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Green light for housing on site of former island hotel

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A new housing development on the site of a famous hotel from the past has been given the go-ahead.

The proposed 15-house development is on the site of the former Breadalbane Hotel at the west end of Kildonan overlooking the bay known as Porta Buidhe, or yellow port.

The popular hotel closed in 2007 and at the time planning consent was granted for the demolition of the existing hotel buildings and the erection of 10 houses on the site. Demolition of the hotel buildings started just over a year later, however, as a consequence of the economic recession at that time, work was suspended and did not resume.

The site now lies heavily overgrown with the only building remaining being the run down house attached to the former hotel. The new application, approved by plan-

ning officials at North Ayrshire Council this week, is in the names of Hamish Walker and Derek Callaghan. The latter is thought to be the former owner of the hotel, who was behind the earlier housing plan.

According to a planning support statement, the site extends to around 5,700 sq m and is fronted to the south by the main public road which runs through Kildonan with the shore and sea beyond. To the north, the land rises steeply with trees and agricultural land. The site itself has a general and gradual incline from the road front to the rear. Views from the site are predominantly to the south across the sea towards Pladda with Ailsa Craig in the distance.

While the original plan was for 10 large detached and semi-detached homes, the applicants have now determined there is a need for more two and three-bedroom homes.

The architectural brief was to provide a design which

Continued on page two.



Brodick pupils top class at learning to cycle safely

Eight Brodick Primary School pupils proudly show off their cycling proficiency certificates after completing an iCycle course with classroom assistant Mrs Janet Ramage. The weekly course, which began in September, covered cycling safety, road sign recognition and a practical element which they completed before the, now extended, Christmas holidays.



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Glen Rosa bridge closed for repairs

Essential work to replace Garbh Allt bridge in Glen Rosa after it was damaged in the recent storms is under way.

It means there is currently no bridge to cross the Garbh Allt burn and this is likely to be the case at least until Friday January 22. Walkers are being asked to adhere to warning signs.

In a statement, Arran Ranger Service said: 'Those wishing to access the hills through Glen Rosa can still do so via Castle Drive, following the path on the east side of the Rosa burn to the Hendry bridge. If travelling by car, please park in designated car parks either at Cladach or at Brodick Castle.

'The repair work would not have been possible without generous support from The Arran Trust, the Arran Access Trust and the Brown Forbes Memorial Trust.'

New restrictions another blow for struggling Arran businesses

Businesses on Arran trying to offer their services during lockdown were hit by a further blow this week with tougher rules on click and collect shopping and takeaway food being introduced from tomorrow (Saturday).

The six new rules include limiting click and collect to essential goods; stopping customers going inside takeaways and banning drinking alcohol outside, as well as statutory guidance on employers to allow staff to work from home.

However, there was relief on the island that the services were not stopped completely with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon saying the new measures were necessary to try to stop the rapid spread of the Covid-19 virus and, in particular, the new virulent strain.

She said the measures were a 'regrettable but necessary means to an end' but added

that although these were dark and difficult times, there were also grounds for hope.

Meanwhile, there was some relief for island businesses earlier this week when Scotland's finance secretary Kate Forbes announced top-up grants for hospitality, retail and leisure businesses closed across the country by level four restrictions.

In addition to the grants businesses receive through the Strategic Business Framework Fund, eligible businesses will also get a one-off grant of:

£25,000 for larger hospitality businesses on top of the four-weekly £3,000;

£6,000 for smaller hospitality businesses on top of the four-weekly £2,000;

£9,000 for larger retail and leisure businesses on top of the four-weekly £3,000;

£6,000 for smaller retail and leisure businesses on top of the

four-weekly £2,000.

In most cases, eligible businesses that have already applied for the four-weekly payment from the Strategic Framework Business Fund will get an automatic top-up.

For the majority, this top-up will be combined with the next tranche of payment for the Strategic Framework Business Fund due to go to businesses on January 25. Businesses that haven't yet applied for either of these funds should submit an application as soon as possible through their local authority website. Applications are now open.

Ms Forbes said: 'Since the start of the pandemic, Scottish Government support for business and the economy has reached almost £3 billion – more than a third of our total coronavirus (Covid-19) funding, demonstrating our commitment to provide as

much help as we possibly can to our businesses.

'As promised, this additional support for hospitality, retail and leisure businesses will be available this month, in some cases doubling or tripling the amount of support we are providing. Applications are open now and payment will be made this month.

'Crucially, this essential funding will also help to close the gaps in UK-wide support for these impacted sectors and our one-off support for larger hospitality premises of £25,000 is considerably more generous than the £9,000 grant on offer in England.

'I'd encourage all eligible businesses to apply through their local authority if they have not done so already. Of course, we are acutely aware this support can never compensate for the full impact on business, but we must work

within the resources that are available to us and we continue to respond to the evolving economic challenges arising from the pandemic.'

The Federation of Small Businesses in Scotland also welcomed the move.

Scotland policy chairman Andrew McRae said: 'This should help some smaller Scottish businesses weather the current storm for a bit longer.

'We'd urge all eligible independent businesses facing difficulties to apply for this help or we face chains and larger operators swallowing up the bulk of the funding.

'The Scottish government still has work to do to get previously announced support schemes up and running. And we must see help reach those that have had little or nothing so far, like many home-based businesses.'



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The overgrown site of the former Breadalbane Hotel as it looks today. 01_B05breadalbane01

New Kildonan houses get the go-ahead

Continued from page one.

was sympathetic to local architecture and character with a selection of house styles appealing to all age groups. The houses would be built to a high quality with a low carbon footprint.

This led to a 'courtyard' design with two distinct terraced rows of houses each running east to west and a front orientation to the south optimising not only the sun

path but sea views. In support of the application, it is stated adjacent to the site are a mix of developments in style and use. To the east is The Keys, a modern housing development of approximately 15 detached houses, and to the west a mix of single detached dwelling houses of modern and more traditional design.

The applicants accept there is no public sewerage system in Kildonan. It is proposed a

private bio-treatment plant and filter system would provide foul drainage treatment to the development with surface water treatment carried out in accordance with SUDS regulations. Both system outfalls would be taken to the sea in compliance with SEPA regulations and recommendations.

The planning application has been approved with some conditions ahead of work starting on the site.

Police warning over scam Covid messages

Police are asking people to be alert for scam messages purporting to offer coronavirus vaccines or asking for payment for vaccinations.

Chief Inspector Anton Stephenson, of Police Scotland's safer communities division, said: 'We are aware of a scam circulating involving a text message suggesting people are eligible for the coronavirus vaccine. If you are concerned you have provided personal or financial information via a link in a message of this sort, contact Police Scotland via 101.'

It follows the warning in last week's Banner from Advice Direct Scotland that text message scams about vaccinations are being reported across the country, including links to fake NHS websites that ask for bank details.

YOURSTORY
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Arran gears up for mass vaccination programme

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Health services on Arran are gearing up for the biggest mass vaccination programme the island has ever seen, starting next weekend.

Arran Medical Group has secured an initial quota of Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccinations to allow health staff to vaccinate the island's 70 years and above patient group.

The Pfizer vaccine is different to a typical vaccine and has a short viability period once defrosted. In addition, patients have to wait 15 minutes post vaccine, two metres apart from each other. For these reasons, the sessions will be held at Arran High School only. They will take place over the weekend starting Friday January 22 through to Monday January 25. Patients will be contacted by telephone with an appoint-

ment. This may be from a 01292 or mobile telephone number. If you have not received a call by Tuesday January 19, and are over 70, please call to make an appointment. Please do not phone the practice before then.

For shielding patients, guidelines will be followed to ensure a Covid safe environment, so they are able to attend. Housebound patients will be contacted in the near future to organise vaccinations.

As reported in the Banner last week, the first vaccinations took place on Arran during the last days of 2020 with care home residents, health and social care staff and a small number of the most vulnerable patients receiving the jab.

However, the health authorities on the mainland are reluctant to say how vaccination rollout is progressing on the island with NHS Ayrshire and Arran telling the Banner:



A member of the NHS Ayrshire and Arran staff is given the coronavirus vaccine.

Right across the health and social care system, our staff are working tirelessly to make sure that we can deliver the vaccine to each of the relevant groups when they are due to receive it. This is a huge task and we ask the public to be patient with this process. I want to reassure everyone that we will offer the vaccinations in a systematic way, as supply of vaccine allows, to ensure that those who are most vulnerable are prioritised.'

The number of confirmed Covid-19 cases on Arran remains very low, according to Scottish government statistics. Since the start of the year the number recorded for Arran has remained 0-2, although this figure is suppressed, due to patient confidentiality.

However, it is a very different story on the mainland where NHS Ayrshire and Arran are still recording some of the highest rates in Scotland.

'The way in which the data regarding vaccinations is collated means we are unable to provide the numbers you have requested specifically for residents living on Arran.'

But the health board insist: 'Our Covid-19 vaccination programme is well under way and local teams are working through vaccinating the priority groups as set out in the national guidance. From this week, NHS Ayrshire and Arran will begin rolling out first

doses of the recently approved Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine to patients who are aged 80 or over living in the community. GP practices will be in touch with those eligible for vaccine directly, inviting them to come for their first dose over the course of the coming weeks.'

NHS Ayrshire and Arran chief executive John Burns added: 'We recognise that people across Ayrshire and Arran are keen to know when they will receive their vaccinations.'

Surgery postponed as hospitals struggle

Elective surgery in all NHS Ayrshire and Arran acute hospitals has been postponed as a result of the sustained rise in Covid-19 cases on the mainland.

Recent icy conditions have added to the pressure hospitals are under with a large number of people attending hospital with broken bones as a result of falls, which has placed additional demand on hospital beds.

Medical director Dr Crawford McGuffie said: 'This phase of the pandemic is having the greatest impact on our communities in terms of positive cases, numbers admitted to hospital and sadly deaths. This is placing great strain on every aspect of the system.'

'To ensure we are able to provide care to the most urgent cases, emergency surgery will still go ahead and, where possible, planned cancer surgeries will also take place.'

'Our clinical staff will liaise closely with patients who are impacted and we very much appreciate the understanding



Elective surgery has been postponed at hospitals, including Crosshouse.

of members of the public in these challenging times.'

Where emergency and planned cancer surgeries do take place, these are being assessed and scheduled by senior clinicians on a case-by-case basis. Some procedures may go ahead in a different location to that which was previously

planned. Dr McGuffie added: 'Patients should be reassured their safety is our number one priority and we are taking all necessary steps to ensure any risk as a result of exposure to Covid-19 is minimised.'

'I would like to thank the public for their continued support at this time.'

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The Devon Carpet moth which has been discovered on Arran.

New moth species found on Arran

A new species of moth from the south-west of the UK has been identified on Arran after being discovered by the island's ranger service.

The Devon Carpet moth (*Lampropteryx otregiata*), which has a wingspan of 27-30mm, originated in the south west of the British Isles and has slowly been moving north, but Arran is the most northerly record of the moth yet.

Confirmation has come from UK Moths, which told the ranger service that the Devon Carpet was formerly a relatively rare species but that in recent years there had been a considerable range expansion from the south-west, which has seen this moth reported in numbers from Lancashire, Cumbria, Suffolk and several midland counties.

There are two generations, with adults on the wing in May and June, then again in August and September. The caterpillars are brown with paler buff markings and feed on common marsh bedstraw (*Galium palustre*) and possibly also fen bedstraw (*Galium uliginosum*).

Katie takes on a new religious challenge

Katie Smith, daughter of George and Mairi Christie of Kildonan, has started her new vocation.

Katie, a former police officer then full time mum, has a talent for art and craft work and used this to good effect while her children were growing up.

During this period in her life, Katie had a strong calling to become a vicar in the Church of England, which she attended in Herefordshire.

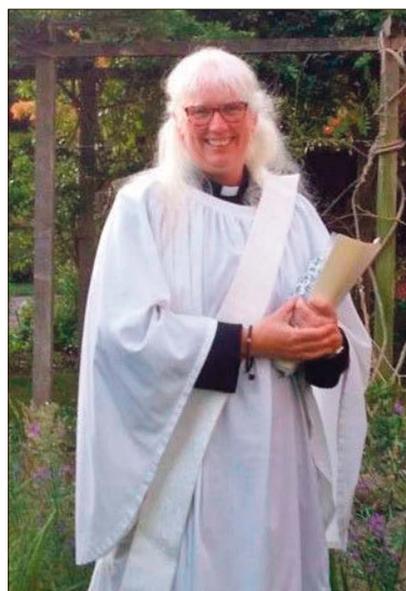
She is following in the footsteps of her grandfather and great grandfather, both of whom were Church of Scotland ministers, the latter a missionary based in Aleppo where he founded the first Presbyterian Church.

They would probably have been horrified by this in their lifetimes as both lived in times when women were regarded as 'helpers', not leaders, and the Church of England would be a strange choice viewed from their strict Scottish Presbyterian backgrounds.

Undaunted by the four-year training, Katie, a graduate of Reading University, found her previous experience with the police and work with profoundly disabled young people very useful.

She took a teaching qualification while in the police and went into schools to represent the police on subjects including safety on roads with

Daughter of Kildonan couple follows in the footsteps of great grandfather and grandfather to become vicar



Left: Katie Smith after her ordination. Her husband and two children were at the service and that made up the maximum allowed to gather in the huge cathedral. Right: Those who took part at the reception with the Bishop in his garden. Katie is second on his left.

primary school children and cycling and drugs work with older pupils.

During her training, Katie learned British Sign Language as she was aware there were people in the area who used it. She has already found this useful when taking certain services.

The big event at the end of

her training was, of course, her ordination at Herefordshire Cathedral.

This was postponed because of the pandemic and planned for the end of the year when it was thought everything would be back to normal. Her whole family, two sisters and brother - from Canada - with their families and parents George and

Mairi planned to get together in Herefordshire for a few days. Some of them then planned to visit Arran, which they all love, but the rest is history.

Instead, the family watched the ceremony on Herefordshire Cathedral's website.

It was beautiful, but bitter sweet for those who should have been there. The Christie

'clan' meet regularly on Zoom but has not been able to meet each other in person since last Christmas as no-one wants to risk bringing the virus to Arran. The family is all very proud of their sister and daughter and look forward to a big celebration sometime in the future.

Mairi Christie.

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Community farm receives funds to buy more land

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



An Arran farming initiative is one of the first projects to benefit from the £2 million Islands Green Recovery Programme.

The Inspiring Scotland fund, to support community recovery projects, has awarded Woodside Arran CIC in Kildonan £35,000.

Owners Jennifer and Andy Macdonald will use the funds to buy agricultural land to grow and supply more fresh vegetables locally and develop fresh food vending machines for the community.

As well as local food production, seaweed farming and environmentally friendly washing for B&Bs are just some of the first initiatives to benefit from the community-focused green funding.

The £900,000 community fund, managed by Inspiring Scotland, sought applications from island community groups, charities and businesses to support capital expenditure projects that contribute to the green recovery, reduce carbon emissions as well as improve the resilience, health and wellbeing for

Woodside Farm will grow more vegetables to sell on the island

island communities. Jennifer of Woodside Arran said: 'Receiving the Island Green Recovery Grant is going to have such a lasting impact for Woodside Arran.

'We are now going to be in a position to feed and support our community throughout the challenges that Brexit and the Covid recovery period will bring.'

Islands minister Paul Wheelhouse said: 'These fascinating projects, driven by the ideas of islanders themselves, will help our island communities to thrive, contribute to our work on population retention and repopulation.

'They will also help to create new jobs while also supporting and enhancing health and wellbeing and the development of local supply chains and the associated economic output that comes with this, in line with the commitments set out in the National Islands Plan.

'The £2 million Islands Green Recovery Programme will

support a recovery that drives investment that lowers greenhouse gas emissions while increasing the resilience of island communities through investment in: a range of active and low carbon transport projects; environmentally-safe tourism; food sustainability and zero waste projects that support and impact upon the green circular economy and related employment and I really look forward to seeing the positive impacts of these projects.'

Inspiring Scotland chief executive Celia Tennant said: 'We are delighted to be able to support a wide range of locally-led green projects through Scottish Government's investments.

'This support will make a vital contribution to the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of our island communities and we look forward to working alongside each project to maximise the impact of this programme.'

'We are now going to be in a position to feed and support our community'

Andy and Jennifer Macdonald at Woodside Farm in the summer.

01_B26farm01



Primary school enrolment for 2021/22 session opens

This year, due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, North Ayrshire Council is asking parents and carers to complete an online form for primary one registration.

Primary one registration for children starting school in August 2021 is now open via the website (<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/enrolment>) until Friday January 29.

Children whose fifth birthday falls between March 1 2021 and February 28 2022 should be registered for primary education starting in August 2021.

Councillor John Bell, cabinet member for education, said: 'Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we've had to



amend our procedure for primary one registration this year. Normally parents/carers would arrange to go along to their catchment primary school and register, however, this year we are asking you to register online via the council website.

'We understand not everyone will be able to access the online registration form.

'If this is the case, please contact our customer services team on 01294 310000, who will be able

to assist further.' Once the online registration form has been completed, the school will contact parents/carers in February 2021.

If any additional supporting documents are required, the school will request these and make arrangements for people to present them.

The council pointed out that registration at a catchment area primary school did not guarantee entry to that school.

YOURSTORY

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SCOTTISH FIELD

January issue



Exclusive
So that was
2020 feature

So that was 2020...

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LETTERS

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

A stark reminder

Just when businesses on Arran thought things couldn't get any tougher, they have been hit by new rules.

We have no doubt the First Minister and her government have good reason to impose tighter restrictions around takeaway services and, given the way they operate on the island, we are sure most will be able to continue.

But non-essential click and collect services now being forced to stop will be a body blow to firms which have spent time and money adapting to the new way of working, only to have the 'lifeline' taken away from them.

However, anyone who does not think more restrictions are needed only needs to take a look across the water at what is happening within NHS Ayrshire and Arran on the mainland.

Reports that NHS Ayrshire and Arran's Covid-19 capacity is under severe pressure are concerning and the Scottish Government must ensure the health board is fully resourced to cope with the mounting challenges it is facing.

This serves as a stark reminder of the need for us all to keep following government guidance and do all we can to reduce the spread of Covid.

But it will be concerning for many older residents that elective surgery they may have been waiting for has now been postponed across acute hospitals in NHS Ayrshire and Arran, and it is to be hoped this is able to resume when the worst of the second wave of coronavirus is curtailed.

There was some good news for businesses this week with the announcement of the new grant support scheme and we hope it will help many, but it looks like being many months before they are out of the woods.

Thought for the week

'In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.' Psalm 4:8

CMAL does not listen

Sir,
Following Mr Maclean's letter (Banner January 8, 2021) and your report of the ferry committee's response to the ferry report, readers might want to take a look at CMAL's website for its response to the report.

It read: 'We will examine the content of the report as a matter of priority and give the recommendations our full consideration. Our position has always been that the problems with the dual fuel ferry project were driven by supplier failure and our evidence to the REC Committee was robust in this respect.'

'We have a successful track record of delivering ferry projects on time and budget and we are committed to continuous improvement of our processes, so steps are already being taken to further develop the planning process for new ferries.'

'The REC Committee's report may offer some ideas to further assist us in this regard. However, the role and impact of supplier failure in the dual fuel ferry project must not be underestimated.'

In other words 'It's no' oor fault'. They don't listen to ferry users and it seems they won't listen to parliament.

As long as the existing structure remains in place, things do not look good for the future of our ferries and, by extension, the islands.

Yours,
David Brookens,
Whiting Bay.

Role music can play

Sir,
As we move into 2021 and parents, teachers and pupils once again find themselves facing additional challenges to deliver and attain a full and rounded education, it is worthwhile remembering the role that music can and should play in improving our lives.

CONTACTUS

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Murray completes south to north moped challenge

Murray Picken of Kilmory has completed an epic 2,439 kilometre tour in New Zealand on a 50cc moped.

It took him 13 days over the festival season to travel from Bluff, in the very south of South Island, to Cape Reinga at the north tip of North Island. At the finish he met a family at the lighthouse that had passed him three days before!

Well done to Murray, who has so far raised \$3,140 for the Key to Life Charitable Trust, which encourages young people in New Zealand to take ownership of their attitudes and perceptions toward mental health and wellbeing by building quality relationships through informed youth participation.

See Murray's fundraising page at: givealittle.co.uk/fundraiser/the-hairy-scoot's-man



Murray at Cape Reinga at the end of his epic trip.

Firstly, music will help to support and sustain our young people through the coming months.

For children and adults alike, the creative arts play a vital role in promoting wellbeing and positive mental health, providing both a means of expression during the isolation of lockdown and a practical as well as enjoyable pastime.

Secondly, playing an instrument is complementary to academic subjects and has been shown emphatically to improve wider educational success. We now have the means to do that successfully and safely with online tools whose use has been well-honed by recent experience.

Yours,

Dr Kenneth Taylor, Headteacher,
St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh.

Christmas light donations

Sir,
A wee note to say a big thank you to all the people who came round in all the bad weather to see the Christmas lights and donated to Arran War Memorial Hospital Supporters League.

The sum of £248 was raised which has been passed on; once again thank you and hope to see you all next Christmas.

Yours,
Bernie Jackson,
Whiting Bay.

PRESSPOLICY

At The Arran Banner, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

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

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**STAY HOME
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The new Covid-19 variant is spreading fast. Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 don't have any symptoms, but can still pass it on, putting people at risk and a renewed pressure on our NHS.

Everyone must stay home. If it's essential to go out, remember wash your hands, cover your face and make space.

Find out more at gov.scot/coronavirus

STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES

Funds available to support recovery

Time is running out for community groups, charities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to apply for a new £200,000 fund to support Scotland's green recovery.

The NatureScot Better Places Green Recovery Fund will help to identify the impacts and opportunities of visitor management at nature destinations across the country, boosting Scotland's green recovery by making the most of increased nature-based tourism.

Scotland's countryside, coasts and green spaces have seen unprecedented numbers of visitors since initial lockdown restrictions were relaxed in the summer. While there are considerable benefits for visitors, communities and businesses from more people enjoying Scotland's outdoors and nature, several challenges have also

arisen, particularly at the most popular destinations. These include increasing capacity for higher numbers of visitors at 'hotspots', like parking and traffic and management; issues associated with more people camping, such as accommodating more campervans; and tackling the high-profile incidents of littering, wildfires, toileting and general damage to nature that have hit the headlines this year. Awards of between £5,000 and £20,000 are being offered to successful NGO or community-led projects which will help to plan for the future management of nature sites in a low-impact and sustainable way, improving the experience for both visitors and communities.

The closing date for applications is January 29 and projects should be completed by March 31, 2021.

Marion minds anither 'germ' when she wis wee

Marion McRorie is 95 years old and lives in Brodick, but in these dark days of the pandemic she remembers a similar situation from her childhood which she tells here in the Scots tongue.

Coronavirus thae ca'd it, and whit a scunner it wis.

We had tae wash oor haunds hunners o' times, sanitise and keep twa metres apairt frae yin anither – amang ither things.

Weel aw this remindit me o' the scarlet fever in the early 1930s when I wis wee.

Tae pit ye in the picture, we bided on Arran at the time when the germ invaded oor hoose.

I hae twa brithers, Hugh an' John, baith younger than ma'sel, an' did Hugh no go an' catch the germ – where he caught it frae dear only knows. Onyway he was cairted aff tae the fever hospital wrapped in a rid blanket.

2020, the year o' the pandemic

When he felt a wee bit better we were allowed to chat to him on the 'phone. Efter the ca' ended wee John said tae ma faither: 'Ah've caught it, that germ's cam through the 'phone.'

Richt enough, believe it or believe it not, the very next day he wis taken tae the hospital. Then I wis expectit tae tak it next.

The doctor cam in tae check me maist days. He wis strict an' told me tae go oot in the fresh air frae mornin' tae nicht, keep ma distance frae folk an' mind an' wash ma haunds afore I ate.

Tae pass the time a stoatit a ba', played wae ma wee skippin' rope, peevers an' ma bike – thae days it was ca'd a Fairy Cycle.

Then forbye, I dug the gairden fur big fat worms tae feed the birds fur I thoct they

micht like them. Bulbs go'at in my way at times.

Later on in the season the flooers didnae bloom sae guid an' faither wunnered why. I think I kent but I never let dab.

'Tae pass the time a stoatit a ba', played wae ma wee skippin' rope, peevers an' ma bike'

In a'tween times oor hoose hid tae be fumegated an' the wa' paper in oor bedroom hid tae be scraped aff the wa's, oor schule books, readin' books an' oor soft toys hid tae be burnt.

I felt gey sad about it a' – except fur the schule books! When ma classmates heard about whit happened tae ma readin' books they sent me

some o' theirs which was gie guid o' them.

Yin day as I scartit in the gairden fur the worms, some o' ma classmates were makin' their way hame frae schule an' shouted tae me, 'We've hud the inspectors'.

I was that pleased I hud missed them – it made ma day. Then I thanked them fur the books, they said they'll keep ye goin an' aff they went hame, I was glad tae see them.

I never took the scarlet fever an' neither did onybody else on the island at that time as faur as I ken, so me, ma faither an' mither must hae done the richt thing an' kept the germ frae spreadin' tae ither folk.

Ony wise, it's a when o' years ago since a' this happened when I was wee.

I'm auld noo but I can mind it fine.

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A Mountain in Tibet uplifts spirits and warms the heart

Last week the Banner carried a first instalment of the autobiography of Lama Yeshe, the charismatic managing director of Holy Isle. When we left him he had just escaped from the Chinese communist invaders in Tibet and made it to India, but his idyllic life had literally been smashed to pieces. Here, Alice Maxwell continues her review.

The refugee camps in India were squalid, and lacked adequate drinking water. They were completely vulnerable to diseases such as measles and tuberculosis that were unknown in Tibet and which spread like wildfire. Like many others, Lama Yeshe contracted dysentery – and later a severe bout of tuberculosis. During this time Lama Yeshe's brother Akong left India for the UK, with his close friend Trungpa. Both were highly respected Buddhist teachers (lamas) and together they established the Samye Ling Tibetan Centre, in Eskdalemuir, Dumfriesshire.

Lama Yeshe remained in India and Sikkim, living amongst the refugees. He was lost and lonely, unable to come to terms with the tragic loss of his country and had no idea what to do with his life. He loved Hindi films and experienced first-hand the addictive

pull of material things and the trap of self-indulgence. He discovered that young people in the west were rejecting the old ways and exploring alternative life-styles, values, politics and spirituality, and in 1969 he persuaded Akong to send him the money for an air ticket to Scotland.

Samye Ling at that time was cold, damp and ramshackle. Trungpa taught meditation to the handful of 'smelly hippies' who lived there, while Akong was a caretaker, ordering food, and mending clothes. Lama Yeshe continued to ignore the Buddhist teachings given by Trungpa, and did little to help in the running of the centre.

During this time Akong married a young Tibetan called Yangchen. The couple moved to Dumfries where they ran a B&B and brought up a family. A local builder, David Robison and his wife Eta befriended

Book review – part two

them and were devoted to Akong and his family.

David took Lama Yeshe on a fishing trip to Orkney where the wayward Tibetan once again broke Buddhist precepts and caught fish after fish. When Akong saw photographs of the dead fish he was devastated.

With tears in his eyes he said to his brother: 'I promised our parents that I would take care of you and raise you with Buddhist values...I have protected you from...suffering. But now I feel like a failure. I have let our parents down.'

Lama Yeshe had never seen his brother so upset. He made a vow there and then to move from negative thinking and action to a more positive way of being.

In the mid-1980s Lama Yeshe finally decided to ordain as a monk and devote the remainder of his life to a spiritual path. He undertook strict meditation retreats which are designed to free the mind from the hold of negative emotions, thus allowing one's inherent goodness to blossom.

During Lama Yeshe's first retreat, in Woodstock, America, he had an auspicious dream. He dreamt of an island off an island and writes: 'I vividly recall that there was a bay on the larger island that was lit up by the lights of houses and bars and restaurants. Across this bay was a small island, shaped like a lion whose mighty paws came down to the sea...I recall landing there and looking across to the lighted bay.'

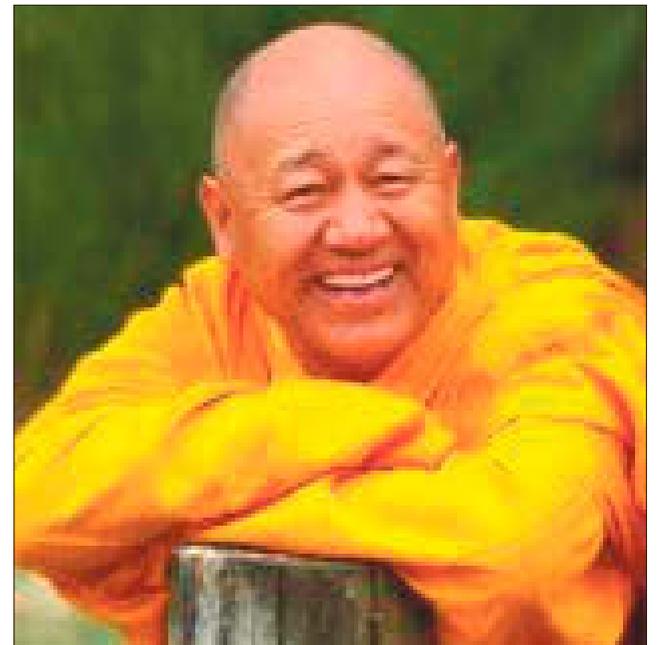
Lama Yeshe returned to Scotland to continue retreat and help Akong with the running of Samye Ling. In 1990 he was approached by Catherine Morris who wanted to sell her home of many years, Holy Isle, because it was such a spiritually powerful place and she 'couldn't handle it'. A devout Catholic, the Virgin Mary had appeared to her in a dream and indicated that she should sell the island to Lama Yeshe. On arrival to Arran, Lama immediately recognised Lamlash and Holy Isle from his dream many years earlier.

Through the strength of his faith Lama Yeshe managed to buy the isle, which is now known as The Holy Isle Centre for World Peace and Health.

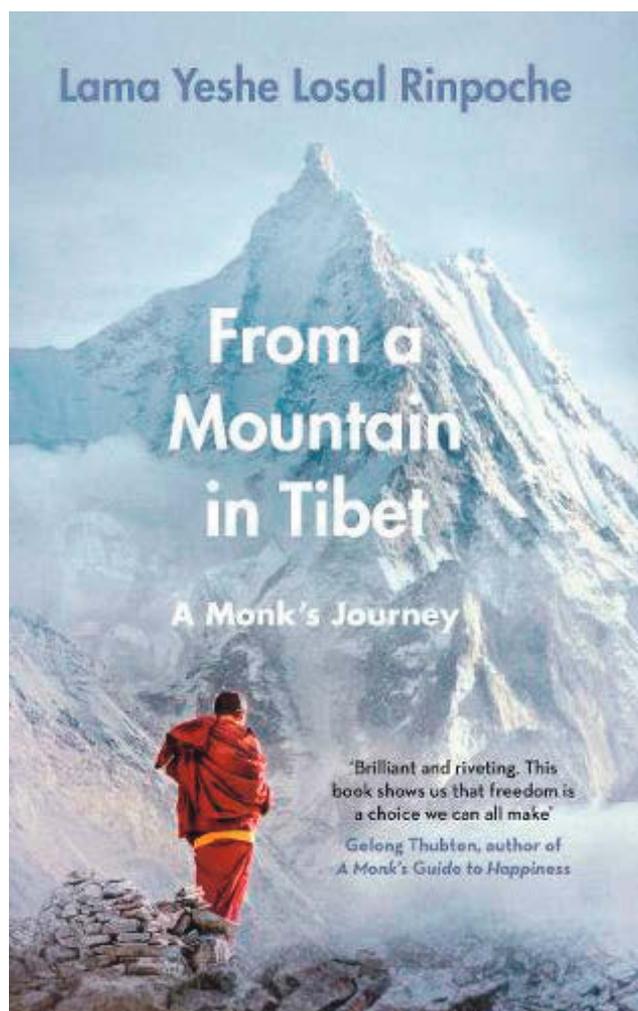
From his wild beginnings, Lama Yeshe is now a respected and renowned teacher of Buddhism and meditation. He is grateful for the suffering he has experienced, which, he writes, have been necessary in order for him to become an effective teacher here in the west.

In a world where people the world over are suffering unprecedented loss and illness, loneliness and disconnectedness, From a Mountain in Tibet uplifts the spirits and warms the heart, and leaves the reader with a message of hope that can be carried into the New Year.

Published by Penguin, it is available at The Book and Card Centre, Brodick.



Lama Yeshe, managing director of Holy Isle.



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All together >

'Inspiring' champions of

After the very worst of years, the very best among us – from frontline health staff to key community volunteers and charity workers – have been recognised in The Queen's 2021 New Year Honours. Here we spotlight some of the deserving stars that Prime Minister Boris Johnson applauds as "an inspiration to us all".

LAST YEAR brought to the fore a new breed of community champions... including those working in the NHS to treat coronavirus patients, scientists developing effective vaccines and key workers keeping essential services operating.

These "ordinary people" who continue to go above and beyond have been recognised for sterling work delivered in extraordinary circumstances.

The 2021 New Years Honours has recognised champions of sport as well as stars of stage and screen but this year, more than ever, it is ordinary people who have been recognised alongside them.

Among the deserving recipients are leading lights who have battled to save lives and keep the NHS afloat and those who have kept the country smiling by spreading kindness.

The list includes medical experts as well as volunteers working with youngsters, the elderly and those with disabilities. Those working in libraries, education and community arts also received recognition.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said: "In a year when so many have made sacrifices to protect our NHS and save people's lives, the outstanding efforts of those receiving honours are a welcome reminder of the strength of human spirit and of what can be achieved through courage and compassion."

"The 2021 New Year Honours offer us an opportunity to salute their dedication and recognise many who have gone above and beyond in their contribution to our country."

"As we begin a new year and continue to come together to fight this virus, may their service and stories be an inspiration to us all."

■ For more information on Honours recipients, go to gov.uk/honours



JACQUIE WINNING

JACQUIE WINNING'S award "recognises the achievements of everyone" at Forth Valley Sensory Centre following "an exceptionally challenging year".

The 55 year-old from Falkirk was recognised for going the extra mile to manage "wrap-around" services to people with sensory loss during the pandemic.

"COVID-19 has been challenging for everyone, but more so for people with sensory loss. Those with hearing loss face challenges due to face masks and social distancing interfering with their ability to lip read. "Those with sight loss face



significant challenges managing to maintain physical distancing while undertaking essential trips out," explained the MBE recipient.

Jacquie's support included providing Braille copies of virus information, establishing telephone, text and email befriending lifelines to address isolation and producing podcasts providing vital updates. "The impact is that some of the most vulnerable people in society have been incredibly well supported during the most challenging of times. Thanks go to the dedication, enthusiasm and willingness to adapt by our team, volunteers and partners, and tremendous support of our board of directors."

TAMAS SZAKMANY

CABINET OFFICE confirmation of Dr Tamas Szakmany's award made him "astonished, touched and humbled". The 44 year-old from Newport explained: "I thought I was doing my job like everybody else. I didn't think for one minute it would result in this. I'm really surprised."

Once I was allowed to talk about it, the first thing I said was how fortunate I was to work with this team. "2020 was difficult professionally. Personally, I had many successes. It was a double-edged sword. The MBE is recognition for the enormous effort everyone has made to get us through the first wave. I hope

we have similar success again." The Royal Gwent Hospital critical care consultant, recognised for exceptional service to the NHS, spearheaded Welsh Critical Care Network response during the pandemic, rapidly disseminating information on lessons learnt via traditional and social media platforms.

Filming his personal and professional life, he helped produce an emotional deeply personal documentary "Critical: Inside Intensive Care Coronavirus" episode, broadcasted by BBC Wales and included among American Society of Chest Physicians and Society of Critical Care Medicine teaching materials.



Play your part

communities honoured



GOLAM CHOWDHURY

A BRITISH Red Cross refugee support staff emergency responder initially thought his honour announcement email was spam! Golam Chowdhury was then “humbled” when his British Empire Medal was confirmed. “I had no idea I had even been nominated,” said the 51-year-old from Portsmouth. “It’s been challenging, both personally and professionally, but I am always amazed by human resilience and community spirit. Watching how people

come together to support each other has been incredible.” Involved in active front-line response to COVID-19 in Hampshire as a Refugee Support staff member, Crisis Response South East tactical cell weekend coordinator and local Emergency Response, City of Sanctuary and Cycling UK volunteer, Golam received his accolade



for outstanding achievements in healthcare during the virus pandemic. “I don’t do my job – or my volunteering – for praise,” said the father-of-two. “I do it because, if the tables were turned and I was the one that needed help, then I would hope that there was someone out there to support me. “I’d like to dedicate my award to everyone in all communities who are helping others.”

MICHAEL BRIGGS

A BELFAST community worker is celebrating “the surprise of his life” after being honoured. Michael Briggs’ MBE was rewarded for services beyond the call of duty in the voluntary sector and community. “Even though we’ve hardly moved out of the office, it’s all been pretty busy,” explained the East Belfast Community Development Agency Executive Director. “We’ve been managing our COVID programme, buying bulk food to get out to groups we support. We developed a network of groups delivering small packages to people who are



vulnerable, shielding or in financial need.” The 57 year-old continued: “There are so many stories from older people who say ‘it’s just good to know people are thinking about us.’” Thinking the honour email was promotional, Michael initially “didn’t actually take it seriously”. He revealed: “I nearly didn’t open it. Then I saw it was from the Cabinet Office. “For me, it’s about the efforts of other people as well. “So many people have been very supportive over the years. I’m the one who ends up getting the award, but other people have been involved in the success of my work.”

Play your part



Follow the rules. Find out more at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

All together >

Whinstone quarry could reopen if planning granted

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Pre-planning opinion moves application closer

The way has been cleared for a proposal to excavate whinstone from a quarry in the south of Arran to proceed to the next stage.

Murchie Sand and Gravel Ltd are now expected to submit a planning application to North Ayrshire Council to enable the recommencement of the winning and working of hard rock (whinstone) at Craighdu Quarry.

The company says that by excavating the stone on the island it will save shipping it in from the mainland, where much of it comes from the Glensanda super-quarry on the

Morvern peninsula. As part of the pre-planning process it had requested a screening opinion from council planners which they have now given. And they have decided that an environmental impact assessment in relation to the development will not be required.

In its submission AED Consultant Services Ltd describes Murchie Sand and Gravel as a local, family-run business established more than 20 years ago. The company specialises in all types of civil engineering, groundworks,

ready-mixed concrete, plant hire and haulage and employs around 12 workers.

The quarry is located to the south of the island on the southern side of the A841 approximately two kilometres (1.2 miles) east of Shannochie and approximately 2.5 kilometres (1.5 miles) west of Kildonan.

Giving the reasons for the development the planning submission states: 'Murchie Sand and Gravel has identified a need to secure a local source of hardrock. It is considered



The site of Craighdu Quarry near Shannochie.

that the proposed development would assist in ensuring that Arran is self-sufficient in aggregate supply and also provide the islanders with a competitive service.

'It is our understanding that currently, circa 12,000t pa of aggregate is imported to the island from the mainland. By sourcing these materials on the island, economic and environmental benefits can be derived including reduction in carbon footprint, reduced traffic impact, freeing up ferry capacity for other users to access and expand its operations.

'Furthermore, it should be noted that there is limited ability to recycle materials on the island. As part of the proposed application consideration would be given to seeking to undertake such an operation at the site in order to minimise transportation impacts by recovering and blending stone with recyclable materials to

produce aggregates that meet the demand of the islanders. The proposed site would assist in sustaining a local business and also provide an opportunity for sustaining local employment.

'Initial proposed works would involve the introduction to site of the office, welfare cabin and weighbridge. Access to the site will be by means of the existing track which has serviced the quarry historically. The track runs north from Craighdu Quarry to the A841. It is not anticipated that blasting will be required.

'It is estimated that the proposed extraction area would yield a reserve at Craighdu Quarry of the order of 61,000m³. It is anticipated that annual output from the site would be of the order of 12,000 tonnes per annum therefore planning permission will be sought for a period of 12 years. Following the completion

of extraction operations the site would be appropriately restored.'

The report concludes: 'By taking potential areas of concern into account at an early stage of the project, any potential impacts can be investigated and assessed and, where necessary, any practicable means to avoid them can be built into the overall design.'

'This will act to minimise any possible impacts of the proposed development. The main issues generally associated with similar activities are the potential effects of noise, dust, visual and landscape intrusion, road traffic and the likely impacts on features of ecology, archaeology and the water regime.'

A planning application is expected to be submitted in the coming months.

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Top award for CalMac community work

The UK's largest ferry operator CalMac has earned a top award for its commitment to generating social value for its communities.

CalMac has become the first Scottish company to be awarded a Level 2 Social Value Quality Mark for initiatives such as the CalMac Community Fund.

Recent research has forecast that for every pound spent by CalMac, communities across the network benefit from a social return of £5.14.

Last year, the community fund supported 76 different projects that benefited the lives of children and young people living in west coast communities. It is expected to



Gordon McKillop with the quality mark award won by CalMac.

deliver £676,391 of value over three years.

To gain the Quality Mark, projects supported by the community fund demonstrated tangible outcomes including health and wellbeing; social and community; education

and skills and employment and volunteering.

Gordon McKillop, corporate social responsibility manager for CalMac, said: 'Our community fund is much more than corporate giving.'

'The community fund was created to make a difference and we are beginning to see those results.'

'We hope to build on the fund's early success and sustain its impact for years to come by tackling the material issues affecting our communities.'

'This year we will support projects tackling mental health, loneliness, social isolation and or poverty and will announce the successful projects in the coming weeks.'

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 13, 2001



There was a good turnout at a meeting of the Arran Local Economy Trading System (LETS) which was held last Sunday as our picture shows. 01_B03tweY01



An exchange trip took place during the last week of the Christmas term with 23 pupils from a school in Brittany, France, spending six days on Arran as guests of Arran High School pupils and their families. They are pictured here with the editor of the Banner school newsletter Laura Keeney, smiling to the right of the picture. 01_B03tewY02



It is not often that two of CalMac's bigger ships can be seen in Brodick at the same time. Last Friday the Clansman arrived to take over the service as the Caledonian Isles sailed off in the distance heading for the Tyne for her annual overhaul. 01_B03tweY06

Stephen Gibbs of Dougarie Estate has received an OBE in the New Year's Honours' list for his services to deer management. He has served three terms on the Deer Commission and is pictured at the Dougarie walled garden. 01_B03tweY05



The Shiskine Valley Trust has received funding from the sportscotland lottery fund for improvement work at the Blackwaterfoot playing field and whose representatives visited the island this week. 01_B03tweY04



Pictured after the AGM of Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board last month are the new Arran trade sector directors who will represent the different areas of the tourist industry on the island. From left: Alastair Bilsland, Brodick mini golf; Fiona Crawford, from Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club; Ken Thorburn, Brodick Castle and board chairman Ronnie Mann. 01_B03tweY03

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE CHILDREN ENTITLED TO START P1 – SESSION 2021/2022

Children who attain the age of 5 years between 1 March 2021 and 28 February 2022 should be registered to start primary education from August 2021. Registration for August 2021 is an online process and will take place during the period Monday 11 January 2021 and Friday 29 January 2021. Information on how to register your child can be found on the Council's website: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk or by telephoning 01294 310000. You have the choice to submit a placing request to a primary school outwith your catchment area but you must first register with your catchment primary school. If you decide to make a placing request, then you should complete an online placing request application via the Council website: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk, before 15 March 2021. More information on placing request applications and how we process these can also be found on our website. Registration at your catchment area primary school does not guarantee entry to that school.
Andrew McClelland, Head of Service (Education)



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

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 05.02.21. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)
20/01139/PP; Site To West Of The Shore House, Slidery, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Erection of 1 1/2 storey detached dwellinghouse and associated holiday let business comprising one detached cottage and one detached cabin.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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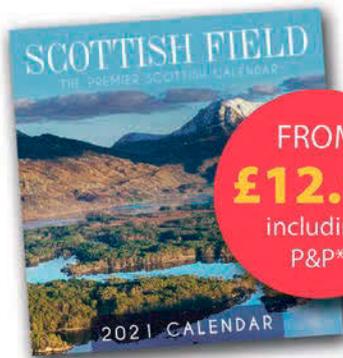
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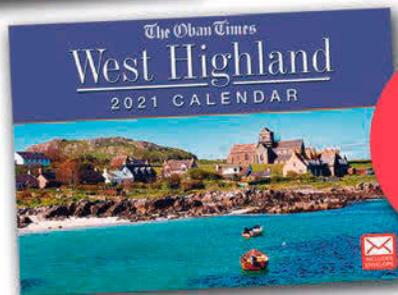
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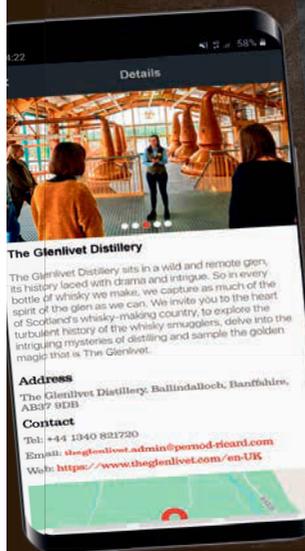
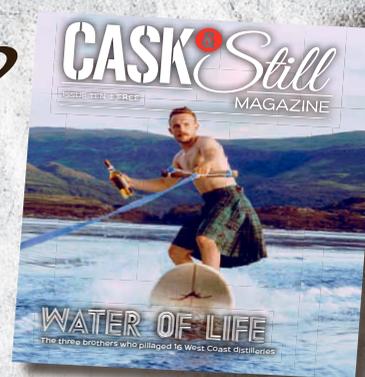
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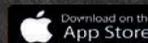
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CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Kilmory linked with Lamash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"
Scottish Charity SC015072
DUE TO THE NEW SCOTTISH
GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION
ON CORONAVIRUS, THE
CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED
FOR WORSHIP UNTIL AT
LEAST THE BEGINNING
OF FEBRUARY.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican
Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
ALL SERVICES ARE
CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE
Services from Christchurch,
Lochgilthead will be available on
Facebook and ZOOM.
Please contact Richard Trewby on
01770-600236
for further information

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

A reminder that our mini-
service is still available every
week on our website: www. arranbaptistchurch.btck.co.uk
If you go to the homepage and
look below the map picture you
will find the link to pick up the
service. To access click on the first
letter of the link.

We would love you to join us.

**HOLY CROSS
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
ANNOUNCEMENT OUR
CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED
FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP
AND MASS FROM FRIDAY
8TH JANUARY TO SUNDAY
31ST JANUARY INCLUSIVE.
REOPENING AFTER 31ST
JANUARY WILL BE SUBJECT
TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
REVIEW.

THE RT REV BRIAN MCGEE,
BISHOP OF ARGYLL AND
THE ISLES WILL CELEBRATE
MASS FROM HIS ORATORY
IN OBAN AT 10AM DAILY.
LIVESTREAM ACCESS IS
AVAILABLE AT
www.rcdai.org.uk

A WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN
IS AVAILABLE BY EMAIL.
PLEASE EMAIL.
peterdwilko@gmail.com
IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE
A REGULAR BULLETIN

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

Bid to get people moving as appetite for exercise wanes

Fitness guru Mr Motivator is
inviting people on Arran and
across Scotland to get moving
in 2021 at the Royal Voluntary
Service Virtual Village Hall.

Exercise makes just over 50
per cent of physically active
over 50s in Scotland surveyed
feel healthier – 52 per cent –
and more positive – 51 per cent –
but the Covid-19 pandemic
and lockdowns are hampering
the motivation to be active.

According to new research
by the Royal Voluntary Service
and People's Postcode Lottery,
one in three people aged over
50 in Scotland surveyed have
exercised rarely or not at all
during the pandemic. More
than one in six – 17 per cent –
said their enthusiasm to ex-
ercise at the pandemic's outset
had waned as time went on.
Colder weather, the inability
to think positively during the
pandemic and being out of
a normal routine were most
commonly to blame.

Keen

Just over seven in 10 – 71 per
cent – of people aged 50 and
over in Scotland surveyed said
they would like to be more
physically active in 2021, with
one in five – 20 per cent – keen
to try something new to moti-
vate themselves to exercise.

Limbering up to kickstart
healthy new year resolutions
is fitness and wellbeing coach
Mr Motivator, who will be
launching Get Moving Week
at the Royal Voluntary Service
Virtual Village Hall with a live,
free 'resolution workout' on

Monday January 18 at 11am.

Get Moving Week takes place
at the Virtual Village Hall
from January 18 to January 22
and features free daily exercise
and dance classes, including
Mr Motivator's live launch
workout and a live dance
class hosted by Strictly Come
Dancing performers Michael
and Jowita, the 2020 winners
of BBC TV's The Greatest
Dancer.

Workout

Mr Motivator, 68, said:
'Whatever age or stage of life
we're at, being physically active
makes us feel stronger, more
positive and energetic and bet-
ter able to face life's challenges
– and there sure are a lot of
those at the moment. I'm look-
ing forward to starting 2021 at
the Virtual Village Hall with a
fun workout that I guarantee
will put a smile on people's fac-
es and get the blood pumping.
Exercise is vital to our health
and wellbeing, so why not start
some new healthy habits right
now by joining in with Get
Moving Week.'

With community exercise
classes and village hall
workouts closed by Covid,
the Royal Voluntary Service
Virtual Village Hall offers
the next best thing – a wide,
ever-growing range of free
online exercise, dance and ac-
tivity classes. From beginners'
ballet, Salsa Fit and Pilates to
Zumba, chair-based routines
and Bollywood dancing,
there's something for everyone
to try all year round, including
those new to exercise.

All classes take place on the
Virtual Village Hall Facebook
page (<https://www.facebook.com/VirtualVillageHall/>)
and are completely free. A
Facebook account is not
required to join in. The classes
can also be found on the Royal
Voluntary Service website and
on YouTube.

Challenging

Sam Ward, director of serv-
ices and deputy chief executive
at Royal Voluntary Service,
said: 'We all know exercise is
good for our minds and bod-
ies, but motivating ourselves to
move more can be challenging,
particularly at this time of year
and as we have re-entered an-
other lockdown. With exercise
classes and venues closed, we



Dancers Michael and Jowita will be hosting a Salsa class on Wednesday.

wanted to provide a place for
people to come together to
exercise, dance, be active and
have fun. The Virtual Village
Hall is free, open to all, with
expert tutors, friendly chat and
a wide range of activities to
try. Whether you join in with
one of our Get Moving Week
live classes or catch up with
a session on-demand to fit your
schedule, I'm sure you'll feel
better for taking part.'

The Virtual Village Hall
is a free online activity hub,
designed by Royal Voluntary
Service and supported by
players of People's Postcode
Lottery, to help people stay

physically and mentally active,
connected, occupied and hav-
ing fun during the Covid-19
pandemic. There are hundreds
of themed sessions and classes
to join in with, from exercise
and dance, music and crafts,
to singalongs, gardening and
cooking demonstrations.

Activities are available seven
days a week and are updated
regularly. Thousands of people
have taken part in the Virtual
Village Hall's classes and
activities which are free to join.
To find out more about the
Virtual Village Hall, visit:
[royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/
virtual-village-hall](http://royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/virtual-village-hall)

ARRAN BANNER GOLF

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday January 5, Winter
Cup: 1 Alex Morrison-Cowan
66; 2 Reuben Betley 74 BIH; 3
Brian Sherwood 74.

Tuesday January 12, Winter
Cup: 1 Alex Morrison-Cowan
68 BIH; 2 Brian Sherwood 68.

Fixtures: Tuesday January 19,
Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee off
noon.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday January 10, Stableford
Sweep, 10 played: 1 Bruce
Jenkins (7) 38 points; 2 Jimmy
Armit (16) 37 points; 3 David
Hendry (18) 36 points acb.



Fixture: Sunday January 17,
Brandon qualifier.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday January 16,
18 hole sweep. Arrange your
own games, two players per
match only. Monday January
18, Monday Cup, noon shot-
gun start. Two players per
match only.

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THE ARRAN
BANNER



Fitness guru Mr Motivator
who will be launching Get
Moving Week.

Boating community urged to follow latest guidance

Visits to boats are allowed if in owners' local authority area

The boating community is being urged by the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Scotland to follow Covid-19 guidance during this new period of national lockdown.

Working with sportsScotland and the Scottish Government, RYA Scotland has produced guidance covering the essentials that affect boating activities.

The revised guidance recognises that travel is severely restricted by law and owners may only travel to their boat if it is kept in the same local authority area that they live in.

RYA Scotland, Sail Scotland and British Marine Scotland have joined together to encourage boat owners to use the services of staff at their storage provider if at all possible, in an effort to avoid making a journey, to respect that those providers may not be able to open and to advise owners to contact boat yards or marinas before travelling to confirm access.

The information is tailored towards RYA affiliated clubs and recognised training centres, including Arran Yacht Club in Lamash, as well as individual members and the wider boating com-

munity across Scotland and is designed to aid boat owners' decision-making process and planning.

James Allan, chief executive officer at RYA Scotland, said: 'Lockdown will be disappointing for everyone, but it is still possible to go boating as a form of exercise and spending some time afloat or near the

'The overriding message for Scotland's boating community is to stay at home wherever possible'

water is great for our wellbeing. It is important to remember we are in the grip of a pandemic that has become significantly worse in recent weeks.

'The overriding message for Scotland's boating community is to stay at home wherever possible as we must all help stop the spread of the virus.'

Maintenance

Importantly in this lockdown, owners may travel within their local authority area to undertake essential maintenance on their boat but may not stay longer than the length



of time required to undertake essential maintenance. In the meantime, RYA Scotland has decided to postpone its directly organised non-virtual events and training in response to these measures to protect participants, volunteers and others and to reduce the risk of placing an additional burden

on the emergency services at what is a hugely testing time.

The RYA will be providing a range of online events and #SailFromHome activity.

RYA Scotland will continue to host its online Connect sessions for clubs and training centres and deliver its regular podcast Off the Water to keep

the boating community informed as the country moves through lockdown.

All quiet at Arran Yacht Club this week. 01_B03yacht01

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