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The band play at the slipway in Brodick.

## Skirl of the pipes returns

Arran Pipe Band has given its first public performances for almost two years.

Members got together last Saturday to perform at the Cheese Shop at Home Farm, followed by an impromptu session at the slipway in Brodick which attracted lots of attention from passers-by on the busy promenade.

Band practice has restarted so hopefully islanders and visitors will be seeing plenty more of the pipe band in the coming weeks and months.

# Wear a facemask or expect further ferry disruption

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Passengers on CalMac ferries are being told to wear a face-mask or face continued travel disruption.

Arran residents and visitors faced further cancellations this week when the MV Isle of Arran was forced out of service after a member of staff tested positive for Covid-19 and their colleagues had to self isolate. The ferry required a specialist deep clean before returning to full service yesterday (Thursday).

That put extra pressure on the MV Caledonian Isles on the main Ardrossan to Brodick route with the island still busy with visitors. It followed two earlier incidents when the MV

## Less than half of CalMac passengers complying with government rules

Caledonian Isles was out of service for the same reason.

As cases of Covid continue to rise in Scotland, CalMac passengers are being told they must wear a facemask.

Passenger compliance with this law on board ferries has now dropped to less than 50 per cent, despite the efforts of CalMac staff. Scottish Government rules state that on public transport people must, by law, wear a face covering, unless exempt. As well as Arran, services to and from Mull have

been affected, while port staff from Kennacraig and Mull had to be drafted into Oban to cover. When a staff member tests positive, close contacts must also be withdrawn from service until a negative test is returned in line with government rules on isolation.

Robbie Drummond, managing director of CalMac, said: 'Please wear a face covering when travelling with CalMac, either on board or inside one of our port offices, unless exempt. This helps to protect everyone.

Vehicle traffic is heading back towards normal levels and on some routes is higher than the records set in 2019, such as on the Oban-Colonsay route. From August 1 to August 27 we carried 163,500 cars, only three per cent down on 2019 and 6,400 commercial vehicles which is an increase of four per cent on 2019. The service can be severely disrupted if a crew member tests positive. Sailings are having to be cancelled due to a lack of crew when they require to be tested and time must be spent having vessels cleaned. Enforcing the law is a matter for the police but please respect CalMac crew and wear a face covering when asked to do so. You will be helping to protect people's health as well as lifeline ferry services.'

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# Temporary mobile testing unit in Brodick plugs gap

A mobile testing unit (MTU) is temporarily available at Brodick Health Centre for people who have Covid symptoms.

The unit will be open between 1pm and 4pm today (Friday) until Thursday September 9, excluding Saturday and Sunday.

It arrived last Wednesday, but the Banner was informed after it went to press.

It appears this is a temporary arrangement due to staff shortages at Arran Medical Group, with testing staff having to come from the mainland. Normal testing centre arrangements will resume at the health centre once new staff are appointed.

If you have symptoms of Covid, you can book a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test at Brodick by

## Appeal for people to get checked twice a week

visiting [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) Lynne McNiven, director of public health for NHS Ayrshire and Arran, said: "Testing helps us identify more cases of the virus and give us all a better chance of stopping it from spreading."

"It is vital we identify positive cases of Covid quickly so that person can self-isolate."

"So if you have symptoms please book a test as soon as possible."

"While it is important to get a PCR test if you have symptoms, we are also encouraging those without symptoms to take up the offer of regular lateral flow testing (LFT). You can pick up

an LFT kit from the pharmacy on Arran.

"Even those who are fully vaccinated should get tested twice a week. If you are a key worker and must attend work, it is even more important to get tested regularly."

The main symptoms of Covid are a new continuous cough, high temperature – 37.8°C or above – and/or a loss or change in sense of taste or smell. There may be other milder symptoms which can include hay fever symptoms, sore throat, runny nose, headaches, vomiting and diarrhoea.

The MTU service is reliant on the ferry service so if there is



The temporary unit is sited at Brodick Health Centre.

01\_B36unit01

any disruption to the ferries, it will not be possible to run the MTU service and you may need to re-book your appointment. In this case, you must continue to self-isolate until you can be tested and receive your result. Further information can be found at [www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/testing](http://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/testing) and details about the dedicated support available to anyone who needs to self-isolate, including food packages and financial support, can be found at [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/Coronavirus.aspx](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/Coronavirus.aspx)

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## Cars waiting at the Claonaig ferry terminal.

01\_B36claonaig01



## Claonaig ferry port toilet promise

CalMac is to provide toilets at the Claonaig ferry port next summer following continued pressure from passengers and lobbying by Arran Ferry Committee.

The need for toilets on the busy Claonaig to Lochranza route was highlighted recently when passenger numbers increased dramatically when ferry users were advised to make use of the route owing to limited availability on the Ardrossan to Brodick line.

Passengers who faced long waiting times to visit Arran on the unbookable service also had to face lengthy detours and delays, all without toilets.

The closest toilets to the remote port entail a 7.7 mile drive back to Tarbert which most visitors pass through to reach Claonaig.

A CalMac spokeswoman said: "We appreciate the strength of feeling on the matter, but both the council, responsible for public health, and the facility owner have said toilets are not required. We do not have such facilities at other unmanned slips as they are difficult to run and maintain."

"However, we do recognise community feedback and the desire to improve the customer experience particularly during

the busy summer months. CalMac has funded the permanent facility as a commitment and CMAL has promised to have this in place for the summer 2022 timetable.

"It would not be possible to gain the necessary site approvals for temporary facilities before summer season 2021 draws to an end."

"What we propose is a review in February 2022 and if there is any risk over the delivery of the permanent facility we will work with Argyll and Bute Council and CMAL to implement a temporary solution in time for the start of the summer season."



The damaged cars attracted considerable attention throughout the day. 01\_B36crash02



## Man admits Brodick crash carnage

A 22-year-old man was arrested and charged after a van collided with eight cars on Brodick shorefront near the ferry terminal early on Tuesday morning.

The man was taken into custody and appeared at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court later that day, where he pled guilty to the charges and was released on bail.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: 'Around 1.30am on Tuesday August 31, police attended a report of a vehicle having collided with several other vehicles parked in bays at Brodick front. A 22-year-old male was subsequently arrested and charged in connection with the incident.'

No one is thought to have been injured.

Left: The accident scene taped off by police.

01\_B36crash01

# North Ayrshire to welcome more Afghan families

The response from North Ayrshire residents to a plan to welcome Afghan refugees to the area has been described as 'heartening' by North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane.

He made the remarks on Tuesday, as Labour colleague Louise McPhater branded the bid the most 'upsetting' to come before the authority.

They spoke as North Ayrshire Council's cabinet was updated on the plan to house Afghan nationals fleeing Taliban rule.

The authority rubber-stamped plans to house two Afghan families in homes in Irvine in June. But they have nodded through moves to accommodate a further three families fleeing the takeover by the fundamentalist regime, in the wake of the UK and US withdrawal from the country. It is thought the first families will arrive next month.

The UK government's Afghan Locally Employed Staff Relocation Scheme will see those who worked with British troops – mainly interpreters and their families – re-homed in the UK following the rise of the Taliban to power and last week's fall of capital Kabul.

In papers prepared for the meeting, councillors were told: 'Over recent days the severity of the situation in Afghanistan has escalated very quickly and the Home Office and Ministry of Defence are now working to get those entitled to a safe home in the UK out of the country as soon as possible.'

The authority's senior manager for housing operations, Robert McGilvery, told the cabinet that a move to resettle refugees displaced by Syria's civil war under the UK Resettlement Scheme, will have to be put on the back-burner, such is the urgency of the Afghan operation.

More Afghan refugees may be accepted, but the challenge lies in finding suitable housing for larger families in North Ayrshire, although Councillor Cullinane noted that it would be easier to accommodate any smaller families on the UK government's list.

Councillor Cullinane told the meeting: 'I



Council leader Joe Cullinane.

think everybody will have seen some of the scenes on TV and think it is a horrid situation.'

He said there was a 'moral obligation' to help the fleeing staff who worked with the UK government and added: 'I think it's really important we play our part.'

Irvine West Councillor Louise McPhater added: 'These families are fleeing in terror for their lives.'

Councillors also told the meeting they had received offers from the community to help the displaced families, including from residents who had offered their homes to child refugees.

The cabinet backed the move for the number of Afghan families to be housed in North Ayrshire to be increased from two to five and agreed to delegate authority for the total number of families to be relocated to senior officers in consultation with councillors and Home Office officials to accommodate the fluid situation.

It was also agreed the need to settle displaced Afghan citizens would take future priority over the rehoming of Syrian refugees.

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# Community council on the lookout for new members

Arran Community Council is on the lookout for new members with elections to be held.

The community council held its first face-to-face meeting since February last year at Ormidale Pavilion on Tuesday, following social distancing requirements. They have continued to meet throughout the pandemic using Zoom, one of the few community councils in the country to do so.

The present members have just one more meeting later this month before they will stand down to allow the election process. It is not yet known how many will seek re-election.

A total of 12 nominations are being sought from across the island and nomination papers are available from North



Arran Community Council meeting meet face-to-face for the first time this week. 01\_B36council01

Ayrshire Council with a closing date of Monday September 27 at noon.

Two community councillors are being sought to represent each village of Brodick,

Lamlash, Shiskine and Whiting Bay, with one each for the other villages.

In the event of nominations exceeding the number of vacancies to be filled for any

extended village, an election will take place via a postal ballot. Community councils bridge the gap between local authorities and communities and help make public bodies

aware of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent. There are around 1,200 active community councils in Scotland.

Local authorities have statutory oversight of community councils and are required by statute to consult community councils about planning applications and licencing matters.

## Public invited to have their say on new ScotRail timetable

ScotRail is inviting members of the public to have on a new timetable to be introduced in May next year which will affect rail services throughout Scotland.

The new timetable is part of a review of the entire network to ensure that the needs of passengers and the Scottish Government are met as the country recovers from the pandemic and starts using public transport again.

ScotRail is not proposing to make significant changes between Glasgow, Ardrossan and Largs.

The May 2022 timetable will continue to provide two trains an hour during the day with one train an hour to Largs in the evening and services to Ardrossan to connect with ferries.

A further review of these services will be undertaken for May 2023 to ensure the level of service being provided is appropriate for the number of passengers travelling.

People making use of ScotRail services or those affected by the new timetable can add their views by filling in the survey at [www.scotrail.co.uk/about-scotrail/fit-future](http://www.scotrail.co.uk/about-scotrail/fit-future)

# Demand for help with eating disorders soars

A huge increase in eating disorders has seen a 55 per cent jump in demand for specialist services since the Covid pandemic began.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran say the figure, which includes a significant portion of young people, also show an increase in severity of those referred to specialist NHS eating disorder services.

Across most health boards, figures reveal mental health has declined and eating disorders have increased. At two regional in-patient hubs dealing with eating disorders there has been a 220 per cent rise in paediatric admissions.

Data gathered from seven of Scotland's

14 health boards shows a combined 86 per cent increase in referrals between 2019 and 2020 and specialists have also reported the increase in numbers and the severity of cases has fuelled a rise in adolescent psychiatric admissions. Two regional units with available data report a combined 161 per cent in eating disorder patients between 2019 and 2020.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran is due to receive £328,213 to help boosting the region's eating disorder services as part of a Scottish Government fund that will deliver £5 million nationally during the 2021/22 financial year.

North Ayrshire integration joint board's chief officer Caroline Cameron said: 'The national review published in March this year had 15 recommendations.

'The first of those focused on the Covid response and how we would provide emergency funding to NHS boards to support the urgent needs of eating disorder patients.

'Nationally, there's been an unprecedented increase in the number and severity of children and young people presenting with eating disorders.

'In Ayrshire and Arran, it's far exceeding demand and referral patterns

in previous years so the Scottish Government on June 18 announced £5m of funding for this financial year to respond to those recommendations in the national review.

'Our eating disorder service in Ayrshire and Arran is an all-age delivered service with the governance sitting under a lead partnership led by the North Ayrshire health and social care partnership, so the service has started a review in response to the eating disorders recommendations and is considering how to prioritise that funding to improve services and address that increase in demand.'

## CONTACTUS

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THE ARRAN BANNER

# New access ranger ready to target visitor hotspots



A new access ranger has been appointed by Arran Access Trust and Arran Geopark to help conserve and enhance Arran's landscape and heritage.

The seasonal position, funded by NatureScot's Green Recovery Fund, will see Alex Rose fulfilling a number of tasks to preserve and promote Arran's outdoors.

Alex will engage directly with members of the public, educating the increasing numbers of visitors to the island about responsible behaviour through the promotion of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Alex has already started working to identify visitor hotspots and is discussing solutions to access issues in these areas. In particular, he will assess the impact on the path network, wildlife and



Alex Rose engages with a family visiting the island.

residents. He co-ordinated a volunteer work party last Wednesday where volunteers tackled invasive species, fixed the boardwalk and cleaned

up the beach on the Coastal Way at Cordon. In addition to the hands-on work and responsibilities, Alex will also work with island stakeholders to create networks and reinforce connections between the many organisations which share the aims of conserving and enhancing Arran's natural heritage.

Alex will, where possible, make use of a low carbon ebike to travel around the island. It was included in the funding for the role and is branded with Arran Access Trust and Arran Geopark logos.

To report cases of careless camping, overgrown paths and other access issues, Alex can be reached at ranger@arran.rocks or by searching for @ArranGeopark on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



Alex, above, will work with other organisations on Arran to help bolster the conservation work being undertaken.

The access ranger position, along with this ebike, left, was made possible by NatureScot's Green Recovery Fund.

## State pension payment delays slammed by MP

A call has been made for urgent action to investigate and address ongoing delays in state pension payments.

Arran's MP Patricia Gibson has formally written to the secretary of state for work and pensions Therese Coffey calling on her to take action after being contacted by a number of constituents who have still to receive their pension payments more than a month after reaching their state pension age.

Pensioner poverty has recently risen to a 15-year high of 18 per cent, meaning 2.1

million pensioners across the UK are now living in poverty. The state pension is the most important source of income for many.

Mrs Gibson said: 'It is deeply concerning new pensioners are facing unacceptable delays in vital support from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), particularly as pensioner poverty continues to rise under this UK government. It is particularly upsetting for those WASPI women who, after being forced to wait six years to get the pension to which they are

entitled, finally reach the new state pension age, only to find that poor service from the DWP has left them in limbo as they face unacceptable delays to receiving their rightful pension payments upon which they rely. Despite raising these issues on behalf of an individual, I have found the DWP uncooperative and lax in addressing these concerns.

'The UK government must urgently investigate the delays experienced by new pensioners and take all necessary action to ensure state pension payments are made on time.'

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## LETTERS

Write to us: [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Arran KA27 8AJ**Follow law in Scotland  
and wear a mask**

Call it what you like but in my view it is just selfish.

I am talking about the number of passengers on the ferry who now refuse to wear face masks – and I don't mean anyone who is exempt.

According to CalMac less than half of passengers are now following the rules – despite it being mandatory to wear a face covering on all public transport in Scotland.

As a result there are now repeated ferry cancellations at the very time that the island could do without them. Three times ferries have been cancelled because staff are off and the boats have been deep cleaned – the MV Isle of Arran was partially out of service for most of this week.

Islanders, hoping for the return of some normality when capacity restrictions were lifted have been left frustrated at having their travel plans disrupted again and, as has been said before, visitors may in future consider going elsewhere if they are hit with repeated ferry difficulties.

In these circumstances it does not seem to much of a hardship to ask people to wear a face mask when they are on the ferry to help keep the staff and other passengers safe – as well as keeping the ferries sailing.

**Thought for the week**

'Six days you shall labour, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the ploughing season and harvest you must rest.' Exodus 34:21

**Community support welcome**

Sir,  
The Arran High School awards ceremony took place on a beautiful, sunny afternoon, as reported in last week's Banner.

It was so nice to be able to present the awards in person to the recipients.

It was unfortunate that, as a result of continuing Covid mitigations, family and friends were unable to attend. We have recorded the event and it will be available very soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and publicly acknowledge the Arran Society of Glasgow for their continued invaluable contribution to the event; their support for us demonstrates a real recognition of the endeavour of our young people and their keen interest in supporting them to progress onto positive destinations both on and away from the island.

It is another superb example of the support we enjoy from our community.

Yours,

**Susan Foster,**  
Head teacher,  
Arran High School

**A bad precedent being set**

Sir,  
The ordeal of the 60 people stranded on the pier on Thursday, August 12, was unnecessary.

Around 4pm, Ardrossan Coastguard responded to reports of a yacht with two people onboard drifting with engine failure.

The Caledonian Isles was diverted and Troon lifeboat was launched to assist.

A Coastguard helicopter was scrambled from Prestwick, and Largs Coastguard, plus two officers from Greenock were also tasked.

As Troon lifeboat arrived the two crew were evacuated. They had dropped anchor, were uninjured and needed no medical attention. The

ferry continued its passage about 5pm.

But with winds picking up, its late arrival meant that further sailings were cancelled, leaving people stranded.

This was a dismal failure of command and control. Far too many bodies, and around 50 personnel, were involved.

It was not obvious what the Caledonian Isles could have achieved.

The two people on the yacht were not at risk of serious injury and death. They could have dropped anchor, and did. It was summer and daylight. Dedicated rescue vessels were responding.

In such circumstances, diverting the ferry to what was (under the International Maritime Organisation's code) the lowest level of marine incident, sets a bad precedent. Ferry operators have obligations to their customers too. Shouldn't someone get a grip?

Yours,

**Eamonn Butler,**  
Lamlash.

**BT management problem**

Sir,  
Having tried for two days to convince the bots at BT that my phone line and internet connection really were not working, it was a pleasure to find that within a couple of hours of being referred to an OpenReach engineer my service was fixed.

In Whiting Bay, the engineers have to contend with obsolete aluminium wiring which is unreliable and problematic.

The engineers on the ground do a great job but are let down by management which seems incapable of providing acceptable customer service far less the necessary infrastructure for improved reliability.

Yours,

**Jim Peacock,**  
Whiting Bay.

**Scenic memories made**

Sir,

A Night of Nonsense...not to mention fun, simple pleasures and meeting a new friend. Thank you to all whose combined efforts made for such a delightful evening at Whiting Bay Hall last week. We hope that the final performance was played to the fullest house possible.

Sadly, August was our first visit this year, hopefully not our last, but it was good to feel that we had never been away. The magnificent August weather, the warm welcomes and excellent entertainment, who could ask for more?

Yet again we have returned home full of happy and scenic memories whilst enjoying the top quality purchases from our favourite retail outlets.

Yours,

**Ian and Jenny Price,**  
Bradford, Yorkshire.

**Cancer awareness month**

Sir,

Throughout September, for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, the UK's leading children's cancer charity, Young Lives vs Cancer, will be helping children with cancer have their voices heard.

Having cancer when you're a child is scary, lonely, relentless and painful. Over the past year our children have missed out on so much.

But for many children with cancer they are still swapping classrooms for chemotherapy, still waving at family members through windows. This Childhood Cancer Awareness Month we want everyone to see children with cancer for who they are and who they want to be.

We would love to see the community come together to help young people with cancer in Arran, and there are lots of ways to get involved – like purchasing a Young Lives vs Cancer gold ribbon pin badge, available at Morrisons stores, or ordering one online.

Community efforts mean Young Lives vs Cancer can be there for the children and young people in Arran with cancer, keeping families together by providing Home from Homes near hospitals and financial grants for support.

You can find more information or a donation or shop online at [younglivesvscancer.org.uk](http://younglivesvscancer.org.uk) #MoreThanMyCancer

Yours,

**Carol Jones,**  
Fundraising manager at Young Lives vs Cancer, south and west Scotland.

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

The Editor welcomes letters for publication on this page. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, should also be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

Please write to: Letters, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ. Fax: (01770) 302021. Email [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk). Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.



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# Volunteers rally to call to help expand school playground

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



More than 25 parents, teachers and volunteers answered a plea from Brodick Primary School to assist with clearing a rocky patch of land next to the school which it is planned to reclaim for an outdoor learning space.

The volunteers arrived armed with rakes and wheelbarrows and after just an hour the land was cleared of rocks and raked level, ready to be covered with topsoil and planted with grass.

Head teacher Shirley MacLachlan and principal teacher Claire Mooney have had plans to utilise the area but quotes to restore the land have been prohibitively expensive.

With the assistance of deputy head teacher Jane Boyle and all of the volunteers who rolled up their sleeves, the first steps to-



Volunteers rake and unearth stones which other volunteers cart away in wheelbarrows until the outdoor area nears the stage where grass seed can be sown. 01\_B35BPS01

and 01\_B35BPS02

wards creating a new outdoor learning area for the pupils has now been realised.

Next, the area will be seeded, and once the grass has started to grow, it will be used as an outdoor space for learning and

leisure activities, rather than an overgrown and unsightly area at the back of the school where children could not venture.

Ms Mooney said: 'From all the staff and children

at Brodick Primary School we would like to thank the parents, children and local volunteers who took the time to come and help us in our garden at the school.

'We could not have carried

out this massive job without you all.

"Thanks also to Tracy and Ross from the Co-op and for their donations of juice. It is great to see the community coming together for the benefit

of the children.'

Once the area is able to be used and the grass has taken root, there are further plans to develop the area and volunteers may be called upon to help make this happen.

## Plea to keep saving water to help low storage levels

Scottish Water is again calling on people across Scotland to use water efficiently after storage levels in reservoirs fell to record low levels during the dry summer.

Following the second driest summer in 160 years in some parts of Scotland, storage levels in reservoirs are at 66 per cent, the lowest recorded for this time of year since 2003.

And while there might be some rain in September, the long-range forecast is for further dry weather in October and November.

Although demand for water has eased since the height of summer, it remains up to 100 million litres per day above average, which is enough to fill 50 Olympic-sized swimming pools or 1.2 million baths.

And, while there is no suggestion of restrictions being imposed, Scottish Water is repeating its call for customers to help protect normal water supplies by using water efficiently in their homes and gardens.

The call is aimed at customers throughout the country and at holidaymakers and visitors on Arran and elsewhere.



Tankers had to deliver water to Arran earlier this summer.

At the height of the shortage Arran had to have water brought in by tanks from the mainland to top up supplies.

Scottish Water is working hard to maintain normal water supplies to all customers and is doing so by producing more water where water treatment works have the capacity, using storage and moving water between networks where possible.

Kes Juskowiak, Scottish Water's water operations general manager, said: 'People might assume that, because we are at the end of summer, Scottish schools are back and there has been some heavy rain recently, there is no longer an issue with water supplies.

'That is absolutely not the case and maintaining normal supplies remains a massive challenge for us.

'We can't do anything about the low rainfall, but customers can continue to help us by using water efficiently.

'If people across the country - residents and visitors or holidaymakers - can take some small, simple steps to reduce their water use, they can make a big contribution towards our efforts to maintain normal supplies for everyone.'

Scottish Water posts facts, tips and activities on social media to raise awareness about saving water and more information is on [www.scot-tishwater.co.uk/savewater](http://www.scot-tishwater.co.uk/savewater)

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# Junior sailors take

## Arran youngsters



After 18 months of restrictions, lockdowns and two cancellations of their Ocean Youth Trust (OYT) sailing trip, 10 Arran youngsters finally achieved their competent crew certification and had a taste of big boat sailing.

The eight-day course hosted by the Arran Junior Sailing Club (AJSC) covered the competent crew syllabus which involved learning sailing techniques and seamanship skills each day.

The children enjoyed an exciting week of dinghy and yacht sailing in Lamlash, as well as longer passages to Sanda and An Caladh, Kyles of Bute.

With the emphasis on having fun, the highlights for the young sailors included helming a 46ft yacht, halyard flying, climbing the mast, paddle boarding, swimming from the yacht and dinghy racing.

A club spokeswoman said: 'Well done to all the youngsters for being such good sports and showing great enthusiasm for all the challenges presented to them.'

'Our thanks to the CAN Group for the use of

the yacht Can Do, and to Adam for volunteering to help make this such a great experience.'

'Also to OYT for the use of its waterproofs. To Peter Dunn of Lochranza Distillery, Liz Mclean from Brodick Co-op and Duncan McCole of Home and Garden, Brodick for their kind and generous donations, and to Alan Dixon for the use of his mooring.'

'Thanks to Sally Hunter for her fascinating Q&A session about her 'maiden' circumnavigation, and to Martin Wood and Tim Crocket for a fascinating tour of the lifeboat and station.'

'The event could not have gone ahead without all the AJSC volunteers, in particular a huge thanks to Gavin Cameron, without his light-bulb moment and hours of organisation this project would not have happened.'

The AJSC is based in Lamlash and offers sailing lessons to Arran school pupils from P7 upwards.

It has an extensive fleet of all manner of sailing vessels and operates during the summer term and through the first half of the autumn term.



Children enjoy a trip to Kingscross in Feva dinghies.



Top left: A young sailor makes his way up the mast.

Left: A young boy concentrates on his rowing skills.



Right: A highlight for many, halyard flying.



Pico dinghy sailing in Lamlash Bay.



Above: Young sailors have a chance at the helm.



Right: A youngster climbs to the top of the mast.

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# to the water at last

ers enjoy eight days of sailing, swimming and paddling



The AJSC crew on Can Do.

Boiling a kettle at an acute angle at sea.



Children practise their spinnaker flying on a Bahia dinghy.



Dinner time on the Can Do during the trip to An Caladh harbour.



Youngsters enjoy a day out to Sanda, which is also known as Spoon Island because of its appearance.



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# What a lot of nonsense - and



Mature couple Beverley and Patrick Scott admire a 'painting' for which they posed many years ago. 01\_B36plays21

Words and photos  
by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



They promised a night of nonsense ... and boy did they deliver.

The Whiting Bay Club of Drama & Music reckoned after the 18 months we have had, that we all needed a laugh.

So they drafted in Chris and Jan Atkins to come up with a series of playlets which were performed every Tuesday in August by club members Shannon Galbraith, Stacey Gordon, Allan Nicol, David Simpkin and Beverley and Patrick Scott in Whiting Bay hall.

In the programme Chris and Jan even accept the 'blame' for the show called A Night of Nonsense.

But the only blame lies with the people who failed to fork out a measly £5 to go and see the show - and they are the real losers.

But plenty of people did turn up with extra tables having to be quickly put out the night the Banner visited the show. Other nights were also said to be well attended.

But what about the show, I hear you ask.

All the actors are well known on the Arran stage and they really brought the characters to life in five short plays which

were interwoven yet diverse.

The night started with nonsense, of course, and that was how it would go on.

A thespian in the audience, David Simpkin, got impatient for the show to start bringing the ire of ace drunk - in an acting capacity - Allan Nicol to try and sort him out, with hilarious consequences.

Then it really was on with the show. The first play was a gentle two hander played by husband and wife duo Patrick and Beverley Scott, playing Jack and Sylvia with just one problem, Jack is dead, but we enjoy as Silvia reminisces.

Two of the plays What Are The Chances? and Family Secrets feature burglaries - so I hope they are not set in Scotland where there is no such crime.

And in a clever twist both plays started with the same dialogue - despite the scenarios being completely different.

It takes talent to play dead - or sleeping soundly - and Shannon Galbraith had to do it twice.

It is the longest she has ever stayed still on stage as she is more used to the high-energy performances of her school plays of yesteryear.

Simpkin and Nicol played the bumbling housebreakers to perfection and the Scotts were their usual polished selves.

My favourite of the night had to be The

Readthrough where an amateur company are shown on stage trying to rehearse with just one script.

This is resolved, thanks to new technology, but the play really comes to life when a male stooge is brought on stage and told he has to play the part of Fiona - who is then found to be pregnant, blind and crippled before the joke is turned on him.

Tony Lee was the stooge and he pulled the part off well.

The evening ended with The Masterpiece set in an art gallery and shows a series of people marvelling at a painting which the audience cannot see - which is just as well as it features two nudes.

It turns out they are the mature couple in the gallery - Patrick and Beverley are excellent again - with janitor Allan turning out to be the long forgotten painter until the end when a mystery American buyer snaps it up for \$25 million.

At that it is all over.

The cast take a bow and the audience show their appreciation in the usual manner.

The small cast and everyone behind the scenes and front of house did a great job of turning the village hall into a theatre cafe.

It has been a fun night and the audience go home with their heads full of nonsense - probably just the way they came in.



The daughter and granddaughter celebrate their success in Family Secrets. 01\_B36plays19



Visitor Shannon Galbraith admires the 'painting' in The Masterpiece. 01\_B36plays20



Left: Janitor Allan Nicol takes in the comments about the painting. 01\_B36plays22

01\_B36plays22



A dramatic scene as the found out Mrs Scott pulls a gun on the gathering. 01\_B36plays17



The daughter in Family Secrets, Stacey Gordon, takes it out on burglar Allan Nicol. 01\_B36plays15



The troupe done. 01\_B36plays23



A 'drunk' 01\_B36plays24

01\_B36plays24

# the audience lapped it up



'Allan Nicol falls off the stage and leaves David Simpkin aghast.



A tussle over the laptop between the rival burglars. 01\_B36plays07



The burglars break into the home of the research scientist.

01\_B36plays05



Charming thespian, David Simpkin, shows Beverley Scott how it is

01\_B36plays01



Where did he come from? Her 'dead' husband appears from behind the chair.

01\_B36play04



Above: A policewoman, Stacey Gordon, questions two of the burglars.

01\_B36plays08



The cast and writers take a bow at the end of the performance. 01\_B36plays24



Left: Stogie Tony Lee appears on stage for the first time in The Readthrough to play 'Fiona'.

01\_B36plays13



A packed Whiting Bay hall lapped up the performance. 01\_B36plays11



'Fiona' turns out to be pregnant and blind.

01\_B36plays14

# The truth about Scottish schools

## Book review

In new book on Scottish education, a former Arran teacher says the 2020-2021 SQA scandal is without a doubt the biggest education scandal of the Devolution era.

Former English teacher James McEnaney, who started his teaching career at Arran High School is now a lecturer and journalist.

He is one of Twitter's most vocal Scottish education experts and questions whether Scotland's education system suffers from miscommunication between teachers and government or whether it has become party manifesto fodder in his new book *Class Rules: The truth about Scottish Schools*.

Offering an overview of the last 20 years of education politics, McEnaney shows how the 2020-21 scandal with the SQA exam system affected pupils and teachers: "The whole thing was an extravagant display of bureaucratic idiocy which clearly stemmed from a refusal

to trust teachers and a desire to protect the system rather than the students."

Sifting through statistics used in politicians' speeches, McEnaney deciphers the complexities of the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), and provides a breakdown of the data, finally seeing what the numbers really say.

He shines a light on the issues with the CfE and says it is the pupils who ultimately pay the price.

"In the year 2020, in the middle of a deadly global pandemic, after years of insisting that closing the educational gap between rich and poor was their priority, the SNP government, alongside an exams body that hasn't been fit for purpose for years, prioritised the defence of a long-broken status quo over the protection of young people's futures and wellbeing."

Arguing that the current educational climate is a symptom of larger social issues, McEnaney highlights that the first step for change is to create



fissures in the bureaucratic status quo. And he has a few ideas of where to start.

A review by Professor Lindsay Paterson described the book as: 'Brilliantly written – far more eloquent than anything else that is available on Scottish education.'

James is a former secondary school English teacher turned lecturer, journalist and writer who currently lives near Glasgow.

He is a leading commentator



Lecturer and journalist  
James McEnaney.

on issues affecting Scottish education.

James specialises in investigative journalism with a particular focus on Scottish schools, freedom of information and policymaking.

He has worked with a wide range of publications including traditional titles such as *The Times*, *The Guardian* and *The Daily Record*, as well as new media platforms such as *The Ferret*.

The book will be published on Wednesday September 8 by Luath Press Ltd of Edinburgh, paperback £9.99.

**Sunday September 5th 2021**  
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- ISLE OF ARRAN COFFEE
- BELLEVUE FARM



Come along to the **Farmers market at Bellevue Farm this Sunday 5th September from 11am- 3pm** to meet some of our wonderful local producers, and to eat and drink delicious produce!

## #Wearearranfood

Your monthly round up from Arran Eco Savvy of what's happening in local food- September edition



### Seasonal Recipe of the month- Plum Jam

**Ingredients** (makes 11x 250ml jars):

2kg ripe plums  
0.5 cups water  
1.5kg granulated sugar  
30ml lemon juice



**Sterilise jars** by washing with hot soapy water (you can reuse jars with undamaged lids) then rinse well and dry/ heat in a 130C degree oven for 25 minutes.

**Method:** Halve and de-stone the plums then halve again, for smoother jam cut smaller – Place plums into a large, wide saucepan and simmer on a low heat for 15-20 minutes until soft, stir regularly with a wooden spoon – Add sugar and lemon juice and stir frequently until the sugar dissolves – Bring mixture to a rolling boil for 5-15 minutes stirring frequently to avoid jam burning/ sticking. Be careful, it is very hot! – After 5 minutes switch off heat and test if it is starting to set by putting a small amount on a freezer chilled plate and pushing it with your fingers. If it wrinkles it is ready, if not continue to boil and repeat test until it does. – Once it's reached setting point, remove from heat and allow to settle for 10 minutes. – Ladle into warm sterilised jars and seal tightly using a cloth to avoid burning yourself Jam takes up to 48 hours to set.

### Arrans Food Journey

has put together a leaflet that highlights the wide range of products available locally and the fantastic way that our village shops support our producers by stocking a wide range of Arran produce. New products are becoming available all the time but the leaflet gives a snapshot of what is available and has the aim of encouraging Arran's community and visitors to shop local and buy products close to where they are grown or made. Look out for the unveiling of the leaflet at this week's Farmers Market.

The **Pioneer Project** will be holding a Harvest Day in Kilpatrick at the Arran Farmers' Market. Volunteers will be showing people the garden and harvesting different varieties of tatties. Regular volunteer days continue to be held in Lamlash on Thursdays and Sundays, 10am to 12 noon, in Lochranza on Saturdays, at Kilpatrick on Sundays 3pm to 5pm and in Corrie there will be a work party on Sunday 12th September from 11am-2pm

Eating seasonally is a great way to reduce the climate impact of your diet. Here's some food that's in season in September:

Baby Leeks, Beetroot, Broad Beans, Broccoli, Brussels Sprouts, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Celery, Chicory, Chillies, Courgettes, Cucumber, Jerusalem Artichoke, Kale, Lettuce, Onions, Parsnips, Pumpkin, Radish, Runner Beans, Squash, Swede, Turnips

Apples, Blueberries, Damsons, Gooseberries, Pears, Plums, Raspberries, Strawberries, Tomatoes

## SAVE THE DATE!

**SATURDAY  
18TH  
SEPTEMBER**



Join us for a day of celebration & to find out about some of the work going on in Arran to combat climate change & protect the environment.

# The new season is fresh start for SWI

As the Covid restrictions are being reduced the Scottish Women's Institutes on Arran are keen to encourage all existing members, former members and hopefully some new members, to come together and begin to meet on a regular basis once more.

There is a series of events which it is hoped women on the island will be interested in, featuring some of Scotland's best-known faces.

Many of the events are online and are open to members and non-members.

The #SWIBackTogether events are taking place from Monday September 6 to Friday September 10.

They start on Monday when nationally it is hoped there will be some 'Back to Bletcher' new session meetings across the country, including in Kildonan.

On Tuesday September 7, 7pm on Zoom, there will be an expert talk: Denise Mina author and former member, Denise, talks about her novels, inspiration and love of Scotland.

A Scottish crime writer, journalist and playwright, she has written the Garnethill trilogy and another three novels featuring the character Patricia 'Paddy' Meehan.

On Wednesday September 8, 2pm on Zoom there will be an expert talk from Ramsay McGhee on his involvement with this fantastic school changing lives in Malawi.

The Mountain View School for the Deaf encourages everything from woodwork and chickens to football and dancing.

On Wednesday September 8, 7pm on Zoom the expert talk will be from George Anderson on Beechgrove Garden.

George Anderson MBE was born into a family of keen gardeners and was the head of school of horticulture at The Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh for nearly 38 years before retiring in 2004.

Thursday September 9's 2pm expert talk on Zoom will be Sheena Norquay, who will talk all things quilting.

Her work has been exhibited locally, nationally and internationally since 1981, winning many awards along the way.

Sheena is particularly inspired by her birthplace, Orkney, with themes of seascapes, birds and Norse myths.

She is also interested in using

quilted lines to create movement, sculptural shapes and patterns using free machine quilting, her specialty.

This is being organised for group viewing by Lamlash Institute at The Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick where anyone is welcome. Please let the secretary know if you are interested and hope to attend.

Also on Thursday September 9, 7pm on Zoom, Gary McLean, winner of MasterChef: The Professionals, will give an expert talk about life after the show, teaching, and opening his first restaurant in the St James Quarter.

Creel Caught will be a celebration of Scottish fish and shellfish in the heart of Edinburgh.

The final event on Friday September 10 will be the Institute Rural Ramble, arranged by local institutes.

Members will meet up for a walk or wander while wearing blue and gold, the colours of the SWI.

For Arran the proposed walk are Sannox shore, fairly flat, with a 10.30am start, and Machrie Moor Stones, also reasonably flat, with a 2.30pm start.

Both have good parking and are not too difficult, allowing people to go at their own pace and natter whilst walking.

People could bring flasks or go to suitable tea rooms, Machrie Golf Club or Corrie Golf Club, afterwards if they

wish. There are five SWI groups on Arran and for anyone interested in joining the contact details are below:

**Lamlash:**  
Meeting second Thursday each month at 7.30pm, starting on September 9. Secretary Angela Scott, angelascottswi@gmail.com tel. 600475

**Corrie:**  
Meeting second Thursday each month at 2.30pm. Secretary Anne Pringle, anne.m.pringle@btinternet.com tel. 810210

**Shiskine:**  
Meeting first Wednesday each month 7.30pm, Secretary Carole Stewart, sandabwf@yahoo.com tel. 860530. Additional afternoon tea at Shiskine golf club on Monday September 6 at 2.30pm.

**Kilmory:**  
Meeting second Monday each month 7pm, starting October 18. Secretary Pippa Downing, pippadowning@gmail.com tel. 870515

**Kildonan:**  
Meeting third Monday each month 7.30pm, first meeting will be Monday September 6. Secretary Nancy Bremner, npbremner@btinternet.com tel. 700233

To join the Zoom events go to the SWI website and follow the links.

For further information please email chris@ardrigh.co.uk or npbremner@btinternet.com or the institute secretary.

## Award winning Gaelic book-signing in Brodick

Fèis Arainn is absolutely delighted that Alistair Paul, pictured, one of its team, is now a prize-winning published Gaelic author.

His new book Linne Dhomhain (Deep Pool) from Luath Press was awarded the prize as best unpublished manuscript in the Gaelic Literature Awards 2020.

Many will know Al from his work with the Fiddle Club and involvement in Gaelic traditional music and culture but he is also a regular contributor to a number of Gaelic publications with his poetry, reviews and short stories.

Fèis Arainn will host a free book-signing event on the evening of Wednesday September 15 in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick at 7.30pm at which Al will speak about his book and his ventures into the publishing world as well as the inspiration he has found for his writing in Arran history and folklore.

There will be some short readings from the book but the conversation will

be in English and there will also be an opportunity to put questions to Al.


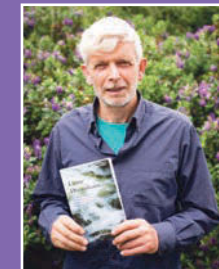
This is sure to be an enormously interesting evening and a great chance to celebrate the success of one of Fèis Arainn's stalwarts.

For Test and Protect purposes, people are required to register if they wish to attend and all normal social distancing measures will apply.

Please email contact@feisarainn.com to secure a place or for any enquiries. And find Fèis Arainn on Facebook.



The Mountain View School for the Deaf encourages everything from woodwork and chickens to football and dancing.

**FÈIS ARAINN**  
BOOKSIGNING AND CHAT WITH LOCAL AUTHOR ALISTAIR PAUL  
Linne Dhomhain – published by Luath Press

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick  
Wednesday September 15th, 2021  
7.30pm – free entry

Please register to attend at [contact@feisarainn.com](mailto:contact@feisarainn.com)  
Find Fèis Arainn on Facebook



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# Yellowhammers visit Arran in winter but don't breed



The colourful yellowhammer. Photo Dennis Morrison

Yellowhammers used to be familiar birds on Arran throughout the year.

During the breeding season the distinctive song of the stunning male, sounding like 'a little bit of bread and no cheeeese', was a feature of many hedgerows throughout the island and in the winter, flocks fed in stubble fields.

Examination of the annual bird reports produced by the Arran Natural History Society shows the decline in the breeding records. Throughout the 1980s between 10 and 15 pairs were reported each year.

In the 1990s numbers declined with eight pairs in 1990, four pairs in 1992 and in 1994 there were no breeding records.

From 1997 to 1999, each year there was a breeding record from Shiskine Golf Course. That was the last confirmed breeding.

## Bird notes by Jim Cassels

This century there have been no confirmed breeding records.

In 2012, 2014, 2017 and 2019 there was one record of one bird singing for a short period of time in April.

This year there was a report of a male singing on the Boguille on April 21 and one singing in the Shiskine Valley on April 30. Neither bird lingered.

Then on July 3 a yellowhammer was seen on the Holy Isle. This is the first Arran July record this century.

While no longer a breeding species yellowhammer remains a passage migrant and winter visitor - but for how long?

In the last five years there have been a total of 164 reports of yellowhammer. As shown in the chart below almost all these records are between October and April.

Looking at the records for the last five years there is no obvious trend. The number of records each year has varied from 64 to 11.

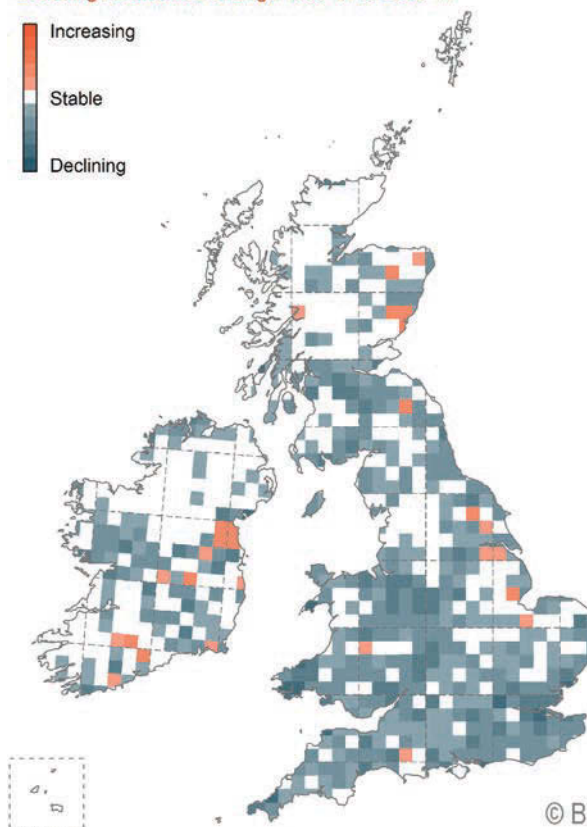
The number of locations that yellowhammer has been recorded each year was varied between seven and three.

The size of groups recorded each year has never been large and ranged between six and 21.

It looks as if the species on Arran is just hanging on and it is in danger of joining the list of farmland birds that can no longer be seen here, such as the corn bunting, last reported in 1984 and tree sparrow, last reported in 1997.

Data from the British Trust for Ornithology indicates that this is not just a local issue.

Breeding Abundance Change 1988-91 to 2008-11



Map showing the breeding abundance change across the UK from 1988-91 to 2008-11.

The map from the BTO Bird Atlas Mapstore comparing the abundance in 1988-91 with the abundance 20 years later in 2008-11 clearly shows this decline. Yellowhammer abundance began to decline on farmland in the mid-1980s.

The species, listed as green in 1996, has been red listed as a Bird of Conservation Concern since 2002.

Reductions in winter seed food availability as a result of agricultural intensification, for example, the loss of winter stubbles and a reduction in weed densities are widely believed to have contributed to the population decline.

Research has identified better population performance in areas with extensive winter stubble, presumably because overwinter survival is relatively high. Research also suggests

that the local availability of winter set-aside is a good predictor of sites chosen for breeding territories the next year.

Numbers have also shown widespread moderate decrease across Europe since 1980.

Some projects including one involving the RSPB working with farms in Northern Ireland have had some success but 'further research is required to identify possible remedial actions in pastoral areas'.

In the meantime I would be delighted if you would continue to send me any sightings of yellowhammer on Arran.

Enjoy your birding and keep safe. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at 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>

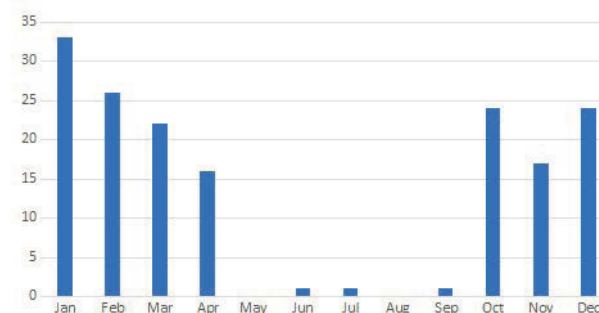


Chart showing that most of the yellowhammer sightings in the past five years have been between October and April.

## SCOTTISH FIELD

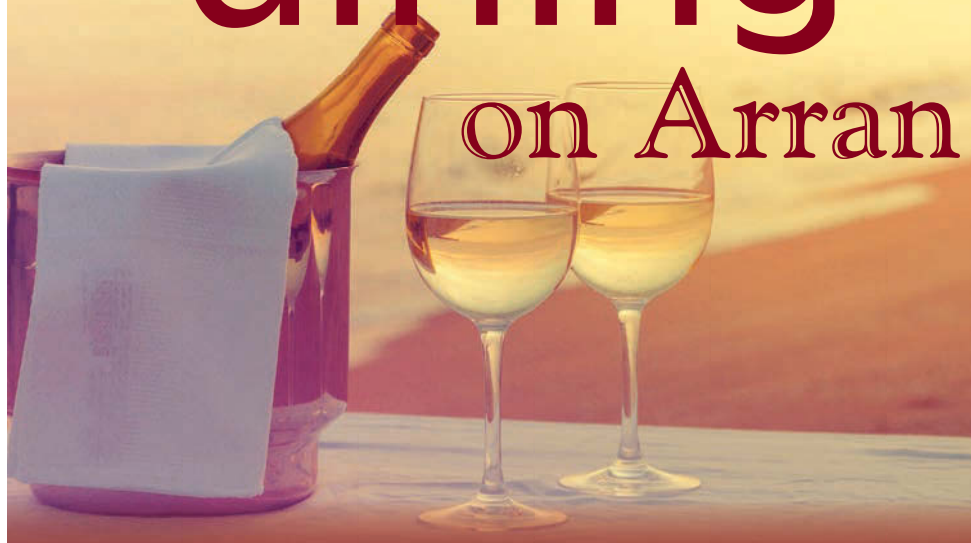
September



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250 years of Sir Walter Scott... An Earlston garden...  
Delving into rockpools... Driving the SWC300...  
Eilidh Barbour... Nick Nairn's new restaurant...  
Scotland's best street food recipes...

# Summer dining on Arran




**Duncan's**  
at the Burlington

Open Monday – Saturday  
5pm to 8.30pm (last sitting)

bookings essential  
call 01770 700 255

Burlington Guest House Shore Road, Whiting Bay KA27 8PZ



**VISIT KILMORY CAFÉ & THE SHIELING BISTRO AT LAGG DISTILLERY**

We have made a commitment to quality and value and all dishes in both restaurants are under £10. Enjoy family friendly Kilmory Cafe and the relaxed atmosphere upstairs in The Shieling Bistro and Whisky Bar.

Open Tues – Sat  
Serving coffee & cake 10am – 12pm  
Lunch menu from 12pm – 5pm (last orders for hot food 4.30pm)  
Booking is required.  
01770 870 565  
bookings@laggwhisky.com



**Café Thyme**  
at the Old Byre Visitor Centre, Machrie.

Open every day 10am-5pm,  
Lunches 12-3pm,  
Wood burning oven  
No booking necessary  
Clothing and shoe shops on site too!

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



**THE DRIFT INN**

Eat Local.  
Eat Fresh.  
Eat Responsible.

Fully open and serving food 5 days, 12noon until 10pm, closed Tuesday & Wednesday

Local restrictions apply Booking advised T: 01770 600 608



Visit us at CASKS Cafe in Lochranza Distillery

CASKS Café, Open Wed – Sun 10am – 4pm

Serving a delicious selection of home baking, hot & cold beverages, whisky tasting flights, and light lunches (lunch served 12noon-3pm).

Featuring the best of local produce and often an Arran Malt twist on some classics.

Booking is required  
01770 830264  
bookings@arranwhisky.com



**SCOTTISH FIELD**  
September

Subscribe at  
[www.scottishfield.co.uk/subscriptions](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk/subscriptions)

Subscribe and receive a FREE bottle of gin or whisky



Warm welcome and relaxing atmosphere.  
Family and dog friendly.  
Perfectly situated at the foot of Goatfell.

Open from 11am everyday for delicious home baking and lunches or just a drink in the sun in our large beer garden or cosy bar!

Telephone: 01770 302101

## The Wineport

The Wineport is a family and dog friendly bar bistro situated in Cladach at the bottom of Goat Fell beside Brodick Castle, Arran Brewery, the garden centre and various craft and gift shops. There are ample parking facilities but if you prefer to walk it can be reached on foot from Brodick via the popular Fisherman's Walk, part of the Arran Coastal Route.

They are open seven days a week, serving drinks and delicious home baking from 11am and lunches from 12pm. The menu is simple, hearty, homemade fare using the best local and Scottish produce.

Homemade favourites include Cullen Skink, Scotch Egg and Smoked Mackerel Pate. The ever requested Steak Ciabatta with Peppercorn Sauce remains a firm favourite with customers. Lighter options include a Greek Salad or Skipness Hot Smoked Salmon & Crispy Caper Salad. These can all be rounded off with one of the house specialities; Warm Chocolate Brownie & Homemade Salted Caramel Ice-cream.

The majority of the menu is available as a gluten free option.

The Wineport prides itself on its warm welcome and relaxed atmosphere. The large beer garden is a total sun trap and the perfect place to sit back and enjoy coffee and homemade



cake, a delicious lunch or to simply have a drink with friends in the sunshine.

So if you have climbed Goat Fell and deserve a pint of Arran Ale, been strolling round Brodick Castle Gardens or the neighbouring shops and need a nice cool drink or been sitting on the beautiful beach across the road and fancy an Arran Dairies Ice-cream this is the place to go!

Opening hours are 11am-7pm with lunches being served 12pm-5pm.

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday September 1 2001



Clockwise from top left: Starting at Kilmory Primary School recently were Robbie Rhead and Liusaidh McMaster, who are pictured with Mrs Helen Todd.

01\_B36TYAAB01  
Golfers Jamie Duncan of Brodick and Dougie Macfarlane of Lamlash before setting out to compete for the title Champion of Champions at Brodick. Jamie Duncan took the title to become the 20th name to be engraved on the cup.

01\_B36TYAAB02  
Chief officer Iain Jamieson and purser Walter Bowie on the last sailing of the season on the paddle steamer Waverley.

01\_B36TYAAB03  
Mr Miller leads the tug-o-war against the senior boys in the staff versus pupils competition at Arran High School's sports day.

01\_B36TYAAB04  
The Arran Ladies' Rugby team scrum down against visitors from Coatbridge at the first game of the season for the club's youth sections.

01\_B36TYAAB05  
Arran Outdoor Education Resource has taken delivery of a new sailing vessel. It is a Drascombe long boat named Fleur de Mer and it is equipped to give sailing lessons for children with special needs.





# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.co.uk](http://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 4th September

Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm

Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm

Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm

## Sunday 5th September

Arran Farmers' Market, Bellevue farm, Blackwaterfoot, 11am - 3pm

Waverley Cruise – Brodick to Whiting Bay round Holy Isle, leave 3pm back at 4.50pm

What's Happening On Arran, <http://www.arranmedia.co.uk>, 4pm

## Monday 6th September

Brodick Castle, Brodick, 11am – 4pm

Lamlash Bowling Club, Lamalsh, 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

Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, Brodick, 6.30pm

## Tuesday 7th September

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

Bible Meetings, Shiskine Village Hall, 7.30pm

Pop Music Quiz, suits all ages, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

## Wednesday 8th September

Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 1.30pm

Arran Well-Being Cafe, Shiskine Village Hall, Shiskine, 2pm- 4pm

Bible Meetings, Kilmory Bunkhouse (rural room), 3pm.

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

Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, Brodick, 6.30pm

Lamlash Bowling Club, Lamlash, 7pm

Rock and Pop Bingo, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

## Thursday 9th September

Arran Chess Club – new members welcome, Crofters', Brodick, 10.30am

Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm

Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 11am

Waverley Excursions, Cruise south to Pladda & round Holy Isle,

3pm – 4.50pm

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

Arran Skinnymalinks Weigh-in, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 6pm

Lamlash SWI, Lamlash Church Hall, 7pm

Senior Hockey (12+), Ormidale Astro Pitch, 7pm – 8.30pm

Quiz – General Knowledge, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

## Friday 10th September

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 11th September

Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm

Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm

Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm

## TRADE CLASSIFIEDS

### TAXI SERVICES

#### 8-SEATER TAXIS AVAILABLE



#### ARDROSSAN HARBOUR TO:

Glasgow Airport FROM £42.00

Prestwick Airport FROM £30.00

[enquiries@directtaxis.net](mailto:enquiries@directtaxis.net) - Return bookings and other prices on request.

### TECH SUPPORT

#### SANDY KERR

#### TECH SUPPORT

t: 07917631626

e: [sandykerr@outlook.com](mailto:sandykerr@outlook.com)

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- Mobile Repairs



### INSURANCE SERVICES

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

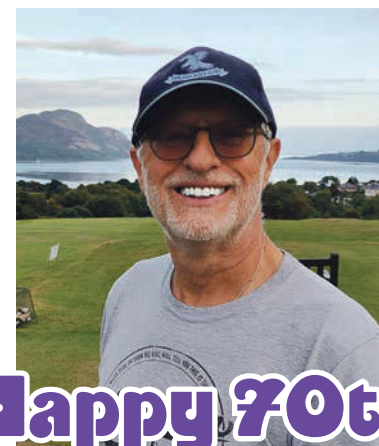


**NFU Mutual**  
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

## PERSONAL NOTICES

# Bill Jones is 70 today



# Happy 70th Birthday Dad!

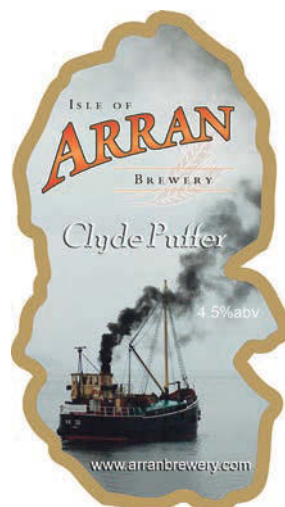
Love from all your children

# Clyde Puffer

The Isle of Arran Brewery's stout, Clyde Puffer, the label features one of the last remaining Puffers, VIC32.

An oatmeal stout of deep colour, sweet and mellow taste and a low hop taste that's light in the mouth

The beer is available throughout the island in bottles, including at the brewery shop at Cladach, Brodick



## RECRUITMENT

**JTC** John Thomson Construction

**VACANCIES**

**STOREMAN & FUEL STATION ATTENDANT  
LAMLASH YARD**

Full time position Mon – Fri. Immediate start. Knowledge of construction materials and forklift experience advantageous but not essential.

**HGV DRIVER – CLASS 1 OR 2**  
Full time position. Immediate start.

CVs to mail@thomsonconstruction.co.uk  
Tel: 01770 600 242

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined online at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)  
Comments should be made online at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) by 24.09.21.  
Any representations received will be open to public view.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT  
PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 Regulation 20(1)**  
**21/00819/PP;** Site Opposite Glenclay Garage, Auchrannie Road,  
Brodyck, Ayrshire; Erection of detached dwelling house.

Craig Hutton  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KAT1 8EE

  
North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

 **Forestry and  
Land Scotland**  
Coilltearachd agus  
Fearann Alba


**NO ACCESS TO  
MERKLAND FOREST ROAD  
6th September till Christmas**

Forestry and Land Scotland are hauling timber and stone on the Merkland forest road starting on Monday 6th September and continuing until Christmas.

This forest road will be closed to all unauthorised users and the lay-bys will be closed.

The public are asked not to park at the forest entrance or in the lay-bys to allow lorries access and to pass each other safely.

FLS apologies for any convenience which this may cause.

 **ArCaS**  
[arrancancersupport.org](http://arrancancersupport.org)

**2021 AGM  
Brodyck Hall  
Wednesday 22nd September at 4pm**

Due to current COVID restrictions, we are limited to an attendance of 50 so please confirm your intention to attend in advance by emailing David Penn on [arcassecretary@gmail.com](mailto:arcassecretary@gmail.com).

**BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES**

## PROPERTY



**OFFERS OVER  
£350,000**

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OPPORTUNITY**

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PRIME BRODYCK LOCATION

For more information contact Darren Lee on: 07974 932675 or email:  
[darren.lee@kwuk.com](mailto:darren.lee@kwuk.com) | [www.alistairanddarrenlee.co.uk](http://www.alistairanddarrenlee.co.uk)

Development Land, The Douglas Hotel, Brodyck

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

Independent business located in prime location in Brodyck available for lease. Licensed, turnkey business that's relatively easy to operate.

This respected restaurant/ice cream parlour was transformed into what you see today back in November 2018.

Since then, the building has been refurbished, redecorated and there has been investment in new equipment along with fixtures and fittings which are all included within the lease.

The business has a strong reputation within the local community and beyond and enjoys a high level of regular and repeat trade along with many new customers.

This is a superb opportunity to purchase a business where all the start-up work has been done and is a great base to build upon.

The business has a fantastic reputation within the area for serving Arran Ice Cream, hand rolled pizza, coffee, cake etc.

**Please contact  
Alastair Dobson on 07801767478  
for more details.**



**CASK & Still**  
TRAILS

**THE NEW APP FROM  
CASK & STILL MAGAZINE**

**#ScottishWhiskyTrail**

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DOWNLOAD OUR FREE APP TODAY**

GET IT ON  **Google Play** |  **Download on the  
App Store**

## Arran's own "Cottage Guide"

**For owners who want to manage their own bookings and those who don't.**

- Own bookings or online bookings
- Own calendar & prices chart
- Established social media presence
- Competitive fees - No VAT
- Personal Service

**#WeAreArran** **#Arran Welcome**

 **Cottageson  
Arran**  
Escape Unwind Enjoy



**Want to find out more?**  
Email: [info@cottagesonarran.co.uk](mailto:info@cottagesonarran.co.uk)  
Web: [www.cottagesonarran.co.uk](http://www.cottagesonarran.co.uk)

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

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- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

## PRIVATE SALES

### WANTED

VINYL RECORDS - Good and accurate prices paid for well looked after records  
No classical or easy listening.  
All other genres considered.  
Also offering brokerage and free valuations. Contact  
Jamie on 07983624634 or  
01770600969

 **Like**

like us on  
**facebook**

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

## 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 Shiskine church -  
John Kerr 860 498

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

**Sunday 5th September**  
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 5th September**  
Worship will be conducted  
at 10.30am

As we are now able to socially  
distance at one metre, booking  
is not required.

Contact details will however,  
be requested.  
*All welcome.*

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Kilmory linked with Lamlash

*"A faith to proclaim ~  
a fellowship to share"*

Scottish Charity SC015072  
**Sunday 5th September**  
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 5th September**  
14th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion at 11am.

Richard Trewby

**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 5th September**

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*

### BIBLE MEETINGS

**Tuesday 7th September**

Shiskine Village Hall at

7.30pm

**Wednesday 8th September**

Kilmory Bunkhouse

(rural room) at 3pm.

Conducted by

W Craigs and R Hughes

Contact 07756836670 .

*All are welcome to attend.*

## DEATHS

**HILTON** - Andrew. Much  
loved son of Joyce and David  
Hilton, sadly died in a moun-  
tain biking accident, August  
2021. Andrew will be missed  
so much by so many.

**MCMILLAN** - Craig William  
Fleming. Peacefully after a  
short illness at the Queen  
Elizabeth Hospital on Monday  
23rd August 2021. Craig much  
loved husband of Irene, loving  
dad of Ewan, Fraser and Kerr,  
father-in-law to Vicky and  
Victoria, much loved Papa  
of Blake, Cooper, Arco and  
Lenko. Funeral Service at  
Clydebank Crematorium  
(north Dalnottar) on Thursday  
9th September at 11.30am, no  
black ties.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**ROBERTSON** - Lois. Peter  
and family would like to  
convey their deepest thanks  
for all the support, cards,  
flowers and messages of  
condolences during their sad  
loss of Lois. Special thanks to  
staff at Crosshouse Hospital  
and medical staff on the island  
for care and attention to Lois  
over a number of years. Special  
thanks to Fiona Borland for  
funeral service and Clair and  
David Hendry for funeral  
arrangements. Thanks also to  
everyone who attended the fu-  
neral. A donation of £2270.00  
was collected on the day for  
ArCaS much appreciated.

## ARRAN BANNER GOLF



Machrie Bay's Brian Sherwood presents Campbell Laing with the Lawson-Cameron trophy.



A total of 11 past captains of Shiskine Golf Club took part in a friendly game, with Willie Kelso taking the top spot.



The 2021 Whiting Bay champion Jamie Stewart with runner-up Gavin Mainds and club captain Stan Rainey.



J C Reid Trophy winner Mark West and runner-up John Pennycott and Whiting Bay club captain Stan Rainey.

## Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday August 29, Club  
Championship final. The 2021  
championship final saw Jamie  
Stewart and Gavin Mainds go  
head to head over the usual  
36-hole format. It was a tight  
match with Gavin edging the  
first 18 holes being one up on  
Jamie at the lunch break.

The second round was equally  
close but Gavin approached the  
36th green one hole up and  
seemingly in control. Jamie's  
second shot held the green but  
left a long uphill putt which  
he struck straight and true for  
a birdie three. Gavin, pin high  
putt just missed for the half,  
leaving the tie all square after  
36 holes. It took a further four  
holes before the contest was  
decided in Jamie's favour.

The match provided fine  
entertainment for the small  
crowd that followed it. Thanks  
to George Mckechnie who  
referee'd with his usual profes-  
sionalism and the course was,  
as we have come to expect, in  
top shape. Thanks to Stewart,  
who also ensured the greens  
were trimmed on the morning.

Congratulations go to Jamie  
Stewart, our club champion for  
2021, on his first championship  
win.

Sunday August 29, The J C  
Reid Trophy final. At the turn,  
Mark West seemed to be cru-  
ising to a straightforward victory  
over John Pennycott only for  
John to reduce a four-hole  
deficit to one hole on the 16th  
green. Mark responded and  
managed to secure a two and  
one victory on the 17th green.

Wednesday August 25,  
Summer Trophy, 17 played. 1  
Dave Hackett (13)63, 2 Nicol  
Auld (3)64 and lowest gross,  
3rd Mark West (11)65 acb, 4  
Gavin Mainds (6)65 acb. Magic  
twos Nicol Auld @3rd, Jamie  
Stewart @12th, Sandy Pringle  
@17th.

Fixtures: Saturday September  
4, Wolfi's Stableford. Sunday  
September 5, AGA Autumn  
Handicap, Corrie GC.  
Wednesday September 8, The  
Bannatyne Cup. Saturday  
September 11, Texas Scramble.

## Brodict Golf Club

Wednesday August 25,  
Summer Cup, 38 played. Finlay  
Sillars 71-11=60 acb, Angus  
Raeburn 74-14=60 acb, Greg  
McCrae 65-5=60 acb. Scratch,  
Ewan McKinnon 60.

Sunday August 29, Brandon  
Cup Final and sweep. Brandon  
Cup winner, Terry Raeside  
75-12=63 acb, Brian Smith  
79-16=63, Donald McKinnie  
77-13=64 acb, Scratch, Matt

Dobson 68. Fixture: Sunday  
September 5, AGA Autumn  
Handicap/Drumadoon Cup at  
Corrie Golf Club.

## Shiskine Golf Club

Saturday August 28, past  
captains. Eleven past captains,  
including current captain  
Andy Gray enjoyed a fun game  
of golf followed by a social and  
lovely dinner in the clubhouse.  
Willie Kelso is on form at the  
moment and won the golf.

## Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday August 26, Summer  
Cup. 1 Rob Niven 75-13=62,  
2 Iain Murchie 70-7=63 BIH,  
3 Stuart Campbell 68-5=63,  
4 Ian Bremner 71-7=64. Best  
scratch, Dougie Macfarlane 67.  
Magic twos, Iain Murchie and  
Serg El Adm @16th, Jim Young  
@14th, Willie Currie @4th, Ian  
Bremner @5th and 11th.

Sunday August 29, Hastings  
Cup. 1 Derek Harrison  
78-19=59 BIH, 2 Graeme  
Andrew 70-11=59, 3 Robbie  
McGunnigle 76-14=62. Best  
scratch, Graeme Andrew  
70. Magic twos, Robbie  
McGunnigle @2nd, Stuart  
Campbell @4th, Rob Niven  
@14th. Hole 4 drawn, Stuart  
Campbell winner. Overall  
winner of Hastings Cup, Billy  
Skinner total 129 BIH over Ian  
Bremner 129.

Fixtures: Sunday September  
5, Autumn Handicap at Corrie.  
For late entries contact Euan  
McKinnon at Corrie Golf  
Club. Thursday September 9,  
Summer Cup. Make up own  
groups and see starter for  
times.

## Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday August 25, medal.  
1 A Smith 73-15=58, 2 A  
McDonald 75-15=60, 3 R I  
McMillan 84-21=63. Scratch, R  
Logan 72.

Saturday August 28, 18-hole  
medal. 1 D Logan 72-12=60  
and scratch, 2 W Paton 73-  
9=64, 3 A Napier 76-11=65.  
A Napier won the Magic twos  
which has rolled over for quite  
some time.

Fixtures: Saturday September  
4, 18-hole medal. Wednesday  
September 8, 18-hole medal.

## Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday August 24, Lawson-  
Cameron final. Campbell  
Laing won on extra hole over  
Brian Sherwood.

Tuesday August 24,  
Stableford sweep, played from  
the yellow tees. 1 John Milesi  
43pts, 2 Alex Morrison-Cowan  
32pts, 3 Reuben Betley 29pts.

Fixtures: Tuesday September  
7, Medal, tee-off 12.30pm.

## Old Firm game sees Arran match postponed

All Ayrshire Sunday Amateur Football  
Association games scheduled for last  
Sunday were postponed owing to the first  
Scottish Premiership match of the season  
between Rangers and Celtic at Ibrox  
stadium.

Arran AFC would have played Bobby's  
Bar but most of the footballers were at  
home watching their television screens as  
Rangers beat Celtic 1-0.

The team will get back to playing football  
this weekend with a game in The Only

Sport Sunday Trophy against Wishaw  
United AFC on Sunday September 5. The  
club has arranged a bus to transport the  
players, and supporters can contact the  
club if they wish to join the team, space  
permitting.



# Runners take on steep challenge in trail race

And they're off. The runners set off on the tough six-mile route in front of Hamilton Terrace. 01\_B36run02



Derek Shand briefs the runners on the route ahead of the event as organiser Tommy Gilmore looks on. 01\_B36run01

The second in the trilogy of Arran Runners events, the Lamlash Trail Race, was held on Sunday August 29.

The race saw 19 runners and a dog taking on a challenging six-mile course running around an easterly route encompassing the steep hydro dam road at Glenkiln Farm and the forestry trails above.

The day was perfect for running and the racers enjoyed the challenge of the hill above the farm.

The race was won by Ian Pender of Shettleston Harriers in a time of 39.58 minutes, with first woman home Julia McAfee from Central Athletics Club in 51.44.

Full results will be published on the Arran Runners Weebly website [arranrunners.weebly.com/arran-runners-races](http://arranrunners.weebly.com/arran-runners-races)

Thanks were extended to Kenny Bone for his co-operation and help in allowing the race over and around Glenkiln, to Forest and Land

Scotland and the Scottish Athletics Federation for permission to run the race and to ABC Training which supplied first aid and wonderful stewards and time keepers who enthusiastically ensured the race and its competitors were safe.

The last event in the trilogy is the Whiting Bay Forest Trail Race on Sunday October 3 at 2.30pm.

Entry is available on the SIE Entries site.

**CONTACTUS**

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