

## THE ARRAN BANNER



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## First tenants finally move into Brodick council homes

by Hugh Boag editor@arranbanner.co.ul



The first tenants will move into the new Brathwic Terrace council houses next week after lengthy delays.

Construction of the first new council houses built on Arran for 30 years has faced a series of setbacks, including the pandemic and ferry issues.

Some of the first residents had hoped to be in their new homes before Christmas, after repeated delays. However, they will finally get their keys next week.

Work first began on the £5 million development to build 34 homes in the autumn of 2019, with work originally scheduled to take 18 months. Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd is the main contractor.

Instead, residents of Springbank have had to endure more than two years of construction traffic which is set to continue with the development not due to be completed until the spring of this year. At the recent virtual meeting of Arran Community Council there was concern the new tenants were having to pay lengthy storage charges having bought furniture and items for their new homes.

## 'Show homes are not always possible as safe access to the site is required...'

It was also claimed that things were so behind schedule that tenants could not even get into their new houses to measure up.

This led to calls for a 'show home' of each style of house to be opened to allow the new tenants to see their homes.

There have been further claims that the new tenants will see their homes for the first time on the day they are given the keys.

A spokesman for North Ayrshire Council said: 'All dates provided to tenants are estimated and are subject to change as the nature of construction means that delays are often experienced at sites.

'The Covid-19 pandemic and disruption to the ferry service has added a layer of complexity to the situation. We appreciate that this is frustrating for tenants and sincerely apologise for any inconveniences that this may have caused.

'However, we can confirm that handover of keys to the first 14 properties in the development is set to commence on Monday February 7.

'The local housing office is confirming these arrangements with all of the first phase tenants.'

The spokesman added: 'Show homes are not always possible as safe access to the site is required prior to tenant viewings.

'Any future tenants who would like additional information about their property can contact the affordable housing team on 01294 324031 or email developmentandstrategy@north-ayrshire.gov.uk who will be happy to assist them.'



The village of Corrie, much like the rest of Arran, took a battering from storms Malik and Corrie over four days earlier this week. Thankfully the high winds and tempestuous seas caused little damage, other than a few windblown trees, one of which temporarily blocked the A841 outside the village. But this was quickly removed. Corrie was previously a regular embarkation point for steamers, so its relatively sheltered location allowed it to weather the storm admirably. A full storm report can be found on page 5.

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## Cooriedoon fight goes on

by Hugh Boag editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The voices of more than 1,000 people on Arran are being completely ignored, it was claimed this week.

A total of 1,068 people have signed a petition calling for the popular nursing home in Whiting Bay to be saved after North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership withdrew the contract to care for its 13 residents.

The plan is to move them to Montrose House, which only days after the contract was ended was granted nursing home status to allow some of the residents to move. The partnership says all those who wish to stay on the island will be able to do so.

However, the owner of Cooriedoon, Sandra Butler, who has not had her Care Inspectorate licence revoked, fights on and responding to her supporters this week said: "Thank you everyone for your incredible support and giving

voice to what the islanders want for their elderly. That in itself is a victory. Unfortunately North Ayrshire Council is not listening to any of us but at least we tried. Thank you from the Cooriedoon team.'

She is still seeking political support from the local MSP, MPs and councillors.

However, hope is fading, with a HSCP spokesperson insisting: 'I can categorically confirm the HSCP and North Ayrshire Council have no intention or plan to either take over or operate Cooriedoon Care Home and this is not an option that can be considered.'

And the Health and Social Care Partnership say the move to centralise residential and nursing care in Montrose House is part of a wider strategy.

A spokeswoman said: 'Prior to the pandemic, a significant amount of work was undertaken to develop the case for change and the future vision for health and care services on Arran. This is outlined in the Arran Integrated

Model, which now forms part of the Caring for Ayrshire programme of work across Ayrshire and Arran. 'We recognise workforce

'We recognise workforce in terms of recruitment and retention of staff to Arran as a key challenge and consideration as part of that model and are taking proactive steps to promote roles on Arran, including as part of the model having a route for career progression and an attractive and innovative service model.

'We are working with housing colleagues to address accommodation challenges and to ensure we capitalise on the integration of teams using the whole health and care workforce on the island to support the island population with high quality, resilient health and care services.

'North Ayrshire HSCP will refresh the Arran model to update it in light of recent investment in community-based services and the recent changes in relation to the provision of residential care services and there will be local engagement



Cooriedoon Care Home in Whiting Bay. 01\_B05carehome01

on the future model as this is refreshed. The updated case will be brought to the North Ayrshire IJB at a future date for approval. The HSCP has also recently invested additional resources in community-based support that will ensure people in the community can remain supported in their own homes for longer. This is an area that we recognise as a previous challenge in supporting people with alternatives to residential care.'





## Botanical drinks firm has big expansion plans

by Colin Smeeton editor@arranbanner.co.uk

An Arran drinks company is to embark on a major expansion programme at its Cladach base.

Arran Botanical Drinks, previously known as Arran Gin Company, is to expand its production and hospitality activities after receiving planning permission from North Ayrshire Council.

One or two shipping containers are to be brought on to the site to allow an expansion of production and add some much-needed storage. These will be clad in local wood, to blend into the site.

On the hospitality side the company plans to host small, regular food pop-ups inside and out.

It also wants to create bespoke talks and tasting events that are very different for Arran but would include items such as 'gardeners' question time'; flower arranging and weaving using local botanicals; showcasing local food and drink producers on Arran and in the west of Scotland which focus on local, sustainable food and drink; and story-telling around Cladach history and nautical themes.

Owner Stuart Fraser explained: 'As we saw last year

 even with the restrictions – there was a surge of staycation traffic coming to Cladach beach to enjoy a tour, tasting or cocktail.

'We think this year will be even busier, and we want to ensure we maximise the space and the experience.

'Added to that, we are on a big push to engage with locals and not just the tourist market.

'We now have the ability to add some space to grow our botanical drinks produc-

#### 'This is something fun, new and collaborative for the brands and their gin fans.'

tion; and can develop new experiences such as cocktail classes; more foodie pop-up partnerships; and developing the beach-bar which continues to grow in popularity, with its rustic calm vibe.

"The outdoor space is paramount to the operation, and Covid has taught everyone how to lean-in to the variable Scottish weather.

'For many, this fun little beach space rivals anything in the Mediterranean – perhaps not as warm – but definitely as nice!'

The expansion of the company will also see one of its products, Arran Gin, being

sold and marketed on the neighbouring islands of Bute and Cumbrae in collaboration with gin producers based there.

The partnership between the three organisations has resulted in a novel package of three 20cl bottles celebrating all three Clyde island gins.

Stuart continued: 'We got to know the lovely folk at Bute and Cumbrae last year, who, like ourselves, are fortunate to have tasty gins and beautiful coastal locations.

'I thought it would make sense for Arran, Bute and Cumbrae to work together to celebrate the A,B,C of Clyde island gins, and to encourage visitors to experience and engage with all of us.

'ČalMac is going to be selling the three-packs on their Clyde island routes, and we will be hoping to drive business to each others' locations as more people staycation and indulge in island-hopping.

'This is something fun, new and collaborative for the brands and their gin fans.'

Arran Botanical Drinks can be contacted on 01770 302513 or by email at info@arranbotanicaldrinks.com.

Bookings can also be made for bespoke cocktail parties for groups of up to 20 people, and tasting experiences and cocktail classes are also available.



Lemon balm and lemon verbena are sourced locally from Robin Gray in Whiting Bay, while, left, an all-natural ingredient, meadowsweet, is sorted and dried in the sun before being used in the beer and gin production.



Arran Botanical Drinks will be expanding its offering at its popular sea-side location at Cladach.



Stuart Fraser dries out some lemon balm in the desiccator.



A collaborative effort between Arran, Bute and Cumbrae has resulted in the novel ABC package of Clyde island gins.



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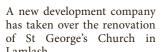
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## Lamlash church flats work to be completed by a new developer

by Hugh Boag ditor@arranbanner.co.ı



And it has pledged to complete the work converting the historic church into flats over the next 10 months.

Dunfermline-based Homes has bought the church building in Kilbride Road which has been on the market for nearly two years with a price tag of £1.25 million.

Work first started to convert the B-listed sandstone building in 2013 but, despite extensive works, London developer Barrie McCall was never able to complete the project which was put up for sale in February 2020.

Now Allan Gray, managing director of the fledgling Gray Homes, has bought the site and will now complete work on the eight flats in the church



itself as well as six more in the extension to the rear of the building.

He says the work should be finished by the end of the year and has promised to use as many local tradesmen as he can to complete the development, as well as previous workers at the site

He said: 'The Arran project is

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a great fit with our other small niche developments currently under way in Ayrshire.

'We were over on Arran last Friday to see it and can't wait to get started.'

The firm is presently

homes. It will also start work shortly on a new-build apartment complex on the site of the famous old Elms Court Hotel

in Miller Road, also in Ayr. St George's Church was built between 1885 and 1892 by the

St George's Church will now go ahead. by the Lamlash Free Church

The site of the former Elms Court Hotel in Ayr

Left: Work to complete the redevelopment of

which has just been cleared, above.

congregation until the union of the Free and United Presbyterian Churches in 1900, when it became the United Free Church.

From 1929 it formed one of the congregations of Lamlash Parish Church until its union with the Church of Scotland. It closed for worship in 1947.

Banner Week in, week out, your Arran

Price rise for

online, reporting the news and sport that is important to you. The last two years have been particularly trying for our communities and businesses

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due to Covid. We believe passionately in our communities - the people and what is happening in them. And it is important to us that you receive the best value for money.

Not only do we provide you with all the news and information about our community, our schools, and our organisations - more than any other newspaper – but during this pandemic we've kept you updated on the latest news and views, locally and nationally.

This week, the Arran Banner goes up in price to £1 - the first increase in three years.

Due to a rise in paper costs, we have had to make this difficult decision, but we believe the Arran Banner is worth it. And we hope you do too.

Thank you for your support and we hope you continue to enjoy reading your Arran Banner every week.

#### Route closed

Forestry and Land Scotland says the route to Glenashdale Falls from the Coffee Pot restaurant will be closed due to tree felling works.

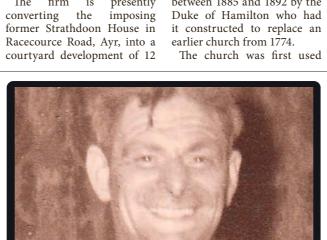
Glenashdale Falls will still be accessible using the track from Ashdale bridge but the Coffee Pot route and a small section at Bellfield will be shut while diseased larch trees are cleared.

Felling operations began on Monday and continue until Saturday February 19.

Saltwater Gallery

**Early Spring Show** 

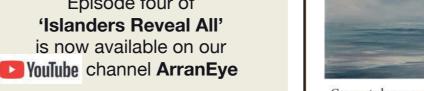
opens February 11th

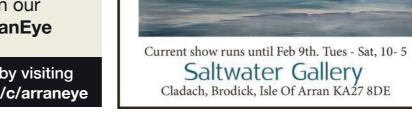


Episode four of 'Islanders Reveal All' is now available on our

Watch them all any time by visiting https://www.youtube.com/c/arraneye







### Arran weathers Storm Corrie

by Colin Smeeton editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran took a battering from an appropriately-named storm called Corrie this week, but escaped relatively lightly compared to other parts of the country.

Other than a few trees and many a lost roof tile, Arran weathered storms Malik and Corrie but they caused widespread travel disruption on the ferries.

The two named storms, Malik on Saturday and Corrie on Sunday through to Tuesday, left two people dead and thousands without power on the mainland, but on Arran, where the top gust recorded by arranweather.com was 77mph, weather-related damage was limited.

A fallen tree on Auchrannie Road blocked a small section of the road and caused a two-day blockage for residents while contractors worked to make the area safe.

The tree also uprooted a Scottish Water supply pipe but this was repaired by the company on Monday afternoon. Another tree, on the Balmoral Ride above Brodick Castle, was also felled by high winds. Thankfully, this posed no threat to people or property as the castle was closed for the duration of the weekend owing to the forecasted high winds.

Further up the coast, about a mile south of Corrie, a mature tree fell and blocked the A841 temporarily. North Ayrshire Council's roads department removed it.

In Lamlash, a resident had a mature tree topple over and rest on his roof but the damage was minimal with the tree just resting against the building, albeit precariously.

Arran sergeant Kevin Blackley reported that, other than the tree in Corrie and many small twigs and branches on roads all around Arran, there were no other weather-related incidents reported or attended by Police Scotland.

The two storms caused travel disruption though, with all return sailings from Brodick to Ardrossan cancelled on Saturday.

On Sunday, two sailings



Scottish Water workers investigate a broken water pipe while the fallen tree can be seen behind them. 01\_B05corrie02

made it from Brodick to Ardrossan and two returned to the island, but all sailings after the 9.45am sailing from Ardrossan were cancelled.

Service resumed with the 11.05am sailing departing Brodick on Monday, however, owing to deteriorating weather conditions and the forecast, the evening's sailings were cancelled.

All of Tuesday's sailings were cancelled as a result of the bad weather.

The service resumed the following day, Wednesday, with the 9.45am sailing from Ardrossan.

Meanwhile, the MV Glen Sannox, under construction at Port Glasgow, had to be given a helping hand by tugs to stay in her mooring on the Clyde during Storm Malik last weekend.

A Ferguson Marine (Port Glasgow) spokeswoman said: 'The shipyard has well-established practices for managing bad weather and storms which include additional mooring lines and, where necessary, support from tug boats. The ferocity of Storm Malik meant that tugs were called to MV Glen Sannox, but the vessel was never in any danger.'

The MV Caledonian Isles is due back in service on the Ardrossan to Brodick route tomorrow (Saturday).

Corrie was one name chosen by the British public who were given the chance to chose named storms in the UK, which began last September with Arwen, followed by Barra.

The next named storm will be called Dudley.



A Lamlash resident had a narrow escape when a tree toppled and leaned against his roof. Photograph: D Steel.



MV Hebridean Isles tied up at Brodick on Tuesday. 01\_B05corrie03

## CalMac ferry route break up plan 'just speculation'

Reports in the national press that Scotland's ferry network could be broken up with the most lucrative routes sold off to private firms has been dismissed as speculation.

Consultants Ernst and Young have been tasked by Scottish ministers to carry out a extensive review of delivery of ferry services in Scotland, known as Project Neptune, but this has been known since September last year.

This was said by a Saturday newspaper to include the 'unbundling of routes into smaller packages' as part of options for 'decentralisation' leading to concerns over the future of state-controlled ferry operator CalMac. The Ardrossan to Brodick route is one of the most lucrative, making it prime target if this were to be considered.

But one source told the Banner: 'It is inaccurate to pick one aspect of the brief for the consultants and suggest it is a likely outcome when the report in its entirety is yet to be finalised and has yet to go to ministers for consideration.'

A Transport Scotland spokesman said: 'The independent review of governance arrangements for Scottish Government lifeline ferry services will present a framework consisting of a range of options to the overarching objective

of effective, efficient and economic delivery of lifeline ferry services, to enhance passenger experience and support island economies.

'The consultants were given a wider remit to look at all possible options around delivery of ferry services.

'This included decentralised models. The report has yet to be finalised and no decisions taken on any of the options at this point.

'Once the final report has been considered by ministers, there will be engagement with all key stakeholders to ensure the most efficient and best value arrangement to deliver our key lifeline ferry services.'



#### **LETTERS**

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

#### A drop in the ocean

New tenants receiving their keys for council houses at Brathwic Terrace will undoubtedly feel a huge sense of relief when finally taking occupancy of their houses after much delay and uncertainty.

While it is heartening 14 new properties will be handed over in the first phase of the 34-house development, it has to be said this is a mere drop in the ocean and it will provide little solution to help solve Arran's housing crisis which grows by the day.

If Arran is to develop and prosper, it will need to be building houses at a far quicker rate to meet the needs of the workforce required to develop and maintain an island economy.

There can be no doubt the housing market on Arran is flourishing, with an ever-increasing influx of new island home owners - permanent residents, holiday homes or otherwise - but it is at the upper end of the scale.

Affordable housing, long-established as Arran's topmost inhibitor of growth and progress, is still sorely lacking.

And progress in building new affordable housing is painfully slow.

Along with talks of rapid affordable housing expansion projects, perhaps we should also be considering legislation or bylaws to help protect what little housing stock we already have?

#### Thought for the week

'Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.' **Hebrews 2: 18** 

#### **Cooriedoon closure**

Sir,

It is over two weeks since the Health and Social Care Partnership announced that it was withdrawing its contract with Cooriedoon nursing home, which was a shock that understandably raised a number of worrying questions about Arran's care services.

To help find out what was going on I had discussions with the HSCP and our local senior health and care professionals.

Much of what was said was included in last week's Arran Banner which helped to answer many of the questions being raised, but it also became clear to me that the decision was taken in conjunction with Arran's senior health and care professionals.

Any change to such a vital service in a small community is bound to cause disquiet.

It is, therefore, reassuring to know that the decision is supported by health and care professionals who all live and work on Arran and are very aware of the challenges that island life throws up.

Looking to the future, we have been given some ideas about how further developments will support and improve care services.

As these plans become reality I work to ensure that we are kept updated on what has been achieved. It is essential that we all have confidence that care services really do meet the needs of Arran's residents.

Yours

Timothy Billings Councillor for Arran

#### Scottish Ibiza

Sir,

I read with interest the letter from Dr Pat Jones; why do doctors always have to announce their employment status – you don't get letters from nurse Fred Smith or hospital porter Jane Bloggs

- anyway, the letter prompted me to consider the introduction of an Arran app which would allow visitors and locals to access information about local tradesmen.

It would list skills, qualifications, vaccine status and preferred radio channel with an indication of chosen volume settings.

Mr Jones claims that Arran could become a Scottish Ibiza; now let's not dismiss this out of hand – we would attract a lot more young people to balance out the existing ageing population and bear in mind that Ibiza is served by ten different ferry companies sailing from nine different ports so travel is pretty much guaranteed.

With regard to the 'gentleman' working on the Kildonan roof, I know the 'Kildonan Speed Slater' personally and can assure Mr Jones that he enjoys a variety of radio channels linked to the BBC.

As such he is aware of a future potential upheaval in his listening choices when the licence fee is abolished; he is therefore determined to finish his roof before 2027. So see you then Jonesy!

Yours,

Marc Head, Whiting Bay.

#### **Highway Code changes**

New changes to the Highway Code came into effect this weekend, resulting in both new and amended rulings for all road users. Here car insurance expert at Confused.com Alex Kindred explains some of the changes. Sir,

When changes are made to the Highway Code, it's important that road users familiarise themselves.

However, our latest research found that almost three in four (72 per cent) drivers found the new rules confusing, which can be concerning as these are put in place to help keep all road users safe. In particular, more than half (57 per cent) of drivers said that they felt confused about pedestrian priority at junctions and more than two in five (43 per cent) were also confused about the new rulings around the hierarchy of road users.

Almost two thirds (60 per cent) of drivers polled said that they never brush up on changes to the Highway Code themselves, with a further (61 per cent) believing the government should take responsibility in making road users aware of any changes.

But it's important that we're taking the time to keep up to date with the changes to keep our roads safe.

To capitalise on the active travel boom, the government has changed the Highway Code so that cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians feel safer on the road.

Some of the changes include:

A hierarchy of road users that prioritises at-risk road users like cyclists, horse riders and pedestrians.

Improving pedestrian priority on pavements when crossing or waiting to cross the road.

Guidance on passing cyclists and horse riders safely. This includes safe passing distances and speed. Cyclists also have priority at junctions when travelling straight ahead.

The government explains that, 'road users who can do the greatest harm have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger they may pose to others'.

The Highway Code change is part of a £338 million package to improve the infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians.

#### Sit-ups challenge

Sir,

It's the 125th anniversary of Blue Cross pet charity this year and I'm urging animal lovers to take part in its 3,125 sit-ups challenge to raise essential funds towards helping the thousands of sick, injured and homeless pets it cares for every year.

As an owner of four cats myself, I know how much pets mean to us. It is free to register and you'll get a free challenge t-shirt as a thank-you for taking part. Just raise whatever you can and complete the challenge during February.

You can do as many sit-ups per day as you like until you reach the target, but don't attempt to do them all at once! By taking part you won't only be fitter but it will really help Blue Cross. Visit www.bluecross.org.uk/3125-situps to find out more and register your interest today.

Yours,

David James MBE

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

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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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Amie Latona, society secretary, models some of the merchandise.



## Farmers' society releases branded merchandise

Arran Farmers' Society, organisers of the annual Arran Show, has released a range of clothing items which are available for supporters to purchase.

The range includes beanies and bobble hats, polo shirts, gilets and jackets featuring the society's logo which was designed by Catriona Tod of CTD Studio.

Amie Latona, secretary of Arran Farmers' Society, said: 'We are please to reveal the launch of our new society merchandise.

'The committee has been working hard behind the scenes to bring these to you and we hope you love them as much as we do.'

The release of branded apparel has been introduced to help raise awareness of the society

Arran Farmers Society chairman David Henderson, pictured wearing the branded clothing line. and to stimulate engagement with the community. Amie continues: 'If you are

Amie continues: 'If you are interested in farming and country living you can follow us on our Facebook page at 'Arran Show' and 'arranfarmerssociety' on Instagram.

'Visitors are also most welcome at our AGM on Tuesday February 22, at the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick at 7.30pm.'

A product list of all items is available, although prices may fluctuate slightly as orders will be made in batches and discounts will be provided by the supplier if bulk orders are made. Further details and ordering can be done by emailing Amie at secretary. afs@gmail.com.



A young member of the society, Lisa Henderson, of Kilpatrick Farm, with some items from the clothing range.

## Access to be restricted during survey at Lochranza Castle

There will be restricted access to Lochranza Castle while a survey is being undertaken on the national heritage site, Historic Environment Scotland has advised.

The survey is part of a nationwide inspection of more than 200 historic properties in response to the effects of climate change.

climate change.
Scotland's public heritage body, which cares for 336 historic buildings and sites, will be assessing the extent of deterioration of high-level masonry to ensure public safety. These surveys will inform a programme of repairs, conservation work, adaptation measures, interventions and new ways of caring for these historic assets.

Dr David Mitchell, director of conservation at HES, said: "The safety of staff, visitors and contractors is our priority and access restrictions at some sites will unfortunately be necessary.

'Our routine inspections



There will be restricted access at Lochranza Castle while a survey of the property is undertaken.

01\_B05lochranza0

are increasingly revealing the deterioration of building fabric at high level.

'While our changing climate is not the sole reason for deterioration, it has certainly accelerated it and brought the issue to a head.

'Historic properties are inherently fragile by their nature, often ruinous and standing at exposed locations.

'We face a constant battle against time and the elements.

'Across the world, cultural heritage assets are seen as barometers of change and they demonstrate the challenges for the historic environment and traditionally constructed buildings in the face of a changing climate.

'We are taking proactive action now to assess the nature and scale of the immediate challenge, and to explore a range of solutions and options.

'It is inevitable our approach to protecting historic buildings will have to change – we need to reimagine how we manage these historic and much-loved places.

'A range of solutions is needed, including repairs, investment and new and innovative interventions.'

#### END OF SEASON CLEARANCE

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#### All together

## Experts reveal the facts

Latest COVID-19 variant Omicron is highly infectious and still spreading. It is more important than ever we all get vaccinated to protect ourselves, our family and friends. Boosters increase our protection against the virus up to more than 88 per cent. We talk to myth-busting medical experts who answer your most frequently asked questions about these essential jabs

#### What protection does a booster jab give?

DR EMEKA Okorocha, who works in A&E in London and South East, said: "As a doctor, I have seen first-hand the effect COVID-19 can have on people. I want to remind everyone you can still get seriously ill with the virus, so it is so important to get the jab to keep ourselves, your friends and loved ones safe. COVID-19 is highly infectious. The vaccine remains our best line of defence against it. Omicron is highly transmissible and still has the potential to lead to significant numbers of people in hospital, so it's so important your immunity is topped up, and to come forward for your first or second dose if

you haven't already. We don't know what threat any future variants may pose, so if you haven't come forward for any jabs, it is absolutely essential you do so."

> 'BEST PROTECTION POSSIBLE': Dr Amir Khan





your second dose and 28 days after positive COVID test.
It's also not too late to get a first or second dose. Getting the vaccine has never been easier. Everybody aged 12 and over have now been offered two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. If you are 12 years old or above on the day the vaccinations are taking place in school, you will be able to access a vaccine. If you have not yet had a COVID-19 vaccine, it's not too late. Appointments for first doses of COVID-19 vaccines are still available for

'ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL': Dr Emeka Okorocha

'VERY CONFIDENT': Dr Jenny Jardine

anyone unvaccinated.



GET BOOSTED NOW

#### GET BOOSTED NOW

## about Omicron variant



#### Is it safe to have a booster jab if I'm pregnant?

London-based Dr Jenny Jardine from Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, who is also seven months pregnant and has had her COVID-19 booster jab, said: "Both as a doctor and pregnant mother myself, we can now be very confident the COVID-19 vaccinations  $provide\ the\ best\ possible\ protection\ for\ you$ and your unborn child against this virus. I would strongly call on all pregnant women like me, if you haven't had the vaccine yet, to either speak to your GP or midwife if you still have questions and then book right away today.'

#### Does a booster jab carry side effects?

Dr Okorocha said: "The COVID-19 vaccine is quick, easy and free. Don't worry about the side effects. Like all medicines, the COVID-19 vaccines may cause some side effects, but most of these are mild and short-term, lasting no longer than a week, and not everyone gets them. Also, if you weren't able to get your booster dose because you had COVID-19, remember to book your jab 28 days after you no longer have the virus."

#### How easy is it to get a booster jab?

Bradford-based NHS Dr Amir Khan said: "We know many people are juggling busy lives, which is exactly why the NHS is making it as easy as possible for you to get your booster. New walkin vaccination sites have been set up across the country, and existing sites have extended their opening hours, so as many people as possible can get jabbed as soon as possible. And, once you've had your vaccine, then why not encourage your friends and family to book as well, so we all have the best protection possible."

**How effective is a booster jab?** Prof Patel said: "New analysis of vaccine efficacy by UKHSA has found protection against hospitalisation from vaccines is good against the Omicron variant. When the reduced risk of hospitalisation risk of hospitalisation among symptomatic with a 67 per cent reduction up to 24 weeks

was combined with vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic disease, the vaccine effectiveness against hospitalisation was estimated as 88 per cent two weeks after a booster dose. One dose of any vaccine was associated with a 35 per cent reduced cases with the Omicron variant, two doses after the second dose and a 51 per cent reduced risk 25 or more weeks after the second dose."

covid-19.hscni.net/get-vaccinated

Everyone aged 16 and over 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



### **Exhibition traces Sannox Church history**

On Saturday February 12, Sannox Christian Centre will launch an exhibition tracing the history of the recently renovated Sannox Church.

The story is told in a series of display panels hung in the entrance area. Some of the panels have QR codes. Following the launch, these codes will give you access to more information, including some recordings, through your smartphone.

This is the first of the Project 200 series of events to be held during 2022, celebrating 200 years of the church and 10 years of Sannox Christian Centre.

There will be an opportunity to see the newly-refurbished church, including new chairs, view the exhibition, look round the freshly redecorated Dundarroch Cottage with its four ensuite bedrooms and hear more about the Project 200 plans.

During the afternoon, the centre will also hold its 2020/21 annual general meeting followed by a thanksgiving service, using for the first time



part of the Sannox Liturgy – a set of prayers and readings following the Celtic Christian style of worship. These have been developed especially for use by Sannox.

The final part of the afternoon will be a time of worship in song. There will be plenty of time for chat and questions over a cup of tea or coffee before and after the afternoon's programme.

The Sannox directors are aware of many people over the years who have contributed to the church's history and they want to hear stories of who they were and what they did – people such as Peggy Bulley and Iain Moles.

If you have any information, stories or could provide a 'pen portrait' of people who are part of the Sannox story over the last 200 years, please contact the team at the centre or by email.

Doors open at 1pm and everyone is welcome for all or part of this time celebrating the wonderful history and heritage of Sannox Church.

If you plan to be there, please register in advance to help comply with Covid 'test & protect' guidance by emailing admin@sannox.org



### **GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCE MARCH 2022 CLOSING DATE FOR AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP INCENTIVE**

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## Generous milk partnership donation boosts projects

A generous donation from the Arran Milk Partnership has provided Arran Trust with a healthy boost which will help to support environmental projects on Arran.

The Arran Milk Partnership – an alliance between Arran Dairies, Bellevue Cheese Company and the Murchie family at Tigheanfraoch Farm in Blackwaterfoot – donated £1,240.60 to the Arran Trust thanks to the sale of 24,812 litres of Arran milk in 2021.

The partnership was formed to help retain dairy farming on Arran and to allow Arran Dairies and Bellevue Cheese Company access to milk produced on Arran for their manufactured products. This has also allowed Arran milk to be made available to the community through milk dispensing machines with 10 machines now providing milk from Arran cows. Five pence from every litre of Arran milk sold through vending machines is donated to the Arran Trust which provides grants to local organisations to deliver conservation, environmental and heritage projects that benefit the Arran community



Katie Murchie of Tigheanfraoch Farm and Matthew Dobson of Arran Dairies with the cheque donated to the Arran Trust.

Sheila Gilmore, chief executive of the Arran Trust, said: 'A huge thank you must go to the retail outlets supporting Arran Milk and to everyone who purchased Arran milk last year – good for you, good for the planet and good for Arran!' Groups can apply for funding through the Arran Trust website – www.arrantrust.org – or by contacting info@arrantrust. org with any queries.'

## Book early for mountain festival

Walkers in Glen Rosa during last year's festival.

01\_B05mountain01

Booking lines are now open for the 2022 Arran Mountain Festival and places are already filling up fast.

This year's event will be staged from Friday May 13 to Monday May 16 with a whole range of events to suit everyone be they walkers, cyclists or runners.

Organisers say they are 'absolutely thrilled' to once again be able to offer coached mountain running sessions and guided mountain bike rides as well as their ever popular mountain walks.

Listening to participant feedback from last year, an 'Introduction to map and compass' session features again in the programme, and they have added a consolidation session too. New for this year is a poetry walk in collaboration with Scottish poet and

mountaineer Stuart Campbell, a well-kent face at the Arran Mountain Festival.

Organisers are also excited to be able to bring back old festival favourites such as the Holy Isle mountain walk, and the exhilarating A'Chir ridge scramble, after pandemic restrictions to the festival last year.

The not-for-profit, volunteer-run festival works hard to offer guided mountain activities at low prices, promoting responsible, inclusive, wellbeing and health-boosting outdoor access, showcasing Arran's incredible mountains and wildlife.

To be able to achieve this, the festival relies on the support of the Arran community in the form of volunteer organisers and activity leaders as well as sponsorship.



The Screen Machine will operate at 75 per cent capacity.

## Screen Machine back on Arran this month

The Screen Machine's schedule, including its February visit to Arran, is set to go ahead with minimal disruption thanks to safety measures and a contingency plan in case of any Covid-related interruption.

With capacity returning to 75 per cent of its full complement, there will be 52 tickets available for each screening – and a further eight at the door – when it visits Arran between Friday February 18 and Monday February 21.

Films to be shown have yet to be confirmed but are expected to include Steven Spielburg's new version of West Side Story and Kenneth Branagh's acclaimed film Belfast.

In addition to the reduced

capacity, which will allow social distancing, face coverings will be worn and the air filtration system will be utilised.

Screen Machine operators Iain and David also have a rigorous cleaning regime for between screenings, and will end each day by filling the cinema with a sanitising fog that cleans every surface, nook, and cranny, leaving the area fresh and deodorised.

They also taking regular lateral flow tests and in the event of either one of them showing symptoms all screenings for 48 hours will be cancelled and tickets refunded.

This will allow enough time for the other operator to come out to the machine and to resume the service.



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BREWERY

#### Arran AFC hope for good weather to retain top three league spot

Following the postponement of two matches, against Troon Town and Irvine Sports Bar, Arran AFC's next league fixture will take place this weekend - if favourable weather allows the team to travel to the venue.

The Arran team, still fresh from their winter break, will face Glencairn Thistle at Ardeers Juniors Stadium on Sunday February 6.

Both of the postponed matches will be rescheduled and the dates announced as soon as the teams agree on a mutually suitable date.

Despite playing only 10 games this season, four less than Ayrshire Sunday Amateur Football Association's league leader Grange, the Arran side are still sitting in a tied third place with 24 points, eight wins and two losses.

However, the pressure is on the Arran side as Craigie United, which shares third place with Arran, is also scheduled to play this weekend against Bobby's Bar, and the outcome of both games will



affect the top three places in the league table.

Arran AFC's ability to defend their top-three position will rely on the ferry being able to sail.

Weather-related disruption is always a factor considered by the team and, as it stands, the forecast for Sunday appears grim with gusts of 47mph forecast.

Anyone wishing to support the team is welcome to attend Ardeers Juniors Stadium and to shout support from the sidelines.

Kick off is at 1pm.

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)

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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 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

#### **Sunday 6th February**

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 alchoholicsanonymous.org.uk, 7pm

#### **Monday 7th February**

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 8th February**

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), Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8 pm

ISLE OF

#### **Wednesday 9th 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

#### **Thursday 10th 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 11th February

Eco Savvy Community Shop,
Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Zoom Meeting, go to
alchoholicsanonymous.org.uk, 7pm
Live Music Crofters' Bar and Bistro, from 9pm
Early Spring Show, Saltwater Gallery, Cladach, Brodick

#### Saturday 12th 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
Valentine's Ceilidh, Whiting Bay Hall, 8pm



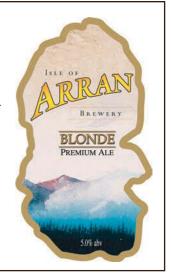


#### Arran Blonde

The Isle of Arran Brewery's Blonde Premium Ale is the brewery's flagship ale, and is the island's most awarded beer, from its first award in the year of the brewery's founding, 2000, as Ayrshire & Galloway CAMRA's Beer of the Festival to winning Gold in the World's Best Pale Golden Ale category at the World Beer Awards in 2020.

You can find a full list of awards at www.arranbrewery.co.uk Blonde is a light, refreshing beer with a delicate, floral hop aroma, with a well balanced finish and good character.

The beer is available at a few select pubs on draft and throughout the island in bottles, including at the brewery shop at Cladach, Brodick



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**HGV MECHANIC - BRODICK GARAGE** (Full time position)

#### WORKSHOP ASSISTANT- BRODICK GARAGE

(Full time position)

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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.

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Applications can be sent to reservations@kinlocharran.co.uk or by telephoning 01770 860 444

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICES**

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 25.02.22. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 Regulation 20(1)

21/01232/PP; Site To East Of Rentoul, Silverburn Road, Whiting Bay, Brodick; Erection

21/01233/PP; Meadowbank, Shiskine, Brodick, Ayrshire; Change of use and alterations to barn to form dwellinghouse and art studio.

21/01215/PP; Site To South Of Bellevue Cottage, Mid Mayish, Brodick, Ayrshire; Erection of detached two storey dwelling house.

21/00756/PPM; Site To South East Of Riding Arena Glenkiln Farm, Lamlash, Brodick, Ayrshire; Formation of cycling trails for skills coaching, floodlit asphalt pump track, installation of a shelter, bicycle repair station with spares vending machine and bike wash facilities.

22/00055/PP; Ardlui Cottage, Kings Cross, Brodick, Ayrshire; Erection of detached two

Craig Hatton Chief Executive Cunninghame House IRVINE KA12 8EE



#### Rewarding careers with North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership

Health and social care teams on Arran are recruiting for a number of highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals who could make a real difference to people's lives. NAHSCP has a number of exciting and rewarding opportunities available for those with experience, as well as those looking to start a career in health and social care.

Wherever you are based, whether that be at Arran War Memorial Hospital, Montrose House, Arran Medical Group or in the community, you will become part of a fantastic team providing high quality care and support to people on the island.

<u>Care at Home:</u> Day and overnight shifts available. Full training provided and flexible hours available. Contact Julie Thompson on **07826 892 059** or Fiona McMaster on **01770 600 742** for more information, or apply online at **myjobscotland.gov.uk** 

<u>Advanced Nurse Practitioner:</u> Band 7. Dual role, with 15 hours per week focused on the management of the Practice Nurse Team. For more information, contact Fiona Horbury, Practice Manager, Arran Medical Group, on **01770 600 516**, or apply online at **jobs.scot.nhs.uk** 

**Nurse Practitioner:** Band 6. Arran War Memorial Hospital. For more information, contact Ailsa Weir, Senior Charge Nurse, on **01770 600777**, or apply online at **jobs.scot.nhs.uk** 

<u>Community Equipment Store Technician:</u> Supporting people in the community with their equipment needs. Training provided. For more information contact Craig McCartney, Operations Manager, on **01770 600 777,** or apply online at **jobs.scot.nhs.uk** 

<u>Clerical Officer:</u> Successful candidates will join the team supporting Arran War Memorial Hospital and Social Services. For more information contact Craig McCartney, Operations Manager, on **01770 600 777**, or apply online at **jobs.scot.nhs.uk** 

<u>Care Home/Community Nurse:</u> Band 5. Role based in Montrose House, with an additional community nursing element. This post has an additional allowance of 15%. For more information contact Morven Ross Bain, Unit Manager, on **01770 302 121**, or apply online at **jobs.scot.nhs.uk** 

**Social Care Worker:** Grade 6. Full time, based in Montrose House. For more information contact Morven Ross Bain, Unit Manager, on **01770 302121**, or apply online at **myjob.scotland.gov.uk** 

<u>Care Home Support Workers:</u> Grade 4, based in Montrose House. These entry level posts will give you the opportunity to learn and train on the job. To find out more, contact Morven Ross Bain, Unit Manager, on **01770 302 121**, or apply online at **myjob.scotland.gov.uk** 

<u>Deputy Unit Manager:</u> Based in Montrose House. Role for an experienced practitioner with a passion for caring for older people. Must have experience of managing a team. For more information, contact Morven Ross-Bain, Unit Manager, on **01770 302 121**, or apply online at **myjob.scotland.gov.uk** 

**Facilities Assistant Cleaner:** Part time and full time roles available to assist with the provision of high-quality cleaning at Montrose House. To apply online, visit **myjobscotland.gov.uk** 

**GP:** Role comprises of day to day GP duties, combined with provision of medical cover for Arran War Memorial Hospital and A&E, as well as GP out of hours provision and extra services such as police surgeon. For more information, contact Fiona Horbury, Practice Manager, Arran Medical Group, on **01770 600516**.

To watch a video explaining why Arran is a great place to live and work, visit https://vimeo.com/561275027



The Arran Banner
Friday 3 February 2022

SPORT 15

#### 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 6th February Lochranza & Pirnmill

ChurchesService at LochranzaChurch 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 6th February
Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated 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" Scotttish Charity SC015072 Sunday 6th February

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

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 6th February
5th 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 6th February
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 6th February

Morning Service at 11am Free Church Building, Alma Road, Brodick All welcome

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sunday 6th February

Morning service at 11 am Shiskine Free Church All welcome

#### HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday 5th February Vigil Mass at 5pm -Booking required Sunday 6th February 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 8th 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.

#### **BANNER**ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### DEATH

MCCRONE - Robert. Passed away peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Saturday, 29th January 2022. Bob, aged 92 years, beloved husband of the late Audrey, much loved father of Fiona and Norman, loving grandfather of Alexandra and Rory and great grandfather of Beth. Sorely missed by all his family and friends.

DAVIDSON - Henry (Harry) 87. On January 20th. at Hairmyres Hospital, surrounded by family "Captain H" left us. Adored husband and soulmate of Norma and a much loved and respected father and grandfather to his family and stepfamily. His cortege will leave Alma Park at approximately 11.15 on Friday, February 11th via Springbank and the Co op Brae before making his final journey on his beloved Brodick seafront Brodick Church. The service will be at 11.30 before committal at Sannox cemetery. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Scottish Charity Air Ambulance or Arran Mountain Rescue Team. Rest in Peace Harry



Runners set off in the Ormidale 10k race which last went ahead in 2019. 01\_B05ormidale01

### Ormidale 10k entries open

Entries are open for the popular Arran 10k race, sponsored by the Ormidale Hotel.

The Ormidale 10k run, on Sunday April 24, is organised by Arran Runners and licensed by Scottish Athletics.

The event, with a minimum entry age of 16, takes place entirely on flat public roads. Competitors start at Ormidale

Pavilion and follow the A841 north along the coast, before returning along the same route to finish at the start line.

Trophies will be awarded after the race to the first male and female athlete. The first local male and female will also receive shields, as will the first team of three, the first under-20 male and female, as well

as numerous other age-related categories.

The 10k event, which has been going for more than 30 years, is expected to be well attended. The last two races were cancelled as a result of the covid pandemic. This year's race is limited to 150 runners.

Race organiser Tommy Gilmore, of Arran Runners, has also revealed it again intends to host three trail races introduced last year in Brodick, Lamlash and Whiting Bay. Further details about these events will be made available later. Bookings for the Ormidale 10k can be made at https://www.sientries.co.uk/event.php?elid=Y&event\_id=9426 up to Friday April 22.

#### **ARRAN BANNER GOLF**

#### **Lamlash Golf Club**

Thursday January 27, Yellow Medal. 1 Ian Bremner 66-6=60; 2 Alan Smith 81-19=62 BIH over Andy Smith. Magic twos Ian Bremner @4th and 13th.

Sunday January 30, Winter Stableford. 1 Hugh McLelland 38 points BIH; 2 Martin Wallbank 38 points; 3 Derek Harrison 37 points. Best scratch Dougie Macfarlane 34 points to stableford.

Magic twos Dougie Macfarlane @5th, Graeme Andrew @18th.

Fixtures: Sunday February 6, AGA Winter League at Corrie. Thursday February 10, Yellow Medal. Draw at 11am

#### **Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Sunday January 30, Yellow Tees Stableford. A total of 13 played on the last Sunday of January. In the face of strengthening winds, scoring was steady rather than spectacular with 12 players returning 30 points or more.

Everyone made it back to the clubhouse before Storm Corrie struck and Douglas



Auld came out top with a score of 37 points to win by 2. 1 Douglas Auld 17, 37 points; 2 Gus MacLeod 14, 35 acb; 3 Jamie Macpherson 3, 35. Magic two Grame Crichton @17th.

Fixtures: Sunday February 6, AGA Winter League at Corrie.

#### **Brodick Golf Club**

Sunday January 23, Winter Cup Stableford, 24 played. 1 John May 22, 44 points; 2 Colin Clements 11, 44 points acb; 3 Kenny McMillan 11, 43 points.

Sunday January 30, Winter Cup Stableford, 24 played. 1 Jimmy Armit 14, 45 points; 2 Bob McCrae 8, 42 points acb; 3 Ian Shand 19, 42 points acb, 4 Bill Donaldson 13, 42 points.

Fixtures: Sunday February 6, AGA Duncan Trophy at Corrie Golf Club. Sweep at Brodick.

#### Corrie Golf Club

Monday January 31, Monday Cup. 1 A Pattison nett 58; 2 A Napier nett 60. Scratch A Pattinson 66. Magic two J McGovern @1st and A Napier @10th.

Fixtures: Saturday February 5, 18 hole medal. Monday February 7, Monday Cup. Ballot at 12.30pm

#### **Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday January 25, Winter Cup. 1 Alex Morrison-Cowan 74; 2 John Pennycott 75; 3 John Milesi 79.

Fixtures: Tuesday February 8, Winter Cup. Tee-off noon.

#### **Shiskine Golf Club**

Saturday January 26, ladies Stableford. 1 E Kelso 25 points BIH; 2 E Henderson 25 points; 3 J Turnbull 24 points.

## Arran Ranger Service seeks volunteers to help plant native trees in Glen Rosa

Arran Ranger Service is looking for volunteers to help plant around 40,000 native trees in Glen Rosa as part of an initiative working towards recreating some of the woodland that has disappeared over hundreds of years due to overgrazing.

The planting of trees will take

place over a number of dates with the next one scheduled for Wednesday February 9, from 9.30am to 4pm. Registration is essential.

This can be completed online by searching for 'tree planting in Glen Rosa' on the booking site at www.eventbrite.co.uk A good level of fitness and surefootedness is required as the day involves a 35 minute walk-in up the glen, then another 200m or so off-path and up a steep slope, across rough terrain, to the planting site, all while carrying trees and spades. The minimum age

to take part is 16 and under-18s need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. Planting will not take place if weather conditions are unsuitable. Further dates and information can be found by calling the Arran Ranger Service on 01770 302462

## THE ARRAN

## Arran forge friendly links with Greenock Morton

#### **HOCKEY**

#### Greenock Morton Arran Ladies

Arran Hockey Club's senior ladies enjoyed a friendly match against Greenock Morton, featuring great play and sportsmanship.

Greenock Morton, recognising Arran only had 10 players, kindly offered to 'loan' players throughout the match. This was allowed as all matches this season in the west district ladies league are participatory and non-competitive.

The teams and umpires agreed to play a match of quarters, instead of halves, in line with the structure now used in national and international

The friendly bonds did not just extend to the opposition team, with a number of mother/daughter duos evident in the Arran side.

Kaitlyn Haddow made her debut for Arran, supported by mum Suzi Haddow, Arran's new goalkeeper. Lorraine and Kayla Hewie and Faith and Annie McKelvie were another two mother/daughter duos on the team sheet.

Arran's remaining numbers were made up of Jenny Crockett, Lee Reid, Helen Thomson and Pauline Reid the latter of whom is usually the team umpire and who was playing her first proper match in more than three years.

Greenock Morton came out



strong, but their first attempt on goal was thwarted by a spectacular save from Suzi who batted the high ball away with her right-hand pad.

Arran came back on the attack and it wasn't long before they got their own shot on goal – a wonderful reverse flick by Lorraine that unfortunately just missed the mark.

By half-time, Greenock Morton were 3-0 up but the atmosphere on the pitch remained energetic, friendly and fun. Each lady from Greenock Morton who played for Arran gave their absolute all, playing as though they were a regular island player.

Arran's only goal was scored by Lorraine and the game ended 6-1 to Greenock. However, all the players departed the pitch in high spirits.

The friendly nature of the match quickly led to talks of Arran hosting Greenock Morton on the island for a friendly and social in the summer. A club spokeswoman said: 'Rarely do you find a team that you instantly connect with, who you have a laugh with and know that you would happily play time and time again.

'The endorphins felt coming out of a game is exactly why many of us get into hockey in the first place.

'Arran ladies thank Billy Dunlop for giving up his time to umpire this match which allowed some of our players to enjoy time on the pitch.

'Thanks also to Greenock Morton for their fantastic sportsmanship.'

The team voted goalie Suzi 'dame of the game', in recognition of some heroic saves and an overall outstanding performance in what was only her third match.

Arran ladies are away to Dumfries tomorrow, February 5, but will be back on home soil on February 12 when they play Troon with a 11.30am passback. All welcome.

Demonstrating the friendly nature of the match, **Greenock Morton and Arran** players pose for a group photograph.



#### SCOTTISH CALENDARS 2022







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