Glasgow's The Cranside Kitchen, near the Rotunda, has claimed to be the country's largest beer garden, with a free-to-enter area seating more than 200 guests with

social distancing measures in place.

The beer garden offers a range of drinks alongside food from five popular Glasgow restaurants, Rioja, Halloumi, Pickled Ginger, Kilmurry & Co

and La Rotunda. In Edinburgh the Corn Exchange has billed itself as the largest beer garden in the city, having transformed the car park into a space where people can enjoy drinks as well as play darts, ping-pong,

swing ball and watch sport, all while observing the necessary hygiene routines.

With hundreds of smaller beer gardens open around the country – including Dundee's The Kilted Kangaroo and



*There are plenty of things to do safely*

# and enjoy Scotland



**CARING:** Gary Curran with a wildcat born in lockdown.

## Zoo is ready for visitors

Five Sisters Zoo in West Lothian opened up to the public on June 29, with a number of new measures in place to help prevent the spread of the virus. These include mandatory advance booking to avoid crowding and queues, a one-way system around the zoo, hand-washing stations and the cancellation of any activities which involve the public touching or feeding the animals. The soft play area and restaurant are also closed, but food kiosks are still open. Keeper talks have been cancelled, but several videos of the talks have been made available online. The zoo is currently opening

at about one third of capacity to ensure space for social distancing, and owners say they will monitor the situation and review measures in place after the first couple of weeks. "It's been good so far, the feedback we've had has been really positive," said assistant manager Gary Curran. "The past few months have been quite difficult financially, so it was a relief to be able to open safely." He added: "We're looking forward to the rest of the summer and hopefully some more good weather! "People really enjoy it here and they're having a good time so far."

Aberdeen's Siberia Bar and Hotel – there is no shortage of options for enjoying this summer safely and enjoying good times in Scotland.

## Take time to ensure that you are in the know before you go

SUMMER IS here and our colourful countryside, breathtaking beaches and glorious gardens beckon.

Many attractions are reopening, but have restricted visitor numbers and pre-booked time slots, so the UK Government recommends looking at the official websites for attractions and organisations you plan to visit before you travel, so that you're in the know before you go.

To make your days out as enjoyable as possible, we encourage you to plan your trip in advance and to check all of the important facilities and attractions, while looking after our great outdoors.

To ensure we're all doing our bit to travel responsibly, here are a few simple steps to help make planning easy.

When planning your trip, check that important facilities – like toilets and car parks – are open before you travel so you're not caught short.

If you have an attraction in mind, please check online to see if you need to pre-book a time slot.



### TAKE TIME TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Some places may be extremely popular, so get off the beaten track and discover a hidden gem that you can brag to friends about.

Keep two metres apart from anyone outside your household where you can. This applies to walking, running, cycling, sitting and sunbathing too.

Wear a face covering at all times when on public transport like buses, trains, taxis and minicabs.

Make sure you have a bank card because many outlets are currently only accepting cashless payments and you don't want to miss out on that ice cream.

And take hand sanitiser with you – you don't know where will be open for you to wash your hands.

Leave the car behind where possible and visit attractions by walking or cycling.

Please remember that England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have different guidelines, advice and timescales for re-opening tourism.

To help you enjoy summer safely, please check the respective official sources for information prior to travelling by using the website [visitbritain.com/know-before-you-go](https://www.visitbritain.com/know-before-you-go)



## Safer Summer Days Out

For more information on staying safe, please go to [visitscotland.com](https://www.visitscotland.com)

Playing our part for a safer summer

All together

# The mark that shows visitors we are good to go in Scotland

WITH MANY of our favourite attractions now beginning to reopen their doors, Scottish tourism bosses have teamed up with Tourism Northern Ireland, VisitEngland and VisitWales to come up with a way for people to check whether they are “good to go”.

The We’re Good To Go initiative was developed jointly by the four UK Visitor agencies.

The UK-wide industry standard and consumer mark will provide a “ring of confidence” for visitors as the tourism sector works towards reopening.

The We’re Good To Go mark means businesses can demonstrate that they are adhering to the respective Government and public health guidance, have carried out a COVID-19 risk assessment and checked that they have the required processes in place, ensuring

they can welcome visitors back with confidence.

The scheme is free to join.

UK Government tourism minister Nigel Huddleston said: “I want to encourage the public to experience a great holiday this summer and be confident that they can do so safely.

“This new industry standard will show people that tourism businesses, destinations and attractions are adhering to the guidance.

“It puts safety first and is an important move in getting this industry back up and running.”

VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead, said: “We are pleased that after a very difficult few months Scotland’s tourism industry are starting to welcome visitors.

“However, it’s important to remember that things may be a little different now, there may be reduced facilities

available or if busy, a greater need to follow physical distancing restrictions to protect yourself and others.

“Planning and researching will also become an important part of the holiday experience and we really want visitors to ‘know before they go’ when it comes to travel; checking what is open and pre-booking if required.”

To obtain the mark businesses must complete a self-assessment through the online platform [goodtogo.visitscotland.com/your-business-good-to-go-scotland](https://www.visitscotland.com/your-business-good-to-go-scotland) including a check-list confirming they have put the necessary processes in place, before receiving certification and the We’re Good To Go mark for display in their premises and online.

Businesses across the UK are assessed according to their respective national guidance including the social distancing and cleanliness protocols that must be in place.



ALL SET: We’re Good To Go in Scotland

**Safer Summer Days Out**

Make the most of summer while protecting yourself, friends, family and others.

ENJOY Summer SAFELY

# Produce flourishing at the community land initiative



Produce growing at the community land initiative.

Back in April, at the start of lockdown, the Banner reported that volunteers at the Arran Community Land Initiative (ACLI) had sprung into action with the aim of contributing to the production of fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs for those living on the island.

At the time there was some uncertainty about how available some food supplies would be as the pandemic continued. Grants were awarded by the National Lottery and the Corra Foundation specifically to encourage community resilience during the lockdown. The idea was to grow produce for both individual families who might be finding it difficult to afford fresh food and to help local restaurants whose income had suddenly reduced.

The stalwart group of seven volunteers, plus occasional extras, have been working hard on the community section of the land on three mornings each week. The prepared beds and hastily assembled containers in the polytunnel were planted with a wide range of vegetables, then tended and watered regularly and given plenty of TLC. The soft fruit bushes were netted and new areas dug over ready for later planting.

The results have been impressive and the crops have produced a plentiful harvest. Through the gardening team's contact with local agencies a number of families were identified who it was thought would find the produce useful. Over the last month or so

eight boxes with a selection of vegetables, soft fruit, herbs and flowers grown on the site has been handed over every week for distribution. In addition, three Arran restaurant and food-producing businesses have been to the site to pick produce and made a small payment towards costs.

Nick Burgess, chairman of ACLI, and one of the volunteers himself, said: 'A tremendous amount of work has taken place on the land since March and we are greatly indebted to the reliable volunteers who have braved rain and midges to do this work.'

'It has been also been very enjoyable to work in the sunshine with great companions and then very satisfying to see the beautiful boxes of produce leave here every week.'

'I must make a special mention of Kathy Sayer and Malcolm Whitmore who have kept us all motivated and set a high standard in hard work.'

The production will keep going for the rest of the summer and those involved hope that it will continue to make a long-lasting contribution to fresh food production on Arran.

The trustees are always keen to hear from anyone who wants to get involved at ACLI as a volunteer or with specialist knowledge of horticulture, land management, rural skills and outdoor education.

Please contact them via the website if you would like to find out more [www.arranland.org/](http://www.arranland.org/)



Boxes of flowers, fruit, vegetables and herbs produced weekly at the community land initiative.

## Some tips for gardeners

Perhaps the biggest challenge from now on is recognising pests and diseases that will affect your crops.

Once potatoes have flowered they should be ready to harvest. If the foliage shows brown patches it may be the dreaded 'blight'. Cut off all foliage and bin. Lift the potatoes as soon as possible.

Leaving potatoes in the ground in the hope of them getting

bigger, runs the risk of slugs nibbling holes into them. Any damage like that means they need to be used quickly rather than storing.

Rabbits are causing a lot of trouble! For chickens wire fencing is the best solution or use gorse or holly branches to keep them off your crops.

If you aren't squeamish ... squash aphids (greenfly) or small caterpillars with your fingers. Pick off bigger ones and compost.

Enjoy the fruits of your hard labour!

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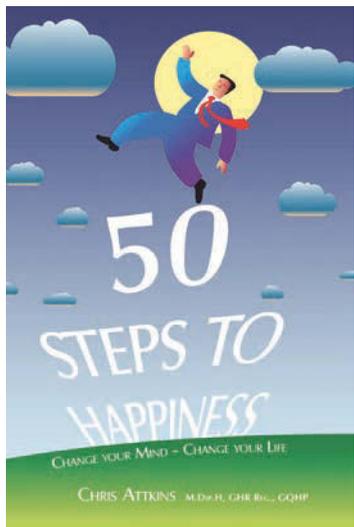
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# Arran therapist publishes self-help book

A self-help book by Arran therapist Chris Atkins has finally been published ... 14 years after being written.

Since relocating to Arran in 1997,



The front cover of the book.

01\_B30book02

Chris has been providing psychological support to island residents and many visitors to the Belvedere Guest House, which until recently offered residential personal development breaks.

He wrote the book, 50 Steps to Happiness, to share some of his insights from working with clients from very different circumstances and it contains '50 short, jargon-free, tried and tested principles you can easily try for yourself in order to live a more fulfilling life'.

The book took Chris, who lives in Brodick, a year to write.

He said: 'I knew it would be a challenge to stick at it, so I asked four friends who work in related fields to subscribe to a weekly article. That way I was committed — and I received some invaluable feedback on what I was writing.'

But why the delay in publishing? Chris explained: 'I was disheartened by the initial publishers rejection of the manuscript, so concentrated

on other projects. The lockdown provided time for another push, and this is the result.'

The book, which has been self-published, is available in print from the Book and Card Centre in Brodick at a discounted price of £4 – the same price as the digital download from Amazon, Apple, Barnes and Noble, Kobo and others.

During lockdown Chris and his wife Jan have also relaunched their self-help website, which is now offering entirely free advice for many of the challenges that face us all, based on more than 20 years' professional therapeutic experience at [www.help-yourself.net](http://www.help-yourself.net)

Chris with his new book outside the Book and Card Centre.

01\_B30book01



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# Helping our children to get back outside to play again

## Parent Club shares tips and support for busy mums and dads on the ways play can help the whole family

Parents and carers on Arran are being encouraged to use Parent Club as a source of support and inspiration to help keep children entertained over the summer period.

The Scottish Government's Here for You Summer Support campaign is encouraging parents and carers to view play time with their children as an effective way to support their youngsters to come to terms with the challenging situation presented by the coronavirus and reassure parents across Arran that any form of play should be encouraged as it can be beneficial to their child's mental and physical wellbeing.

Restrictions during the pandemic have limited the opportunity for children to meet up with their friends or play outdoors. The Parent Club online resource has developed a range of simple ideas for parents to play with children of all ages, which can help them to express themselves and have fun. Rainy day ideas, outdoor play and quiet play are just some of the ideas, with advice and information being shared with parents and carers who are concerned about additional pressure that the summer period presents.

The minister for children and young people, Maree Todd said: 'As lockdown restrictions ease, there will be more opportunities for children to get outside and play safely with other children, which should improve wellbeing for children of all ages. The last few months have been an extremely challenging time for children and families, and it's important for parents to acknowledge the pressure they're under and make time for themselves for their own mental wellbeing. They may have exhausted their energy and ideas for spending time with their children and

that's where Parent Club can help by sharing advice, tips and suggestions.'

Play Scotland has collaborated with Parent Club to create a series of short videos explaining how play can tackle a number of common challenges. Marguerite Hunter Blair at Play Scotland said: 'Some parents have been concerned with home learning over the past few months and have been worried about their children's development. We really want to highlight to parents the benefits that playtime and especially play with parents, can have on children of all ages. Not only can it help with physical health, it can provide an outlet for their feelings. Play can also be a great way of children being able to continue their learning, in fact, it's the brain's favourite way of learning.'

'Play doesn't have to be lengthy or full-on for parents either. The Parent Club online resource has some great simple tips that will help keep everyone calm and make sure you can make the most of the summer holidays together.'

Parent Club is a digital information resource, support hub and online community offering practical advice and support for parents and carers in across Scotland. From mental health advice, utilising play to dealing with bereavement, tips for play and learning at home, keeping active and eating well to talking to your children about coronavirus, advice comes from the trusted voices of other parents and is backed by experts and the Scottish Government.

To find out more and help make the day a little easier, visit [parentclub.scot/coronavirus](http://parentclub.scot/coronavirus), and follow @ParentClubScotland on Facebook and @parentclubscot on Twitter.



Getting children out playing again in the fresh air with their friends is important.

## Can't get to the shops?



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# PAGE TURNER

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# Castle Bavarian summerhouse is 175 years old

The Bavarian summerhouse in the gardens of Brodick Castle celebrates its 175th anniversary this year. Here **Tim Keyworth**, gardens and designed landscape manager at National Trust for Scotland (NTS) Ayrshire & Arran, takes a look at the history of this iconic building.



Princess Marie of Baden

Built in 1845, the Bavarian summerhouse is the only survivor of four similar structures that once graced the woodland at Brodick Castle.

The four summerhouses each had a stunning view of the surrounding landscape, having been built at key scenic points across the garden. The one you can see in the garden today was constructed in a Bavarian style as a wedding present for Princess Marie of Baden and

was said to be the grandest in design. It's likely the building was constructed by specialist craftsman from Bavaria.

Princess Marie is a key figure in the history of Brodick Castle, gardens and estate. Her marriage to William, who later became the 11th Duke of Hamilton, was the catalyst for Brodick's expansion into the luxurious castle you see today. Princess Marie's cousin was Napoleon III and the marriage

elevated the Hamiltons to a new social standing.

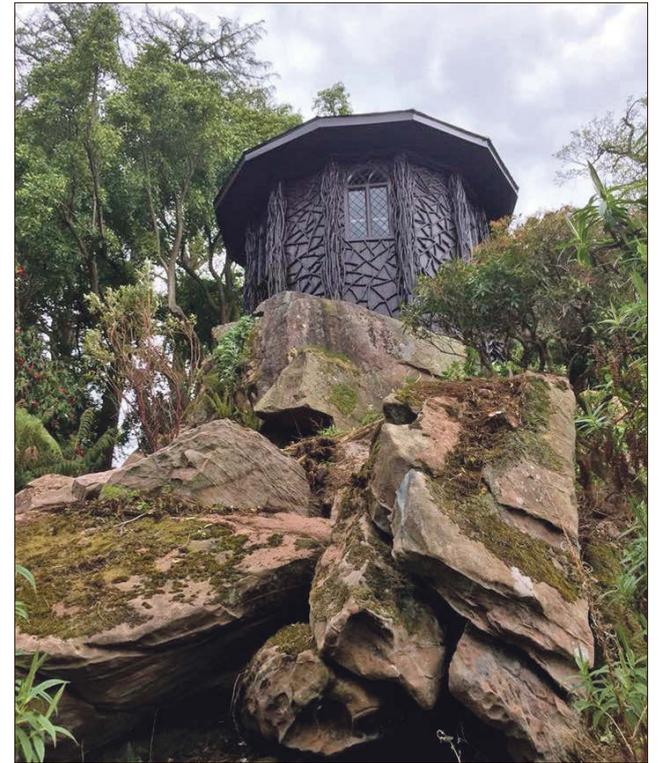
It's thought Princess Marie was often marooned at Brodick Castle while her husband travelled widely across Europe, leaving her lonely and homesick, although we know she travelled to Paris to host parties for her cousin. The marriage ended tragically, when William fell down a staircase in Paris aged 52.

But back to the summerhouse. Built into a sandstone rock face, it holds a prominent position over Brodick Bay and the wider Clyde estuary. It's a rare and outstanding example of a rustic structure, fashionable in gardens at the time it was installed.

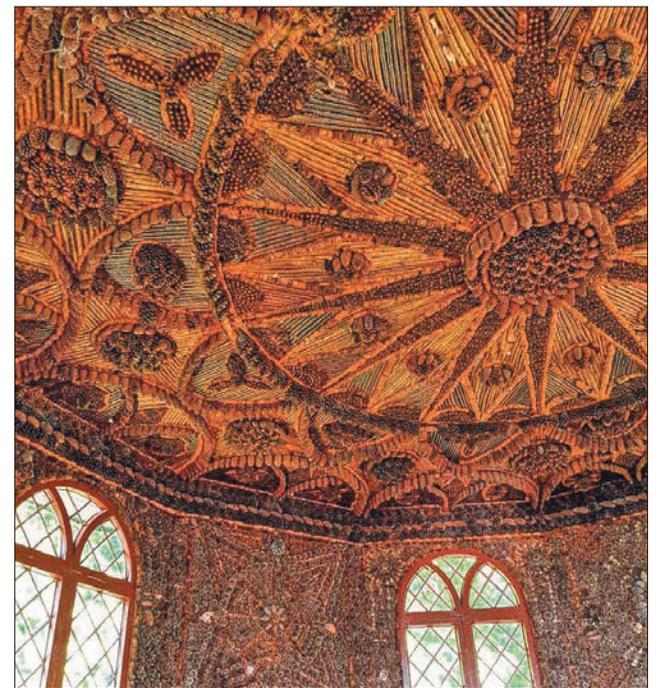
Princess Marie and her friend, the artist George Hering, developed the gardens, creating romantic walks and drives in the woodland surrounding the castle, and the summerhouse would have provided an ideal resting point.

Inside, the original ceiling is decorated with pine cones and is a real masterpiece of craftsmanship.

Externally, the building is adorned with the stems of the common rhododendron, Rhododendron ponticum, giving the exterior a striking, layered appearance. This inva-



The Bavarian summerhouse in the grounds of Brodick Castle.



The ornate ceiling of the Bavarian summerhouse.

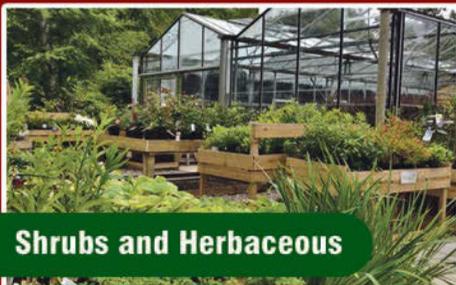
sive rhododendron, which can be seen growing wild across the west coast of Scotland, would have been in plentiful supply.

The interior now needs restoring, which NTS hopes to carry out in the coming years.

Once completed, the building can continue to be a feature of the gardens for the next 175 years.

The castle gardens and grounds are currently open to the public, but the castle remains closed.

## Cladach Sawmill and Garden Centre



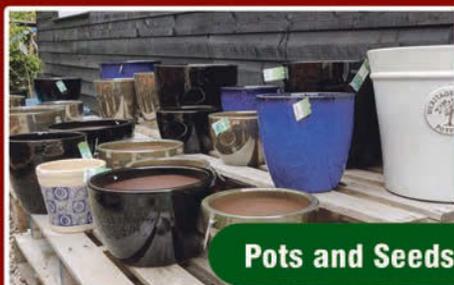
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## Whisky industry wants time called on tariffs

The Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) has launched a new campaign urging people to write to their MPs underlining the damage that US tariffs are causing to the Scotch Whisky industry and asking them to urge the government to 'Call Time on Tariffs'.

Tariffs imposed by the US on imports of Single Malt Scotch Whisky have hit the industry hard in its most valuable export market. A 25 per cent

tariff was imposed on single malt Scotch whisky in October 2019 and since then exports of all Scotch whisky to the US have fallen by 30 per cent, amounting to over £200million in lost exports.

The situation is now more urgent than ever, with the US government threatening to raise existing tariffs or introduce new ones on blended Scotch and British gin later this summer.

The SWA is asking whisky fans and supporters of the industry throughout the UK to write to their MPs and to take to social media to appeal for decisive action from the UK government to defend Scotch Whisky and get tariffs removed as soon as possible.

Details of the #CallTimeOnTariffs campaign, including a letter template, can be found via the SWA website.

# SHOP Local STAY Local EAT Local



Denise Bodie and Alastair Black beside the new household range in Gordon Bros. 01\_B30ship01

## All your shopping needs at the Ship House

ADVERTORIAL

Gordon Bros in Lamlash is fully reopen again and is brimming with new stock.

However, during lockdown it is proud to say it never closed its doors and even in the darkest times, when some older residents were so scared to leave their house to get their paper, they were offering home deliveries and even getting shopping for their customers too.

But it was just all part of the service for the Ship House store which has been a fixture in Lamlash for generations.

But while the tradition may remain of a shop with everything you could want and so much more, it also keeping up with the times.

The store has just launched an extended range of household and hardware goods including pillows, quilt covers, lamps and portable heaters which are competitively priced and which assistant Denise Bodie hopes will keep people shopping local without going to the mainland or shopping online.

'We have five major wholesalers on the mainland so if anyone wants something we can usually get it for them. We have seen sales down in the past two years and it is no exaggeration to say that if people don't use us they will lose us.'

'We always try to be competitive on price and try to cater for the needs of tourists as well as the locals with beach equipment, chairs and the like as well as mobile phone accessories and essentials they may have left at home.'

If you haven't been to Jimmy Gordon's for a while it may well be worth another look.

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## CROSS CODE

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

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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

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

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

## MAGIC SQUARE

### SEALED COPPER DEAL

Using all 16 letters of the phrase above, form four words each of four letters which will fit in the grid to form a magic square in which the words can be read both horizontally and vertically.


# Quiz Challenge

- In the Dickens novel *David Copperfield*, who dies trying to save Steerforth?
- A traditional Margarita cocktail has which spirit as its base?
- US actor Shia LaBeouf played the lead role in which series of science fiction films?
- Which African tribe of cattle herders occupies parts of both Kenya and Tanzania?
- What is the chemical formula for carbon monoxide?
- What historically was an East-Indiaman?
- Prince Edward gained a degree from Cambridge University in which subject?
- Kinder Scout is the highest point in which range of British hills?
- How many acres of land are there in a hectare (to the nearest half acre)?
- Carrow Road is the home ground of which football club?

## NONAGRAM

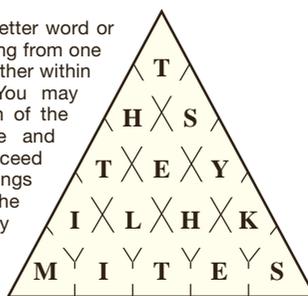
A	R	T
A	M	P
E	R	E

How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Nonagram? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used only once. At least one word using all nine letters can be found.

**Guidelines:**  
20 Good; 23 Very Good; 27 Excellent.  
Any word found in the Concise Oxford Dictionary (Tenth Edition) is eligible with the following exceptions: proper nouns; plural nouns, pronouns and possessives; third person singular verbs; hyphenated words; contractions and abbreviations; vulgar slang words; variant spellings of the same word (where another variant is also eligible).

## WORD PYRAMID

Spell out a 15-letter word or phrase by moving from one chamber to another within the pyramid. You may only enter each of the chambers once and may only proceed through openings in the walls. The first letter may appear in any chamber.

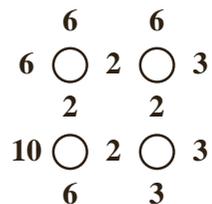


## FIVE ALIVE

BC	HO	RA	FE	ED
UL		DU		MY
OD	LR	ID	NI	KE
GU		NL		EN
DE	RD	EG	AE	SD

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid - but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

## EQUALISER



Place the four signs (add, subtract, multiply, divide) one in each circle so that the total of each across and down line is the same. Perform the first calculation in each line first and ignore the mathematical law which says you should always perform division and multiplication before addition and subtraction.

This puzzle page is supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try our new puzzle, Zygolex, go to [www.zygolex.com](http://www.zygolex.com)

## SUDOKU

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

2	3		6	1				
					6			
		6	2	9	1	8		
7			2	4		8	3	
	2		3					7
5					6	2	7	
3				8	7		4	
		4		1	2			
8				5				

		6			3	2		
9								
	1	4	5		7			
					8	5	3	
		2						7
8					7	6		4
	8	1					4	
4			9	1		5	3	

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

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

### ACROSS

- By the sound of it stop quickly for some food (9)
- Half a house? (4)
- Angela is a lunatic without any pain (9)
- Bird right by the marksman (6)
- I leave viewers in turmoil to turn aside (6)
- Coaching requires making a big effort first off (8)
- Be ahead, having lent money (8)
- Reported how patients wait for the doctor (6)
- Sweet sound made by an insect? (6)
- Cosy igloo rebuilt for the study of society (9)
- Windpipe? (4)
- Lightly cooked - red inside, nude on the outside (9)

### DOWN

- Famous new wonder about first (8)
- Entice everyone to the river (6)
- Wildly excited about entire organisation of football club outside (8)
- Lubricate the gear in the North Sea perhaps (3,3)
- I held out quietly in an old Greek city (6)
- Colour enhancer to be included (8)
- Grit mixed with neon to form gas (8)
- On the beach became hoarse (6)
- Dave somehow trapped member and patched it up (6)
- No American common sense (4)
- I'd lost out in being unemotional (6)
- Go to two points in a dress (4)

## QUICK CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
				8		
9					10	
11	12			13	14	
				15	16	
17	18					21
				22	23	
24			25		26	27
						28
29					30	
			31			
32					33	

### ACROSS

- Obtain (7)
- Play guitar (5)
- Mesh (3)
- Floating through the air (7)
- Shakespearean forest (5)
- Fusillade (5)
- Item of clothing (7)
- Bobbin (4)
- Eye membrane (6)
- Hot water spring (6)
- Bridge (4)

### DOWN

- Card game (7)
- Assert (5)
- Warhorse (7)
- Anger (3)
- Devil (5)
- Raffle (7)
- Chessmen (5)
- Entrails (5)
- Mythical creature (7)
- Bind by promise (6)
- Step (5)
- Set right (7)
- Cathedral (9)
- Beer (3)
- Seaweed (4)
- Compass point (4)
- Deficiency disease (7)
- Geometric line (7)
- Bewitch (7)
- Biblical priest (3)
- Package (6)
- Shiny fabric (5)
- Dispute (5)
- Wed (5)

**QUIZ CHALLENGE:** 1 Ham Peggotty; 2 Tequila; 3 Transformers; 4 The Masai; 5 CO; 6 A merchant ship used in trade with the East Indies; 7 History; 8 The Peak District; 9 2.5 acres; 10 Norwich City.

**CROSS CODE:** 1 Z; 2 U; 3 T; 4 C; 5 A; 6 R; 7 H; 8 F; 9 G; 10 X; 11 Y; 12 E; 13 O.

**NONAGRAM:** 1 Down - Cloud; 2 Across - Chate; 3 Down - Budge; 4 Across - Addie; 5 Emend.

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD:** 1 Across - Bored; 2 Down - Ruing; 3 Down - Budge; 4 Across - Chate; 5 Emend.

**MAGIC SQUARE:** 1 Across - Cloud; 2 Across - Addie; 3 Down - Budge; 4 Across - Addie; 5 Emend.

**WORD PYRAMID:** The sky's the limit.

**EQUALISER:** This puzzle page is supplied by Sirius Media Services. To try our new puzzle, Zygolex, go to [www.zygolex.com](http://www.zygolex.com)

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday July 29, 2000

The boat race was not so very long ago the peak of Lochranza's summer activities. It still is but now sits amidst a week of events which range from golf competitions, to fun sports, to treasure hunts and even a gardeners forum.

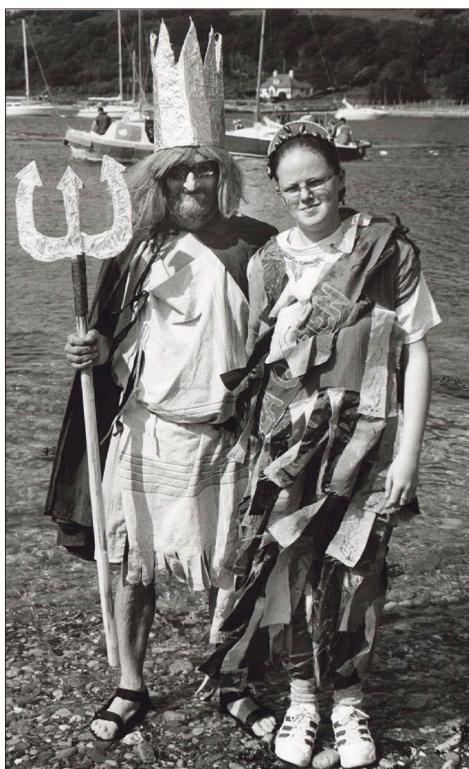
Once, the dressed up boats would sail round to Catacol for a light repast, but now, with health and safety to the fore, they are confined within Loch Ranza itself.

Often the boats are imaginatively designed

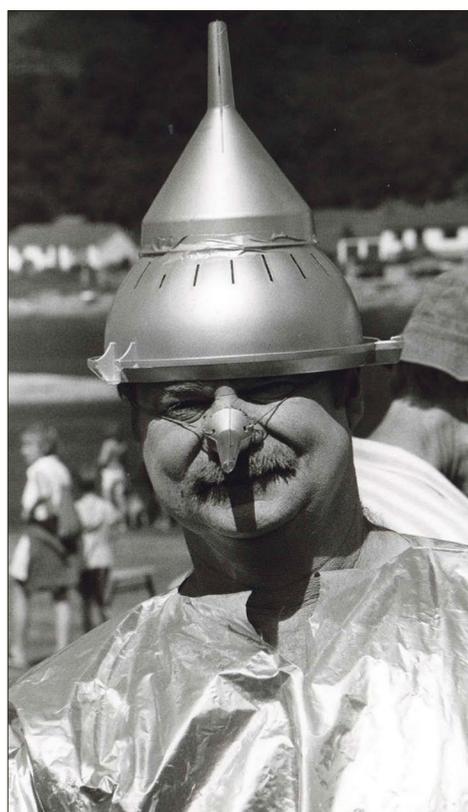
and quite bizarre, although this year there was more emphasis on speed than appearance.

The boat from John Corbett Construction, however, continued the tradition with both his and her crew getting into the spirit of the Wizard of Oz. And still a large crowd gathered on the castle spit to welcome King Neptune and his Sea Queen emerge from the waves to start the race.

Here is a picture special of the event.



King Neptune, Raymond Jeffreys, and his Sea Queen, Gemma Blythe, emerge from the deep. 01\_B30tweY01



Keith I'Anson is the Tin Man. 01\_B30tweY04



The Arran Dancers can race boats as well as dance. 01\_B30tweY03



One of the children's races held on the day. 01\_B30tweY05



The Wizard of Oz themed John Corbett team. 01\_B30tweY02



Terry Crawley hands out lollipops to the winners of the children's sports. 01\_B30tweY06

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### 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](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)  
Comments should be made online at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) by 14.08.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) 20/00554/PP;** Site To East Of Scotthaven, Park Terrace, Lamlash, Brodick; Temporary siting for static caravan during construction of dwelling house.

Craig Hatton  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

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**BANNER RECRUITMENT**  
**BANNER RECRUITMENT**

## PRIVATE SALES

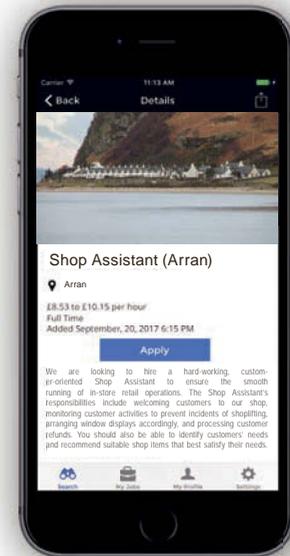
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9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
10. Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

## 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

**There will be a Saturday Vigil Mass on 25th July  
and a Sunday Morning Mass on 26th 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)

**St Margaret's, Whiting Bay  
Sunday July 26th**

Eighth Sunday after Trinity  
Holy Communion - 11 am.  
Richard Trewby  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**  
We will follow strict SEC  
guidelines

## WHAT'S ON

### EVERY DAY

Eco Savvy and Co-op food  
share at Big Co, Brodick and  
Lamlash 8.15pm  
**TUESDAY (JULY 28)**  
Online hand sanitiser  
workshop (free) by Eco Savvy  
and Lawson's Soaps 11am  
Savvy Film Club: Local  
Hero followed by online  
discussion - 7pm

## DIAMOND WEDDING

**LAUDER - WATSON** - On  
23rd July, 1960 at St Columba's  
Church, Helensburgh, John  
Lauder to Ann Watson.  
Brodick residents for the  
last twenty years. Love and  
congratulations on sixty  
wonderful years together, from  
Margaret, Eric, Elizabeth &  
William and Iain, Sarah, Max,  
Beth & Rosie.

## DEATHS

**MULHOLLAND** - Janet (née  
Mackinnon), Janet, wife of  
the late Duncan Mulholland,  
died peacefully at home at  
Torrylinn Farm, Kilmory aged  
91 years. Funeral service at  
Kilmory cemetery 12:00 noon  
on Monday, 27th July. Hearse  
will leave Kilmory Public Hall  
at 11:45am. Funeral private  
due to circumstances.

## BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**MCMURDO** - Nan (née  
Scouler) MBE, passed away  
peacefully on 12th July, aged  
69. Beloved wife of Ian, much  
loved mum to Jillian and  
Derek and devoted granny to  
her grandchildren.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**SMITH** - Derek. Brian,  
Catriona and the Smith family  
would like to thank friends  
and neighbours for their  
kind expressions of sympathy  
during their recent bereave-  
ment. There are many people  
to whom we are indebted  
for their support and advice  
during the past few months:  
the wonderful Care at Home  
team, community nurses,  
doctors and staff at the Arran  
Medical Group and Arran  
War Memorial Hospital, Kate  
Jenks and Caroline McGinlay.  
Grateful thanks also to David  
and Clair Hendry and Mrs  
Jean Hunter for her words of  
comfort at Sannox Cemetery.

# Teenager Andrew aims to run round Arran in day

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



An Arran teenager plans to  
run round the island in a day  
to raise money for charity.

Andrew Bunting, who is  
15 and in S4 at Arran High  
School, can often be seen  
running round Brodick and  
Lamlash. But his new chal-  
lenge is to run round the island  
in a day, starting from Brodick  
then going clockwise around  
the island.

He plan to start at 7am on  
Tuesday August 4 and com-  
plete the 56-mile run by the  
end of the day.

Andrew is undertaking the  
challenge to raise money for  
Macmillan Cancer Support  
as they have been unable to  
get the same fundraising as

they normally would due to  
lockdown.

If people would like to get  
involved in the run in some  
way, they can private message  
him on Facebook.

The link to Andrew's  
JustGiving page is also  
on his Facebook page or  
visit [www.justgiving.com/  
fundraising/landrew-bunting1](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/landrew-bunting1)

'If this gains a lot of support,  
I would like to do something  
similar again,' Andrew added.

**Andrew Bunting is planning  
to run the 56 miles round  
Arran in a day to raise  
money for Macmillan Cancer  
Support.**



## ARRAN: AROUND THE GOLF COURSES



### Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday July 16, Summer  
cup, CSS 64. 1 Stuart  
Campbell 69-6=63, 2 Iain  
Murchie 70-6=64, 3 Neil  
Young 69-5=64 BIH over I  
Bremner. Best Scratch Neil  
Young 69 BIH over Stuart  
Campbell. Magic twos Dougie  
Macfarlane @5th, Stuart  
Campbell @13th and 14th,  
Alan Smith, Iain Murchie and  
Ian Bremner all @ 16th. Hole  
17 drawn - rollover continues  
Sunday July 19. 1 Serg El  
Adm 71-15= 56, 2 Robbie  
Calder 68-8=60, 3 Lee Dutton  
85-20 = 65. Best scratch R  
Calder 68. Magic twos Iain  
Murchie @4th and 16th,  
Iain Bremner @13th, Robbie  
Calder @16th.

Fixtures Sunday July 26,  
Stableford Sweep 0.30am and  
12noon starts. Thursday July  
30, Summer Cup, make up  
own groups and see starter  
for times Saturday August 1,  
Lifeboat Competition & Dan  
Crawford Salver (Stableford),  
draw at 12.30pm, make up  
own groups and see starter for  
times.

Sheet for Thomson Cup



**Keen golfer Allan  
Napier send us  
this picture taken  
at the weekend  
from Corrie golf  
course looking  
up to The Devils'  
Punchbowl.  
He said: 'A recent  
landslip seems  
to have left the  
impression of a  
golfer waving his  
golf club, as he  
celebrates sinking  
a putt. Can you  
spot him?'**

Matchplay in Clubhouse - if  
interested add names to sheet  
for draw.

### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday July 15, The  
Jim Pirie Quaich. Eighteen  
played in damp conditions  
but, thankfully, no persistent  
rain. Scoring was not quite as  
spectacular as recent outings  
and CSS stayed at 63/36  
Stableford points. The top of  
the leaderboard bore a striking  
resemblance last Sunday's with  
Jamie Macpherson winning,  
again, by one shot this time  
from David Brookens, John  
Pennycott and Kevin Jackson.

Result: 1 Jamie Macpherson  
(5)38 pts, 2 David Brookens  
(12)37 acb, 3 John Pennycott  
(12)37 acb, 4 Kevin Jackson  
(10)37. Jamie bagged a magic  
two @2nd while Graeme  
Crichton did likewise @15th.

Sunday July 19, Nestor's  
Jug. A total of 21 played in  
this popular holiday season  
Stableford and it was nice to  
see so many old friends back  
on the course following the  
easing of the lockdown. The  
blustery wind and having the  
pins moved back to more  
challenging positions restored  
some of the course's defences  
and scoring was such that CSS  
went out to 64/35 Stableford  
points.

Result: 1 Brian Murray (9)36  
pts, 2 Neil Lucas (12)35 acb, 3  
Jamie Macpherson (5)35 acb,  
4 Dave Hackett (14)35. Scott  
Adair and Neil McKechnie  
bagged magic twos @2nd and  
@7th respectively but credit-  
able as those were they were  
roundly trumped by Ronnie  
Mann's two 8th.

Fixtures: Saturday July 25,

The Ballantyne Cup. Sunday  
July 26, The Eric Wood  
Stableford. Wednesday July  
29, The Betty Black Cup. Until  
further notice there will be no  
draws for partners and mem-  
bers should arrange their own  
groupings.

### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday July 15, June  
Brandon and Summer Cup,  
33 played, CSS 64. 1 Jimmy  
Armit 76-13=63, 2 Kenny  
McMillan 79-15=64, 3 Greg  
McCrae 70-5=65. Scratch  
Ewan McKinnon 68.

Sunday July 19, Marchioness  
of Graham Trophy, Bogey  
competition, 25 played, CSS 1  
up. 1 Tam McNab (13)3 up, 2  
Terry Raeside (12)2 up acb, 3  
Iain MacDonald (7)2 up acb.

Fixtures: Sunday July 26,  
Belhaven Medal. Wednesday  
July 29, Summer Cup.

# Teenagers cycle 100kms to raise cancer charity cash

Two Whiting Bay teenagers have cycled 100kms, including a circumnavigation of the island, to raise money for a cancer charity.

Brothers Sid and Jesse Townsend, aged 15 and 14, who usually ride off road as members of Arran High School Mountain Bike Club, set off from Whiting Bay at 9.15am on Saturday morning and headed north along Shore Road towards Brodick. They reached the 60km mark at lunchtime and enjoyed a well-deserved break at Café Thyme, with much-needed refuelling courtesy of Lorna and her team.

The duo joined forces with friends and family in London who had pledged to cycle 100kms around London's 12 football league grounds raising money for Lymphoma Action. Team captain and family friend Hugh Porter was diagnosed with Central Nervous System (CNS) Lymphoma a year ago and has received amazing support from the charity.

Hugh, a Scot living in London, was diagnosed with CNS Lymphoma last year on his 50th birthday. He underwent intensive treatment, including a full stem cell transplant, and now, amazingly, is classed as being in remission.

The charity recently launched an emergency appeal for funds after so many fundraising events had to be cancelled as a result of lockdown.

The boys enjoyed a sunny southerly cycle and reached home tired but delighted at 5pm.

Their pedal power has so far raised more than £500 for the charity, which has been added to the £23,850 rising total raised by the London riders. Not bad considering the Arran youngsters only decided to undertake the challenge the day before!

The boys thank Arran residents for their generous support. Anyone wishing to donate can do so at <https://justgiving.com/team/Round-the-Grounds>



The duo heading into Blackwaterfoot.



Left: Jesse and Sid Townsend about to set off. Above: Having completed 60kms, Lorna of Cafe Thyme kindly gave the boys free food and drinks.





## LAMLASH GARAGE



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