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New call for action after a week of ferry frustration

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Frustration with ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) reached an all-time high this week after passengers endured a week of delays, disruption and cancellations.

Initially the cancellations were due to inclement weather but the situation was exacerbated by nearly four days of extremely limited capacity owing to MV Caledonian Isles being removed from service after crew members tested positive for Covid.

The situation began last Thursday when a number of MV Isle of Arran sailings were cancelled due to high winds. MV Caledonian Isles attempted to deal with the peak summer demand but because of limited capacity and being reduced to a single vessel service – coupled with a Mayday response – it was unable to accommodate all of its customers and lengthy delays

ensued. CalMac scheduled an additional sailing to cope with the demand but the sailing, and an earlier 7.20pm sailing, were cancelled because of the weather. This resulted in more than 60 people being stranded on the island, with Police Scotland and Visit Arran implementing civil contingency

'A prepared strategy can and must be prepared that can be put into action at a moment's notice...'

measures to accommodate the stranded visitors.

Following the stranding of passengers on Thursday, the Arran Ferry Action Group wrote a letter to Stuart Wilson, CalMac group communications director, offering their assistance in drawing up a contingency plan in the event of future passenger strandings.

It said: 'A prepared strategy

can and must be prepared that can be put into action at a moment's notice, ensuring that visitors are not left stranded, without information or help. This will entail the co-operation of island bodies, most of whom went the extra mile to sort people out last night.'

Tommy Gore, CalMac's area operations manager for the Clyde, replied on behalf of Stuart Wilson. He said: 'Managing people stranded in Arran or any civil contingency is a matter for the Arran Resilience Partnership. As soon as we became aware the 7.20pm sailing would be cancelled, we liaised with partners at Visit Arran to ensure they would be available to assist finding accommodation for people who were stranded, as they are far better placed than we are to arrange this, given the number of people we need to work with and operational requirements in the port. The police were called to attend as

Continued on page two.



Tiny tots head off into 'big' Brodick school

Brodick Primary School's head teacher Shirley MacLachlan and principal teacher Claire Mooney join nine new P1 pupils as they wave goodbye to their teary-eyed parents at the start of the new school term on Wednesday morning. The scene was repeated at schools across the island and at the majority of mainland Scottish schools where pupils returned to lessons after enjoying almost six weeks of summer holidays.

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Ferry frustrations reach fever pitch after Caledonian Isles service halted

Continued from page 1.

the weather cancellations meant it was a civil contingencies issue.'

The following day, on Friday, passengers endured further cancellations on the MV Isle of Arran and MV Caledonian Isles was once again delayed on most sailings owing to the volume of traffic it had to accommodate. There was temporarily relief on Saturday when MV Caledonian Isles was able to accommodate more of the bookings whilst the MV Isle of Arran continued to have sailings cancelled because of adverse weather.

Sunday brought fresh misery for travellers when MV Caledonian Isles was withdrawn from service following a positive Covid test among crew members and the vessel was returned to the east berth at Brodick Pier for deep



A ship with no crew, MV Caledonian Isles berthed at the east pier at Brodick this week. 01_B34splash01

to install a new bow visor seal.

Owing to the ever-increasing bottleneck of passengers needing to make use of the service, CalMac carried the following message on its website: 'Space on the Ardrossan-Brodick route will be exceptionally limited and will operate on a first-come, first-served basis, with lifeline traffic being prioritised. Because of this, we ask that customers only travel if necessary. If you do not already have a vehicle booking please do not attempt to travel.'

Throughout all of the disruption CalMac urged passengers to also make use of its second route - Lochranza to Claonaig. And while this was well used, it could only alleviate some of the pressure on the service and is less favoured by many as the route entails a lengthy detour to the north of the island. Also, the service is not bookable, and there is no restroom. CalMac said: 'We would encourage as many people as possible to travel on the non-bookable Lochranza to Claonaig service where extra sailings will be operating. MV Loch Linnhe will operate a shuttle service alongside MV Catriona's published timetable to assist with additional traffic.'

The continued disruption over nearly a week raised the ire of passengers whose bookings were repeatedly cancelled and their holiday plans thrown into disarray. Businesses on Arran, as well as locals needing to make hospital and other important appointments, became increasingly frustrated with the service and are calling for immediate improvements. The disruption

has also led to the Arran Ferry Committee expressing their disapproval at the situation. In a strongly worded statement to the Banner they said: 'Arran Ferry Committee are extremely disappointed at the continued failure to provide effective capacity to meet the needs of island residents and commercial suppliers.'

'The uncertainty of travel and examples of missed appointments is totally unacceptable and does nothing to instil confidence in the service offered. It is vital we have effective contingency planning and resilient processes for these situations and the urgent need for additional capacity and flexibility to operate outwith set timetables is essential.'

'CalMac senior management need to be much more visible and involved to support the current unprecedented levels of cancellations and demonstrate leadership in resolving the crisis. We are also disappointed that, despite frequent discussions, basic public facilities cannot yet be provided at Claonaig to handle the increasing frequency that this route is being used to handle traffic displaced from the Ardrossan route.'

'Arran Ferry Committee has requested an urgent meeting with the Transport Minister to discuss these matters and other concerns directly.'

When approached for a comment, particularly on resilience or future plans for this type of eventuality, CalMac's managing director Robbie Drummond told the Banner: 'It is unfortunate this is the second Covid-related interruption affecting the same route within one week and I apologise for the inconvenience and distress this is causing to our customers. This

is an escalating risk across the network for vessels and ports.'

'Sourcing crew and port staff to replace those who are self-isolating and those who are waiting to receive the results of PCR tests is becoming increasingly difficult.'

'Unlike other forms of public transport, ferry crew numbers are strictly governed by maritime laws, but with increasing numbers having to self-isolate, this unfortunately has a knock-on effect on the ferry service. Vessels are only permitted to operate with a minimum number of crew on board to protect passenger safety.'

'I would like to make clear that while this current situation has been caused by factors outwith our control, CalMac employees are being shouted at and treated in an aggressive manner by a minority of customers. This is not acceptable and will only lead to more people becoming ill.'

Tommy Gore, in his reply to the Arran Ferry Action Group, also spoke out about staff being abused. He said: 'I would have to say that the level of abuse my staff received during this time was completely unacceptable, with this abuse continuing after they had left the port and were simply doing their shopping in the Co-op. Whilst I appreciate people will be angry and frustrated, it is never acceptable for this to be taken out on frontline staff who are doing their best in difficult circumstances.'

Shortly before going to press on Wednesday, CalMac announced they expected MV Caledonian Isles to resume normal service at 3.20pm from Ardrossan and that repairs to MV Isle of Arran were successful and that the vessel would return to service at 12.30pm.

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Waverley passengers left on t

More than 139 pre-booked passengers were left on Brodick Pier last Thursday after the PS Waverley was unable to berth due to MV Isle of Arran using the pier's east berth, writes Colin Smeeton.

Passengers waiting on the 2.20pm sailing to Pladda and round Holy Isle say they were only notified of the cancella-

tion with minutes to spare. The east berth at Brodick Pier was occupied by MV Isle of Arran which sought refuge owing to deteriorating weather conditions which resulted in the 3.15pm from Ardrossan and the 4.45pm from Brodick being cancelled.

Paul Semple, general manager of Waverley Excursions

Limited, told the Banner: 'Last Thursday, Waverley's call at Brodick was unfortunately cancelled. This was due to weather disruption on the Brodick-Ardrossan service as a CalMac vessel required the east berth at Brodick Pier for some of the afternoon over the period when Waverley had been scheduled to call for her

Stranded after weather sees ferries cancelled

More than 60 passengers required accommodation

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



More than 60 passengers had to be accommodated at hotels, halls and private residences last Thursday as severe weather caused the cancellation of a number of CalMac sailings.

Earlier in the afternoon, two MV Isle of Arran sailings, the 3.15pm from Ardrossan and the 4.45pm from Brodick, were cancelled, as well as an unscheduled 8.15pm sailing timetabled to accommodate passengers at Ardrossan. Owing to deteriorating weather conditions, it was cancelled, along with a 7.20pm sailing from Brodick which left a number of passengers stuck on the island.

Sheila Gilmore of VisitArran, after liaising with Police Scotland, issued a Facebook plea to accommodation providers and Arran residents and, with community assistance, managed to accommodate all of the passengers who were left stranded.

Provision was also made, with CalMac's assistance, to transport a coach with 25 elderly passengers on the Claonaig ferry.

Sheila said: 'There were approximately 60 people stranded last Thursday night.'

'It's really important to highlight local port staff have little say in whether boats sail or not and VisitArran was happy to help some of the customers affected.'



The MV Caledonian Isles and MV Isle of Arran which serve the Ardrossan to Brodick route.

01_B34stranded01

'With the help of various island businesses - not all accommodation operators - and community residents who had offered accommodation, we were able to secure a bed for everyone who contacted us, adults, children, babies - even a chihuahua.'

'In fact, such was the response that some people got transported by eager islanders who wanted to assist, even when accommodation had actually been sourced elsewhere.'

'In addition to the 60, CalMac managed to get a bus party of 25 pensioners off via Claonaig. Transport was

provided for many and Police Scotland kindly assisted in some cases where families were involved. Huge thanks to the wonderful Arran community, to all the island businesses and, indeed, everyone who got involved, particularly my neighbour Carol Brown who kindly manned the VisitArran phone, whilst I rang round on a mobile.'

Owing to continued MV Isle of Arran cancellations the following morning, and continued adverse weather, timetabled sailings continued to be disrupted, with passengers struggling to secure a position

on the ferry. Scheduled sailings being made by Arran's other vessel, MV Caledonian Isles, were delayed throughout the day due to the volume of traffic trying to make use of the single ferry service.

Caledonian Isles responds to Mayday

MV Caledonian Isles was delayed last Thursday when the roll-on, roll-off passenger vessel took on a slightly different role, that of a rescue vessel, when it went to the assistance of a yacht that had issued a Mayday call near Ardrossan, writes Colin Smeeton.

In difficult weather conditions, Caledonian Isles responded to the Mayday call, along with the Ardrossan Coastguard Rescue Team, Troon RNLI and the Coastguard helicopter, Rescue 199 from Prestwick, before being stood down by the Coastguard.

In their second callout of the day, the Troon RNLI were alerted by the Belfast Coastguard shortly after 4pm of a Mayday call from a 37ft yacht - which had suffered from machinery failure near Ardrossan and which was drifting inshore owing to the weather conditions.

The RNLI Trent class lifeboat was once again launched and while on route, information came through that the casualty vessel was at anchor north of Horse Island. Once on the scene, and after consulting with the crew onboard, it was decided due to the sea conditions, that the vessel would remain at anchor and the two people on board would be transferred to the lifeboat.

The all-weather lifeboat was manoeuvred alongside the casualty vessel and the two crew were successfully transferred to the lifeboat. With the casualties on board, the



The Troon RNLI lifeboat alongside the casualty vessel off Ardrossan.

Photograph: Andrew Williams

lifeboat headed to Ardrossan harbour where the crew were transferred ashore to the waiting Coastguard team.

The Troon lifeboat then returned to Troon where it was once again made ready for service with the assistance of shore crew. The stricken yacht was left at anchor for the owners to recover when conditions improved.

A CalMac spokesperson said: 'The Caledonian Isles responded to the Mayday call and stood by the vessel to support it until the Troon lifeboat was able to reach the scene and take the individuals to safety.'

'We are glad it was handled in such a professional and efficient way by the RNLI and our own staff and we thank passengers for their patience and understanding.'

The dock after berth cancelled

weekly cruise to Pladda and round Holy Isle.

'We notified passengers as soon as it became apparent that Waverley would not be able to use the berth at Brodick. Passengers are able to transfer their ticket to another sailing or apply for a full refund. I offer my sincere apologies to passengers who

were due to board Waverley at Brodick and hope they will choose to transfer to another sailing.'

A further sailing round Ailsa Craig, scheduled for Monday August 16, was also altered to exclude Brodick Pier, this time owing to MV Caledonian Isles which was berthed at the east pier after

being removed from service following a number of positive Covid results among the crew.

Passengers wanting to sail on the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world can still book for this year's sailing timetable, which ends on Sunday August 29, by visiting waverleyexcursions.co.uk

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Community-minded groups can apply for CalMac cash

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Community groups and organisations that provide services that benefit the community are being invited to apply for CalMac's Community Fund.

The Community Fund, supported by Foundation Scotland, is offering awards of up to £2,000 to organisations tackling social isolation, loneliness and/or poverty and poor mental health.

Applications are also welcome from non-profit organisations that encourage re-engagement with community activities following the pandemic.

Last year's recipients included



ed Brodick Early Years which received an award to develop an outdoor space and improve the mental health of their young pupils. Kintyre Alcohol and Drug Advisory Service also received funding for its Peer Educator Project tackling mental health as well as the

Jura Care Centre Group which received financial assistance for its Jura Seniors Wellness project.

A wide range of projects and groups are able to apply. These can include youth or elderly outreach projects, befriending services, family support

Brodick Early Years is a previous beneficiary of the fund which allowed the nursery to establish an outdoor play area which the children use every day.

groups, key community clubs and important community events, counselling services, active or creative projects and groups that require support for community halls to re-open to enable groups to re-start activities, community gardens or orchards.

Gordon McKillop, corporate social responsibility manager for CalMac, said: 'The CalMac Community Fund was created to make a difference to those most in need across our West

Coast communities. It is also a fantastic way for us to connect with our communities.

'The last 18 months has placed a huge strain on people's lives and grass roots community groups have stepped up magnificently to help those affected. We would love to hear from these groups and would encourage those eligible to apply for an award.'

Last year the CalMac Community Fund supported 60 groups tackling social isolation, mental health, loneliness and/or poverty. Information on eligibility and how to apply, as well as information on previous awards, can be found on the website at calmac.co.uk/community-fund.



First place winner Iain McConnell at a previous dog trial event.

Dog trials resume

Arran's first dog trial since February last year took place at Glenkiln Farm by kind permission of Kenny Bone who also provided the sheep for the evening.

Judging was by Neil Henderson of Kilpatrick who welcomed eight entrants. The results were as follows; 1 Iain McConnell with Joe 86pts; 2 Mathew McNeish with Pip 83pts; 3 Wully Stevenson with Arran McLeod 83pts; 4 Wully Stevenson with Mac 80pts.

Club draw winners

The July winner of the Brodick Improvements Committee 200 Club was Gregor Grant from York.

Gillian Frame gives youth free fiddle lessons

Arran Fiddle Club's regular lessons for children are to be taught by Arran's Gillian Frame at no charge.

From teaching herself to play the fiddle as a youngster on the island, Gillian has gone on to have a highly successful career in music.

After graduating from the RSMAD, she became the inaugural winner of the Young Traditional Musician of the Year competition in

2001. Since then she has been a familiar face in the traditional music scene. She is a member of numerous bands, playing at home and abroad, and recently became a member of the critically acclaimed band, Rant. She has many years of teaching experience and in 2012 was awarded Music Tutor of the Year at the Scots Traditional Music Awards.

According to Alistair Paul of Arran Fiddle Club: 'We are

very fortunate to have Gillian teaching for us. This is an opportunity for island children to receive some of the best music tuition available.'

The club has received funding to help Covid recovery and is making lessons free of charge this year. There will be classes for new beginners and anyone interested should contact the club through their Facebook page or the Fèis Arainn website.



Children on Arran can receive free fiddle lesson from well-known musician Gillian Frame.

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Arran Fiddle Club
High School Classes start 24th August
After School Classes for primary school aged children start 7th September including class for new beginners.

To register contact the club through the feisarainn.com website

Arran accommodation providers urged to join holiday voucher scheme

VisitScotland is encouraging accommodation providers and attraction venues on Arran to participate in a new holiday voucher scheme that will benefit unpaid carers, disadvantaged young people and low-income families.

The ScotSpirit Holiday Voucher Scheme is funded by the Scottish Government and participating businesses will be reimbursed for an overnight stay or a day visit.

With the assistance of accommodation providers, the scheme will help to inject £1.4million into tourism businesses by December 2022, while also helping to support tourism businesses to recover from the pandemic by stimulating the demand for off-peak domestic breaks and day visits.

Malcolm Roughead, chief executive of VisitScotland, said:

'We're encouraging as many tourism businesses as possible to be part of the ScotSpirit Holiday Voucher Scheme. Not only will you generate income for your business but you will also provide long-lasting memories for people who don't often get to experience a holiday.

'Tourism is a force for good – creating economic and social value in every corner of Scotland and enhancing the well-being of everyone who experiences it. Tourism makes Scotland richer, economically and socially, and without it Scotland would be a much poorer place.'

The ScotSpirit Holiday Voucher Scheme will work in partnership with several charities, Family Holiday Association and Shared Care Scotland, to ensure the vouchers

are distributed to people in the greatest need of benefits to their mental health and well-being. The allocation of vouchers will be done through an application process which will start once there are a sufficient number of businesses signed-up to participate. Details of the application process will be announced at a later date.

For details about how to join the scheme and business terms and conditions please go to: www.visitscotland.org/about-us/what-we-do/working-in-partnership/scotspirit-voucher-scheme

The ScotSpirit scheme will provide holidays for unpaid carers, disadvantaged young people and low-income families.



Tourism bodies resign from 'not fit for purpose' working group

The future of the Scottish Government's working group on short-term lets is facing an uncertain future after several of Scotland's leading tourism organisations resigned from the group, writes Colin Smeeton.

Describing the group as 'not fit for purpose' and accusing it of failing to 'fulfil its remit,' representatives of the Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers, Airbnb, the Scottish B&B Association, and the UK Short Term Accommodation Association, quit the group en masse.

Earlier this year, the Scottish Government withdrew its licensing proposals ahead of the election and they committed to respond to stakeholder concerns through the working group.

However, the tourism bodies feel that this has not happened and that there is a lack of significant changes in the legislation which will impact traditional self-catering businesses and B&Bs, as well as homesharers. The proposed legislation has angered those affected even further as additional provisions have been added to the legislation

which will now also impact some guest houses. Chief executive of the Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers, Fiona Campbell, said: 'Despite our best efforts, and those of our colleagues across Scottish tourism, this working group has been revealed as nothing but a sham and therefore we have decided to leave it.

'Throughout the entire process, while we have acted in good faith, this government has continually shifted the goalposts and acted with cavalier disregard and indifference towards our sincere concerns and innovative ideas.

'Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and long-before that, the Scottish tourism industry has been an example for others to follow – it is therefore extremely disappointing that our government has not held itself to the same standards and failed to back small business at this crucial time.'

David Weston, who is the chairman of the Bed & Breakfast Association, added: 'Leaving the working group is not a decision that my colleagues and I have taken lightly but there seems little point in remaining.

'We have been frustrated at every turn and it will be Scottish B&Bs that suffer if we continue to take part in what has become nothing but a charade.

'Our members expect us to act in their best interests, and in the interests of the broader tourism sector, and it has been made abundantly clear that neither the working group nor the Scottish Government are interested in that type of dialogue.'

Founded in 1978, the Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers is the trade body representing the interests of the traditional self-catering sector. It has more than 1300 members who operating tens of thousands of self-catering properties throughout Scotland.

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LETTERS

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

Meaningful change

There can be no doubt that events over the last week have been increasingly frustrating for people on Arran, and for visitors, who need to make use of the CalMac ferries.

It has been said before that our lives are so closely intertwined and dependent on a reliable ferry service that it can be difficult to not feel emotionally invested.

We can all understand these frustrations and should lobby for improvements that can add resilience to the service, but it is important to remember to direct complaints and criticism at the correct people responsible.

Of course, it is difficult to apportion blame, is it CMAL, the owners of the ferries and ports, is it CalMac who operate the ferries? Is it Scottish ministers and government who are responsible for procuring the vessels? Or is it all of the above?

Whatever your view, it is most definitely not the people working incredibly hard at the piers and ports.

And while most of us understand this, and that it is a minority that are levelling abuse at CalMac staff, the rest of us should consider joining one of the ferry lobbying groups, or make our feelings clear to whomever we believe responsible, to enact meaningful change.

Thought for the week

'Those who are now last shall be first, and those who are now first will be last.' Luke 13:30

Dutch tourist rescue

Sir,
I would like to share a story about the rescue of two Dutch tourists on Arran.

My wife and I were cycling from Lamlash to Sliddery and we were nearly at the top of the hill when my wife Lien could not cycle any more and started to walk.

I was waiting at the top, my battery almost depleted and it was getting dark.

Suddenly an angel in a car stopped and asked if we needed some help.

William Sturgeon, a carpenter returning from work with his van full of material, could not help us immediately but he drove home and went to fetch another car.

A short while later William arrived with his rescue car and he loaded up our e-bikes and luggage.

We were really grateful for his assistance and he refused to accept anything in return for saving us.

He told us that he had also been in that situation before and if more people helped each other we could create a better world.

William dropped us off in Shiskine and had to drive all the way back home again. Wow, what an adventure on the beautiful island, and also a warning for all amateur cyclists.

Yours,
Ernest and Lien Van Hout,
The Netherlands



Dutch tourists, Ernest and Lien Van Hout, who were rescued while cycling on Arran.

Blindsided to islanders needs

Sir,
We have been holidaying on Arran at the Auchrannie Lodges since the construction of the second lodge.

We always buy at least two editions of your

excellent newspaper and have read over the years about islanders' complaints concerning the ferry service.

We finally have first-hand experience of this. On Sunday August 8, because of Covid cancellations we had no alternative but to divert at 1.30pm en route to Ardrossan to Cloanaig.

This involved a four-hour drive through torrential rain where we missed one ferry, could not get on the next, and finally crossed to Lochranza, arriving at our holiday accommodation at 8pm.

Due to leave the island after an excellent holiday on Sunday August 15 on the 11.05am Ardrossan ferry, we were advised at 2pm on the Saturday that this ferry would not sail for operational reasons.

I had to be home in Linlithgow for a hospital appointment on Monday so we packed up and headed back to Lochranza and once on the mainland had another tortuous but scenic three-and-a-half hour drive that got us home to Linlithgow at 9pm.

Writing this today I learn that all MV Caledonian sailings ended up being cancelled for Covid-related reasons.

I know of no other form of public transport where the method of transportation (as opposed

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

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.

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to the employee) is removed from service for Covid-related reasons.

Surely if this issue is so critical steps should have been taken to have all crew members double jabbed and Scottish Government approval obtained to allow unaffected staff to continue to work upon passing a simple Lateral Flow Test.

Yet again CalMac and the Scottish Government seem blindsided to the needs of islanders and the tourists who help to fuel the local economy and please do not get me started on the unfinished ferry fiasco.

I have copied this to my local MSP who hopefully will make the government's transport minister aware of this ridiculous state of affairs.

Yours,
Jim Carlin
Linlithgow

Who's to blame?

Sir,
With the cancellation of numerous crossings, withdrawal of booking reservations at short notice made in good faith well ahead of time, locals, island businesses and tourists left stranded and in serious difficulty, holidays cancelled, lost business to the island, criticism of CalMac has been full of fury and vitriol.

Strong winds and Covid incidents the principle cause of late.

Mr Neil HC Arthur's letter published in The Arran Banner, Friday August 13, offers excellent insight into where the blame should be apportioned in my opinion. Ageing ferries – over half of CalMac's fleet – are now operating past life expectancy. Breakdowns inevitable, especially in challenging weather conditions and high turnover of vehicles and passengers.

Further, many modern cars are bigger and heavier now and were not figured into the design of many of the ferries; mezzanine vehicle decks on older ferries face a growing challenge.

The two new ferries well past their delivery date – will they, too, be out of date with the requirements of the century they enter service?

Cancellations because of positive Covid tests in the crew. CalMac have no choice, they have to obey the law the Scottish Government imposes.

Who is responsible? Not CalMac.

My observations above convince me that if

anyone's feet are to be held to the fire to excite positive change, it is those of our Scottish Government, CalMac is as much a victim in this nightmare as we are.

Yours,
Gordon McGinn
Troon

Government intervention

Sir,
It is a delicate subject but one that I think needs to be addressed: on two separate occasions, the Caledonian Isles has been taken out of service because one then two of their crew tested positive for Covid. I fear that in the next year at least this will be a recurrent problem given the fact that the virus is still with us.

It is obviously not a practical solution that if every time a crew member tests positive the ferry is cancelled for 48 hours. The fear of the virus seems to be taking control over logic.

I would ask our government which is responsible for the rules which CalMac needs to obey to look seriously at this and change the rules in a way that protects us but does not disrupt Arran's economy and the lives of her people.

Yours,
John Cruickshank
Whiting Bay

Airstrip needed for Arran

Sir,
Further to Neil Arthur's letter concerning air travel to the islands (Arran Banner, August 13 2021), perhaps it is now time to build an airport on Arran. Then we wouldn't have to suffer the debacle of the continued lottery that is travel with CalMac.

Just something along the lines of the airstrip on Bute would suffice. See: www.visitbute.com/bute-airstrip/

Yours,
P W Yates
Catacol

Have you seen it?

Sir,
I've recently experienced some kind of UFO

sighting, the same one appearing more than once.

It was a strange black object moving through the sky but quite low down and moving at an incredible pace.

I noticed it first by this 'whoosh' sound as it moved through the air. It was going too fast to be a bird and definitely not a plane or drone. Has any one else had such experiences?

Yours,
Jamie Leese
Machrie

Cat grief support

Sir,
With National Grief Awareness Day on August 30, I'd like to highlight Cats Protection's grief support service for cat owners.

Now in its fifth year, Paws to Listen is there for anyone facing the heartbreak of losing their cat, struggling with issues like euthanasia, or whose cat has gone missing.

It is a free and confidential service, connecting callers with a volunteer listener over the telephone or via email.

Pet loss is not always fully recognised in society as a significant loss, causing many to be reluctant to talk about their grief.

Additionally, Covid restrictions in the past year or so have often meant that people could not be with their pets at the point of euthanasia, which has compounded people's grief.

We feel it is important to normalise pet grief and let people know that they're not alone and it's OK to talk about it.

This year, our Paws to Listen service is being supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

I'd like to say a huge thank you to them for their continued support, which is also helping us to take care of cats at our centres and speak up for cats through our campaigning work.

The Paws to Listen phone line is open 9am-5pm Monday to Friday (excluding Bank Holidays) and can be reached on 0800 024 94 94.

Alternatively, people can get in touch via an online form at: www.cats.org.uk/grief

Yours,
Catherine Joyce
Paws to Listen, Cats Protection

Woke environmentalism

Sir,
Are there any limits to where woke environmentalism or climate change alarm will take us?

UK newspapers recently reported concern about the use of Isle of Islay peat for whisky distilling. Whisky in Scotland may be an amazing byproduct of successful missionary work in the Highlands and Islands by Irish monks.

The recipe for whisky is believed by some to have been carried to Scotland by Irish monks. When working as a young GP on Islay, during a very memorable and enjoyable year in the 1990s, there seemed to be rather a lot of peat and fresh water on evidence. Depletion of Islay peat by the distilling industry, or concern about its conversion into greenhouse gases, sounds like fake news.

One of the sharpest critics of woke fads, or other unbalanced forms of emotionalism, has to be the Rev David Robertson. The former Moderator of the Free Church blogs at 'wee flea.com', which contains a variety of thoughts and reflections, by one of the sharpest and funniest media communicators.

The August 15 post on Rev Robertson's blog is entitled 'Sowing in Tears, Reaping in Joy' and considers how seeds sown by evangelists sometimes take years or decades to sprout. Rev Robertson's excellent talk starts about 30 minutes into the posted video.

There is probably a very limited chance of whisky distilling being terminated on Islay for fear of peat depletion. There is even less chance of evangelism ceasing, because 'one-solitary-life' has clearly shaped human destiny more than any other.


This legacy can never be erased from human history or consciousness, and will typically draw one of two responses: scepticism or reverence.

Yours,
JT Hardy, Belfast

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Castle's new manager holds



New operations manager Stuart MacKinnon with head ranger Kate Sampson and the Brodick Castle management team.

Stuart MacKinnon, the new operations manager at Brodick Castle, Gardens and Country Park, made a positive first impression by welcoming islanders to a free open day last Tuesday, writes Colin Smeeton.

Islanders and visitors were invited to receive special tours of the castle and gardens and a chance to find out more about on-going conservation projects from the ranger and collections care teams.

No stranger to island living, Stuart is originally from the Isle of Barra. His most recent role was with Marks and Spencer where he led a team opening the new M&S store in Oban.

Stuart said he was thrilled with his move to Arran and his new job at Brodick Castle.

'I'm delighted to have joined a wonderful organisation that contributes so much to our heritage, landscape and understanding,' he said. 'To be involved in protecting our heritage for future generations

fills me with immense pride and I can only hope to add to the amazing site and team that we have here on the wonderful Isle of Arran.'

The highlight of the open day, undoubtedly for many of the children that attended, was the family-orientated wacky races which usually take place over Easter and was sorely missed this year.

With the sun shining and the recent relaxations of Covid restrictions, it was an ideal chance for families to come together, relax, enjoy all that was on offer and to take part in the fun races.

Brodick rangers Kate Sampson and Corinna Goeckeritz, who were among those running the wacky races, expressed their delight at the castle grounds once again reverberating with the sound of 'buzzy' dragonflies, children's laughter and the 'ready, steady, go' from the rangers on the loud hailer by saying: 'At last things are starting to get back to normal.'



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Children prepare to set off on their steeds.

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Islands open day for islanders



Above: Children make easy work of obstacles during the horse race.



Young participants line up for a race.



Right: There was plenty laughter in the four person welly race.



This pair handled the two-legged race with ease.



A young girl completes the dog race.



A young girl shows off her 'buzzy' dragonfly.



These two boys show how three-legged races should be done, as their friends take a tumble.

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Arran Open Studios 'justified'

Visitors flock to studios showcasing the best of the island's contemporary arts and crafts

Words and photos
by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The annual Arran Open Studios weekend has been a resounding success with artists involved reporting a busy weekend.

One of the largest events held on Arran since lockdown restrictions began, the event showcased the wide range of talented artists working on Arran.

Arran Open Studios aims to promote art on Arran, while providing visitors with an insight into how the artists create and work in their studios.

Over four days, starting last Friday, 30 studios across Arran opened their doors to visitors who were encouraged to look at the work being created and ask the artists questions.

Visitors could buy favourite artworks and many artists reported bumper sales, particularly on Friday, which one gallery

described as their best sales day of the year.

Items on offer included felting, woodwork, paintings, quilting, sculptures, glass-making, kilts and jewellery.

Tim Pomeroy, one of the organisers, said: 'Reports from a cross section of studios has confirmed a positive event this year, justifying the faith organisers had in deciding to go ahead when most other Arran events of note were being postponed again.'

'This fact was not lost on visitors who it was noted applauded the fact Arran Open Studios had gone ahead. It is thought at this early stage visitor numbers are slightly down on previous years.'

'But given the continuing uncertainty of Covid-19 and the vagaries of CalMac through weather, breakdown or infection, it is thought these reduced numbers only reflect a cautious thinking audience for the event. What has been noted is that those visiting are much more focused on

discovering the living art of the island than previous years.

'Fewer are the idly curious. And those focused visitors, it would seem, have been willing to spend.'

'It is thought that might be a sign of the increased optimism of the further relaxations of lockdown.'

'It is hoped, as it is universally, that next year all aspects of Arran life will have opened up again. Organisers look forward to increased sales and visitor interest in their tenth year.'

In addition to the open studios weekend, an all-year-round Arran Art Trail is available for visitors to meet the artists and see their work at 14 studios, workshops and venues around Arran.

Further information about these can be found on the www.arranarttrail.com website.



Clockwise from top left:
Senja Brendon of Saltwater Studios with some of her and other artists' paintings.

01_B34A0501

Kathleen Sowden paints landscapes in oil and acrylics and is also well known for her quilting.

01_B34A0505

Tracy Gibson of Island Porcelain with some of her creations.

01_B34A0502

Gallery assistant at Nick Giles' Arran Art Gallery

Esther Brown.

01_B34A0508

Heather Macleod of the Arran Studio packages up candles between creating her silk paintings.

01_B34A0509



d' in going ahead with event



Above left: Lesley Lockhart displays some of her oils and acrylic paintings. 01_B34AOS03



Above right: Lynn Jones of Lynn's Art on Arran with one of her felt landscapes. 01_B34AOS10



Right: Glass artist Paul McGarrie with some of his unique creations. 01_B34AOS11



Left: Andrew Binnie with some of his mixed media images which are inspired by Arran's waters and mountains. 01_B34AOS04

Right: Catherine Rose Scott of Catherine Rose Muralworks with some of her bright artwork created with acrylics on canvas. 01_B34AOS07



Left: Tim Pomeroy, carver and sculptor, with some of his smaller stone carvings. 01_B34AOS06

Arran Belles are still doing it for Dodd



by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The Arran Belles, a female cycling group on the island, are continuing their fundraising efforts for the My Name5 Doddie Foundation.

They took part in the Doddie5 60-mile cycle fundraiser - the Melrose to Melrose Loop - on August 8.

My Name5 Doddie Foundation was established in November 2017 by Doddie Weir who was diagnosed with motor neurone disease (MND) in December 2016.

The organisation is committed to help find a cure for MND and provides support for sufferers.

The Arran Belles started supporting the foundation in January when they cycled more than 2,000 miles in support of the Doddie Aid Event.

What made it even more poignant was that their friend and fellow Belle, Sue Berry, was diagnosed with MND and Sarah Cook's sister Alison is also suffering from the illness.

As a result, the Belles felt compelled to remain involved and eight of them signed up for the Melrose to Melrose Loop.

The Arran Belles enjoy a lunch stop at Jedburgh.

Unfortunately, by the time of the event Sue could not take part but she and her husband Mark went along to provide support, both in a physical and emotional sense.

Doddie himself met and thanked the Belles for their efforts and said that he had holidayed on Arran and found it a beautiful place.

About 1,000 people started the race and everyone's spirits were high and the sun was shining.

Sadly their luck ran out on the homeward straight when they experienced torrential rain, thunder and lightning.

But the weather did not stop Isla Murchie, Fiona Carswell, Annie Lloyd, Sarah Cook, Josephine Broekhuizen, Fiona Burke and Janice Small from completing the ride and receiving their finishers' medals after completing the challenging route through the Scottish Border towns of Earlstoun, Kelso, Jedburgh and Hawick.

The Arran Belles have raised £3,024 for the My Name5 Doddie Foundation and they thank all of their supporters for helping to raise the incredible sum.

Those wishing to contribute to the fundraising can still do so on the JustGiving website at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ArranBellesDoddie5Cycle



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Everyone who finished the ride received a medal.



The Arran Belles with Doddie Weir.



A smiling Fiona Burke crosses the finish line.



And they're off! The Arran Belles pass Doddie Weir and Sue Berry.



Left: Smiling from ear to ear, Sarah Cook finishes her cycle.



The Belles dry off and warm up at the finish line.



Left: Josephine Broekhuizen and Annie Lloyd prepare to set off at the start of the cycle. Above: Janice Small and Isla Murchie wave to the camera during the 60-mile cycle.

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Birds begin to flock after signs of a successful breeding season

In comparison to June, July was much drier and warmer.

The mean temperature was three degrees higher.

In comparison to July last year, July this year was also drier and warmer.

There were only three days when there was more than two millimetres of rain. The light winds of May and June this year continued into July giving a prolonged settled spell.

This had a positive impact on the breeding success of most of our visiting summer birds, particularly those that relied on airborne insects to feed young.

Looking at the proportion of adult to young birds from information gathered by licensed bird ringers, willow warbler, chiffchaff, whitethroat, sedge warbler and blackcap all had a good season. Similarly, sand martin, house martin and swallow had a good season although this was not uniform across the island.

As reported in the June notes, garden birds seemed generally to thrive and seed-eating birds like lesser redpoll, siskin and goldfinch all had successful breeding seasons.

Other signs of a successful breeding season included: grey wagtail family on Eas Mhor on 5th; three large shelduck young by Cosyden on 6th; female mallard with nine young at Cordon, also on 6th; young great spotted woodpecker in Lochranza on 8th; red grouse family Carn Mhor on 9th; golden plover family Beinn Tarsuinn on 10th; four young eider on Sliderry Shore on 17th; five fledged common gull young at Brodick Castle on 19th; three young oystercatch-

Bird notes

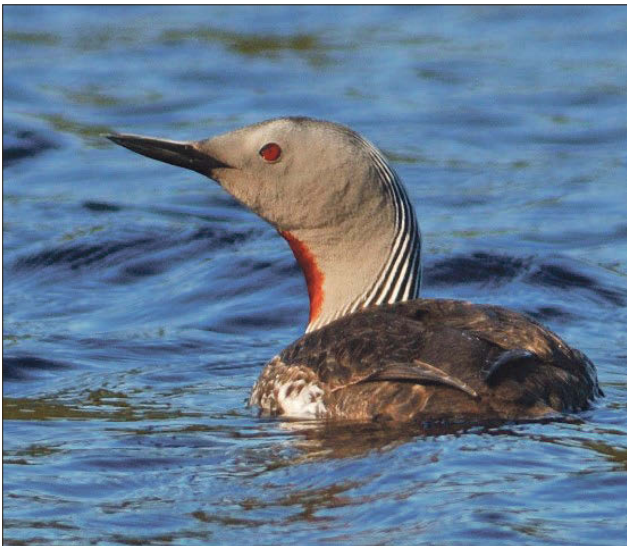
by Jim Cassels

JULY

er at Corrie on 22nd; spotted flycatcher family at Fairy Dell, also on 22nd; common sandpiper family at Porta Buidhe on 24th and female red-breasted merganser with nine young at Cladach on 28th.

On the downside, with the removal of some Covid restrictions, there was increased human activity on shores, with many ignoring notices of breeding birds and allowing their dogs off leads to cause disturbance to breeding shore birds. And there was concern that increased human activity on the hills near lochans was adversely affecting breeding red-throated divers and diminishing records of breeding curlew and fulmar is a continuing worry.

July marks the end of the breeding season for some birds. It can be an interesting time looking for breeding species dispersing from their breeding grounds, many still in their breeding plumage. Reports included: two black-headed gulls with two young by Fisherman's Walk on 21st; four turnstone at Blackwaterfoot on 27th; one dunlin at Blackwaterfoot on 31st and an adult sandwich tern feeding young in Lamlash Bay, also on 31st. As well as reports of our red-throated diver round the coast there were also reports of two more northerly breeding divers, two great



Red-throated divers are being driven off the hill lochans where they breed. Photograph: Dennis Morrison.



Another one of the July highlights was an osprey. Photograph: Brian Couper.

northern diver off Cosyden on 6th and two black-throated divers in Brodick Bay on 21st.

In addition, after breeding many species begin to flock together. Reports included:

14 black guillemot in Catacol Bay on 6th; 60 house sparrow in Kildonan on 13th; 100 shag off Pladda on 19th; 16 curlew on Brodick shore on 21st; 140 jackdaw in Lochranza on 23rd; 200 starling in Sliderry on 27th and 20 ringed plover with seven redshank in Blackwaterfoot on 31st.

More than 100 species were reported in July. Other highlights included: four manx shearwater in Brodick Bay on 2nd; three common scoter off Fisherman's Walk from 3rd to 8th; a swift over Largybeg on 11th; a female goosander in Catacol Bay on 15th; an osprey off Clachlands on 18th; 11 gannet in Whiting Bay, also on 18th; three common crossbill in Newton on 22nd and continuing reports of two over-summering whooper swan, one in Lamlash Bay and the other near Torrylinnwater Foot.

Finally, there was a record of



A sandwich tern feeding its young en route to its wintering area off the west coast of Africa. Photograph: Arthur Duncan.



Common scoter, one of the highlights of July and an occasional visitor to Arran. Photograph: Colin Cowley.



An Arctic breeding bird which will be heading south, a turnstone in breeding plumage. Photograph: Simon Davies.

a yellowhammer on Holy Isle on July 3. Summer records of this once widespread breeding species are now most unusual on Arran. This species will feature in a future Banner article.

Enjoy your birding and keep safe.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels,

Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report 2020 and the Arran Bird Report, The First 40 Years. Plus visit the website <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/index.html>



Red-breasted merganser with its young on a rock. Photograph: Arthur Duncan.



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Lochranza Distillery

Summer season is underway at our Lochranza Distillery and it has been with so much enjoyment that our entire team has welcomed all our visitors over the past number of weeks.

We are open in Lochranza 7 days a week and although distillery tours are not currently available, we have a full programme of sit-down tastings that take place daily.

Our core range tasting takes place daily at 11am and costs £20 per person. It's an excellent introduction to Arran Single Malt. Take a 'virtual tour' of our distillery and learn about the processes involved in producing our award-winning malt. Then retire to our dramming room to enjoy a comprehensive introduction to the Arran Single Malt Core Range, with one of our knowledgeable whisky guides. Perfect for newcomers to Arran whisky or enthusiastic Arran Single Malt fans alike!

Our limited editions tasting takes you a wee step further into our whisky world and is on every day at 2pm. It costs £25 per person. In this tasting, you will join your whisky guide in our dramming room and delve deeper into our full range of Arran Single Malts, past and present, sampling some of our limited editions, distillery exclusives and maybe even something from the archives!

If you like the sound of something sweeter, you can join in our Whisky & Arran Chocolate pairing every day at either 11am or 3pm. This tasting costs £15 per person and you get to enjoy three classic Arran drams alongside a selection of exquisite hand-made chocolates produced by our



local chocolatier, James of Arran. Taste the whisky, try the chocolates and let the flavours develop.

During your visit, don't forget to come and see our team upstairs in CASKS Café. The café is open 5 days a week Wednesday to Sunday (closed Monday & Tuesday) 10am-4.30pm, with our lunch menu served 12noon-3pm.

CASKS Café is situated on the first floor of our Visitor Centre, making the most of the stunning scenery that surrounds Lochranza Distillery. Come and enjoy our selection of hot and cold beverages, whisky tasting flights and delicious homemade cakes and scones, or join us for a light lunch during your distillery visit. If you are local, why not choose to pop in and join us for your morning or afternoon coffee. The Arran Gold latte is not to be missed!

If you've got a wee bit more time to spare, in July you can try the limited run 'Flavours of the Festival' whisky flight offering the chance to sample some of the Malt & Music Festival Single Cask and Harmony Edition Single Malts past and present – but once they're gone, they're gone!

Come and see us, make yourself at home and

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Recent Facebook Review from FB user Daniel Tillbrook – "We went to the bistro upstairs to sample some of the whisky. Special mention to the lady who was working at the bistro serving, her knowledge of the whisky and the island are a credit to the distillery! We stayed for some food which was great. Great experience overall especially with covid measures in place."

Due to capacity and social distancing restrictions, table bookings are recommended to avoid disappointment. Group sizes are restricted in line with Scottish Government guidance on socialising in indoor public spaces and we'd like to reassure you of a safe and welcoming environment in which to relax.

For more information or to make a booking, please e-mail bookings@arranwhisky.com or call 01770 830 264.

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday August 18 2001



The heavy event entrants at this year's 114th Brodick Highland Games. 01_B34ABTYA01



Above: Children who were suitably dressed for the annual Victorian Day at Brodick Castle took part in a fancy dress parade. 01_B34ABTYA02



Brodick Ladies Open scratch winner Gillian Lockhart of Barassie, centre front, with lady convenor Irene Rollo and some other golfing prizewinners. 01_B34ABTYA06



Prizewinners at the annual WRI show which saw Kildonan WRI taking most of the top honours with the best community tray and best individual exhibit which, unusually, was awarded to the institute rather than one person. 01_B34ABTYA03

CONTACTUS
EMAIL US AT
emailusateditor@arranbanner.co.uk
TELEPHONE
01770 302142



Capering at Corrie, Viking style. It was as dreich as ever, the midges were biting and everyone got soaking wet, but enthusiasm for the bed race was as great as ever. 01_B34ABTYA05



The Kinloch Hotel Raftalon saw 10 teams taking part. First a team member had to cycle from the Red Church to the Kinloch, then came the raft race from the harbour to the first tee at the golf club before a broom race in the garden of the hotel. 01_B34ABTYA04

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.co.uk

TOURS AND TASTINGS BY APPOINTMENT



Every Day

Arran Heritage Museum Rosaburn, Brodick, Open daily, 10.30am – 4.30pm
Arran Brewery, Shop Open – Monday to Saturday 10am – 4.30pm, Sunday, 12noon - 4pm
Brodick Castle & Gardens Brodick, Open daily, 10am – 5pm (last entry 4.30pm)
Brodick Mini Golf, Open seven days, 10am - 5pm-ish, ALL weather
COAST Discovery Centre, Lamlash, Open 7 days a week, 10am – 4pm
Lamlash Putting Green, Open daily, 10am -4pm
Lamlash Tennis Courts, Open All hours
Trout Fly Fishing, Loch Garbad, bank fishing
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, Open to book call 01770 700636

Saturday 21st August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm
RNLI Shop Open, Lamlash, 2pm - 4pm
Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm

Sunday 22nd August

RNLI Shop, Open, Lamlash, 2pm – 4pm
What's Happening On Arran, <http://www.arranmedia.co.uk>, 4pm

Monday 23rd August

Brodick Castle, Brodick, 11am – 4pm
Waverley Excursions, Steam down to Campbeltown, 1.40pm – 6.35pm
Lamlash Bowling Club, Lamlash, 2pm
Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 4pm
JogScotlandArran@gmail.com, Whiting Bay, Venue varies, 5.30pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 10pm
Brodick Bowling Club, Brodick, 7pm

Tuesday 24th August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Healthy Outdoor Team, Brodick Castle, 10am – 1pm
Arran Chess Club – new members welcome, Crofters', Brodick, 10.30am
Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 11am
Rink Games (Social distancing observed), Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Arran Fiddle Club, High School Classes
Junior Hockey, P1 - S3 (age 5 to 14 yrs), Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 6pm – 7pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm
Whiting Bay Club presents "A Night of Nonsense", Whiting Bay Hall, Doors open - 7pm
Pop Music Quiz, suits all ages, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Wednesday 25th August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 1.30pm
Arran Well-Being Cafe, Ormidale Park Pavilion, Brodick, 2pm- 4pm
Kildonan Seals & Shore, Arran Rangers Service, (please book), Kildonan, 2pm
Arran Skinnymalinks Walk & Weigh-in, COAST, Lamlash, Walk, 4pm, Weigh-in, 4.30pm
Arran Pace Makers please check Facebook @arranpacemakers, Venue varies, 5.30pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 10pm
Brodick Bowling Club, Brodick, 7pm
Lamlash Bowling Club, Lamlash, 7pm
Rock and Pop Bingo, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 26th August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Arran Chess Club – new members welcome, Crofters', Brodick, 10.30am
Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm
Spinning and Weaving demonstrations, Arran Heritage Museum, 11am -3pm
Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 11am
Waverley Excursions, Cruise south to Pladda & round Holy Isle, 2.30pm – 4.50pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm
Arran Skinnymalinks Weigh-in, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 6pm
Senior Hockey (12+), Ormidale Astro Pitch, 7pm – 8.30pm
Quiz – General Knowledge, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 27th August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm
Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 4pm
Fish Frydays, Lochranza Centre CIC, order before 5pm for collection 6pm – 7.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Whiting Bay Hall, Whiting Bay, 7.30pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 10pm

Saturday 28th August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm
RNLI Shop Open, Lamlash, 2pm - 4pm
Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm

PERSONAL NOTICES

**Happy 70th Birthday
Stevie G**



Wishing you all the very best!
Lots of love, all family and friends
XXXXXXXX

**Happy
80th
Birthday
Billy
O'Connor**

on Sun 22 August 2021

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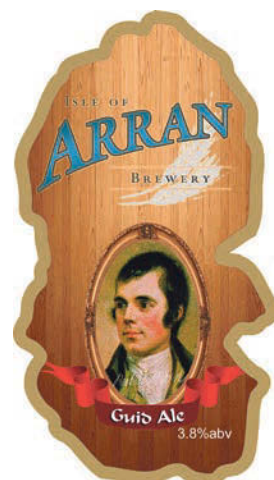
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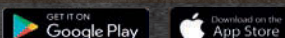


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Enquires and applications to hr@kinlochhotel.eclipse.co.uk

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ARRAN GOLFERS ASSOCIATION

AGM

Monday 30th August
2021
Machrie Tearoom
7.30pm

CHURCH NOTICES

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

*Independent
but working together*
There is a booking system at
Brodict & Shiskine churches
as the numbers are still
limited. Liz Lawrie 302782
& John Kerr 860 498
There will be a streamed
service fortnightly, this can be
found on the three
Church websites.

Sunday 22nd August
Lochranza & Pirnmill
Churches-
Service at Lochranza Church
10:15am Morning worship.
Shiskine Church 12noon.
Morning worship.
Brodict Church 10.30am
Morning worship.
Corrie Church at 12noon.
Morning worship.
The Food Bank continues
from Brodict Church

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland

Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 22nd August
Worship will be conducted
at 10.30am
We are now able to socially
distance at one metre.
Booking not required still
need contact details.
All welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Kilmory linked with Lamlash

*"A faith to proclaim ~
a fellowship to share"*
Scottish Charity SC015072
Sunday 22nd August
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash Church 11.30am
To comply with "Trace and
Protect" regulations, name and
contact details will be asked
for, on entering.
All welcome
We will be observing all
socially distancing procedures

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide
Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 22nd August
Twelfth Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion at 11 am.
Revd Adrian Fallows
ALL WELCOME
Coffee after service
We follow strict SEC
guidelines

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister - Rev. Vince Jennings
Tel: 01770 600222
www.arranbaptistchurch.org.uk
Sunday 22nd August
Services will be held in the
Ormidale Sports Pavilion,
Brodict at 11 am.
All welcome but current Covid
restrictions are in place.
Sermons will be on our
webpage following the Sunday.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Saturday Vigil at 5pm
Sunday Morning at 11am
Booking for mass is essential.
Please email peterdwilko@
gmail.com or telephone
600595 to check availability
and confirm your place.
Please be aware we are still
maintaining social distancing
and capacity remains
restricted.
In accordance with Scottish
Government requirements
face coverings must be worn
in church and NHS test and
protect details will be kept.

*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*

DEATH

RITCHIE - Catherine
(Linda). Passed away on
Thursday, 5th August 2021 at
Crosshouse hospital. Linda,
aged 73 years, daughter of
Joan Pellowe and mother of
David and Caroline. Funeral
to be held at Lamlash Church
on Tuesday, 24th August at
11:30 am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

RITCHIE - Catherine
(Linda). Joan would like to
thank her friends for the lovely
cards at this sad time.

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ARRAN BANNER GOLF

Lamlash Golf Club

Saturday and Sunday August 7
and 8, Lamlash Open.

The entrants warmly wel-
comed back the 37th Open
Weekend, however, mother
nature decided to end the long
spell of drought and treat the
Open to some, at times, heavy
downpours.

A total of 85 played on
Saturday. Magic twos, J
Murchie, P Clark, S McArthur,
E Bone, G Hutchison, C Grant,
C McCartan, S Campbell, M
Wallbank, J Gibson, C Martin,
R McGunnigle, T Little, P
McKean and S Campbell.

Sponsored holes: 1 l drive
J Murchie, 1 n pin Serge.
2 n pin E Bone. 3 l drive P
McLean, 3 n pin F Sillars.
4 n pin S Rainey. 5 n pin S
Kerr. 6 l drive P Gossman. 6
n pin Stuart Campbell. 7 n
pin E McKinnon. 8 n pin G
Buchanan. 9 n pin G Watson.
10 n pin C Sillars, 11 l drive M
Wallbank, 11 n pin G Watson.
12 n pin Scott Campbell. 13
n pin C Martin. 14 n pin G
Watson. 15 n pin S Kerr. 16 n
pin C McCartan. 17 n pin T
Jameson. 18 target golf Andy
Smith, 18 n pin P Cowan.

Bay Hotel sponsored all the
par 3's for hole-in-one prizes,
none were achieved. PHT Cup
over 18 holes. Winner Serge
El Adm 58, 2 Stan Rainey 61,
3 Stuart Campbell 62 bih.
Scratch, 1 E McKinnon 67,
2 Stuart Campbell 68 bih.
Sweeps 3rd class 19 to 28. 1
Adam Carnegie 85-20-65,
2 Billy Skinner 86-19-67, 3
George Prince 92-22-70. 2nd
class 10 to 18. 1st Serge El Adm
70-12-58, 2nd Stan Rainey 72-
11-61, 3 Alastair Crawford
74-12-62. 1st class + to 9. 1
Stuart Campbell 68-6-62, 2
Neil Young 70-5-65, 3 Gordon
Watson 71-5-66.

A total of 82 played on
Sunday. Magic twos, B McRae,
P Clark, C Sillars, A Barclay,
F Barr, I Murchie, J Murchie,
A Hunter, J Kelly, R Niven, D
Smith, T Little, R McGunnigle,
A Gibson and A Campbell.

Sponsored holes: 1 l drive
C Sillars, 1 n pin P Cowan. 2
n pin S McLaren. 3 l drive S
Niven, 3 n pin P Gossman.
4 n pin C Sillars. 5 n pin
Scott Campbell. 6 l drive P
Gossman, 6 n pin J Murchie.
7 n pin G Macrae. 8 n pin A
Barclay. 9 n pin D Smith. 10 n
pin G Andrew. 11 l drive Ker
Manson, 11 n pin P Jameson.
12 n pin J Murchie. 13 n pin D
Smith. 14 n pin S Handley. 15
n pin S McLaren. 16 n pin Iain
Murchie. 17 n pin A Hunter. 18
target golf Sam Tattersfield, 18
n pin A Barclay.

Bay Hotel sponsored all par
3's for hole-in-one prizes, none
achieved. Drift Inn Cup. 1
Robbie McGunnigle 61 bih, 2

Alastair Gibson 61, 3 Serge El
Adm 62 bih.

Sweeps: 1 J Murchie 65,
scratch 2 A Barclay 66. 3rd
class 19 to 28. 1 Adam Carnegie
83-20-63, 2 Andy Smith
85-21-64, 3 Billy O'Connor
99-28-71. 2nd class 10 to 18. 1
Robbie McGunnigle 76-15-61
bih, 2 Alistair Gibson 78-17-
61, 3 Serge El Adm 74-12-62.
1st class + to 9. 1 A Hunter
71-8-63, 2 Norrie MacIntyre
74-10-64, 3 Craig Grant 74-
9-65. Open trophies: Senior
handicap shield, Rob Niven
67 + 62 =129. Senior handicap
scratch, Iain Murchie 147.

Lamlash Bay Hotel trophy
for best local, 1 Serge El Adm
120, 2 Robbie McGunnigle 129
bih, 3 Rob Niven 129. Scratch
Quaich, 1 Jamie Murchie 134
bih, 2 Andy Barclay 134, 3
Ewan McKinnon 135.

Lamlash Open Cup. Winner
of the 37th Open Serge El
Adm 120, 2 Adam Carnegie
128, 3 Robbie McGunnigle 129
bih, 4 Rob Niven 129, 5 Stuart
McLaren 131. Booby, Gary
Hutchison, playing off scratch
having no official handicap.

Thursday August 12,
Summer Cup and Jim Young
cup. 1 Dan Bremner 70-8=62,
2 Iain Murchie 71-7=64, 3
Robb Niven 83-17=66, BIH.
Best scratch, Dan Bremner
70. No Magic twos, rollover
£33. Sunday August 15,
Jameson Cup final round. 1
Robb Niven 73-17=56, 2 Dan
Bremner 67-8=59, 3 Billy
O'Connor 94-33=61. Best
scratch, Paul Cowan 67 BIH
over Dan Bremner. Magic
twos, Dan Bremner and Colin
Richardson @5th, Paul Cowan
@17th. Hole 2 drawn, rollover
£42.

Fixtures: Saturday August
21, El Cannon Charity Day
Stableford. Open to all mem-
bers of the Arran golf courses.
Make up own four-ball team.
Best two scores on index at
each hole count for stable-
ford, 90 per cent of handicap
allocation.

Sunday August 22, Medal
Shield, draw at noon.
Thursday August 26, Summer
Stableford. Make up own
groups and see starter for
times.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday August 11, The
Betty Black Cup. Scoring was
decent and Gavin Mains
returned a fine scratch 68
to pip David Morrison on a
countback on the net scores.
1 Gavin Mains 7, 61 and low-
est gross, 2 David Morrison 9,
61, 3 Cameron Bruce 29, 62, 4
Graeme Crichton 11, 64. Magic
twos, Stan Rainey @2nd.
Sunday August 15, The
McKelvie Cup round one. A

total of 30 played in this first
round of our club champion-
ship qualifying rounds and
found the course greening
up nicely after the hot July
weather. Conditions were
still tricky though, attested
perhaps by the fact that for the
second round in succession
there was only one 2 scored -
Neil McKechnie at the second.
Gavin Mains came out on top
this time round with both best
net and lowest gross scores.

1 Gavin Mains 7, 62 and
lowest gross, 2 Sean Higgins
26, 63, 3 Graeme Crichton
11, 63, 4 Duncan Heenan 13,
63. Fixtures: Saturday August
21, The Texas Scramble. This
has been postponed and will
now take place on Saturday
September 11.

Sunday August 22, McKelvie
Cup round two. Tuesday
August 24, Quarter finals
JCR and championship.
Wednesday August 25,
Summer Trophy. Thursday
August 26, Semi finals JCR
and championship.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday August 15, Victory
Shield and Kay Maxwell
Trophy. 1st class: 1 and scratch
R Crawford 44-6=38, 2 R
Traill 46-4=42. 2nd class: 1
G Stewart 47-8=39 BIH, 2 A
Kerr 48-9=39. Magic twos, D
Logan, R Crawford, R Traill, G
Stewart.

Jimmy Morrison wins the
Victory Shield for July with a
nett 37. Lynda Howie wins the
Kay Maxwell Trophy for July
with nett 41. Junior section:
Junior coaching finished on
Wednesday August 11 with
head greenskeeper Stewart
Fotheringham talking to the
juniors about course manage-
ment and the importance of
all members looking after the
course. After making up the
mixture of sand and seed the
juniors went out on the course
to repair divots and pitch
marks in the correct way. The
juniors then went into the
clubhouse where new captain
Andy Gray was to present the
Most Improved Junior Trophy
to Finlay Jessop. Finlay was
unable to attend but will re-
ceive the Trophy at the 125th
year celebrations on Saturday
September 11. Burgers and
chips were then consumed.
Many thanks to Tony Ellis and
Stewart for all their help this
year and to the clubhouse.

Arran Golfers Association

Friday August 13, AGA
Champion of Champions
semi-finals played at Shiskine
Golf Club. Many thanks to
Shiskine for hosting.

Course is in wonderful
condition and thanks also

to the two referees, Willie
and George. First semi-final
out was Jamie Macpherson
(Whiting Bay) v Jack McNally
(Shiskine), Jack won. Second
semi played was Ewan
McKinnon (Champion) v
Todd Jameson (Lamlash),
Ewan won. Monday August
16, AGA Champion of
Champions final played at
Shiskine Golf Club. Many
thanks to Shiskine for hosting.
The course is in wonderful
condition, thanks to Stewart
and his hard working team.
Also thanks to all the referees
for all the rounds.

Final was Jack McNally
(Shiskine) v Ewan McKinnon
(champion). The game was
played in the best of spirit
with a good crowd enjoying
the fine golf. Jack won 2 and 1.

Donald Logan and Andy
Gray both spoke well and
Jack then could celebrate with
family and friends. Ewan's
quest to better his tally of 10
continues, with Ewan and
Dougie currently tied on 10
titles each.

Fixtures: Sunday September
5, Autumn Handicap at
Corrie, please see your club
for entry. Saturday September
11, AGA Seniors Hn'cp will be
played at Brodict Golf Club,
yellow tees.

Brodict Golf Club

Wednesday August 11,
Summer Cup, 22 played. Iain
MacDonald 71-10=61 acb,
Graham Dobson 83-22=61,
Ian Shand 81-19=62. Scratch,
Ewan McKinnon 63. Thursday
August 12, Senior Open,
Stableford, 16 played. Bob
McCrae 9, 37pts acb. Douglas
Robertson 19, 37pts, John
May 22, 36pts. Sunday August
15, Royal Bank Shield, Better
Ball, 24 played. Brian Smith
and Douglas Robertson 54,
Sid and Finlay Sillars 57, Nicol
Hume and Iain MacDonald 59
acb. Fixture: Sunday August
22, Graham Putter.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday August
11, Medal. 1 M Elliot 91-24-
67, 2 D Logan 81-13-68, 3
R Logan 77-8-69. Saturday
August 14, Medal. 1 G
Andrew 62-7-55, 2 L Dickson
71-8-63, 2 R Logan 71-
8-63. Fixtures: Saturday
August 21, Joe McKenzie
Trophy. Wednesday August
25, Millennium Trophy.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday August 10, Peter
Sutton. 1 Brian Sherwood 62,
2 Alex Morrison-Cowan 63, 3
Campbell Laing 64. Fixtures:
Tuesday August 24, Lawson-
Cameron final and Sweep, tee
off 12.30pm.

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THE ARRAN
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Ferry disruption and foul winds put paid to weekend sport

Foul weather, ferry disruption and covid concerns have been responsible for a number of sport cancellations and reduced attendance numbers this week.

Among them was the cancellation of Arran AFC's much-anticipated first home game of the season. Scheduled

to take place on Sunday against Girdle Toll at the Ormidale Pavilion, the opposition team had to cancel amid concerns of becoming stuck on the island after the match.

Another important fixture was the Troon Regatta which the Arran Coastal Rowing Club was keen to at-

tend but owing to weather conditions and Troon's exposed harbour, Troon was left with no choice but to cancel the Saturday regatta.

Faring much better, albeit with restricted numbers, the Brodick to Glencloy race was able to go ahead on Sunday with 35 runners taking part

in what was described by organisers as a successful event.

The weather was also unable to stop Arran Ladies' Hockey Club from training on Thursday evening.

Despite the West District Women's Hockey League being cancelled this year with no matches scheduled to

take place, 11 hardy souls still attended the training session.

Arran AFC's next scheduled match is against Bobby's Bar on Sunday August 29. The next event for Arran Coastal Rowing Club will be the Loch Awe regatta on the weekend starting Friday September 24.

Glencloy event sees trilogy of events up and running



The Brodick to Glencloy race went ahead last weekend with an international complement of runners taking part in the 10k event.

Organised by Arran Runners, which hosts four running events on Arran throughout the year, the event was the first of three new races which will also include the Lamlash Forest Trail later this month and the Whiting Bay Forest Trail in October.

Owing to ferry disruption, and the challenges of Covid, 35 runners out of an expected 57 set off at 2.30pm on Sunday. They enjoyed a spectacular and fast race starting from the old Post Office garage in Auchrannie Road, running a clockwise trail through forest

track around the Mayish and the Fairy Glen before returning to the start via Glencloy.

An Arran Runners spokesperson said: 'Competitors from England, New Zealand, Poland, Germany, Italy, Romania and Lamlash enjoyed a good Arran welcome and the race was well supported by the Arran community, both as spectators and as competitors.'

'Special thanks to those who acted as stewards for the event, ABC Arran Training which provided first aid cover and to Ernest Ribbeck who kindly allowed us to use his car park.'

The race was won by Jennifer Wetton of Arran Runners in a time of 38 minutes and 49 seconds, just beating Matt Reedy of Ambleside AC in 39 minutes and 24 seconds.

The event was organised with permission from Scottish Athletics and Forestry Scotland and complied with Covid regulations issued by Scottish Athletics.

The full results of the race have been posted on the Arran

Runners website at arranrunners.weebly.com.

The next two races will be the Lamlash Forest Trail on Sunday August 29 and the Whiting Bay Forest Trail which will take place on Sunday October 3.

Anyone wishing to enter should visit the sientries.co.uk website.

CONTACTUS

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The Arran Banner: 85p

Runners set off on the Brodick - Glencloy race which was organised by Arran Runners. Photograph:

Alexander McAfee.

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