

**FOR SALE**  
Kilreen,  
Brodrick,  
Isle of  
Arran  
**Offers Over  
£260,000**

**JAS CAMPBELL & CO**  
ESTATE AGENTS

Tel: 01770 302027

Find our properties at: [rightmove](#) [TheMarket](#)  
[PrimeLocation](#) [espc](#) [Zoopla](#) [Twitter](#) [Facebook](#)

# THE ARRAN BANNER

**rightmove** **Zoopla**  
Smarter about property

**SEAWINDS**  
3 BED COTTAGE  
CORRIE  
**OFFERS OVER £240,000**

01770 302310 sales@arranestateagents.co.uk

**Arran**  
ESTATE AGENTS  
ARRAN'S ONLY LOCAL ESTATE AGENCY

we  local

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local economy

**THANK YOU**

Every time you pick up a copy of The Arran Banner you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses

# Estimates show tourism income down £35 million

## Ferry passenger numbers suggest visitor figures down by 60 per cent

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran Recovery Group has estimated that the island has lost approximately £35million in tourism income in 2020, based on ferry passenger numbers.

This best estimate by the group, which met recently, paints a concerning picture and with businesses unlikely to open before April this year, the outlook for the 2020/2021 fiscal year appears equally gloomy.

The figure of £35m – compared to an income of £69 million in 2019 – is extrapolated from passenger numbers, which suggest that visitor volume was down by 60 per cent in 2020.

The full financial impact is still to be realised, however, as debts will continue to increase and repayments extend, thus reducing the ability for future

investment. These are the findings of Arran Recovery Group, (ARG) which includes representatives from the Health and Social Care Partnership, Arran Community Council, Visit Arran, Auchrannie, Taste of Arran, Eco Savvy, Arran Development Trust, North Ayrshire Council support, local councillors, Arran High School, ACVS, Arran Ferry Committee, Highlands and Island Enterprise and Arran Economic Group.

While the initial estimates are stark, there is optimism within the group, which plans to refocus its efforts this year.

It will move away from a reactive operational agenda to implementing programmes in its Arran Recovery and Beyond Plan, which includes pushing for special financial support for islands in general and Arran in particular.

The plan focuses on three

main strands of island life – community, environment and economy – through each stage of recovery, underpinned by national and local Health and Social Care Partnership guidance.

At the meeting it was noted that there were many positive developments, including the provision of affordable housing which had been recently approved; the nationwide vaccination programme; and success in the community aspect of the plan, such as mental health progress, youth work and the Arran Community Hub.

Chief among the reasons for optimism is the appointment of an islands manager in mid-March, a post which will be a collaboration between North Ayrshire Council, the Scottish Government and Highland and Islands Enterprise.

Continued on page two.



The winners of the annual Corrie's Capers Art competition have been announced after dozens of entries were received from all over the UK. The competition is a popular addition to the series of books about Corrie the dog, which are based on Arran and beyond. It has also been a welcome distraction for children during the lockdown. Pictured is Eva Curley, seven, from Corriegills with her drawing of Corrie at Glen Rosa which was one of two entries highly commended by the judge. See more entries and winners in the competition on pages eight and nine.



**John Thomson Construction Ltd**

HOUSE BUILDING | CONSTRUCTION | HAULAGE | AGGREGATES | PLANT HIRE

Main Office: Mon - Fri 8am – 5pm

Building Materials & Petrol Station @ Lamlash Yard:

Mon – Fri 8am – 4.30pm

Strict social distancing & face mask requirements apply.

Card payments and orders accepted by phone.

[www.thomsonconstruction.co.uk](http://www.thomsonconstruction.co.uk)

01770 600 242



Park Terrace, Lamlash, KA27 8NB.

Open Mon – Fri 8am – 5pm

All vehicle makes serviced & repaired.  
Car & Motorcycle MOT Testing.

Strict social distancing & face mask requirements apply.  
Appointment bookings & card payments accepted by phone.

01770 600 328

[admin@lamlashgarage.co.uk](mailto:admin@lamlashgarage.co.uk)



Lamlash Garage

# Arran residents urged to follow lockdown guidelines

People on Arran are being urged by Ayrshire's chief superintendent and the NHS director of public health to follow the current lockdown guidelines to help stop the spread of coronavirus in the community, writes Colin Smeeton.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran's director of public health, Lynne McNiven, said: 'We are at a crucial time locally for controlling the spread of Covid-19. 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 health care system.'

'The guidance currently says to stay at home. You should now only leave the house for essential reasons like: getting food or medicines, any medi-

cal need, exercise, to support a vulnerable person or for work where you can't work from home. We cannot meet other households indoors and a maximum of two people, aged 12 and over, can meet outdoors if they are not from the same household. Social distancing rules apply in all vehicles as well as in buildings.'

'Scottish Government advice is that you should only travel with members of your own or extended household.'

'However, we know this may not always be possible in which case precautions should be taken to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission such as: sit as far apart as possible in the vehicle, maintain good ventilation by keeping the car windows open, wear a face mask and clean the door handles and other areas that people touch.'



Chief Superintendent Faroque Hussain said that police would support and encourage lockdown compliance but would act decisively with wilful breaches.



'Remember that if one person tests positive for Covid-19, all people travelling with them in the vehicle are at risk of contracting Covid-19 and will be required to self-isolate. If any one of us breaches the current guidance, there is a significant risk that we could make our family, friends and other close contacts unwell. We also risk setting back the date for the re-opening schools, workplaces and businesses.'

Chief Superintendent Faroque Hussain, divisional

commander for Ayrshire, said: 'We fully recognise the impact these further restrictions have on people's lives. However, it is clear that significant sacrifices are vital to help suppress the spread of coronavirus.'

'The chief constable has made it clear that our approach throughout the pandemic has not changed. Police Scotland officers will continue to support people to follow the regulations and encourage them to take personal responsibility. 'People should not leave their homes unless for essential purposes and the best way to stay safe is to stay at home.'

'We have increased patrols in our communities to explain the regulations and to encourage people to do the right thing. Where officers encounter wilful breaches they will act decisively to enforce the law.'

## SCOTTISH FIELD

— February/March —



Exclusive  
How to plan  
the perfect  
wedding

**Treasure trove...**  
Dunrobin Castle's attic auction revealed...  
Flora Shedden's Bake Off recipes... Kirsty Wark... Wedding planning... Swona's feral cattle... Stunning interiors... Snowdrops in Fife...  
The reluctant West Coast laird...

## Estimates show tourism income down £35 million

Continued from page one.

This aims to breathe new life into island communities and support the implementation of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 and the National Islands Plan, whilst reinforcing green economic recovery in light of Covid-19.

ARG intends to work closely with the island's manager and at its next two meetings, on Friday February 12 and Friday March 12, it will update the plan to support his/her work.

The group paid special attention to financial assistance available to businesses, noting that many were just trying to survive and that it would be harder for businesses to reopen the longer that closures and restrictions continued.

ARG said it would continue to investigate funding streams, noting that there was a vast array of funds, but they could be difficult to navigate and sometimes insufficient.

From a community perspective, ARG found that good progress was being made, most notably with digital support for low-income families with schoolchildren; provision of emergency hampers; financial support and keeping the pub-



Tom Tracey, Arran Economic Group.

lic informed of services and options available to them.

Much of this work was undertaken by Arran Community and Voluntary Service and the Arran Outdoor Centre and Arran High School.

Despite the challenges that lie ahead, with further reduced tourism this year, and with existing government support packages on offer, ARG feels that with good engagement and assistance from all of partners which support the Arran Recovery Plan, Arran remains in a strong position to recover from the socio-economic difficulties faced by the pandemic.

Chairman of Arran Economic Group, Tom Tracey, told the Banner: 'Arran's community, as expected, has pulled together through all

the disruptions created by the virus, with all the examples outlined. Businesses have acted responsibly in servicing locals and visitors, ultimately closing down, when they thought it necessary.'

'Covid-19 continues to cost lives and we are still in the middle of this pandemic. With that backdrop, it may seem crass to talk about community disruption and past financial losses.'

'However, while acknowledging this, we need to apply lessons learned and resources established to plan, support, resource and act our way through the crisis.'

'The plan, Arran Recovery and Beyond, pulls together the great work of individual groups to show the collective Arran effort.'

'Arran is unique in having this evolving document, which like all plans will only be measured in its implementation.'

'Covid-19 impact has been costly. Recovery will be slow but steady. We need to work to retain the balance between community, environment and the economy.'

'All the things that make Arran a special place.'

# Island businesses part of nationwide bid to tackle single-use plastic waste

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Two businesses on Arran have received funding to help reduce unnecessary single-use packaging.

As part of a nationwide effort aimed at helping to reduce waste and to tackle single-use packaging on Scotland's islands, Isle of Arran Brewery, Arran Ice Cream and Taste of Arran have been awarded a share of more than £250,000, along with 20 other island retailers in Scotland.

The funding is provided by the Scottish Government and European Regional Development Fund which, through the Islands Green Recovery Programme Refill Fund, will provide dispensing and other equipment to enable customers to buy grocery products in reusable contain-

## Two Arran companies receive share of funding

ers brought from home. This includes dispensers for dry goods such as cereals, pulses, grains, herbs, spices, pasta and rice, liquid items such as milk, fruit juices, oils and vinegars, and other products such as laundry detergents, washing up liquids, fabric softeners and liquid soaps.

Matthew Dobson of Arran Ice Cream and Taste of Arran said: 'We are delighted to have received funding from the Islands Green Recovery Programme Refill Fund.

'The fund will help us expand Arran milk via vending machines and mini dispensers.

'As well as having milk available to the retail market where customers will be able to refill



Arran Brewery in Brodick has also received funding which will be used to develop their refill programme.

ience of island communities through investment in food sustainability and projects that support and impact upon the green circular economy and related employment.

'All four strands of the £2 million Islands Green Recovery Programme will fund projects that help our island communities to thrive, contribute to our work on repopulation and create jobs.

'In line with the commitments set out in the National Islands Plan, projects will also support and enhance health and wellbeing as well as the development of local supply chains.'

Single-use grocery packaging accounts for around 13 per cent of all household waste. In Scotland around 130kg of packaging per household generates an estimated 650,000 tonnes of global production emissions per year.

using their own containers, we will now be able to offer hospitality businesses local Arran milk while avoiding single-use plastics.

'Investment in food sustainability projects that support local growing and farming will

**One of the Arran milk dispensers that allows customers to refill their own containers and reduce plastic waste.**

have a great impact on Arran's push for a green circular economy and we are excited to be a small part of that.'

Paul Wheelhouse MSP, minister for energy, connectivity and the islands, said: 'The Islands Green Recovery Programme Refill Fund delivers a series of exciting and innovative projects that will support green recovery and carbon emission reductions.

'It will increase the resili-

## Garbh Allt bridge at Glen Rosa reopens

Work to repair the storm-damaged bridge at Glen Rosa, as reported in the Banner last month, has now been completed.

The bridge is once again open for those who wish access to Arran's northern mountains.

The Garbh Allt bridge repair will allow walkers to cross the Garbh Allt burn without using the alternative route east of Rosa burn, unless walkers prefer that scenic route – and means Arran Mountain Rescue Team can use it with its Argocat vehicle. A spokesperson from Arran Rangers Service, in a social media post, said: 'Thanks to support from the community of Arran we have been able to replace the rotten timber bridge with a galvanised steel one. This should last for many, many decades as the timber decking can be replaced while the steel structure remains firm. Although a little stark looking now, the steel should tone down to look more like the surrounding granite



**The new Garbh Allt bridge is constructed of galvanised steel.** Photograph: Arran Rangers Service.

boulders. Many thanks to Murchie Ltd for completing the works on time, despite the added challenges of winter weather and Covid-19 restrictions.

'Huge thanks to The Arran Trust, the Arran Access Trust and the Brown Forbes Memorial Fund. The bridge could not have been replaced without their generous support and funding.'



**The previous Garbh Allt bridge** Photograph: Arran Rangers Service.

## GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCE MARCH 22 CLOSING DATE FOR AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP INCENTIVE

Arrange your home survey today to make sure you do not miss out

*"My house is now always warm and cozy and my bills have halved"*  
*"I no longer worry about the cost of heating my home in the winter"*  
*"I have been delighted with the Service provided by T K Murray: from initial contact they were friendly, helpful and professional. The staff were all really great: no mess, tidy installation and they did the job in less than two days"*

- Funding available from both the UK and Scottish Government
- Over 175 heat pumps installed on Arran alone.
- Full systems installed in less than two days

Air source heat pumps are set to become the most popular way to heat your home. Right now there are very generous Government incentives which cover most of the cost.

**To find out how they work and how much you would get, contact us today.**

## T K Murray Electrical Ltd

Contact Norman Paterson on:  
**07912 346360**

2 U.P. Road, Kilsyth, Glasgow, G65 0BH.  
Telephone: (01236) 730 579  
FAX: (01236) 730 579  
E-mail: info@tkmurray.co.uk



## Ferry terminal hours reduced to protect staff and travellers

CalMac is reducing the opening hours of the ferry terminals at Brodick and Ardrossan.

The hours have been cut to protect staff, visitors and travellers, while also reducing the amount of cleaning precautions that are having to be regularly undertaken.

The change to opening hours, despite travel restrictions forbidding all but essential travel, comes after an increase in the number of people making use of the ferry terminals for non-essential reasons.

The new opening hours at Brodick will be: Monday to Friday and Sunday – 7:30am to 8.30am, 10:15am to 11.15am, 1.15pm to 2.15pm, 3.45pm to 4.45pm, 6.45pm to 7.30pm.

Saturday – 7.30am to 8.30am, 10.15am to 11.15am, 1.15pm to 2.15pm, 3.45pm to 4.45pm.

At Ardrossan the opening times will be: Monday to Saturday – 6am to 7am, 8.45am to 9.45am, 11.30am to 12.30pm, 2.20pm to 3.20pm, 5pm to 6pm.

Sunday – 8.45am to 9.45am, 11.30am to 12.30pm, 2.20pm to 3.20pm, 5pm to 6pm.

Outwith these times there will be no public access to the buildings.

# Ardrossan or Troon ports? Views sought on options

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran Ferry Committee is appealing for community views on whether the ferry service should operate from the Irish berth at Ardrossan or an alternative port during the upgrading of Ardrossan harbour.

Opinions are being sought as material considerations have changed since the Ardrossan Harbour Task Force initially discussed plans.

This includes an indication in the programme that the usual Arran berth could be closed from September 2022 for a period of around 18 months, which would require the service to operate via the Irish berth.

Using the Irish berth could have the potential for disruption due to the weather, where the ferry would be diverted to Troon anyway.

It would also be affected by restrictions due to tidal limitations when the MV Isle of Arran or MV Hebridean Isles are used on the route.

Another consideration is that MV Glen Sannox could be in use on the route prior to the completion of the infrastructure works, and it cannot operate from the Irish berth. It would have to operate from an alternative mainland port, likely to be Troon.

A spokesperson from the Arran Ferry Committee said:

## Harbour closure will mean ferry using different berth on mainland



An artist's impression of how the new Ardrossan ferry terminal may look when completed.

'The upgrade to Ardrossan Harbour will help bring greater resilience and reliability to this vital ferry link, as well as making the experience better for passengers.

'Our aim is to deliver as close to the current ferry service where practicable during the infrastructure works.

'Therefore we are seeking community views as to whether the ferry service continues to operate from Ardrossan by utilising the Irish berth; or operates from an alternative mainland port, likely to be Troon port.

'A further review of capacity utilisation and the refinement of timetables will be undertaken once community preferences are known.'

The survey is open until Friday February 12 and is, in particular, seeking opinions on whether the ferry service should operate from Troon only during the construction period, or if it should operate from two ports, which could carry a higher than usual risk of disruption and cancellation.

The Arran Ferry Committee survey is available at [www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/)



AFCardrossan and anyone that does not use social media, where results will be posted, or the internet can send an email to the Arran Ferry Committee at [ace.contactus@btinternet.com](mailto:ace.contactus@btinternet.com) by Friday February 12.



## CalMac denies delay in vaccine delivery to Arran

Ferry operator CalMac has issued a statement saying that it has successfully delivered supplies of the Covid vaccine to Arran.

This is in response to allegations that the ferry service was responsible for supply delays.

A press release circulated widely on social media, and to the Banner, said: 'West Coast ferry company CalMac has confirmed that it has successfully delivered supplies of the Covid vaccine to Arran.'

'NHS Ayrshire and Arran confirmed that CalMac has fulfilled all requests for the vaccine to be transported to the island, despite untrue allegations that the ferry service was responsible for supply delays.'

Operations Director for CalMac Robert Morrison said: 'Arran residents can be reassured that CalMac has successfully transported supplies of the Covid-19 vaccine to the island every time it has been asked to do so by NHS Ayrshire and Arran. There have been two requested sailings so far, and these took place on December 29 and January 22.'

'CalMac is working closely with NHS Ayrshire and Arran to make sure that vital medical supplies such as the vaccine reach the people who are eligible and we are delighted to play our part in making this possible. Any future requests will of course be supported.'

**Campbell Fuel Oils**  
Is your current supplier letting you down?  
Why not contact Campbell Fuels for a reliable service

The most frequent service on the Isle of Arran supplying heating oil, tractor diesel, derv and a wide range of lubricants

Call us on 01563 521925  
Hurlford Road, Riccarton, Kilmarnock KA1 3LS  
[www.campbellfuels.co.uk](http://www.campbellfuels.co.uk)

**Fourteen years of digital archives**  
Available to Digital subscribers

THE ARRAN BANNER

# Arran Ferry Action Group springs back into action

Arran Ferry Action Group (AFAG) is back in the driving seat after taking a break during the pandemic.

The group had noted that it seemed pointless to lobby when the stock response was pandemic-related, but now feels that the time is right to resume and has submitted this article for the Banner:

## Arran's ferries — Where are they now?

Necessary restrictions since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic have inevitably had consequences for ferry-related issues.

While additional delays to construction may be understandable, any lack of cooperation or communication from those charged with oversight of major projects is not so easily excused.

From the start, much has been made of the laudable commitment to secure 300 jobs at Ferguson Marine, despite the significantly higher cost of UK manufacture.

Ironically, we understand that much of the current work is being carried out by eastern

Europeans brought in by the turnaround director.

If the new ferry is completed when now promised, this is likely to be some time before Ardrossan harbour is able to accommodate it. What happens then? Nobody seems willing to say.

Those responsible for specifying, contracting, purchasing and overseeing the construction of the country's ferry infrastructure, namely CalMac, CMAL and Transport Scotland, are answerable to the Scottish Government.

Following the ferry construction fiasco at Ferguson Marine, which saw the shipyard taken into government ownership, a government inquiry has identified catastrophic failures of



Glen Sannox pictured in January 2021, with little visible progress since November 2020. Photograph: David Millar.

oversight and management by all parties, but those responsible are denying it.

Such belligerence simply won't do. The public deserves better and AFAG, which submitted evidence to the inquiry, will demand that mistakes are acknowledged and not repeated. Only after lengthy

Freedom of Information procedures was Transport Scotland ordered to provide the group with key documents.

A similar attitude pervades local government too, as seen at Ardrossan.

Requests at an executive level to North Ayrshire Council for sight of proposals and plans now go unanswered.

Since its formation back in 2019, AFAG has pleaded to be a part of the Ardrossan Task Force. Its intentions have always been to contribute constructive ideas to avoid further expensive mistakes that hinder, rather than improve ferry resilience and reliability.

Despite representing the majority of island residents as well as many visitors, its involvement has been blocked at all levels, making it impossible for it to hold key people to account. It is still not clear whether funding is in place for this redevelopment.

One is bound to ask why are these people so reluctant to engage with any serious attempt to ensure that money is invested sensibly for the good

of everyone? This cavalier attitude extends further. Contrary to many statements, it now seems likely that Arran's ferry service will divert to Troon during the Ardrossan harbour development, due to Ardrossan becoming unsafe or unsuitable.

With significant implications for connections and timetables, why is AFAG not being told about this? The group believes islanders have the right to know these things that will affect everyone's lives.

At least there is one bit of good news. The linkspan at Gourrock has been repaired and is about to re-enter service, providing a port of refuge when Ardrossan and Troon cannot be used.

CalMac just needs to make use of it to improve the resilience of the island's lifeline service at a stroke. But will it?

## First minister commits to 'look into' ferry disruption

Following an outcry over the Banner's leading story 'Cancer support charity's plea to improve lifeline ferry' last week, Jamie Greene MSP challenged First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at First Minister's Questions.

He asked why island communities were not getting the same standard of healthcare as everyone else in Scotland.

The West of Scotland MSP told Ms Sturgeon: 'First minister I was contacted last week by Arran Cancer Support Trust to raise concerns that many of its patients have been missing vital cancer treatments on the mainland due to the unreliability of the Arran ferry — of course the replacement vessel is now three years late. They've described the situation there as critical. This week a number of 80-year-olds on the island had their Covid vaccinations cancelled because the doses failed to arrive on the island.'

'This simply isn't good enough — we need reliable transportation to our island communities and they deserve the same standard of healthcare as anyone else in Scotland. First Minister why aren't they getting it?'

Ms Sturgeon said that she would look into the issues raised, and added: 'People living in island communities absolutely deserve the same standard of healthcare as anybody living in mainland Scotland. I'm very happy to look into the particular issues that have been raised with recent disruption to the Arran ferry both in terms of hospital appointments but also in terms of vaccinations and get back to the member as quickly as I can.' Commenting on her response, as well as Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP rejecting the conclusions of the investigation by Holyrood's Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee into the han-

dling of the two lifeline ferries, Mr Greene said: 'Our island communities have been repeatedly let down and treated like second class citizens because of the government's shambolic handling of ferry services. Many cancer patients have also struggled to make appointments on the mainland and vaccine supplies have been delayed. We need reliable transportation for all of our island communities and equally they deserve the same access to healthcare as everyone else across Scotland.'

CalMac, in a statement aimed at clarifying what it called 'untrue allegations that the ferry service was responsible for vaccine supply delays', said it had successfully delivered supplies of the Covid vaccine and that NHS Ayrshire and Arran confirmed that CalMac had fulfilled all requests for the vaccine to be transported to the island.

# SUBSCRIBE

to Scottish Field and choose a  
**FREE** bottle of Glasgow Gin,  
Leith Gin or Arran Malt\*



Save 25% on the cover price only £10.69 per quarter delivered direct to your recipients door.

Call 01778 392014 and quote Winter21 or go to [scottishfield.co.uk/subscriptions](http://scottishfield.co.uk/subscriptions)

Brighten up the cold winter days with a subscription to Scottish field magazine. The perfect accompaniment to cosy nights by the fire. Bringing you the very best interiors, antiques, gardens, wildlife, motoring and country news alongside entertaining and informative writing.

\*Terms and conditions apply. For over-18s and UK-based subscribers only. Minimum one year subscription to Scottish Field. Offer ends 28 Feb 2021. While stocks last. Limited stock available, first come, first served basis. By claiming this offer, you agree that you are of UK legal age for purchasing and consuming alcoholic drinks.

for the facts  
[drinkaware.co.uk](http://drinkaware.co.uk)

## LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ**Back to school – a risk, a relief, a return to normal?**

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's announcement of a phased return to school for pupils starting on Monday February 22, will be welcomed by many and approached with caution by others.

The need for children to return to some semblance of normality and to once again enjoy mixing with their peers – so vital during formative years – cannot be underestimated, especially when considering mental health and wellbeing.

Of course, the risks of infection spreading will also weigh heavily on parents' minds as children start to make the return to full-time and part-time education.

Ultimately it is a calculated risk, a difficult balancing act of caution versus the urgent need for pupils to return to education, especially when considering the time that many children have already missed out on face-to-face schooling.

But it is a risk that we have to take sooner rather than later, if we desperately want to lessen the impact on both teachers and pupils of having to try and catch up for months or years to come.

With proper safety measures, a healthy dose of precaution, and parents and pupils continuing to follow guidelines, the risk may just pay dividends and be the success story that we all hope it can be.

With no guarantees or definitive answers we can but hope that the tentative steps to return to formal education are the start on the road to recovery that, coupled with the success of the vaccination programme and virus suppressing lockdown measures, we all so dearly yearn for.

**Thought for the week**

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.' Matt 5:10

## YOURSTORY

email us at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
telephone 01770 302142

**Genealogy challenge**

Sir,  
I wonder if any of your readers might be interested to see this old photograph of some of the children at Dougarie School about 1892.

My grandfather, Duncan McAllister, is in the photo, partially obscured by a smaller boy who I am told was Archie McKenzie.

I think going to school only became compulsory for all children between five and 13 years in about 1880, and clearly wearing shoes was optional. Do school roles survive from the 1890s? Can anyone name the other eight children in the picture?

A genealogy challenge for anyone interested during these strange times when schools are shut due to the pandemic.

Yours,  
**Eric McAllister,**  
Lamlash

**Not all welcome eagle's return to the island**

Sir,  
I don't know of any sheep farmer who would like to see the white-tailed eagle make a return to Arran (Bird Notes, January 29.)

Since its reintroduction to Scotland these birds have caused carnage among sheep flocks, starting with Mull but now quite widespread throughout the west.

Though they feed on fish they have found an easier prey by lifting live lambs in their talons.

Not every bird is guilty but the more they breed (and they are not an endangered species now) the more potential damage and trauma to sheep they create.

Yours,  
**Margie Currie,**  
Blackwaterfoot



Dugarie School, 1892.

seasonal display of Christmas lights outside his house. On behalf of the committee, I also wish to thank all visitors, friends, neighbours and relatives who contributed to the collecting can. The Hospital Supporters' League is extremely grateful for your donations.

Yours,  
**Jim Arnold,**  
Secretary, Hospital Supporters' League

**EU bureaucracy**

Sir,  
I was disappointed that your coverage of the overwhelmingly good news of Covid-19 vaccinations on Arran did not mention the EU.

If the Scottish electorate had had its way and the UK had remained in the EU, we would not have had the vaccine.

The UK, having left the bloc, was able to move quickly to secure supplies of multiple vaccines, while the EU, to quote German newspaper Die Zeit (in an article entitled The Best Advertisement for Brexit), was being 'slow, bureaucratic and protectionist'.

That is why, at the time of writing, the UK has vaccinated more than 11 per cent of its population (albeit with Scotland lagging behind), while the EU drags its heels at under three per cent. With the inevitability of fate, the EU's own web site carries a headline 'Covid-19 vaccines: why so fast?'

Having missed the bus, the EU is (to mix metaphors) auditioning for scapegoats, and has clearly selected AstraZeneca for the part.

If it is successful in its disgraceful planned bullying and protectionism, we may yet be deprived of our second doses of the Pfizer vaccine. I am profoundly grateful to the rest of the UK that we are no longer tied to that awful bureaucracy.

Yours,  
**Richard S Henderson**  
Lochranza

**Grateful thanks for vaccine**

Sir,  
I would be most grateful, if through the Banner, I could thank Arran Medical Group for the prompt and rescheduled Covid vaccination clinic for those of us that had to be turned away last week. It was great that the mainland delivery problem was resolved and now many more of us have been vaccinated so professionally.

Yours,  
**Ian Clinton**  
Shiskine

**Shiskine Hospital Supporters thankful for donation**

Sir,  
The Hospital Supporters' League would like to express its thanks to Bernie Jackson of Montrose Terrace, Whiting Bay, for his generous donation of £248 which he raised with his colourful and

## CONTACTUS

Arran Banner, Brodick, Arran, KA27 8AJ. Phone: 01770 302142

**News editor:** Hugh Boag:  
[editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

**Reporter:** Colin Smeeton:  
[editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

**Advertising:** Cecilia Paul:  
[adverts@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:adverts@arranbanner.co.uk)

## 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](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 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](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk).

The Editor welcomes letters for publication on this page. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, should also be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ. Fax: (01770) 302021. Email [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk) Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.

**ARRAN DELIVERIES**

*We deliver the goods, not excuses*

**Daily collection throughout Ayrshire, Glasgow and surrounding districts**

[www.arrandeliveries.co.uk](http://www.arrandeliveries.co.uk)

**Glasgow Depot**

c/o Hebrides Haulage  
149 Balmoral Street  
Glasgow, G14 0HB  
**Call us on 01475 676255**  
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

We've been in our Glasgow depot for 25 years, our long time friends Hebrides Haulage operate it and provide a great service. We can accept all size of deliveries into Glasgow. Our trucks call in daily to collect all goods destined for Arran.

Anything in before 1pm is guaranteed next morning delivery on the Island. Let us know your requirements when you book in with our office, as well as our speedy parcel service, we offer 2 man delivery and Tailift Service throughout the island. Forklift at depot.

**Ardrossan Depot**

Arran Deliveries  
Parcelpoint Ardrossan  
Ayrshire, KA22 8BZ  
**Call us on 01475 676255**  
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

We are open to accept all your deliveries large and small. A lot of companies won't deliver to Islands, why not use us as your mainland address and let us bring it to your home. We have all the national parcel companies and pallet networks calling in daily to our Parcelpoint. If you are ordering from a few different companies we can

hold it until all your goods have arrived and deliver it all together to your home. If you're needing special arrangements for your delivery we can help. Just let us know your requirements when you book in. Forklift on site for pallets and as well as our speedy parcel services, we offer a 2 man and tailift service throughout the Island.

# Why your business must act now to continue trading with Europe

NEW RULES for doing business with Europe are in place and you must act now to continue trading with the continent. The UK Government has already minimised disruption, staggering border control changes. But you must ...

■ Make customs declarations when exporting goods to the EU – couriers, freight forwarders or customs agents can help.

■ Ensure you have an EORI number starting with GB, check new rules for importing and exporting, and that your goods meet origin rules.

The way we do business with the EU has changed. Many firms are already adapting to the new rules and making plans for the future. If your business has not introduced changes, it is not too late. But you must act now! This is what you need to do.

■ If exporting, you need to check the EU business you're exporting to is also ready. If you're due to travel to the EU for work, you may need a visa or work permit.

■ If you want to hire from outside the UK, including the EU, you must be a Home Office licenced sponsor under the UK's new points-based immigration system.

## MAKE CHANGES

Trading with Europe has changed.

So, to avoid disruption to your company's operations, you need to make changes too.

Visit the [gov.uk/transition](http://gov.uk/transition) site and use the Brexit checker tool to access personalised actions for your company.



**HEADING FOR EUROPE:** New rules are now in place for trading with the continent.

## TEAMWORK IS VITAL

Teamwork is the secret of UK transition success, according to an award-winning Cumbrian family business.

"There are UK Government website resources," confirms Barry Leahey, MD of ninth generation family firm Playdale Playgrounds.

"There's also the Department for International Trade. The CBI has an excellent website, there's lots of assistance on there, as does the IOD and local chambers.

"We've accessed all these great resources to create an action sheet. All the information is out there.

"You've got to do your research but you only have to do it once," continues the business



### PLAYDALE PLAYGROUNDS

boss who "sells fun all over the world", his 100-plus workforce supplying 51 countries.

"In the first weeks of January we've got goods on the road. What we're finding is our European partners, who we've prompted, have also been breaking old habits and creating new ones

"I think everything's going smoother than we expected."

## 'IT'S NOT A HASSLE'

Companies still preparing for the new rules should not "bury their heads in the sand."

"It will sort itself out. You have to deal with things you've never dealt with before. But, once you've put the systems in place, it's not as big a hassle as you think," assures James McGoldrick.

Bradfords successfully supplies luxury hampers, baskets and gift sets to the EU and beyond thanks to following UK Government guidelines.

"The UK Government website was very good, it took you through everything," he confirms, reassuring other operators who must now swiftly follow suit that "these things are all quite quick actually."



### BRADFORDS BAKERS

His firm's preparation ensured EU trade is now "incredibly busy" and it is currently operating at an estimated 350% up on last year's trade.

"It helped that we had all our ducks in a row. The UK Government website was very clear on certain things we had to do."

## 'YOU'RE NOT ALONE'

"We're all in this together" reassures a South Wales company chief whose family firm is successfully trading under the new rules.

Two thirds of Neath-based Naissance's essential oil sales are with "important trading partners" within the EU.

"My advice is don't bury your head in the sand," advises Jem Skelding, who employs over 100 staff.

"We're all trying to figure this out. If you are struggling with it, or finding it difficult, you're not alone, there's help and advice.

"The UK Government website has lots of useful information.

"The light at the end of the tunnel is we're seeing progress, things are improving. Try to see



### NAISSANCE

the positives." Jem stresses urgent action from business is required regarding VAT, GDPR, EU workers, duty deferment, terms and conditions, contracts, customs declarations and agents as well as Economic Operators Registration and Identification numbers.

"As things settle down, new opportunities will undoubtedly present themselves."



## New rules for business

Doing business with Europe has changed.

Act now at [gov.uk/transition](http://gov.uk/transition)

All together >

# Corrie's Art Competition sees



Meredith Mckie, five, with her winning picture and prize in the age six and under category.

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The winners of Corrie's Art Competition have been announced after an independent judge completed the difficult task of selecting winners from more than 40 entries received from all over Scotland and beyond.

Corrie's Art Competition, which started in 2018, proved so successful that organisers decided to host another this year, albeit under strict lockdown conditions.

An exhibit of entries, as with the previous competition, is still planned at Arran Active during Easter or summer – when it is possible to do so.

The competition is an offshoot of the popular not-for-profit series of Corrie's Capers books about Corrie the dog, written by Arran author Alison Page, which support charity Mary's Meals.

Knowing that travelling is no longer permitted, Alison suggested the memories of favourite places visited in Scotland could be the ideal theme for Corrie's competition.

Throughout tier four lockdown, children and adults began putting pens, pencils and paint to paper to create their own masterpieces with more than 40 entries arriving from children living on Arran, Dumfries, Livingston, Glasgow, Bridge of Allan, Dunoon and Argyll. The winner of the adult class came from Hull.

Independent judge Jean Bowden, who also judged the competition in 2018, had the difficult task of picking the best artists.

They are: Meredith Mckie, five, from Lamlash, who won the age six and under category. Meredith drew Corrie at Sannox Beach.

Lucia Farquhar, 11, from Bridge of Allan, won the age seven and over category with her painting of Corrie at Edinburgh Castle.

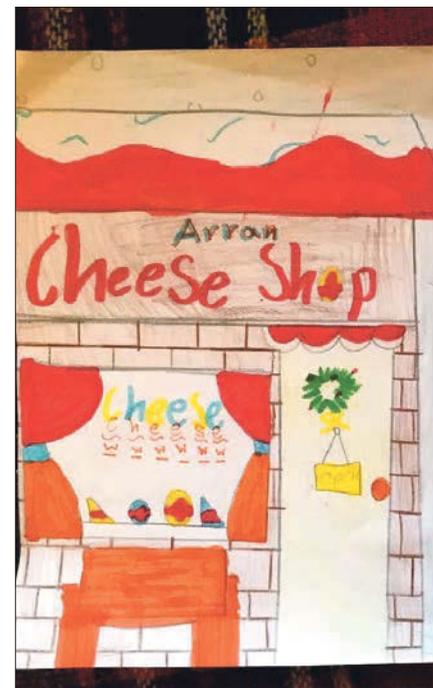
Kirsty Palmer from Hull won the adult category with her painting of Corrie looking out to Holy Isle.

In addition to the winners, there were two highly commended awards: Rowan Saunders, six, from Livingston, for her drawing of Corrie at North Berwick, and Eva Curley, seven, from Corriegills, for her drawing of Corrie at Glen Rosa.

Commendations were also awarded to: Maya Wals, four, from Dunoon – Corrie in her garden; Ava McNeice, 10, from Blackwaterfoot – Corrie and The Kelpies; Ola Wals, eight, from Dunoon – Corrie at Ostel Bay; Sam Goronwy, eight, from Corden – Corrie overlooking Holy Isle; and Hari Boss, nine, from Glasgow – Corrie at the Arran Cheese Shop.

The lucky winners received a Corrie's Capers tote bag full of goodies including a set of books signed by Alison and Tony van Breugel and Kirsty Oxley, the illustrators.

Commendations were also rewarded with a signed book and a book token to select a book of their choice.



Above: Hari Boss, nine, from Glasgow, entered his picture of Corrie at the Arran Cheese Shop, which received a commended prize.

# S&S SERVICES

## SCOTLANDS NO1 SUBARU AND ISUZU DEALER

**WE ARE STILL HERE FOR YOU**  
Working to government guidelines,  
we ask that you call our workshop  
or showroom 01292 880080

**WE'VE REDEFINED THE PICK-UP.**

**ISUZU**  
THE PICK-UP  
PROFESSIONALS

THE ALL-NEW ISUZU D-MAX.  
COMING TO OUR SHOWROOM SOON.

## REGULAR DELIVERIES IN THE ISLAND



**FANTASTIC OFFERS ON PRE-REG PLATES. CALL FOR MORE DETAILS.**

HEATHFIELD, AYR KA8 9SX

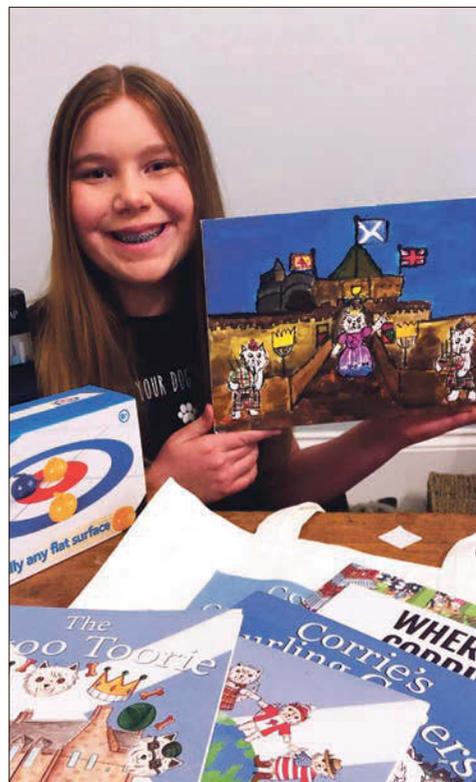
TEL: 01292 880080 or JOHN: 07831 808702



# Entries from across the UK



Right: Rowan Saunders, six, from Livingston, with her highly commended prizes for her drawing of Corrie at North Berwick.



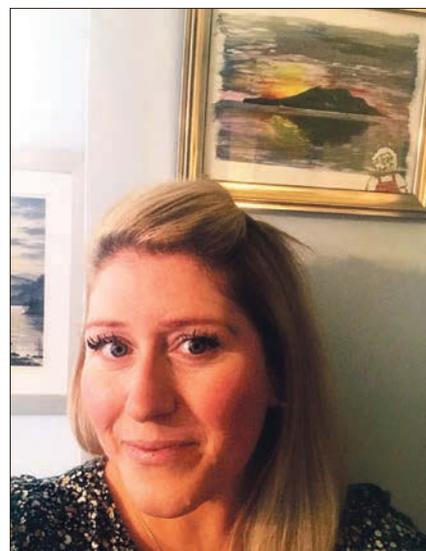
Lucia Farquhar, 11, won the age seven and over category with this painting of Edinburgh Castle.



Another commended entry was this picture of Corrie overlooking Holy Isle by Sam Gornwy, eight, from Corden.



Maya Wals, four, from Dunoon, received a commended award for this picture of Corrie in her garden.



Adult category winner Kirsty Palmer, from Hull, with her painting of Corrie looking out to Holy Isle.



Ola Wals, eight, from Dunoon submitted this picture of Corrie at Ostel Bay which was commended by the judge.

# THANK YOU

for continuing to support your local newspaper

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local economy



So every time you pick up a copy of The Arran Banner you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses

## Arran Banner

we  local

# Early Years enrolment is taking place online

Owing to the pandemic and to avoid unnecessary travel, North Ayrshire Council is asking parents and carers to complete an online form for Early Years registration this year.

Online registration for all three and four-year-old places will be via the North Ayrshire Council website and applications will be open until Wednesday February 10.

Applications received after this date will still be considered but there may be a reduced choice of days and sessions available for children to access. The online application form should also be used for applications for blended placements – where parents choose to use more than one provider for their funded sessions and one of the providers is a North Ayrshire Council Early Learning and Childcare establishment.

If parents/carers choose to use all their funded hours



**Parents and carers of three and four-year-old children need to register for Early Learning and Childcare placement before February 10.**

with a funded provider or childminder they should contact them directly to discuss availability of places. Parents should upload their child's birth certificate and proof of address at the time of submitting their online application.

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

had to amend our procedure for Early Years registration this year. This change is to make sure we keep you safe and reduce the need for people to attend their local Early Years centre to enrol their child.

'We understand that not everyone will be able to access the online registration form, if this is the case then please contact our customer services team on 01294 310000 who will be able to assist further.'

Applications for three to five-year-olds can be found at [www.online.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/OnlineServices/ReportOnline/ELC35YOApp.aspx](http://www.online.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/OnlineServices/ReportOnline/ELC35YOApp.aspx) and for two-year-olds it is at [www.online.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/OnlineServices/ReportOnline/ELC2YOApp.aspx](http://www.online.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/OnlineServices/ReportOnline/ELC2YOApp.aspx)

Parents/carers may also be eligible for the Scottish Government's Scottish Child Payment (£40 every four weeks) which opens on Monday February 15 – [www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment/](http://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment/)

# Public warned about vaccine scam messages

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Fraudsters hoping to prey on members of the public waiting to receive an invitation for their coronavirus vaccination have been targeting people on Arran and across Scotland with vaccine scams that are being sent via email and text message.

The proliferation of these scams has prompted NHS Ayrshire and Arran to issue a warning to members of the public to be vigilant and offer advice on what to do if anyone receives a suspicious email or text message.

The fraudulent messages contain content that suggest an individual is eligible to apply for the vaccine and require a link to be clicked.

Clicking on the link will then lead to the person being asked to enter personal details and may even ask for payment.

What to do if anyone receives a scam email or text:

- Do not click on links.
- Do not call or send a message to any of the numbers.
- Do not respond to the email.
- Delete the message.
- Call 101 if you are concerned you have been a victim of a scam.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran Chief Executive John Burns explains: 'The Covid-19 vaccine is delivered by the NHS.

'The rollout of the vaccine provides reason to be hopeful and we know that receiving

a text, email or call about it may seem exciting, but we must make sure we don't get complacent when it comes to scams.

'Everyone must remain vigilant and tell family and friends what to look out for to help avoid them being scammed.'

Chief Superintendent Faroque Hussain, divisional commander for Ayrshire, said: '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.

'We will pursue anyone who sets out to cause harm and misery to our communities and our officers work closely with partners to make Scotland a hostile environment for scammers.

'Be aware an unsolicited telephone call, email or text message may not be from the person or organisation it appears to be from.

'Never click on a link in a message you're not expecting, and remember the NHS will never ask you for money relating to the Covid-19 pandemic.'

Top tips for spotting a scam message:

- Unexpected contact – cold calls or unexpected emails or messages should raise suspicion, especially if you are asked to give personal or payment details.
- Check for spelling or grammar errors – genuine organisations will rarely, if ever, make glaring spelling

mistakes or grammatical errors, and if so it will usually be an isolated incident. If the message does not look professional, it is probably a scam.



**People are warned NOT to respond to these messages.**

mistakes or grammatical errors, and if so it will usually be an isolated incident. If the message does not look professional, it is probably a scam.

■ Check the sender's address/number – often this will not be one linked to the organisation. This can be checked by doing a quick online search.

■ Be aware of short deadlines – phrases such as 'must respond today' and 'reply within 24 hours' are designed to panic you into taking action.

Arran patients will receive a telephone call with their appointment details when it is their turn to be vaccinated, however, in places on the mainland appointments are being made by letter.

It is important to remember that vaccines are free and the NHS will never ask for payment.

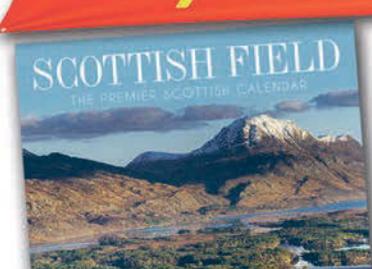
## The Ideal Gift

### SCOTTISH CALENDARS 2021

1/2

PRICE

SALE



FROM **£4.49** including P&P\*



FROM **£6.49** including P&P\*



FROM **£4.49** including P&P\*

Enjoy Scotland at its best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. To see all the images from our 2021 range visit:

www.scottishcalendars.co.uk

\* additional P&P charges will apply to EU/ROW

ORDER ONLINE at [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

or call us on **01778 392014**

OR POST ALL ORDERS to: Wyvex Media Subscriptions, FREEPOST RUAC-JUXA-GYAU  
Warners Group Publications plc, The Maltings, West Street, Bourne, Lincolnshire PE10 9PH

**IMPORTANT - Public Health Message!** Decide whether if you want to be vaccinated - Message on 12-January-21 14:57:11 BST - Your NHS.CO.UK order #203-9320557-23482748 has been dispatched Today, 13:14

Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS  
Dear [redacted]  
The NHS is performing selections for coronavirus vaccination on the basis of family genetics and medical history.  
You have been selected to receive a coronavirus vaccination.  
**NOTE: The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is safe and effective. It gives you the best protection against coronavirus.**  
Use this service to confirm your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination.  
**You will need to:**  
\* have 2 doses of the coronavirus vaccination at 2 appointments  
\* book both appointments at the same time  
\* get the 2nd dose 3 to 4 weeks after getting your 1st dose  
**Who can use this service**  
You can only use this service if you have received an email/SMS regarding this invitation. You can not use

COVID-19 vaccination: for immediate action | Ticket No. 192383 - 3349655003  
NHS | Covid-19 - Customercare  
To: [redacted]  
Mon 25/01/2021 22:39  
**NHS**  
Date: Mon Jan 25 2021  
Dear [redacted] Your are eligible to apply for your vaccine  
We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. The NHS is performing selections for coronavirus vaccination on the basis of family genetics and medical history. The NHS will contact you when it's your turn to have the coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination. You are required to reply to this email within 24 hours of this notification.  
**Book your appointment now**  
This is an automatically generated email. Please do not reply as the email address is not monitored for received mail.  
NHS 2021 Crown Copyright - All rights reserved

**RE:NHS COVID-19 Vaccination appointment 08:36:54-01/27/21 #14703781536026**  
**NHS**  
[redacted]@hotmail.com,  
AS PART OF THE GOVERNMENT'S COORDINATED RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS, NHS IS PERFORMING SELECTIONS FOR CORONAVIRUS VACCINATION ON THE BASIS OF FAMILY GENETICS AND MEDICAL HISTORY.  
**YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO RECEIVE A CORONAVIRUS VACCINATION**  
**USE THIS SERVICE TO CONFIRM/REJECT YOUR CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) VACCINATION:**  
[NHS - ACCEPT INVITATION >>>](#)  
[NHS - DECLINE INVITATION >>>](#)

Examples of scam texts and emails which have been received from fraudsters.



UK Government  
Scotland

**NHS**  
SCOTLAND

# LOOK HIM IN THE EYES

# AND TELL HIM YOU ALWAYS KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE.

*Anthony Covid-19 patient*

Around 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and are spreading it without knowing. Are you absolutely positive you're not one of them? Only go out if essential. Sticking to the rules stops the spread.

**STAY HOME ▶ PROTECT THE NHS ▶ SAVE LIVES**

# Arran's rocky reefs

Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters has officially been extended to 2021, given many events and promotions couldn't go ahead this year as a result of the pandemic.

To recognise this, and to raise the

profile of the many exciting habitats and species we find in Arran's seas, many protected by the South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA), the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is running a year-long

media campaign to raise awareness. Each month, they will focus on a particular habitat or collective group of inter-linked species. There is more information on COAST social media or visit [www.arrancoast.com](http://www.arrancoast.com).

If you have walked along any of Arran's coastline you will know just how varied and spectacular it can be and this coastal scenery can give us some idea of what the adjacent seabed might look like.

Where the rock and boulders of the shore extend underwater, they form rocky reefs which sometimes end abruptly in shallow water or, at other locations, disappear into the depths. In contrast to Arran's living reefs that were described in the Banner last month, rocky reefs are a result of the local geology and many of the plants and animals that live on the reef habitat actually spend their whole life attached to the rock.

The island of Pladda, within the South Arran MPA, is a distinctive landmark off the southern coast of Arran. While this substantial rock outcrop is high enough to appear above the sea's surface, nearby there are other similar rocky outcrops that are submerged below the waves, forming part of Arran's rocky reef habitat.

One such reef, known as Roraima Reef by local divers, appears to be as spectacular and mysterious as Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *Lost World* which itself was based on an actual location in South America which bears this name.



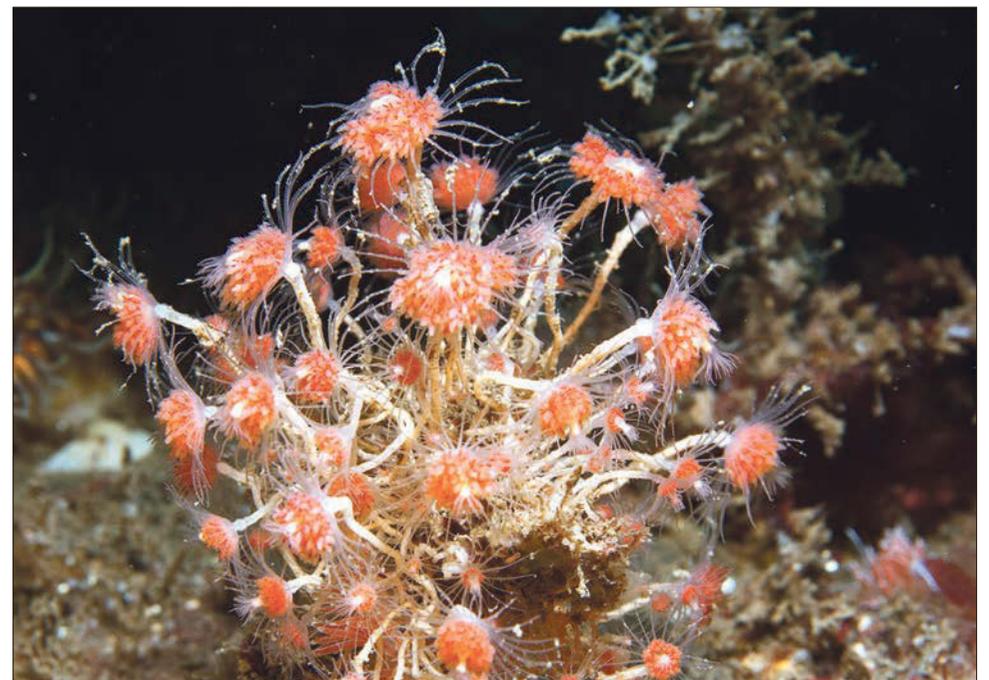
Left: Ballan wrasse and soft corals. Photograph: Howard Wood.

Roraima Reef is as dramatic as its name suggests, its sheer rock walls rising abruptly from the surrounding seabed. In places, this reef is carpeted by an assortment of vibrantly-coloured elegant anemones which look like tightly-packed flower heads. Elsewhere are clusters of the much larger orange or white plumose anemones, which can grow up to 30cm tall and are topped by a fluffy-looking circle of tentacles.

Other parts of this rocky reef are dominated by bulbous fingers of the soft coral 'dead man's fingers' along with colonies of less familiar-looking marine animals such as sea firs and sea mats.

Around all the life attached to the rock are bustling mobile animals which include brilliant red starfish, beautiful sea slugs and sea snails and more familiar crabs and fish.

Roraima reef is really impressive, not only because of its dramatic underwater landscape but also in terms of the marine life that thrives on it. Bedrock reefs like Roraima are unusual around Arran as the underwater rocky reefs are more commonly formed by boulders. As well as rocky reefs that fringe the island, isolated patches of bedrock and boulders occur further from the coast, interspersed with gravel, sand and mud. The prominent volcanic dykes



Sea Fir. Photograph: Lucy Kay.

that are such a distinctive part of Arran's coastline are also present underwater, forming substantial underwater reef walls in some places.

In shallower water, seaweeds generally dominate the reefs

with large brown kelp plants forming underwater forests together with a dense understory of smaller red seaweeds. The level of light in the sea reduces significantly with increasing depth and as seaweeds, like plants on land, need light to grow, changes in light levels result in distinct seaweed zones depending on how much light the different species need to survive.

#### Light levels

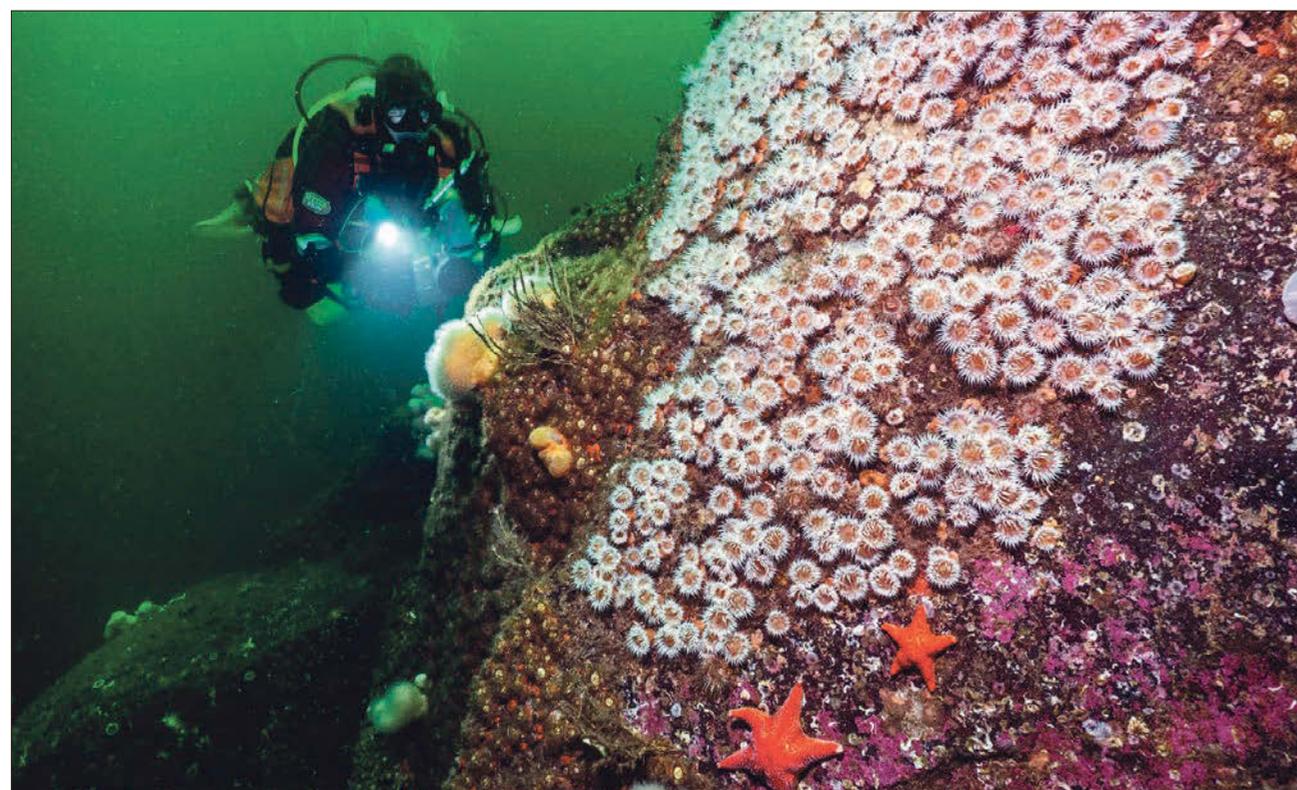
They do not grow so well, or at all, on less well-lit vertical rock faces or in deeper water. As light levels dwindle with increasing depth, seaweeds can no longer survive and the rocky reef habitats become dominated by animal life, much of which can look plant-like.

Animals such as the antenna hydroid, or delicate, colourful feather stars challenge our views of animal forms. Even more unusual are creatures like sea squirts which, like most of the animals attached to the rock, feed by capturing food such as plankton from the water. Rocky reefs are an essential habitat for many different mobile species including commercially important lobsters and crab. A wide variety of fish species

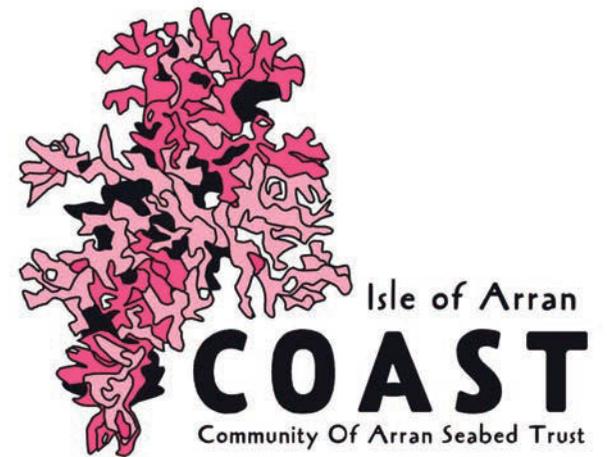
also choose to live on the reefs. These range from small fish, such as the bottom-dwelling leopard-spotted goby which shelters in spaces within the rock or under boulders, to larger fish such as wrasse that often live as a group in defined territories.

Wrasse feed around and over the reef and make use of rock crevices or purpose-built seaweed nests to lay their eggs. In recent years, wrasse species around Arran and elsewhere around Scotland and the UK have been the target of unmanaged fisheries that are supplying wrasse as cleaner fish to the salmon aquaculture industry and their numbers appear to be dwindling.

The variation in reef habitat that occurs around Arran provides many different opportunities for marine life. Some species, such as those on Roraima reef, thrive in locations exposed to greater wave action and faster water currents, whereas other species prefer much more sheltered conditions. The sometime subtle changes in conditions at different locations around the island means Arran's rocky reefs support a wide diversity of marine life which our protected area helps preserve.

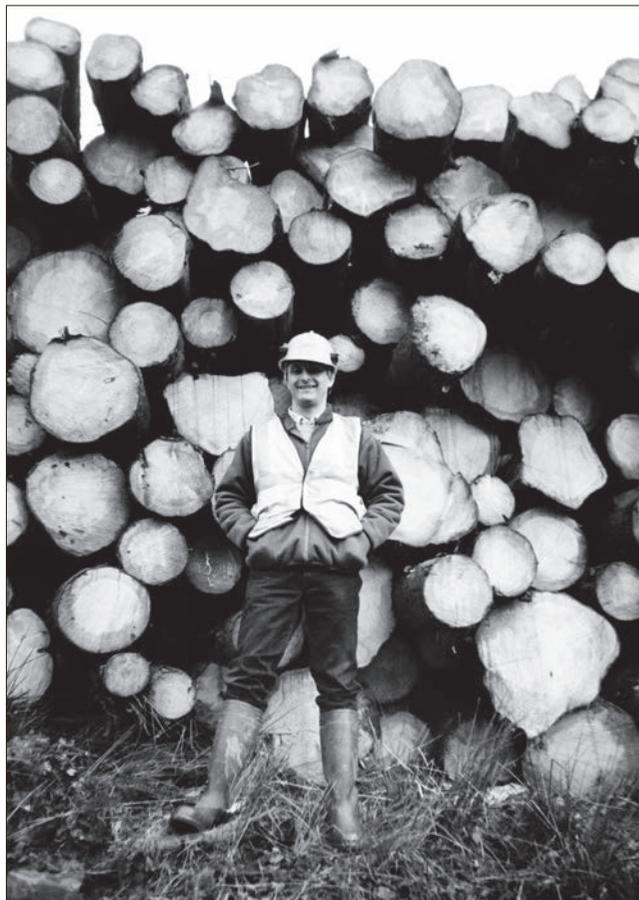


A diver and elegant anemones at Roraima Reef. Photograph: Paul Kay.



# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday February 3, 2001



Head forester at Forest Enterprise Andy Walker is dwarfed by a pile of timber from trees being harvested on Forestry Commission land above Brodick Castle. 01\_B06TweYa01



Above: Last weekend, Arran's newly-established women's rugby team headed to Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh, for a two-hour training session with some of Scotland's finest rugby players. These included Scottish women internationalists, ladies' first division coaches and Glasgow Caledonian players. 01\_B06TweYa06



Graham Dobson, coach of the Arran Ladies Rugby team, puts his players through their warm-up routine before their training session at Murrayfield Stadium in Edinburgh. 01\_B06TweYa02



Arran has a special visitor this month, Indian sculptor Kirti Patel. This versatile artist is best known for his bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Saughton Park in Edinburgh. While here he hopes to sculpt a well-known Arran figure. 01\_B06TweYa03



Julie Gurr, with the help of pupils from Corrie School, has created a living sculpture in the school grounds. Made of willow, the dome is large enough for the children to use as a sheltered area. 01\_B06TweYa04



Richard Wilkinson is returning to Arran politics. A familiar figure on Arran during the 1980s, having been a Strathclyde councillor for nine years, he is returning as a prospective parliamentary candidate for Cunninghame North. 01\_B06TweYa05

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

## CLASSIFIEDS

## PAINTER AND DECORATOR



**FULTON**  
decorators

LAMLASH  
TEL/FAX 01770 600705  
Est. 1985

SCOTTISH DECORATORS  
ASSOCIATION MEMBER

- All paintwork undertaken
- Any job, large or small
- Paper hanging
- Floor sanding & sealing
- Phone Gavin Fulton for a free estimate

## INSURANCE SERVICES

Sponsored by NFU Mutual  
Campbeltown. Call Chris Husthwaite  
on 01586 552 428 for your  
insurance needs



**NFU Mutual**  
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

## SELF STORAGE

## ARRAN SELF STORAGE



- small & large cabins
- climate controlled
- condensation free

**CONTAINER STORAGE NOW AVAILABLE**

Gavin Fulton 01770 600705  
www.arranstorage.co.uk

**Need something  
from our archives?**

Digital subscribers get automatic access  
to fourteen years of digital archives.

**Subscribe now.**



## PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be  
examined online at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](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 26.02.21.  
Any representations received will be open to public view.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT  
PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 Regulation 20(1)**  
21/00045/PP; Site At Cnoc Na Dail, Sliderry, Brodick, Ayrshire; Installation of 35m  
lattice mast, supporting 3 no antenna, 2 no 600mm dishes, together with 3 no  
associated ground based equipment cabinets contained within a foul weather enclosure,  
1 no meter cabinet, satellite dish and ancillary development thereto including a  
generator, housed within compound.  
21/00049/PP; Levancorach Farm, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Modification  
of planning permission 16/00879/PP to amend house type on plot 2.  
21/00059/PP; Merkland Wood, Brodick, Ayrshire, KA27 8AJ; Formation  
of 1300m of new forest track to facilitate forest operations.

Craig Hatton  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



## Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010  
THE MARINE LICENSING  
(PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION)  
(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Hydro Electric Power  
Distribution plc a company registered in Scotland under number  
SC213460 having its registered office at Inveralmond House,  
200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3AQ plans to hold an online pre-  
application consultation event between **2pm and 6pm on  
Thursday 18th of March 2021.**

The meeting is in regard to the installation of a submarine  
electricity cable across Kilbrannan Sound from the environs of Port  
na Cuile, Carradale to Balliekie, Arran. The replacement cable is  
critical for a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our customers.  
The area of search corridor for the proposed submarine cable is  
defined by the approximate coordinates below:

Point	Latitude (WGS-84)	Longitude (WGS-84)
1	550 35.703' N	0050 28.155' W
2	550 36.122' N	0050 28.467' W
3	550 36.427' N	0050 25.861' W
4	550 36.138' N	0050 23.099' W
5	550 35.641' N	0050 22.741' W
6	550 35.805' N	005025.791' W

Should you wish to participate in the online event or register initial  
comment on the proposed installation of a submarine electricity  
cable, then you can do so by writing to us at:

submarinecables@sse.com

Or by post to: Submarine Cable Team, Inveralmond House,  
200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3AQ. Further registration details will  
be provided upon receipt of correspondence.

Comments on this licensable marine activity should be dated and  
clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or  
postal address of those making comment. Comments made to  
the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish  
Ministers. If Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution submits  
an application for a marine licence to Scottish Ministers, an  
opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the  
Scottish Ministers on the application.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/arranbanner](http://www.facebook.com/arranbanner)

## RECRUITMENT

Job Opportunity with  
North Ayrshire Council

**Roads Foreperson | NAY07158**  
**37 Hours per Week | £26,769.20 - £29,202.77**

**Goldcraigs Depot, Kilwinning**

**Closing date 9th February 2021**

**For further details and to apply visit**  
[www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/north-ayrshire-council](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/north-ayrshire-council)



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siarachd Air a Tuath



We are an equal opportunities employer so please inform  
us of any special needs you may have.

## PROPERTY

## WANTED URGENTLY

Professional keyworker married couple  
seeking dog friendly accommodation to  
rent on Arran due to employment.

Non smokers.

Two non destructive house trained dogs.

**Please contact Roxi**  
**on 07845 097225 thanks.**

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE  
FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of  
advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited on the one part and  
the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and  
provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the  
public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code  
of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.  
4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers'  
order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing  
deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the  
whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any  
dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters  
will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial  
failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any  
advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the  
printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher

will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be,  
or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will  
be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no  
circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed  
the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in  
connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type  
and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

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

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Parishes of North Arran, Broddick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine

*Independent but working together*  
CHURCHES IN NORTH  
ARRAN PARISHES WILL BE  
CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER  
NOTICE. THERE WILL STILL  
BE ON-LINES SERVICES AND  
FOOD BANK WILL STILL BE  
AVAILABLE.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
Whiting Bay and Kildonan  
Church of Scotland  
Charity Number: SC014005  
DUE TO THE NEW SCOTTISH  
GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION  
ON CORONAVIRUS, THE  
CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED  
FOR WORSHIP UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"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  
FURTHER NOTICE.

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

## DEATH

**THORBORN** – Peacefully at  
home on 23rd January 2021,  
Simon Peter, aged 52 years.  
Another legend gone too  
soon. Donations if desired  
to ARCAS or The Beatson  
Cancer Research.

### ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

A reminder that our mini-  
service is still available every  
week on our website: [www.  
arranbaptistchurch.btck.co.uk](http://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  
RESTRICTIONS OUR  
CHURCH REMAINS CLOSED  
FOR MASS AND PUBLIC  
WORSHIP UNTIL FURTHER  
NOTICE

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](http://www.rcdai.org.uk)

A WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN  
IS AVAILABLE BY EMAIL.  
PLEASE EMAIL [peterdwilko@  
gmail.com](mailto: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

**BANNER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BANNER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BANNER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BANNER  
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Police Scotland urges people to take care as outdoors incidents rise

Hill walkers and people  
visiting beauty spots are  
being urged to enjoy their  
outdoor recreation in line  
with government regulations  
and ensure they are prepared  
for all eventualities following  
a number of recent mountain  
rescue incidents in Scotland,  
writes Colin Smeeton.

Over the past two months  
(December 2020 and January  
2021), Police Scotland has  
received 46 calls to search  
and rescue incidents across  
the country. A total of six  
fixed penalty notices have  
been issued and six people  
charged with culpable and  
reckless conduct. The same  
period prior to the pandemic  
in 2019/2020 saw 55 such  
incidents recorded.

Police Scotland's three  
Mountain Rescue Teams work  
in partnership with volunteer  
mountain rescue teams, such  
as the Arran Mountain Rescue  
Team, and other emergency  
services and have recently had  
to attend a number of incidents  
where people have travelled  
out with their local authority  
areas and required assistance  
due to being ill-prepared.

Assistant Chief Constable  
Alan Speirs said: 'I fully  
appreciate the restrictions  
affect how we live our lives and  
spend our free time, however,  
the best way to stay safe is to  
stay at home.'

'To protect the NHS we also  
need to protect our volunteers  
and emergency service col-  
leagues who, by the nature of



Police Scotland's  
Mountain  
Rescue Teams  
work in partner-  
ship with the  
Arran Mountain  
Rescue Team  
who are  
pictured during  
a previous train-  
ing exercise.

their work, put themselves at  
risk each time they're called to  
an incident.

'We have been very clear  
that we will not be routinely  
stopping vehicles or setting up  
road blocks. However, officers  
may in the course of their  
duties come across people who  
are travelling from one local  
authority area to another.'

'The chief constable has  
made it clear that our approach  
throughout the pandemic  
has not changed. Officers will  
continue to support people to  
follow the regulations and en-  
courage them to take personal  
responsibility. The vast major-  
ity of people have stepped up  
to take responsibility and our  
determination and collective  
effort to tackle this virus must  
now continue through these  
difficult times.'

'If you do find yourself in  
need of assistance because of  
being lost, injured, or in an  
emergency when outdoors,  
then phone 999, ask for police  
then mountain rescue. You  
will be helped.'

Scottish Mountain Rescue  
has a checklist to consider  
before enjoying the great out-  
doors, it includes:

■ Check the mountain  
weather forecast – pay particu-  
lar attention to wind speed,  
temperature and cloud cover.

■ Take warm layers, water-  
proof clothing, hat, gloves and  
boots with good grip plus a  
headtorch with spare batteries.

■ Pack plenty of food and  
drink to keep you going, plus  
some extra just in case.

■ Build up your navigation  
skills and confidence with  
shorter, smaller days before

taking on bigger hills and  
longer days.

■ Be prepared to turn back  
if the weather or conditions  
change.

■ Let someone know where  
you are going, what time  
you will be back and what to  
do if you don't return when  
expected.

■ If you are injured or lost  
and can't get off the hill call  
999 and ask for police and  
mountain rescue.

Scottish Government guid-  
ance on reasonable excuses to  
go out includes local outdoor  
sport or exercise, walking,  
cycling, golf, or running that  
starts and finishes at the same  
place (which can be up to five  
miles from the boundary of  
your local authority area) as  
long as you abide by the rules  
on meeting other households.

## ARRAN BANNER GOLF

### Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday February  
6, 18-hole sweep. Monday  
February 8, Monday Cup,  
noon ballot. Two balls only as  
per current Covid rules.

### Broddick Golf Club

Sunday January 31, Winter  
Cup Stableford, 25 played.  
Alastair Dobson 12, 40pts,  
Douglas Robertson 17, 39pts,  
ACB, Alistair Hume 14, 39pts,  
ACB.

Fixture: Sunday February 7,  
sweep.



### Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday January 31, Winter  
Stableford. 1 Ian Bremner  
39pts, 2 Paul Jameson 37pts,  
(BIH), 3 Derek Harrison 37pts.  
Best scratch, Ian Bremner

31pts. Magic twos, Alan Smith  
and Ian Bremner, both at  
16th.

Fixtures: Sunday February  
7, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am  
and noon starts. Thursday  
February 11, Yellow Medal,  
draw at 11am.

### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday February 6,  
Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off  
noon. Tuesday February 9,  
Winter Cup, tee-off noon.



Lamlash golf course

**Need something  
from our archives?**

Digital subscribers get automatic access  
to fourteen years of digital archives.

**Subscribe now.**



THE ARRAN  
BANNER

**SUBSCRIBE TO SCOTTISH FIELD**  
AND CHOOSE A **FREE** BOTTLE OF GLASGOW GIN, LEITH GIN OR ARRAN MALT\*  
**SAVE 25% ON THE COVER PRICE**  
**ONLY £10.69 PER QUARTER DELIVERED DIRECT TO YOUR RECIPIENTS DOOR**  
**CALL 01778 392014 AND QUOTE WINTER21**  
**OR GO TO SCOTTISHFIELD.CO.UK/SUBSCRIPTIONS**

\*Terms and conditions apply. For over 18s and UK based subscribers only. Minimum one year subscription to Scottish Field. Offer ends 28th February 2021. While stocks last. Limited stock available, first come first served basis. By claiming this offer you agree that you are of UK legal age for purchasing and consuming alcoholic drinks.



# Scottish Series 2021 sailing regatta changes format

## Clyde Cruising Club moves from traditional location to Clyde-wide venues

The sailing fraternity on Arran will be pleased to hear that the Scottish Series, the second largest yachting regatta in the UK and Scotland's premier regatta, will still go ahead this year but in new locations, writes Colin Smeeton.

Traditionally taking place on Loch Fyne, centred around the village of Tarbert, the event usually brings together more than 120 yachts and 800 people for a long weekend of multi-class racing and shore-side festivities on the late May bank holiday weekend.

This year, however, the organiser, Clyde Cruising Club, has announced plans to move the event east and it will now take place in a number of locations throughout the Clyde estuary.

The revised event will also see all shoreside and social activities cancelled to reduce the risk of the event not running for a second year.

Glenn Porter, organising committee chairman, said: 'In 2020 we saw the largest regatta north of the south coast cancelled, something we are keen to avoid again.'

'Born out of a desire to race and socialise over the last bank holiday weekend in May, we know that 2021 will need to be very different.'

'By stripping out the high risk social aspects, which we know many love, and operating out of multiple bases we hope to support the many racers who look forward to this annual event.'

Speaking about the decision to move the event, a spokesperson from the Clyde Cruising Club said: 'Moving the event allows us to take advantage of multiple, relatively close locations to continue to run on the water racing, reducing the movement of people and, we hope, making it easier to manage any protection level or

other restrictions still in place at the time.'

'We have also made the extremely difficult decision to cancel all shoreside activities, and will not be hosting a physical race office.'

'In effect the Scottish Series 2021 will be stripped right back to a racing event based over multiple locations on the Clyde all on the same weekend as originally planned, May 28-31, 2021.'

The Clyde Cruising Club has a 111-year history of operating a keelboat and dinghy section with a global membership.

It also produces informative sailing directions recognised globally as invaluable for sailing and cruising in Scotland's waters.

Details on the 2021 race format will be released in late February on the event website at [www.scottishseries.info](http://www.scottishseries.info) where sailors can also reserve their place in any of the events.



There is room for laughs as well as close quarters racing during the Scottish Series.



Chimaera won the Scottish Series Trophy and over-all series in 2019 and Salamander XXI won the Joe Deane Cup and Knox Anchor. All photographs Marc Turner.



Organisers hope that the new locations and precautions can prevent the event from being cancelled for the second year running.



**THANK YOU**  
for continuing to support  
your local newspaper  
**Arran Banner**

Research shows that for every £1 spent with a local, independent business, between 50p-70p circulates back into that local economy



So every time you pick up a copy of The Arran Banner you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses

we  local

