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Pages 14-19

Fenders repair pledge to end early ferry disruption

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Urgent repair works are to be carried out at Ardrossan harbour in a bid to end the repeated cancellation of the first daily ferry to Arran.

New figures show nearly a third of the 7am journeys from Ardrossan to Brodick have been cancelled in the last 15 months.

But this week Peel Ports agreed to spend £100,000 on maintenance and repair at the harbour which will require closure of the Arran berth, meaning possible further disruption of the lifeline service.

The cash injection was announced at a virtual meeting of the Ardrossan Harbour Task Force on Tuesday, set up to deliver the multi-million-pound re-development of the harbour, which has not met since February.

The issue of the poor fenders was raised at First Minister's Questions by Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson last week.

This followed concerns raised by a number of Arran constituents and the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee of service cancellations and basic maintenance being neglected by Peel Ports.

Mr Gibson said: 'I am delighted that my question to the First Minister has prompted

'It is vital necessary repairs are now carried out as soon as possible with the minimum disruption to services'

swift action. The 7am service is vital to ensure that goods, contractors and workers can arrive on Arran in good time. Over the last 15 months 29 per cent of these sailings have been cancelled and while 73 of these cancelled sailing were due to adverse weather, 36 were not.

'It is vital that necessary repairs are now carried out as soon as possible, with

the minimum disruption to services achievable following consultation with the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee and due notice subsequently given to ferry users.'

In his reply to Mr Gibson, Transport Minister Graeme Dey said: 'As you will be aware any disruption or cancellations to ferry services is a matter for the operator; CalMac Ferries Ltd (CFL).

'CFL has advised that the cancellation of the 7am sailing was weather dependant and only occurs on those days where the vessel has been unable to berth at Ardrossan overnight.

'Where the wind direction is anything westerly, it is unsafe for the vessel to berth at Ardrossan's main pier, and in these circumstances she carries out an additional sailing in the evening from Ardrossan, which does mean she is out of position and unable to carry out the 7am from Ardrossan to

Continued on page two.

Arran given a battering from Storm Barra



Arran had to batten down the hatches on Tuesday as Storm Barra gave the island a battering. All ferries were cancelled by the strong easterly winds and widespread flooding was reported around the island. Here in Whiting Bay two Post Office vans, a bus and a van find themselves caught in high tide which completely flooded the main road. Photograph: Andrew Dickie

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Action group's seat at the table denied

Claims by the Arran Ferry Action Group they have been recognised as a stakeholder for matters regarding the Arran ferry service with the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland have been officially denied.

It follows a statement made by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon at First Minister's Questions at the Scottish Parliament last week.

The First Minister was responding to a question from Arran MSP, Kenneth Gibson, when she stated: 'I will ask the Minister for Transport to write to Kenny Gibson with more detail about those investments and the work that we and Transport Scotland are doing with stakeholders, including Peel Ports Group, North Ayrshire Council and the Arran Ferry Group, to improve services and infrastructure specifically on the Arran route.'

As a result the Arran Ferry Action Group released a statement which said: 'We are absolutely delighted that after two

and half years of campaigning on behalf of the residents and ferry users of Arran, we have finally been granted a seat at the table.'

But their hopes were dashed after Transport Scotland admitted there had been a mistake in the Scottish Parliament's draft official report in referring to the Arran Ferry Action Group.

A Transport Scotland spokesman said: 'There was an error in the Scottish Parliament's draft official report. The Arran Ferry Committee is the recognised body on the island for engagement on ferry issues.'

However, the action group are refusing to accept this, with a spokesman saying: 'Transport Scotland cannot correct a statement made by the First Minister; only she can, according to the rules.'

Turn to page six.

HAVE YOUR SAY
emaileditor@arranbanner.co.uk

Storm Barra sees Arran's coastal roads take beating

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Coastal areas on Arran took a severe battering last Tuesday when Storm Barra moved in from the Atlantic, bringing with it high winds and unsettled conditions.

Southern Scotland, Northern Ireland and England all bore the brunt of it, however, on Arran the effects were mostly high winds, which, when combined with an afternoon high tide, saw road overtopping and waves breaking on to coastal roads.

Flooding also occurred in many areas, causing travel disruption, with Whiting Bay being particularly hard hit around Montrose Terrace where the road was under a few feet of water and gardens on the opposite side of the road starting to flood. Brodick's



Taken shortly before high tide the Brodick putting green is completely submerged. 01_B50Storm02; Rising floodwater completely covers the road in Whiting Bay and starts to seep into gardens. Photograph: James Climie.

putting green and the Co-op car park also experienced flooding and most of the village green near the children's play park was submerged.

Thankfully, for the most part, Arran emerged unscathed with the exception of a few vehicles which were stranded

in the floodwater at Whiting Bay. The new boardwalk at Fisherman's Walk survived the battering, however one section of around five metres separated slightly from the underlying structure.

By Wednesday morning council cleaning crews were

out in force doing clean-up operations, removing seaweed deposited on grassy areas along the Brodick front and in other areas where detritus was washed ashore by the storm waters.

Storm Barra, named by Met Éireann, was far less damaging than Storm Arwen which was the first named storm of the season, and which brought destructive winds and widespread damage to trees all over the UK last week.

Fenders repair pledge to end disruption to early ferry

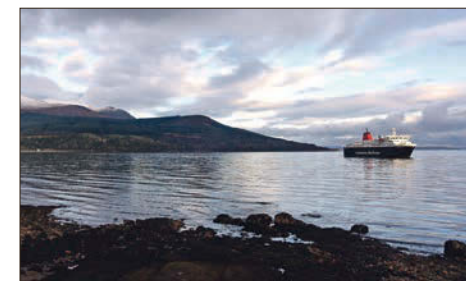
Continued from page 1.

Brodick. This is unfortunate but necessary to ensure the safety of crew, the vessel itself and the infrastructure at Ardrossan.

'In addition CFL reviewed the service data and have advised that since September 2021, of the 374 scheduled 0700 ex Ardrossan sailings, 109 have been cancelled. Of this 73 were cancelled with a reason code of adverse weather or shore issues (which would be what the Port would record these cancellations as).

'It is not possible therefore to determine from the stats we have in hand whether it was specifically the fender issue that was the cause as it may be that the vessel would have had to reposition and cancel anyway as a result of the weather.

'It is the responsibility of the statutory harbour authority to maintain its asset and ensure it remains fit for purpose. CFL continues to engage with Peel Ports on any operational issues when they arise and, at the December 7 meeting of the Ardrossan Task Force, Peel Ports advised that around £100,000 worth of maintenance/repair work



The MV Caledonian Isles arrives in a wintry looking Brodick on Wednesday - the first ferry since Monday.

01_B50fenders01

will be undertaken on the port infrastructure in the near future. This will require the Arran berth being closed and Peel engaging with CFL to arrange this outage period and where practicable minimise any further disruption to ferry services on the route.

'Transport Scotland continues to meet with representatives from the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee to discuss any service and timetable related matters, as well as ongoing discussions with Peel Ports and North Ayrshire Council on project development.

'You will be aware that the Scottish Government has announced investment of £580m in ports and vessels to support and improve Scotland's ferry services over the next five years, as part of our wider Infrastructure Investment

Plan, unveiled in February. This includes the Ardrossan harbour redevelopment project and other associated infrastructure works at Troon port to provide support for services during the Ardrossan construction period and use as an alternative mainland port for disruption to CFL services.

'Discussions continue with Peel Ports Group on the project delivery options and related commercial agreements. These are challenging discussions but a resolution must be found to deliver improvements in a practical and cost effective way, reflecting the needs of all of the partners involved.

'We remain committed to finding a sustainable and appropriate long-term solution to secure the best use of Ardrossan for connections to Arran.'

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Big funding boost sees trust buy boat for marine research

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A leading environmental group has secured funding of £200,000 to take their marine research to the next level.

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is one of the first recipients of the Scottish Government's new Nature Restoration Fund and will use the windfall to help purchase a boat that will be used for surveys, education and scientific research.

The funding award announced by NatureScot is the first part of two rounds of awards that will total £10 million for projects across Scotland that will restore nature, safeguard wildlife and tackle the causes of climate change.

The boat, which is already under construction in Great Yarmouth, is a nine-metre catamaran with a number of specialised features, including a platform for a ROV and the ability to use drop-down cameras, which will make the vessel ideal for research, citizen science, diving and education.

Howard Wood, COAST co-founder, said: 'Investigation and consultation into a potential research and education boat has been ongoing by COAST since 2013. These conversations, coupled with information gathered



The new COAST vessel, which is being built by Phantom Marine, will look similar to its sister vessel.

to advance COAST's aims for community-based marine conservation.

The use of this vessel will add to, and expand on, the accomplishments and abilities of COAST who have over the last 25 years achieved a number of environmental success stories, including the establishment of a No Take Zone and the 280 km² Marine Protected Area, as well as playing a large part in scientific study, conservation and education.

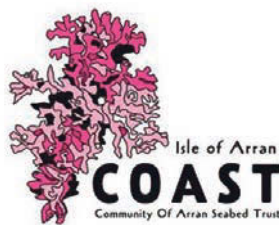
The boat, which is being constructed by Phantom Marine in Great Yarmouth, is expected to be delivered in spring next year.

The fund was first proposed by the Scottish Greens and secured through their budget negotiations with the Scottish Government in January of this year.

Ross Greer, Green MSP for the West of Scotland, added: 'Greater support for community organisations like COAST is exactly the kind of impact the Scottish Greens wanted to have when we decided to enter government. I'm delighted that Arran is benefiting from that impact just a few short weeks after our ministers took office.'

from an online survey last year, highlighted the urgent requirement for such a vessel to fulfil not just a vital need for COAST but for the wider community as well.'

COAST intends on using the boat for their own scientific monitoring and local citizen science, along with collaborating with local and international universities, to monitor the recovery of the marine ecosystem around Arran and the Firth of Clyde.



In addition to its research and monitoring role, COAST will also use the boat for educational and outreach purposes to add to the work it already

does with schools, tourism and hospitality organisations, and with the Arran Outdoor Education Centre in Lamlash.

Howard reinforced this by saying: 'The boat's primary function is to support marine restoration activities, and promote a healthy marine environment; it will also provide job opportunities on the island. Besides its primary use as a research boat, we are determined that it will enable both local school children and

those attending the Arran Outdoor Education Centre the opportunity to get out on the water and be involved in their own citizen science projects.'

COAST's executive director, Andrew Binnie, expressed his gratitude to NatureScot via the Scottish Government's Nature Restoration Fund, the Island Communities Fund and Fauna and Flora International Arcadia, for helping to make the £200,000 investment which will help

The two hulls of the COAST boat that will form the catamaran.



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Have your say in helping to maximise potential of Arran

People living on Arran are being urged to get involved with draft plans just published to help maximise the potential of Arran.

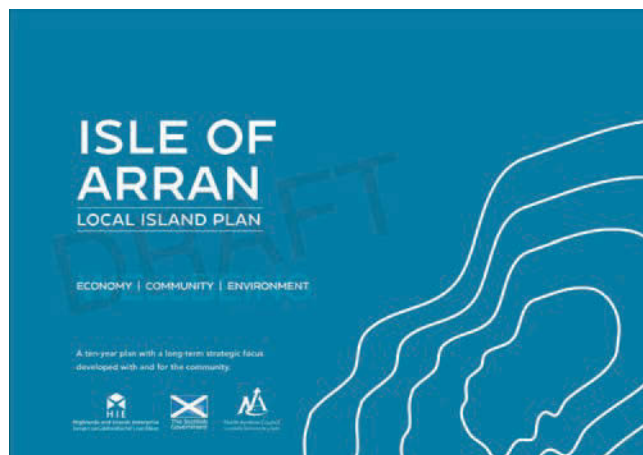
After extensive consultation with residents, community groups, young islanders and businesses on the islands, the draft local island plans and sample 2022/23 annual action plans can be seen online and contributed to before they are finalised.

North Ayrshire Council is collaborating with the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise on the islands' recovery and renewal pilot project which aims to improve outcomes for island communities through the development of ambitious 10-year island plans.

Recently several engagement exercises have been held with communities on Arran, as well as Cumbrae, helping to shape the draft plans.

Island communities are now invited to view the draft documents and give final comments.

It is hoped that those responding will give examples of case studies or projects they are involved in; any activity



The cover of the new islands plan.

relating to economic, community and environmental wellbeing groups or organisations are undertaking; and any further contributions to support the successful delivery of the island plans.

Each draft 10-year plan has a long-term strategic focus developed with and for the island communities.

While the aims and objectives may remain for the duration of the long-term plan, the associated annual action plan will be reviewed each year and

'The islands' plans offer a real chance to have a say in how we can identify the priorities and actions required to create a new future'

updated as required.

Islands cabinet portfolio lead and cabinet member for post Covid-renewal Councillor Alex Gallagher said: "This is a new and ground-breaking development for both our



Councillor Timothy Billings.

island communities of Arran and Cumbrae.

"For the first time, there will be a firm strategy to address the long-standing issues which beset our island communities and a plan to develop economic and social solutions for the coming years in line with the aims of island residents.

"The islands' plans offer a real chance to have a say in how we can identify the priorities and actions required to create a new future for both islands.

"We've been delighted with the engagement we have carried out so far with many

individuals and organisations taking part to offer their knowledge and experience.

"We hope that they recognise and share the vision, priorities and ambitions for the islands in the draft plans and offer any final thoughts before the deadline."

Arran Conservative councillor Timothy Billings said: "Many people say to me that they don't know what is happening and that decisions appear to be being made on behalf of the island.

"This is an opportunity to change that and enable anyone who wants to, to get involved with the decisions on how Arran develops."

The plans are available to view and comment on until 5pm on Tuesday January 4, 2022, at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/islands

Please email islands@north-ayrshire.gov.uk to share your input.

It is currently expected that the plans will be finalised and published in March 2022.

GETINTOUCH

email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk
telephone 01770 302142

Views are sought on eight-year health and care plan

People on Arran are being invited to share their views on all community-based health and social care services for children, adults and older people.

This includes NHS primary care services – GPs, mental health services and district nursing – and social care services, such as child protection, adult social work, Care at Home and justice services.

North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (NAHSCP) is developing a new strategic plan which will run from 2022 until 2030 and will set out how NAHSCP will work to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of the area.


The partnership now wants to gather the views of people including those who use its services so they can help to shape the future of health and social care services in North Ayrshire.

Whether a carer, service user, or a North Ayrshire resident with an interest in health and social care, people are invited to complete an online survey at <https://tinyurl.com/327ttsb>.

The survey, which should take no more than 10 minutes to complete, closes on Friday January 21. If you have any questions about the survey, please email whatmatterstoyou@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.



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Fisherman's Walk extension encourages access for all

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Three anonymous benefactors on Arran have allowed the extension of the popular Fisherman's Walk boardwalk in an effort at encouraging more people to enjoy the picturesque route and to allow access for the less able.

The kind donations have seen the boardwalk just about double in size from its existing 160 metres to extend all the way from the boggy terrain at the bridges, across the beach and to the entrance near the golf course gate.

The sturdily constructed boardwalk is elevated above the high tide mark, meanders along the golf course border, and allows pedestrians and wheelchair users to bypass the section of path which had crumbled into the estuary and necessitated a climb over the sandstone boulders at high tide.

Alastair Hendry, who reluctantly described himself as being 'involved' in the project, praised the workmanship of Scott Murdoch of Arran Footpath and Forestry Ltd for not only undertaking the work at a reasonable price, but also



The new walkway runs the length of the beach in the area where the old path frequently flooded. 01_B50FWalk03

for his insightful and helpful ideas, and also for the quality of his work which will open the route up for everyone.

Alastair, who is well known on Arran for more than 25 years of campaigning for access for the less able in just about every forest, woodland and scenic area on the island, is delighted that the project was able to be brought to fruition in less than four months since receiving permission from landowner Arran Estates.

Despite the disappointing reluctance to embrace enabling less-abled access, and the lengthy processes

of consultation, tendering, appointing and scheduling and committee decisions, Alastair has still managed to accomplish projects in North Sannox and Sannox, and elsewhere on the island, through dogged determination and the mutual respect afforded to him as someone who has been involved in forestry on Arran for decades.

When asked about why he campaigns so fervently for less-abled access over so many years, Alastair said: 'I have taken great pleasure in walking up the glens and the hills on Arran for over 50 years and I don't think this should just be a privilege for me.'

'The very young, very old, and everyone in between should benefit from experiencing Arran's hills and glens and it gives me great pleasure knowing that people of all ages, and abilities, are able to enjoy Arran as much as I do.'

Alastair thanked everyone involved for helping to extend access to just one small part on Arran and he remains optimistic that, in time, access can be improved in other parts of Arran, including Lamlash, Dyemill, Clauchlands, Kildonan and Blackwaterfoot, among many others.

The Fisherman's Walk remains one of Arran's most popular routes, for visitors and locals, with tens of thousands of people using it every year.

This bold initiative which will make the route even more accessible for people of all abilities will undoubtedly invite many more people to use it, and hopefully, as Alastair wishes, will help to demonstrate that extending access for all can easily be achieved with the right will and motivation.



The walkway sits above the previous path and winds along the contour of the golf course embankment. 01_B50FWalk05



A new section of walkway near the golf course gate. 01_B50FWalk02



Approaching from the golf course entrance, the new walkway begins before the old path. 01_B50FWalk04

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LETTERS

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

Get fenders fixed

The number of times that the first ferry does not sail from Ardrossan – because it is berthed in Brodick – has reached a ridiculous stage.

Not just from the inconvenience of the passengers trying to use it, but for the island's increasingly fragile economy in these challenging times.

New figures show 29 per cent of the 7am sailings have been cancelled in the last 15 months, one of the busiest ferries of the day to ensure that goods, contractors and workers can arrive on Arran in good time.

Good news then that this week Peel Ports has announced it is to spend £100,000 on repair and maintenance at Ardrossan harbour to include fixing the fenders, which is one of the main reasons the MV Caledonian Isles has to berth overnight so often on Arran.

So pressure must be put on Peel Ports to get the repairs started quickly and without further disruption to the Arran ferry service.

But £100,000 is a drop in the ocean given what really needs to be spent to bring Ardrossan harbour up to the standards of what a modern-day port facility should provide.

Peel Ports is already dragging its feet so let's hope this week's announcement is just the start.

Thought for the week

Jesus looked at them and said: 'With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.' **Mark 10:27**

Answers demanded from Ardrossan Task Force

The Ardrossan Task Force met virtually on Tuesday for the first time in 10 months to discuss the redevelopment of Ardrossan Harbour. But there still so many unknowns so, at the invitation of Transport Scotland, the Arran Ferry Action Group submitted a comprehensive list of questions, to which it has been promised official answers within 20 working days.

Here we reprint a selection of the questions. You can look up all 78 questions on the website www.arranferries.scot under the 'correspondence' tab and the group will add the answers as they are received.

Ardrossan redevelopment

1. When will agreement be reached with Peel Ports?
2. What, specifically, is the reason for the continued delay in agreeing the legal framework for the upgrade?
3. What steps are being taken to address the outstanding issues in reaching agreement with Peel Ports?
4. What is the share of funding between Peel Ports, Transport Scotland and North Ayrshire Council?
5. When will the contracts be put out to tender?
6. When will the finalised costings be announced?
7. When will the principal contractor be appointed?
8. When will the marine works commence?
9. Is autumn 2022 still a realistic start date, given the current impasse and lack of progress?
10. When will the Harbour close for the Arran Ferry service?
11. When will the marine works be completed?
12. Is a completion date of spring 2024 still a

realistic target, given the lack of progress thus far?

13. What contingencies are in place in the event of any further delay to agreement, contracting, or the proposed works?

14. What remedies do CalMac have within their contract, to compel Peel Ports to suitably maintain the deteriorating infrastructure at Ardrossan Harbour in the intervening period prior to closure and marine works commencing?

15. Has North Ayrshire Council progressed any of the shoreside facility designs?

16. Where can these be viewed?

17. To avoid previous mistakes seen at Brodick, will NAC have a proper public consultation on the proposed plans before finalising and progressing to construction?

18. Will the construction of the new shoreside facilities be aligned to the same construction timetable as the marine works?

Impact of delivery of Hull 801/Glen Sannox

31. When is Hull 801/Glen Sannox expected to enter service?

32. Will the service divert to Troon when Hull 801/Glen Sannox enters service, irrespective of whether the works have commenced?

33. Do you accept and recognise the conclusions of the Operators Assessment and Proof of Concept documents regarding the severely limited operating range of Hull 801/Glen Sannox in the current Ardrossan layout?

34. Do you also accept the assessment of CMAL that Hull 801/Glen Sannox cannot use Gourock?

35. Do you further accept that Hull 801/Glen Sannox requires the upgrade works at Troon

to be completed before it can reliably use that berth?

Diversion to Troon

36. When will the upgrade works at Troon be completed?

37. What is the cost to Transport Scotland for these works?

38. When is the service expected to divert to Troon?

39. What is the expected duration of the service diversion to Troon?

40. Can you confirm how many sailings per day will be possible from Troon?

41. Do you accept that due to the longer passage time, this will be a lower service frequency than currently delivered at Ardrossan?

42. How will the loss of daily passenger and particularly vehicle capacity be compensated for?

46. What options are available for service continuity in the event of moderate-strong easterly winds when Brodick becomes unusable?

47. What options are available for service continuity in the event of Troon being unavailable, given that Hull 801/Glen Sannox will not be able to operate in Ardrossan, and cannot berth at Gourock?

48. When will the community of Arran be consulted on any proposed timetable?

Troon Facilities

51. Will there be any passenger terminal at Troon?

52. When will these facilities be built or installed?

53. Where will the passenger terminal be located?

54. How will foot passengers be transferred from the passenger terminal to the vessel along the long and narrow pier access road?

55. What passenger gangway facilities will be provided?

56. How will mobility-impaired foot passengers board the vessel?

57. Will there be onward shuttle buses to Troon Railway Station?

64. What consultation will be carried out with the community of Arran to shape the facilities and logistics at Troon?

Project management and governance structures

73. What is the current delivery timetable and agreed stage-gate process?

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Celebration enjoyed at launch of Project 200 at Sannox Church

Worshippers joined the organisers behind the restoration of Sannox Church for a day of celebration to mark the official reopening of the church and to launch Project 200.

Project 200 marks the 200th

anniversary of the church, which first opened its doors in 1822, and the start of next year's fundraising efforts to restore the former manse which is attached to the church.

Supporters enjoyed an

afternoon of praise and also learned about the project which started in 2012 when the church was given a new lease of life after it was bought by the newly-formed charity the Sannox Christian Centre.

Since then the project has seen the refurbishment of the church, on-site Dundarroch Cottage, as well as the creation of a gatehouse, laundry and tool shed.

The cottage will be used as self-catering accommodation and the future development plans for the former manse will also accommodate further church guests in the future.

Other future plans include a beehive chapel, a creative arts centre and additional accommodation with self-catering

kitchen facilities. Further information about the historic

church and the future plans, and how you can support the

project, can be found by visiting www.sannox.org.



Sannox Christian Centre executive director George Hazel and worship leader Jim Farrell provide the musical accompaniment to the hymn singing. 01_B50Sannox02



Supporters and worshippers gather at Sannox Church to celebrate the reopening of the church and the future plans for the Christian Centre. 01_B50Sannox01

Christmas shoppers warned about counterfeit goods

Christmas shoppers are being urged to beware as disreputable traders are ready and waiting to take advantage of consumers through scams or the sale of counterfeit goods.

With the Christmas shopping rush well under way, Trading Standards is warning that many of the most common fake goods, such as make-up, toys, designer clothes, alcohol and electrical goods, can be of sub-standard quality and they can potentially pose a serious danger.

Purchasers of fake goods may also be unwittingly funding criminality, drug dealing and other organised crime.

Buying counterfeit products can also contribute to loss of revenue and possibly even job losses as genuine manufacturers are unable to match prices charged by rogue traders.

North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane is advising people to be extra vigilant and take steps to safeguard against fraudulent and disreputable traders.

Mr Cullinane said: 'The sale of counterfeit goods is illegal, and it can be extremely diffi-



Council leader Joe Cullinane is advising people to be extra vigilant and take steps to safeguard against fraudulent and disreputable traders.

packaging for misspellings and poor logos.

Also, take extra care at street markets, car boot sales, pubs and other situations where it may be more difficult to get in touch with the trader after the purchase and to check online reviews before purchasing.

The best practice when buying any branded items is to buy from a legitimate supplier such as a reputable high street retailer to ensure that goods can be returned if something goes wrong.

For advice or to report a problem to Trading Standards, call 01294 310100 or for consumer advice call North Ayrshire Citizens Advice Service on 01294 608142.

cult to seek redress in the event of something going wrong.

'For this reason, it is important to remember the old adage that if the offer seems too good to be true, it probably is.

'It is also important to be aware of the huge consequences for those caught selling counterfeits - heavy fines, imprisonment and a criminal record.

'Those caught selling fake goods at their place of work also risk losing their jobs.'

Current advice to avoid being fooled by knock-off goods is: to be suspicious about bargains, check if you have any guarantees or after-sales service, examine the quality of the goods and to check labels and

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Major Covid booster clinic will help protect islanders

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A mass vaccination clinic is set to take place this weekend for all people aged between 18 to 49 who are due their booster vaccine and for all 12 to 17-year-olds who are due their second vaccine.

The clinic will take place by appointment only tomorrow (Saturday) at Arran High School and is in response to updated guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation related to the Omicron variant.

Ruth Betley, senior manager of Arran services for North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, said: 'The vaccination programme for



Arran has been highly successful since we first delivered Covid vaccines to residents. Uptake has been phenomenal and that is great news, as vaccination offers the best protection we have against the negative effects of the virus.

'We are now delighted to be able to welcome those eligible for a third booster dose of Covid vaccine and 12-17-year-olds for their second doses.

'New guidance means that the third dose of Covid vaccine can be given to people in those

The vaccination team is back at Arran High School on Saturday. The clinic is by appointment only.

eligible groups where it has been at least three months since their second vaccine.

'I would like to take this opportunity to give my thanks once again to all those on Arran who have helped to ensure the vaccine programme runs smoothly. In particular, I would like to thank our colleagues in North Ayrshire Council, for allowing us to use Arran High School for the vaccination programme.'

Appointments for future vaccination clinics can be made by calling Arran Medical Group on 01770 600516 between 2pm

and 5.15pm from Monday to Friday. Public Health Scotland figures report that up to Friday December 3 between zero and two Covid cases were on Arran. This figure is used to protect patient confidentiality when cases are below three.

Meanwhile, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said this week that Scotland's Covid restrictions are to be reviewed on a daily basis due to a rapid increase in cases of the Omicron variant.

The First Minister said she expected the number to continue to increase, and for the new variant to 'account for a rising share of overall cases' and said the emergence of Omicron was a 'significant challenge for all of us'.

Travel rules have already

been tightened, and Ms Sturgeon said she would consider on a daily basis whether other measures - such as the extended use of Covid passports - were needed.

Cases have been reported in nine of Scotland's 14 health board areas, including NHS Ayrshire & Arran, with fears of widespread community transmission.

Ms Sturgeon said: 'I would expect to see a continued and potentially rapid rise in cases in the days ahead, and for Omicron to account for a rising share of overall cases.'

She also said employers should ensure that all staff who can work from home are able to, saying this should continue until at least the middle of January.

Council to create a Covid memorial

The North Ayrshire Council cabinet has agreed to participate in 'Remembering Together', a national Covid memorial programme of reflection and commemoration.

The memorial will not necessarily be a physical one and it could include art, music, theatre, commemorative gardens, or events which can create a fitting tribute which offers people a connection and opportunity to respectfully reflect on the pandemic.

A local commissioning group involving the council, locality planning partners, local artists/creative practitioners, NHS and community organisations will be created and will oversee the development and delivery of the project.

Council chiefs said the memorial could be one or more, fixed in one place, be mobile or even digital but that it would be decided upon through discussions with communities.

It also stated that there are already a number of Covid memorials across North Ayrshire - which have been created by local communities - and that they plan to link the new Remembering Together memorial/s with existing ones to create a Covid Remembrance Trail - similar to the North Ayrshire Heritage Trail.

Councillor Louise McPhater, cabinet member for participatory democracy, said: 'The Remembering Together memorial programme provides us with an opportunity to come together and recognise the lives of people of North Ayrshire who have been affected by Covid-19, in a number of ways.

'By working together with our local communities and partners, it will ensure that we co-create something that is meaningful and reflects on the experiences of those in our communities.'

Police show their support for ending gender-based violence

Police officers on Arran joined their colleagues from across Scotland to show their support for the annual 16 Days of Activism campaign to end violence against women and girls, writes Colin Smeeton.

Police Scotland have been supporting the initiative with a number of activities and calls to action to show their continued commitment to the campaign alongside numerous partners.

At the Brodick Co-op last Thursday, island officers joined two representatives from Women's Aid, Liliás Nichols and Aileen Brookens, who were highlighting



Arran Police Sergeant Kevin Blackley joins Liliás Nichols and Aileen Brookens of Women's Aid who provide support and guidance for victims of domestic violence. 01_B50White02

be a priority. Consent, domestic abuse, forced marriage and human trafficking are just some of the important concerns being highlighted, all in a bid to raise awareness of the help and support available.

'Police Scotland is committed to tackling gender-based violence and abuse which is highlighted in the various campaigns that are being run, including the recent That Guy campaign as well as the Get Consent and Domestic Abuse initiatives. A key part of this work is building relationships with partners and working with them on a regular basis to highlight and make people aware of their messages too.'

If anyone is looking for advice on gender-based violence or domestic abuse, on behalf of yourself, friends or family, then information and support is readily available from organisations such as Police Scotland, North Ayrshire Women's Aid and North Ayrshire Council, among many others.



the campaign - in conjunction with the White Ribbon campaign - and collecting pledges to end the violence.

Arran Police Sergeant Kevin Blackley said: 'Gender-based violence is an ongoing threat in Scotland's communities and the events and activities that were planned demonstrate that Police Scotland will not tolerate violent behaviour and abuse. Tackling and preventing it continues to

Left, Co-op shopper John Sweeney of Lamlash signs the pledge to end violence against women. 01_B50White01

Work to finally start on new affordable homes

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Work should finally start early next year on an affordable housing project in Lamlash - more than two years after the first funding was secured.

The Arran Development Trust (ADT) has revealed that it has, at last, reached a position where it is ready to proceed with building work at the site at Rowarden off Benlister Road in Lamlash where 18 affordable houses for rent are to be built.

It has also secured private finance to support the development of 25 serviced plots for self-build also in Lamlash.

The self-build plots will have a 'rural housing burden' placed on the title deeds ensuring these properties are always principal residences and not used as second or holiday homes in perpetuity.

These plots will be sold to island working families or working families trying to move to Arran.

ADT chairman Tom Tracey told the recent annual general meeting: 'The chronic lack of affordable housing leaves us unable to retain the island's young people or accommodate



The Rowarden site where 18 affordable houses are to be built.

the workers we desperately need in; health and social care, education and hospitality - in fact, in all sectors.

'We know we have vacancies across the board that could easily be filled if long-term affordable rented accommodation was available.

'Unfortunately, I have to confirm to you what you already know. The general situation

with regard to the availability of long-term affordable rents is deteriorating.

'Increased house prices mean houses that were offering long-term lets have been sold or are for sale and plans for new affordable housing has been delayed due to Covid

and failure to achieve Scottish Land Fund grants. So, a bad situation is getting worse.

'In response to this, the Arran Development Trust and the Arran community urgently need to do two things: fix the long-term problem by continuing to push for more affordable houses.

'In the short term we need to look at how we can slow the drift to short-term holiday lets and bring more of our existing housing stock into the long-

Lamlash project to get off ground in early 2022

term let market.' Mr Tracey told the meeting that the initial projection was that the island needed 200 affordable homes and said that figure hadn't changed.

He welcomed the 34 new council houses in Brodick, the first of which should be let early next year, but he said North Ayrshire Council was still being pressed for 16 more to meet its target of 50.

Mr Tracey said: 'With NAC social housing plan still well short of what is required, we have identified enough good land in desirable locations - throughout the island - to achieve our 200 targets.'

As reported in the Banner in November 2019 the trust has an agreement in principle from the Rural and Island Housing Fund (RIHF) for partial grant funding (£3.6 million) for the construction of 43 affordable homes on two sites.

However, it failed to secure grant funding from The Scottish Land Fund to make the two sites viable.

'This process was extremely

time consuming and disappointing. However, it did not beat us,' Mr Tracey said.

But he added: 'We have secured private finance to support the RIHF grant to build 18 high quality affordable homes in Lamlash.

'In addition, we have secured detailed planning permission and the building warrant for these properties is due shortly.

'The expected start date is January 2022. These three short sentences belie the time, money and effort that has gone into getting us to this place.'

Mr Tracey said that the trust was primarily a 'voluntary body'.

However, in order to progress its objective it is to hire two employees, both already involved with the organisation.

Barry Mochan has stepped down as chairman and trustee to become CEO.

Likewise, Sheena Borthwick-Toomey has stepped down as a trustee to become the operations director and secretary. Both will take up their positions early next year.

Island open-air museum danger – warns new CEO



Arran Development Trust chairman Tom Tracey, and new employees Barry Mochan and Sheena Borthwick-Toomey pictured when the trust was launched in 2018.

The new chief executive officer of the Arran Development Trust Barry Mochan, pictured centre, was blunt about the challenges the island faced in his first statement to the AGM.

He said: 'The island is in danger of becoming an open-air museum as more and more of those growing up here or wishing to come here with vital skills find they have no hope of finding a property.

'The grant funding system works reasonably well on the mainland; in rural and island areas it does not.

'The real difficulties in delivery are not recognised and accessing top-up funding is then incredibly difficult.

'Accessing top-up funding is made all the more difficult due to location and ferry reliability.

'Many funders simply will not consider island projects as they are believed to be too risky to deliver,' said Mr Mochan.

'Often, we would only be considered if a single main contractor was used so, of course, this was explored - but

the prices were prohibitive, again due to perceived risk. This then left us to find a funder who would consider us despite the location and ferry service and who would also let us use separate contractors - a very limited market given our need to also keep rents as low as possible.

'However, we are nearly there.

'We have inched forward through the pandemic and finally secured the funding we need.

Due diligence

'We are now completing the due diligence process and next year we fully expect to commence work on site at last on our first two projects, one for affordable rent and one for affordable self-build.

'If progress has seemed slow, I can only agree.

'At times it felt almost impossible and I, and I am sure others, have had sleepless nights.

'We have learned a lot of lessons and look forward to not only delivering this project but many others.

'The needs of our members and this island have, historically, not been met with regard to housing.

'With the continued dedication of the board, we are doing everything possible to change this.

'It is not being over-dramatic to say the future of this island as a place where people can live, work and bring up a family depends on it.'

It was confirmed the 18 new homes in Lamlash were to be 2 x 1 bedroom, 10 x 2 bedroom and 6 x 3-bedroom general needs homes.

Asked about what was happening with building work on the rest of the island - outwith Lamlash - Mr Mochan confirmed this was on the ADT's radar and the ADT had tentative agreements in place with landowners willing to sell to the ADT for affordable homes.

However, for future funding and funders' comfort, it was important that the first two sites in Lamlash were under way and successful before moving on to other sites.

Wood festival turns heads



Stuart Gough shows his most prized possession - his grandfather's screwdriver. 01_B501OW10

Words and photos
by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Inspiration of Wood Festival, which took place over two days last weekend, attracted a healthy crowd of admirers to the Corrie and Sannox Village Hall.

Ferry cancellations owing to high winds, combined with cold temperatures and rain, could not deter the visitors but it did mean that some of the outdoor activities, such as wood milling and chainsaw carving, did not go ahead.

Indoors, however, there was more than enough to keep visitors entertained with numerous displays and wood-working crafts available for people to see.

Arran's most well-known wood carvers and sculptors - Marvin Elliott, Robert Coia

and Henry Murdo - showcased some of their work while dispensing useful advice, tips and tricks and invited visitors to have a go at carving themselves.

Visitors young and old used a mallet and chisel and chipped away at a large wooden wartwig under the watchful eye of Henry, who encouraged those trying their hand to not be too gentle.

Another wealth of useful information, amusing anecdotes and interesting conversation could be found in the far corner of the hall in the form of Stuart Gough who is an avid collector of wood-working tools.

Stuart has a love of the craftsmanship that went into creating tools in years gone by, and the evidence of years and years of use, and its patina, is what attracts him to collect the

tools that he has amassed.

Some of the tools are incredibly collectible as they belong to trades now long gone, such as those used in boat building, and others which are now only manufactured using plastic.

And, as for his most prized tool, that honour goes to his grandfather's screwdriver that he inherited, a small wood and brass creation that has seen decades of work and that exudes old-fashioned charm.

The festival provided visitors with a seldom-experienced opportunity to meet and talk to so many varied crafts people, from sculptors and furniture makers to sign makers and pyrographers.

Equally, it provided wood workers with a valuable opportunity to discuss tools, suppliers and working methodologies among like-minded people.



A larger-than-life-sized chair beckoned visitors to enter the village hall. 01_B501OW03



Zabdi Keen with some of her pyrography work. 01_B501OW01



Heather Gough and Margo McLellan offer visitors a warm welcome and raffle tickets. 01_B501OW02

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The village hall was filled with items for visitors to see in a relaxed and informal setting. 01_B501OW07



Niamh Adamson, carried by Gregor Adamson, watches Sophie Taylor carving under the watchful eye of Henry Murdo. 01_B501OW05

at Corrie and Sannox hall



Left: Marvin Elliot shows off a carving of his late dog Bobby, who was born blind and was a faithful companion for many years. 01_B50IOW08



Right: Signmaker Zabdi Keen demonstrates the precision required for a large commission that she is working on. 01_B50IOW12



Left: Robert Coia with one of his sculptures that never fails to draw an admiring audience. 01_B50IOW11



Right: Wood aficionado Mark Bunyan chats to hobby carver Morton Anderson of Corrie. 01_B50IOW06



Colin Guthrie mimics the papier mache artwork made by Jill Hargan. 01_B50IOW04



Stuart Gough with his collection of old woodworking tools. 01_B50IOW09

Lamlash SWI hosts variety of enjoyable evening events

During September the Lamlash Scottish Women's Institute (SWI) members met to discuss the times, venues and meetings for the upcoming year.

The new idea of a casual drop-in coffee catch-up between meetings was agreed on as

they had proved successful in the summer.

In October, Chameleon, the ladies' boutique in Lamlash, gave a very enjoyable presentation on the adaptability of one size garments and had brought along a beautiful range of those with accessories.

It was amazing how the same garment on different body shapes and heights could look very different, especially when accessorised in different ways. Many thanks to Lynn Walker for inspiring us.

November's meeting was a visit from Michael Gettins representing the new initiative called the Arran Repair Café.

The café is very much environmentally inspired by keeping existing items in use longer, through repair, upcycling or reusing but there is also a strong social element attached too.

An example of the reusing element was the reuse of old pallets. Slats were made into flat Christmas trees, some examples of which could be seen decorating the recent Santa's Sparkle event.

Offcuts were made into kindlers, nails into the metal



Michael Gettins entertains the audience during the Lamlash SWI meeting in November.



Lamlash institute members watch a demonstration on how a one-size garment fits a tall model at their October meeting in the church hall.

recycling bin and sawdust for animal bedding.

All this was delivered in a very enthusiastic and entertaining way but with a serious message behind it. Home safety was also highlighted in the presentation.

Thanks Michael. Also thanks to Kirsty for the delicious gluten and dairy free millionaire's shortbread.

December's meeting is a Christmas lunch outing.

Please look out for information on future meetings in January onwards when we will not only have talks/demonstrations/activities but also the ever-popular supper. Returning members, new members and visitors, will be warmly welcomed.

Janet Mair

Games night at Shiskine SWI

The December meeting of the Shiskine Women's Institute was held in the golf clubhouse and was attended by 21 ladies including three visitors.

A lively games night kept everyone entertained while they enjoyed a beautiful festive supper.

This month's competition, a homemade Christmas table decoration, was won by Angela Cassels, second was Jessie Hutton.

The exhibition, best-wrapped Christmas parcel, was won by Judith Porter and second was Kate Henderson. The raffle prize was won by Wilma Robertson.

A great total of £80 was raised for CHAS from the sale of the Christmas parcels.

The next meeting will be held in Shiskine Village Hall on Wednesday January 5 at 7.30pm when there will be a team quiz night.

The competition will be three canapes and the exhibition, a theatre programme.

The SWI Shiskine Children's Christmas Party will be held in Shiskine Village Hall on Friday December 24 from 3pm to 5pm.

We have had word that a very special visitor hopes to join us before setting off on his big Christmas delivery round!

Kate Mackintosh

SCOTTISH FIELD

January



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PS Waverley pictured in Glasgow earlier this year.

Waverley docks for winter refit after busy season

Paddle steamer and Clyde cruisers' favourite PS Waverley is now berthed in Glasgow while she undergoes her annual winter refit and maintenance after carrying more than 52,000 passengers in just four months.

Operating a reduced timetable with reduced capacity owing to Covid restrictions, the vessel was still well supported on the journeys it did make between June and September.

These included weekly visits to Arran, a fundraising cruise for Tighnabruaich Pier, and calling at Ardrishaig for the first time in 20 years.

Work is progressing well with several sections

of timber decking being replaced, the port boiler furnace and tubes cleaned out and part of the main engine dismantled for survey and maintenance. Future work will focus on the low pressure cylinder on Waverley's steam engine and the condenser.

The winter works on the vessel and its heritage machinery and fittings is expected to cost around £450,000. Following the successful Clyde sailing season, only £150,000 will be required from fundraising to cover these costs.

Dry dock is now booked for late April with the aim of returning to service in May 2022.

Merry Christmas

Your personal Christmas messages for 2021

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from Archie Nicol, Largybeg

BETTY BUNYAN

would like to wish all her relatives, friends, neighbours and carers a very merry Christmas.

Donald and Mary McNiven

would like to wish all family, friends and neighbours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from Gina Green, Torbeg

Graham, Barbara and Mark Tinto

would like to wish all friends on the island seasons greetings. Donation to the Tearfund

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my relatives friends & neighbours love from Liz Lawrie

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from Margaret Hamilton, Shiskine

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from Muriel Tod

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from Sandy Kerr, Whiting Bay

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from Helen Macfarlane

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from Jim Bannatyne, Blackwaterfoot

John and Jean Lammie would like to wish all their relatives, friends and neighbours *Seasons Greetings*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

to relatives, friends and neighbours from John, Pat and Johnny Turner, Sliderry.

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from Andy and Gillian Ingham

Seasons greetings

to all our relatives and friends from Cil and Steve xx

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Published on 17th December

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Christmas has come around again, the festive lights are going up at Bernie's in Whiting Bay and Shiskine Valley is always well worth a visit. The shops are bustling and Santa has already visited the island to hear what gift you would like this year. So now it's time to sort your way through all the presents and gift ideas for family, friends, and loved ones with the Arran Banner's great gift guide.



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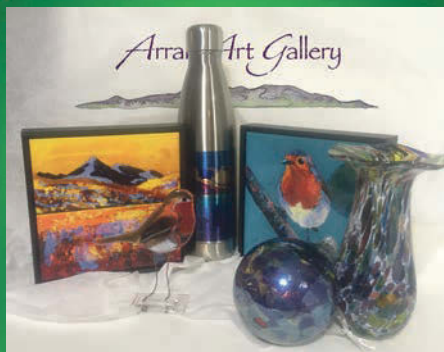
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arranactive.co.uk

To help get you in the festive spirit, we have a huge range of gift suggestions for everyone. Whether it's to help select toys for the children, a present for a wife or girlfriend, a husband or boyfriend, or something for your parents, or even a novelty present for your co-worker – there will be something here to fit the bill this year. And they can all be found on Arran!

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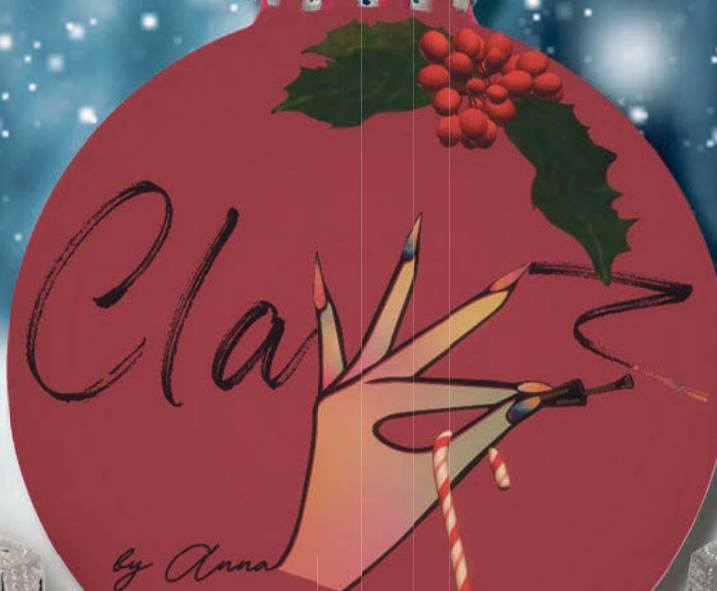


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£43.99

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📱 [louis7seven](https://www.instagram.com/louis7seven) 📺 **LOUIS 7 SEVEN**



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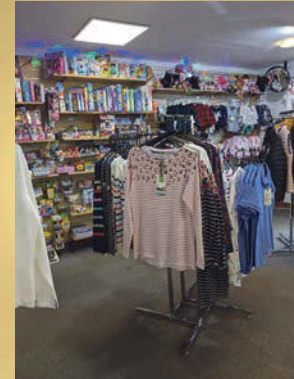


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www.oldbyre.co.uk



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For breakfast, filled rolls and light lunches.
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A takeaway with the comfort of sitting in the restaurant!

£14 (for 2 portions)

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Your choice from 3 delicious house made curries
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With a bottle of beer, small wine or soft drink

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Friday Night: Steak Night

2 x 10oz Rump Steaks, garlic mushrooms, fries & peppercorn sauce and a bottle of house wine

£50

November to February Kids eat Free! (up to 12 years old)
(Wed-Sun when accompanying adults have a minimum of 2 courses)

Friday Night in the Shurig Pub

Burger & Pint

£13

(or small glass of wine)

To contact our team, call **01770 700357**

Festive Menu at MOST

To Start:

Chicken Liver Parfait
with oatcakes and caramelised onion relish

Spiced Parsnip Soup
with crusty artisan bread

Arran Blue Cheese Tartlet
with salad leaves

The Main Event:

Traditional Roast Turkey
with sage & onion stuffing, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Salmon & Watercress Wellington
with roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Winter Root Vegetable, Cranberry & Sage Parcel
with seasonal vegetables
(made with low gluten flour)

To Finish:

Christmas Pudding
with Creme Anglaise

Chocolate & Orange Tartlet
with traditional ice cream

Seasonal Fruits poached in Brandy
served on a homemade meringue nest

2 courses £22

3 courses £30

To book, please call **01770 700357**

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 8, 2001



Empty spaces around the auction ring at last year's show in 2000. 01_B50tweYA06



From 1990, 11-year-old Adam McEacern with his pen of five champion Blackface lambs. 01_B50tweYA02



Arran Market memories

A total of 31 years of tradition came to an end last year with the last Arran Christmas Show. A downward trend in Arran farming, as reflected across Scotland, has been responsible for the A & J Wilson's Brodick livestock market to decline and cease. A & J Wilson continue to thrive through its Paisley and Kilmarnock markets and it regularly collects livestock from Arran to be sold through United Auctions in Stirling and James Craig in Ayr. As we near the time of the annual market, which will now no longer take place, perhaps it is fitting to look back on former glories and changing times.



Auctioneer Robbie Wilson and owner Matthew McNeish prepare to toast the last Arran champion, one year ago this week. 01_B50tweYA04



Above left: Farmers and buyers pack the show ring in 1986 as judge John Scott selects his champion from a fine line of beasts. 01_B50tweYA01

Left: In 1982 Donald Robertson of Shedog received the Royal Bank Quach from Brodick manager Mr McGaw for his champion pen of lambs. 01_B50tweYA03



Right: Matt Smith of Brodick with his first champion, a Simmental bullock, in 1988. 01_B50tweYA05



Tim Pomeroy in his studio outside Lamlash.

New book celebrates Tim Pomeroy's work

A new coffee-table book which has just been published is an illustrated biography of Arran artist and sculptor Tom Pomeroy and his artworks.

Spanning from 1979 to the present day the hardback book is 112 pages and copiously illustrated throughout.

The foreword is by Dave Bell, founder of the Durham Theatre Company, and the main essay is by Nicholas Usherwood writer, art critic and curator, one-time exhibition secretary at the Royal Academy in London. He is the author of many books on artists.

The foreword of the book states: 'Working in marble, granite, sandstone and wood, Tim Pomeroy's beautifully carved and polished work is a paean to sacred forms and natural wonders. It's a measure, too, of his unflinching determination to learn and master the skills needed.'

His font for St Andrew's Cathedral comes from learning the stonemason's craft and, like the fountain for Provand's

Lordship in Glasgow, is distinctly his in form and thought: fresh ideas laid on timeless beauty.'

The book was launched in Edinburgh on November 18 at the opening of Tim's solo exhibition there with The Fine Arts Society. The exhibition runs until December 23 and many Arranachs have already visited.

Tim has another book launch at the gallery next week on Tuesday December 14 at 11am before heading home to Arran to launch the book at the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick on Saturday December 18, also at 11am.

Tim said: 'I intend to have two or three original works on show at the Ormidale, and talk a bit about making art and how the book came about as a result of my London show last year in the middle of lockdown.'

It will be followed by a Q&A session and a book signing.

Published by Stephen Morris it is available to buy direct at a cost of £30.



The cover of the coffee-table book and one of his sculptures.

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.co.uk

TOURS AND TASTINGS BY APPOINTMENT



Every Day

Arran Brewery, Shop Open – Monday to Saturday 10am – 4.30pm, Sunday, 12noon - 4pm

Brodick Castle & Gardens Brodick, Open daily, 10am – 5pm (last entry 4.30pm)

Brodick Mini Golf, Open seven days, 10am - 5pm-ish, ALL weather

COAST Discovery Centre, Lamlash, Open Thursday - Saturday, 11am – 3pm

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 11th December

Winter Show, Saltwater Gallery, Cladach, 10am - 5pm

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

Christmas Panto – Albert Laddin, Whiting Bay Hall, 2pm

Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm

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

Christmas Panto – Albert Laddin, Whiting Bay hall, 7.30pm

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

DJ Tom McGarrigle, The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm - Midnight

Sunday 12th December

Winter Show, Saltwater Gallery, Cladach, 10am – 5pm

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

COAST Discovery Centre, Lamlash, Open, 11am – 3pm

Santa Dash, from Ormidale Pavilion, 2pm

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Brodick Church Hall, 5pm – 6.30pm

Monday 13th December

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 14th December

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

Winter Show, Saltwater Gallery, Cladach, 10am – 5pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Brodick Church Hall, 2pm

Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.30pm

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

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

AHS Mountain Bike Club AGM, Arran High School Theatre, Lamlash, 6.15pm

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

Wednesday 15th December

Winter Show, Saltwater Gallery, Cladach, 10am – 5pm

Hydrofit, Auchrannie Resort, 10.30am – 11.15am

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

Archives and Genealogy services, Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Arran Well-Being Cafe, Lamlash Church Hall, Lamlash, 2pm – 4pm

Knit and Blether, Bay Wool and Crafts, 3pm - 5pm

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 16th December

Winter Show, Saltwater Gallery, Cladach, 10am - 5pm

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

Arran Cancer Support Group, Banner Lodge (left of Heather Lodge), Brodick, 2pm

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

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

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

Friday 17th December

Winter Show, Saltwater Gallery, Cladach, 10am - 5pm

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

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

Live Music Crofters' Bar and Bistro, from 9pm

DJ Omnibeat, The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm - Midnight

Saturday 18th December

Winter Show, Saltwater Gallery, Cladach, 10am - 5pm

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

Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm

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

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

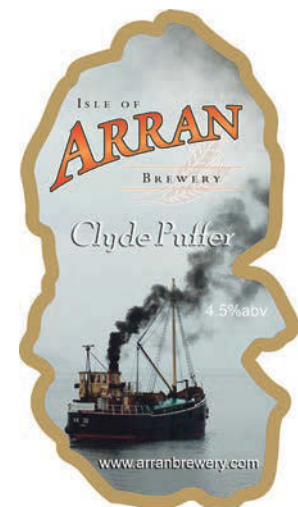
Live Music - Audio Thieves, The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm - Midnight

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



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A GREAT TEAM OF PEOPLE TO WORK WITH

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2022

The North Ayrshire Council propose to consider the introduction of a traffic regulation order for the provision of disabled persons parking places at various locations throughout North Ayrshire.

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed (Disabled Persons' Parking Places) Order 2022, together with the schedule and the statement of reasons for proposing to make this traffic regulation order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:- Head of Commercial Services, North Ayrshire Council, 3rd Floor (Roads), Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE.

Any person wishing to object to these proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Commercial Services, North Ayrshire Council, 3rd Floor (Roads), Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE by Monday 10th January 2022.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siarachd Air a Tuath

Lamlash Moorings Association AGM
at Lamlash Yacht Club Clubroom
Friday 14th January 7pm
All members welcome

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 31.12.21. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

21/01154/PP: Site To West Of Ormidale Bungalow, Brodick, Ayrshire, Erection of 1 and a half storey dwelling house.
21/01156/PP: The Chestnuts, Glencloy Road, Brodick, Ayrshire; Erection of detached dwelling house and garage.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siarachd Air a Tuath

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

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 1980 CHOICE OF SCHOOL

It is customary for children to attend the designated school for the area in which they live. All children who reside in North Ayrshire have the choice of attending their catchment Non-Denominational secondary school or St Matthew's Academy. However, parents/carers may make a written request to place their child in any other school under the management of the Council. Such a request is referred to as a placing request.

Information about catchment areas, the Council's schools and the procedure to be followed to submit a placing request application is available on the Council's website www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk or by telephoning 01294 310000.

Placing requests for the school session beginning in August 2022 should be submitted prior to the closing date of 15 March 2022.

Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in 2022, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should make arrangements to register for education in accordance guidelines on the Council website or the advertisement on registration of children.

Andrew McClelland, Head of Service (Education)

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siarachd Air a Tuath

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SCOTTISH FIELD
January

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Happy New Year...
So that was 2021... Stephen Jardine's Credo...
The Hebridean Baker recipes... Quiz of the Year...
Stunning aerial photography... Seafront interiors...
Artist Mouse Macpherson... A Perth garden...
Rule, Britannia! writer... Book reviews...

74%

Local newspapers in print and digital (74%) are more than three times more trusted for local news and information than social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn (22%)

Source: YouGov 2018

CHURCH NOTICES

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Parishes of North Arran,
Brodict, 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.

Sunday 12th December
Lochranza & Pirnmill
Churches-

Service at Lochranza Church
10.15am Morning worship
Shiskine Church 12noon.

Morning worship.
Brodict Church 10.30am.
Morning worship.
Corrie Church 12noon.
Morning worship
The Food Bank continues
from Brodict Church

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Whiting Bay and Kildonan
Church of Scotland**

Charity Number: SC014005

**Sunday 12th December
3rd Sunday in Advent**

Worship will be conducted
at 10.30am.

Track and Trace still
required.
All Welcome.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with
Lamlash**

"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"

Scottish Charity SC015072

Sunday 12th December
Kilmory at 10 am

Lamlash Church at 11.30 am

**Christingle Service in
Lamlash on 19th December**

To comply with 'Trace and
Protect' regulations, name
and contact details will be
asked for, on entering. 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 12th December
3rd Sunday in Advent**

Sung Eucharist at 11am

We are pleased to welcome
the Rt Revd Keith Riglin,
Bishop of Argyll and the
Isles

Coffee and refreshments
after service

We will observe SEC
guidelines

ALL WELCOME

**ARRAN BAPTIST
CHURCH**

Minister - Rev. Vince Jennings

Tel: 01770 600222

www.arranbaptistchurch.
org.uk

Sunday 12th December

Services will be held in the
Ormidale Sports Pavilion,
Brodict at 11 am.

All welcome but current
Covid restrictions are in place.

Sermons will be on our
webpage following the Sunday.

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND
(CONTINUING)**

Sunday 12th December
Morning Service at 11am

Free Church Building, Alma
Road, Brodict
All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND**

Sunday 12th December
Morning service at 11 am

Shiskine Free Church
All welcome

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC
CHURCH**

**Mass: Saturday 11th
December**

Vigil at 5pm

Sunday 12th December -
Morning at 11am

Booking for mass is
essential. Please email
peterdwilko@gmail.com or
telephone 600595 to check
availability and confirm your
place.

Please be aware we are still
maintaining social distancing
and capacity remains
restricted.

In accordance with Scottish
Government requirements
face coverings must be worn
in church and NHS test and
protect details will be kept.

**BLESS O LORD THIS ISLE
OF ARRAN**

**ST ROCH PATRON OF
THE SICK PRAY FOR US**

**OUR LADY OF THE ISLES
PRAY FOR US**

**ST COLUMBA PRAY FOR
US**

DEATHS

CURTIS - Anne. Left us on
Monday night, 6th December,
at Crosshouse Hospital, far
to soon. A small ceremony
will be held on Friday 17th
December for close friends
and family. A celebration of
Annie's life will be held next
year.

ROBINSON - John David.
Peacefully at home, The Old
House, Shiskine on Sunday
5th December 2021. John,
formally of Manchester, aged
78 years, beloved husband of
Christine. Funeral service on
Thursday, 16th December,
12noon at Clachan cemetery,
Shiskine to which all friends
are welcome.

SCOBIE - Marion. Suddenly,
but peacefully, at home on
26th November 2021, Marion,
beloved wife of David, loving
mother, grandmother and
great-grandmother to all
the family. Funeral at Corrie
Church on Monday 13th
December at 11.30am and
thereafter to Sannox Cemetery.
Family flowers only please.

Swimming lessons drowning under high transport costs

Community council could step in to help

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A proposal which would see Arran Community Council trying to source funds to give every child from P3 to P7 access to swimming and sea safety lessons is being considered.

A draft proposal drawn up by new Whiting Bay representative Tom Young was considered by the community council at its meeting, held digitally on Zoom, last week.

Mr Young explained that North Ayrshire Council does not mandate swimming lessons and that each school had to decide how to spend its own budget.

He said one of the biggest problems was the high transport costs for schools to deliver lessons, which disproportionately affects schools with higher



Participants at the last inter-school swimming gala held in 2019. 01_B23swim13

class numbers and their proximity to the swimming pool.

Most school swimming lessons on Arran are held at the Auchrannie, although

Shiskine and Kilmory use the Kinloch Hotel, meaning transport costs to Brodict and Blackwaterfoot.

Mr Young explained that the

cost was currently subsidised by PTAs/parent councils but they were reliant on receiving grant funding.

'Arran children's access to lessons is therefore linked to successful grants being available or other fundraising efforts,' he said.

Mr Young asked if the community council would consider sourcing funds to help meet the cost of lessons. Members agreed that this should be further investigated by Mr Young and a report will be submitted to the next meeting.

Swimming lessons are popular among pupils at all Arran schools and culminate in an annual inter-school swimming gala, which has sadly been cancelled for the past two years due to the pandemic.

Walking in woodlands can aid mental health

A new study published this week reveals that visits to woodlands for recreation could save around £26 million a year in treating mental ill-health in Scotland.

The study also estimates that trees in urban populations could reduce Scotland's bill for anti-depressants by around £1 million each year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WILSON - Isa. The family of the late Isa Wilson would like to thank all friends and neighbours who attended Isa's funeral and everyone who supported Isa over the years. Thanks to Debbie Merritt for her comforting words at the graveside service and to Clair and David Hendry for their sensitive and discrete funeral arrangements. Thanks also to Colin and Graham at Brodict Golf Club for their kind hospitality. Loved and missed by all her family.

The research study is the first of its kind, demonstrating the 'avoided costs' to the NHS through improved well-being by visiting woodlands and nature.

Welcoming the study, Environment Minister Màiri McAllan said: 'Scotland's forests and woodlands offer so many environmental, social and economic benefits to society.'

'During this Covid-19 pandemic, access to woodlands has become even more important to individuals in supporting and maintaining their well-being.'

'It is widely recognised that spending time in woodlands can have a positive effect on alleviating conditions such as depression and anxiety.'

'This study is important because we now have a clear monetary value on how much our woodland resource could be worth in tackling poor mental health.'



Going for a walk in the woods is good for mental health.

The study, carried out by Forest Research, was commissioned by Scottish Forestry, the Welsh Government and the Forestry Commission in England.

It was undertaken in order to put a value on the mental health benefits that woodlands bring to the population.

Placing a monetary value on these benefits shows how the use of woodlands can help to alleviate pressures on NHS resources.

The study examined the

avoided costs associated with reductions in GP visits, drug prescriptions, inpatient care, social services and in the number of days lost at work from mental health issues.

The value across all of the UK's woodlands is estimated to be £185 million (at 2020 prices).

This is distributed as £141 million for England, £26 million for Scotland, £13 million for Wales and £6 million for Northern Ireland.



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whisky

January
Happy New Year...

So that was 2021... Stephen Jardine's Credo...
The Hebridean Baker recipes... Quiz of the Year...
Stunning aerial photography... Seafront interiors...
Artist Mouse Macpherson... A Perth garden...
Rule, Britannia! writer... Book reviews...



**BRODICK CELEBRATES
SEASON'S WINNERS**

Brodick Golf Club captain Ann May holding the AGA Hope Cup with the prize-winners who attended the recent annual dinner.

Corrie takes early lead in inter-club winter league

**Arran Golfers
Association**

Sunday December 5, AGA Winter League - Duncan Trophy held at Shiskine. A lovely day and the course was really super, a huge thanks to the greenkeeping staff.

Shiskine won 4 to 0 against

Brodick, Machrie Bay drew 2 to 2 against Whiting Bay, and Corrie won 2.5 to 1.5 against Lamash.

So the table after round two is: Corrie 4pts, Lamash 2pts, Whiting Bay 2pts, Shiskine 2pts, Brodick 1pt, Machrie Bay 1pt.

Next round (three) is to be played at Brodick GC on Sunday January 9 2022.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday December 4, 18-hole medal: 1 J Quigley 74-12=62, 2 A Napier 74-12=62, 3 R Burke 84-16=68. Magic twos, D Logan, J Quigley, G Andrew - none of which was the magic one.

Fixtures: Saturday December 11, 18-hole medal. Monday December 13,

Monday Cup, ballot at noon.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday December 2, ladies' 18-hole medal: 1 Mary Jo Tod 93-29=64, 2 Sheila Gray 88-17=72, 3 and scratch Ann May 78-6=73.

Whiting Bay Club

Fixture: Sunday December 12, Winter Cup.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday December 5, Stableford Sweep, nine played. John May 22, 37pts ACB, Chris Pattenden 17, 37pts, Brian Allison 24, 36pts ACB.

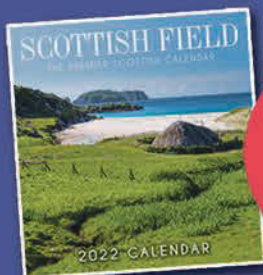
Fixture: Sunday December 12, Brandon qualifier.

GETINVOLVED
emaileditor@arranbanner.co.uk



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The Arran Banner: 85p

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