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2022 Calendar

**2022 | Arran Banner**

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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## Medical services hit by staff crisis

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

GP appointments and other medical services are being cancelled as a result of a staff crisis at the Arran Medical Group.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran confirmed that 'urgent measures' have been put in place to ensure ongoing patient care.

However, patients have been warned that the practice may need to cancel appointments at short notice or arrange a telephone consultation rather than a face-to-face appointment.

And it has warned that the situation may last for a number of weeks.

The staffing crisis is the result of illness and a number of members of staff having to self-isolate following contact with a positive case of Covid.

The interruption to health services comes as the island braces itself for the 'likely

Continued on page two.

## IT'S PANTO TIME AT WHITING BAY



The cast of mini-panto Albert Laddin entertain a packed audience at Whiting Bay village hall last weekend. See pages 10 and 11 for a full picture special.

01\_B51pantofront01

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# Hospitality fears for Christmas as industry hit by new rules

Hospitality venues were left reeling again on Arran after the latest curbs announced by the Scottish Government, writes Hugh Boag.

Many hotels and restaurants have already had Christmas cancellations while work continues to hastily reinstall improved distancing measures required to save what they can of the festive season.

The new rules, due to come into effect tomorrow (Saturday), see the return of measures to cut down crowding in shops and at bars, and physical distancing and the use of protective screens inside hospitality venues.

Businesses are also legally required to take steps to reduce the spread of Covid with cafés and other outlets still deciding what to do.

Events too were starting to be cancelled, including the Brodick children's Christmas

Restaurant kitchens, like this one, are still hoping to be busy over Christmas.



party this weekend – although the children can still go and see Santa – as islanders came to terms with the new three-household rule for gatherings. Some live music at venues has already been cancelled as well.

Many Arran families enjoy big Christmas gatherings with family and friends coming

over from the mainland and First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has insisted festivities on Christmas Day, as well as Christmas Eve and Boxing Day, can go ahead and churches will remain open for services.

But Ms Sturgeon has said that people should try to keep their festive celebrations 'as small

as your family circumstances allow'.

She added that while the guidelines on social mixing will not be legally enforceable 'please do not think of it as optional'.

CBI Scotland said urgent clarity was needed on what

physical distancing and crowd control requirements meant in practise during the busiest time of the year for restaurants, pubs and shops.

Tracy Black, CBI Scotland director, said: 'It's vital that government now works closely with affected industries to get

financial support where it's needed most, particularly as restrictions limit firms' ability to trade their way to recovery.'

The Scottish Government will provide £100 million to help businesses in hospitality and food supply chains which have been hit by the new rules.

## Auchrannie ready to weather storm

Arran's biggest resort complex, Auchrannie, has already had some Christmas cancellations and is expecting demand to be down for its restaurants over the festive season.

However, it believes, with its business model, it is ready to weather the latest storm.

Co-founder and managing director Linda Johnston told the Banner: 'Auchrannie's residential market is mainly leisure breaks, predominantly couples, small groups and families. We have seen little change in levels of residential bookings over Christmas and New Year.'

'There have been some cancellations but these are mainly being replaced by new bookings.'

'The food and beverage side of the business is again focused on these markets. We have not restarted functions, we don't do party nights and we have no major gatherings planned. Therefore, we have lost relatively little on this front to date as this is normally a very quiet time for us.'

'During this time, the capacities in our restaurants and leisure facilities may need to be constrained due to the new government advice and changes to regulations on self-isolation.'

Linda, who is also chair and director of The Coig, added: 'Like the rest of the world, we wish we had a crystal ball, but in the absence of this, we will weather the new storm as best we can.'

## Vital medical services on Arran hit by staff crisis

Continued from page 1.

tsunami' of Covid cases as a result of the fast-spreading Omicron variant.

The number of positive cases on the island has jumped to 12, latest official figures show.

Arran Medical Group posted on social media this week a note which read: 'Our team is currently being impacted by illness and self-isolation, this may mean that we need to cancel appointments at short notice, or arrange a telephone consultation rather than a face-to-face appointment.'

'We envisage this situation may last for a number of weeks and ask that you bear with us during this time.'

'Please be assured that if you have an urgent matter you will be able to speak to a GP and will be seen if appropriate.'

Craig McArthur, NHS East Ayrshire health and social care director, said: 'A number of staff within Arran Medical Group are currently self-isolating following contact with a positive case of coronavirus.'

'The practice is following public health guidance and urgent measures are being put in

place for ongoing patient care.'

'Patients can continue to telephone the practice on 01770 600516 where they will be triaged and offered remote consultations where appropriate.'

'If a patient is assessed as requiring an urgent in-person consultation, this will be arranged at the practice.'

'We thank Arran Medical Group patients for their continued patience during this current situation.'

'For anyone with non-urgent health care needs, more information on self-care is available at NHS Inform at [www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/right-care-right-place](http://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/right-care-right-place) or, your local pharmacy, dental practice or optician may be the most appropriate route to treatment and care.'

Meanwhile, Arran's vaccination clinic held on Sunday went smoothly with patients reporting a quick and efficient service.

The mass clinic was for all people aged 18 to 49 who were due their booster shot and for 12- to 17-year-olds who were due their second vaccination.

In addition to the booster

appointments, AMG also invited anyone who had not booked to drop in on Sunday afternoon to receive a booster and this offer was repeated on Wednesday.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran says visiting in all of its hospitals has, once again, been suspended.

Jennifer Wilson, interim nurse director, said: 'Rising community prevalence of the new Covid variant, Omicron, and the current demand for hospital services means we must once again restrict visiting to all our hospitals.'

'In order to limit the spread and maintain the safety of all our patients and staff, we have had to make the difficult decision to suspend visiting to essential visits only.'

'But please be assured that all decisions about visiting are made with the safety of the patient and the visitor in mind,' she added.

Exceptional reasons for visits will still be considered on a case-by-case basis and, by contacting wards, staff can facilitate virtual visiting using technology such as video calling.

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# Refuse stuck on island by early ferry cancellations

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Refuse is piling up on Arran due to the repeated cancellation of 7am ferry from Ardrossan to Brodick.

As a result the household waste recycling centre (HWRC) in Brodick has had to close as it cannot accommodate any further refuse and recycling.

As reported in last week's Banner, worrying figures show that 29 per cent of the early ferry sailings - which allow for goods, workers and contrac-

tors to arrive on Arran by the start of the business day - have been cancelled in the last 15 months.

Compounding the situation caused by adverse weather and technical difficulties, ferry operator CalMac has been berthing the ferry in Brodick overnight during inclement weather to avoid hull damage as the fenders at Ardrossan harbour - owned by Peel Ports - are damaged and vessels are unable to overnight there in high winds or sea swell conditions.

This has resulted in the first

sailing from Ardrossan being at 9.45am, only arriving on the island at 10.40am, which happened again this week.

North Ayrshire Council vehicles, which usually collect refuse from Arran on the 7am ferry, have been unable to secure bookings to Arran, leaving council officials with no option but to close the HWRC.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Arran's waste and recycling is collected from the island by transport which has priority on the 7am sailing from Ardrossan.



Arran residents found cones blocking the entrance at the council's recycling centre in Brodick this week. 01\_B51HWRC01

directly with CalMac to find a resolution.

A CalMac spokesperson also confirmed that discussions with North Ayrshire Council and CalMac were ongoing with a view to finding a solution.

At the time of going to print on Thursday, no agreement had been reached and the Brodick HWRC remained shut.

See page 4 for details of the festive bin collections.

'Due to recent disruptions to the 7am sailings, this transport has been unable to reach the island to uplift the material.

'We are currently in discussion with CalMac and are hopeful that this issue will be resolved imminently and the recycling centre can reopen.

'We apologies for any incon-

venience caused and ask for your patience and understanding as the matter is outwith our control.'

The Arran Ferry Committee described the removal of refuse as an essential service and upon making inquiries were informed that NAC representatives were liaising



Petrol and gas supplies could be in short supply this weekend if a solution to transport arrangements can not be found. Pictured: Brodick fuel station. 01\_B51petrol01

## Petrol supplies threatened by north end ferry disruptions

Arran faces a real threat of running out of petrol supplies this weekend owing to the cancellation of the Lochranza to Tarbert ferry service, writes Colin Smeeton.

Petrol and gas is transported to Arran via the north end of the island as legislation requires it to be transported on a vessel with an open deck.

Diesel, however, is not bound by the same restrictions and it can be brought in via the Ardrossan to Brodick route.

With the cancellation of the Lochranza ferry, which is expected to continue until Monday December 20, there are fears that petrol supplies on Arran may run dry.

The Lochranza ferry service was cancelled on Monday as the MV Loch Tarbert had to be diverted to serve on the Largs to Cumbrae route.

The ship normally serving that route, MV Loch Shira, was removed from service as a result of a suspected leak within its propulsion system.

A garage owner from Brodick told the Arran Banner that island petrol supplies are usually replenished once a week when a 40-tonne lorry arrives from Grangemouth refinery via the Lochranza route.

With the cancellation of the Lochranza ferry, he had concerns that petrol and gas

may run out before a tanker is able to make it over to the island again.

By his estimates, and judging by usage which may fluctuate, he estimated that petrol supplies could be depleted by tomorrow (Saturday).

Late on Tuesday afternoon, a CalMac spokeswoman said: 'We're aware of the petrol/gas bottle issue on the island and are currently investigating a contingency solution to ensure that we can get the necessary supplies delivered to the island.'

At the time of going to print on Thursday, a cargo-only sailing had been arranged for 'essential lifeline supplies'.

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# Society stages 'safe' annual show dinner

The Arran Farmers' Society annual show dinner went ahead last Saturday at the Kinloch Hotel with strict Covid guidelines being followed.

Everyone who attended the event, which had to be cancelled last year, was asked to take a lateral flow test on the day of the dinner and follow the most current Covid guidelines.

However, that did not stop those attending dressing up and having a great night out.

A spokeswoman for the Arran Show committee said: 'We were very glad to be able to have our show dinner this



year, especially after the last two actual shows having to be cancelled.

'We worked really hard with our committee, the Kinloch

Hotel and our attendees in order to make this event something we were all comfortable with, trying to keep our members safe and



Far left: Some of the 'fabulous' guests gather briefly for a group photo at the dinner.

Left: Guest speaker Cameron Wilson aka The Sheep Game entertains the audience.

one, you all looked fabulous! 'Special thanks to the Kinloch Hotel for hosting us. The food was delicious and the drink went down well too!

'And to Cameron Wilson aka The Sheep Game for making the trip over to be our guest speaker - Cammy's the name, sheep's the game.'

support local business.

'Thank you all for coming to and supporting our annual show dinner.

'It was so lovely to see every-

## Poppy appeal success

Poppy Scotland appeals were held across Arran last month and already almost £2,500 has been raised on the island with other monies still to come in.

Door-to-door collections in the Shiskine, Blackwaterfoot and Machrie area for the appeal raised the grand total of £1,141.42.

And organisers want to say a big thank you to all the good people of Lochranza, Pirnmill the Big Co and the wee Co for giving so generously to such a worthy cause and raising £717.38. Also thanks to the Royal Bank for counting it.

Meanwhile, the poppy appeal in Whiting Bay raised the sum of £603.04.

Many thanks to all who contributed.

# Changes to bin collection over the festive period

Arran residents are being reminded to check their bin collection arrangements for over the festive period.

That's because the Christmas and New Year public holidays will bring changes to some waste and recycling collection services across the island.

Commercial bin collections due on Monday December 27 will be collected on Tuesday December 28.

Similarly, collections due on Monday January 3 will be collected on Tuesday January 4.

Additionally, the household waste recycling centre in

Brodick, currently closed, will also be shut from 3pm on Friday December 24 to Tuesday 28 December 28 and from 3pm on Friday December 31 to Tuesday January 4, 2022. Special uplifts will stop on Friday December 17 and can be requested again week commencing Monday January 10, 2022.

The council will collect any surplus cardboard that is flattened and placed next to the blue bin on its collection day.

The council is advising residents and businesses to have their bins out for collection by

7am on their collection day, as the timing of collections may vary, particularly if adverse weather affects the area over winter.

David Hammond, head of commercial services, said: 'Our waste team has worked incredibly hard all year to maintain normal household bin collections for our residents, despite the challenges faced due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

'To allow our crews to get through the collections as quickly as possible and back to their loved ones during the fes-

tive season, we ask that you are well organised when it comes to your waste by ensuring you put the right stuff in the right bin and have it out by 7am on your collection day.

'We would like to thank everyone for their recycling efforts during 2021.'

Bin collection calendars can be viewed and downloaded from the council's website: [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/mybinday](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/mybinday)

For more information on any of the changes, please contact the local office on 01770 600338.

## Revised timetable for household bin collections over festive weekends:

### USUAL

Monday December 27  
Tuesday December 28  
Wednesday December 29  
Monday January 3  
Tuesday January 4  
Wednesday January 5

### RESCHEDULED

Wednesday December 29  
Thursday December 30  
Friday December 31  
Wednesday January 5  
Thursday January 6  
Friday January 7

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Tuesday 28th December	CLOSED
Wednesday 29th December	08.00 – 12.00
Thursday 30th December	08.00 – 12.00
Friday 31st December	08.00 – 12.00
Monday 3rd January 22	CLOSED
Tuesday 4th January 22	CLOSED
Wednesday 5th January 22	08.00 – 17.00

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# Holiday let licensing will hit Arran providers hard

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



## North Ayrshire Council backs government plans

A councillor has warned that Scottish Government proposals to introduce licensing for short-term lets and bed and breakfast businesses will have a devastating effect on Arran.

And he argues the measures will have no effect on improving the chronic shortage of affordable housing on the island – one of the measures they are intended to address.

Conservative councillor for Arran Timothy Billings raised his concerns at last week's full North Ayrshire Council meeting but was out-voted on the Scottish Government proposals which the council has now backed.

Councillor Billings proposed that a registration system would achieve the same results

but at less cost to the businesses and would be less onerous for North Ayrshire Council to administer, however, SNP, Labour and independent councillors supported the government's licensing proposals.

Councillor Billings said 'This is hugely disappointing as these licensing proposals are totally unnecessary and will cost these small businesses a huge amount of time and money.'

'As our tourism industry starts to recover from the Covid shock, the last thing it needs is to be hammered with burdensome and costly red tape.'

'The supporters of the government's licensing proposals seem to be under the delusion

that it will in some way help with affordable housing shortages.

'This is totally not the case as licensing deals with safety and not the control of business numbers.'

'I know that Arran has an affordable housing crisis, but at no point will licensing legislation tackle any housing issues.'

'Licensing is only concerned with safety and possible nuisance - both of which can effectively be addressed using a registration system similar to that used for long-term let landlords.'

'I am hugely worried about these licensing proposals and the harm it will cause to the tourism industry, especially on

Arran which I represent.

'Operators I speak to all are considering stopping offering holiday lets which will not only harm their livelihoods but will also adversely affect other businesses that rely on tourism, such as restaurants, bars and local shops.'

'The government is using a hammer to crack a nut, and has no regard to the damage it will cause to so many small business owners and Scotland's vital tourism industry.'

Fiona Campbell, chief executive of the Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers, said: 'These licensing regulations could not have come at a worse time for Scotland's self-caterers, most of whom are still reeling from the devastating

impact of the pandemic on our businesses and livelihoods.

'It remains astonishing that the Scottish Government seems intent on kicking self-caterers while we're down by imposing these damaging and potentially ruinous regulations on a sector that contributes £867 million to the Scottish economy each year, as well as supporting 24,000 FTE jobs.'

'Instead of an onerous licensing scheme with crippling operator fees, the ASSC have put forward a workable and proportionate mandatory registration scheme which has cross-industry and cross-party support.'

'The Scottish Government needs to change its course and

show that it is on the side of thousands of small businesses across the country by giving them the room and flexibility they need to get back on their feet.'

The introduction of licensing for accommodation providers has been a contentious issue with a number of tourism groups, including the Association of Scotland's Self-Caterers, Airbnb, Scottish B&B Association, and the UK Short Term Accommodation Association, all resigning from the government's working group earlier this year, citing its inability to address concerns the industry has raised over proposed new measures and describing the group as not fit for purpose.



Gina Thorborn, centre, with the Wineport team who won the award.

## Wineport wins top food award

The Wineport at Cladach has been named as the island's food business of the year by The Food Awards Scotland at a black-tie ceremony held recently at the Marriott Hotel in Glasgow.

The family-friendly bar bistro run by Gina Thorborn and her team received the accolade after being nominated by members of the public.

Regular visits to Arran with their pop up-offerings, Number 16 Restaurant in Byers Road was named the fine dining restaurant of the year and the Glasgow restaurant of the year.

The Food Awards Scotland has been highlighting the best businesses in the food industry for seven years, covering all aspects down the food chain, from specialists and suppliers to restaurants, chefs and servers.

A spokesperson for The Food Awards Scotland said: 'These awards aim to thank those who work hard within the food industry and contribute to making Scotland a great gastronomic place to visit.'

'It is true that Scotland combines tastes and flavours from all over the world and visitors can find different restaurants, gastro pubs and bistros to meet their needs.'

'These people enhance the country's reputation nationally and internationally, and we would like to make sure that the hard work of Scotland's food professionals doesn't go unnoticed.'

'It was lovely to be part of this celebration and we would like to congratulate all finalists and winners for their achievements!'

# SCOTTISH FIELD

## January



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**Happy New Year...**  
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## LETTERS

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

## Here we go again...

Everyone on Arran breathed a sigh this week which said: Here we go again.

Just as our hotels, bars and restaurants were gearing up for a bumper Christmas, they were hit by new restrictions while islanders looking forward to spending time with family and friends over the festive season were hit by another blow.

We are sure over the coming days we will see more and more events cancelled and, worryingly, the health services on Arran are already struggling to cope due to a staff crisis.

However, it is not all gloom and doom. The vaccine rollout on Arran has been a huge success and the latest round of booster jabs was extended with a number of drop-in doses given as well as the scheduled appointments.

That can only be good news in fighting the fast-spreading Omicron variant on the island although it is concerning that the number of confirmed Covid cases on the island has crept back up to 12.

What is clear is that the best we can do is follow the new rules and hope we can get through Christmas and New Year without too many new restrictions and look to start 2022 in a positive light.

## Thought for the week

The angel said: 'Mary will have a son, and you will name him Jesus - because he will save his people from their sins.' **Matt 1:21**

## Persistence congratulated

Sir,  
I was delighted to read that work will shortly be starting on the Arran Development Trust's 18 new rental homes, and that it has secured funding to support work to start on the 25 plots for self-build homes.

What should be emphasised is the dedication and perseverance that has been required to get to this point.

The small ADT team has had to overcome setback after setback to get to where they are today.

Lesser mortals would have given up ages ago but they battled on with a clear vision of what needed to be achieved.

These new rental and self-build homes will make another very welcome addition to Arran's affordable housing stock. Congratulations to all involved.

Yours,  
**Councillor Timothy Billings,  
Ardrossan & Arran.**

## Foodbank support

Sir,  
As we approach the end of 2021, we wish to thank all those who have donated either items of food or money to the Arran Churches Together Foodbank.

Over the year, more than 18,500 items have been taken with nearly 1,900 items in February in the middle of lockdown, gradually reducing to around 900 in September and falling even further in recent months. Hopefully as people get back into work the numbers will continue to fall.

At the moment we have plenty of pasta and tinned spaghetti but always need tinned meat, fish, fruit, custard and rice.

As always, the residents on Arran have been so generous throughout the year and this is so much appreciated, not only by the foodbank

team but also by all those in need.

Our sincere thanks to you all.

Yours,  
**The Foodbank Team,  
Brodick.**

## Home delivery

Sir,  
Due to the changing rules with Covid, the Kildonan and Kilmory senior citizens' lunch had to be cancelled at the Lagg Distillery at the last minute.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in a personal delivery to our homes on Saturday of a delicious Christmas meal from the Lagg Distillery and also for the lovely goody bag supplied by local businesses.

A special thank you to Phyllis and Wilma for all their hard work in organising this so well. I am sure I speak for everyone who enjoyed this special treat.

Yours,  
**Jan Herbert,  
Kildonan.**

## Kitten fraud

Sir,  
With online pet sales on the increase, Cats Protection would like to warn of the potential risk of buying an ill or diseased kitten.

This year the charity has heard of many kittens that were taken from their mothers at too young an age and sold online for the sake of a quick profit. Kittens should be at least eight weeks old so that they are fully weaned and developing normally from a health and behavioural perspective.

Unsuspecting buyers did not realise that they bought a potentially sick kitten until after purchase which meant they were sometimes left with high veterinary bills, or in some cases, a kitten which tragically died.

Action Fraud also reports that there has been

a six-fold increase in instances of kitten and cat fraud (1,146 in 2020/21 compared to just 190 in 2019/20), underlining the need for buyers to be vigilant.

Please visit [www.cats.org.uk/eight-weeks](http://www.cats.org.uk/eight-weeks) for advice on how to purchase a happy and healthy kitten or give a donation to help Cats Protection care for unwanted kittens.

Yours,  
**Dr Maggie Roberts,  
Cats Protection.**

## Heartfelt thanks

Sir,  
On behalf of all of us at Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland, I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us this year. You have kept us going through what has been another really tough year.

During the last year we have continued to see Covid-19 challenge us. We have continued to see an increase in demand for our services, and with shop closures and lack of fundraising events, the income that our charity depends on was being threatened.

But, faced with this chaos, we stayed strong and focused because our mission of No Life Half Lived was at the heart of every choice we made.

We have been determined to help people do more than just survive their condition and thanks to your unwavering support, we are helping them to really live.

This is what inspired us to stand shoulder to shoulder with our NHS colleagues in the fight against Covid by continuing to develop our Hospital to Home service to provide wrap-around care for people living with a chest or heart condition or the effects of stroke, keeping people safe and well in their own homes as they return home from hospital while helping to relieve the pressure on our NHS.

We entered a partnership with the Scottish Government to deliver care for people living with long Covid. It's what inspired us to support over 12,687 people through our care services.

So, I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all our donors, supporters, volunteers and staff for your inspirational work during another disrupted and difficult year.

Thank you for every donation - big or small - it has made a huge difference. Because of you we can be there for people when it matters most, we are able to help people to do more than survive, and to help them live their lives to the full.

Yours,  
**Jane-Claire Judson,  
Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland.**

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The Editor welcomes letters for publication on this page. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, should also be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ. Fax: (01770) 302021. Email [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk). Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.



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Scotland's Year of Stories 2022 has been launched with Scottish story icons Dennis the Menace and Mary, Queen of Scots sharing their tales with Luke Winter of the Story Wagon – a touring space offering creative writing, traditional storytelling and story sharing activities. They were joined by Rocco Cesari, eight, and Francesca Cesari, five, at The Kelpies in Falkirk.

# Tall tales will be celebrated during Scotland's Year of Stories 2022

Next year has been designated as Scotland's Year of Stories as part of the nationwide tourism strategy aimed at promoting and celebrating Scotland as a top tourist destination.

Led by VisitScotland, the Year of Stories 2022 has been selected as the latest themed year which have all played an important role in engaging with communities in Scotland. Through the initiative, events and activities have helped to attract visitors and promote Scotland.

Previous year's have included Year of Young People, Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design and last year – continued from the previous year – was the Year of Coasts and Waters.

Themed years used to change annually, however, they will now take place every second year to allow more time for planning and collaboration. The next themed year will be

2024. The Year of Stories has been selected to highlight, celebrate and promote the wealth of stories inspired by, written, or created in Scotland.

A nationwide programme of more than 60 events will help to celebrate the Year of Stories. These will include community groups, national

**'It's important to shout about Scotland's new and untold stories.'**

organisations, musical groups and various festivals among many others.

Malcolm Roughead, chief executive of VisitScotland, said: 'Scotland's Year of Stories, and this exciting new events programme, offers an incredible platform to showcase the many sides of Scotland's distinct, vibrant and diverse culture.

'We are inviting the world to delve into the wonderful experiences our stories create.

From icons of literature to local tales, the year encourages visitors and locals to experience a range of voices, take part in events and explore the places, people and cultures connected to all forms of our stories, past and present.

'And it's important to shout about Scotland's new and untold stories. Year of Stories 2022 will shine a light on emerging, fresh and forward-looking talent and highlight the innovators that break boundaries across all forms of storytelling.

'As our valuable tourism and events industry continues to rebuild following the impacts of the Covid pandemic, this year heralds an exciting new chapter while also providing quality opportunities for artists, creatives and audiences.'

Further information about the Year of Stories is available on the Visit Scotland website where a full list of the events programme can also be found.

## MSP Clark demands Transport Minister 'sets the record straight'

Katy Clark MSP has called on the Scottish Government to fully recognise the Arran Ferry Action Group as a stakeholder on all matters affecting the Arran ferry route, writes Hugh Boag.

The plea came after the group was snubbed from last week's Ardrossan Harbour Task Force meeting despite the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon identifying the 'Arran Ferry Group' as a stakeholder in FMQs earlier this month. A statement which was later claimed to be a mistake.

Ms Clark, who represents Scottish Labour for West Scotland, has asked the Minister for Transport Graeme Dey, pictured, in a letter to set the record straight, as well as calling for island representatives to



be invited on to the boards of CalMac and CMAL.

Ms Clark said: 'Islanders should be better represented in decision-making processes on the routes that affect them. The Arran Ferry Action Group is supported by over 1,300 Arran residents with knowledge and expertise that could be effectively utilised by the Scottish Government, so it is baffling that they continue to be left out in the cold

'The views of islanders are going to be particularly vital in the ongoing discussions about how we put a ferry plan in place to assess the long-term failure to invest in a new fleet.

'Islanders and the workforce need to be part of the consultation process every step of the way to address the crisis we currently face.' A second

West Scotland MSP, Jamie Greene, has also criticised the Transport Minister for failing to engage with the Action Group, saying his snub is the latest in a long list of 'insults' to island residents.

Mr Greene said: 'The refusal of the Transport Minister to meet with this key Arran ferry stakeholder, let alone include them in the taskforce, is the latest in a long line of snubs and insults from this SNP government.'

'Barely a week goes by without another drama in this beleaguered ferry saga – the least he could do is listen to those affected by his government's decisions and work with local groups towards a positive outcome.'

Transport Scotland told the Banner last week that there was an error in the Scottish Parliament's draft official report and that the Arran Ferry Committee remains the recognised body on the island for engagement on ferry issues.

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# Scotland's Leading Property Solutions Company Arrives on Arran

Formed in 1911, James Frew Ltd (GasSure) is one of the largest privately-owned building services companies in Scotland, providing integrated property solutions, including plumbing, heating, mechanical services, electrical installation, gas maintenance, renewables and property upgrade services.

James Frew (GasSure) are delighted to announce the expansion of their services, offering design, installation and servicing of oil boilers, LPG boilers, air source heat pumps as well as electrical and plumbing services in Arran. Their James Frew Academy provides apprenticeship opportunities in building services and construction and recently welcomed 16 new first year apprentices (pictured) across 4 specific trade disciplines.

Headquartered in Ayrshire, the company are the current recipient of Ayrshire Chamber's Large Business of the Year Award and are in the process of renovating Douglas Lodge in Brodick to provide an island base for their new venture.

Managing Director Roddy Frew said: "We work with many businesses, social landlords and homeowners across North Ayrshire and it feels like the right time to establish a presence on Arran to help meet demand for integrated property solutions such as home energy systems, oil and gas fired heating systems, renewables, electric vehicle charging points and traditional electrical and plumbing works. Our award winning James Frew Academy provides life chances and opportunities for young people. We are keen to expand our apprenticeship programme to help build capacity and future tradespersons on the island".

Installation Manager Jim McKay said: "This is an exciting time, not only for our company, but also for our customers. We are seeing a growing demand for electric vehicle charge points, air source heat pumps and other renewable technologies. We are ideally placed to deliver integrated property solutions that help meet the needs of customers now and in the future."

James Frew is an established and trusted company with a proven track record in building services. Throughout the years they have worked hard to build an extensive customer base. Their values of Excellence, Teamwork, Collaboration, Innovation and Integrity are their foundations and sets their standard for operational excellence.



James Frew Academy 1st Year Apprentices 2021



# Jane turns author to help other businesswomen

A Whiting Bay-based business coach has collaborated on a new book in which she speaks transparently about growing a successful business while being a mum.

Jane Mack has united with 21 other female entrepreneurs in a bid to inspire others to find their voice.

The charity book has been created to help more people identify with the things that are holding them back, and hit realisations of what needs to be done to change things, if life is to look different in 2022.

Her chapter in the book - Step Aside and Rise - talks about the challenges that exist in growing a business and how to overcome them, especially with a young family.

Mum-of-two Jane spent seven years running the holiday let and property management business, The Arran Team, with her husband David.

After growing the business, they sold it to a large company and continued working for the business.

Jane then decided she would move into the coaching world and help other mums in business move their businesses forward like she did and overcome the challenges that she had to.

For the new book the entrepreneurs were brought together by voice, mindset and business coach Andrea Callanan, who has supported Jane and each and every woman featured to make changes in their lives.

Step Aside and Rise is a collective mission to create a ripple effect amongst women who are made for more.

In the book Jane shares how it is possible to overcome the many challenges that are faced in running a business and work towards a better work-



Jane Mack who has contributed to the new best-selling book.

life balance, in her chapter - Rise Above the Challenges and Reap the Rewards.

Having set her business up as a result of growing a successful business over 10 years, this book is a part of Jane's mission to show women in business that it is possible to have a successful business and a family and all challenges can be overcome.

Launching globally, Step Aside and Rise went straight in at number one in seven categories including: business

biographies, inspirational spirituality and small business and entrepreneurship alongside books by TV personality John Cleese, and Ollie Ollerton, from Channel 4's SAS: Who Dares Wins.

Jane was also delighted to share a category, top 100 self help and counselling category, with New York Times bestseller Brené Brown, whose work Jane hugely admires.

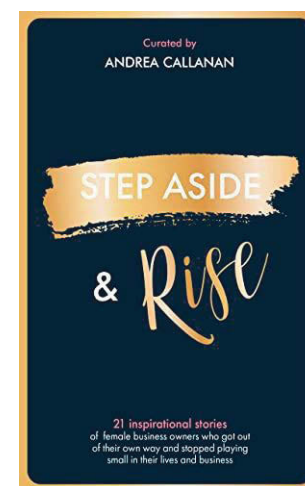
The book proceeds of all the Amazon sales will be donated to the WONDER Foundation

(The Women's Network for Development and Educational Resources), a charity focused on empowering women, girls and their communities through access to quality education so that they can transform their lives and exit poverty for good.

They say: 'We never set out simply to educate women and girls, but to give them the tools to be leaders in their own lives, just as we wish to be.'

Due to the huge increase in audiobooks, and to aid

'If you have a passion for something or an idea you've always wanted to put into practice, don't let fear stop you.'



The cover of Step Aside and Rise.

accessibility, the book will also be recorded. This will be available shortly on Audible and all good audiobook outlets.

Jane said: 'The focus of Step Aside and Rise is on showcasing what's possible through sharing our incredible stories and I'm delighted to be a part of Andrea's project, enabling as many other women as possible to step into their brilliance.'

'I am passionate about sharing my story and experience around women creating the business of their dreams that fits in with their family life, because I believe that anything is possible if you have the right mindset and courage to take it forward.'

'If women who may be

struggling in their business right now can see what I've overcome, and how, I hope it will help them see a way forward too.'

Andrea said: 'I'm driven by helping other women access their own power, rediscover their identity, and their voice.'

'Within the pages of this book, you'll hear 21 extraordinary stories of everyday women who were lost in their lives and stuck in their businesses.'

'By making different choices and taking aligned action they have stepped out of their own way and risen as absolute triumphs. I'm so proud of every single one of them.'

Jane added: 'Running your own business and being your own boss comes with its challenges, but there is nothing that can't be overcome. By overcoming challenges you can enjoy the benefits it brings.'

'If you have a passion for something or an idea you've always wanted to put into practice, don't let fear stop you.'

'The support for entrepreneurs is huge and there is never a time limit on when you can make a career change. Put some faith in yourself and take the leap, you won't regret it.'

Step Aside and Rise is available now via Amazon at <https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B09MJS3LZV> and will soon also be available in a paperback version too.

**YOURSTORY**  
email us at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)  
telephone 01770 302142

## Artists announced for trust's Burns Big Night In 2022

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has confirmed the performers who will be making its online Burns celebration - the Burns Big Night In - even bigger and better for January 2022.

Siobhan Miller, Laurie Cameron, Nevis Ensemble and Nae Plans will provide the music for the night.

Janette Ayachi, Jenny Lindsay and Michael Pedersen will be bringing

the spoken word to life with fresh interpretations of Robert Burns's work and presentations of their own from Alloway, the birthplace of Robert Burns, on Saturday January 22, 2022.

In the words of Michael Pedersen, it's set to be 'a whole gallimaufry of fantabulous poetry, music and lore'.

Caroline Smith, the National Trust for Scotland operations manager

at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway, said: 'This is a really vibrant programme full of top Scottish-based talent and they'll help us celebrate the Bard in 21st century-style. We're proud to be bringing this celebration from the place where Burns was born, to those who love him, all over the world.'

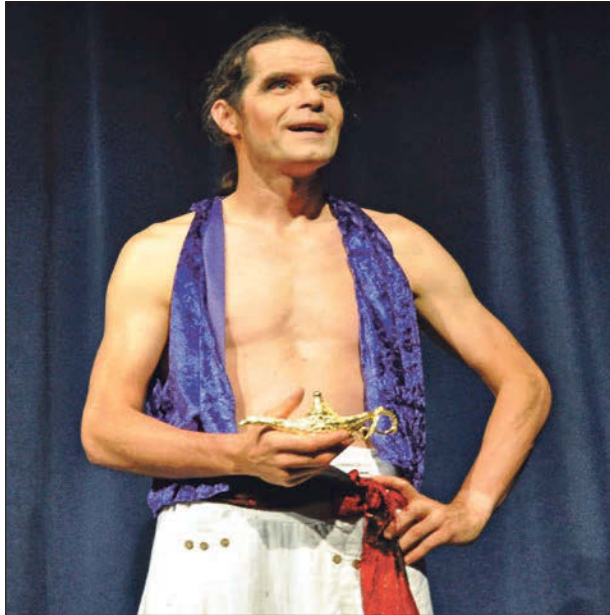
The Burns Big Night In made its debut in January 2021 when Covid

restrictions meant that in-person celebrations at the charity's Robert Burns Birthplace Museum couldn't take place.

Traditionally, the site in Ayr, which includes the humble cottage where Burns was born on January 25 1759, the Brig o'Doon and Auld Kirk, as well as 5,000 Burns' artefacts, is a place of music, poetry, food and partying in January.

It will be hosted once again by the DJ and presenter Edith Bowman, who said: 'I am so pleased to be heading back to Alloway for an even bigger and better Burns Big Night In for 2022. It's really exciting to be able to offer Burns fans from all over the globe the chance to connect with the birthplace of the Bard, and to add their performance to proceedings for this special celebration.'

# Panto perfection at Whi



Albert Laddin, played by Andy McNamara, with the magic lamp. 01\_B51panto07

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



The three performances of the mini-panto, Albert Laddin, hit all the right notes with audiences who packed the Whiting Bay Hall last weekend.

Performed by the Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music, the uproariously funny production featured the well-known acting talents of David Simpkin, Andy McNamara, Allan Nicol, Beverley Scott, Shannon Galbraith, Laura Coyle, Nina Szwalec and Patrick Scott.

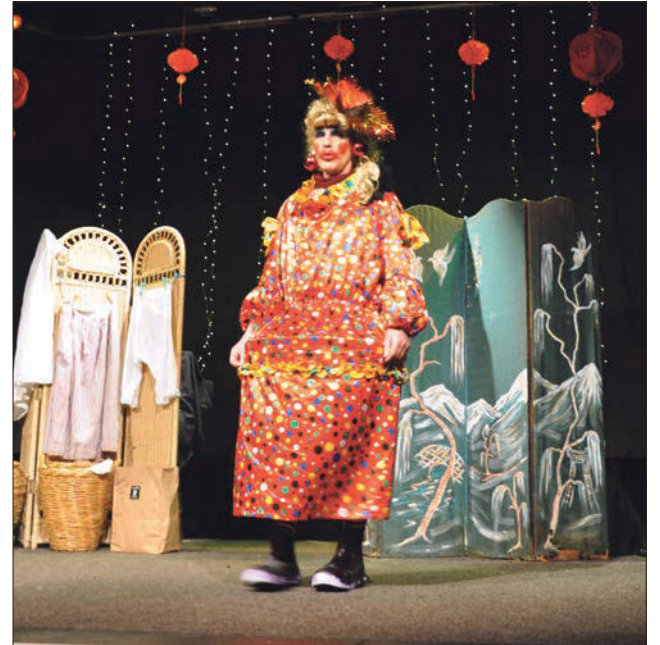
Adding to the star-studded cast were the musical talents of the Arran Ceilidh Band who provided a live musical accompaniment thanks to Alice Maxwell, Rhodri Herapath, Cerys Herapath, Sarah Ransley

and John Van Bogerijen.

The performance was slick and well-rehearsed, and the actors expertly engaged the audience with ease, eliciting peals of laughter and drawing in the audience who shouted their support and encouragement for the 'good guys'.

As an added bonus, after the show Cerys and Rhodri Herapath provided the audience with two quirky and enjoyable live solo performances before the audience and crew belted out a number of Christmas carols.

The talented actors, accomplished musicians, and the production skills of the drama club ensured that all of the audience members were lost in a vivid world of action, excitement and high jinks that are so much appreciated, and enjoyed, at this time of year.



Allan Nicol as Widow Twanky. 01\_B51panto02



Day-Glo, played by Laura Coyle, and Mee Too, played by Nina Szwalec, perform on the ukulele and sing. 01\_B51panto08



The cast of Albert Laddin sing Christmas carols with the audience. 01\_B51panto03



The Arran Ceilidh Band provided the music before, during, and after the performance. 01\_B51panto01



Albert Laddin and Day-Glo compete with Widow Twanky and Mee-Too for the audience to shout for them. 01\_B51panto04

# ting Bay, oh yes it was!



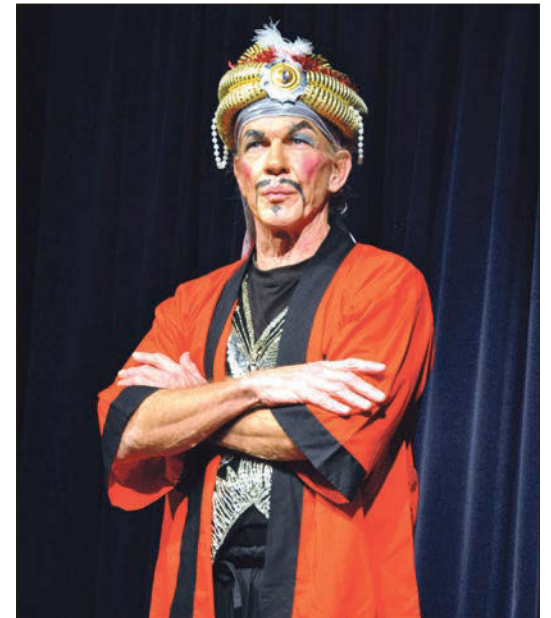
Clockwise from above left:

The princess is smitten with Albert Laddin, who asks for her hand in marriage. 01\_B51panto09

The full cast of Albert Laddin take a bow after the performance. 01\_B51panto12

The story was narrated in rhyme by the Genie, played by David Simpkin. 01\_B51panto05

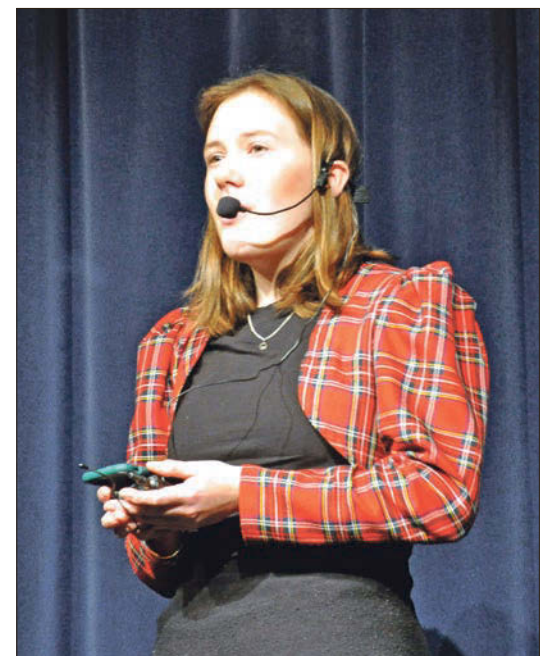
The Empress of China, played by Beverley Scott, offers some sage advice to the Princess, played by Shannon Galbraith. 01\_B51panto06



Abanazar, the wicked uncle played by Patrick Scott, is delighted to regain the magic lamp while the princess realises she has been tricked. 01\_B51panto10



Rhodri Herapath sings an amusing resposte to his sister's song. 01\_B51panto14



Cerys Herapath performs a solo for the audience. 01\_B51panto13

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Adam, Charlotte & The Shore Team

**We look forward to welcoming you back in February!**

**co op**

Liz and team at the Big Co Brodick wish all of our customers a **Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2022!**

**James of ARRAN**  
A big **THANK YOU** to everyone for their support this year and wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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- Andrew & The Team

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The Arran Banner would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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<b>ACTION ON DEPRESSION</b> <a href="http://www.actionondepression.org">www.actionondepression.org</a>	0808 802 2020
<b>BREATHING SPACE</b> <a href="http://www.breathingspacescotland.co.uk">www.breathingspacescotland.co.uk</a>	0800 83 85 87
<b>CHILDLINE</b> <a href="http://www.childline.org.uk">www.childline.org.uk</a>	0800 11 11
<b>CRUSE BEREAVEMENT CARE SCOTLAND</b> <a href="http://www.crusescotland.org.uk">www.crusescotland.org.uk</a>	0845 600 2227
<b>SAMARITANS</b> <a href="http://www.samaritans.org">www.samaritans.org</a>	08457 90 90 90
<b>TOUCHED BY SUICIDE</b> <a href="http://www.touchedbysuicidescotland.org">www.touchedbysuicidescotland.org</a>	01294 229087
<b>YOUNGMINDS</b> <a href="http://www.youngminds.org.uk">www.youngminds.org.uk</a>	020 7336 8445

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t: 07917631626  
e: sandykerr@outlook.com

**Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year**

**Kinloch Arran**

Wishing all our customers and the community  
**A very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**  
From Robbie, Barbara and All at Kinloch Hotel xx

**Co-op**

The very best of wishes to One and All for the Festive Season from all the team at your local Lamlash Co-op.

**#itswhatwedo**

Gach deagh dhùrachd aon agus uile.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM EVERYONE AT ARRAN DAIRIES**

**Nº Sixteen Arran**

Number 16 Arran would like to thank everyone who has supported our pop-ups and home deliveries this year. We'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021! We look forward to seeing you again in the new year.



A heartfelt thank you to our customers, the islanders and our suppliers for your support in our first year.  
May we wish you a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Janette and Mark  
**A Touch of Enchantment**  
The Old Courthouse, Cladach



Merry Christmas and  
a Happy New Year  
from the Currie Family  
bellevue-arran.co.uk  
@bellevuefarmarran



## STAGS PAVILION

Val and Rino would like to wish all our customers old and new a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.  
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suppliers a very Merry  
Christmas and a  
Happy New Year

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Wishing all our customers on Arran a Happy Christmas and Best wishes for New Year and thank you for your custom through out the year and patience with the ferries!

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best wishes for 2022  
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Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thanks for all your support throughout the year. All the best for 2022.





**The Coffee Pot**  
Wishing Everyone a Happy Christmas  
and a Good New Year  
From all at The Coffee Pot  
Golf Course Rd, Whiting Bay • Tel: 700393

**Wish all their customers and  
friends a very Merry Christmas  
and a Healthy & Happy 2022**

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Refrigeration Ltd**  
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**Arran Cleaning Services Ltd**  
Wish all their  
customers  
a very Merry  
Christmas  
and a Happy  
New Year!

Tel: 01770 303555




**Seasons Greetings from  
all at Arran Vets.**  
The surgery will be closed  
Saturday 25th to Tuesday 28th December  
and Saturday 1st to Tuesday 4th January.  
**In the event of an emergency  
please phone 302511 as usual.**



**ARRAN DOG  
BAKERY**

The Arran Dog Bakery Team would like to wish all their  
customers and stockists a Wonderful Christmas and a  
Happy New Year! Thank you for your support!

May your cup runneth over  
this Christmas,  
Arran Coffee  
(Sofia, Alix & Vincent van  
Grow).




**Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New year to all our  
customers and their families!**



from all at **ARMITAGE**

Warmest thoughts and best wishes  
to all for a wonderful  
Christmas & New Year!



**ARRAN HAULAGE**





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CHRISTMAS AND  
A HAPPY NEW  
YEAR TO ALL MY  
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ROSS\_PAUL95@HOTMAIL.COM



*Merry Christmas & a  
Happy New Year*

to all our friends and  
partners from everyone at  
VisitArran and the  
Arran Trust.



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Isle of  
**ARRAN**  
Cheese Shop

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Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year.

Thank you for all your  
custom through out the year.



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ARRAN'S ONLY LOCAL ESTATE AGENCY

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throughout 2021

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wish you a  
merry christmas  
and extend our  
sincere good wishes  
for a healthy  
and happy new year

from Bob, Penny and the teams  
at Arran Estate Agents  
& Cottages on Arran



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wonderful New Year



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and suppliers  
a very Merry  
Christmas and  
a healthy and  
prosperous  
New Year.

**We will be closed from 4pm on Christmas eve and  
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Tel 01770 302622  
email: [cladachsawmill@btinternet.com](mailto:cladachsawmill@btinternet.com)  
[www.cladachsawmill.com](http://www.cladachsawmill.com)

# Brodick is among the gardens open all year

The weather may be getting colder, but a warm welcome still awaits at some of Ayrshire and Arran's most stunning gardens.

And visitors are being urged to get out and explore them during the months ahead.

Brodick Castle and Country Park is amongst the dozens of gardens across Scotland that will remain open throughout the winter including Culzean Castle and Dumfries House in Ayrshire.

These green oases offer space to explore, to enjoy the fresh air and to meet family and friends and they've played a huge part in helping visitors to maintain their health and wellbeing during the last two years.

And now Discover Scottish Gardens, the network of more than 400 gardens, nurseries and estates across



Joanna Macpherson, far right, getting an award from the Royal Horticultural Society last week.

the country, has been backed by VisitScotland to boost its website, allowing days out to be planned in advance.

Visitors can now search [discoverscottishgardens.org](http://discoverscottishgardens.org) for family activities, dog-friendly gardens, accessible spaces and cafes as well as discovering which gardens remain open all year round.

Joanna Macpherson, director of Discover Scottish Gardens, says thousands of people have discovered Scotland's gar-

dens for the first time during the pandemic. 'Overnight the visitor profile changed and suddenly we were seeing young people and families with children who had never set foot in a garden before.

'What they've discovered is that there's so much to see and discover in these beautiful spaces, from the bugs, frogs and squirrels that delight children, to a huge range of unusual trees and plants.

'And many people have been

using gardens for exercise and for places to meet up with family and friends.

'We want people to keep on enjoying the gardens during the winter months and discover the beauty that only unfolds when there's frost or snow on the ground or highly-scented winter plants are in flower,' she added.

Discover Scottish Gardens was launched in 2015 with support from VisitScotland's Growth Fund. It is sponsored by Galbraith, Lycetts Insurance Brokers, Candide, Turcan Connell, Scottish Land & Estates and Halcyon.

The organisation aims to put Scottish gardens, nurseries and related businesses on the tourist map and to showcase the nation's outstanding horticulture and plant diversity. For more information see [www.discoverscottishgardens.org](http://www.discoverscottishgardens.org).

# Consultations on new Gaelic plans are launched

Two public bodies have both launched consultations to gather views and opinions on their Gaelic language plans which cover the next five years.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) draft plan sets out its commitments and achievements to elevate the status of the language and promote its use through a range of actions and initiatives, including bilingual signs at harbours and other properties; bilingual names for all ferries; Gaelic translation of communications material, such as website and social media; and a number of employees are currently learning Gaelic.

The other has been launched by Forestry and Land Scotland. Chief executive Simon Hodgson said: 'Gaelic is an important part of Scotland's heritage, national

identity and cultural life.

'It is also an intrinsic part of our landscape with many of the forests and areas of land in our care bearing Gaelic names that describe their appearance, their geography or reflect their importance in Gaelic culture.

'Even the names of the letters in the Gaelic alphabet are based on the names of many of Scotland's native trees.

'I would invite anyone who has an interest in Scotland's national forests and land and in the Gaelic language, to take part and contribute to the final version of the plan.'

The CMAL draft plan and survey can be found at [www.cmassets.co.uk/gaelicplan](http://www.cmassets.co.uk/gaelicplan). It closes on Wednesday January 5, 2022. The FLS draft plan can be found at [forestryandland.gov.scot](http://forestryandland.gov.scot) and closes on Friday January 7.

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# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 15 2001



Arran's young naturalists, who throughout the year meet at Brodick Country Park to study nature, enjoyed their annual Christmas party at their latest meeting. 01\_B51ABTYA01



This year's Young Naturalist of the Year is Hazel Ramage, who is pictured here with runner-up Robert Armstrong. They are joined by castle administrator Ken Thorburn and head ranger Kate Sampson.

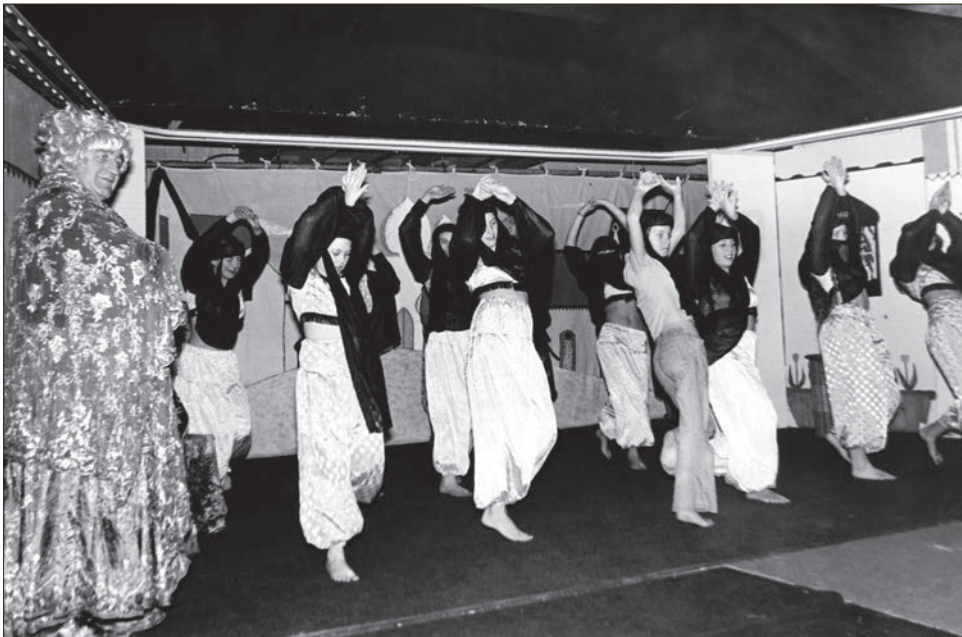
01\_B51ABTYA02

Pictured right at the Lamlash panto is Helen Macfarlane and Mary Crawford as the dimwitted duo Toe and Rag. 01\_B51ABTYA04

**CONTACTUS**  
EMAIL US AT  
emailusateditor@arranbanner.co.uk  
TELEPHONE  
01770 302142

Below: Lamlash Co-op has been undergoing a major facelift in recent weeks as the shop space is extended into what used to be the back store room. Manager Ian Struthers and assistants Hilary Crawford and Sarah Campbell are delighted with the extra space and wider selection of fresh produce.

01\_B51ABTYA06



Billed as an Arabian adventure is this year's Christmas panto called Sinbad. Pictured is Lamlash Drama Club's Allan Little as Emiraminute who is watching over his Turkish Delight dancers. 01\_B51ABTYA03



Arran Churches Together held a Christingle service in Whiting Bay Church where children lit candles and placed them at the altar. 01\_B51ABTYA05



# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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

TOURS AND TASTINGS BY APPOINTMENT



## Every Day

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

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

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

Lamlash Putting Green, Open daily, 10am - 4pm

Lamlash Tennis Courts, Open All hours

Trout Fly Fishing, Loch Garbad, bank fishing

Whiting Bay Bowling Club, Open to book call 01770 700636

## Saturday 18th December

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

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

Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.30pm

Arran Ferry Action Group AGM now via Zoom, 2pm

Christmas Tractor Run, Shiskine, 3pm

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

## Sunday 19th December

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

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

The Last Waltz - grief circle, Banner Lodge, Brodick, 2pm

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

Alcoholics Anonymous Zoom Meeting,  
go to [alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk](http://alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk), 7pm

## Monday 20th 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 21st 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

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

## Wednesday 22nd 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 Pace Makers please check Facebook @arranpace-  
makers, Venue varies, 5.30pm

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

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

## Thursday 23rd 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 Heath-  
er 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 24th December

Winter Show, Saltwater Gallery, Cladach, 10am - 4pm

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

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

Alcoholics Anonymous Zoom Meeting, go to [alcoholicsa-  
nonymous.org.uk](http://alcoholicsa-<br/>nonymous.org.uk), 7pm

Live Music Crofters' Bar and Bistro, from 9pm

## Saturday 25th December

*Merry Christmas*



Joel Small prepares to score for Arran as the Girdle Toll keeper scrambles to stop him. All photos Tam Borland

# Arran begin winter break in top three

Girdle Toll	3
Isle of Arran	2
ASafa league	

Arran AFC are in third place in the Ayrshire Sunday Amateur Football Association league despite being narrowly beaten by Girdle Toll last weekend.

Joel Small scored a brace in the match played at St Matthews playing fields in Saltcoats but the Arran side were beaten by their Irvine opposition who secured three goals

A disappointed spokesperson

from Arran AFC said: 'It was tough to take, but we were up against a good team and giving away two silly penalties was our undoing. We wish Girdle Toll all the best for the second half of the season and thank you to our match sponsor Lawson Soaps.'

Arran AFC will begin the second half of the season in third place with eight games played and 18 points.

In second place is Irvine No1 CSC with 10 games under their belts and 25 points. Grange is at the top of the table after 12 games, and with 28 points.



Team mates celebrate Joel's second goal as the downpours intensified during the match.



Spectators shield from the rain as Arran player Kieran Rae claims possession of the ball.

# 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](http://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



## PUBLIC NOTICES

**ARRAN FERRY ACTION GROUP**

# AGM

**Saturday 18th December**  
**DUE TO COVID PREVENTION**  
**THIS MEETING WILL NOW BE**  
**VIA ZOOM AT 2pm**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2344292789>  
 Meeting ID: 234 429 2789

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

**THE ARRAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
 The committee has decided the suspension will continue at present



Calling all tourism businesses...  
**2022 is underway!**  
 Advertising on our maps and Holiday West Highland is now available to book!  
 Our beautifully illustrated tourist maps reach hundreds of thousands of visitors (and locals!) and Holiday West Highland is the premier magazine packed with everything our visitors need to know about making the most of their west coast holiday.  
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## RECRUITMENT

**ARRAN ECO SAVVY IS RECRUITING**

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CONTRACT Fixed Term to 30th June 2022  
 FULL TIME 40 hrs per week  
 SALARY: £25,000 to £29,000 pa pro rata

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*apply by e mailing your CV and covering letter to:*  
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 or by post to Helen Ross "in confidence"  
 Eco Savvy Shop, Shore Rd  
 Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran KA27 8PR

*Applications Closing Date: 3 January 2022*



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## PERSONAL NOTICES

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives friends & neighbours from Nancy Cannon, Lamlash

*Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year*

Anne and Stan wish for all their Arran friends peace and contentment.

## PRIVATE SALES

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## 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. Keeping with new guideline, please take a lateral flow test before coming to a Church Service.

**Sunday 19th 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  
**Friday 24th December**  
**Christmas Eve**

Shiskine Church 11.30pm evening service  
Brodict Church 6pm evening service

**Saturday 25th December**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Lochranza Church Family Christmas Service at 11am

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
**Whiting Bay and Kildonan**  
Church of Scotland  
Charity Number: SC014005

**Sunday 19th December**  
**4th Sunday in Advent**  
Service will be conducted at 10.30am.-

This will be an all-age Family Christmas service.

**Friday 24th December**  
**Christmas Eve**

Watchnight Service at 11.40pm.  
**Saturday 25th December**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Service at 10am  
A short Family Service at 10am and children can bring gifts.

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 19th December**  
Kilmory at 10 am

Lamlash Church at 11.30 am  
Christingle Service in Lamlash with the Montrose House Ceilidh Band

**Friday 24th December**  
**Christmas Eve**

Lamlash at 6.30pm  
Kilmory at 9.30pm

**Saturday 25th December**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY Service**

Lamlash 10.30am  
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 19th December**  
**4th Sunday in Advent**

Holy Communion at 11am  
Richard Trewby

**25th December**  
**Christmas Day**

Sung Eucharist - 10 am  
Revd Adrian Fallows  
**EVERYONE IS WELCOME**  
Coffee after service

We will observe SEC guidelines

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Minister - Rev. Vince Jennings  
Tel: 01770 600222

www.arranbaptistchurch.org.uk  
**Sunday 19th 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.

**Tuesday 21st December**  
Carol Concert in Brodict Hall, with the Arran Brass Band at 7.15pm

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

**Sunday 19th December**  
Morning Service at 11am  
Free Church Building, Alma Road, Brodict

All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH**  
**OF SCOTLAND**

**Sunday 19th December**  
Service at Shiskine Free Church (Torbeig)

At 11.15am will be taken by Rev Duncan Peters (Interim Moderator). Please note slightly later time. ALL WELCOME

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC**  
**CHURCH**

**Mass: Saturday 18th**  
**December Vigil at 5pm**  
**Sunday 19th December**

- Morning at 11am  
**CHRISTMAS MASSES**  
**AT HOLY CROSS**

**Friday 24th December**  
**Christmas Eve**

The First Mass of Christmas at 9pm

**Saturday 25th December**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Christmas Morning Mass at 11am  
Booking for mass is essential. Please email 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 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**

## ARRAN BANNER GOLF

**Shiskine Golf Club**

Thursday December 9, ladies' 12-hole medal: 1 Mary Jo Tod, 2 Pat Adamson.

Friday December 10, The Quarter To Wunners (Shiskine golfers) raised £210 for Prostate Cancer UK. A total of 16 golfers played the five-club competition, with others donating too. Many thanks to all that contributed.

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Sunday December 12, Winter Cup round three.

Of the 13 players most managed round before the deluge started. Conditions were still challenging though but John Pennycott defied them all to return a level fours round that gave him a net 60 and a five-stroke margin over his nearest challenger.

1 John Pennycott (12) 60, 2 Jamie Macpherson (3) 65 acb, 3 Nicol Auld (5) 65, 4 Gus Macleod (14) 66. David Morrison bagged the only magic two of the day @4th.

Fixture: Sunday December 19, three-club challenge.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Thursday December 2, Yellow Medal: 1 Rob Niven 72-12=60, 2 Lee Dutton 83-22=61, 3 Robbie McGunnigle 72-9=63



The Quarter To Wunners (Shiskine golfers) raised £210 for Prostate Cancer UK.

BIH over John O'Sullivan. Magic two Graeme Andrew @17th.

Thursday December 9, Yellow Medal: 1 Ian Bremner 65-8=57, 2 Jim Young 79-20=59 BIH over John O'Sullivan. Magic twos Ian Bremner and Alan Smith both @13th.

Fixtures: Sunday December 19, Glenburn Cup, noon draw. Thursday December 23, Yellow Medal, 11am draw.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Monday December 13, Monday Cup: 1 A Smith 67-

11=56 (scratch), 2 A Napier 69-11=58, 3 R McLean 72-13=59. Magic twos A Napier @5th and A Pattison @17th.

Fixtures: Saturday December 18, 18-hole medal. Monday December 20, Monday Cup, ballot at noon.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday December 14, Lochranza Hotel Cup: 1 Brian Sherwood 34pts, 2 Alex Morrison-Cowan 29pts, 3 John Milesi 28pts.

Fixtures: Tuesday December 21, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee off noon.

Tuesday December 28, two-club competition, one of which must be a putter, tee off noon.

**Brodict Golf Club**

Sunday December 12, Gents' Sunday competition.

The Brandon was played with 15 participants: 1 Brian Allison, 2 David Hendry, 3 Gordon Hendry. Magic twos, Alistair Hume, George Hamilton and Iain MacDonald.

## Junior sports cancelled as a Covid precaution

Both the Arran Junior Hockey Club and Arran United Football Club have cancelled all training sessions owing to concerns about Omicron and player safety.

A spokesperson from the Arran Junior Hockey Club said: 'With a very heavy heart, the club has decided to cancel all junior hockey training until after Christmas, this will be reviewed again in the New

Year. We are all very aware of the increase in case numbers on the island and want to ensure that you are all safe and well for Christmas.'

Arran United Football Club posted a similar message on their social media page saying: 'We have decided to cancel all training until further notice due to the current situation.'

Coaches at the youth football club were particularly disap-

pointed at having to cancel the training sessions in the run-up to Christmas as they had purchased gifts for all of the children.

A spokesperson from the club said: 'We have paid for selection boxes for all of the kids. Obviously we are unable to distribute these to the kids now but Liz in Brodict Co-op has kindly offered to keep them there and for parents/

kids to pick them up from there. Can you all please go in and pick one or two up? The club has paid for 70 selection boxes so even take a couple each as we don't want them to go to waste and we really want the kids to have them from us.'

The football club are also celebrating a proud moment as a former Arran United player, Ben Harvey, recently signed for St Johnstone Football Club.

## DEATH

**SILLARS** - Iain Finlay (Sid). Suddenly, but peacefully, at Crosshouse Hospital on Thursday 9th December 2021, aged 62 years. Much loved son of John and Grace, partner and best friend of Trish, and adoring father of Finlay and Isla. Family service at St. Brides Church, Brodict, on Wednesday 22nd December, followed by a committal at Brodict New Cemetery at 12.15pm to which all are invited to attend. Family flowers only.

**BANNER**  
ANNOUNCEMENTS  
**BANNER**  
ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**BURNS** - Patrick. The family of the late Pat Burns would like to thank family and friends who attended his funeral in Dunoon and burial in Dumbarton. The neighbours, paramedics and the Police for their initial help. To all who sent letters, cards and flowers and who telephoned. Thanks also to Fr. Roddy McAuley for his uplifting Requiem Mass. Harry, for singing and playing his guitar. Isabel the organist for her wonderful solo of 'Ave Maria'. The parishioners who organised refreshments and flowers. Special thanks to the members of the Military who stood to attention outside the Church before and after

the service. To Colin and his colleagues at CO-OP Funeral Directors for their care and concern throughout this extremely difficult time. To Western Ferries for priority boarding. £400 was raised from the retrieval collection for The British Legion and The Beatson. Requiescat in Pace.

**CROSSLEY** - David. The family of the late Davie Crossley would like to thank all who attended Davie's funeral. Thanks to John, Grant, Ann and Helen for being there. Also the paramedics, Clair and David for the funeral arrangements, Alice for the lovely service, Ali Hume for the lament, The Lagg Hotel, Eleanor's Flowers and David and Scott.

**SCOBIE** - Marion. The family of the late Marion Scobie would like to thank all friends who attended Marion's funeral this week. They would also like to thank Liz Clarke for her comforting words at the funeral and graveside services and David and Clair Hendry for their sensitive handling of all funeral arrangements.



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# Charity Santa Dash raises £700

Continued from page 24.



The Belles with their decorated bikes. 01\_B51dash04



The cyclists wave to well-wishers as they pass. 01\_B51dash10



Some of the cyclists wrapped up for the weather. 01\_B51dash05



The cyclists make their way along Brodick shorefront. 01\_B51dash09



A laughing Lorna Logan is cheered on during the run. 01\_B51dash08



Fiona McIntosh can still manage a smile as she runs with her twin buggy. Rachael and Rory are there somewhere! 01\_B51dash12



The Arran Belles head out of the park for their dash. 01\_B51dash03



Cyclists pass Ken Hogge with his daughter Mary in the pram. 01\_B51dash11



The runners set off first from Ormidale Park. 01\_B51dash02



A smiling Sue Berry was there to cheer on the runners and riders with Annie Lloyd. 01\_B51dash06



Mark Berry, the first runner to cross the finishing line, makes his way along Brodick shorefront. 01\_B51dash07



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January  
Happy New Year...

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



The runners and riders who took part in the Santa Dash. 01\_B51dash01

# Runners and riders team up for charity Santa Dash

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



Runners and cyclists joined together this year for a special fundraising Santa Dash last Sunday.

The event was held in persistent heavy rain but that did not dampen the spirits of the runners and riders taking part.

It was Brodick running group Arran Pace Makers which had the idea of the fundraiser for the charity MND and members were joined by jogscotland running group from Whiting Bay along with the Arran Belles, Arran Bike Club and Arran Gravel Riders as well as two mums with their prams – one a double buggy.

After the event the runners

and riders enjoyed a get-together in the clubhouse at Brodick Golf Club where a raffle, together with the dash entry fees, has so far raised £701.45 for the MND charity.

Janis Small from the Arran Belles said: 'We would like to thank Brodick Golf Club for its hospitality, local businesses which donated raffle prizes, including the Co-op, the

Arran Cheese Shop and Amy Tattersfield as well as everyone who supported by donation or providing raffle prizes, in particular Carol Vella Boyle in France, Chris Hogge in Thailand and the paralympian Mel Nichols.

'This was just a small, last-minute fundraiser so we are delighted to raise, so far, £701.45 for MND, a heart-

breakingly cruel illness.

'We all feel more involved as fellow Belle Sue Berry is suffering from this illness, thus we want to help in any way we can,' she added.

Any further contributions

**MORE PHOTOS  
ON PAGE 23**

can be given to Janice Small or Lorna Logan of the Arran Pace Makers.



The Arran Banner: 85p

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