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# Travel confusion and mixed messages will hit recovery

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



Arran has been left in a worrying limbo as it emerges out of lockdown, which could harm future tourism.

There have been mixed messages since the 'stay at home' order was lifted last Friday to be replaced by a 'stay local' message, which has allowed non-essential travel for people within North Ayrshire.

And the island is still waiting on official word from the Scottish government as to when it can reopen to the outside world, despite repeated requests. See separate story on page two.

However, that was immediately put in doubt when the Scottish government announced at the weekend that it 'strongly recommended' against leisure day trips to Arran as lockdown eases because of restricted capacities on the ferries.

A statement released at the

weekend said: 'Travel for non-essential reasons on public transport is discouraged as capacity is limited. We therefore strongly recommend against leisure day trips to Arran and Cumbrae at this time.'

There were also claims that residents of North Ayrshire

**...The incident involved a group from North Ayrshire and outwith the area and travelling together.**

had, after travelling from Ardrossan to Brodick, being refused permission to disembark by Police Scotland with complaints to Arran SNP candidate for Cunninghame North Kenneth Gibson.

Mr Gibson said: 'I received numerous emails, calls and Facebook messages from folk prevented from visiting Arran after arriving in Brodick.'

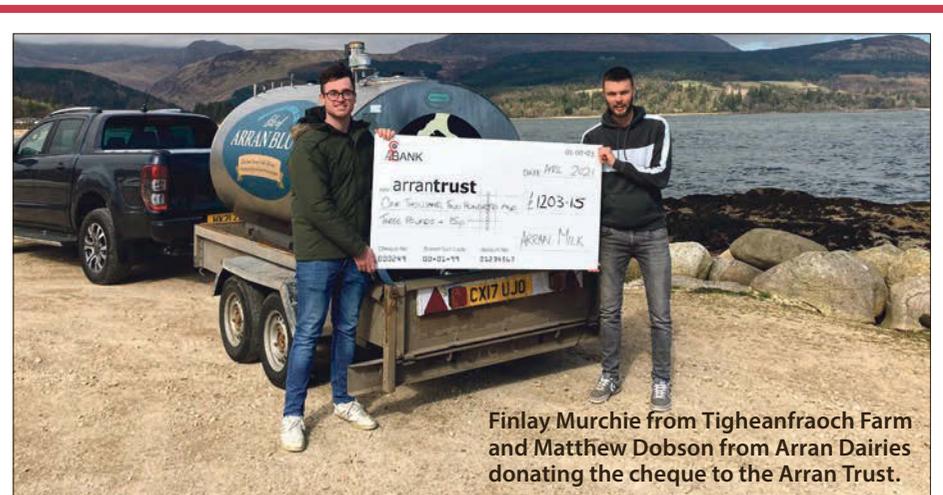
'Police Scotland were requested by CalMac to attend on Tuesday and deal with a number of passengers who had boarded the ferry after CalMac reported that a significant number were from outwith North Ayrshire.'

'The feedback I was provided with was the individuals causing concern were predominantly from Glasgow and Lanarkshire. However, residents from mainland North Ayrshire were included in the police action, although they are now permitted to certainly travel to Arran for non-essential purposes.'

As a result he contacted the Locality Police Inspector Alison Wilson for the Three Towns, West Kilbride, Arran and North Coast and Cumbrae seeking clarification.

However, it later emerged that the incident involved a group of people travelling together from both North

Continued on page two.



Finlay Murchie from Tigheanfraoch Farm and Matthew Dobson from Arran Dairies donating the cheque to the Arran Trust.

## Arran milk raises money for island trust

Nearly 25,000 litres of Arran milk have been sold since the milk first went back on sale at the end of 2019, five years after it stopped production.

The Arran milk partnership was set up between Arran Dairies, Bellevue Cheese Company and the Murchie family at Tigheanfraoch Farm in Blackwaterfoot.

This partnership has helped to retain dairy farming on Arran and allowed Arran Dairies and Bellevue Cheese Company access to milk produced on Arran for their products. In addition to this, Arran milk is now available from vending machines across the island.

Arran milk values itself on being a healthier

Continued on page two.

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## Arran milk raises cash for trust

Continued from page one. option compared to more processed milk, on being better for the environment due to reducing plastic and also being a benefit to the island's community. Arran milk kindly offered to donate 5p to the Arran Trust from every litre of milk sold through vending machines in 2020. Following sales of 24,063 litres of Arran milk, an incredible £1,203.15 has been donated to the Arran Trust, to support environmental projects to help protect Arran's stunning natural environment.

A trust spokeswoman said: 'A huge thank you must go to everyone who purchased Arran milk last year – good for you, good for the planet and good for Arran!'

Groups can apply for funding through the Arran Trust website - [www.arrantrust.org](http://www.arrantrust.org) - or by contacting 01770 302043 with any queries.

# Arran businesses need to know when they can fully reopen

VisitArran has been working with colleagues from other islands to try and push for an urgent clarification on island reopening, writes Hugh Boag.

This has included Orkney, Skye, Outer Hebrides, Argyll and Cumbrae, and the tourist body is maintaining that Arran will reopen on April 26 in line with the Scottish mainland.

No update was given by the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at her latest briefing on Tuesday on the Scottish islands' situation, and the Scottish Tourism Alliance is calling for official government clarification on reopening.

A statement, drafted by Rob McKinnon from Outer Hebrides Tourism and co-signed by VisitArran, said: 'Tourism businesses across Scotland's islands have been left battling for their survival



after being excluded from government plans for easing lockdown at the end of April.

'Across the islands, where tourism is the main industry, up to a third of businesses say they are unlikely to survive an extension to the ban on visitors.

'Three weeks ago the first

minister announced a timetable for mainland travel to resume on April 26, and has since confirmed that this remained the government's aspiration.

'Neither statement referenced an opening date for the islands, triggering a wave of cancellations from visitors

**Tourism business across the island are demanding a level playing field from the First Minister on reopening.**

seeking certainty, who have reluctantly opted for alternative holidays on the Scottish mainland. With less than three weeks to go, government emails today confirmed there is 'No definitive timescale or specific dates' for the islands. The islands do not know how they will be treated, with only a vague commitment to respond in a 'couple of weeks'.

'Tourism businesses from across the island groups met virtually last week to demand a level playing field from the Scottish government on arrangements to end Scotland's lockdown. The approach taken has already caused unnecessary confusion and millions of pounds of damage. By acting

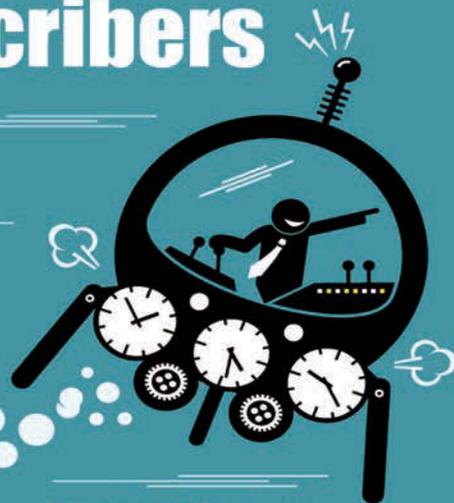
quickly the government can stop the situation becoming even worse. However, we are worried, that with an election in progress, this is dominating minds in Holyrood.

'A failure to provide any robust reasons why the islands have been selected for special treatment, against a background of falling case numbers and major progress with vaccinations, is adding to frustrations. We are told that arrangements in place for the mainland are not safe for the islands, despite operating successfully on the islands last summer without widespread transmission between the local and visitor populations.

'We are calling for the government to end its discrimination against our islands and urgently clarify arrangements for opening of the Scottish islands.'

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THE ARRAN  
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## Easter celebrated at Holy Cross Church

For the first time since the second lockdown, Holy Cross Catholic Church in Brodick opened its doors on Palm Sunday and celebrated Covid-restricted Holy Week and Easter Triduum services; from the blessing of Palms through Holy Thursday Mass of the Eucharist and the Good Friday liturgy of Christ's Passion.

Easter Saturday began with the traditional Blessing of Food for the Polish community. At the evening Vigil Mass the Easter Paschal Candle was lit and on Sunday morning Mass was celebrated.

A wonderful return to worship promising light and hope for the future.

Peter Wilkinson



Father Noel Colford, left, with the Paschal Candle and the Easter altar.

## Travel confusion and mixed messages don't help recovery

Continued from page one.

Ayrshire and outwith the area. As not all of them were permitted to travel to Arran, they all chose not to do so.

Inspector Wilson from Police Scotland confirmed to the Banner: 'There have been no North Ayrshire residents prevented by police from travelling to Arran for non-essential purposes since the stay at home restrictions were lifted on Friday

April, 2. The coronavirus regulations have had a significant impact on our lives and I would like to thank the vast majority of people who are sticking to the rules and doing the right thing to avoid the spread of the virus as we move through the easing of restrictions.

'People should not travel outwith their local authority area, except for essential purposes.

'Our approach throughout the

pandemic has been to engage with the public, explain the legislation and encourage compliance, but we will not hesitate to use our enforcement powers as a last resort.'

Meanwhile, hairdressers barbers and other outlets offering click and collect services, including the ArCaS shop, reopened for business this week.

The next review date will take place on Tuesday April 20.

# People power is needed to help save Brodick Hall

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



There are growing fears the future of Brodick Hall could be under threat unless the people of Arran make their voices heard.

A much-delayed consultation over the future of community buildings across North Ayrshire has now resumed but, because of Covid restrictions, it has gone completely under the radar of most people.

All council buildings are currently up for review as to whether they will, in fact, continue as a council-run building or be shut down unless a community group is willing to take over the entire building and grounds as a community asset transfer.

As well as the hall being widely used in more normal times it is the home of Brodick Early Years and Arran Library, which is also part of the review. Due to the current Covid situation the nursery has been able to use the hall full time with no other public groups able to use or rent it.

But the parents are among those who fear the future of the hall could be at risk unless the people of Arran make their voices heard.

Chairperson of Brodick Early Years Jenny Duncan told the Banner: 'Many readers may remember there was a public meeting held in May 2019 about this exact issue. The turnout was very good and voices were heard. We were told at the time that Brodick hall would most likely remain due to the fact we are an island community with very few other community buildings.'

'Nevertheless the same issue has reared its ugly head again. Although this time it is a less obvious way as it is all being done digitally. No meeting can be arranged this time which would undoubtedly have merited yet another great turnout, so therefore we are at risk of the true voice of Arran not being heard and the council thinking we do not care what happens to the hall, nursery or library. So what we need now is the readers of the Banner to spread the word



and to let us be heard via the council consultation page, telephone or email.

'Any reader who cares about the future of the hall, whether it be as a library user, a nursery parent/grandparent or a member of the community who would like to continue going to aerobics classes, pipe band practise, coffee mornings or dances to please, please, please get involved and ensure their thoughts are heard. If they

**'Any reader who cares about the future of the hall... please, please get involved...if they don't the council will think we don't care and close the hall...'**

don't then the council will think we don't care and therefore will close the hall and leave it up to a local community group to take on.

'It is a large building with many outgoing maintenance costs and staffing costs so therefore well beyond the nursery's or hall committee's abilities to maintain. We would also hate to see the library be moved elsewhere or change to just the library van which is a possibility.

'At the moment there is an online consultation which has been open since the beginning of March and has had very few responses so far. It is open until May 5. All you need to do is write how

the current plan the council have of a community asset transfer would effect you as a member of the public ... remembering that there may not be anyone willing to take on the transfer at all and therefore risk closure.

'If the online consultation is not for you then there is a phone number to call where someone will talk you through it. You may also email the council with your thoughts.

'The main worry is that this all goes under the radar much like the public toilet closures; the hall will be closed because it did not look like there was enough care or interest. It will then fall to us as a community to take it on and reopen, with a lot more work and finances involved.

'I do not believe for a second that the Arran community would wish to see the hall close, I just do not think enough people know about the current threat due to the way it is being publicised due to the lockdown situation.'

It is just over a year ago since the nursery won its battle with the council to allow it to stay open and allow

Members of the public take part in the consultation in Brodick hall held nearly two years ago. 01\_B20engage02

## How to get involved

Until May 5, you can view and comment on the proposals at:

[www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/yourvoicetoyourview](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/yourvoicetoyourview)

Those who cannot access the online consultation can email: [communityfacilities@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:communityfacilities@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) or call the council on 01294 310000 and hold 'for all other enquiries' and it will set up a time to call you back and go through the consultation.

The phonenumber will be open Monday-Friday, 9am-4pm, between now and May 6.

Details of the consultation is also be issued alongside Council Tax letters.

it to adapt part of the current hall/library to form a permanent nursery with its own separate entrance, toilets and food preparation area.

However, early estimates put the cost of this at around £250,000 and the nursery would need to provide the funds, labour and project management to do so.

'With certain grants available, continued support of the community and local businesses, this is something we hope we can achieve when the time comes albeit a huge but exciting challenge ahead,' Jenny added.

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# Could you foster or adopt a sibling group?

'They have changed our life beyond recognition'

The family placement team at North Ayrshire Council is launching a campaign which aims to encourage people to consider becoming a foster carer or adoptive parent to brother and sister groups.

Adopters and foster carers come from a wide variety of backgrounds. They are looking for people who have a desire to make life better for sibling groups that can no longer be cared for by their family.

Foster carers need to have time, love, empathy and flexibility. To be eligible they must be over 21, can be single or in a relationship (for more than two years).

By keeping sibling groups together, they remain together and can help and support each other throughout the fostering or adoption process.

Alison Sutherland, head of service (children, families and justice), said: 'There is a need for foster and adoptive parents for sibling groups in North Ayrshire.'

'We want to keep brothers and sisters together as much as we can and most children who come into foster care are part of a sibling group.'

'Becoming a foster carer or adoptive parent can make a hugely positive difference to a child's life.'

'It is also a very rewarding experience for our foster carers and adoptive parents. If you

think you have what it takes to care for a sibling group and become a foster or adoptive parent, we need to hear from you. Please contact the Family Placement Team and make a difference to a young family's life.'

A North Ayrshire adoptive parent said: 'My husband and I decided to adopt about five years ago now.'

'We went into it with excitement and apprehension...it seemed such a huge thing to do and a massive responsibility...fast forward to now and we've been mummy and daddy to two balls of energy, who brighten every day, for three years.'

'It seems like only yesterday we had a conversation with our social worker about whether we were suited to having siblings together, but it was the best thing we've ever done.'

She added: 'It was great to be able to keep them together but still have a forever family where they could be settled and belong.'

'In our experience adopting siblings has been a fantastic thing to do and if you think you could do the same, I will say go for it. They have changed our life beyond recognition and in the best way possible.'

For more information contact the Family Placement Team on 01294 310300 or

**You just haven't met us yet**

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Comhairle Siarachd Air a Tuath

**You just haven't met me yet**

follow the team on Twitter @NA\_FosterAdopt or search for NorthAyrshireFosterAdopt on Instagram and Facebook.

The poster for the foster campaign.

## Wee Box Lent appeal to help the poorest

People on Arran are being urged to get behind SCIAF's Wee Box Lent appeal to raise money for some of the world's poorest people as they continue to be ravaged by climate change, hunger and the coronavirus crisis.

This year the UK government has again committed to matching – pound-for-pound – all donations given to the appeal before May 11, meaning people's donations will go twice as far. Funds raised will provide much-needed help to children with disabilities and their families in South Sudan, to overcome poverty, hunger and the devastating impact of the coronavirus crisis and economic downturn.

Every year, generous Scots give up a treat for Lent and place the money they would save into the Wee Box.

Money raised from this appeal helps to provide crucial schooling, health-care, food, sanitation, and support to earn a living.

In 2020, the appeal raised more than £2.6m, including £1.2m of match funding from the UK government helping people in extremely poor communities where SCIAF works. The people of North Ayrshire generously gave more than £36,390 last year.

SCIAF's director Alistair Dutton said: 'We're incredibly grateful to the people of North Ayrshire for supporting us year after year.'

'Even during these difficult months you have shown amazing generosity and kindness. Your continued support means extremely poor communities can get the help they need to work themselves out poverty and survive the devastating impact of the pandemic.'

'We're also delighted that as part of UK aid match, everything you give to our Wee Box appeal will be doubled by the UK government and help make twice the difference.'

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**THE ARRAN BANNER**

# Krystyna is stepping out to help Nepal charity appeal

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A Lochranza doctor is planning to walk 250km during April to raise money for PHASE Worldwide, a charity which supports the people of Nepal.

Working in the past as a GP in Shiskine was excellent training for Dr Krystyna Gruszecka when, in her 'retirement', she volunteered as a GP mentor for the charity in Nepal.

She told the Banner: 'In December 2018 I was sent to the far west of Nepal as the charity felt I could cope with, the concept of being a day or two from hospital support. The clinic in Dhainakot was a seven-hour walk from the nearest road! My role was to mentor the local staff – the healthcare is mainly provided by nurses



who are also midwives and work with very basic equipment and medicines.

'The staff really appreciate help with developing their consultation and examination skills as well as going through emergency care scenarios. On

my first night we walked an hour uphill to help a woman who had been in labour for more than 30 hours and with assistance gave birth in a byre by the light of my headset and a mobile phone torch! Water and electricity are a luxury even in

the health centre let alone village houses. Supporting the nurses in their efforts at health promotion and maternal education was a true privilege.

'I was very impressed by how much effort the charity puts into training the villagers and



Dr Krystyna, left, pictured on her mentoring trip to Nepal.

local staff to support health, education and agriculture projects which are long-term sustainable.

'I benefited from the agriculture worker living in the village and growing vegetables for our clinic.

'I am setting myself a challenge of walking 250km in April to fundraise for PHASE during its Start Strong UK Aid match appeal this spring.

'Now that coronavirus restrictions have eased a little, I can venture out of Lochranza, and if anyone would like to show me any walks elsewhere on the island, I would love some company. Please call me on 830278.'

Any donations would be very welcome – you can support Krystyna at: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Krystyna-Gruszecka](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Krystyna-Gruszecka)



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## Act now and help to save Brodick Hall for Arran

We hope our article on the very real threat to the future of Brodick Hall will act as a wake-up call.

There is no doubt as the chairperson of Brodick Early Years Jenny Duncan so accurately warns us we could have sleepwalked our way to the loss of the hall – because no one quite realised just what was at stake.

The Banner had already highlighted the consultation was going on and in his letter last month the chairman of the Brodick Hall Community Association urged people to get involved. But so far the response from the island has been poor.

We hope that with the help of Brodick Early Years we have been able to highlight this week the full extent of what the consultation could mean for, not just the nursery, but the well-used hall and the library as well.

The council favour a community asset transfer and while that may seem attractive in the short term – it means the handing over of the facility with all its maintenance and running costs to a local group, and the council walking away.

Now has to be the time to act and, hopefully, given the limited resources the island has North Ayrshire Council will be talked into seeing sense and continue to run the hall and keep, and hopefully improve, the library, not just for Brodick – but for the whole of Arran.

### Thought for the week

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.'

John 11:25

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
emaileditor@arranbanner.co.uk

# Responsible tourism campaign launched by VisitScotland

VisitScotland has announced a responsible tourism campaign to raise awareness of the importance of exploring the outdoors responsibly with the focus on asking people to leave no trace of their visit and protect Scotland's stunning countryside.

The £124,000 campaign, which looks to counteract some of the issues seen as a result of a new, home-grown audience of visitors discovering and enjoying Scotland's countryside will call on people to respect, protect and enjoy Scotland.

It includes a responsible tourism film and script which will be broadcast across radio, YouTube, Facebook and Instagram alongside billboard and outdoor digital screen advertising in all of Scotland's main cities. This work will be supported by a dedicated responsible tourism page on [visitscotland.com](http://visitscotland.com), dedicated itineraries created for travel trade and information and advice for the tourism sector on the corporate website.

With more people enjoying the outdoors as the weather improves and the plan for lockdown restrictions to be lifted towards the end of April, VisitScotland's campaign will reinforce the importance that as visitors, we should be aware of the consequences of our visits on our stunning landscapes, wildlife and communities.

The activity, which supports the visitor management strategy announced last week, will ask visitors to protect our countryside, respect the local communities, wildlife and landscapes but still enjoy the beautiful natural resources we have across the country.

Vicki Miller, director of marketing and digital at VisitScotland



said: 'This campaign is hugely important particularly at this time, as we are all enjoying outdoors more due to restrictions to other sections of the tourism industry.'

'It is imperative that we realise the impact of our visits on these areas and our individual and collective responsibility to care for Scotland.'

'We want to protect the stunning landscapes and wildlife that Scotland is famous for and the local communities that are such an important part of our culture.'

'We are asking everyone to help keep Scotland special by ensuring we protect our natural resources by being responsible and respectful when out and about. We have a unique opportunity to positively engage audiences to enjoy the outdoors responsibly and come together to develop a Scotland-wide strategic and coordinated approach to help protect what's there for future visitors and aid the recovery of our rural economy.'

The national tourism organisation's campaign is part of the Visitor Management Strategy and

Steering Group, led by the Scottish Government and VisitScotland and includes three workstream groups with focuses on education and marketing, investment and infrastructure, and prevention, regulation and reassurance.

The education and marketing group is led by VisitScotland along with partner organisations Cairngorms Business Partnership, Cairngorms National Park Authority, Forestry and Land Scotland, Keep Scotland Beautiful, Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, Lochaber Chamber, National Park Authorities, NatureScot, Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA), Wild Scotland and Zero Waste Scotland; all working together to target people across Scotland with the aim of influencing them to enjoy our outdoor spaces more and in a respectful way.

Some of the issues the groups have been addressing since last year include:

■ Littering – dropping and leaving litter, leaving camping

equipment, broken glass;

■ Environmental damage and fire hazards – damaging fences and signage; lighting fires in unauthorised locations or in unsafe ways, felling trees, damaging surrounding wildlife and risking spread of wildfires;

■ Unsafe waste disposal – people not using designated toilets or appropriate facilities and leaving waste outdoors;

■ Poor preparation – a lack of understanding of rapid weather change and challenging terrains, sometimes resulting in visitors getting into trouble or requiring assistance;

■ Traffic and inappropriate parking – increased demand on hot spots, parking in passing places or areas that are not safe or block access to land managers or residents

Whilst the activity launched this week and will be visible over the forthcoming weeks and month, the collaborative marketing and communications work across the groups will continue throughout the year as tourism begins to reopen.

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# Wolfi lived and loved life to the full

## Obituary: Wolfi Kroner January 12, 1948 to March 9, 2021

On March 9 Wolfi Kroner of Whiting Bay died; I'm not going to say he passed on, passed over or took eternal rest.

Using euphemisms where Wolfi was concerned seems totally inappropriate.

Wolfi said it as it was and lived it as it was.

There was no greater fun than watching new customers to the Trafalgar restaurant ask a table of regulars: 'Does that man always talk and act like that?' 'Oh don't worry, that's just Wolfi' would come the reply, and a year down the line those same shocked newcomers would be the ones saying to the latest group of the uninitiated: 'Oh don't worry, that's just Wolfi.'

### Passion

I don't believe that great characters are simply eccentrics, they are people with real passion; a passion that can vary dramatically depending on the company, the circumstance and the situation

but nonetheless it's always there, whether restrained or unleashed.

When Wolfi delivered a finely cooked steak, it was a great steak, because it had to be and at the end of the evening when he sat with some of his regular customers – and there were many – he would often share his love of fine wine by bringing to the table a bottle of one of his knowledgeable recommendations; although the guests usually drank the lion's share Wolfi was always careful to absorb half the cost himself – there was no contradiction in running a successful business and having a generosity of spirit.

And the passion never waned. The soft twinkling smile in his eyes as he walked with Gege, Markus and his grandchildren along the village, belied the fact that hours earlier this man had threatened to beat the living daylights out of his five iron,

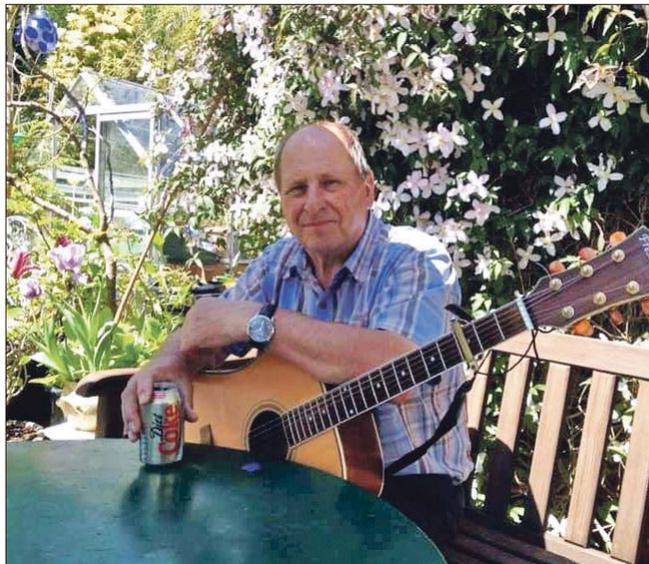
which he held to be totally responsible for the poor shot he had just played.

Passionate people like Wolfi are what makes it all worth while; the unpredictability, the fierce love for family and friends, and the dogged

loyalty that never wavered. Borrowing the famous phrase from The Shawshank Redemption: 'Get busy living or get busy dying'.

Wolfi Kroner was always busy living.

Marc Head



Wolfi Kroner was always larger than life.

Wolfi in the garden with his guitar.

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# Overnight parking for motorhomes plan at Auchrannie

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The car park where the motorhomes would park.

01\_B15mtohome01

Bosses at Auchrannie Leisure Ltd are planned to create an area for motorhome parking at the rear of the spa resort building in Brodick.

They have applied to North Ayrshire Council for planning permission to utilise the existing car park for overnight parking for up to eight motorhomes as they say the car park is rarely full and not overlooked by any neighbouring properties.

In a supporting statement David Johnston, director of Auchrannie Leisure Ltd, told planners: 'Having seen the number of motorhomes visiting Arran in recent years, and the very limited facilities for parking and disposal of waste on the island, we feel there is an opportunity to use an under-utilised parking area.

## Overnight

'We propose to use an existing car park to allow parking for up to eight motorhomes overnight. We will provide access to power and waste disposal facilities, including foul water, on site.

'With the facilities and services on

offer within the resort, we can allow visitors an option to benefit from use of our restaurants, leisure facilities, spa and existing toilets and showers. We would charge an overnight fee with options for add-on services.

'The area we plan to use is away from the main building and is not overlooked by any neighbouring properties.

'As it is within an existing car

park there are no access issues. There will be no change to the existing car park, apart from a loss of eight spaces, out of up to 40 existing, reserved for motorhomes.

'The overall parking at Auchrannie Spa Resort can accommodate approximately 200 vehicles at present which is more than sufficient for our requirements.

'A drive over grey water drain will be provided, along with a separate

black water drainage unit where toilet cassettes can be emptied. A connection from these drains will be made to an existing manhole. Scottish Water has confirmed there is sufficient capacity in the system for this waste.

'Disposal facilities for general waste and recycling will also be available.'

The planning application is under consideration by planning officials.



## Investment in road repairs approved

North Ayrshire Council is to spend millions on a wide-ranging programme of maintenance investment into roads, lighting and bridges.

The council's cabinet last week agreed the maintenance programme for the next 12 months which will see works carried out in every part of North Ayrshire.

This includes bringing forward £700,000 of additional funding to accelerate the programme which will see an investment total of £5.6 million in roads and footways, £1.25 million in lighting and £710,000 for structures such as bridges during the year ahead.

This will include a series of road repairs on Arran but the final programme for the months ahead is still being finalised.

David Hammond, head of commercial services, said: 'This is a significant investment in our roads, street lighting and other infrastructure. The cold and wet weather we have experienced over recent months has had a real impact on the condition of our roads.

'By increasing the budget, we can accelerate our maintenance programme – which is something I know many of our residents will welcome.

'During the winter months, our roads team works round the clock to help ensure more than 1,000km [620 miles] of North Ayrshire roads are kept safe and accessible.

'This new investment will allow the team to deliver a substantial maintenance programme over the next 12 months.'

While the majority of roads in North Ayrshire are the responsibility of the council, the authority has no responsibility for the maintenance of the trunk road network which falls to Transport Scotland and its management contractor Amey.

The trunk road network includes the A78, the A737 from Kilwinning to the Renfrewshire boundary and A738 from the Pennyburn Roundabout to the A737 Dalry Road, Kilwinning.

## Eggs-cellent Easter fundraising by bank's staff



Staff at the Bank of Scotland branch in Brodick have been raising money for charity over Easter. Ahead of Easter they were collecting Easter eggs and donated 50 to the Arran Churches Together foodbank ahead of last weekend after the Co-op topped up their total.

Over the coming weeks, staff will also be walking 100 miles to raise funds for the Scottish Air Ambulance Service. Sponsor forms are in the bank or available via their JustGiving page.

Staff member Meagan Bennett with the Easter eggs the Bank of Scotland donated to the foodbank.

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# Delayed childcare expansion to be available from August

From August 2021, North Ayrshire Council is to deliver 1,140 hours of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in all council and funded provider centres across North Ayrshire.

The welcome news comes a year after the rollout to 1,140 hours was paused due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

To deliver the full 1,140 hours for all three and four-year-olds, eligible two-year-olds and to meet the needs of families and carers in North Ayrshire, there will be three models of delivery available on

the mainland, although final arrangements are still being made on Arran.

Work continues to refurbish and extend the council's early learning and childcare estate.

This will enable ELC centres and classes to provide high quality learning experiences in modern, fit-for-purpose environments.

Audrey Sutton, executive director for communities at North Ayrshire Council, said: 'I am pleased that from August this year we can provide the full 1,140 hours ELC provision

to our eligible children in North Ayrshire.

'We want to ensure we offer the best start in life to our young people in North Ayrshire.

'The refurbishment of our existing buildings and the planned new builds, including the new primary school and early years centre at Montgomerie Park in Irvine, will offer high quality learning environments that are accessible both indoors and out across the whole ELC estate.'

As a result of the expansion

programme, it is anticipated that there will be in the region of 28 new employment opportunities created.

The registration of children commencing 1,140 hours ELC in the session August 2021-2022 took place online from February 1 -10.

It is planned that all parents who registered at this time will be notified at the start of April.

There will be a further opportunity for children who have not yet registered for an ELC place when registration re-opens on March 29 .



## Helping families meet cost of school day

North Ayrshire Council is to help families struggling to meet the costs associated with sending their children to school.

The council has approved its Cost of the School Day initiative which will help to support vulnerable parents and their children.

It is planned to launch the £500,000 ground-breaking scheme this summer which will help to ease the burden for the families who need it most and will focus on digital access, food and clothing.

Councillor Robert Foster, lead member for poverty, said: 'We expect this initiative to have real and lasting benefits for families who do their best to ensure their child has the right clothing or equipment but struggle to make ends meet. This creates a real inequality and imbalance among many of our young people from an early age and that's why we hope the Cost of the School Day initiative will make a long-term difference.

'So much work has gone into making this possible, from elected members across all parties, parents, education staff, senior council, health and social care staff, our community planning partners and most importantly, our young people.

'As a council, we have a determination to address poverty - particularly child poverty - with the aim of giving everyone the same life chances to live fulfilling and healthy lives.'

The programme will be formally launched in June, ahead of the new school year.

# More fruit and veg for healthier school meals

School meals are to become even more healthy on Arran with the introduction of new nutritional regulations, writes Hugh Boag.

Yesterday (Thursday) the revised national school food and drink regulations came into effect which detail the nutritional standards that all food and drink served in schools must meet.

Healthy eating in schools is something that North Ayrshire Council has prioritised for many years.

Schools already serve up meals which fully comply with national nutritional regulations, and all primary schools and Arran High have achieved the gold Food for Life accreditation from Soil Association Scotland.

However, since the national regulations were introduced in 2008, the scientific and dietary advice on which they were based has changed.

### Ingredients

And following a recent review, the Nutritional Requirements for Food and Drinks in Schools (Scotland) 2020 has come to fruition and will come into force in schools across the country this month.

This sets out strict levels on weights for some ingredients and the number of occasions and certain food groups can be offered to primary and secondary pupils.

These apply to all food and drinks provided across the school day - not just meals served in school canteens during interval and lunch.

The new regulations will:

■ Increase access to fruit and vegetables, ensuring children and young people can access

## Regulations change as scientific advice advances

School meals at Arran schools are to be healthier.

Photo PA



their five-a-day at schools;

■ Reduce the amount of sugar that can be accessed in school;

■ Bring provision of red and red processed meat in line with the Scottish dietary goals;

■ Change the way food and drink is offered in secondary schools to better meet the needs of young people.

Yvonne Baulk, head of physical environment, said: 'Here at North Ayrshire Council we are proud of our track record in providing tasty, balanced and nutritious options for our children and young people.

'Our catering service is sector-leading for a reason - having achieved gold Food for Life in 2013 and held onto this high standard ever since.

'This recognises our long-standing commitment to delivering healthy and sustainable meals made with well-sourced ingredients.

'We recognise the importance of healthier food and drink choices and how

eating and drinking habits can support the growth and development of children and young people.

'Indeed, our school menus are based on this.

'That is why we encourage parents to keep their children in school for lunch as they will have reassurance of knowing the high nutritional standard of what their kids are eating.

'These new regulations provide us with an opportunity to provide even healthier meals, which is something we are more than happy to deliver on.

'Our catering service has already prepared new school menus to ensure the food and

drink they serve meets the strengthened nutritional regulations when our pupils return after the Easter break.

'They have also been working with colleagues in education to ensure schools are fully aware of the new measures and what it means for them as they consider other food and drink provision across the school day.'

Children in primaries one to three are entitled to free school meals as part of a nationwide scheme.

Free school meals are also available to children whose parent/carers are in receipt of certain benefits.

## Trainee trustee programme

RSABI has launched a new programme to encourage young people to get involved with the organisation's board. The charity, which supports people in Scottish agriculture, is now accepting applications from people aged 18 to 30 for its trainee trustee programme.

The 12-month programme will see young people shadow the charity's trustees and participate in board, committee and staff meetings – all virtually while restrictions are in place.

Successful candidates will receive support and mentoring from the charity's senior staff and its chairman David Leggat, and find out what it is like to be a charity trustee.

Visit the RSABI website – [www.rsabi.org.uk](http://www.rsabi.org.uk)

## Club draw winners

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club March draw were: first prize Katie Barr, second prize Gillian Langley. The winner of the Brodick Improvements Committee 200 Club for March was Ailie McNicol from Hull, who wins the £50 first prize.

# Health authority faces £22m budget deficit for coming year

NHS Ayrshire and Arran faces a £22 million deficit in its revenue budget for the year ahead after an exhausting 12 months of staff battling Covid-19, writes Hugh Boag.

Health bosses have found ways to save £9.3 million so far during 2021 to 2022 and are looking at other cuts.

East Ayrshire Council leader Douglas Reid said 'we can't panic about it' during an NHS board meeting when the draft budget was presented.

John Burns, chief executive of the health board, described the financial plan as a 'work in progress'. He said: 'We are still working our way through the cost pressures and scrutinising and challenging our understanding of those as well as looking at where we have redesign options or areas where we can work differently, which

**John Burns, chief executive NHS Ayrshire and Arran.**

will bring further efficiency.' More details on the budget are due at a later meeting.

Describing the financial situation as 'concerning', North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane said: 'I know we have tackled an underlying deficit for a number of years now and it doesn't seem to ever shift. At some point we do need to tackle that.'

Board member Linda Semple said: 'The board is obviously never happy to agree a deficit budget so clearly we would be



happy to take a view that this is an interim statement and that we would be expecting

further detail to come back.'

She said financial planning had been knocked out of kilter

because of the pandemic. A health paper said the board plans to save £9.3 million in prescribing, 'acute operational', human resources, travel and other areas.

Councillor Reid said the board's transformation programme Caring for Ayrshire should get progress on an even keel. He said 'unfortunately the pandemic obliterated that progress'.

He said: 'We can't panic about this. The transformative work we are undertaking – Caring for Ayrshire – is ahead of what many health boards are doing and we have to keep going with that.'

As well as considering the financial situation the board approved an increase of £3.3 million to the area's Integration Joint Boards so health and social care partnerships can set budgets.

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Site director Jacqueline Nicol, right, with colleagues in the new café.

## New Bramble Café at Crosshouse hospital welcomes first customers

The new Bramble Café at University Hospital Crosshouse has welcomed its first customers.

The first Bramble café was opened at Woodland View in Irvine and is now being expanded across various sites.

Bramble cafés are a high-street style model, offering a range of barista style coffee, along with a

premium range of sandwiches, soup and baking.

Site director Jacqueline Nicol said: 'The café has been a new development that we hope will lift the morale and spirits of both our staff and patients during the Covid-19 pandemic.'

'We hope this new café can provide a friendly relaxed atmosphere, as well as a

place to get a coffee and a bite to eat.

'I would like to thank the Crosshouse catering team who have been working extremely hard in the background getting our new café up and running.'

The new Bramble @ UHC café is now open and will be available Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 3.30pm.

# Jean may retire but work for the church goes on

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Jean Hunter may have recently retired from her role as parish assistant of the North Arran linked churches but her work for the kirk goes on.

As reported in last week's Banner, the retiral of Rev Elizabeth Watson leaves the island without any full-time ministers, so there will be plenty of pulpit supply available.

Jean also remains clerk to Ardrossan Presbytery and has recently been appointed onto the nominating committee for the next moderator of the general assembly.

Jean began her journey to Arran in 1993 when she achieved a Certificate in Christian Studies from Glasgow University, but before coming to the island she took up a position as reader in 1996 with Ayr Presbytery and was much used in that presbytery for pulpit supply over the next few years.

In 1998 Jean began her studies for a Bachelor of Divinity degree at Glasgow University.

Jean and Rev Angus Adamson were studying at Glasgow at the same time and it was Angus who suggested that Jean might come to do pulpit supply on Arran, but she first came to the island in February 2001 as locum

minister for Lochranza and Pirnmill and Shiskine and was given accommodation in Shiskine manse.

This was a new step for Ardrossan Presbytery as only retired ministers were allowed to be locums before that.

Then the presbytery linked Lochranza and Pirnmill and Shiskine with Lamlash. This linkage was allowed to call a minister and Barry Knight came in August 2002.

He and his wife, Helen moved into Shiskine manse

## 'Retirement is the beginning of the next chapter in your life'

and Jean moved across to Lamlash manse. She was given the title 'attached reader' and her work was to assist Barry. Sometime later Barry became ill and had to retire from the charge.

In 2006 Brodick and Corrie became vacant and the presbytery linked Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza and Pirnmill and Shiskine to make North Arran parishes.

Angus accepted the call to be the minister of the linkage, but with assistance and was inducted in April 2006.

Jean then was offered the post of parish assistant in the North Arran linkage.

She was able to transfer from

reader to parish assistant - again a completely new step at that time - because of her BD degree.

In May 2006 she began her work of team ministry with Angus and moved back to Shiskine manse.

Since 2001 Jean has been an active member of Ardrossan Presbytery, ultimately being appointed moderator in 2014/2015 - yet another first!

And then, in October 2016 she was appointed presbytery clerk which, Jean says, has been a challenge. It is a role she will continue with for a while yet.

But the story does not end there because Jean takes part in many other aspects of this island life.

She has been a member of Arran Churches Together since 2001 and has held various positions in the committee: minute secretary, secretary, chairperson and then treasurer.

She says: 'I am passionate about the foodbank/fuel-bank for no one on the island should be hungry or cold.'

Jean also enjoys the Shiskine SWI where, she says, she can sit back and relax and is not expected to do anything. Although she has helped in other ways over the years!

She has been a member of the Guild since 1978 and she re-started the Guild in Shiskine in 2001.

Jean's love of travelling is well documented - her slide shows on her return from holidaying in such places as the Holy Land, Antarctica and Alaska are legendary.

But her ultimate love must be that for her family and a particular joy has been for her to watch her grandchildren growing up.

Perhaps there will be more time to spend with them now. And there could not be mention of family without including her dogs - Bracken and Max.

In a testimonial given by reader Liz Clarke at her final service, she said: 'Jean has served the Lord and the people on this island well over the years.'

'I'm sure we all have unique memories and stories of her commitment and compassion.

'For me, I have a great debt of gratitude - not only has Jean been my friend, but she is responsible for starting me on



Parish assistant Jean Hunter conducts the remembrance service in Corrie in 2019 with piper Malcolm Wheeler.

my own journey to become a reader.

'She has been my mentor, adviser, and supporter through-

out, for which I am extremely grateful.

'Retirement is the beginning of the next chapter in your life

and, as one who knows, I have to say that it is a truly great time. Every blessing Jean from all the Arran folk.'

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Jean Hunter, who has recently retired as parish assistant, pictured in Corrie church.

# Seagrass meadows in the sea

Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters has officially been extended to 2021, given many events and promotions could not go ahead last year as a result of the pandemic. To recognise this, and to raise the profile of 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, it will focus on a particular habitat or collective group of inter-linked species and here for April is the latest instalment. There is more information on COAST social media or visit [www.arrancoast.com](http://www.arrancoast.com)

On land we take grass for granted – but underwater, seagrass can only thrive in very specific conditions and so is quite unusual to see.

It is a very special plant which is only found at certain locations in the waters around Arran, where it generally grows in sandy seabeds like those featured in the Banner last month.

Although seagrass may not sound very exciting, it is responsible for creating a vitally important underwater habitat.

Seagrass is actually a true flowering plant, the only flowering plant able to live in seawater and pollinate and produce seeds while submerged.

The two seagrass species we have in the UK – eelgrass



and dwarf eelgrass – are both found in the Clyde, but it is the larger of the two, eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) that is found around Arran.

Like other plants, seagrasses need sunlight to survive and can only live in well-lit, shallow water just a few metres deep.

They are usually found in quite sheltered conditions and can grow closely together

forming dense underwater meadows or seagrass beds.

One of the largest remaining seagrass beds in the Clyde is just off shore at Whiting Bay and, together with other areas of seagrass, is part of the special interest underpinning the establishment of the South Arran Marine Protected Area (MPA).

## A haven for wildlife

The thin, tall seagrass leaves can grow up to a metre long – depending on local conditions – and act as shelter, feeding and nursery areas for many different species.

Studies show that seagrass beds provide good nursery grounds for a number of



Cat shark in Whiting Bay seagrass. Photograph: Howard Wood

commercially important fish, including juvenile cod, whiting and pollock.

It is not just fish that make use of these areas, animals such as crabs, starfish, sea fans and many others live among, and on, the seagrass plants.

At certain times of the year, the seagrass leaves can be covered with many small marine snails and delicately patterned sea slugs laying their eggs on the leaves.

Studies show that more than 30 times more animals live within seagrass compared to adjacent sandy habitats.

And that is just above the surface. Within the seabed itself, a specialised root system anchors the plants, helping to stabilise and consolidate the seabed material.

This enables yet more species to live in the sediment than areas where seagrass is absent. It has also been shown to help to reduce sediment erosion and

so provide a form of natural coastal defence.

## Recognising their value

The accessibility of some of Arran's seagrass beds to swimmers, snorkellers and divers provides an opportunity to enjoy this special marine habitat.

On sun-lit days, seagrass beds are magical places, with dappled light and the sun's flickering rays highlighting the constantly swaying seagrass blades.

Small fish dart amongst them and there is always the opportunity of a chance encounter with other fascinating marine life, including rather docile small-spotted cat sharks.

There are also hidden benefits of seagrass beds. While they only cover a relatively small area they are very effective at capturing and storing carbon locking it away in the



Diver and seagrass.

Photograph: Paul Kay

seabed sediments. Globally it is suggested that they are responsible for about 15 per cent of the total carbon storage in the ocean.

As with plants on land, seagrass also produces oxygen through the process of photosynthesis and releases it back into the water benefiting other marine life.

We have lost large areas of seagrass from around the whole of the UK coastline due to a variety of reasons.

A drastic decline of seagrass beds in the 1930s is attributed to an outbreak of a wasting disease and seagrass has been struggling to recover from this ever since as it has been hampered by other ongoing impacts such as pollution, disturbance from dredging, moorings and anchoring, and coastal development.

In parts of Arran, the invasive non-native seaweed known as wireweed (*Sargassum muticum*), a large brown seaweed from the north-west Pacific, is another potential threat to seagrass.

At Kildonan, the natural breakwaters of the rock dykes provide sufficient shelter for seagrass to grow in this otherwise exposed location. The seabed here is more stony, an unusual situation to find seagrass in.

The stones allow wireweed to get a foothold and, where it does, its large, spreading growth can create a canopy that blocks out the sunlight and shades the seagrass, affecting its growth.

Moves are now under way to look at how seagrass beds can be actively restored in Scotland's coastal waters and elsewhere around the UK, recognising the importance and value of this essential marine habitat.

Together with active protection of existing seagrass areas, such as that provided by the Lamlash Bay No Take Zone and Arran's MPA, this will hopefully ensure a better future for these special underwater meadows.

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Juvenile cod in Whiting Bay seagrass. Photograph: Howard Wood



Sea slug and snails on seagrass. Photograph: Lucy Kay

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday April 7, 2001



The Arran Music Festival is over for another year but it, yet again, produced some fine performances in music, song, dance and poetry and reading. Here is a selection of prize-winners with their trophies.

Frederic Baumgartner and Ealana Boyle on the steps of Whiting Bay Hall with their trophies. Frederick won the Bilsland Plate for verse speaking (P1), while Ealana took the Alice Geddes Cup for verse speaking (P2). 01\_B15tweY02



Mrs Catherine Walker of Whiting Bay who, for the last few years, has been giving extra tuition to youngsters taking part in Burns competition at the music festival. Gran Walker, as the children call her, is seen here with Malcolm and Hazel Pennycott, Frederic Buamgartner and Kirsty MacBain with their trophies. 01\_B15tweY03



Sam McDowall who won the Helen Love Trophy for vocal solo in the 10/11 age group. 01\_B15Ytwe04



Members of the Whiting Bay primary school choric speaking team with their trophy after their victory. 01\_B15tweY05



Big winner Laura Keeney won the Margaret Laidlaw trophy for best overall vocal solo at Arran Music Festival, as well as best in class awards for vocal solo, verse speaking and reading at sight. 01\_B15tweY01



Left: Twelve people, engaged as Arran enumerators for the 2001 Census, met for the first time on Saturday March 24 to plan the strategy for the census, due to be held on Sunday April 29. They are seen here with district manager Drew Hall and area manager Rita MacDonald. Alastair Tilbury is the Arran team leader. 01\_B15tweY06

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Reporting to the Estate Manager & Maintenance Team Leader, our Maintenance team are responsible for ensuring that all areas of Auchrannie Estate are maintained to an excellent standard and that any work is completed with minimal disruption to the business. The ideal candidate should have all round maintenance skills and willingness to learn new skills on the job. Applicants should have experience working in a similar role, and trade qualifications would be preferred.

You would be working to a rolling rota including weekends and on call support.

We offer a competitive salary package, family leisure membership, long service benefits and resort discounts. As an employee owned business, team members will also be eligible for an annual bonus after a qualifying period.

For more information or to apply for this position please email you CV and a covering letter to [HR@auchrannie.co.uk](mailto:HR@auchrannie.co.uk)



**auchrannie**  
resort



*Auchrannie Resort is proud to be a Real Living Wage employer and Scotland's first Employee Owned Resort. In 2020 we were voted in the Times Best Companies Top 50 places to work in Scotland and we truly believe that our People are the key to our success.*

### We currently have a vacancy for a Receptionist/Reception Team Leader to join our Awesome Front of House team.

Excellent communication skills are essential for this role as you will spend a lot of time interacting with guests. Experience of a similar role would be an advantage.

The rate of pay for these positions is £9.70-£9.91 per hour. Full time hours are 40 hours per week over 5 days. Evening and weekend availability is essential. We would also consider part time applicants.

Great benefits including resort discounts, full leisure membership and long service rewards

Further details can be found at [www.auchranniejobs.co.uk](http://www.auchranniejobs.co.uk) or contact [hr@auchrannie.co.uk](mailto:hr@auchrannie.co.uk)

## HENDRY

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#Arran Welcome



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### MOORING FOR SALE

Fully serviced mooring for sale in Lochranza Bay. Two leg mushroom, with low tide depth minimum 1.5 metres. Suitable for craft up to 1 ton although could be adapted for larger boat.

**POA. Telephone Pip Siddle Chair LMOA on 01770 830386 for further info.**



Find us on  
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## CHURCH NOTICES

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
Parishes of North Arran,  
Brodrick, Corrie, Lochranza,  
Pirnmill and Shiskine**  
Independent but working  
together

There is a booking system at  
Brodrick & Shiskine churches as  
the numbers are still limited.  
Liz Lawrie 302782 & John Kerr  
860 498

There will be a streamed service  
weekly, this can be found on the  
three Church websites.

**Sunday 11th April 2021**  
Lochranza & Pirnmill  
Churches:

Service at Lochranza Church  
10:15am Morning worship  
Shiskine Church 12 noon  
Morning worship  
Brodrick Church 10.30am  
Morning worship  
Corrie Church 12noon Morning  
worship

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
Whiting Bay and Kildonan  
Church of Scotland**

Charity Number: SC014005  
**Sunday 11th April**  
Worship will be conducted by  
The Worship Group at 10.30am.  
As our Sunday Worship  
capacity is greatly reduced  
due to the two metre social  
distancing  
we have introduced a booking  
system.

You are asked please to phone  
Mrs Janet Redfearn 700 244 by  
the Friday lunchtime if you wish  
to attend.

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide  
Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 11th April**  
2nd Sunday of Easter  
Holy Communion at 11 am.  
Richard Trewby  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME  
We follow strict SEC guidelines

## DEATH

**KRONER, Wolfgang Karl**  
Wolfgang Karl Kroner 12.01.48  
- 09.03.21, beloved husband  
to Giorisal, much loved Dad to  
Markus and Family, Opa, Brother,  
Uncle, Cousin and Friend to  
many, died peacefully at Trafalgar,  
surrounded with love and by his  
family, after an illness borne with  
fortitude and humour. His family  
in Germany were with him in spirit  
and join us in thanking the Arran  
Medical Team and Pharmacy for  
their tender and affectionate care,  
we remain ever grateful to you  
all. To our many friends helping  
and caring and just saying hello  
along the way, for all the cards,  
beautiful heartfelt words, flowers  
and for your continued support,  
our thanks will never be adequate  
enough. Later this year, when it is  
deemed safe, there will be an open  
competition at Whiting Bay Golf  
Club for friends and their families,  
a day for all who knew Wolfi. The  
Family will sponsor the competi-  
tion, all proceeds will go to Wolfi's  
beloved Club as was his wish.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND  
Kilmory linked with Lamlash**

"A faith to proclaim ~ a  
fellowship to share"  
Scottish Charity SC015072  
**Sunday 11th April**  
Kilmory at 10 am  
Lamlash Church Hall at 11.30  
am

Due to our reduced capacity,  
if you wish to attend Sunday  
Worship in Lamlash, please  
phone Mrs Vivienne Haigh on  
600092 by midday on Friday.

All welcome  
We will be observing all socially  
distancing procedures

**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**

Our Church is now open for  
public worship, subject to social  
distancing, wearing of face  
coverings and NHS Test and  
Protect requirements. Services  
are as follows:

**Saturday 10th April**  
Saturday Vigil Mass at 5pm  
**Sunday 11th April**  
Sunday Mass at 11am  
Capacity in church is strictly  
limited.

Attendance at all the above  
services is by booking only. Tel  
600595 or email peterdwilko@  
gmail.com to check availability  
and confirm your place

*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*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**Sillars, Bessie**  
The family of Bessie Sillars would  
like to express their sincere thanks  
to family and friends for their kind  
expressions of sympathy, cards,  
flowers and to those who stood at  
the roadside for Bessie's final jour-  
ney. Special thanks to the staff of  
Montrose House for her excellent  
care over the last few years and to  
Arran Medical Group, the District  
Nurses and Homecare. We would  
like to thank Liz Clarke and Jean  
Hunter for a beautiful service.  
Thank you also to David & Clair  
Hendry for the funeral arrange-  
ments. The family appreciate the  
donations made.



Left: Dave ensured he had  
plenty of drinks for the  
run; A long straight road  
stretches out before Dave;  
and below, the end is in  
sight as Dave makes his way  
back into Lagg.

# Lifetime feat as Dave runs round Arran

Continued from back page

'I think the following demon-  
strates the toll the task had  
taken on me...about a mile  
from the end I finally realised  
that I was going to finish and I  
actually started sobbing while  
I was running for a minute.  
I've never done that before!

'When I finished, Pete  
Bowers from The Lagg 1791/  
Velo Cafe saw me and ap-  
peared with a bottle of bubbly  
and some kind words. A  
perfect end.

'The run took me nine hours  
and 17 minutes in the end,  
although I also stopped for 31

minutes in total for bathroom  
breaks and to get food and  
drink.

'It's the hardest thing I've  
ever done and I consider it to  
be the greatest achievement  
of my life. I won't be doing  
it twice though - LOL - and  
my attempts at getting up and  
down the stairs afterwards  
were laughable. Sally the teen-  
age Westie always gets carried  
upstairs to bed and this made  
the task much harder, but we  
made it eventually. I probably  
should have just abandoned  
the idea altogether and slept in  
the lounge.'



## ARRAN BANNER GOLF

### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday April 4, The Roy Ure  
Tankard. A total of 23 played  
in the Roy Ure Tankard, the  
popular Stableford season  
starter. Conditions were  
fine but the wintery weather  
forecast for later in the day  
started to make its presence  
felt as a cool wind got progres-  
sively stronger as the morning  
progressed.

Perhaps reflecting the long  
winter absence, scoring was  
steady rather than spectacular,  
but 19 cards returned scores  
of 30 points or more and four  
players tied on 36 points.  
Congratulations though to  
Dave Hackett, winner of the  
prestigious Roy Ure Tankard  
for 2021 by the narrowest of  
margins - a countback on the  
last three holes of the front  
nine.

Result: 1 Dave Hackett  
(14)36pts acb, 2 Neil  
McKechnie (15)36 acb, 3 Sandy  
Pringle (14) 36 acb, 4. Ronnie  
Mann (12)36 acb. There were  
five magic twos recorded -  
Jamie MacPherson and Jamie  
Stewart at @2nd, Graeme  
Crichton at @4th, David  
Brookens at @13th and Jamie  
Stewart at @17th.

Fixtures: Sunday April  
11, yellow tees Stableford.



Wednesday April 14, Summer  
Trophy.

Until further notice there  
will be no draws for partners  
and players should arrange  
their own groupings.

### Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday April 1, Summer  
Cup: 1 Colin Richardson 80-  
18=62, 2 Alan Smith 81-16=65,  
3 Stuart Campbell 71-5=66, 4  
Euan Bone 80-13=67 BIH over  
Derek Harrison 89-22=67. Best  
scratch Stuart Campbell 71.  
Magic twos Alan Smith @13th  
and 16th, Euan Bone @5th, Ian  
Bremner @16th, Dylan Smith  
@16th.

Saturday April 3, three club  
competition (Stableford): 1  
Alan Smith 38pts, 2 Neil Young  
37pts, 3 Colin Richardson  
36pts.

Magic twos Neil Young @5th,  
Allan Campbell @4th, Dougie  
Macfarlane @8th, Andy Smith  
@5th.

Sunday April 4, mixed Texas

Scramble: 1 Kate McAdam,  
Scott Campbell and Serge El  
Adm 59-4.5=54.5, 2 Alison  
Heron, Paul Cowan and Derek  
Harrison 62-6.3=55.7 BIH  
over Madeline McLaren, Iain  
Murchie and Andy Smith  
62-6.3=55.7.

Fixtures: Sunday April 11,  
Carpenter Rose Bowl (stroke  
play), noon draw. Thursday  
April 15, Summer Cup, make  
up own groups and see starter  
for times.

### Brodrick Golf Club

Wednesday March 31,  
Summer Cup, 43 played: 1  
Fred Galbraith 80-15=65, 2  
Frazer Barr 74-8=66 acb, 3  
Craig Thomson 90-24=66 acb.  
Scratch Matt Keir 71.

Sunday April 4, Brandon  
qualifier, 24 played: 1 Ewan  
McKinnon 62-0=62, 2 Alastair  
Dobson 72-9=63, 3 Jim Reid  
82-18=64. Scratch Ewan  
McKinnon, 62. Great score by  
Ewan in difficult conditions.

Fixtures: Wednesday April  
7 (and on every Wednesday  
throughout the summer),  
Summer Cup.

Sunday April 11, British  
Legion 36 holes, round one.  
Wednesday April 14, closing  
date for McLelland Medal en-  
tries. Sunday April 18, British  
Legion Cup, incorporating  
round two of British Legion  
36-hole competition.

### Corrie Golf Club

Monday April 5, Monday Cup;  
1 John McGovern 76-12=64,  
2 Alan Smith 73 - 7 = 66.  
Best scratch Alan Smith 73.  
Magic twos Len Hartley@1st,  
Raymond Burke @10th, Alan  
Smith @13th, Robert McLean  
@13th. Overall winner of  
Monday Cup ( six best scores)  
Alan Smith, total 350, runner  
up Raymond Burke total 355.

Fixtures: Saturday April 10,  
18-hole medal. Wednesday  
April 14, Wednesday medal.  
Competitors arrange their  
own matches and play within  
current Covid regulations.

### Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday April 1, ladies  
18-hole medal; Silver: 1 and  
scratch Sheila Gray 87-17=70,  
2 Jenni Turnbull 91-19=72,  
3 Alice Anderson 91-18=73  
BIH. Bronze: 1 Julia Salton  
87-24=73, 2 Elizabeth Kelso  
96-22=74, 3 Sally Brookes  
102-25=77.

### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Fixtures: Tuesday April 13,  
Peter Sutton, tee off 12.30pm  
and 5pm, also the Lady Mary.  
Can anyone intending to play  
in the evening tee off time  
please phone Brian by Monday  
at the latest.

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# Lifetime feat as Dave runs round Arran – 56@56

Last weekend runner David Black achieved his long held ambition to run the 56 miles around the entire island to mark his 56th birthday. Starting and finishing at Lagg, Dave didn't tell anyone in advance as he didn't think he would complete it – and he nearly didn't. He is well-known on the island for his running and this has been his goal for nearly 20 years now. His aim was to complete it in under 10 hours and it took him 9 hours 17 minutes. Here is his remarkable story in his own words

I've lived on Arran for 37 years and I still remember the sponsored walk round Arran that took place back in the mid-80s.

I've wanted to run round Arran ever since I started running about 20 years ago. My hours were reduced at CalMac this winter because of the Covid lockdown so I seized my opportunity to train harder than normal with my extra free time.

I ran every day, all winter, and racked up some quite serious mileage to prepare. I just couldn't resist the lure of running the 56 miles around Arran on my 56th year. 56@56! It has a nice ring to it, like it's just, well, "supposed to be". I didn't tell anyone when I planned to try my 56-mile run as I thought that the odds were stacked quite high against me completing it. Two-and-a-bit marathons on a hilly island, an old guy with arthritic knees.

I decided to attempt the challenge on Good Friday as there was a good forecast and I was allowed to take a holiday day from work. I had intended to run with fellow 57-year-old Arran runner Mike Mellor

**Dave shows his relief and celebrates at the end of the run.**

the previous weekend but the weather was foul and we aborted the idea.

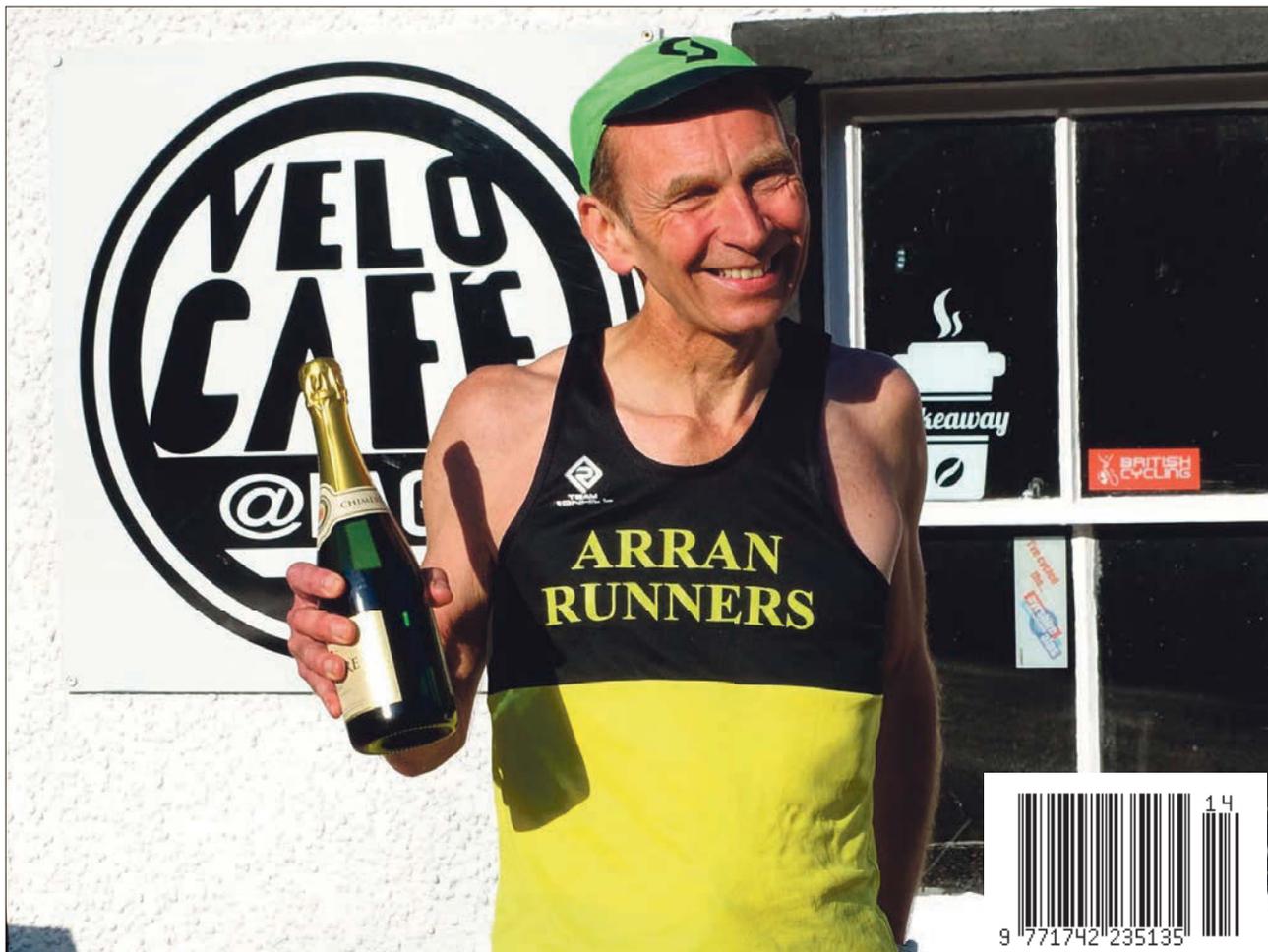
'On the day the run went well for the first 35 miles. Empty roads, and it was still and sunny. Thereafter, inevitably, things became harder.

'My quads started to seize up and the sunny weather was overheating me. In fact I think I got sunstroke towards the end. I was really struggling.

'Hairs standing on end and pins and needles in my hands. My run pace eventually declined and I thought that I might not finish.

'Luckily, Neil May had just heard that I'd been seen trying to complete the run, and he jumped in his car, caught up and followed me for the last few miles. I was grateful for this. I thought that I may capitulate entirely if I became any worse, and he shouted encouragement.

Continued on page 15.



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**HAPPY EASTER**

Please note that Lamlash Garage will be closed for our annual Easter holiday from 5pm on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, re-opening 8am on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April.