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Families left in shock at closure of Cooriedoon

Council terminates care home contract

EXCLUSIVE

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Families with elderly relatives in care have been left stunned this week by the shock closure of Cooriedoon Care Home.

As a result all 16 residents will have to find somewhere else to live.

It comes after the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership terminated the care home contract to look after the 14 council-funded residents at the Whiting Bay home. The two others are in private care.

Families now have just three months to find alternative accommodation for their relatives – most of whom are in their 80s and 90s.

The news of the contract termination came out of the blue on Monday for home owner Sandra Butler while she was

attending a virtual meeting. The families of residents and the loyal staff at the home, some of whom have been newly recruited, found out at the same time.

One resident's daughter-in-law told the Banner the announcement had been 'inhumane' and that they had not yet told their elderly relative until they could try and find out more.

'It has not been done in a sensitive manner at all.'

She said: 'The first we knew was the letter from the care home on Monday telling us the council had terminated the contract.

'We have not been told previously that there were any problems and my father-in-law is happy there.

'Surely there must be a proce-

sure to close nursing homes. It has not been done in a sensitive manner at all.'

Much of the concern surrounding Cooriedoon is understood to have been as a result of the pandemic, a concern at care homes across the country.

A Care Inspectorate report in December last year highlighted there had been a Covid outbreak at the home affecting four residents in November.

At the time they described the care home's response as 'weak', although this was improved to 'adequate' in an updated report. There have also been staff shortage issues, again common across the country, which have since been addressed, and the Care Inspectorate has not ordered

Continued on page 2 – including comment from the home owner and plans for Montrose House.



A fond farewell to Harbour Shop's Gillian

Blackwaterfoot turned out to wish Gillian Ingham a fond farewell as she left the Harbour Shop for the last time on her retiral last Friday. She is seen here with assistants Gina Green, who is also retiring, and Aliene Kelso. Young Keira Webster presented them with the flowers. Full story pages 6 and 7. 01_B03retiral01

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Families left in shock at closure of Cooriedoon

Continued from page 1.

the home to close. Instead the loss of the council contract has made this inevitable.

A North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership spokeswoman said: "There have been concerns over a significant period of time in relation to various aspects of care and support at Cooriedoon Care Home.

"The safety and wellbeing of our service users is our utmost priority, and it is for this reason that the partnership has taken the very difficult decision to provide notice to terminate the contract with Cooriedoon Care Home.

"We are currently working with the care home and other partners to ensure the best outcome for residents and their families, with the aim of facilitating a smooth transition to appropriate alternative accommodation, based on the needs and wishes of residents

and their families. The decision to exit from a contract with a care provider is never taken lightly, as we are acutely aware of the impact on residents, families and staff, as well as the wider community.

"We understand that this will be a very worrying time for many, and as such will be providing various supports to all involved, including Cooriedoon staff affected by the decision."

But Cooriedoon is the only registered nursing home on the island, as Montrose House in Brodick is at present only a residential home and not able to provide the same level of medical care, although this is set to change – see below.

The closure of Cooriedoon will also see the loss of 33 jobs in a bitter blow to the island economy, as well as the knock-on effect to suppliers and providers.

Seven of the staff are from India, who have moved here

with their families, and three more are on their way which would have allowed Cooriedoon to operate at its maximum capacity of 25.

There are already known to be residents on Arran on the care home waiting lists and, with an ageing population on the island, the strain on a single residential home is only going to increase.

Cooriedoon was issued with 13 weeks' notice on Monday January 17.

This means that all residents who are funded by a local authority should have moved on by Friday April 8.

Built in 1900, Cooriedoon started life as the Whiting Bay Hotel, and in 1988, after an extensive interior renovation, it re-opened as Cooriedoon Nursing Home; in 2002 it became a residential and nursing home.

It was established by Celia Butler and her daughter Sandra. Celia retired in 2004



A new ramp installed at the front of Cooriedoon is just one of recent improvements made at the care home which is to close and, inset, the well-known Cooriedoon sign which recently blew down in the storms.

with Sandra following in 2016, although they remain the owners and have invested heavily in improving the property for residents and installing new equipment.

Arran councillor Timothy Billings, who has been in touch with several families, said: "I do have some concerns about the ability of Arran's care service to be able to accommodate all of Cooriedoon's current residents and to provide sufficient capacity for future Arran residents requiring residential care.

"I have asked the HSCP for more information about its plans."

Cooriedoon has no right of appeal against the termination of the contract.

'The decision to close has not been ours'

Owner Sandra Butler told the Banner in a statement: "After almost 34 years of delivering care to the residents of Arran, Cooriedoon Nursing Home will close in approximately 13 weeks.

"The last two years of pandemic have been a huge battle for the staff in the home to keep those in our care safe and it is very much a testament to their dedication that we have not lost a single resident to Covid-19.

"Unfortunately, the challenges of maintaining the high standards that we were always known for, sourcing sufficient staff to fully staff the home took a toll on the service and we have now been notified that, despite maintaining our Registration with Care Inspectorate, and solving our staffing crisis and

other issues, North Ayrshire Council is terminating its contract with the home.

"We have indicated to NAC that we totally disagree with both its assessment of the care provided by the home and the ongoing viability of the business but as NAC has taken a contractual decision to terminate the contract there is no viable means of redress for us to pursue.

"We are working with the local authority to facilitate the movement of all our residents to suitable alternative accommodation on the island in the coming weeks. We have had a wonderful 30-odd years and the decision to close has not been ours.

"We will miss caring for our residents and working with our wonderful staff."

Montrose House to offer nursing care to keep residents on Arran

Health officials were due to meet residents, families and staff from Cooriedoon yesterday (Thursday) to explain what happens next.

The North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership has also applied to convert Montrose House into a 24/7 nursing home, which it says will enable it to accommodate 10 new patients.

A partnership spokesperson told the Banner: "The partnership has arranged for staff to be present at Cooriedoon Care Home and our local social work offices on Arran to speak with residents, families and staff.

"This is being done in con-

sultation and agreement with the families involved and will allow us to discuss the current position, to meet with families and representatives of relatives and to speak to staff in the home.

"The transition of residents from Cooriedoon Care Home to an alternative place of care will be informed and determined by the preference of individual residents and their representatives.

"Our social workers have now been in touch with all affected families to have initial discussions, and families and residents will consider their options. For some this may be a preference to move to an

alternative care home on the mainland. Additionally, in response to the immediate need to support residents transitioning from Cooriedoon, the partnership will increase the capacity in Montrose House to accommodate residents where their preference is to remain on Arran."

Registering Montrose House as a nursing care home would allow Cooriedoon residents the option to remain on Arran, the spokesperson said, adding the partnership was committed to the safety and welfare of the residents to ensure a smooth transition with the best possible outcome for each.

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Regular deliveries to the island

CalMac's new ticketing project is delayed again

The introduction of a new ticketing system by CalMac has been delayed again with the company blaming the pandemic.

The project called Ar Turas (Our Journey) will revolutionise the way in which CalMac interacts with customers, making travel simpler and easier.

A new, standard ferry system has been selected and the project team is well on with process change, system configuration and testing.

However, the system was originally supposed to be up

and running by February this year, then was pushed back to the end of March. But CalMac now says it won't be introduced until 'later this year'.

A report prepared by CalMac Ferries managing director Robbie Drummond said: 'Significant investment has already been made to strengthen our communication network to help ensure an always-on signal for staff and customers.'

'The project has sought the views of more than 4,500 individual customers and has tested the customer-facing elements of the solution in-depth

with a selection of customers on a 1:1 basis.

'The solution will offer customers greater choice over the purchase, management and use of tickets, including the ability to carry tickets on a smart device.

'It will facilitate a range of enhancements including multiple vehicles on a single booking, an online process for pet tickets and selected concession fares will be available to purchase online for the first time.

'Core to any major change is to ensure our staff right across

MSP takes up fight for skipper training

CalMac has admitted that some of its skippers are neither experienced nor competent enough to sail to Ardrossan or Gourock as port of refuge in moderate, not to mention bad weather.

This is leading to sailings being needlessly cancelled.

Concerns were first raised at the virtual meeting of the Arran Ferry Committee last week that skippers were being over-cautious.

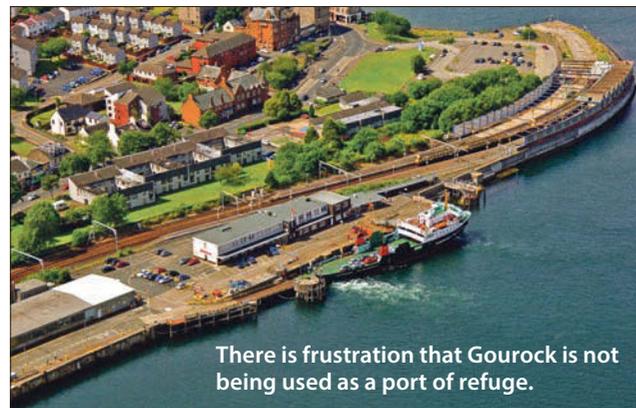
After CalMac admitted there was an issue, Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson raised the matter at the Scottish Parliament.

Mr Gibson asked: 'What discussions has the minister had with CalMac regarding the training of skippers to minimise the problem of sailings being needlessly cancelled?'

Transport Minister Graeme Dey replied: 'I stress that, as I am sure Kenny Gibson agrees, decisions on the safety of passage and berthing at various ports must lie with the masters of the vessels concerned.'

'It would be wrong for anyone to challenge those individual decisions, which are always taken on the basis of the safety of passengers, the crew and the vessel.'

'Officials have been in dialogue with CalMac on the matter over the past 48 hours because what has been suggested is concerning. It has emerged that all the crews



There is frustration that Gourock is not being used as a port of refuge.

are fully trained. Experienced masters are familiar with specific routes and, in normal circumstances, will be deployed in those locations.

'However, given the acute circumstances at the moment as a result of Covid-related absences, there have been crews on vessels that are less familiar with particular routes to ensure that the service operates.'

'It is, of course, ideal that crews be familiar with alternative ports and trained in using them.'

'CalMac looks to work towards that but, to do that, vessels need to be taken out of service. Equally, I understand the impact that the issue is having and the concerns of ferry users.'

Meanwhile, West Scotland MSP Katy Clark has called on the Scottish Government to come forward with an emergency plan to address the

Arran ferries fiasco. She said the long-term failure to invest in new vessels had 'crippled' the network.

Ms Clark, who represents Scottish Labour, commented: 'It's now reaching crisis point for Arran residents who rely on these lifeline ferry services.'

'This is clearly an exceptional period, with Covid-19 exacerbating the situation and reducing staff levels. But the network has been crippled by poor infrastructure planning and years of under-investment.'

'We now need to see a full Scotland-wide ferry strategy to commission a new fleet as a matter of urgency.'

'Scouring the globe for cheap second-hand vessels is not the answer - we need ferries to be built here in Scotland, operated in the public sector with workers and local communities consulted every step of the way.'

Temporary timetable extended

Ferry operator CalMac's reduced service timetable, which was initially scheduled to end on Sunday, has been extended for two weeks.

Covid-related staff absenteeism means the timetable will continue until Sunday February 6.

The temporary timetable was introduced on the Ardrossan to Brodick route, and across most of the network, to allow CalMac to focus its resources on maintaining lifeline services.

However, a further 50 staff have been absent, bringing the total to 203.

Robbie Drummond, CalMac managing director, said: 'We fully appreciate the difficulties these changes will cause for some of our customers, and we apologise for any disruption to their journeys over the next few weeks.'

'I am very grateful for their continued patience and understanding at a time of intense pressure.'

'We will continue to review the temporary timetable on an ongoing basis and will add services back in as soon as we possibly can, however, a return to a full service will require a significant reduction in the level of staff absence.'

'In the meantime, we will continue to operate as flexibly as possible to ensure we restore sailings where and when we can.'

Port offices at Ardrossan and Brodick are also be operating to reduced hours based on sailing times.



Robbie Drummond pictured during a visit to Brodick ferry terminal.

the business are fully trained which involves training about 700 of our colleagues.

'We must get this right and the training must be face-to-face to enable staff to use the new software and devices confidently.'

'The rapid rise in Covid infections has meant that the necessary face-to-face training cannot currently go ahead and some of our key project staff may have to be redeployed to the front line.'

'We had planned to implement the new system in the first quarter of 2022.'

'This is no longer possible but provided the Covid situation improves in the near term, we

anticipate we will be able to deliver the system during the first half of 2022, but carefully avoiding peak holiday periods.'

A CalMac spokeswoman said: 'CalMac will be introducing an enhanced ticketing and reservations system later this year in order to offer customers an improved booking experience.'

'We are working hard in the background preparing the system for launch, which will take place once the training has been completed and staff are confident and content with it.'

'We will continue to review the situation in light of Covid cases and will keep customers and colleagues updated.'

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Last chance to apply for funding

Groups on Arran are being invited to bid for funding that will help their organisations grow and prosper, but the deadline is fast approaching.

Organisations can apply until midnight on Sunday January 23 for their chance to access funding for community projects across the North Ayrshire Council (NAC) area.

North Ayrshire Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership have provided £160,000 funding as part of their ongoing community empowerment ambition to give local people a direct say in how money is spent.

The funds are for applications related to two strands of Participatory Budgeting (PB) funding: Localities, and Arts and Culture.

The applications will be shortlisted by locality steering groups and a public vote will take place at the end of February/early March where communities can decide the projects they would like to see funded.

NAC's PB process has proved hugely successful since first being rolled out in 2016, with its aim to help community projects and organisations make a positive difference in their community.

Potential bidders can get further guidance from participatorybudgeting@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

GETINTOUCH

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Áine Purcell-Milton will oversee the organisation's expansion.

Left: COAST's temporary director, Andrew Binnie, with new executive director, Áine Purcell-Milton.

Community of Arran Seabed Trust welcomes new executive director

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) has welcomed its new executive director, Áine Purcell-Milton, who takes over from Andrew Binnie.

Áine is a diver, kite surfer and open water swimmer with an MSc in marine systems management from St Andrew's University and the Scottish Association for Marine Science. Joining COAST from the An Taisce Environmental Education Unit in Dublin,

Áine is experienced in liaising with communities, local authorities, NGOs and corporations to deliver positive outcomes for the marine environment and brings a wealth of skills to COAST.

On joining COAST, Áine said: 'It is an immense honour to be appointed as the new executive director of COAST, especially at such an exciting time of development and expansion for the organisation. I am deeply committed to

supporting the highly skilled and passionate team at COAST and look forward to continuing the excellent work already completed.'

Andrew, who returned as COAST's director during the pandemic, said: 'I have been lucky to work with COAST as we have grown from committed locals to internationally recognised pioneers in community marine conservation. Over the last couple of years, we have reworked our strategy

based on a wide community survey and identified the acquisition of a boat as vital for COAST and Arran to fully benefit from the Marine Protected Area.

'This is an exciting time and I have every confidence that as COAST enters this new phase, Áine will guide the experienced staff team to new heights with her varied marine and community experience and people skills. I won't be disappearing though. I am

not leaving Arran and I'll be around over the next few months to ensure the boat is delivered on schedule and to ensure Áine has a sounding board as she settles in.'

In her first couple of weeks, Áine will be shadowing Andrew, meeting staff and getting to know the ropes of all key work streams. COAST looks forward to working collectively to realise the full potential of a reviving marine ecosystem around Arran.



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Shannochie Post Office in days gone by

This photograph gives a glimpse of days gone by at the very south end of Arran.

It shows postman Louis Joss in the Shannochie Post Bus outside the thatched Shannochie Post Office handing a letter to Jenny McKelvie in 1977.

After starting as a delivery boy in Brodick, Louis - known as Louie - made the 104 south end post bus route through Kildonan, Lavancorach and Shannochie his own. His daily visits were anticipated with great pleasure by many of the elderly people on his route and summer day trips 'round the south end and back' were outings many people, and not just visitors, looked forward to.

He went to a lot of trouble to learn the correct pronunciation of the Gaelic place and farm names along his route and endeared himself to many visitors



Postie Louie Joss in his post bus outside Shannochie Post Office. B03_Bpost01

by explaining the English meanings.

Sadly, he died just five years after this photograph was taken in 1982.

Shannochie Post Office, which was one of the last in Scotland to have a thatched roof, along with the adjoining

general store and public telephone box, served Arran's most southerly dwellings and the surrounding area until it closed in the late 1970s.

The photograph was given to us by Sandra MacMillan as a reminder of her childhood days in Shannochie. She

recently opposed planning permission for the old post office, which has long lost its thatched roof, to be knocked down, but this has now been approved.

Sandra told the Banner: 'I knew I would never win, but I had to try.'

Distillery waste plant clears first hurdle

A £6 million proposal to manufacture postbiotic products from the waste products of the two distilleries on Arran has cleared its first planning hurdle.

Torrylinn Developments Limited, a newly-registered company based at the former Torrylinn Creamery site in Kilmory, would produce biological products for agriculture as well as animal feed and human food supplements from the pot ale liquid effluent and spent grain from Lochranza and Lagg distilleries.

The parent company is Marigot Limited, a Cork-based firm with worldwide interests owned by Arran Distillers' major shareholder Les Auchincloss, which told the Banner, in an interview last month, that it made sense for the distilleries to process their own waste.

A pilot project at Torrylinn is under way with completion expected by the end of February when the company will immediately move to finalise the plans for full-scale production by spring 2023 with a workforce of eight growing to 12 within the first three years.

Granted

However, to proceed the company required a Certificate of Lawfulness for a Proposed Use or Development, which has been granted by North Ayrshire Council planners who stated: 'The proposed use would be a continuation of the established Class 4 (business and industry) use of the site.'

The certificate is not equivalent in law to the granting of planning permission, but generally serves to confirm exemption from future planning enforcement action.

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New NHS Ayrshire and Arran health chief joins board

Claire Burden, above, the new chief executive of NHS Ayrshire and Arran, has joined the board this week, taking over from interim chief executive Professor Hazel Borland.

Claire has more than 17 years of management experience in NHS England, previously working as chief executive officer at Whipps Cross Hospital, London.

Lesley Bowie, chairman of Ayrshire and Arran NHS board, said: 'On behalf of NHS Ayrshire and Arran, I am delighted to welcome Claire to the team. I sincerely thank Professor Hazel Borland for leading NHS Ayrshire and Arran, following the departure of our former chief executive John Burns in June 2021.'

Community wishes Gill



The crowd outside the Harbour Shop to mark Gillian's retirement. 01_B03harbour02



Gillian thanks everyone for their good wishes. 01_B03harbour04

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

The community in the Shiskine Valley came out in force to wish Gillian Ingham a fond farewell when she retired from the Harbour Shop last Friday.

It was her last day in the Blackwaterfoot shop, so relied upon by the residents of the west coast, after 15 years behind the counter.

A large, socially-distanced, crowd gathered outside the shop in the afternoon to see the presentation conducted by Shiskine resident Colin Mills who said: 'Today is a historic day in Blackwaterfoot as we witness a change in the running of the Harbour Shop. Gillian has run the business for 15 years and today we say goodbye to her with some sadness.'

After a short speech Gillian was presented with an ArranCard of more than £600,

collected at Blackwaterfoot Post Office, which reflects the regard in which Gillian is held by the community.

Flowers were then presented to Gillian and her two assistants Gina Green and Aileen Kelso by schoolgirl Keira Webster. Gina is also to retire soon.

Gillian first came to Arran to work at the Kinloch Hotel as a cook and then moved on to Arran High School in the same role before taking over the Harbour Shop.

She is married to Andy Ingham, whose parents had the chalets at Torbeg where she and Andy have made their home for many years and raised their family with son Craig and daughter Jennifer growing up here.

Gillian and Andy are now proud grandparents of Poppy and Gillian is looking forward to having more time to see her family who now live and work on the mainland.

One long time customer



said: 'Gillian has provided a great service, including the challenges of the 'big snow' in 2013, the ongoing pandemic and dealing with the inevitable ferry disruptions impacting on newspaper deliveries.'

'She also shows great kindness and support to customers no longer able to manage down to the shop, with orders being phoned in and Gillian making sure they get what they need.'

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ian a very happy retirement



Colin Mills thanks Gillian for her long 15 years of service in the shop. 01_B03harbour01

Her homemade tablet and macaroon bars being particular favourites.

'Gillian has also allowed her front window to be a community noticeboard which has been invaluable, especially for those members of the community not online.



Colin gives Gillian a hug as Gina and Aileen enjoy the moment. 01_B03harbour03

'Gillian has also made space for collection tins for local charities and sponsor sheets for members of the community involved in fundraising.'

After the presentation Gillian thanked everyone for attending and added: 'Thank you all, I really did not expect



anything like this.'

The shop is still owned by the

Iutz family with the lease being taken over by Ellen McMaster.



Gina, Gillian and Aileen pose with their flowers.

01_B03harbour05

Left, the crowd which gathered on the damp afternoon.

01_B03harbour06



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LETTERS

Write to us: editor@arranbanner.co.uk
or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Arran KA27 8AJ

Sad day for Cooriedoon

The impending closure of Cooriedoon Care Home has come as a real shock to everyone.

Not least of whom the families of the 16 residents who had no idea there was anything amiss and who now have to find them somewhere else to stay in a matter of weeks.

The home owner, too, says she was given no notice the axe was to fall before a meeting with health officials earlier this week. Yes, there have been problems during the pandemic, but Cooriedoon is not alone in that regard, and there were no deaths at the home in spite of the Covid outbreak.

With investment in new staff and equipment, they thought the future looked bright.

But work has clearly been going on behind the scenes for some time as the Health and Social Care Partnership continued talks of improvements and actions with Cooriedoon. The fact it announced just two days after the contract being terminated with Cooriedoon that Montrose House would soon be able to offer 24/7 nursing care in 10 extra beds showed considerable forward planning. The application to the Care Inspectorate tells us that. As 16 into 10 doesn't go, how does the partnership see its care home numbers add up? Where will people wishing to remain on Arran be accommodated as there are waiting lists, getting longer by the day, of people requiring care home places?

It is a sad day indeed to see Cooriedoon heading for closure.

Thought for the week

'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!' 2 Corinthians 5:17.

Cash for lights

Sir
I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone who donated to my garden lights this year.

We set a target of £200 for Alzheimer's UK and because of your generosity we have a total of £273, which has been sent to the charity.

Once again my thanks to everyone and hopefully look forward to next Christmas.

Yours,

Bernie Jackson,
Whiting Bay.

Santa dash thanks

Sir,
Through your letters page we would like to thank the following for their support and kind donations for our Santa dash/cycle that took place back in December.

Arran Pacemakers running group, Arran Belles, Arran Bike Club, Arran Gravel Riders, Brodick Golf Club, Liz McLean at the Co-op, Arran Cheese Shop, Amy Tattersfield and, of course, Sue Berry who set us all off!

I'm sure there are some we have missed but thanks to everyone, we raised the sum of £850 which has been passed on to MND Scotland.

Yours,

Lorna Logan, Arran Pacemakers; Janice Small, Arran Belles.

Noisy trend

Sir,
I have been coming to Arran for over 30 years and spent many a lovely holiday here. I started by camping and worked my way up to hotels and renting cottages.

The reason I love Arran so much is the relatively easy access (ferry allowing), the peace and quiet which is in sharp contrast to many of the places I have worked and lived in; Manchester, South London etc.

Arran has changed over the years, as all places do. Old establishments close but new ones open, this I accept. However, lately I have started to witness a trend that I feel I must comment on.

This is noise, mainly from builders' radios. We love to walk down at Kildonan, it's slightly off the tourist track. Late summer 2021, we parked as usual and got out of the car and could hear a radio that must have been over a good quarter of a mile away, some guy working on a house.

We came back just after new year, intending to make up for the lost walk only to find that he's still up there with his radio if anything louder. I hope he's not being paid by the hour!

Talking to locals in the Kinloch at night it turns out that he may be doing up a cottage for holiday lets; well, he won't be getting our business.

Next, whilst in Whiting Bay a white van stopped at a house, a builder got out and the first thing he did was turn his radio on full volume.

If I had rented a cottage near either of these I'd be furious; we are certainly avoiding Kildonan for our next couple of visits.

I am sure that many of your readers will say that the area where they are is still peaceful, but in my experience once this sort of thing starts it quickly becomes accepted as normal and more people start doing it.

Yes, it is your island and if you want to be the west coast of Scotland Ibiza then that is your choice but don't expect me to frequent your hotels, cafes and distilleries.

If you are Arran born and bred then maybe you should try living in a big city on the mainland and see what it is like to have 24-hour noise.

If you are an incomer then why did you move to Arran if you have to obliterate the sound of the sea and the birds with Radio 1?

Yours,

Dr Pat Jones,
Cheshire.

Cooriedoon concern

Sir

Below is a copy of a letter sent to the Banner and addressed to two Arran councillors, Timothy Billings and Ellen McMaster.

Dear Councillors Billings and McMaster,

Many of us on Arran aren't in youth's first flush. We may not fancy moving into a care or nursing home tomorrow but at some point it'll be better than the alternative.

I understand that North Ayrshire Council has decided to withdraw its funding from Cooriedoon, Whiting Bay's long established and well-liked home.

This decision must put into question the home's viability and a key part of the island's care provision.

If council schools face problems, they're supported.

If there are aspects of Cooriedoon's performance that fall short (although I believe none of its residents have been lost to Covid, despite their frailty) wouldn't it be more far-sighted to bolster existing arrangements than wash your hands of them?

Yours,

Nigel Armstrong,
Whiting Bay.

Offer of support

Sir,

The start of a new year is usually a time of celebration and anticipation. However, as the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact everyday life the arrival of 2022 may not be the fresh start we'd all hoped for.

At Macmillan, we know this continues to be a particularly challenging time for people with cancer or those seeking a diagnosis.

Our cancer experts are available via phone seven days a week, from 8am to 8pm, to offer advice, support or even just a friendly listening ear. If you, or a loved one, are living with cancer you can call free on 0808 808 00 00.

Also, our website is available 24 hours a day, www.macmillan.org.uk, where you can access a wealth of information resources, as well as the option to chat online to an expert.

In addition, you can find local support by visiting the 'in your area' section of the Macmillan website. It also has a huge range of inspirational ideas - from taking on a Macmillan Mighty Hike to volunteering in your community.

Yours,

Janice Preston,
Head of Services in Scotland.

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PRESSPOLICY

At The Arran Banner, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

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

The Editor welcomes letters for publication on this page. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, amend or to refuse to print them.

Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, should also be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ. Fax: (01770) 302021.

Email editor@arranbanner.co.uk Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and telephone number.

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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.

Hope for hospitality as restrictions end

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The hospitality industry on Arran breathed a huge sigh of relief with the news that most Covid restrictions are to be lifted on Monday.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said this week that Scotland was on a 'downward slope' of the Omicron wave which has allowed for restrictions on indoor events and venues to be removed on Monday January 24.

Mandatory table service in pubs will also end, however, hospitality businesses must still collect details for Test and Protect and face coverings will still need to be worn in indoor public settings and on public transport.

Non-professional indoor contact sport for adults can resume and the guidance to limit household indoor gatherings to three will also be lifted. The contentious issue of Covid passports was also addressed with the confirmation the



Tracy Black, Scotland director of the Confederation of British Industry, said that removing indoor hospitality restrictions will come as a huge relief to firms.

scheme will not be extended to other venues. The news has been welcomed on Arran where businesses have been on a rollercoaster of restrictions that were implemented, relaxed then implemented again with the discovery of the new Omicron variant.

A number of premises are closed for January but they hope to see trade getting back

to normal when they re-open next month. Thankfully, as some predicted at the time, the new variant has been far milder than the Delta variant and the hospitalisation of Covid patients has reduced by 25 per cent compared to the winter peak last year.

Experts believe Omicron peaked in the first week of January and they remain

hopeful that a corner has been turned but they can't entirely confirm yet. Certainly, new cases of the disease are on a downward trend with the First Minister saying it gives hope for renewed optimism.

And while working from home was still encouraged by Ms Sturgeon, where possible, she said a hybrid return to work was being considered from February.

On Arran, the number of confirmed cases has dropped to 22 from 67 earlier last week.

The lifting of restrictions, while cautiously welcomed by most, also came with a proviso: that infection numbers could increase as people return to work and that caution must still be exercised when gathering socially.

Tracy Black, Scotland director of the Confederation of British Industry, said: 'Removing indoor hospitality restrictions will come as a huge relief to firms desperate to start trading their way to recovery after a difficult festive period. The decision not to



Arran High School is still the venue for vaccination clinics hosted by Arran Medical Group.

extend the vaccine passport scheme will also be welcomed. Employers have consistently prioritised the safety of staff and customers throughout the pandemic and will continue to support baseline measures including face coverings, increased hygiene on premises, vaccines and free mass testing,' she added.

Meanwhile, Arran Medical Group has been forging ahead with its vaccination clinics. Last Sunday, at Arran High

School, a drop-in centre was held where clinicians administered first, second and booster vaccinations. Anyone who is newly eligible for the vaccine can call Arran Medical Group on 01770 600516, Monday to Friday, from 2pm 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.



Chief executive Craig Hatton, council leader Joe Cullinane and senior NAC officers will take part in the live engagement session on the council's Facebook page.

Have your say on North Ayrshire Council's budget for 2022/23

North Ayrshire Council (NAC) officials have begun setting their 2022/23 budget with Arran and North Ayrshire residents being urged to play a part in setting priorities.

The budget will be finalised in early spring after engagement sessions with community groups and representatives.

Starting next week, council leader Joe Cullinane, chief executive Craig Hatton and senior officers will take part in live sessions on the council's Facebook page.

Taking place on Thursday January 27, between 6 and 7pm, the session will give North Ayrshire residents and communities a say on the council's budget and provide an opportunity to ask questions about the plans for the council's budget in the upcoming year.

Council leader Joe Cullinane said: 'For the second year running, due to Covid restrictions,

the budget will be set virtually. The pandemic and current restrictions mean that virtual council meetings continue to be a necessity, so this is why we are opening up the discussion online to provide you with an opportunity to find out more about our budget plans.

'Our Facebook Live budget event provides the perfect opportunity for you to find out more about our budget plans for 2022 and with the impact of Covid still being felt by citizens and local businesses, we will also be discussing the council's response to the pandemic and the measures being put in place to ensure we build back better.

'Please tune in to Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/northayrshireofficial/> on Thursday January 27 at 6pm to find out more and get involved by posting your questions about the budget.'

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Energy saving advice for winter



Barr Renewables Ltd

Barr Renewables is a family run business set up in 2011, although based in the Scottish Borders they are regularly over on the island. Owner and Managing Director Alistair Barr personally oversees each and every enquiry, believing that all customers deserve tailor-made individual consultations to ensure their expectations are understood and delivered.

With ever rising energy costs almost a fact of life these days, why not think about future-proofing your energy supply and reducing your bills permanently, all in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way. They supply and service Airsource Heat Pumps, Solar PV panels and Wood stoves

Contact Alistair on 07554 377491 or email: info@barr-renewables.co.uk

During the winter months, keeping warm in your home becomes more of an issue as the dark, cold nights set in. However, heating your home doesn't have to cost you an arm and a leg, and with these top tips, you can keep cosy without breaking the bank.

Check all your insulation, from windows to walls, ceiling to under floors. It is one

of the most cost effective ways to stop the cold creeping through the house. Make sure your pipes and boilers are properly lagged too. Something as simple as pipe foam wraps can be picked up for just a few pounds – but always put them on when the pipes are cool to make sure you don't burn yourself.

Arran Electrical and Refrigeration

For advice and recommendations for the best heating system, whole or part system, catered to your particular house, environment and needs, contact Arran Electrical and Refrigeration Ltd. Arran Electrical and Refrigeration are heat pump installation and repair specialists and have been in business for over 40 years on the island, known initially as Ronnie Haggarty Electrical and since 2006 as Arran Electrical & Refrigeration Ltd. They are members of two electrical trade organisations, SELECT and the NICEIC and have a vast experience on all types of heating systems. Call 01770 860246 or email: aerltd@live.co.uk for advice and installation.



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Range of products now includes Air Source Heat Pumps, Log Burners and Stoves and Solar Panels.



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Home Energy Scotland

With energy bills due to rise from April, visiting Home Energy Scotland online now could really pay off

Check homeenergyscotland.org/warmer-homes-scotland to see if you could be eligible for Scottish Government-funded heating and insulation improvements to help make your home cosy in time for winter. Over 24,000 households in Scotland have already benefitted since the Scottish

Government's Warmer Homes Scotland programme launched in 2015.

You could get around £5,000 of support and reduce your heating bills by around £300 per year too.

*Home Energy Scotland, funded by the Scottish Government, helps people in Scotland create warmer homes, reduce their energy bills, and lower their carbon footprint.



CAN WE HELP REDUCE YOUR ENERGY BILLS?



We're Home Energy Scotland, the Scottish Government's free energy advice service. We provide impartial advice and support to help people stay warm, make the best use of energy and save money on their bills. We can also help you find out if you're eligible for the Warmer Homes Scotland programme.

To learn more and find out if you are eligible, call us free on 0808 808 2282 and speak with our friendly advisors or visit homeenergyscotland.org/warmer-winter



- The Scottish Government is offering assistance to eligible households who are struggling to heat their homes. This programme is called Warmer Homes Scotland.
- It's designed to help people make their homes warmer and more comfortable by installing a range of energy saving improvements, like heating and insulation.
- Eligible households could get around **£5,000** of support through the Warmer Homes Scotland programme, and on average reduce their heating bill by £300 per year.

HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG
0808 808 2282
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT



Maintenance of heating equipment is important, so make sure all water-fed radiators are bled and working correctly. A working radiator should be warm evenly across the panel; if it isn't, there could be air trapped inside.

Once these are all done, you can look at your home's overall heating requirements:

- Is your boiler fired the most efficient way possible?
- Can you turn the thermostat down a degree or two?
 - Are you buying your electricity, oil or bottled gas from the cheapest source?



Campbell Fuel Oils

Campbell Fuels is the only dedicated regular service delivering to the island. Not only do they offer a fast efficient service at a very competitive price but they also offer a monthly payment scheme. Since

they began in 1967, their core values have always focussed around upholding their reputation as an efficient and reliable family-run business. They accommodate the needs of a wide variety of industrial,

domestic and agricultural customers and are very proud of the long-lasting client relationships they have built over the past 40 years, and enjoy welcoming new customers to CFO and Campbell Energy.

Contact them today for delivery of fuel for your domestic, industrial or agricultural requirements along with a full range of lubricants on 01563 521925. www.campbellfuels.co.uk



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These things are relatively simple to check online with tools to help you estimate your costs and potential savings with alternative heating sources. The right heating source can vary depending on how you use your home. If you spend all day in the house, consider the cheapest for prolonged use – other systems that provide instant heat may be more suitable to those out working all day.

Think too about future cost – wood-fuelled heating systems burn wood, pellets, chips or logs and can also power central heating and hot water. Heat pumps and solar panels can not only save you cash, but government funded feeding tariffs can make some options earn money for you. Alternatively, speak to your energy suppliers and make sure you are on the best rate or tariff. If not, find out what is the cheaper option or consider switching supplier. These few simple steps will ensure you have a cosy and comfortable house to see out the winter months.

Arran Woodfuels

Delivering Wood Briquettes direct to your home. 07943 256248 / 01770 870 207

The heating fuels available on Arran all have their individual benefits and the environmental impacts of fossil fuels are well known. But in rural areas like Arran it is sometimes difficult to maintain ones ecological ambitions when the house needs to be heated and money is scarce.

A great alternative, both ecologically and financially, is wood fibre as a source of heating your home. Wood briquettes, like the ones available from Arran Woodfuels, can be used in existing fireplaces or stoves and are in fact ideal where you want to reduce your carbon emissions.

Pre-packaged wood briquettes are made from ground-down natural wood chips, dried and compressed into solid blocks. They are clean, dry, efficient, give off a great heat and are a fantastic environmentally friendly alternative.



ARRAN Woodfuels



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Holy Isle video series commemorates 30 years

An informative video series, compiled over a period of two years, has been created to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Holy Isle being under the ownership of the Rokpa Trust, and its Centre for World Peace and Health which was founded by Lama Yeshe Rinpoche, a Tibetan Buddhist meditation master.

The video series comprises a three-minute showreel called Welcome to the Holy Isle, a 17-minute drone tour of the island, and a 90-minute extended story of the island called A Stroll Around Holy Isle.

Christian Dutton, while compiling a 50th anniversary video of the Samye Ling monastery and Tibetan centre in Dumfries, decided to do something similar for Holy Isle's 30th anniversary, which is also under the auspices of Samye Ling, and which takes

place in April this year.

Utilising Samye Ling's archive of over 40,000 images, Christian has created a detailed, narrated photographic slideshow showing the history and development of Holy Isle, over the last 1,500 years with a particular focus on the period

1992 to 2022 to commemorate the 30th anniversary of Rokpa's custodianship of the island.

All of the videos have been created with Lama Yeshe Rinpoche's permission and Christian Dutton hopes that the productions will raise in-

ternational awareness of Holy Isle and Samye Ling for the benefit of humanity.

The three videos are available in both English and Tibetan and can be viewed on the video hosting site, YouTube, by searching for The History of Holy Isle and Samye Ling.



ARRAN BANNER 45p
All days
Mon-Wed 8am-6pm
Thurs-Sat 8am-5pm
Sunday 11am-5pm

ARRAN'S WEEKLY NEWSPAPER No. 1392 Saturday 7th June 2003

Nature at Work
The attempt to film hen harrier chicks from hatching to leaving the nest has failed for the second year running. Not only has it failed, it has done so in rather a dramatic way. Last week we reported that cameras had been set near a hen harrier's nest at an unknown location in the south Arran moors. Like last year this was to allow visitors to Island Proceedings to see the live upbringing of hen harrier chicks. All it was to do so without disturbance to the mother or the chicks.
This year there were four eggs. Last weekend two eggs hatched to give two chicks while the hen was sitting on the other two eggs. The closed circuit television was relayed via Island Proceedings and to another house in Kilmory.

Houses from History
Most new building in the highlands, and by implication in Arran, is unimpressive and out of keeping with the landscape. Yet it need not be so. This was the view expressed by Neil Stevens and Mary Arnold of the Daalchas Partnership at a well attended meeting in the Ormidale Pavilion.
"Who are all these people?" said my neighbour as the room filled. Looking round there were house-seekers, builders, those with an interest in vernacular architecture, councillors (community and NAC), head teachers and others who find the housing debate interesting.
Daalchas operate from Skye but everything they said could Count on Page 2

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** TWICE WEEKLY DRY CLEANING SERVICE Mon 4pm back
Thursday am & Wed 4pm back Saturday am **

The documentary utilises photographs from key stages in the development of the Centre for World Peace and Health including some provided by the Arran Banner.

The series of videos includes a drone tour of Holy Isle as well as a full length documentary about the history of the island.

RECRUITMENT

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.



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Experience preferred, but full training given.
20% Staff discount on food, drink & rooms (plus great tips shared monthly)

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HM Coastguard celebrates landmark 200th birthday

Two hundred years of saving lives along the UK coast and at sea, as well as co-ordinating rescues for those in distress in international waters, is being marked this year as HM Coastguard celebrates its milestone 200th anniversary.

From its beginnings with coastal lookouts to today's hi-tech national network of co-ordination centres, one thing has stayed the same for two centuries – Her Majesty's Coastguard seeks to search, to rescue and to save.

HM Coastguard was formally established on January 15 1822. Today its operations centres co-ordinate 310 Coastguard Rescue Teams – made up of 3,500 dedicated volunteers – and use 10 search and rescue helicopter bases.

HM Coastguard continues to look to the future. Innovation has always been a driver – whether it be pushing forward state-of-the-art technology in the national network of maritime rescue co-ordination centres or leading the way in rope, water and mud techniques.

Last month, HM Coastguard began to implement its new updated search and rescue radio network which uses fibre technology. More than £175m has been invested to upgrade the Coastguard's national radio network across 165 sites over the next two years. This will improve and future proof its communication infrastructure and ensure it remains able to communicate and exchange data quickly and reliably.

The service continues to adapt to changes, in the last few years providing mutual aid and support during events and incidents to other emergency partners. During

the pandemic, coastguards supported the NHS, attended the G7 and COP26 in 2021 and are called in to help during national emergencies including flooding or supplying water to stranded drivers.

HM Coastguard provides training to search and rescue authorities around the world and shares knowledge with others. A key player with the International Maritime Organization, HM Coastguard's input and insight around the obligations of The International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea is sought and valued.

The service is currently working hard to reduce its carbon footprint and is aiming to make its UK-wide fleet of vehicles electric wherever possible over the next five years.

Six electric vehicles have already been bought, with 19 more currently being procured for use across the UK.

And with technology ever evolving, the service will continue to strive to be at the forefront of innovation.

Divisional commander for Scotland Susan Todd said: 'HM Coastguard is always busy and it's rare we get the chance to reflect on how far we have come. 200 years of saving lives at sea and along the coast is something to be proud of.'

UK Government Minister for Scotland Iain Stewart said: 'With 87 stations across Scotland, supported by nearly 800 volunteers, HM Coastguard plays a vital role in keeping people safe on our coastlines and at sea.'

'On behalf of the UK government and people around the UK, I'd like to pay tribute to the bravery of our coastguards

and thank them for the many lives they save. Happy 200th birthday.'

Right: The joint rescue co-ordination centre at Fareham in Hampshire.



A modern day Coastguard rescue team.

UK Government
Scotland

NHS TEST & PROTECT

If you have any Covid-19 symptoms, however mild, book a PCR test.

Stay at home while you await your test result and continue to stay at home if your test is positive. So you don't breathe Covid-19 onto others.

nhsinform.scot/testandprotect

STOP COVID-19 HANGING AROUND

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 19, 2002



Chookie Show attracts strong field of entries

The annual Chookie Show attracted a strong field of entries with an assortment of hens, roosters, ducks, pigeons and, this year, guinea pigs.

Organised by Brodick Poultry and Pigeon Club, it is always a popular event in Brodick Hall.

Left: Anne McLean, the proud winner of the Chookie Show, with her champion bird - an Australian yellow-headed, white-breasted Gouldian finch. 01_B03show01



Visitors take a close interest in the eggs on display. 01_B03show06



The winning Gouldian finch. 01_B03show02



Veronica Walker with her reserve champion call duck. 01_B03show03



An impressive collection of prizes for these ducks. 01_B03show05



Three French hens? 01_B03show04

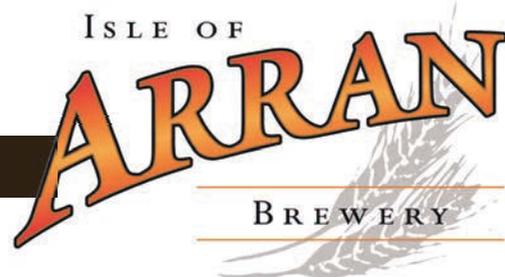
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What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.co.uk

TOURS AND TASTINGS BY APPOINTMENT



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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 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

Sunday 23rd 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 24th January

JogScotlandArran@gmail.com, Whiting Bay, Venue
varies, 5.30pm

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

Arran Rugby Training, Juniors and Seniors, Ormidale
Park, 7pm - 8pm

Tuesday 25th 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 to14 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 26th January

Coffee Morning, Brodick Church Hall, 10.30am –
12noon.

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 27th 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 28th 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 29th 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

Arran AFC get new year off to a flyer

Bobby's Bar AFC	2
Isle of Arran AFC	4
Ayrshire Sunday Amateur Football Association	

An energised Arran Amateur Football Club (AFC) returned from their winter break with renewed vigour and determination which helped them secure victory against Bobby's Bar AFC at Kilwinning Sports Club last Sunday.

Arran player Archie McNicol returned in fine form to score

a hat-trick for his side while a goal from Kieran Rae brought the winning tally to four.

Archie earned himself the man of the match accolade for his performance on the field and for helping to secure three league points which allows Arran to remain in third place in division one of the Ayrshire Sunday Amateur Football Association League.

Isle of Arran AFC face Irvine Sports Bar at Ardeer Juniors Stadium this Sunday. Kick-off 1pm.



Man of the match and hat-trick scorer Archie McNicol powers towards goal.



The Bobby's Bar keeper over-extends himself and is unable to prevent a goal from Kieran Rae. Photographs: Tam Borland.

Red Squirrel

The Isle of Arran Brewery's Red Squirrel is one of the brewery's most popular beers.

A fantastic session beer, with a great balance of malts and hops, with hints of liquorice, burnt toffee and nutty flavours.

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



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RECRUITMENT

The Arran Chocolate Factory

Would you like to work with chocolate and learn a new, rewarding skill?

We have a vacancy (full or part time) for you to join our small busy production team.

We take great pride in the quality of our products so we will offer full training to someone keen to learn the art of chocolate making.

No experience necessary we just ask that you have a willingness to learn and take pride in your work.

Contact James:
james@jamesofarran.com
with a CV or for further information
Closing date 27th January

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Border Terrier Pups for Sale

All Kennel Club registered.

Contact Stevie on
T: 01770 600637
or M: 07979 416372

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WANTED HOUSE OR FLAT & SMALL OFFICE

We are a Swedish charity looking for a furnished house or flat with:
2 bedrooms
2 bathrooms/shower rooms & (can be separate lets)
a small office of around 30m² in or near Brodick.

Lets can be 6 or 12 months; please let us know if either might be extendible for a longer period.

PLEASE EMAIL: arran-project@nisad.ngo

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Contact us on **07470 699572** at any other time.

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 at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 11.02.22.
Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 Regulation 20(1)
21/01227/PP; Laurelbank, Newton Road, Lochranza, Brodick; Renewal of previous planning permission 21/00130/PP for replacement one and a half storey dwelling including demolition of existing house.

Craig Hutton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath



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CHURCH NOTICES

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Parishes of North Arran,
Broddick, 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 23rd January
Lochranza & Pirnmill Churches-
Service at Lochranza Church
10.15am Morning worship
Shiskine Church at 12noon.
Morning worship.
Broddick Church at 10.30am.
Morning worship.
Corrie Church at 12noon.
Morning worship
The Food Bank continues from
Broddick Church

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Whiting Bay and Kildonan
Church of Scotland**
Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 23rd January
Worship will be conducted at
10.30 am.
Under new Church of Scotland
guidelines, you are encouraged,
please, to take a lateral flow test
before coming to worship.
Track and Trace also required.
ALL WELCOME.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash**
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship
to share"
Scottish Charity SC015072
Sunday 23rd January
Kilmory at 10 am
Lamlash Church at 11.30 am
To comply with 'Trace and
Protect' regulations, 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, to
attend if negative.
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 23rd January
3rd Sunday of Epiphany
Holy Communion at 11 am
Richard Trewby
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 23rd January
Services will be held in the
Ormidale Sports Pavilion,
Broddick at 11 am.
All welcome but current Covid
restrictions are in place.
Sermons will be on our webpage
following the Sunday.

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF
SCOTLAND (CONTINUING)**
Sunday 23rd January
Morning Service at 11am
Free Church Building, Alma
Road, Broddick
All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF
SCOTLAND**
Sunday 23rd January
Morning service at 11 am
Shiskine Free Church
All welcome

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC
CHURCH**
Saturday 22nd January
Vigil Mass at 5pm - Booking
required
Sunday 23rd 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 25th 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.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ROBINSON - JOHN
Christine would like to thank
everyone for their messages of
sympathy, flowers and kind-
ness. Warmest thanks to all
who attended John's funeral.
Special thank you to friends
for their help and kindness to
John and myself, to Doctors
Greg and Faye Hamill,
Lamlash Hospital, David
and Clair Hendry for their
Professionalism, Eleanor for
the Heather arrangement and
the Kinloch Hotel for lunch.



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Arran taught tough lesson

Continued from page 20.
anding position of midfield.
Other players were moved too
but everyone who was shifted
showed great flexibility and
playing well out of position.
The visiting team, led by their
Dutch captain, soon got on
the score sheet and continued
to demonstrate excellent set
passes, fine stick skills and
fast efficient sprints that the
Arran team struggled to keep
up with.

But Lorraine demonstrated
her skills and determination
to score Arran's only goal in
the second half. The Glasgow
University defenders congrat-
ulated her on the pitch. This
was how the visitors played in
general - pleasant, polished
and strong. So despite the
disappointing score line of 13
- 1, the after-match chat in the
Ormidale Hotel was positive,
treating the game as a learning
opportunity for the new Arran
players and gaining experience
in competitive play.

Jenny nominated Kayla
Hewie as the captain's Dame
of the Game for her excellent
debut performance.
'She was only meant to be on
for two ten-minute slots to gain
match experience,' said Jenny,
'but she did so well I kept her
on for most of the game. I am
so proud of the entire team for
their pure grit and determina-
tion on the field. The more we
played, the more cohesive the
team started to feel which is
why matches this season are so
important to allow us to build



**Above: Jenny Crockett clears
the Arran lines.** 01_B03hockey04



**Right: Arran's Isla McKelvie
in a tight tussle for the ball.**
01_B03hockey01

and grow together as a team
with real match experience.'

The team thanked Pauline
Reid for umpiring and the
supporters who came along to
cheer the team on.

The next two matches are
away to Greenock Morton
tomorrow (Saturday January
22) and Dumfries on Saturday
February 5. The Arran Ladies
will play more matches at
home during February and
March.
Look out for notices on the
Arran Ladies Hockey Club
Facebook page and in the
Arran Banner.

ARRAN BANNER GOLF

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday January 13, ladies 18 hole
medal. 1 Liz Kerr 87-16=71; 2 and scratch
Ann May 82-6=76; 3 Elizabeth Kelso
100-22=78.

Sunday January 16, gents 12 hole medal.
First class: 1 S Black 47-7=40; 2 and scratch
J McNally 46-3=43 BIH; 3 C Watson 47-
4=43. Second class: 1 T Ellis 54-9=43; 2
B Sherwood 55-10=45 BIH; 3 G Stewart
53-8=45. Magic twos S Kerr, B Sherwood,
C Watson, J Faulkner and J McNally.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday January 22, 18 hole
medal. Monday January 24, Monday Cup,
ballot at noon.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Saturday January 15, AGA Winter League
round three. After last week's weather
enforced postponement, reduced teams
of four contested the third round of this
season's winter league at Broddick. Whiting
Bay met Lamlash and won 2-0 to move up
to four points in the table.

Placings after round three are Corrie
6; Shiskine 4; Whiting Bay 4; Broddick 2;
Lamlash 1; Machrie Bay 1. The next round



is on Sunday February 6 when Whiting
Bay take on Shiskine.

Sunday January 16, friendly v Lamlash.
A fine morning drew a decent field of
33 players, fairly evenly spread from
both clubs, for the January friendly with
Lamlash. As in November, the home club
prevailed with Whiting Bay winning by 5
and 1/2 to 2 and 1/2 in the inter club match,
leaving each club with a victory from the
matches played so far. In the individual
Stableford, Dougie McFarlane returned
a near flawless scratch 62 to prevail on a
countback from David Blair.

Result: 1 Douglas McFarlane 1, 38 point
acb; 2 David Blair 11, 38 points; 3 Stan
Rainey 10, 36 points; 4 John Pennycott 12,

35. Magic twos, Jamie Macpherson @2nd,
Iain Murchie @17th.

Fixtures: Sunday January 23, Winter
Cup.

Broddick Golf Club

Sunday January 16, Brandon qualifier, 21
played. 1 Jimmy Armit 80-15=65 acb; 2
Donald McKinnie 77-12=65 acb; 3 Babbies
MacNeil 81-16=65. Saturday January 15,
AGA Duncan Trophy at Broddick Golf
Course. Corrie 1 and 1/2 beat Broddick 1/2,
Shiskine 2 beat Machrie 0, Whiting Bay 2
beat Lamlash 0. League table:

Corrie 6; Shiskine 4; Whiting Bay 4;
Broddick 2; Lamlash 1; Machrie 1.

Fixture: Sunday January 23, Winter
Cup Stableford. Sunday February 6, AGA
Duncan Trophy round four at Corrie:
Corrie v Machrie, Shiskine v Whiting Bay,
Lamlash v Broddick.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday January 8, Lochranza Hotel Cup.
1 Brian Sherwood 27 points; 2 Reuben
Betley 24 points. Tuesday January 11,
Winter Cup. 1 Alex Morrison-Cowan 65
points; 2 John Pennycott 69 points; 3 Brian
Sherwood 71 points.

Fixtures: Tuesday January 25, Winter
Cup. Tee off: noon.



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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...

Arran taught tough lesson but vital experience gained

Arran Ladies 1
Glasgow University Vs 13

A damp, dull day greeted the young women from Glasgow University as they travelled over to play Arran Ladies at Ormidale Park astroturf.

The 15-strong Arran hockey team consisted of captain Jenny Crockett, coach Lorraine Hewie and previous Arran Ladies players Judith Ross, Isla McKelvie, Bella Reid, Faith McKelvie, Annie McKelvie, Dawn Lyle, Helen Thomson and Susie Murchie. The newest members of the team, Lynda Fenton, Marie Craig, Lee Reid, Kayla Hewie and goalkeeper Suzi Haddow, completed the line-up.

For Kayla, aged just 11, this was her first competitive game. Daughter of Arran's 'Hurricane Hewie', Lorraine said she had been waiting years to play beside Kayla as she had watched her come up through the junior club then progress into the senior club where she attends training every Thursday evening.

For most of the team, this was also their first or second competitive game and for some of the experienced ladies, their first game since November 2019.

Unfortunately for the Arran Ladies, one minute into the game Lynda hobbled off with a torn calf muscle meaning Jenny had to reposition players. Kayla was pushed up to the dem-

Continued on page 19.



Above: Arran defend in numbers against a strong opposition attack.
01_B03hockey02

Left: Arran defend a short corner in their facemasks.
01_B03hockey05



The Arran Banner: 85p

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