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# Save Cooriedoon petition is launched as court bid fails

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A court challenge to halt the closure of Cooriedoon failed this week at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court.

Care home owner Sandra Butler went to court on Tuesday seeking an interim interdict to, at least temporarily, halt the process which has followed the termination of its care home contract.

However, the petition was rejected by Sheriff Colin Bissett who said that the process was already well under way.

A copy of the Arran Banner was used in court to show the matter was within the public domain.

North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership welcomed the court's decision as it said 'any pause to plans at this stage to engage in a lengthy, protracted legal process would have further distressed residents, relatives and staff'.

Plans by health chiefs to terminate Corriedoon nursing home's contract came as a

shock to the owner, residents and their families.

It has since emerged North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership already has a nursing registration, granted just two days after the closure decision, which Montrose House requires to take some of the patients from Cooriedoon.

And a proposal to take over the Whiting Bay nursing home, which is on the market for just under £1 million, has already been discussed and rejected.

**'Further detail of these concerns has been shared with those families affected.'**

A total of 13 North Ayrshire Council-funded residents, and two others, will be forced to move out of Cooriedoon by the start of April, after one, sadly, died this week.

However, with only 10 beds



Owner Sandra Butler went to court this week. 01\_B03butler01

on offer at Montrose House, it is still not clear how they can all be accommodated there.

A petition to save Cooriedoon on change.org has already attracted 550 signatures with numbers growing every day, such is the anger on the island at the move.

A partnership spokesperson said: 'The decision by North Ayrshire Health and Social

Care Partnership to terminate the contract with Cooriedoon Care Home was not taken lightly and was based on a number of concerns over the ability of the care home to provide a high standard of care for residents.

'While some improvements have been noted for actions raised during Care Inspectorate visits to the facili-

**'All of the current residents who wish to stay on the island can be accommodated at Montrose House'**

ty, these improvements are not of an appropriate standard and fall short of the level of care we would expect for our service users.

'In addition, regulatory inspections are not the only criteria used to measure the quality of care being provided and the health and social care partnership has had other concerns in relation to the care provided at Cooriedoon Care Home for some time.

'Further detail of these concerns has been shared with those families affected, to support their understanding of why this decision, whilst very difficult, is in the best

interests of their loved one. Following the notice of termination being delivered on Monday January 17, HSCP officers have communicated directly with all families and a number have already had individual appointments with social workers to discuss their individual circumstances, any concerns and the best plan for their loved one.

'The HSCP has also been present in the care home and has offered support to staff, including sharing health and care vacancies on the island, engaged with housing and money advice services and has

**Continued on page 2.**



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# Cooriedoon Inspectorate report findings

The Care Inspectorate, which registers care homes in Scotland, carried out an inspection at Corriedoon in the days before the termination of the council contract was announced. In the report published last week, it found considerable improvements had been made since the last inspection in December 2021. Here are its findings:

The Care Inspectorate carried out an announced short notice visit to Cooriedoon on Friday January 14. The report published last week found that out of four recommendations for improvement made in the last December inspection, three out of four were met, as well as a previous recommendation.

In evaluating quality, the Inspectorate uses a six-point scale where one is unsatisfactory and six is excellent.

How good is Cooriedoon's care and support during the Covid-19 pandemic? Three - adequate

Are people's health and well being supported and safeguarded during the Covid-19 pandemic? Three - adequate

Do infection control practices support a safe environment for people experiencing care and staff? Three - adequate

Are staffing arrangements responsive to the changing needs of people experiencing care? Three - adequate

The report states: 'We spoke to several residents during this inspection who were generally happy and had good relationships with the staff.'

The following are the Care

Inspectorate findings:

#### Requirement 1 - met

The provider had increased staffing levels at night, and this had a positive impact on people's care. At the time of our inspection three staff members were on duty most nights.

The provider tried to book agency staff for any nightshifts that could not be covered by three of their own staff members.

#### Requirement 2 - not met

The provider had made clear improvements that had a positive impact.

However, further improve-



Cooriedoon Care Home was inspected in December 2021 and had a short-notice inspection in January this year.

ment and consolidation of key areas were required.

People benefitted from generally increased staffing levels on day and nightshift. This meant that staff felt less pressured and were able to focus better on people's needs.

We found that further work was required to ensure that key measurements like quality assurance data and care plan reviews are included in the assessment of staffing. We therefore extended the timeline for this requirement to February 11 2022.

#### Requirement 3 - met

The provider had made several key improvements that had

a positive impact on people's mealtime experience.

The improved organisation of mealtimes also meant that food was served shortly after it had been plated. Plate covers were used to ensure that food was kept warm if it had to be taken to a resident's room.

#### Requirement 4 - met

The provider had made several improvements that had a positive impact on infection prevention and control. The refurbishment of the room also created more storage space for the housekeeping trolley and cleaning materials.

Previous area for improvement 1 - met

The provider had reviewed the processes for the regular cleaning of frequently touched points, such as handrails or door handles.

We saw that up-to-date sign-off sheets were kept as evidence for a minimum of twice daily cleaning.

The manager was aware of current infection prevention and control guidance. Cleaning schedules were in place for normal times and Covid-19 outbreak situations. This helped to keep people safe from infection.

There have been no complaints upheld since the last inspection.

## Save Cooriedoon petition launched as court bid fails

Continued from page 1.

arranged for specialist legal advice for staff working under a visa.

'The HSCP is now in a position to confirm that all of the current residents who wish to stay on the island can be accommodated at Montrose House.

'Some residents may decide to move to a facility nearer relatives on the mainland, however, those numbers are expected to be small.

'The health and social care partnership is now in the process of confirming placements with families and representatives, at which point plans will be made to arrange moves for individual residents.

'The timeframe for this will be led by residents and their relatives' requests and it may be that some will move to Montrose House soon where there are existing vacancies.

'Montrose House is a purpose-built, modern facility which is currently under-utilised. We have now received

the appropriate registration from the Care Inspectorate to increase capacity to 30 beds and to provide residential and nursing care for residents. Further work including staffing and services are ongoing to ensure a timely transfer for residents.

'There is currently no waiting list for long-term care on the island, either from residents in the community nor from Arran War Memorial Hospital.

'The HSCP is confident of being able to accommodate demand for residential and nursing care on the island and this position is not affected by the termination of contract from Cooriedoon Care Home.

'Additionally, the decision to terminate the contract with Cooriedoon was not influenced in any way by financial implications.

'There will be no overall financial savings to be made by the partnership in transferring residents to Montrose House, where we are required to invest in increasing capacity and

providing round-the-clock nursing care provision.

'Capacity for nursing and residential care on Arran has been assessed for the immediate and longer term and resources are being put in place to ensure a resilient model of residential care for the island community.

'The HSCP cannot support a care provider to continue to deliver sub-standard care simply because there are not readily available alternatives in place.

'It is our role and duty of care to ensure we redress this balance and provide resilient and high-quality care services for the island community.

'At this time we are focussed on the well-being of the residents in Cooriedoon and this remains our number one priority.

'As a result, we will continue to work closely with the care home owner and staff to ensure a smooth transition process for residents and their representatives.'

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# Decision not taken as a cost saving

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



An elderly lady, who was born and bred on Arran, faces uncertainty over whether she will be able to find a care home place on the island when she is released from hospital on the mainland.

That was just one of the concerns over the closure of Cooriedoon raised during a sometimes heated debate at a virtual meeting of Arran Community Council this week.

The fact the closure of the Whiting Bay care home meant a reduction in care beds was of real concern as was how Montrose House would cope with the 10 extra beds, as well as future care provision for the island.

Chairman Bill Calderwood said it was the biggest topic to come through the community council for several years and was of great concern to residents and relatives.

Mr Calderwood and North Ayrshire Councillor Timothy

Billings met health officials on the island on Monday. He said: 'We needed to get clarity on a lot of the stories.'

'It is very sad it has got to this stage.'

He said they had been given assurances that all current Cooriedoon residents would be accommodated at Montrose House and they were also planning additional care at home facilities.

Mr Calderwood said they had also been assured that resources would be made available when needed both at Cooriedoon, ahead of its closure, and Montrose House and that a range of jobs had already been advertised.

'The decision was not taken as a cost saving,' Mr Calderwood said, but added there was a realisation it would have some impact on residents being moved. But he said officials were satisfied that current need and future need would be met.

And he added: 'If it comes to fruition that they got it wrong that will be a very painful

outcome.'

Shiskine representative Neil Arthur said the health authorities had had 'months to plan their exit strategy' but had still left too many unanswered questions.

'They have not been able to meet staffing needs for the past

10 years so how, all of a sudden, are they going to achieve it.' He said they already relied on carers from the mainland and could not see where the additional resources would come from.

North Ayrshire councillor Timothy Billing said that he

had stressed to the health officials that it was about 'getting back confidence' after the decision which had created a lot of local concern.

'There is a lot of disquiet about what this means for care on Arran in the short term and the long term and not just in

care homes, but also around care at home.'

The discussion concluded that it was necessary for the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership to provide the public with the information required for reassurance.

## Harry will be missed

Tributes have been paid this week to Harry Davidson who died in hospital after a short illness last Thursday. He was in his mid-80s.

Known affectionately as 'Mr Brodick' Harry, pictured below, spent his 28 years on the island helping numerous societies and organisations around the island, but especially in his beloved Brodick.

At the virtual meeting of Arran Community Council this week, chairman Bill Calderwood, who was a close friend of Harry, paid tribute.

He said: 'I would like to take a few minutes to pay tribute to a true gentleman who committed so much time and effort to the island in general and particularly Brodick which was his home.'

'He was a long-serving member of Arran Community Council filling roles of treasurer and secretary in his 12-plus years'

service. He has been a visible example of community commitment with many memories of his work now part of the infrastructure such as the walkway in Brodick, the beach work on Fisherman's walk and many other examples, all carried out quietly for the benefit of the island.

'His work with Brodick Hall and recently to help the nursery all benefitted and his presence at the summer ceilidhs and the barbecue will be very much missed.'

'Everyone has their own personal memories of this gentleman and our thoughts are with his family at this time.'

Another long-time friend said: 'He will be sadly missed and leave a big hole in all the societies and organisations that he supported.'

'Our thoughts are with Norma at this devastating time.'



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# Transport minister resigns amid health concerns

Transport minister Graeme Dey has resigned from the Scottish Government for health-related reasons and Jenny Gilruth has been appointed to take over the transport portfolio.

The unexpected announcement was made at the start of the week when the man charged with overseeing the Ardrossan Task Force and the delivery of the new Arran ferry tendered his resignation to First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, saying that he would be unable to give the ministerial role everything it required and deserves.

He has been in the post for just eight months after being appointed following the Holyrood elections last May.

Writing to the First Minister, Mr Dey said: 'It has been an absolute privilege to serve as a minister in the Scottish Government, firstly as minister for parliamentary business and veterans and latterly, as minister for transport.

'I have always prided myself on being able to give 100 per cent to any task I am charged with.

'Regrettably, despite my continuing passion, I find myself unable now to give this hugely important ministerial role everything it rightly requires



Jenny Gilruth has been appointed as the transport minister after the sudden resignation of Graeme Dey.

my very best wishes.'

The day after Mr Dey's resignation, on Tuesday, Jenny Gilruth took over the position as transport minister.

She will now be responsible for overseeing a range of policy areas including the upcoming transfer of Scotland's railways into public hands, reducing carbon emissions from the

transport network as well as chairing the Ardrossan Task Force and delivering new ferries for island communities, including Arran's long overdue ferry, MV Glen Sannox.

Ms Gilruth said: 'The transport portfolio is an exciting opportunity to not just shape the infrastructure of our country but to also help Scotland become a world leader in achieving our goal to become net zero by 2045.'

In addition to the appointment of Ms Gilruth, Neil Gray MSP was named as the new person filling Ms Gilruth's previous post as minister for culture, Europe and international development.

and deserves.

'It is therefore with regret that I am writing to resign from office as minister for transport in the Scottish Government.'

The First Minister said: 'This is the right decision for Graeme to reach at this time, and he leaves government with

Graeme Dey MSP pictured on Arran with CalMac port manager Colin McCort and managing director Robbie Drummond.



## Report calls for highest level of compensation

The highest level of compensation should be given to women born in the 1950s affected by state pension inequality, according to a parliamentary committee.

The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) dealing with the issue raised by the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) has sent a report to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO), calling for the compensation.

The submitted report concluded that the cases of emotional, material and physiological injustice clearly fell within a category six injustice - the highest level on the PHSO scale.

A statement issued by WASPI said: 'Women Against State Pension Inequality warmly welcomes the submission from APPG to the PHSO.

'The impact of Department of Work and Pensions maladministration on 1950s-born women has been as devastating as it is widespread.

'The APPG believes that the case for category six injustice is overwhelming and clear.

'Women have had their emotional, physical, and mental circumstances totally oblite-

rated by a lack of reasonable notice.

'These impacts must be addressed, if we are to reach any kind of conclusion regarding this injustice.

'The conclusion that: "It is the belief of the APPG that all typologies of injustice have been met to some degree, and that in the cases of emotional, material, and physiological, they clearly fall within a category 6 injustice" matches what we as a campaign have been saying for some time.'

WASPI has been campaigning for six years on the way increases to state pension age were brought in with little or no notice to women born in the 1950s, and is calling on the Government to accept its failings and agree on fair and fast compensation.

## Club draw winners

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club December 2021 draw are: 1st prize Aileen Wright, 2nd prize Maureen Cumming, 3rd prize John Ford.

The winners of the Brodick Improvements 200 Club draw for January 2022 are Elma and Euan Ribbeck of Brodick.

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## LETTERS

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

## On the right track

First mooted in 2015 and now at the council planning stage, the trails facility application by Arran High School Mountain Bike Club is a well-seasoned and well-considered idea that will pay dividends in the future.

With an emphasis on community use and its potential benefits for Arran's youth, as well as a burgeoning cycling fraternity, it will undoubtedly be a valuable addition to Arran's attractions. Cycling clubs, youth organisations, and cycling groups and numerous official bodies have added their support and it is easy to see why.

Proficient cyclists, on the road or off, are safer cyclists, for themselves and other road users. Not to mention that children engaging in healthy outdoors activities, and away from the strong attraction to screens, will be welcomed by any parent who regularly faces this problem. And then there is the added bonus of having a facility, right here on Arran, that will attract visitors to the island while also saving local groups from having to find these useful resources elsewhere.

In the same manner that the mountain bike club has developed far beyond any expectation, so too will the track facility. And even the most ardent detractors of the project will surely see the benefits of the facility freeing up paths and roads for others, along with placing Arran on the Scottish cycling map.

## Thought for the week

'In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.'  
**Psalm 4:8**

## Arran is closed

A poem by Elizabeth Ross

There's a mystical island out there in the sea.  
The loveliest place where we all want to be  
With mountains and glens, beaches and burns  
And weather that's wild and mild by turns.  
But try to go there and the flaw is exposed.  
The ferry's not sailing and Arran is closed.

They call it a lifeline, just like a rope  
That holds you safe and gives you hope  
That you can live and work and play  
In the place of your home and survive each day.

Now the rope is fraying, its weakness exposed.  
The ferry's not sailing and Arran is closed.

You're needing a carer to see your old dad.  
His operational scar has gone bad.  
But she lives in Irvine and travels by day  
And his needs are urgent, and can't be delayed.  
The shortage of healthcare is starkly exposed  
'Cos the ferry's not sailing and Arran is closed.

It's a lifeline service they say every time  
When the ferry is off and the customers whine.  
'We're sorry', they say (again) 'for the break.  
It's a fault. We don't know how long it will take

To get it fixed. We are doing our best.  
We'll send lorries via Claonaig, and as for the rest  
You must just stay on Arran, keep calm and  
composed  
For the ferry's not sailing and Arran is closed.'

It's freezing outside and my oil's sprung a leak  
But a chance of repair is looking bleak.  
The suppliers have plenty of tanks in their store  
Which is over in Ayr. Guess at three days before  
They can book on a man with a van to come here  
And mend it. A cold time in prospect I fear.  
So again you are spot on if you supposed  
That the ferry's not sailing and Arran is closed.

I'm waiting for tablets, ordered last week.  
The cause of delay is not hard to seek.  
We've had no mail, either junk or expected  
And my business's cash flow is sorely affected.  
When the postie arrives with my bottle of pills  
Be sure he will bring a tsunami of bills  
And I will struggle to stay composed  
'Cos the ferry's not sailed and Arran is closed.

I've ordered some yurts to put in my field.  
I'm hoping the holiday earnings will yield  
A boost to my income to keep me afloat.  
There'll be more paying customers booking the boat.  
They drive to Ardrossan, their joy unalloyed  
But the dockside is empty, the pier devoid

Of a boat. Hear their rage as the question is posed.  
'Why's the ferry not sailing? Is Arran closed?'

Millennia ago island folk used the breeze  
To sail their skin covered boats o'er the seas.  
They travelled to visit and marry and trade  
And weren't above staging a lightning raid  
When the weather allowed. They never supposed  
That they couldn't get home 'cos Arran was closed.

Victorian merchants invested in steam  
Railways and boats to fulfil their dream  
Of summers on Arran with a journey that's quick.  
An hour and a half from town to Brodick.  
21st century times are much slower,  
Glasgow to Arran is over two hours.  
But once at Ardrossan, the flaw is exposed.  
The ferry's not sailing and Arran is closed.

The people that make the decisions don't stay  
On islands at all so there's really no way  
They ought to dismiss our ideas out of hand,  
And declare our representation banned.  
So my ode is a plea to you management gurus  
To take off the blinkers and open your eyes  
To the fate of the islanders, always hoping  
That the ferry will sail and Arran will open.

## Double the love

Sir,  
Please can you convey my grateful thanks to Arran Churches Together (ACT) for their most generous donation to Mary's Meals.

Due to social distancing requirements, the numbers attending Lamlash Church were restricted but the incredible sum of £463.60 was

banked from offerings at the ACT Service of Christian Unity on Sunday January 16.

This will be matched under the Double The Love campaign, meaning Mary's Meals can reach even more hungry children with life-changing school meals in 20 of the world's poorest countries.

£15.90 feeds a child for a whole school year.  
Thank you for your kindness and support.

Yours,  
**Alison Page,**  
Mary's Meals Community Volunteer,  
Isle of Arran.

## Secret Santa thanks

Sir,  
We just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone that donated and helped to distribute the Arran Secret Santa's gifts along with the random present attacks to help brighten and warm life up a bit with a smile and a treat or two over the festive period.

We received numerous donations of toys, clothes, gift vouchers, toiletries, food, books, handmade decorations, scarfs, hats, socks, coal and logs from individuals and businesses and wonderful handmade cards from the children at Whiting Bay and Lamlash Primary School.

We have had many messages of thanks and we thank you again.

Yours,  
**Arran Secret Santas**  
Name and address supplied

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

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Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, should also be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered.

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# Unexpected steel work delays return of ferry

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Unexpected steel replacement works discovered during MV Caledonian Isles' annual overhaul will see the vessel further delayed.

A return to service is not now expected in the first week of February.

The unscheduled steel works, utilising additional labour from their Leith yard, is expected to continue at Peel Ports Inchgreen Dry Dock in Port Glasgow until at least Wednesday February 2.

Thereafter sea trials will take place on Thursday February 3, with the vessel being available for service on Friday February 4.

MV Hebridean Isles will continue to serve the route and it is understood that MV Isle of Arran will be held on standby to provide support for either demand or in case of further delays.

There was some good news for ferry users this week though, when the essential service timetable,



The MV Hebridean Isles will continue to serve the Arran route.

01\_B03hebridean01

introduced on Monday January 3 owing to Covid-related staff absence, and expected to last until Sunday February 6, was revised and the winter timetable resumed on Wednesday for most routes across the network.

This included the reopening of

on-board retail and food and drink offerings as well as the Coffee Cabin at Ardrossan Port.

It also allowed for the resumption of normal opening hours at port offices, many of which were shut outwith sailing times.

CalMac's managing director Robbie Drummond said: 'I am pleased to say that because of a significant drop in the number of staff unable to work due to Covid, we can now offer a full winter service on the majority of routes.'

'Thank you to all passengers for their patience and understanding and we look forward to welcoming them back on board.'

Meanwhile, additional sailings are to continue on the Lochranza to Tarbert route.

## Recruitment open day at castle

Fancy a job at one of the most prestigious addresses on Arran?

Well, Brodick Castle is holding a recruitment open day on Thursday February 10.

The National Trust for Scotland has a range of positions available in its team from food and beverage through to gardens, cleaning, retail and administration. There are also a variety of volunteering opportunities across the site.

A spokesman for the castle said: 'Please come along to the Woodland Café between 10am and 4pm and have a chat with a member of the team, discover the roles, interview and apply on the day.'

The castle and shop and Woodland Café reopen for the season on Monday April 4.

The Isle Be Wild play park and the Red Squirrel hide and tuck shop also open that day and will remain open until Sunday October 30. Pre-booking is not required.

The property is part of the 'We're Good to Go' scheme, which means the trust has carried out an official Covid risk assessment to check it has everything in place to reopen safely.

The country park and garden are open every day of the year.

For more information contact: Brodickcastle@nts.org.uk 01770 302202.



Campaigners spread the SNP message to houses in Whiting Bay earlier this week.

## Arran's SNP campaigners take to the streets

With the lifting of restrictions Arran SNP campaigners have taken to the streets to distribute their eight-page pro-independence newspaper in Whiting Bay this week.

The paper has been created in collaboration with the SNP, Believe in Scotland and The National and the aim is to deliver the paper to

all 1,000 homes on Arran and nationally to one million homes in Scotland.

The Arran branch of the SNP will be hosting a members' meeting tomorrow (Saturday) from 2pm to 4pm at the Ormidale Pavilion where discussions will take place about the local elections in May and Indyref2.

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# There's a legion of help in fight against COVID-19

Getting your booster jab remains the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones against COVID-19 - and many of our armed forces veterans are offering their skills in the vaccine rollout

THERE IS a legion of volunteers, many veteran Armed Forces personnel, continuing to help with vaccines rollout.

From assisting at vaccination centres to building new health bases, planning and logistics, their contribution is key.

Army, Navy and RAF Veterans, who gain transferable skills and experience from their Armed Forces work, have joined forces to fight for crucial boosters for all.

Many Vets also continue to show a spirit of service, stemming from their military service to our country, offering their time to community, charity or wider public sector efforts.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Steve Barclay said: "I thank all those veterans for this effort and remind everyone that the best defence against COVID is to get boosted now."



**'GET BOOSTED NOW':** Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Steve Barclay

## Booster jab is vital

Every adult needs to get a COVID-19 booster vaccine, because two doses of the vaccine do not give enough protection against catching the Omicron variant. Check your eligibility and find out how to book at [nhs.uk/covidvaccination](https://nhs.uk/covidvaccination)



## 'I believe we always have that sense of service'

**Sally Orange, 48, Major (Army Reserves), retired, Salisbury, Wiltshire**

Since leaving the military three years ago, physiotherapist Sally has returned to the NHS to assist with the pandemic at a Nightingale facility and in the national vaccine rollout.

"As a veteran, I believe we always have that sense of service," said Sally, who joined Royal Army Medical Corps in 1998 and served as a qualified physiotherapist throughout her 22-year career, playing a pivotal role in recovery and rehabilitation of many service personnel returning from conflicts such as Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Knowing there was a mass national effort to be able to combat the virus through the vaccine rollout, I didn't hesitate to get involved. "A further

benefit of volunteering is it has really helped maintain my mental well-being as it prevents me from being isolated."

Sally trained in giving people their jobs and administrative duties involved on the rollout. Through her work at a Nightingale hospital, she has seen first-hand the devastation and grief COVID-19 has caused.

"If you are hesitant about getting the vaccine it is still worth going to your local vaccine walk-in centre, where everything will be explained to you.

"You will be able to ask any questions and be given answers in a language you understand rather than lots of medical jargon," assured the National Ambassador for the Army Cadet Force.

Well known for her endurance challenges, including running 70 marathons across the world, dressed as pieces of fruit, Sally has raised more than £500,000.



**MAJOR HELP:** Sally is assisting at Nightingale Hospital London



**GET BOOSTED NOW**

# GET BOOSTED NOW

## Sharing a feeling of duty and wanting to get the job done is what drives Alex

**Alex Turnbull, 24, Reservist (3rd Battalion Royal Welsh), West of Scotland**

A sense of duty drove Alex Turnbull to “enlist” in the vaccine rollout programme.

A reservist in the 3rd Battalion Royal Welsh for six years, Alex has been responsible for overseeing mobile PCR testing units across Scotland.

“I’ve also been on the frontline to explain the testing process to members of the public.



More recently, I’ve been managing the military support to the Scottish Ambulance Service,” he said.

“You’re always ready to jump in when required. Given COVID is such a big issue I was more than happy to get behind the cause. I felt a sense of duty.”

Alex is aware of the importance of the booster job. “I’d encourage everyone to do it.

**SENSE OF DUTY: Alex Turnbull is helping keep others safe**

“It’s the right thing to do to keep ourselves safe while working on the frontline. It’s also the right thing to do to keep other people safe.

“Getting the booster is part of learning to live with the virus and part of getting our lives back to some sort of normal.”

His role has involved transporting ambulance drivers from one station to another, no matter what the circumstance and his military experience is invaluable in this instance.

“Even when there’s been thick snow and ice on the ground, we’ve always done the job (assuming it was safe to do so) – and got ambulance drivers to their stations on time.

“We all share a sense of duty and a service ethos. We all want to get the job done.”



## ‘We have the ability to turn on a sixpence’



**Rebecca Dennett, 40, Squadron Leader (Royal Air Force), retired, East of England**

Squadron Leader Rebecca Dennett’s 12 years with the RAF stood her in great stead for her role in the vaccination rollout.

“We have a lot of transferable skills and useful experience, especially the ability to turn on a sixpence,” said Rebecca, an intensive care nurse before joining the service.

“The vaccination programme was working in a space where the science was still rolling out the answers and the military are trained to work in constantly evolving situations,” she said.



**USEFUL EXPERIENCE: Rebecca Dennett.**  
Picture: Gareth Iwan Jones

In the RAF, she worked in medical evacuation as a critical care nurse. “That meant I was an intensive care nurse in the air, which requires a very specific focus and resilience, which could be put to good use in the vaccination programme.”

Deputy director of the Flu and COVID Vaccination Programme for NHS England and NHS Improvement East of England, Rebecca manages a 50-strong team including other Veterans.

“The team knows what a difference the booster jabs make and have responded with an amazing effort in providing the booster over December – one day we provided 104,000 doses,” she continued.

“The public response has been incredible. More than eight in ten people who are eligible have now received their top-up protection.

“We have to remember those who want it but have busy lives and haven’t fitted it in yet, so we are there for them, pushing it out and providing outreach.”

## A skillset the country can use



**MAKING A DIFFERENCE: Jake Wade, left, and above in his Navy days**

**Jake Wade, 56, (ex Navy, Royal Marines, Royal Army Medical Corps), Hartlepool, County Durham**

After 25 years in the Navy and Royal Marines, Jake Wade transferred to Royal Army Medical Corps to be “specifically involved in secondary health care and mental health support”.

With Gulf War, Kurdistan and Kosovo service behind him, he joined the NHS in 2019 to oversee control and distribution of Personal Protective Equipment.

“My logistics knowledge came to the fore to make sure community midwives and health visitors had the PPE they needed,” he explained.

“In some cases the job entailed me going out, doing the deliveries myself in the van! There just wasn’t anybody there to do it. You felt as though you were making a real difference.”

Jake then helped establish the Regional Vaccination Operational Cell in East Midlands before becoming Deputy

Program Lead for Assurance, Improvement and Strategy.

“The benefits of having ex-service people on the team is they’ve come through leadership training and management training as part of the routine.”

And, on Veterans stepping up, he added: “You’ve got a group of people who drop everything as soon as they’re asked, regardless of what their family commitment might be, and go and do the job. I don’t think there is a better resource for the country to draw upon.

“The retired individuals have a skillset that the country can use. When you retire from the military you don’t stop everything you’re doing. It doesn’t mean you can’t still use that expertise to volunteer.”

Every adult in the country now needs to get a COVID-19 booster vaccine, because two doses does not give you enough protection against catching Omicron. To book yours and find out more visit [nhs.uk/covidvaccination](https://nhs.uk/covidvaccination)

**All together** >

# Biggest UK campaign to boost visitors to the region

Ayrshire and Arran Destination Alliance (AADA) is this week launching its biggest marketing campaign to help boost tourism to the area, writes Hugh Boag.

The campaign 'Find Your Balance' uses bespoke video and digital content to showcase the many experiences Ayrshire and Arran have to offer for restorative recreation.

The new video content, featuring clever split-screen and match cut scenes, highlights the many natural contrasts to be found in the region and encourages visitors to 'find their balance' by escaping for a short break to slow down, relax, rejuvenate and enjoy leisure time once again.

The digital campaign will run across social media and digital channels from January to March and will include a mix of static image and



**AYRSHIRE  
& ARRAN**  
*Find your balance*

video adverts on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube targeted at specific audiences across the UK.

The videos will also feature on [ayrshireandarran.com/findyourbalance](http://ayrshireandarran.com/findyourbalance) where bespoke-themed landing pages provide inspiration on outdoor and adventure, wellness and nature, and food and drink ex-

## Social media video content will invite people to 'find their balance' in Ayrshire and Arran



Alliance chairperson  
Linda Johnston.

periences across the region to help visitors plan their break.

In addition to the social media and digital advertising

activity, the campaign also includes a substantial digital partnership with Hotels.com, to inspire visitors to book a short break and provide support to Ayrshire and Arran hospitality and tourism businesses by encouraging overnight bookings in shoulder months and extend the visitor season. A programme of travel blogger visits during February will complete the marketing campaign and will provide potential visitors with

an authentic insight into the many things to see and do on a short break in the region.

Ayrshire and Arran Destination Alliance chairperson Linda Johnston, from Auchrannie Resort, said: 'As a not-for-profit industry-led organisation, Ayrshire and Arran Destination Alliance has been at the forefront of drives to support the sector throughout the pandemic.'

'The scale and ambition of the campaign is beyond anything we've been able to deliver for the region previously and our extensive collaboration with the tourism businesses across the region demonstrates the determination to support the sector at this time.'

'With existing marketing channels reaching tens of thousands of visitors each month, an exceptional team already in place, and a range of exciting work planned over the coming months, we believe we can help our businesses and communities across the region to recover and regrow.'

'Focusing on a range of new

digital content, co-produced with input from industry leaders, tourism businesses, activity providers and many more, the campaign will inspire new and returning visitors to catch their breath and regain their spark, by escaping for a short break to enjoy the sights, sounds and tastes of our special region.'

Tourism businesses in Ayrshire and Arran are being encouraged to get actively involved in the campaign to support the recovery of tourism and hospitality in their local communities, and can use the newly produced digital assets to complement their own content.

A 'Find Your Balance' campaign toolkit is available to download that includes links to images, videos and campaign branding assets.

The 'Find Your Balance' campaign was created with assistance from the Scottish Government's Tourism Destination and Sector Marketing Fund. The fund is delivered by VisitScotland

## Arran invitation to join European gastronomic tour

Arran's Food Journey is seeking Arran-based food and drink industry candidates to join a fact-finding journey to Slovenia and Croatia.

The tour, which is to depart in April, will include visits to experience food and drink, producers, suppliers – including vineyards, olive oil producers and markets in Brda, Slovenia, and Istria, Croatia.

The two locations are significant as Slovenia is named as a 2021 European Region of Gastronomy and Istria is home to world-renowned gastronomy.

### Hospitality

Participants will have the opportunity to meet local leaders and hospitality providers who have played significant parts in their region's food and drink aims and agenda.

The aim of the journey is to ensure that Arran's food and drink sector maximises its potential as an integral part of its tourism offering.

Participants will benefit from being inspired by the trip, while also receiving fresh new ideas for their business as well as establishing contacts to collaborate and build Arran's food and drink sector.

The tour will be facilitated by Professor Terry Stevens, who is an international tourism consultant with a long-standing relationship with Arran's tourist industry, and was the 2020 ambassador of Slovenia tourism.

The journey is heavily subsidised by the HIE Regional Food Grant and flights, accommodation, breakfast and most evening meals are included.

Participants will be expected provide their own travel insurance and to make a contribution as an indication of commitment which is estimated at £600.

Two fully-subsidised apprentice places for recent entrants to Arran's food sector and who are under 30 years old will be provided as part of the subsidy.

The tour will leave Glasgow on Monday April 25, returning on Saturday April 30. Applicants need to apply before Friday February 4, and successful candidates will be notified by Friday February 11.

To join the tour, applications can be made at <https://forms.gle/fH5DqU33keUAoHB67> and any questions can be directed to [hello@arransfoodjourney.com](mailto:hello@arransfoodjourney.com).

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# Online registration opens for early years

Parents whose children are scheduled to start nursery in August are being urged to register online from Tuesday February 1.

From August 2021, all eligible two, three and four-year-old children are entitled to 1,140 hours per year.

Registration for the August intake takes place from Tuesday February 1 to

Monday February 28. Parents should apply online at [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/early-years](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/early-years).

Any parent who registers after the deadline may miss out on their preferred provider.

Councillor John Bell, cabinet member for education, said: 'We want to ensure we offer the best start in life to our young people in North Ayrshire.

'Last year 93 per cent of parents who registered their child in February secured their first choice, and so we would encourage parents to register their child or children as early as possible within the February registration period.'

For full information and access to the application form visit [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/early-years](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/early-years).



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### Advertorial

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# Artists wanted for Arran Open Studios' 10th event



Arran artists and makers are invited to register for this year's Arran Open Studios (AOS) event which is celebrating its 10-year anniversary.

The brainchild of Josephine Broekhuizen and Sarah Cook, the event allows visitors to gain an insight into the behind-the-scenes workings of artists and makers on Arran with a weekend of studio visits and the opportunity to meet the various artists.

This year's AOS event will take place over the weekend of August 12 to 15 inclusive, and artists in all disciplines are invited to take part.

Owing to all of the preparations needed to arrange the event, including brochure printing, would-be applicants are encouraged to register as soon as possible with a deadline set for the end of February. The fee to join is £70 which entitles artists/makers to the benefits of all the event publicity, including brochures to distribute to clients, profiling on the AOS

**Josephine Broekhuizen and Sarah Cook originally came up with the idea for the Arran Open Studios event which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.**

Facebook page, and a page on the website, along with various other benefits.

As part of the celebration of 10 years at the easel/workbench, AOS is also planning a root and branch redesign of the website at <https://www.arranopenstudios.com/> which is the preferred way to contact Ruth Mae to register interest. Ruth can also be contacted by email at [ruthmae.nagare@gmail.com](mailto:ruthmae.nagare@gmail.com) for further information.

www.arranopenstudios.com/ which is the preferred way to contact Ruth Mae to register interest. Ruth can also be contacted by email at [ruthmae.nagare@gmail.com](mailto:ruthmae.nagare@gmail.com) for further information.

## Eco Savvy celebrates £69,000 windfall

Eco Savvy Arran is one of seven island organisations across Scotland that will be sharing in a £600,000 funding boost as part of the second tranche of the Island Communities Fund.

It aims to support employment and community resilience through activities that deliver green economic recovery from the pandemic.

Receiving £69,741, Eco Savvy will expand its ebike project across Arran to provide healthy, green travel options for people in conjunction with a community larder project supported by the Co-op to cut down food waste and tackle food poverty in partnership with the community shop. A new mobile hub and outreach service will also be created.

The fund is part of a Scottish Government

investment of £30 million which will be used to deliver the National Islands Plan.

This was produced to encourage population growth and stem population decline, as well as delivering on net-zero ambitions, and it supports a green economic recovery from the ongoing impacts of the Covid pandemic.

Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) has also benefited from the Island Communities Fund when it received £63,000 towards its marine research boat in the first tranche of funding.

Other organisations which received funds are Mull and Iona Community Trust, Tiree Community Development Trust, West Harris Trust, Tagasa Uibhist (Uist Support), British Red Cross (for projects in Orkney and Shetland) and Foula Wool.

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## Co-op seeks new council members

The Co-op is to recruit new council members to have a say in the running of the group and its food stores, including the three on Arran.

Members' council leaders are especially interested in applications from members within under-represented societal groups, including those from ethnic minorities, candidates with disabilities and those from the LGBTQ+ community.

The Co-op National Members' Council works closely with the board and senior managers to ensure the voices of all 4.23 million active members are heard throughout the group.

Council representatives can serve a term between one and three years. The 100 people who make up the council come from all walks of life and include ordinary members; people who trade with Co-op's businesses; colleague members and members from

independent co-operative societies.

The council encourages all members to participate in Co-op governance as part of their Fairer World vision.

They also played a significant part in the Safer Colleagues, Safer Communities campaign, to lobby for a change in legislation on safeguarding shopworkers, through the use of CCTV, body cameras, product security and training to protect frontline teams.

To qualify to stand for election as a council representative, members need to have joined before January 2019 and have earned 500 membership points (the equivalent of spending around £10 a week on groceries in Co-op food stores) between January 3, 2021 and January 1, 2022.

Candidates can find information at [www.co-operative.coop/councilelection](http://www.co-operative.coop/councilelection) and can apply until noon on Friday February 25.

# Film buffs welcome back a Day in the Dark

After nearly two years of absence, Corrie Film Club's mini film festival, Day in the Dark, is making a return to Corrie and Sannox Village Hall.

Scheduled to take place on Saturday February 5, four films with the theme of 'strong women' will be shown with breaks for coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and supper.

First to roll after coffee at 11am will be Carl Theodor Dreyer's remarkable 1928 film, *The Passion of Joan of Arc*, a miracle of the cinema

charting the final days of Saint Joan with an outstanding portrayal of the heroine by Renee Maria Falconetti.

This will be followed by lunch at 1pm (soup, bread and cheese) and then the next screening at 1.30pm will be Julie Taymor's award winning film *Frida*, the true story of Frida Kahlo and her husband Diego Rivera, the larger-than-life painters who became the most acclaimed artists in Mexican history, and whose tempestuous love affair, landmark journeys to America, and outrageous personalities made them legendary.

At 3.30pm there will be a break for tea and cake followed by a high energy, high octane joyride with *Thelma and Louise*, Ridley Scott's exhilarating adventure with

Susan Sarandon, Geena Davis and Brad Pitt, considered by some to be the best road movie of all time.

The finale begins with supper at 6.15pm (baked potatoes with a variety of fillings) followed at 7.30pm with the funny, heart-warming and inspirational *Hidden Figures*, which depicts the story of the brilliant African-American women working at NASA who served as the brains behind the launch into orbit of astronaut John Glen. The visionary trio crossed all gender and racial lines and inspired generations.

Entry is free and open to everyone but organisers respectfully suggest those attending do a lateral flow test. Members and visitors are also free to dip in and out during the day as they please.



The Passion of Joan of Arc will start off an entire day of films and food at the Day in the Dark film festival hosted by Corrie Film Club.

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# Memorials honour Covid victims and medical staff

Two memorials, one at University Hospital Ayr and another at Belleisle Park Ayr, have been erected in honour of all of the people from Ayrshire and Arran who have died during the pandemic.

Appropriately, the memorials also pay tribute to medical staff who have worked throughout the pandemic and their invaluable contribution in the fight against containing, preventing and treating Covid victims.

In the grounds of University Hospital Ayr, a memorial tree and plaque was commissioned by Melanie Hunter from Ayr, who sadly lost her dad, John Cowan, to Covid in November last year.

Melanie said: 'I'm part of the Covid-19 Families Scotland support group, which is affiliated with the UK park, and we were hoping to hold a Christmas vigil.

'Unfortunately the tribute couldn't go ahead because of restrictions but I thought planting a tree would be a way of paying our respects to the people in Ayrshire and Arran who have passed away – they will never be forgotten.

'We also wanted to show the NHS staff that we appreciate all that



they have done and continue to do throughout the pandemic.'

In addition to the memorial, Melanie also raised more than £800 which she donated to the hospital volunteers in appreciation of their work.

Near the conservatory in Belleisle Park, Ayr, in a quiet location, staff from the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and High Dependency Unit (HDU) at University Hospital Ayr raised funds for a bench to provide a quiet place

for friends, family and colleagues to remember those who passed away during the pandemic.

The bench has a plaque that reads: 'In memory of all those lost during Covid. Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us every day.

'Donated by Ayr Intensive Care and High Dependency Unit.'

Jill Bulloch, staff nurse at University Hospital Ayr, explained the reasons for commissioning the bench.



She said: 'The staff at the Ayr ICU and HDU wanted to commemorate those lost during the pandemic and provide some comfort to their loved ones.

'With the support of local businesses we held a raffle to raise funds for a memorial bench.

'The bench has been placed in a beautiful spot within Belleisle Park and we hope that those who have lost someone during the pandemic will be able to take a few minutes when they pass to sit and remember them.

'We would like to thank everyone who helped with the raffle and

made it possible for us to pay a lasting tribute to those we've lost in Ayrshire and Arran.'

Further memorials and remembrance day events are likely to be erected and take place in the coming months with Tuesday March 23 being earmarked as a national day of reflection.

A minute's silence at noon and a national doorstep vigil will mark the anniversary of the UK's first Covid lockdown.

Prominent buildings and landmarks will also be illuminated across the UK.

Far left: The memorial tree and plaque at University Hospital Ayr which pays tribute to all those who lost their lives during the Covid pandemic; left: A place to remember and reflect, the bench commissioned by staff from University Hospital Ayr.

# Householders urged to comply with smoke and heat alarm law change

## But there will be 'no penalties for non-compliance'

All North Ayrshire householders are being reminded to ensure they have new interlinked smoke alarms in their home.

Every home in Scotland should have interlinked fire alarms by Tuesday February 1.

Interlinked means if one goes off, they all go off, so you will always hear an alarm wherever you are in your home.

A new set of standards for fire safety, brought in as a result of the Grenfell fire, will require a smoke alarm to be installed in the room used most for daytime living, for example in a living room.

Others will have to be placed in 'circulation spaces' like hallways or landings on every

storey of the property, and all smoke alarms must be interlinked and ceiling-mounted.

A heat alarm must also be installed in every kitchen, and a carbon monoxide detector should be placed in any property where there is a carbon-fuelled appliance like a boiler, fire or heater.

The legislation was originally due to come into force in 2021, however it was delayed by the Scottish Government because of the Covid pandemic.

Last week, housing secretary Shona Robison said the regulations were 'designed to protect and save lives' and there will be 'no penalties for non-compliance', stressing that people will not face penalties 'if they need more time'.

Advice Direct Scotland, which runs the national consumer advice service [consumeradvice.scot](http://consumeradvice.scot), has issued guidance to homeowners and landlords who are responsible for ensuring the new standards are met.

The organisation warned that if properties failed to meet the conditions it could impact upon the property's home report when it comes to be sold, and in some extreme cases home insurance policies could become void.

Colin Mathieson, spokesman for Advice Direct Scotland, said: 'The new regulations will come into effect next week following a 12-month delay.

'It will be for the property owner, such as the owner



Interlinked smoke alarms are required by law from next week. 01\_B04smoke01

occupier or the landlord, to ensure these standards are met and this will include

paying the costs of purchasing and installing any new equipment.

'We have put together a list of frequently asked questions for Scots, as well as information videos to help those required to make the necessary changes.

'It is important that everyone in Scotland checks if their property complies, as there is a potential impact on insurance policies, but the government has also made clear there will be no penalties for non-compliance.'

Consumeradvice.scot has also created short FAQ video guides to the new legislation, available at [www.consumeradvice.scot/smokealarm](http://www.consumeradvice.scot/smokealarm).

Anyone in Scotland who wants advice on consumer issues can contact consumeradvice.scot for free on 0800 164 6000.

Specialist advisers are available from 9am to 5pm, Monday-Friday.

# Jim sleeps under stars to raise cash for charity

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



## Whiting Bay man joins in Ayrshire Cancer Support's extreme camp out

A 69-year-old Whiting Bay resident will spend four nights camping out in the elements to raise cash for Ayrshire Cancer Support as part of their fundraising initiative called Extreme Camp Out for Cancer.

Jim Park decided to undertake the challenge starting on Tuesday February 1 until at least Thursday February 4 – his 70th birthday – as a way to raise money for a charity that is close to his heart and also to celebrate his milestone birthday.

As a regular camper, and a trustee of the Arran Community Land Initiative, Jim has set up a permanent canvas tent which is hidden in the forest on the community land in Whiting Bay.

The semi-retired engineer has regularly camped there over the last two years but at this time of the year - in the throes of winter - he has been hauling additional supplies up since Christmas to make his



Jim will celebrate his 70th birthday under the stars at the start of February. 01\_B03camping03



extended outdoor challenge slightly more comfortable.

Among his essential supplies is his self-made stove, made up of a 50-caliber ammunition tin, and a supply of wood which he will use for warmth as well as for cooking all of his meals on.

His bed will be a wooden cot which will keep him off the cold ground and a sleeping bag that is able to deal with winter conditions.

Jim will be joined for an evening by his son, Grant, and his grandson, Logan, who helped to build the structure and who will spend a night under the stars with his grandad.

The fundraising initiative has been supported by friends and family and Jim has received donations of wood and carpet from Tim Wilkinson of County Carpets to help outfit his outdoor accommodation.

The official Ayrshire Cancer Support Camp Out for Cancer event will take place on

**A homemade wood stove will help to keep Jim and his occasional visitors warm during the cold winter nights.**

**Jim Park will spend at least four nights in his canvas and wood tent in the forest in Whiting Bay to raise money for Ayrshire Cancer Support.**

Saturday February 19 when a number of brave souls will camp out in the middle of Ayr Racecourse to raise money for the charity that provides support for those in Ayrshire who have been affected by cancer.

Jim, however, will be doing his own fundraising challenge on Arran, along with hundreds of others who will be camping out in their own backyards, forests and favourite locations, and then collecting sponsorship donations for the worthwhile cause.

Jim has a fundraising page set up on JustGiving which can be found by searching for James Park on [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com) where he has already raised more than £500 for Ayrshire Cancer Support.

**Jim is pictured outside his warm and comfortable canvas and wood tent.**



# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 26, 2002

## Hundreds gather to protest against biofuels plant plan



Demonstrators of all ages: Bruno and Assya Baumgartner hold a banner, while young mum Ann Kitson and her two children lend their support.

One of the largest demonstrations seen on Arran in many years saw up to 200 people protesting against an application by Border Biofuels to build a pyrolysis plant at Hawthorn Quarry, Whiting Bay.

Anger reached fever pitch when the energy minister Allan Wilson and head of Forest Enterprise Bob McIntosh visited the island on a fact-finding mission.

The pair were met by a small but courteous party as they arrived off the 11am ferry but at the Dyemill site, protesters blocked their vehicle and there were angry confrontations as tempers flared.

By late afternoon though, tempers had calmed and the minister met with a few objectors in Whiting Bay Hall to address their concerns, most of them regarding public health.

It was certainly a day Mr Wilson will never forget as it is not often a minister is barracked on Arran. It is also a day that will be remembered on the island for many years to come.



Mrs Jean Young hands Allan Wilson a petition with more than 700 signatures on it. 01\_B04ABTYA04



Brian Wilson of the Royal Hotel makes a point about the biofuels proposal.

01\_B04ABTYA06



Andre Wiseman remonstrates with Allan Wilson who shows his complete dismay at the unexpected turn of events.

01\_B04ABTYA03



The minister's car is barracked by balloon-waving protesters. 01\_B04ABTYA05

Arran head forester Andy Walker asks demonstrators to stand back to allow energy minister Allan Wilson's car to pass on to the forest road. 01\_B04ABTYA01

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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

TOURS AND TASTINGS BY APPOINTMENT



## Every Day

Arran 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 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

## Sunday 30th 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](http://alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk), 7pm

## Monday 31st 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 1st February

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Brodick Church Hall, 2pm

Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.30pm

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

Bible Meetings (lateral flow test required), Ormidale  
Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8 pm

Junior Hockey, P1 - S3 (age 5 to 14 yrs), Ormidale  
Pavillion, Brodick, 6pm – 7pm

## Wednesday 2nd February

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

Hydrofit class 10.30 – 11.15am,

Auchrannie House Hotel Pool.

## Thursday 3rd February

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 4th February

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](http://alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk), 7pm

Live Music Crofters' Bar and Bistro, from 9pm

Coffee morning, Corrie and Sannox Village Hall.

10.30am to 12noon.

## Saturday 5th February

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



Dr Digambar Narzary proudly holds his award.

## Indian doctor wins Robert Burns Humanitarian Award

A doctor tackling human trafficking in north east India has won the 2022 Robert Burns Humanitarian Award (RBHA).

Dr Digambar Narzary won the prestigious award during a special online ceremony on January 25 to celebrate Burns Night.

The RBHA is supported by South Ayrshire Council and EventScotland and is the first event in 'Once Upon A Time in Ayrshire', a year-long programme that will celebrate Scotland's Year of Stories 2022, with more details to be announced soon.

Dr Narzary is the founder of an organisation called NEDAN which tackles the far-reaching problems that result from human trafficking.

Since its formation in 2004, it is estimated that NEDAN has rescued and repatriated around 6,100 girls. Thanks to Dr Narzary, these young women have been saved from horrors such as sexual slavery; bonded labour; forced marriage and the illegal trafficking of human organs.

The rescued children are mentored and encouraged to study, sit exams and gain further education. NEDAN has also established five drop-in centres in remote communities and, so far, 350 socially excluded children have accessed education through these centres.

The organisation has created a 'Destination Girls Campus' for rescued children, which provides counselling and support to those who don't have family. NEDAN also works directly with tribal communities to end violence against children. This has led to the establishment of Child Protection Committees in many villages.

On receiving the RBHA, Dr Narzary said: 'I am extremely happy and overwhelmed to be receiving this award on behalf of the NEDAN Foundation which has been working tirelessly for nearly 20 years to deliver ground-breaking work to help vulnerable children in Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) Assam North East India. This award will highlight the efforts of the NEDAN Foundation and will help bring the global community together to fight the human trafficking menace in North East India.'

Chairman of the RBHA judging panel and leader of South Ayrshire Council, Councillor Peter Henderson said: 'Congratulations to Dr Narzary. Without his intervention, thousands of children would have faced a future too terrifying to contemplate. He is shining example of a selfless humanitarian and thoroughly deserves this award. I would like to wish him, the other finalists and all the nominees the very best for the future.'

Also recognised at the award ceremony were fellow finalists Sister Lucy Kurien and Paul Kasonkomona.

Sister Lucy Kurien works in India and is the founder and director of Maher, a community and interfaith organisation for abused and destitute women and children.

Paul Kasonkomona is a human rights defender and executive director of the Centre for Tolerance and Peace, in Zambia.

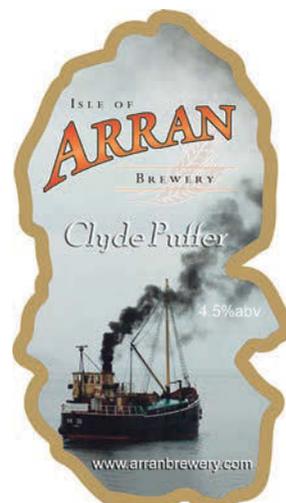
As well as the RBHA 2022 title, Dr Narzary receives the equivalent of 1,759 guineas (approximately £1,800) – a sum which signifies the year of the Bard's birth and the coinage in circulation at that time.

## Clyde Puffer

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

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

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



**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2021-22**

Notice is hereby given, following the recent cycle of ordinary community council elections, that the following have been appointed to serve as community councillors:-

Community Council	Community Councillors	Community Council	Community Councillors
Arran	Neil Arthur (Shiskine) Bill Calderwood (Brodict) Julia Graham (Lochranza) Robert Haddow (Whiting Bay) Jill Hunter (Brodict) Richard McMaster (Kilmory inc Kildonan)	Irvine	Bill Anderson Vicki Andrew David Bell David N. Dunlop Jacqueline Frew Tristan Lindsay Sylvia Mallinson David Phillips Jean Walker Rodger Walker
	Veronica Park (Lamlash) Thomas Young (Whiting Bay)	Kilbirnie & Glengarnock	Marc Scott James Smith Iain Walker Catherine Wigzell Allan Wright
Beith & District	Janet Barr Sandy Blackwood Michael Deadman Helen McNaughton Timothy T Roulston Brian Smith James Robert Waite Robert Winning	Kilwinning	Linzi Bingham Christina Hedley Colin Hedley Blair Kerr Ruby Kirkwood James Miller Andrew Robb Edward Somerville James Watson
Cumbræ	Donald John Campbell Lisa Christie Alex Harvie Stewart Kennedy John McHenry	Largs	Andrew Adair Jamie Black Robert Dippie Linda Grainey Patricia Perman James Perman James Phillips Linda Smith Robert Stevenson Margaret Wood
Dalry	Lynette Campbell John Higgins Myra Sim Peter John Stevenson Julie Wales Sheena Woodside	Skelmorlie	Helen Boyle Alison Galbraith Martin Kaarits Janice Rodger Stan Tallett
Fairlie	Alan Holden Rita Holmes Ian Hunter GD Malcolm Milne Marco Piva David Telford Mairi Wyatt	West Kilbride	Nicol Armstrong Graham Buckley Richard Campbell-Doughty George Cloughley John G. Lamb Henry Thomson

Elections for Stevenston Community Council will take place in 2022. There are currently no active community councils in Ardsrossan, Dreghorn, Girdle Toll and Bourtreehill, Saltcoats (which is currently the subject of dissolution proceedings) or Springside. More information on community councils and the election process (including how to initiate an election for areas without an active community council) can be found at [www.north-ayrshire.cmis.uk.com/north-ayrshire/CommunityCouncils.aspx](http://www.north-ayrshire.cmis.uk.com/north-ayrshire/CommunityCouncils.aspx) or by contacting the Senior Manager (Committee and Member Services) or 01294 324131 or at [committeeservices@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Craig Hatton, Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

**SANNOX CHRISTIAN CENTRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**2.00pm on Saturday, 12th February 2022**  
at **Sannox Christian Centre, Isle of Arran KA27 8JD**

The AGM will be combined with the launch of a display tracing the history of Sannox Church, part of the Church's 200th anniversary celebrations, and will be followed by a thanksgiving service.

All welcome. Doors open 1.00pm. Refreshments provided.

**For test & protect please register in advance by emailing [admin@sannox.org](mailto:admin@sannox.org) saying how many will attend.**

Scottish charity: SC042770 Company no. SC407228

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

**Auchrannie are looking for an  
enthusiastic person to join our busy  
Grounds Team.**

You should hold a valid driving licence, be physically fit and experience in mowing, strimming and/or ground works is preferred but not essential. This is a permanent position, can be full or part time, and would include some weekend work. Rate starting from £10.15 per hour dependent on experience.

For more information please contact 01770303329 or email [kaitken@auchrannie.co.uk](mailto:kaitken@auchrannie.co.uk).

**ARRAN DELIVERIES**

**Part Time Relief Driver**

This role is as a part-time delivery driver on the island as holiday cover for our current drivers.

The applicant must be island based.

The applicant must be flexible as there will be no fixed weekly hours in this role. Hours will vary from 0 to 40 hours per week.

Full and clean UK driving licence is required.

The role involves delivering and collecting from business and residential addresses around the island.

Occasional ferry journeys with company vehicles to and from the island.

Applicants must be physically fit for lifting parcels and two man deliveries.

Must have good communication skills for dealing with customers, fellow drivers and office staff.

A strong knowledge of the island streets, houses, villages and businesses is preferred.

Part-time hours: 0-40 per week

Please reply via e-mail to [info@arrandeliveries.co.uk](mailto:info@arrandeliveries.co.uk)

**ARRAN DELIVERIES**

**Delivery Driver Vacancy**

The role is as a full-time delivery driver working on the island as part of our delivery team.

The applicant must be island based and have a full clean driving licence.

The weekly hours will vary but will be an average of 35 – 40 hours per week.

The job involves delivering and collecting from business and residential addresses around the island.

The applicant must be physically fit for lifting parcels and two-man deliveries and have good communication skills for dealing with customers, fellow drivers and office staff.

A strong local knowledge of the island is preferred.

Please reply in writing only to [info@arrandeliveries.co.uk](mailto:info@arrandeliveries.co.uk)

**BANNER BANNER  
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT  
BANNER BANNER**

## 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 30th January**  
Lochranza & Pirnmill Churches-  
Service at Pirnmill Church at  
10.15am. Morning worship  
Shiskine Church at 12noon.  
Morning worship.  
Brodick Church at 10.30am.  
Morning worship.  
Corrie Church at 12noon.  
Morning worship  
The Food Bank continues from  
Brodick Church

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
Whiting Bay and Kildonan  
Church of Scotland  
Charity Number: SC014005  
**Sunday 30th 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 30th 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 30th January**  
The Presentation of the Lord  
Holy Communion at 11 am  
Revd Adrian Fallows  
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 30th January**  
Services will be held in the  
Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick  
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 30th January**  
Morning Service at 11am  
Free Church Building, Alma  
Road, Brodick  
All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF**  
SCOTLAND  
**Sunday 30th January**  
Morning service at 11 am  
Shiskine Free Church  
All welcome

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**Saturday 29th January**  
Vigil Mass at 5pm - Booking  
required  
**Sunday 30th 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 1st February**  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick,  
7pm - 8 pm  
Lateral flow tests are required now to  
use the hall.  
Meetings conducted by W Craigs  
and R Hughes  
Contact number is 07756836670.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship  
to share"  
**Sunday 30th January**  
Kilmory 10 am  
Lamlash Church 11.30 am  
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 Charity SC015072

## DEATH

**MACKINLAY**  
Mary (nee Strang)  
suddenly on 11th January 2022.  
Wife of the late Charlie, beloved  
mother, grandmother, mother in  
law, sister and aunt and  
known to many locally in Arran.  
Funeral service at St Bride's  
Church, Brodick at 11.30am  
on 4th February, committal  
thereafter at Lamlash Cemetery.  
No flowers please. Donations if  
wished to ArCaS (Arran Cancer  
Support) or Dystonia UK.

## PRIVATE SALES

## WANTED

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



An example of a pump track which is proposed for the Dyemill facility.

## New Arran mountain bike venue moves a step closer

**Continued from page 20.**  
communities' health and  
wellbeing. There are further  
opportunities to link with de-  
veloping mountain bike relat-  
ed healthcare programmes or  
in projects designed to support  
people with mental or physical  
health issues.'

The project has been pro-  
gressing since 2015, with the  
cost in the region of £388,769.  
There is widespread support  
from a number of anticipated  
sources of funding, including  
65 per cent of the capital total  
from SportsScotland Cycling  
Facilities Fund.

If the planning application  
is successful, work could start  
later this year with a huge  
opening festival planned for  
2023. The application is cur-  
rently under consideration by  
planning officials.



AHSMTBC members, trustees and mountain bikers at a trail maintenance and repair day prior to the pandemic.

## ARRAN BANNER GOLF

### Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday January 13, yellow  
medal. 1 Billy O'Connor 86-  
29=57; 2 Alan Smith 78-18=60  
BIH over Martin Wallbank.  
Magic twos: Hugh McLelland  
@14th.

Thursday January 20, yellow  
medal. 1 Derek Harrison  
77-19=58; 2 Andy Smith 83-  
19=64; 3 Ian Bremner 71-6=65.  
Magic twos: Ian Bremner  
@5th, Alan Smith @16th,  
Martin Wallbank @14th, Serge  
El Adm @4th.

Sunday January 23, Winter  
Stableford. 1 Alan Campbell  
76-14=62; 2 Derek Harrison  
83-17=65; 3 Alan Smith 84-  
18=66. Magic twos: Andy  
Smith @13th, Alan Smith  
@13th, Stuart McLaren @14th.  
Best scratch, Alan Campbell,  
76.

Fixtures: Sunday January 30,  
Winter Stableford, Noon draw.



Thursday February 3, yellow  
medal, 11am draw.

### Whiting Bay

Sunday January 23, Winter  
Cup round four. A total of 20  
players competed in the fourth  
round of the Winter Cup and  
in tricky weather conditions.  
There was only one scratch  
score in the 60s and only one  
magic two returned.

Since both these markers

were set down by club captain  
Stan Rainey, it will be no  
surprise he also won with the  
lowest nett score, four strokes  
ahead of his nearest challenger.  
Well played captain Stan, a fine  
round by any measure.

Result: 1 Stan Rainey (10)  
59 and lowest gross; 2 Dave  
Hackett (14) 63 acb; 3 John  
Pennycott (12) 63; 4 Cameron  
Bruce (27) 64. Magic two: Stan  
Rainey @17th.

Fixture: Sunday January 30,  
sweep, yellow tees.

### Corrie Golf Club

Monday January 17, Monday  
Cup. 1 Quintin Oliver 79-  
21=58; 2 John McGovern  
72-13=59 BIH; 3 Allan  
Napier 69-10=59. Magic  
twos Allan Napier @11th,  
Martin Wallbank @11th, R I  
MacMillan @10th.

Sunday January 23, Winter  
Cup Stableford, 24 played.

John May 22, 44 points acb;  
Colin Clements 11, 44 points;  
Kenny McMillan 11, 43 points.  
Fixtures: Saturday January  
29, 18 hole medal. Sunday  
January 30, Winter Cup  
Stableford. Monday January  
31, Monday Cup, ballot at  
noon.

### Machrie Bay

Tuesday January 18, Lochranza  
Hotel Cup. 1 Reuben Betley, 35  
BL6; 2 John Pennycott, 35; 3  
John Milesi, 30.

Tuesday January 25, Winter  
Cup. 1 Alex Morrison-Cowan,  
63, BIH; 2 Phil Betley, 63; 3  
John Pennycott, 67.

Fixtures: Tuesday February  
1, Winter Cup, tee off noon.

### Shiskine Golf Club

Wednesday January 19, ladies  
12 hole medal. 1 E Kelso  
60-15=45; 2 and scratch M  
Pollock 51-5=4.

# New Arran mountain bike venue moves a step closer

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Plans for a new £400,000 mountain bike venue on Arran have taken a step forward with a planning application submitted to North Ayrshire Council.

The application is for the formation of cycling trails for skills coaching, a floodlit asphalt pump track, a shelter, public bicycle repair station with a spares vending machine and a bike wash in Dyemill Forest outside Lamlash.

Most cycling disciplines, including balance bike, XC, enduro, gravel, DH, BMX and trials, would be catered for.

In a 47-page business plan, in addition to 44 related documents submitted with the application including landscape and ecological assessments and public survey data, the applicant laid out the project's community benefits for Arran.

As previously reported in the Banner, Arran High School Mountain Bike Club (AHSMTBC) is behind the proposals and club chairman Robert McNeice told planners: 'We intend to create an accessible, inclusive and safe, all-weather environment to grow and develop our island's cycling community, inspiring Arran to cycle.'

'The facility will encourage residents and visitors to engage in cycling in many forms, regardless of their background, gender, age, ethnicity or ability. With this new facility, our island's cycling community

will benefit from being able to grow and develop local competition and events in addition to providing a safe and accessible area for coaching and skills development.

'To ensure the recreational area is used by as many of our community as possible, the trails will be sympathetically designed and built around existing walking paths.

'We wish to create an area that allows for outdoor learning and development of the site's biodiversity and history. Our forest management plan will look to improve and preserve the diversity of the habitat and wildlife.

## Bikes

'In addition to the trails, we will provide access to a well-maintained fleet of bikes and helmets. There will be increased opportunity for people to enjoy their first taste of mountain biking in a safe and enjoyable environment with qualified leaders and coaches offering group sessions.

'It will provide an ideal area within cycling distance of Arran High School for young leaders and coaches to deliver mountain biking sessions to their younger peers. The link between physical activity, contact with the natural environment and improved mental and physical health is well established.

'By improving the accessibility of mountain biking on Arran, we can play a major role in improving our

Continued on page 19.

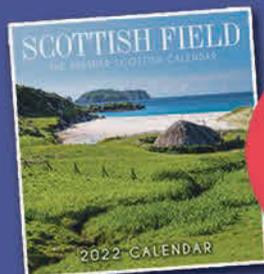


Above: A skills trail, similar to this one as pictured in the planning application, will be one of the attractions of the facility.

Left: Members of AHSMTBC stop for a group photograph on one of their regular training sessions around the island.



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