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New ferry won't be in service until 2023

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The new Arran ferry is unlikely to be in service until 2023, it emerged this week.

The final report by the departing turnaround director at Ferguson Marine, Tim Hair, reveals the bleak news.

In the report he says delayed pipework installation in the MV Glen Sannox presents a 'critical risk' to the delivery of the vessel on time.

That timescale is still estimated as between July 25 and September 25 this year – unchanged since June 2021.

However, even if the ferry is delivered in September, which now seems unlikely, it will

require at least two months of sea trials before being brought into service.

And in another blow Mr Hair, in his quarterly report for the last three months of 2021, admits that because much of the equipment for the ferries has been installed since 2016 there is an 'unquantifiable risk' that equipment problems may emerge during commissioning. In his report to the Scottish Government transport committee, in which he has again gone back to referring to the MV Glen Sannox by her yard name, Hull 801, Mr Hair states: 'Delivery of 801 in the time window described is achievable but remains challenging.'

Continued on page 2.

MISSING



HUW WILLIAMS – 25 years of age

Huw is described as 6ft 2ins tall, of thin build, he has bushy brown hair and a full beard. He has two tattoos on his arms - one is of a fish on his right forearm and one is of a black and white skull on his left bicep.

He was last seen on 6th May 2021 in Nottingham wearing a chequered shirt, dark blue trousers and trainers with reflective silver stripes, he may also have a green waterproof jacket with him and be sleeping in a tent. He likes to listen to music and is a keen guitarist.

For any sightings of Huw please contact Nottinghamshire Police on 101 and quote incident number 70_06052021



www.nottinghamshire.police.uk nottspolice nottspolice
To speak to us call 101 or in an emergency dial 999

Hope that missing man may be on Arran

Police have issued an urgent appeal after reports that a missing man may have been seen on Arran. Huw Williams, aged 25, has been missing from his home in Nottinghamshire since May 2021. However, police there are now following up leads that sightings of someone who at least looks like Huw may have been made on Arran, although possible sightings of him in Campbeltown have now been ruled out.

He is 6ft 2in (1.8m) tall with bushy hair and bushy beard with tattoos on his left bicep and right forearm. He was last seen in May wearing a green jacket with some orange on it and he is potentially wild camping in a tent.

If anyone thinks they have seen Huw, please contact phone 101 and ask for Nottinghamshire Police – then quote incident 70_06052021, or alternatively email adrian.farmer@notts.police.uk

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Ferry advisory group scrapped

The Scottish Government has scrapped the once influential Ferry Industry Advisory Group which it considers has run its course.

But with the West Coast facing the worst ferry crisis in living memory, it has raised questions as to the long-term strategy of future ferry procurement.

Two prominent members of the advisory group were the respected consultants Roy Pederson and Alf Baird, who were still being quoted by the national press this week as being members of the group, despite it being formally disbanded last month. The group last met in October 2019.

A Transport Scotland spokesman said: 'The Ferry Industry Advisory Group was set up to bring interested stakeholders together, rather than to specifically take decisions on policy

development. It was decided to stop meetings because the members, by mutual consent, felt that the format needed a refresh. A ferries stakeholder engagement strategy is being prepared looking in detail at the engagement structures around projects, operational matters and policy development.'

The disbandment coincides with the arrival of the new chairman at CalMac parent company David MacBrayne Ltd (DML), Eric Østergaard, who started work last week.

Mr Østergaard was chairman of CalMac ferry owners Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) for eight years, a post he has now relinquished.

He is expected to be closely involved in a review of the delivery of ferry services in Scotland, which could see a shake-up of all the bodies currently involved in providing the lifeline services.

Demand for action over loss of vital daily sailings

Only one in three of the vital 7am daily sailings from Ardrossan to Brodick operated during December, which severely limits delivery of goods and services, impacting widely on our island community.

Now the Arran Ferry Committee has told CalMac that unless it gets assurances of a better service, it will need to revisit the possible reversal of the timetable.

It also wants to know why Gourock has not been more frequently utilised as a port of refuge.

The committee met virtually on Monday to review the recent incidents and the unacceptable level of cancellations.

The recent national press and social media speculation was discussed but claims of fuel shortages could not be confirmed with one outlet confirming several thousands



The MV Hebridean Isles coming into Brodick this week.

01_B02hebridean01

of litres of stock. CalMac is currently operating a temporary timetable and the MV Hebridean Isles is servicing the Ardrossan to Brodick route while the MV Caledonian Isles undergoes her annual refit.

Crippling Covid absences have added further to the seasonal weather-related interruptions. Procedures for isolation and cleaning were discussed with suggestions made to reduce the time to get the vessel back in service.

AFC will continue to question the decision-making process which leads to weather cancellations which do not appear to be consistent with forecast information whilst recognising that the skippers'

decisions will not compromise safety.

Some examples of inconsistencies were provided which need explanation to avoid further damage to customers' confidence in using the service.

The disruptions mean travel for island residents is also being severely compromised if attempting to attend appointments on the mainland and the transfer of medical samples and test results are also delayed.

The initial work at Ardrossan to repair fenders is progressing which will help but there is disappointment that there has been no more progress on plans for the refurbishment at the port.

AFC says it will continue to question weather-related cancellations

The need for community engagement on timetables and plans for the service when it temporarily has to move to Troon were also highlighted.

Communications to customers was another matter which was highlighted as unacceptable and required further work from the operator.

This was particularly relevant when service was interrupted at short notice and greater consideration needed to be given to foot passengers.

In every discussion the frustration at the delay in introducing improvements was voiced.

The frontline staff are doing everything they can to provide a service under difficult circumstances and have ensured food and supplies are delivered but senior management need to support them and provide resources required.

New ferry won't be i

Continued from page 1.

'The planned increase in production activity in January and February is critical to the achievement of this delivery schedule.'

However, he warns that the ongoing pandemic could affect this.

He says: 'At the time of writing the Omicron variant is in its early stages but Ferguson has already seen an increase in absence for self-isolation and testing.'

'It seems likely that we will experience significant disruption in January and that in turn might result in lost productivity.'

'The resulting impact is impossible to quantify or predict at this juncture.'

Speaking about the potential

pipework problems, Mr Hair explained: 'Pipework installation rates have increased in recent weeks with a strong focus on maintaining the critical path activities, however, the overall rate of pipework installation on 801 has not achieved planned levels.'

'Actions are in place to increase resource and recover the shortfall in early 2022, but this is an important area and represents a critical risk to the delivery of 801.'

Turning to the lack of skilled workers available for the shipyard to hire, Mr Hair states: 'I had previously highlighted the constraints caused by a shortage of skilled workers available locally or from the UK and described the solutions implemented.'

'These have focussed on the use of subcontractors employing overseas workers, and I am pleased to report that this approach is working well.'

Delivery of the MV Glen Sannox sister ship, Hull 802, remains in the range of April 3, 2023 to July 3, 2023.

However, Mr Hair did advise that, treating Covid costs as an exceptional item, the nationalised yard was on track to deliver the project for the budget of £110m to £114m identified in December 2019.

The shipyard has a new permanent chief executive, David Tydeman, who will take over from Mr Hair on Tuesday February 1 and who will be responsible for future updates to the committee.

Mr Hair signed off: 'Under

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Health warning as Covid cases stay high on Arran

Health bosses have said for the first time that Covid cases on Arran are high and are reminding everyone of the need to live safely and follow Scottish Government guidance, writes Hugh Boag.

Latest official figures show there are 58 positive confirmed cases of Covid on the island – down from 67 earlier this week.

Businesses are seeing high absences with positive cases and close contacts self-isolating and there are known to be cases at schools on the island, although North Ayrshire Council has refused to confirm this.

The warning came as the Scottish Government relaxed restrictions on large outdoor events but restrictions on indoor events and hospitality venues will remain in place until at least Monday January 24, when First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said she hoped to be able to lift them too.

In a statement NHS Ayrshire and Arran said this week: 'Those living on Arran are being reminded that coronavirus hasn't gone away and case numbers on the island remain high.'

Lynne McNiven, director

of public health, explained: 'The last two years have been really tough, and we all hoped that by now, life would be fully back to normal.

'We're not there yet, and so it is important that we live safely so that we can minimise the spread of Covid-19, and protect ourselves and our friends and families.

'The vaccine is the best tool to do this. But there are other things you can do – for example, wear a face covering in public places; meet outside when you can; wash your hands regularly; take regular tests even if you don't have symptoms; and if you do have symptoms, self-isolate and take a PCR test.'

If you haven't yet had your first, second or booster vaccination, you can attend a drop-in clinic on Sunday January 16 from 9am to 1pm in Arran High School.

After this date, anyone who is newly eligible for the vaccine can call Arran Medical Group on 01770 600516 Monday to Friday from 2pm



Lynne McNiven, director of public health.

to 5pm to make an appointment. This includes a first dose for those turning 12 years old; a second dose for those over 12 years (12 weeks after the first dose); or a booster vaccine for those turning 18 years old.

Testing helps to identify more cases of the virus and gives everyone a better chance of stopping it from spreading.

Even those who are fully vaccinated should take a lateral flow test (LFT) regularly – this means at least twice a week. If you are a key worker and must attend work, it is even more important to get tested regularly. LFT kits can be picked up from the community pharmacy in Brodick, or by calling 119.

If you have symptoms of Covid, you need to get a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test. To access PCR testing on Arran, call the testing centre number on 01770 601033 for an appointment. You can also call 119 to have a kit sent to your home.



Arran Bee Group chairman Robert Cumming, right, presenting the Willie McNish Trophy to Ed O'Donnelly.

Ed lifts honey trophy

Ed O'Donnelly of Lochranza was chosen as the winner of the inaugural honey tasting competition held by the Arran Bee Group.

Chosen from among 12 entries, with all members doing a blind taste test and selecting their favourite, Ed was awarded the Willie McNish Trophy, dedicated to the memory of the late Willie McNish of Kildonan who was one of

the club's founders in 2012. Organisers described the competition as a not-too-serious excuse to try other group members' honey as honey from different parts of the island has its own individual taste, depending on what plants the bees are feeding on. Second place was shared by Arran Bee Group's chairman Robert Cumming and Rosanna Rees, and the third spot went to Sue Thorogood.

n service until 2023



Scottish Government ownership Ferguson Marine has again become a functioning shipyard, with three smaller vessels delivered, the completion of the ferries underway and credible future projects in

the pipeline.

'I am proud to have played my part in the history of the yard, have every confidence that it has a sustainable future, and will watch the next stage of its development with interest.'

The MV Glen Sannox, under construction at Ferguson Marine, is unlikely to be in service this year.

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Arran Whisky Festival back to toast uisge beatha

The Arran Whisky Festival is to make a welcome return later this year, writes Hugh Boag.

After two long years without the well-established annual malt and music festival, Arran Distillers is looking forward to opening the doors to Lagg and Lochranza and welcoming everyone back in person to celebrate a weekend of whisky and friendship.

The dates for your diary are Friday June 24 to Sunday June 26, but there will be a few changes to the weekend's schedule this year.

For the first time it will be hosting the White Stag Dinner on the Friday night and the Saturday daytime events at Lagg Distillery.

This year will be an important milestone for Lagg as its spirit will be 'coming of age' and Arran Distillers will be releasing its first three-year-old single malt Scotch whisky so it thought Lagg would be an ideal place to welcome everyone back to the island for the whisky festival weekend.

The survivors' lunch will still be held at Lochranza Distillery on the Sunday and will be hosted by newly-appointed distillery manager Stewart Bowman, so guests can enjoy



Serving up whisky cocktails at a previous festival.

getting to know Stewart and hear about his past experience and his plans for Lochranza Distillery. Due to ongoing

uncertainty surrounding Covid it has been decided not to host the Saturday evening ceilidh this year but there are hopes it will return in future

years once there is a bit more 'normality' in everyone's lives.

A spokesman for Arran Distillers said: 'We will be releasing further information and details about our plans for the whisky festival over the next few months but we just wanted to give everyone some

joyful news to kickstart a fresh new year and have something to look forward to in 2022.

'We plan to sell tickets around end of February/early March 2022 so please keep an eye on the website, social media and our newsletter updates for further information.'

Primary school registration is now open

Parents whose child is or children are scheduled to start primary school on Arran in August are being asked to register them.

Children who are five between March 1 2022, and February 28 2023, should be registered to start primary education from August 2022.

Registration this year will once again be an online process and will take place from now until Sunday January 30.

Councillor John Bell, cabinet member for education, said: 'Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, we are asking parents and carers to register online via the council website rather than the usual procedure of going to their local catchment primary school to register.'

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

Information on how to register your child can be found on the council's website at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk or by telephoning 01294 310000.

You have the choice to submit a placing request to a primary school outwith your catchment area but you must first register with your catchment

Applications must be made online



primary school. If you decide to make a placing request, then you should complete an online placing request application via the council website before Tuesday March 15, 2022.

More information on placing request applications and how these are processed can also be found on the council's website.

Please note that registration at your catchment area primary school does not guarantee entry to that school.

Full details are available at <https://bit.ly/3mYrWFR>.

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New clerk to lieutenancy

The Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran Sheriff Iona McDonald OBE is pleased to announce the appointment of Margo McGill, pictured right, as her new clerk of lieutenancy.



has been the clerk since 1987 and has served under four Lord-Lieutenants; previously serving under Sir Bryce Knox, Sir Richard Henderson and John Duncan.

Margo McGill is a solicitor and is currently head of the agriculture and estates team with Lockharts Law LLP in Ayr.

She is Ayrshire's only lawyer to be accredited as a specialist in agricultural law by the Law Society of Scotland.

Coming from a farming background Margo is married to farmer Robbie Scott and they have two sons, Rory and Kyle. She is particularly well known within the farming community and has won awards for her work in this area. Margo succeeds Nigel Martin, who

Nigel is, of course, also well known both as a solicitor and for his support of a number of charities in a voluntary capacity. He was awarded an MBE in 2008 for services to the community.

The Lord-Lieutenant said: 'I cannot thank Nigel enough for his loyalty, support and dedication to the lieutenancy.'

'His intimate knowledge of royal protocols and procedures will be sadly missed. I look forward to working with Margo and I am sure that she will be a great asset to the lieutenancy.'

Contact Margo at margomcgill@lockhartslaw.com.

Jackie is back on air with new radio show

A radio DJ with a close association to Arran is getting back behind the mic with a brand new radio show.

Jackie Brambles has returned to commercial radio for the first time in 27 years, by joining the presenting line-up on Greatest Hits Radio.

Jackie began her career at West Sound in Ayr, before going on to Capital FM and then BBC Radio 1 – where she rose to fame as the station's first female presenter with a daytime show.

Fans will also fondly remember Jackie as a lead reporter for GMTV and anchor on ITV's Loose Women, while most recently she could be found as a regular on-air voice on BBC Radio Scotland. Since 2015 she has hosted the STV series Stopping Scotland's Scammers.

Speaking about her new show, Jackie said: 'Hosting the Women In Music series for the



stations earlier this year, it was deeply gratifying to catch up with many of the artists that I started out with in my early radio days – yes, we're older and wiser but most impor-

tantly I think we're all really appreciative to have come of age in an era when music was so innovative, inspiring and optimistic.

'I can't wait to share more

Jackie Brambles is presenting the evening show on Greatest Hits Radio.

fascinating conversations with some of our greatest artists and, of course, to revel in their glorious music.'

Gary Stein from the Hits Radio brand network, owned by Bauer Media, called Jackie 'a truly exceptional broadcaster'.

The Evening Show with Jackie Brambles will air every Monday to Thursday from 7pm to 10pm, broadcast across all seven of the Greatest Hits Radio stations in Scotland.

Jackie's new show, which launched last Tuesday, will feature special guests, documentary content and live sessions.

Born in Essex, she was brought up in Ayrshire and later met and married Arran-born David Tod. They have two children and her mum, Marian, lives in Shiskine.

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The wait goes on

The latest report on the progress, or lack of it, on building the new Arran ferry makes grim reading.

Just when we thought things were looking up and that the MV Glen Sannox might be in service this year, hopes appear dashed by a series of warnings by turnaround director Tim Hair who walks away from the Ferguson Marine shipyard next month.

In his final report to the Scottish government, he lists reason after reason why the ship probably won't be ready by September: absences as a result of Covid, delays to pipe-work installation and, most worrying of all, a warning equipment may need replaced during commissioning, as some of it was installed as far back as 2016.

Alarm bells should have started ringing last autumn when Mr Hair stopped referring to the new Arran ferry as MV Glen Sannox and reverted to referring to it by its shipyard name - Hull 801 - a backward move if ever there was one.

If, and it is a big if, the vessel was to be delivered in September, it is still touch and go she would be ready for service before the end of the year. At least two months of sea trials will be needed and there are suggestions that if equipment needs replaced and there are any problems with the dual fuel technology these could be even longer.

So the wait goes on and on.

Thought for the week

'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; again such things there is no law.' **Galatians 5: 22-23**

Script for a farce

Sir,
At the beginning of another year, I would like to wish the First Minister Happy New Year but only if she stands up in the Scottish Parliament and gives an abject, and sincere, apology for the appalling state of the ferry services to the Western Isles and the Firth of Clyde for which the SNP government is responsible.

In the time since it 'took the helm', the government has presided over a scenario which could be the script for a farce.

Ferry replacements were held up at the same time as RET was introduced - right hand not knowing what the left hand was doing.

Then two jumbo ferries were ordered as some sort of vanity project and the government with more vanity gave them to the wrong builder. And here we are in 2022 miles behind 2018 with no prospect of improvement.

Peel Ports is still arguing about costs, and is not to be trusted. Can the big ferry get in and out of Ardrossan - nobody knows. On and on... it's a mess and the government, and nobody else, is responsible for it. The fleet gets older and breakdowns are frequent, and the Covid situation has not been well managed.

What saddens me most is that, as a result of all this government mismanagement over 15 years, the people who are taking the flack are the CalMac staff in the frontline who have no responsibility for it whatsoever. The First Minister should be apologising to them as well.

Yours,
John Cruickshank,
Whiting Bay.

A fond farewell

Sir
As from today (Friday) I will be stepping down from running the Harbour Shop in Blackwaterfoot and will be passing the reins

over to a new owner. It has been a privilege to support my local community for the last 15 years and I would like to thank each and every customer who came into the shop and supported me throughout this time. Without your support and loyalty, I would not have been able to operate for so long.

I would like to thank my partners in crime Aileen and Gina whose unwavering support and help in running the shop has been brilliant. I really will miss our daily chats and laughs.

Yours,
Gillian Ingham,
Torbeg.

Arran is watching and waiting

Sir,
Arran Ferry Action Group has received a response to the questions asked regarding the Ardrossan harbour development project that were submitted to the Ferries Infrastructure project manager at Transport Scotland, highlighted by the Banner in the December 10, 2021 issue.

The response is issued from the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee, following recent direction from Transport Minister Graeme Dey MSP and Transport Scotland that all community correspondence should be routed to this group from now on.

Arran Ferry Action Group has been excluded from the Ardrossan Harbour Task Force meetings, despite being named as a stakeholder by the First Minister in December.

The document is somewhat limited in the answers it provides.

The fundamental question of when this development will commence is still unanswered.

This is still totally dependent on agreement being reached between Transport Scotland and the owners of the port, Peel Ports Group Ltd.

This is believed to relate to the division of costs between the two parties, and therefore the share of cost to the taxpayer through Transport Scotland.

The project is estimated to be 18 months or more of work.

Some answers are becoming clearer, although they are still shrouded in a little Ayrshire fog.

The service will divert to Troon - irrespective of if the works commence or not - upon the long-delayed Hull 801/MV Glen Sannox entering service.

This is currently expected to be in autumn 2022, only 10 months away now.

There are significant risks of further delay with this delivery schedule and we wait for more updates from Ferguson Marine with keen interest.

The works at Troon are well advanced and on schedule for completion by summer 2022. We hope to hear more on these details soon.

There is no details yet of the timetable impact or the service frequency that will be provided.

This is a key part of information that the Isle of Arran needs to know in order to plan for what is coming.

The structure of the task force still appears extremely confused, with no substantial changes carried out from the recommendations of its own project management review in April 2019.

Items such as 'clearly defined roles and responsibilities', a 'clear command structure to a single-named project manager' and 'improved community communication' appear to still be on the 'significant and urgent' list.

The lack of recent attendance by our constituency MSP is also notable.

There are many areas where public consultation is promised, like the development of the landside infrastructure such as the terminal building and the proposed timetable.

These are promised for early 2022.

There are other areas where it is specifically excluded, such as the temporary facilities and connectivity at Troon.

Arran Ferry Action Group hopes that these consultations are indeed real exercises in engaging with the community that can influence the final decisions.

The clock is ticking loudly, and if a start date of autumn 2022 is to be met, all of these elements will need to be progressed very rapidly.

Any further delay will push the return of the service to a renewed Ardrossan in a new vessel past the current target of spring 2024.

The Isle of Arran is watching, and waiting.

Yours,
Sam Bourne, chairman,
Arran Ferry Action Committee.

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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.

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

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

Big fines in new laws to protect livestock from dog attacks

A campaign to protect Scotland's livestock has been launched following new legislation which protects animals from dog attacks through a range of measures including updating the livestock definition, fines of up to £40,000 and prison sentences for owners who let their pets worry, kill or injure farmed animals.

SPARC, the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime, launched the Livestock Attack and Distress campaign with the slogan: 'Your Dog - Your Responsibility' to educate dog owners about the new legislation plus, where applicable, use the new powers to report owners of dogs which attack livestock.

The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) (Scotland) Act 2021 came into force on Friday November 5 last year, following a successful Members' Bill brought by Emma Harper MSP, supported by SPARC, NFU Scotland and livestock owners after continued attacks on farm animals by out-of-control dogs.

Under the new legislation, camelids such as llamas and alpacas, together with ostriches, game birds and farmed deer are now protected plus the inclusion of the word 'attack' is welcomed as this clearly reflects the more serious aspect

Those responsible could face penalties of up to £40,000



NFU Scotland and other stakeholders joined together this week to highlight new penalties for those who allow their dogs to attack livestock.

given the increase in dog ownership experienced during Covid and the aim of the campaign is designed to educate and raise awareness amongst dog owners, whether new or experienced, that their dog is very much their responsibility.' Mark McBrearty, regional manager for Scotland at NFU Mutual, said: 'Dog attacks are causing appalling suffering to animals and huge anxiety for farmers and crofters as they deal with the aftermath.

'The new legislation is a huge step forward as it means farmers and police are able to

trace offending dogs' owners and impose serious penalties.

'We're supporting the Your Dog - Your Responsibility campaign to spread the message about the new law and encourage irresponsible dog owners to control their pets.

'We want people to enjoy the countryside as it's so important for people's wellbeing.

'It's vital that dog owners act responsibly and keep dogs under control whenever there is a possibility that livestock are nearby.'

The need for robust legislation was further demonstrated by an NFU Mutual survey last year which showed that 64 per cent of UK dog owners let their pets roam free in the countryside, despite half admitting their dog doesn't always come back when called.

of such an incident.

The new law also includes provision to fine the owners of dogs that attack livestock up to £40,000 or even send them to prison.

The campaign will run through the lambing season, when sheep and lambs are most vulnerable to attacks and will be then run again in the autumn.

The need to communicate the new measures to the dog-owning public has been shown by a recent survey commissioned by leading rural insurer NFU Mutual with Scottish dog owners.

Only four per cent of people

surveyed knew they could now be fined up to £40,000 if their dog attacked livestock and only 22 per cent knew they could be sent to prison if their dog attacked livestock.

NFU Mutual claims figures show that the UK cost of dog attacks on livestock rose by 50 per cent in the first quarter of 2021 (compared to the same period the previous year) as the pandemic led to a surge in dog ownership and countryside visits.

Inspector Alan Dron, Police Scotland national rural crime co-ordinator, said: 'Attacks on livestock by dogs is an emotive issue that impacts on rural

communities throughout Scotland therefore Police Scotland welcomes this new legislation which can hopefully assist in preventing, reducing and tackling such instances.

'Its introduction is timely

VACANCY WITH NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Island Facilities Officer

Permanent Role
Full Time: 35 Hours/ Week, 52 Weeks/ Year
Advert closing date: 25 January
Interview date: 8 February

This post is within North Ayrshire Council's Facilities Management team. It is a supervisory role located on the Isle of Arran, based in Montrose House, Brodick.

The remit of the role will be to lead the cleaning/janitorial and housekeeping staff to assist and provide a high-quality service within Montrose House and across the island, covering various council buildings.

This is a challenging but rewarding role for the right person. Not only will you be contributing to the ongoing excellent service we provide to residents and customers from other council buildings but you will also enjoy excellent council benefits with a flexible working pattern. If you want to work somewhere where your effort matters, where you are valued and supported then please do apply.

To apply and for more details on this role, as well as many other current vacancies, please visit www.myjobscotland.gov.uk and search for North Ayrshire Council.



Free water butt for your garden

Would you be interested in a water butt to help water your garden or vegetable patch?

Eco Savvy will soon have some water butts for distribution out into the Arran community either free or at a subsidised cost.

It will also be joining forces with the newly formed Arran Repair Cafe which will offer help with installation or can loan tools for people to install the water butt themselves.

Water butts are a great way to harvest rainwater for use in your garden.

Filling your buckets and watering cans with naturally collected rainwater is good for your plants and the water collected will also come in handy in the event of a drought or hosepipe ban.

The risk of prolonged dry spells is increasing due to climate change.

In 2018 more than 25 tankers had to transport water from



Get a free water butt for your garden.

the mainland and last year saw Scotland's fourth hottest summer on record.

Ruth McLaren, project co-ordinator for Eco Savvy, said: 'Even though it can sometimes feel like we have more water than we know what to do with, water levels can drop quickly

and using rainfall collected in a water butt is a great way to make sure your garden doesn't suffer without using drinking water stocks.'

If you would like to register your interest in a water butt please contact ruth.ecosavvy@gmail.com

New Year New You

Whether you are listening to the boom of the Edinburgh Castle cannon, the bongs of Big Ben, or the bangs of Argyll fireworks, marking the start of a new calendar year can mean marking new beginnings personally as well.

Many of us embrace the start of January as the time to make a fresh start or a change. According to a YouGov survey (2021) we are most likely to make new year's resolutions that are health related – exercising more, losing weight, and improving our diets - with other popular choices including taking up a hobby, pursuing career ambitions and travelling. Here is our 2022 guide to the opportunities on your doorstep.

Health & Fitness

Exercise

There is plenty of local choice if your aim is to get active, whether you plan to take up a new sport, or re-starting a lapsed favourite activity.

Atlantis Leisure is Oban's fitness hub and a great place to start, with instructor-led activities from swimming to boxing. Your local leisure centre is also first port of call to find out about independent schemes like Tennis Ladders. In Lochgilphead, head to the Mid Argyll Sports Centre, and in Campbeltown, Aqualibrium offers classes and clubs.

Away from town, classes from zumba to pilates to Highland dancing, operate in village halls. Local clubs, including the thriving local shinty and rugby clubs, are always looking for new players.

Cycling and jogging are ideal for enjoying the landscape while you exercise. The NHS Coach to 5k app is free for Smartphones – and if you find that 5k is your distance, why not join the Saturday Parkruns at Ganavan Sands, Oban, or the Nevis Range, Fort William? (Details on Facebook).

For those looking for tailor-made support, there are qualified personal trainers across Argyll who can help develop a regime to suit you.

Weight Loss

After those Christmas cheese boards, many of us are seeking a healthier diet, or plan to lose a few pounds. January bookshop sales make this a good time to pick up a healthy recipe book.

If you are on a healthier eating journey, it can help to meet others facing the same challenge. Oban, Lochgilphead and Campbeltown have Slimming World Groups – or follow the example of Alison Page from Arran, who set up Skinyamalinks, a weigh-in which raises money for Mary's Meals.

Careers

Jobs

Could this new year be the time to re-boot your career? If so, your local newspaper is the place to keep up with current opportunities, with posts on the HIJobs portal too.

If you face obstacles in finding work, support is available through the council and the Government's Fair Start Scheme. It offers help with interview preparation, working on your CV and even work experience www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Start a Business

If your new year started with a big idea, then perhaps now is the moment to start your own business. With signs that the economy are picking up, this might be the perfect time.

Planning is crucial to success, so why not make a start by contacting a Business Gateway organisation to discuss your next move. Business Gateway Argyll and Bute offer free business advice at its Lochgilphead office as well as one-to-one support and courses. <https://findbusinesssupport.gov.scot>.

Apprenticeships

Take your first steps on the career ladder with an apprenticeship, which combines on-the-job training and pay with the chance to gain qualifications, for those aged 16-24. Opportunities range from Foundation Apprenticeships (for those in fifth or sixth year at school) to Modern Apprenticeships (which have evolved from the traditional model) and Graduate Apprenticeships, covering careers from Accounting to Aquaculture, Boatbuilding, Fashion and more.

Jenny, who recently completed a Customer Services Apprenticeship with Argyll and Bute council, says: "I've found the training really interesting and everyone has been really helpful. I've been able to build on what I learned at school." apprenticeships.scot.

Shop Assistant **Oban** Search HIJOBS

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Full Time
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HIJOBS

College

Long before the pandemic normalised zoom tutorials, the University of the Highlands and Islands was adapting its courses so that students in remote locations could access learning – and it continues to set a standard. The university has 13 colleges and 70 local learning centres, and offers subjects from nursing and marine science to adventure tourism management, with options at degree level and above, as well as part-time and access courses – a chance hone skills, whatever your passion.

Skills

Taking up a hobby is a wonderful way to add a new dimension to life in 2022. This region is bursting with talented people who relish sharing their skills in crafts, art, music, crofting and more.

While there are online options, you could get hands on with a course in a fabulous local setting. The recently-reopened Rockfield Centre in Oban offers skills courses from art to sewing to skincare, or try a quirky destinations like Dalmally Railway Station where you can learn wool craft on the platform.

If your travel plans were curtailed in 2020 and 2021, perhaps it's time to learn a new language before heading abroad. Evening classes in Spanish and Italian are available at UHI colleges

Hair and Beauty

As well as thinking about what's inside, January can be the time to look in the mirror – and perhaps make a wee change on the outside too. After salons shut for months during the pandemic, a trip to the hairdressers, beauty parlour or nail parlour still feels like a treat.

Look out for new year special offers at salons and high street clothing shops, which offer discounts and deals throughout January -- and if a spending spree is not an option, remember that the age-old beauty advice remains the best; eat well, exercise, drink water, and get plenty of rest!

Try something new

If you've always fancied kayaking, paddleboarding or munro-bagging, the quiet early months of the year might be just the time to dip your toe in the water and try something different close to home. Or if thrill-seeking isn't your thing, why not visit somewhere new – this region is full of hidden gems, from beautiful forests to island getaways.

The new year might also be the time to give something back. A host of local charitable organisations rely on support from volunteers, from charity shops to children's clubs to food banks, and many are on the look-out for help. Find opportunities via Argyll Third Sector Interface.

A new year presents so many possibilities, and committing to a new you isn't easy, even if it is worthwhile. Whatever your plans, we wish you luck, and a happy, healthy 2022.

Discover the new you in 2022

If the new year has got you thinking about your goals for 2022, there's no time like the present to take the first step forwards. Whether you're looking to upskill, considering a career change or simply want to try something new, you'll be able to get recognised qualifications with Argyll College UHI, without having to travel too far from home.

Starting this January, we have a range of short courses available that can be completed before June. Whether you're looking to study full-time, part-time or undertake flexible learning, these courses are a great way to get a taster for a new subject area or gain additional skills.

There are well documented staff shortages in the Health and Social Care sector so if you're considering a career change, we have a number of courses available to suit all levels of study. Opportunities in the sector are many and varied, and our introductory courses can give you an understanding of the opportunities open to you. The Introduction to a Career in Social Care is a brand-new, online part-time course which can be completed in as little as six weeks. You'll be able to learn about the sector

at your own pace, with dedicated tutor support.

Want to take your learning to the next level? Take a look at the Health and Social Care: An Introduction course. With a mix of SQA accredited units, several short courses such as manual handling and food hygiene, plus practical experience in a social care setting one day a week, this course will ensure you are well-equipped to undertake a role within the sector.

For those already working in the industry, SVQs can help progress your career. Whether you specialise in the care of adults or children and young people, these part-time courses allow you to gain an internationally recognised qualification based on the practical experience you carry out on a daily basis. Upon completion you will also be able to register with the Scottish Social Services Council at an appropriate level, dependent upon your role.

As a partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands, there's the option to continue studying at Higher Education level, with courses such as the Social Services HNC, the SVQ Social Services and Healthcare at SCQF Level 7, or the Professional Development Award in

Technology Enabled Care at SCQF Level 7.

If you'd like to speak to someone about your options come along to one of our online information events in the new year. Led by our friendly teaching staff, these virtual, online sessions are free to attend and will give you a chance to learn about the courses on offer and ask any questions you may have.

The first event on Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 6pm will focus on the SWAP Access to Nursing course, developed for those who wish to pursue a career in nursing but have been out of formal education for more than three years. The following week, on Wednesday 26th January at 6pm, is our Health and Social Care session, where we will discuss the different courses available and the most appropriate level of study for you.

Looking for something else? Starting January, we also have courses exploring different aspects of Creative Arts, Horticulture, and IT in Business. Visit our website to find out more.

So, if your new year's resolution is to focus on your education in 2022, let us help you find the new you.

www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk



argyll.uhi.ac.uk
0345 230 9969

 University of the
Highlands and Islands
Argyll College

Learn
something
NEW
in 2022



**APPLY
NOW**

**Full-time, part-time and flexible
courses starting in January 2022**

ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS

Access to Nursing SWAP 6pm on Wed, 19th Jan
Health and Social Care 6pm on Wed, 29th Jan

Want to work in healthcare but don't have the qualifications?
We can help you prepare for your future career.

Book your place to learn more: argyll.uhi.ac.uk/openday

Join one of our courses starting in the New Year, a range of subjects available:

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE **CREATIVE ARTS** **IT AND BUSINESS** **HORTICULTURE**



Funding boost for Arran's community garden project

People living on Scottish islands will benefit from community-led wellness initiatives designed to support them to live healthier lifestyles, writes Hugh Boag.

The Healthy Islands Fund will help to deliver these initiatives with just over £1.3 million of Scottish government funding from the wider £30m Islands Programme.

On Arran, funding worth £14,508 has been awarded to the Arran Pioneer Project CIC to help build the infrastructure for the community gardens being created around the island.

The goal of the project is to contribute to the self-sufficiency and sustainability of Arran, while providing publicly accessible green spaces that are beautiful and use nature-led design to grow a variety of different produce.

Since March 2020 it has



Vegetables being cultivated in a polytunnel at the Lochranza community garden.

worked with seven different communities around Arran and helped to create five new community gardens and farms while advancing the aims of established gardens. These are in Lochranza, Lamlash, Brodick, Kilpatrick and Corrie.

The fund is managed by Inspiring Scotland with 56 projects spanning across 35 islands.

Projects focus on building local capacity to increase well-being, foster connections and promote healthy and resilient islanders and communities – helping them to recover from the impact of the Covid pandemic.

Islands secretary Mairi Gougeon MSP said: 'It's important that local communities have initiatives that can promote participation and equality in physical activity, as we've outlined in our National

Islands Plan. We need to ensure that these are locally-led and community groups are often best placed to provide these services on our islands.

'The projects that we are funding will help to encourage people to live healthier lifestyles and improve their resilience.

'I'm so grateful to the groups for applying to help improve the lives of the people living across Scotland's islands and I can't wait to see them in action.'

Inspiring Scotland CEO Celia Tennant said: 'Inspiring Scotland is delighted to be the delivery partner for the Scottish Government's Healthy Islands Fund which supports the aims and outcomes of the National Islands Plan and builds on the work of the Scottish Government's Island Communities Fund.'

Argyll College welcomes new chair of the board

Argyll College UHI has announced the appointment of Dr Rosemary Allford as the college's new chairperson of the board.

This change comes as Andrew Campbell retires from his nine-year tenure in the post, having served on the board since 2010.

The Arran Learning Centre, located in the high school campus in Lamlash, is one of 10 learning centres which make up the college estate that Rosemary is keen to visit.

Rosemary said: 'I'd like to get out to meet staff and students and understand the obstacles and opportunities that come with delivering tertiary education in one of the most geographically challenging areas of Scotland.'

'I am very much looking forward to seeing the diverse nature of the different learning centres, and how staff there meet their community needs.'

Rosemary joined the Argyll College board in June 2020. She served as a member of the learning, teaching and engagement committee and was elected as chairperson in December 2021.



Dr Rosemary Allford is Argyll College's new chairperson of the board.

FE provision, the delivery of which is now shared by the three teaching teams.

Rosemary, a lecturer in entrepreneurship at Edinburgh Napier University, is a specialist in employability and collaboration, and a principal fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

She is a highly experienced professional within the university and college sectors, combining excellent collaborative practice, academic leadership and project management.

She has led several SFC strategic projects with a focus on student employability and building leadership capacity within Scotland's colleges.

Alongside the election of a new chairperson, five new non-executive board members have been appointed to lead on the strategic development of the college. These new members have extensive experience in finance, public policy and public affairs, human resources, travel and tourism, and hospitality industries.

END OF SEASON CLEARANCE

SALE

IN STORE AND ONLINE

arranactive.co.uk

THIS WEEK'S TOP DEALS

BERGHAUS WOMENS NULA
MICRO INSULATED JACKET

WAS: £150
NOW: £100
- 10%
=
£90



JACK WOLFSKIN MENS HELIUM
DOWN INSULATED JACKET

WAS: £135
NOW: £100
- 10%
=
£90



EXTRA 10%

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*T&C/Exclusions apply - see website for full details., whilst stock lasts. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer

Still in the depth of winter but signs among the birds spring is on the way

The mild weather of November continued into December with no negative temperatures. December was wetter with about 50 per cent more rain than November.

Winter visitors in December included: five purple sandpiper on Silver Sands on 5th and a first winter glaucous gull by Fisherman's Walk on 13th. The last Arran record of this gull was in February 2020.

While the numbers of fieldfare and redwing, regular winter visitors, were down on recent years, the number of brambling, an irruptive winter visitor, were the largest ever recorded on Arran with 40 at Cnoc na Dail on 12th and 50 at the same location on 18th.

Wintering wildfowl were to the fore including: 550 greylag geese in the Shiskine Valley on 5th; 50 pink-footed geese also in the Shiskine Valley on 5th; four wigeon in Kildonan on 6th; 29 Canada geese in Clachaig on 24th; 23 teal on Cleats Shore on 28th and eight whooper swan flying and calling over Machrie on 9th.

Groups of wintering birds included: 20 turnstone and 21 black-headed gull on Silver Sands on 4th; 44 ringed plover in Blackwaterfoot on 8th; 70 curlew and 18 snipe in Port na Feannaiche also on 8th; 140 common gull on Cleats Shore on 13th; 200 jackdaw in Machrie on 19th; 20 lapwing on Cleats Shore on 28th; 23 woodcock in East Bannan also on 28th; 200 starling in Cloined on 31st and 30 greenfinch at Drumadoon Point also on 31st which was the largest group for a number of years. In December the 17 records

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

DECEMBER

of little egret from 12 locations, featured in last week's Banner bird note.

Other interesting records this month included: two returning shelduck in Kildonan on 5th; a jack snipe at Port na Feannaiche on 8th; five yellowhammer in Slidery on 10th; 10 rook in Clachaig also on 10th; a dipper in Machrie on 19th and a kingfisher in the Rosa Burn, Brodick, on 21st.

In addition, all three divers were around the coast including six great northern diver at Port na Feannaiche on 8th; two red-throated diver off King's Cave on 26th and two black-throated diver in Whiting Bay on 30th.

Although still in the depth of winter there were some signs of approaching spring with great spotted woodpecker reported drumming in Brodick Country Park on 27th; red-breasted mergansers displaying in Lamlash Bay on 28th and a song thrush singing in Pirnmill on 29th.

Gardens provide a safe refuge for some birds in winter. Among the more unusual records received were: three brambling in Slidery on 19th; a tree creeper in Sannox on 23rd; two great spotted woodpecker in Lagg on 26th and 16 long-tailed tit in Corrie on 26th.



A kingfisher, brightens any winter's day. Photo Dennis Morrison

Finally, here is a date for your diary: the weekend of Friday 28 to Sunday 30 January.

That weekend stock up your bird feeders, spend one hour of your weekend watching your garden birds, and note down the highest number you see of each bird species.

This is the weekend of the Big Garden Birdwatch. Last year nearly half a million people throughout the UK and more than 30 on Arran took part in this valuable exercise.

For more information and to get the free starter pack, visit the RSPB website Big Garden Birdwatch <http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/>

If you do decide to take part, please share your records with me.

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>.



Brambling - male, dark head, above, and female, below. These European cousins of chaffinches have been a real feature this winter. They do not appear every winter but when food is scarce on the continent they turn up here.

Photos Arthur Duncan.



Woodcock; large numbers of these continental birds on the island in winter. Photo Sonia Harding



Long-tailed tits are one of the more unusual garden birds this winter. Photo Celia Sillars



Glaucous gull; an Arctic breeding gull and uncommon winter visitor. Photo Colin Cowley

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 12, 2002



Faye Anderson on Jade, winners at the Cairnhouse Winter Points event last Sunday. 01_B02twe03



Jenny Campbell on Minsky whizzes round the school with their rosette after the novice clear round class at the Cairnhouse Winter Points meeting. 01_B02twe04

Right: Arran Banner editor John Millar inspects a minke whale which was found washed up on the shore just south of the Fallen Rocks at North Sannox. 01_B02twe02



CONTACTUS

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TELEPHONE
01770 302142



Jim Henderson, on behalf of ArCaS, right, presents a new washer/disinfector to Arran War Memorial Hospital. On the left is Alan Stout with nurses Esther Henderson and Charlotte Weir who operate it. 01_B02twe05



Her Majesty the Queen has this week appointed Dr Alistair Grassie one of five new deputy lieutenants of Ayrshire. Awarded an MBE in the New Year's honours list in 2000, he will now, in certain circumstances, represent the Queen on Arran. 01_B02twe06



Roadworks are under way at Lavencorrach where the road has subsided again even though it was built up here with gabions just two years ago. 01_B02twe01

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.co.uk

TOURS AND TASTINGS BY APPOINTMENT



Every Day

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

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 15th January

Eco Savvy Community Shop,

Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm

Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.30pm

Open Session, Crofters' Bar and Bistro, 3pm – 5pm

Live Music, Crofters' Bar and Bistro, from 9pm

Live Music, The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm – Midnight

Sunday 16th January

Arran Chess Club – new members welcome,

Crofters', Brodick, 10.30am

What's Happening On Arran,

<http://www.arranmedia.co.uk>, 4pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Zoom Meeting,

go to alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk, 7pm

Monday 17th January

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 10pm

Arran Rugby Training, Juniors and Seniors,

Ormidale Park, 7pm - 8pm

Tuesday 18th January

Healthy Outdoor Team, Brodick Castle, 10am – 1pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting,

Brodick Church Hall, 2pm

Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.30pm

Junior Hockey, P1 - S3 (age 5 to 14 yrs),

Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 6pm – 7pm

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

Bible Meetings (lateral flow test required),

Shiskine Village Hall, 7.30pm - 8.30 pm

Wednesday 19th January

Hydrofit, Auchrannie Resort, 10.30am – 11.15am

Eco Savvy Community Shop,

Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 1.30pm

Archives and Genealogy services,

Arran Heritage Museum,

10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Arran Pace Makers

please check Facebook @arranpacemakers,

Venue varies, 5.30pm

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

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

Thursday 20th January

Eco Savvy Community Shop,

Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

Senior Hockey (12+),

Ormidale Astro Pitch, 7pm – 8.30pm

Friday 21st January

Eco Savvy Community Shop,

Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Zoom Meeting,

go to alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk, 7pm

Live Music Crofters' Bar and Bistro, from 9pm

Saturday 22nd January

Eco Savvy Community Shop,

Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm

Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.30pm

Open Session, Crofters' Bar and Bistro, 3pm – 5pm

Live Music, Crofters' Bar and Bistro, from 9pm

Live Music, The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm – Midnight

PUBLIC NOTICES

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE

CHILDREN ENTITLED TO START P1 – SESSION 2022/2023

Children who attain the age of 5 years between 1 March 2022 and 28 February 2023 should be registered to start primary education from August 2022.

Registration for August 2022 is an online process and will take place during the period Monday 10 January 2022 and Sunday 30 January 2022.

Information on how to register your child can be found on the Council's website: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk or by telephoning 01294 310000.

You have the choice to submit a placing request to a primary school outwith your catchment area but you must first register with your catchment primary school.

If you decide to make a placing request, then you should complete an online placing request application via the Council website: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk, before 15 March 2022.

More information on placing request applications and how we process these can also be found on our website.

Registration at your catchment area primary school does not guarantee entry to that school.

Andrew McClelland, Head of Service (Education)

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



ARRAN FARMERS' SOCIETY

A.G.M.

Tuesday 22 February 2022

Ormidale Pavilion Brodick, 7.30pm

All Welcome

We invite all Members to attend and request all Directors be present or have provided apologies.

Please adhere to latest COVID19 guidance when attending.

If further restrictions are implemented this event

may be held online.

Secretary: A Latona, secretary.afs@gmail.com



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No classical or easy listening. All other genres considered.

Free valuations and brokerage. Contact Jamie on 07983624634 or 01770600969

Border Terrier Pups for Sale

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Contact Stevie on

T: 01770 600637

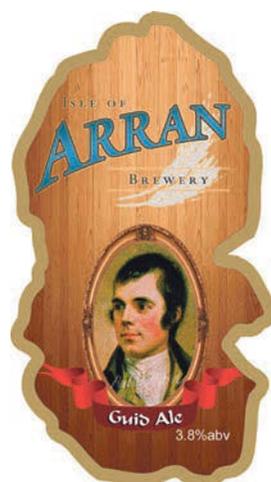
or M: 07979 416372

Guid Ale

The Isle of Arran Brewery's Guid Ale is a staple amongst the locals on the island.

A delicately balanced beer with malt and hop flavours and a dry hop finish.

The beer is available on hand pull at selected pubs on the island throughout the island in bottles, including at the brewery shop at Cladach, Brodick.



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Contact James:

james@jamesofarran.com

with a CV or for further information

Closing date 27th January

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Arran**

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We are looking for a 3 day a week maintenance
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CHURCH NOTICES

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

Independent but working together
There will be a streamed service fortnightly, this can be found on the three Church websites. Keeping with new guideline, please take a lateral flow test before coming to a Church Service.

Sunday 16th January
Arran Churches Together
Christian Unity Service
Lamlash Church at 12 Noon.
Please contact Margaret McArthur (600363) to register attendance.

Name and contact details will be asked for, on entering
We are also reminded to take a Lateral Flow Test on the day we intend to come to church.
We will be observing all socially distancing procedures
All welcome

The Food Bank continues from Brodick Church

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland

Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 16th January
There will be no service here today, we will be joining
Arran Churches Together
Service of Christian Unity
Lamlash Church of Scotland at 12 noon.

Please contact Margaret McArthur (600363) to register attendance.

Name and contact details will be asked for, on entering
We are also reminded to take a Lateral Flow Test on the day we intend to come to church.
We will be observing all socially distancing procedures.
All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Scottish Charity SC015072
Sunday 16th January

Kilmory at 10 am
Lamlash Church at 12 noon
Arran Churches Together
Service of Christian Unity
(Please Note change of time)
Please contact Margaret McArthur (600363) to register attendance.

Name and contact details will be asked for, on entering
We are also reminded to take a Lateral Flow Test on the day we intend to come to church.
We will be observing all socially distancing procedures
All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 16th January
Second Sunday of Epiphany
Sung Eucharist at 11 am
Rev'd Canon Simon Mackenzie
ALL WELCOME
Coffee after the service
We observe strict SEC guidelines

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Minister - Rev. Vince Jennings
Tel: 01770 600222
www.arranbaptistchurch.org.uk
Sunday 16th January

Arran Baptist Church will be joining the other churches on the island for a

Arran Churches Together
Service of Christian Unity
Lamlash Church at 12noon.

Please contact Margaret McArthur (600363) to register attendance.

Name and contact details will be asked for, on entering
We are also reminded to take a Lateral Flow Test on the day we intend to come to church.
We will be observing all socially distancing procedures
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (CONTINUING)

Sunday 16th January
Morning Service at 11am
Free Church Building, Alma
Road, Brodick
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 16th January
Morning service at 11 am
Shiskine Free Church
All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday 15th January
Vigil Mass at 5pm - booking not required

Sunday 16th January
Mass 11am - Booking required.
Booking for mass is essential.
Please note new booking contacts:
email: cjenks@btinternet.com or
telephone 01770 870245 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 (unless exempt) 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 18th January
Shiskine Village Hall from
7.30pm - 8.30pm.
Lateral flow tests are required now to use the hall.
Meetings conducted by W Craigs and R Hughes
Contact number is 07756836670.



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Be prepared for a new year of the gardening season

It's the start of a new year and the start of the gardening season. Time to plan your garden to look over the coming months, stock up on seeds and service any essential equipment such as lawn mowers and tools.

It's also a time for New Year's resolutions and here are 12 – one a month – that will make your garden super diverse and

12 gardening resolutions

- Use less plastic
- Plant a tree
- Start sowing seeds
- Plant something for fun
- Grow more veg
- Go green and have a go at organic growing
- Learn to relax and enjoy your garden
- Be more water aware
- Compost more of your garden waste
- Welcome wildlife
- Bring the outside in with houseplants
- Look after your tools

environmentally friendly...

First on the list is using less plastic, something we are all trying to do in our daily lives so it makes sense that we try to make our gardens as plastic free as possible.

The biggest 'bad boy' in any gardener's life is the plastic pot. It's estimated that 500 million plant pots and seed trays are sold every year and the

majority are sent to landfill or are incinerated.

But there are non-plastic alternatives such as biodegradable pots made using materials like coir, wood chips, bamboo and rice husks.

A growing number of garden centres and nurseries use biodegradable pots, but it's worth checking out their sustainability policies.

You can also make your own pots using newspaper or toilet roll tubes.

And now is a good time to make your own supplies of biodegradable pots so you have stock for the planting season in a couple of months.

If you've got a supply of old newspapers to hand simply roll a 15cm-wide strip of newspaper tightly around a glass tumbler, leaving 5cm beyond the bottom of the glass.

Fold the excess paper across the bottom, then press the glass down to flatten the pot's base.

There is no need to fix your paper pot with tape, just slide it off the glass. When ready to plant, just fill with compost.

Taking good care of existing plastic is a good way to ensure you don't have to keep buying it – so reuse any plant pots you have again and again for new seedlings, cuttings and plants.

If you look after your propagator trays and lids, repairing them if they crack, they will last for several seasons.

You can also reuse compost bags to store compost or turn leaves into leaf mould.

The added bonus of recycling or reusing items in the garden is that it also reduces cost – as does growing from seed rather

Gardening Column – January 2022



Old newspapers make great plant pots and save on plastic.

than buying established plants.

Even in winter you can grow something from seed, you just need a seed tray and a window ledge, or small cold frame or greenhouse – whatever space and budgets allow.

For anyone growing their own veg, this month is great for sowing onions.

If you sow onions now it saves the expense of buying onion sets (small bulbs) later and you can have a much larger crop of onions in the summer.

Onions seeds do not have a long shelf life, so it's best to buy new seeds each year. Seeds will germinate between 16-21C one or two weeks after sowing.

When large enough to handle, transplant to individual small pots and keep in a bright, frost-free place until April when they can be planted out.

Varieties to try ...Setton – high yield, yellow skinned and good storage potential, Red Baron – a late maturing red onion with globe shaped bulbs

and strong taste, and Hybound – an early variety with bronze-brown skins which is excellent for long-term storage.

Often the coldest month in the garden, there are still some things you can be doing to keep busy.

As the RHS says ... January might be the middle of winter but as the days lengthen the garden starts to grow.

Now is a great time to plan for the coming gardening year and to order seeds and plants.

Enjoy the fresh air, on dry sunny days, and check your winter protection, stakes, ties and supports are still working after any severe weather.

Also put out food for birds and leave some garden areas uncut, a little longer, to provide shelter for wildlife in your garden.

Top three jobs this month – clean pots and greenhouses ready for spring, dig over empty or unused plots and prune apple and pear trees.



Boxes of flowers and vegetables produced at Arran Community Land Initiative in 2020.



Subscribe and receive a FREE bottle of Arran malt whisky

February
Sea cliffs of Scotland...
 Hebridean crofter takes on Airbnb...
 The real Macbeth... Ghillie Basan recipes...
 Graham McFarish's Credo... Beautiful Fife garden...
 Artist Lily Macrae... Underwater photography...
 A Scot's 5,000-mile trek across Canada...

First sheepdog winter trial

The first winter trial of 2022 by Kildonan and District Sheepdog Association was held at Glenkiln Farm, Lamlash, by kind permission of Kenny Bone, on Saturday January 8.

Eight dogs ran with Liz Robertson of Machrie judging. The results were: Nursery trial one: 1 W Stevenson with Dusk 81 points; 2 S McMaster with Dan 64 points. Older dog class: 1 I McConnell with Joe 87 points; 2 W Stevenson with Arran McLeod 82 points, 3 M McNeish with Pip 80 points.

Nursery trial two: 1 S McMaster with Dan 72 points; 2 W Stevenson with Dusk 65 points.

The next trial will be at Springfield Farm, Shannachie, on Sunday January 30 at 11am.

GOLF

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday January 9, AGA Winter League at Brodick Golf Club. Due to course conditions and worsening weather, the January round of the AGA Winter League was postponed and will now take place, with teams of four, on Saturday January 15 at Brodick Golf Club.

Fixtures: Saturday January 15, AGA Winter League at Brodick Golf Club. Sunday January 16, Winter Cup round four.

Lamlash Golf Club

Fixtures: Sunday January 16, winter friendly, Whiting Bay v Lamlash at Whiting Bay, 10.30am start. Thursday January 20, Yellow Medal, draw at 11am.

Ladies welcome first visitors as hockey league resumes

by Hugh Boag
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Ladies' hockey makes a welcome return to Brodick this weekend when Arran Ladies' Hockey Club play their first league game since the start of the pandemic.

They are due to host Glasgow University V in their already delayed opening match of the season with a 2pm passback at Ormidale astroturf.

The Arran club now has their West District Ladies' Hockey League fixtures for the next three months, although they are still non-competitive at this stage.

They are also subject to Scottish Hockey not bringing in new restrictions, but given this week's Scottish government announcement on major sporting events being given the go-ahead, that seems unlikely.

Captain Jenny Crockett said: "This is a great chance for the ladies' team to play regularly, to identify training points and build up skills and techniques in advance of the 2022/23 season returning competitively."

"It has been a pleasure to be on the pitch with you all during the last year and back playing with old and new friends. I hope the new year brings us lots of fun hockey times."

Hockey training has resumed at Ormidale astroturf on Thursday nights for anyone interested.

See Arran Ladies' Facebook page for details.



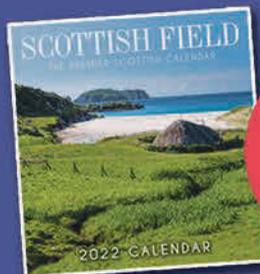
Home or Away	Date*	Home Team	Away Team
HOME	8 th January	Arran	Argyle Hockey
HOME	15 th January	Arran	Glasgow Uni V
AWAY	22 nd January	Greenock Morton	Arran
HOME	**29 th January** (likely to be rearranged)	Arran	Clydesdale Western VI
AWAY	5 th February	Dumfries II	Arran
HOME	12 th February	Arran	Troon II
HOME	19 th February	Arran	Strathclyde Uni II
HOME	26 th February	Arran	GHK IV
HOME	5 th March	Arran	Uddingston III
HOME	19 th March	Arran	Hillhead IV
HOME	26 th March	Arran	East Kilbride II

Arran Ladies' Hockey Club in their new PHT sponsored strips.

Left: Arran Ladies' league fixtures which have just been published.



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