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# Arran's crumbling roads network is slammed

**Tony Black**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran's roads have been largely forgotten and are suffering from chronic underfunding, North Ayrshire Council was told this week.

The council has been slammed over the deteriorating state of Arran's roads network with pothole complaints regularly voiced to West Scotland MSP Jamie Greene.

The Conservative MSP has now written to North Ayrshire Council's chief executive Elma Murray demanding immediate action and citing a 'multitude' of complaints from angry locals.

The West Scotland MSP said his constituents had raised concerns about road safety and damage to their vehicles caused by poor road conditions.

'Arran's roads have been deteriorating for a while now, with potholes, flooding and surface disintegration across the whole

island,' said Mr Greene. 'Residents of Lamlash frequently contact my council colleagues and I to express their dismay at the state of our roads.'

'Unfortunately, as an island community, Arran has been largely forgotten about which has resulted in our roads being chronically underfunded for some time now. I have written to North Ayrshire Council asking it to immediately address this matter.'

Mr Greene acknowledged that North Ayrshire Council was due to suffer a £5 million cut in its Scottish Government budget, however, he asked the chief executive to see if any funding was available for road maintenance and to outline what plans were in place to address the issue.

The MSP added: 'Now that the council is facing a potential cut of over £5 million in its budget I am concerned that road maintenance will not be high on

Continued on page 2

## Reaching for the Stars



A host of local talent put their skills on display at the Arran Soul Choir concert at the Lamlash Community Theatre. Called the Soul Proud winter showcase, the concert was a sell-out success with the audience joining in with the singing and dancing. For a full report with pictures see pages 10 and 11. 01\_b04caption

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## Market report

United Auctions had forward 686 store cattle, 170 cast cows and bulls and 868 store and feeding sheep at their sale at Stirling on Wednesday January 17.

The leading prices were: store cattle: Ceithir Gaoithe (Sim Blks) £520, 229p; Glenkiln (AAX Blks) £600, 202p; Glenkiln (AAX Hfrs) £770, 198p.

Cast cows: Craigview (SimX) £825, 117p; Knowe (SimX) £695, 121p; Altgo-lath (Luing) £925, 138p; Birchburn (AAX) £715, 115p; Hawthorn (AAX) £585, 92p; Balgown (AAX) £525, 91p.

Store sheep: Craigraineach (TexX) £54; Craigraineach (Mule) £51; Drumnaghinier (Mule) £49.50; Ceithir Gaoithe (Cross) £49.50; Craigraineach (BF) £53; Drumnaghinier (BF) £51; Balgown (BF) £35; North Sannox (BF) £34.50; Drumnaghinier (BF Ewes) £34; Balgown (Rams) £64.

# Downing Street scoops Arran ice cream

An Arran-made ice cream found its way on to the prime minister's annual Burns Supper menu last week in Downing Street.

Cranachan ice cream from Brodick-based Arran Dairies was served up by Scotland's BBC Master Chef winner Gary Maclean.

Scots from a variety of business sectors, food and drink suppliers, educational institutions and politics joined Prime Minister Theresa May for the three-course meal in celebration of Scotland's national bard Robert Burns.

The dessert prepared by the head chef, who is also a senior lecturer at Glasgow City College, is the same one that impressed the judges during the cookery show. Mr Maclean said: 'A Burns Supper is an institution in Scottish life and it's wonderful to be able to be part of such a celebration of the works of our national bard in Downing Street.'

Mr Maclean's dessert was a chocolate pistachio, Drambuie and raspberry shortbread, with Arran Dairies' Cranachan ice cream.



Scotland's Master Chef winner Gary Maclean presents the haggis.

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**THE ARRAN BANNER**

## Crumbling roads slammed

**Continued from page 1**  
North Ayrshire Council's spending priorities.

'I've asked North Ayrshire Council to assess whether anything can be done about this. We need to have roads that are safe to drive on.'

### Happy

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said the council would be happy to look into the issues raised by the MSP.

The spokesman said: 'There is no doubt that the

prolonged period of cold and wet weather has had an impact on roads across Scotland, however, we continue to work hard to resolve any local issues as a matter of priority.

'We investigate and deal with any pothole issues as they arise and in our latest budget for 2017/18, actually increased our roads budget by £1 million to help ensure our roads network remained overall in good condition.'

The council acknowl-

edged that despite their efforts, problems persist.

'Nevertheless, despite best efforts, issues such as potholes will arise, particularly at this time of year.

### Road fault

'We would encourage any resident who wishes to report a road fault to do so on our council website at [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk), by calling our customer contact centre on 01294 310000 or by using the iPhone or android 'Report It App' for mobile devices.'



A deep pot-hole in Brodick's main street.

# Lifeboat crew in Loch Fyne fishing boat search

The Arran lifeboat crew has been involved in a major search for two missing fishermen whose boat capsized in Loch Fyne.

Dad-of-two Duncan MacDougall and family man Przemek Krawczyk have been missing since last Thursday when the 40ft Nancy Glen sank. Both men are now feared dead after the incident.

The alarm was raised by a third man, John Miller, who managed to get off the trawler and was pulled from the icy water by the crew of a passing boat.

Mr Miller was taken to Mid Argyll Community Hospital in Lochgilphead, where his condition was described as stable.

After intensive searches police temporarily stood

down their operation on Sunday, as weather conditions deteriorated with heavy snow on the west coast.

Lifeboats from Tighna-bruich, Arran and Campbeltown RNLI originally took part in the search, alongside the HM Coastguard Prestwick helicopter and Coastguard rescue teams from Tarbert, Kames, Inveraray and Crinan. The Tarbert fishing fleet was also involved in the extensive search.

An underwater ROV has since located the vessel on the sea floor but was hampered by poor visibility.

A salvage operation is thought to be complicated with the Nancy Glen having sunk to 140m but donations have raised more

than £100,000 towards the effort.

On Friday, the local police inspector told the BBC that the search was taking its toll on the families of the missing men.

Inspector Julie McLeish said: 'We are in regular contact with the missing men's families. It is a very distressing time for them and the local community as a whole.'

Over the weekend family members told the media they feared any recovery of the vessel could require the help of the Royal Navy and take months to complete.

A joint investigation to establish the cause of the incident is being carried out by police and the Marine Accident Investigation Branch.



Arran RNLI crew on board the Rachel Hedderwick in Lamlash Bay.

## Your photos wanted

How would you like to see your favourite photos of Arran feature in a tourist magazine?

Here at the *Banner* we are in the process of putting together this year's ever-popular Holiday Arran for 2018. And we'd like to give readers the chance to submit any photos of Arran they would like considered for entry.

They can be of the great outdoors, wildlife, sport, favourite places or anything you think tourists, returning or new, would like to see.

### Credited

All photos used will be credited to the photographer and can be sent to editor@arranbanner.co.uk by Monday February 19.

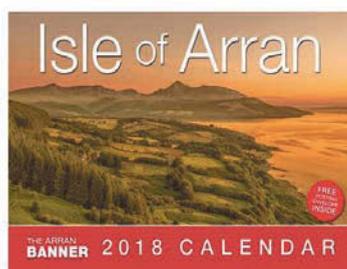
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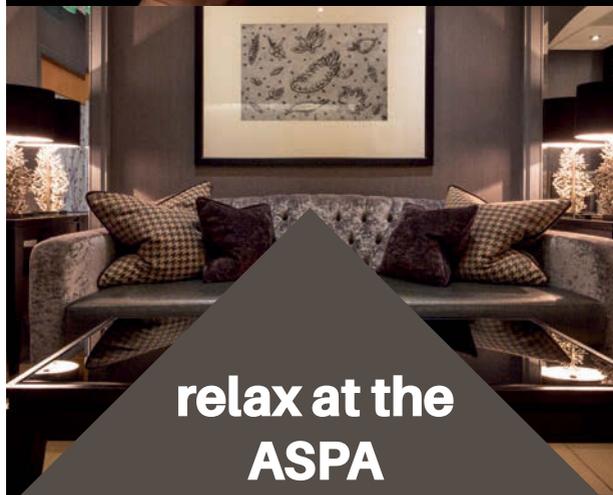
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# NTS explains Brodick Castle threat to jobs

The National Trust for Scotland (NTS) has explained its reasoning for the potential loss of 22 jobs at Brodick Castle.

All full-time and seasonal staff at the NTS property face redundancy following proposed changes to the day-to-day management structure.

The changes will see around 63 new jobs created across the country, however, up to 79 existing posts will also be put at risk countrywide.

Brodick Castle staff were given the grim news last week at a meeting in the Auchrannie, as the castle is currently closed until summer for fire safety work.

This week the NTS said its changes were to devolve leadership responsibility, and are part of continuing plans to improve its visitor services and free up funding for conservation projects.

Day-to-day leadership and administration will now be concentrated in the hands of operational managers and business support teams, with other staff concentrating on delivering improved visitor experiences and interpretation.

The changes follow earlier commitments by NTS to devolve more management and decision making to regional offices and local properties.

Patrick Duffy, NTS chief operating officer, said: 'The proposed changes mean re-



All full-time and seasonal staff at the NTS property face redundancy following proposed changes to the day-to-day management structure at Brodick Castle.

ducing the level of administrative activities undertaken at properties thereby focusing the teams at them much more on visitor services, quality and delivering conservation work more effectively.

'If we are to offer visitor experiences that meet today's and tomorrow's expectations, we need to have the right combination of skills in the teams running properties. In short, we have to make changes.'

Mr Duffy said he hoped

that as many as possible of those affected by redundancy could apply for the new roles.

The proposals have since been shared with the NTS's recognised trade union, Prospect, and are subject to 30 days of consultation between staff, union representatives and stakeholders throughout the affected properties.

It is expected that the finalised proposals will be implemented throughout February and March, with

some changes held back and considered at the end of September-October.

This is the latest stage of a significant restructure of the NTS, which began at the trust's Edinburgh headquarters in 2016 and with a £17m investment in properties which is still under way.

The NTS has seen record membership in the last two years, at 380,000 members, and a third successive year of visitor growth to more than three million visitors.

## New fish bar and deli planned for Corrie

Corrie is set to have its own fish bar and deli.

Gordon Decaestecker, who previously ran The Black Grouse restaurant in Blackwaterfoot, has applied for planning permission to change the use of The Rock Pool from retail to a hot-and-cold food takeaway.

The application is under considera-

tion by North Ayrshire Council planning officials. The new outlet would be called the Mara fish bar and deli. 'Mara' comes from the Scots Gaelic word meaning 'the sea'.

Gordon has already launched a website and Facebook page for the new deli where he states: 'At Mara we'll be using the best of Arran and

Scotland's seafood sourced from local suppliers and aim to support sustainable fishing throughout Scotland. Freshly made-to-order dishes in a takeaway style dining experience.'

As previously reported by the *Banner* the popular The Rock Pool gift shop closed last month after seven years.

# Mark is new Co-op pioneer

Arran has a new community champion. Mark Harwood is the island's first Co-op member pioneer.

It is part of a national initiative aimed at bringing people together in the communities around Co-op Food stores.

It will be Mark's job to get people talking about what matters most in the community and work with Co-op members, Co-op colleagues and local groups to tackle issues and get things done.

He said he will be initially networking with an open mind and listen to what people see as important. As well as working with estab-

lished groups he will also look at setting up new ones.

It will be up to Mark to contribute his own ideas and focus on the outcomes and he will use social media and the *Banner* to get his views across.

### Additional

He is being given training and support for his new part-time role, which will be in addition to his existing Co-op job.

Mark said: 'The role will become what I make of it in response to what people offer to do to contribute and I am very much looking forward to it.'

He will also be able to use the facilities of the new

community room being created by the Co-op revamp.

The initiative is separate from the local community causes fund which saw nearly £26,000 handed over to charities on Arran in November.

If you would like to contact Mark you can do so by phone on: 850577 or 07508763051.

Co-op member pioneer Mark Harwood.



## Garden birdwatch weekend

This is the weekend of the Big Garden Birdwatch organised by the RSPB.

From tomorrow (Saturday) until Monday stock up your bird feeders, spend one hour of your weekend watching your garden birds, and note down the highest number you see of each bird species.

Last year nearly half a million people throughout the UK and more than 30 on Arran took part in this valuable exercise.

For more information and to get the free starter pack, visit the RSPB website at [www.rspb.org.uk/bird-watch/](http://www.rspb.org.uk/bird-watch/)

If you do decide to take part, please share your records with Jim Cassels, Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY or email [jim@arranbirding.co.uk](mailto:jim@arranbirding.co.uk).

## Young Scots sought for youth commission

Young People from Arran can now apply to become a youth commissioner for mental health.

Up to 20 young Scots, aged 14-22 years, will be recruited to work with the Scottish Government on developing recommendations to shape mental health services in Scotland.

The commission will take place during the Year of Young People 2018, which provides a platform for young people's voices to be heard and acted upon.

Young people with experience, or an interest in mental health services and improving mental wellbeing, are being encouraged to join the youth commission.

The commission will be supported by Young Scot and Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH), throughout the 15-month project.

Billy Watson, chief executive of SAMH, said: 'Half of all mental health problems in adulthood start by mid-teens, so it's crucial we place young people at the heart of finding solutions. This is a really exciting opportunity for young people to get involved in helping improve mental health services now and for the future.'

Applications open on January 22 and will close on February 9. Potential youth commissioners should visit [young.scot/get-involved](http://young.scot/get-involved) for more information.

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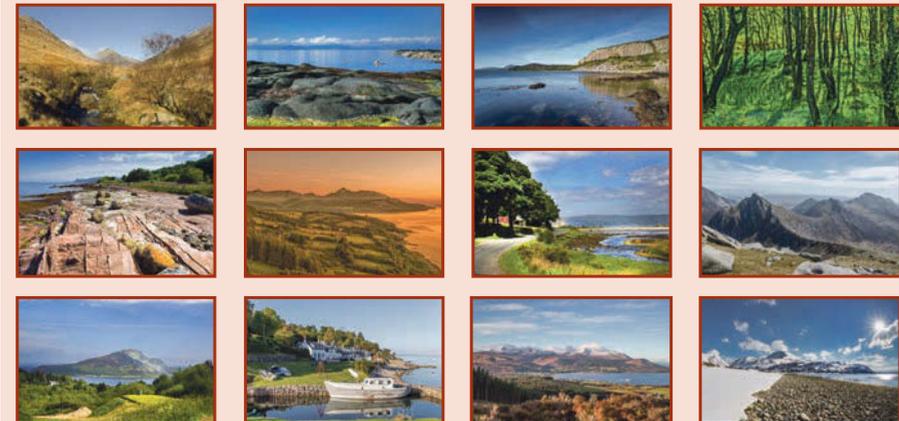
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# Shiskine goes green and joins eco hub network

Shiskine and Blackwaterfoot have become the latest villages to establish a recycling and upcycling hub with the opening of their Arran Eco Savvy micro hub in the village hall.

Joining Brodick, Kilmory, Pirmill, Lamdash, Lochranza, Corrie and Kildonan, the hub forms part

of the network of reuse and up-cycling sites aimed at encouraging waste reduction and making recycling more accessible.

### Like minded

At the opening of the combined Shiskine and Blackwaterfoot hub, visitors were able to speak to like-minded people about

recycling while also purchasing or swapping items of clothing or getting involved in some of the activities on offer. Participants could take part in a paper recycling activity, learn how to create bird feeders or enjoy learning about bee keeping from apiarist Andy Walker. Par-



John Kerr and Alison Burnett assist each other to create a garden bird feeder from recycled materials. 01\_b04eco02



Eco Savvy project manager Jude King and hub coordinator Elizabeth Muirhead enjoy a laugh with a hub visitor. 01\_b04eco03

ticularly popular with children was the toy swap shop which involved handing in toys in exchange for others and the light refreshments which were on offer.

Hub coordinator Elizabeth Muirhead said: 'I am delighted to be opening the recycle and upcycling hub

which I hope will be well supported by the community. We hope to host an eco day once a week and would encourage anyone who has an interest in living more sustainably, or anyone who has any suggestions, to come and pay us a visit. We are also looking for volunteers who have an hour or more to spare to help with the events and activities that we will be hosting in

the future. As a relative newcomer to Arran I look forward to meeting everyone and being involved in making the villages of Shiskine and Blackwaterfoot more sustainable.'

The hub will join others on the island to become the focal point for community awareness initiatives, waste reduction, social skill sharing and workshop activities.



Participants at the opening of the micro hub enjoy a paper recycling exercise. 01\_b04eco01

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# Muddy Paws Arran - a friendly and affordable dog walking service

## Advertising editorial

Not only do lifelong friends Stacey Smith and Trish Spence share a special friendship bond but they also share a passion for our canine friends. So much so that despite busy careers they decided to set up a dog walking service on the island where they were both born and raised.

Muddy Paws Arran was established shortly before Christmas and it has already built up clientele who enjoy the many benefits of long meanders on the beach or energetic walks through the forest.

A well-known face on Arran, Stacey - better known as Stacey from Red Door - is still running Red Door and has broadened her retail horizons with the new

addition of her tasty hand-made gourmet dog treats, Arran Dog Bakery. Trish is also a familiar face in Brodick and can be found keeping the golfers well fed and watered in Brodick Golf Club.

Stacey said: 'The circumstances that bring people to us is varied, some people want their dog walked while they are out at work, others are looking after a friend or neighbour's dog but are unable to walk them, others want their dogs walked in a group to socialise them and some would just like a break from dog walking - and who can blame them when the weather turns horrible.'

Trish added: 'We are very flexible and keen to help in any way that we can.'

'We are more than happy to tailor our service to suit our clients' needs. Muddy Paws Arran is able to provide group or individual walks, on or off lead and our prices start at £8 for a group walk. All enquiries are very welcome.'

Both Stacey and Trish have their trusty waterproofs primed ready for action and are looking forward to meeting even more four-pawed friends. If you are looking for a friendly and personalised dog walking service that is affordable then give Muddy Paws Arran a call on 07900 066415 or 01770 303533.

**Stacey Smith and Trish Spence of Muddy Paws Arran will provide an affordable, reliable and friendly dog walking service.**

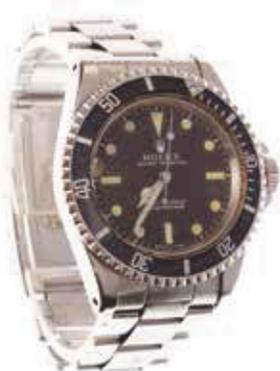


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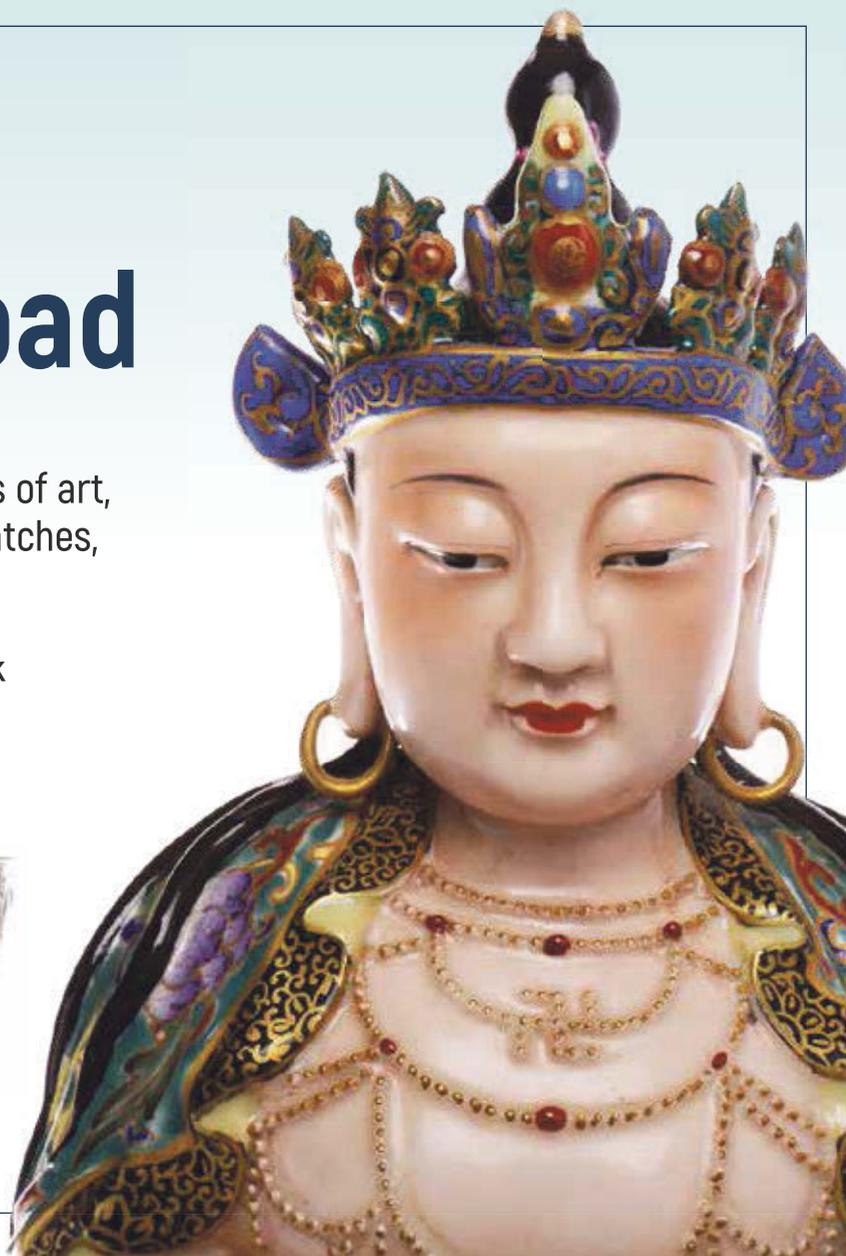
## McTear's on the road

Specialists will be on Arran on 16 & 17 February to provide complimentary auction valuations on art & antiques, works of art, paintings, ceramics, silver, Asian works of art, jewellery, watches, coins, clocks, instruments, furniture, whisky and more.

Contact Magda Ketterer on 0141 810 2880 or [magda@mctears.co.uk](mailto:magda@mctears.co.uk)



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## Editorial

### Arran roads direction is worrying

The state of Arran's roads has long been a source of anger. They were bad in the summer and they were bad this time last year.

So for North Ayrshire Council to try to deflect the issue onto the winter weather smacks of wilful ignorance.

Council chief Elma Murray is burying her head in the sand by ignoring the multitude of angry complaints and effectively saying: 'A big boy did it and ran away.'

No, Ms Murray, it's not just the bad winter weather – though, admittedly, that exacerbates matters – it's an all-year-round issue. And Arran is sick of it.

To blame the weather is to highlight bad council planning. Arran is a Scottish island, it doesn't take Mystic Meg to predict the weather will be bad in winter.

Arran's roads are a disgrace. Drivers regularly run the risk of collision to avoid treacherous, gaping potholes and the situation can't go on.

There will be serious consequences to the council's abandonment of our roads. If it doesn't come to a head on the highway, it will definitely be bloody at the ballot box. The anger is rising and the message for North Ayrshire is clear: sort it out now or face far worse down the road.

#### Thought for the week

'Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. (Psalm 37:7)

## Castle redundancies

Sir,  
I was shocked to learn about the possibility of people losing their jobs at Brodick Castle.

The castle is a valuable asset to Arran with its roles as a visitor attraction, an adventure play area and providing environmental education.

It is essential that it has a secure financial future and any improvement in the visitor experience is welcome.

I would hope that there is a way to keep as many jobs at the castle as possible, and that secure jobs are confirmed quickly. Facing redundancy is a devastating personal experience, but job cuts also cause a loss of specialist skills and knowledge that will affect the castle, the castle gardens and the community of Arran as a whole.

Yours,  
**Timothy Billings**  
Councillor – Ardrossan and Arran

## Christmas fundraising

Sir,  
Could I please say a very big thank you to all the people who donated to the Christmas lights this year. A total of £122 pounds was raised for the children's Christmas party and this has been passed on. Once again thank you and we look forward to this coming year.

Yours,  
**Bernie Jackson**  
Whiting Bay

## Terminal clarification

Sir,  
In last week's *Arran Ban-*

*ner* you state that the new ferry terminal at Brodick will not be open for use until after Easter. Could you clarify which Easter this might be?

Yours,  
**P W Yates**  
Catacol

## Arran's ferry

Sir,  
Several months ago a distressing photograph appeared in the *Banner* of the wreck of the old, much-loved Glen Sannox, half buried on a beach in Saudi after a second career as a pilgrim ship, carrying pilgrims to Mecca. It is gratifying to know that the name has been reinstated in the form of the new ferry now launched from Glasgow's Ferguson yard and due to enter service in 2019. This ferry will be 'state of the art' and the most advanced in the CalMac fleet.

The ship's designer, James Anderson, director of vessels at CMAL, under the auspices of Arran Civic Trust, is coming to Arran to describe and illustrate the process of designing and building the ferry to a strict brief. In his talk James will answer questions on the ship's accommodation, speed, manoeuvrability and sea-going qualities accompanied with photographs of build progress to date.

The talk, open to all, will take place in Brodick Hall on Thursday February 1, at 7pm. All welcome.

Yours,  
**John Inglis**  
Chairman, Arran Civic Trust

## Miracle Lady

Sir,  
Just before Christmas, I received the devastating news that my lovely Clydesdale horse Lady was diagnosed

with a life-threatening bone infection. What followed was a whirlwind of events in a bid to make Lady well again. I'd like to take this opportunity to express my very grateful thanks to all those who've helped Lady throughout her ordeal.

The lovely team at Arran Vets were so kind and patient with Lady as they took X-rays outside in the freezing cold.

Tobias Mueller of KMC transport was wonderful, stepping in at the last minute and overcoming problems due to the freezing weather to make sure Lady made it over to Glasgow for her hospital appointment. CalMac was utterly brilliant and so understanding of our urgent need to get Lady over to the mainland, squeezing us onto a fully booked ferry.

The amazing veterinary team, support staff and students of Weipers Centre Equine Hospital at the University of Glasgow took such great care of Lady and said what a model patient she was, allowing them to go about their work without a single protest (as long as she had a bucket of feed in front of her). Thanks to the knowledge and skill of the Weipers vets, Lady underwent surgery with minimal discomfort or stress and, thanks to their excellent care, is already well on the road to recovery.

Back home, the truly outstanding Gavin Mutch, ably assisted by Jamie Campbell, braved the ice and snow and did wonders by dismantling, moving and rebuilding a stable for Lady in less than a week.

As someone remarked: 'It's a miracle!' A lot has certainly been achieved in a short space of time, but maybe it's not so much a miracle as the team effort of a great many wonderful

people, demonstrating both the special and caring nature of the Arran community and the professionalism, dedication and understanding of a number of experts in their respective fields.

Many thanks also to Gavin Bell, Hamish McNeil, Stewart Lambie, Arran Haulage, Anne, Diane and everyone else who's offered their support and sent get well messages to my lovely Lady. And a special mention to my family and wonderful husband, Cams, who has been a rock – I don't know how we would have coped without you.

Lady has now returned home to Arran, where she's been reunited with her herd mates. We've got a long road ahead to full recovery, but, thanks to everyone's help, Lady will hopefully be here for many years to come, bossing us about and keeping us in our place.

Yours,  
**Lorraine Campbell**  
Lamlash

## Fond farewell

Sir,  
Sad to hear the news about Drew Raeburn. Remember however that he left a legacy in the now recognised international mantra of all truckers: 'In this life we pass this way but once – unless Drew gave you the directions.'

Thanks for the great memories Drew, your one time incompetent traffic clerk.

Yours,  
**Marc A Head**  
Whiting Bay



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

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

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# Ukulele and soul treats on the menu at PHT

Live music aficionados are in for a treat at the Pierhead Tavern (PHT) in Lamlash this weekend as the popular establishment hosts a weekend of musical delights.

On Saturday starting at 9pm the first ever soul band to perform at the PHT will be Lemon Soul. This seven-piece female fronted band will cover classic Motown, Stax and other artists from the '60s.

The following day, starting at 4pm, Dawn Robertson and Her Ukulele will be performing. Dawn and Her Ukulele is a solo singer-songwriter from Paisley. With a voice likened to Zoëy Deschanel, Dawn uses her vintage sassiness to bring a new sound to this charming instrument.

Her musical influences include Ella Fitzgerald, Lana Del Rey, Stereophonics, The Lumineers, and any

other golden oldie that she comes across.

Entrance to the Pierhead Tavern is free and food and drinks are available throughout the day.

**Dawn Robertson, who will be performing her vintage sound on Sunday**



Lemon Soul will be performing at the PHT on Saturday.



## Support for deaf students

Young university and college applicants with hearing difficulties are being urged to make use of support services on Arran.

Charity Action on Hearing Loss Scotland, through its Moving On service, is asking potential students aged 16-25 years, who are deaf or have hearing loss, to get in touch to find out about progressing with their studies.

The service, whose advisers are deaf aware and all sign in British Sign Language, provide assistance for deaf students to get the most from their course and student life.

Action on Hearing Loss Scotland's Sallie Tomaszewski said: 'With university places filling up and applications for college courses opening soon, we look forward to helping any students who are deaf or have hearing loss from Arran to become fully aware of the adjustments and resources that they might need to

fulfill their educational potential and enjoy their studies.'

For more information, contact Moving On by calling 07388 227407 or emailing [movingon@hearingloss.org.uk](mailto:movingon@hearingloss.org.uk) or via the contactSCOTLAND-BSL video relay service.

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## Important new information on Government support for Central Heating Systems: UPDATE NOV 2017



### FACT 1

If you have electric storage heaters, an oil, electric or LPG boiler the Government will pay you up to £11680\* to change over to an air source heat pump system which is more efficient, can be less costly to run and is kinder to the environment.

### FACT 2

The Scheme called The Renewable Heat Incentive is available for home owners, landlords and businesses.

### FACT 3

The Scottish Government in their Climate Plan 2017 have identified air source heat pumps as one of their favoured ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

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Jill McKillop and Mike Bailey had the audience join them in singing *You've got a friend*. 01\_B04soul07



Carolyn Lambert and Shirley MacLachlan, along with the Arran Soul Choir, perform a memorable version of *California Dreaming*. 01\_B04soul01



Musical directors James O'Neil and David Lambert receive a round of applause and heartfelt thanks from the choir and audience. 01\_B04soul08

# Soulful sound at choir perf

A maximum capacity audience packed the Lamlash Community Theatre to enjoy the much-anticipated Arran Soul Choir's second showcase performance called Soul Proud.

With more than 70 members performing, including the Soul Band and guest singer Kirsty Collins, the musical extravaganza featured a wealth of musical talent that had the audience tapping their heels, singing along

and breaking into spontaneous dancing.

The repertoire covered a wide range of styles and genres ranging from contemporary pop to jazz, classics and the ever-popular - and sung with great enthusiasm - Abba mega mix.

The Arran Soul Choir, which meets once a week for rehearsals, has grown to more than 65 members in the space of just one year

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Members of the audience join in with the singing and dancing. 01\_B04soul09

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# self build & renovation



WINTER/SPRING 2018

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raising finance  
planning  
architectural design  
kit homes  
building on an island  
energy & renewables  
renovate, remodel, renew  
trades and professionals  
interior design  
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Your comprehensive guide to self build and renovation, from finance to furnishing

Pull-out  
and keep

# Self-build: your home, your own way

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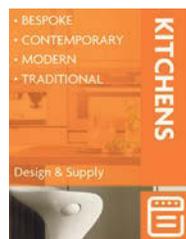
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**YOUR home is the biggest and single most important purchase you will make in your life.**

It is the one decision that will influence the rest of your life and vice versa to some extent.

No other item - no matter how great the cost - will have so much emotion tied up within the decision-making process; a process which must also call for sound, realistic judgement while at the same time answer those deep emotional needs.

No wonder it is said that buying a house is so stressful. This is not a decision you want to mess up.

Our home is our haven, the place where we nurture our relationships and raise our kids; from where we go forth and build our careers and family life. A house is where we celebrate the good times with family and friends and where we retreat, gather our strength and face up to whatever bad times life might throw at us; where we express ourselves and the way we live through our choices of fixtures, fittings and furniture

### We have to choose wisely

So, faced with such a massive decision and one that will consume a large part of your income and have its moments of stress, why not have exactly what you want, and build your own home?

In an area like the West Highlands and islands there is not the same wide choice of housing stock as can be found in less rural or remote areas. Some sectors of the housing market have higher prices as a result. There is less speculative building by property developers; you are more likely to find a plot of land than you are a newly-built home.

The move into self-build makes a lot of sense here, that is why more and more people are taking this big step. It also explains why a large number of people, once they have made their home, make the decision to stay-put and renovate or expand their existing properties to suit their needs.

Some people, who are skilled tradesmen and construction professionals, or who have those skills within their family and close friends, will undertake some or all of the work themselves.

Others will relish the job of finding an architect, handling the planning and paperwork and hire their own contractors while other self-builders will feel more confident if they hire a building company or choose a kit home and have all the work done for them.

Whatever route you go down, one thing all self-builders agree on is they enjoy the feeling



of being able to choose and be more in control of how their future home will serve their needs.

And another thing that everyone who has gone down the self-build route will tell you is this: it is not just about location, location, location; it is also about finance, finance, finance and research, research, research.

What you want: be it materials, professional services or skilled labour, where you are going to source them and how the cost will fit into your overall budget are things that require time, patience and diligence. If you think you lack any of those three qualities make sure your self-build project has someone on board who does.

Budget is your number one priority. Get the money wrong and right from the start you will have a nightmare building your dream home. Remember: you get what you pay for and a cheap price is not always the best one; it could come back and haunt you.

Do not forget that that the scale of your project could leave you open to VAT payments. A financial advisor and a quantity surveyor could be your new best friends.

And that budget of yours should not just include money but time. Managing the project yourself will take time and if you have never embarked on a self-build project before you might not fully appreciate just how much time, especially if you are also have your day job to consider.

But do not let any of this deter you from fulfilling your dream. Just look around this wonderful part of the world: lots of people have already done this and you can too.

And one day soon you will walk through the front door of your brand new home; not someone else's old house, not some builder's idea of what makes a home but your very own home.

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# Permission to build

**You are not just going to build a house you are going to build an impressive amount of paperwork - but don't be daunted - the system is far more user-friendly than it used to be.**

**PLANNING PERMISSION and building warrants are a fact of life for the self-builder.**

If you go ahead and buy a plot of land without securing permission then all you own is a very expensive place to have a picnic.

If you can find a plot with planning permission then you are one step ahead of the game but remember that if this is detailed planning permission, then you might have to reapply for some, if not all, aspects of your plans: the plot has permission for someone else's dream home.

If you see a plot without planning permission, then make sure that it can get planning permission - permission for the house that you want to build. Be realistic: if the plot has permission for a two-bedroom bungalow will you really be able to prove that it could contain a four-bedroom house with a media room and a double garage?

Planning permission is needed if you are building from new, carrying out major renovations like adding rooms or raising the roof level; changing the use of a building, perhaps an old shop in a town or an old farm building in the countryside into a home.

Permission is also needed if the plot or property is in a conservation area or has listed building consent. National parks also have a say on planning

permission.

Every Scottish council has its own development plan, with zones for housing or industry or areas of natural beauty that it wants to protect and communities it wants to see grow or areas where it would like to encourage more tourism.

This doesn't just show you where you can and cannot build; it also shows you where and what other people can and cannot build.

Planning permission

takes care of how your self-build will look; its size, shape, how it fits in with the surrounding landscape and buildings. You will also need to apply for a building warrant. This is about how your new home will meet building standards.

No one wants to build a home which is un-safe and unsound so look on the building warrant as a way of keeping you right as the project moves towards completion.

As work progresses you can get work approved by 'approved certifiers' and this can form part of your application for the property's building warrant which you file with the local council.

An approved certifier for design can give you a certificate of design for structures along with a certificate of design for energy; an approved certifier for construction can carry out building work for you, and certify that their work meets building regulations. Their work includes the electrics, drains, heating and plumbing.

It makes sense to have people involved in your self-build project who are approved certifiers.

Applying for planning permission today

is a far smoother, less stressful part of the self-build project than it used to be. Much of the application can be done on line.

Another fantastic piece of support now offered is the pre-planning application service offered by councils.

At North Ayrshire, the planners will give you 'a clear and timely view' on the merit of the proposed development and tell you the information required to accompany a formal planning application. This service is currently free for developments of fewer than five houses but the council is in the process of setting its budget for 2018-19 so this might change.

The planning office points out: 'pre

application advice provided by the planning authority cannot pre-empt the democratic decision making process or a particular outcome, in the event of a formal planning application being submitted'.

The added: 'Any pre-application advice issued does not constitute formal consent and does not therefore guarantee that any future statutory application will be successful; nor does it provide consent for a development to commence.'

North Ayrshire Council stresses that their pre application decision will be based on the quantity and quality of the information you provide, so the more you can tell them the better.

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# It all starts with a plan . . .

In the A to Z of building a home, A is for architect. They are right there at the start and will be with you until the job is done.

**YOU** wouldn't knit a sweater without a pattern; you wouldn't build a home without plans.

If a kit home is not for you then you will need an architect and if you are embarking on your first self-build project, relax, your architect has built many, many of them.

You may know what you want in your head; an architect will translate your dreams into plans and also into reality.

Note the word reality because it is an architect's job to design a house for you that will meet all the real-life regulations, not just what you want but all the legal requirements to satisfy planning permission and building warrants and within the constraints of your plot of land and your budget.

They will also help with applying for the necessary permissions and be involved in site inspections if you wish.

Working with an architect can be very personal. Choosing an architect

might not get down to a marriage bureau or dating app levels, but it can feel as though it comes pretty close at times.

Once again, research pays off; have you seen houses in your area that you like? Have you spoken to people who have completed self-build projects? Who did they use, who have you heard good things about?

Expect to have some long and serious conversations; after listening to you they might recommend a kit home. In helping you make decisions about your home they will ask a lot of questions about your life and what you need from a house.

Not just how many bedrooms, but will you be working from home and need an office or study; do you want a room especially for your own interests like music or crafts, a room which then can be incorporated back into the main living space easily should you ever move.



How much do you like to entertain? Will your kitchen be a living and dining area, will you have a separate dining room? Would you prefer a smaller kitchen with a utility room for laundry, or a mud room for outdoor gear, dogs and

riding tack or your fishing tackle or a built-in gun cabinet?

Do you need a shower downstairs for your muddy outdoor lifestyle? Will some en-suite bathrooms save traffic jams in the morning as you get yourselves and

the kids off to work and school?

Or are you looking to the future and envisage your parents coming to live with you and want the house designed and positioned on site in such a way that an annexe can be added later on.

Do you stay home for your entertainment rather than go out? Would you like to create a media room for the box set bingers and gamers, or where you can go and chill out to your favourite music?

A good architect can see our family life and build a home around it and see where you can comprise when necessary.

This is the glory of self-build; our homes can be as individual as our family needs are.

Apart from all your dreams there is also the down-to-earth practical stuff: storage space, heating with solar panels, ground source, biomass and where the septic tank is going to go if you are in a remote spot.

A good architect looks at the grand scheme of things and the minute detail and above all they are good listeners and good communicators with you, your builders and contractors and the local authority for planning and warrants.

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# Financing the dream

Money is the most important part of the plans you are drawing up for your new home and it will be the single biggest building material you will use.



## IT IS never too soon to have your finances lined up for self-building.

In fact, once you have decided to go down the self-build route to your new home, it would be a wise idea to meet with a financial advisor, whether independent or at your bank or building society, to give your money a health check and get your funds in training ready for the big event.

[It is a good idea to give your finances a regular check-up whatever your plans in life, but that's a whole different story.

This is where you can trip up, right at the start. Even if you already own the land and don't need a mortgage to help buy the plot it is best to ensure you get a mortgage offer in place for the building work before you commit and that the plot has planning permission.

Do not expect a lump sum, as if you were buying a completed house. Just as you will be building in stages, so you will receive the money step-by-step as well. At each step expect the building work to be inspected as the lender satisfies themselves that the building is progressing as it should.

Building your own home is a good way to get more house for your money and a great way to get yourself onto the property ladder, but self-builders do need to have a larger lump sum of cash before they begin.

Selling your existing home and living on site in a static caravan, or building your garage, large shed or having a container in place to save on storage costs can also help bring costs down.

## Insuring your peace of mind

INSURANCE buys peace of mind and covers any liabilities you have as the work progresses. One you own a piece of land it pays to have site insurance.

Remember that as work progresses, the part-built structure itself will start to have value. Once complete a Structural Warranty from an insurer approved by the Council of Mortgage Lenders protects you against the cost of complete or partial rebuilding or rectifying work to the house as a result of defective design, workmanship or materials, for 10 years.

And when you move in, do not forget to have your usual building and contents policy in place.

If you are carrying out major renovations to your home it is also best to check with your existing insurer that the work is not so big that it falls outwith the cover of your existing policy.

## Self Build Loan Fund

IN November 2017 the Scottish Government announced that a new £4 million self-build loan fund, offering financial backing to people who want to build their own homes will be available later this year.

The Scottish Government has yet to announce who will be acting as agent for this new round of funding; also this latest money will be rolled out nationally but the full details have yet to be announced.

The Highland Small Communities Housing Trust (HSCHT) ran the pilot project within the Highland Council area due to market failure in the lending market, to provide funding for self-builders, prior to mortgage facilities being available.

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart confirmed the fund was being set up following a successful review of the pilot in the Highlands.

In addition, a Challenge Fund to support pilot projects that will help to expand the custom and self-build sector is now open for applications.

Mr Stewart said: 'We know many people seeking to build a bespoke home, which is tailored to their family needs, can find it tough getting the right advice and securing funding. A pilot in the Highlands is proving to be really successful and now others in communities across Scotland will be able to apply for a share of this £4 million investment later next year.'

'There was considerable interest in the fund following the launch of the pilot in the Highlands, which is why we have made the decision to make an early announcement on the national roll-out. This will give potential applicants the time to investigate housing plots and obtain the necessary permissions, so they can be ready to apply to the fund when it opens.'

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## Market leaders in self-build - Rob Roy Homes



Designed by James Denholm Partnership

Rob Roy Homes is a market leader in the manufacture and supply of high quality timber frame homes, residential developments and commercial buildings, our customers ranging from self-builders and small building contractors right through to large contractors. We specialise in one-off projects and can provide various specification options to suit our customers' individual taste and requirements.

We have been manufacturing timber frame buildings for over 25 years, and during that time we have gained vast experience

and a wealth of knowledge relating to all aspects of timber frame construction. This expertise translates into an exceptional customer experience throughout the entire process.

We offer a variety of thermally enhanced wall constructions to make our end product extremely energy efficient, and to exceed both building regulations and customer expectations.

Whatever stage you are at in planning your project, we would be delighted to hear from you to discuss how we can assist.

# Rob Roy HOMES

Specialists in the supply of high quality timber frame houses to your own design and specification



Contact us to discuss your own building project  
Visit our website for up to date news and  
information on our 2018 Open Days



Rob Roy Homes  
Dalchonzie, Comrie, Perthshire, PH6 2LB  
Tel: 01764 670424 [www.robroyhomes.co.uk](http://www.robroyhomes.co.uk)



# Decisions, decisions

## Kit homes can be tailored to your needs



**SO WHAT is it going to be? You have decided on a home, picked out the fittings and fixtures you want and are already dreaming of paint colours for the finished house.**

But what about the actual construction job: who is going to do it.

It all boils down to the two main ingredients in a self-build project: time and money.

Under estimating how much you have of either can really be the make-or-break of any self-build.

One advantage of having a kit home supplier build your home for you is that they will have their own team of proven tradesmen and women who have worked together before and they know this product inside out – literally! You are saving on time but you are paying for expertise and experience.

You might decide to put the work in the hands of a building firm you know and trust; in the West Highlands the chances are that good building companies will have worked on the big name companies' kits.

Or you are in the building trade yourself and can put together your own team. Job done.

You might decide to project manage the build yourself and hire in the trades and skills as needed. This could save money but most people who go down this route will tell you that the demands on your time will be far greater than you anticipate.

Whatever decision you make, make sure you have backed it up with some very, very serious number crunching and a realistic approach to your own availability and ability.

## The whole kit and caboodle!

Today's kits are so adaptable to you and your family's tastes and style that their designers and builders can create a bespoke look for you. No wonder this is the most popular route to a new home for self-builders.

WHEN we say the whole kit and caboodle, we mean it.

The dictionary tells us caboodle is a noun, informal, and means, 'The whole number or quantity of people or things in question' and that sums up the benefits of choosing a kit home.

You can have the 'whole' answer to your self-build.

You buy the entire house and most of the companies that supply kit homes will provide you with a service to take care of planning permission, building warrants and even deliver and build your new home for you.

And if we are talking words, then 'kit home' just doesn't do these properties justice.

The word 'kit' is way too small to describe what a big choice there is. 'Kit' somehow conjures up something that comes out of a box and is put together with glue. Something where one size fits all and you will take what you are given.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Go online and check out the websites of all the leading suppliers, producers and builders of these homes. They offer you everything from a neat studio-style property through to a bungalow, right up to country mansion.

Once the choice has been made you can 'flip' the design to suit your choice and the location. Come in the door and the original plan says lounge on the right kitchen on the left? How about the other way round? No problem.

These kits are designed with customisation in mind. Want to add a sun lounge, conservatory, garage, double garage? Many of the original house plans are



designed to allow you to add these features.

Is there someone in your family with special needs? Bathrooms can become wet rooms, doorways widened to be wheelchair friendly and joists strengthened where you need to add a hoist.

A kit home, precision manufactured away from the site, can be built far more quickly and that is a bonus when the West Highland climate decides to assert itself.

Some kit home manufacturers have the ability to take your architect's drawings and use their production techniques to build your home from start to finish and give you a bespoke service.

When it comes to the interior, they can offer an incredible number of fixtures and fittings, from the doors, skirting and window frames through to the finished look of your staircase.

They create and build many different styles of home for many different people and so the choice of bathrooms and kitchens and flooring reflects that wide range; you can even source fittings from other suppliers if you have your heart set on a particular style or type and they will carry out the installation.

steel frame house on-site can be quick as much can be made in advance off site.

### Brick and block

An outer brick wall and then an inner wall with an insulating material between.

### Alternative

Across Ayrshire you will find many interesting alternative styles of building; eco friendly and energy saving ideas; turf roofs, insulated concrete form work; water recycling and energy generating.

They are fascinating and use many pioneering techniques. Perhaps the only thing holding people back from experimenting this way is that traditional lenders will not give mortgages.

## Fleming Homes

Exceptional one-off timber frame designs tailored to suit your individual requirements.



Fleming Homes has been supplying bespoke timber frame homes to the self-build market for over 30 years. With an unrivalled passion for the traditional values of self-build the Company is committed to maintaining these traditions through exceptional one-off timber frame designs, quality products and excellent service. From its free design service to erection, the Company offer expert advice

and solutions across all stages of the self-build process including planning, building regulations, full material specification, structural engineering, construction design, timber frame manufacture, erection and supply across the UK and overseas. For specialist timber frame advice tailored to your individual project contact Jason Hartley on 07712 305381 or 01361 883785.

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### Choices, choices

YOU have decided that self-build is the way forward for you, but the big question is: what type of home are you going to build then?

### Timber frame

The house has a basic wooden frame, covered in waterproof material (like stone or bricks). A number of companies sell timber frame 'kit homes', which are house styles that have already been designed and just need to be put together. This remains one of the most popular choices in the West Highlands.

### Steel frame construction

Once the steel frame is built, panels are attached to it. These are coated, or made waterproof in some other way. Building a

# Norscot

Self-build doesn't have to be stressful or expensive



Most would-be self-builders don't succeed because they start off thinking they need a 'grand design', which almost inevitably they can't afford.

Worse, such designs rarely offer value for money and may result in unaffordable levels of debt, with all the stress that entails. But self-build doesn't have to be like that.

Norscot offers an alternative approach with a wide range of flexible designs, which can be tailored to the way you want to live, at a price you can afford.

With Norscot, there's no need to employ an architect, you are guided through the whole process. You may add space and change the layout. And, create dramatic and light filled spaces with glazing options that make the most of the view.

At their core, Norscot kits are supplied with the acclaimed 'EcoWall' external wall construction, which provides levels of insulation almost double that required by building regulations. So, not only are Norscot homes cheaper and easier to build, they also offer superior eco credentials, making them cheaper to heat too.

Clearly, with Norscot, you get a home that perfectly fits you, your family and your budget. You don't have to compromise.



## INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED • ENERGY SAVING ECO KIT HOMES

Expertly manufactured in the far north of Scotland to specifications which exceed current Building Standards



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## Common mistakes to avoid

People self-building often make mistakes when building their kit home, which can be a huge drain on time, money and resources. To prevent the same thing happening to you, here's what to avoid:

- Don't just plan your kit home anywhere on the site. Consider views, privacy, and cardinal directions for hot and cold temperatures.
- Don't pour all the cement at once in order to save money, as it will harden before you can even finish the job.
- Don't schedule tradespeople out of order, e.g. plumbing, insulation and electric work should be done before you call in the drywaller.
- Don't settle on the design and budget before knowing what the site requirements are, e.g. earthworks and access to essential services.
- Don't do everything yourself. Have an experienced professional help you out.
- Don't create a large kit home with no design features or it will just look like one big box.
- Don't go for cheap wall frames when installing the roof or the walls will not stay straight.
- Don't create a unique design that will be unappealing to others and make it hard to sell the home.
- Don't hesitate to seek professional advice where necessary. This expert advice can save you considerable money later on.
- Don't set impossible deadlines that could ruin your health and family life.
- Don't make any guesses. Figure out how many hours is required for each task from the bids given by subcontractors.
- Don't just look at prices when comparing kit homes. Also consider what the price includes.
- Don't just choose contractors with the lowest bid price. Find out why it's cheaper than others.
- Don't forget to set aside some money for landscaping.
- If you don't apply glue to the floor sheeting, it will squeak.
- If you don't re-plumb door jambs, the doors will not hang correctly.
- If you don't seek help to fix a mistake you made, you could create even bigger, more expensive problems later on.
- Learn the rules before you break them, e.g. conventional flashing will still be needed for alternative triangular windows.
- Pick a design based on the lifestyle you want, e.g. privacy, entertaining, or space for a growing family.



# MacLeod Construction Limited

## Bespoke kits for a modern home

MacLeod Construction is the largest timber frame design and manufacturing company in the area with 40 years of experience and proven track record for quality timber frame construction. Using the very latest methods and materials they design every frame and panel with the latest software before manufacturing the kit with an automated frame-maker, it's quick, easy and accurate.

Our homes are stylish, spacious and affordable and can be customised to your requirements.

Building a kit home is faster, easier and less wasteful than a traditional build. Our kits are highly insulated and come with double-glazing to help keep your heating bills down. All our kits have been designed to accommodate the latest renewable heating systems.

We are able to offer a full range of services from obtaining plan-

ning permission and building warrant right through to completion.

To help streamline your build-process you can pick and choose trades from any of our extensive services divisions:

- Plumbing & Electrical
- Window & Doors
- Conservatories
- Roofing
- Refurb & Joinery
- Building aggregates



# MACLEOD

MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

## Kit Houses

- Extensive range of kits
- Customisable layouts
- Staged options to suit your budget
- Energy efficient designs
- Quick-build time



[www.MacleodConstruction.co.uk](http://www.MacleodConstruction.co.uk)  
Sales@MKmacleod.co.uk 01546 602989

## Milligan Transport: *Delivery problem solved*

No matter how remote your delivery in the West Highlands and Islands, Milligan Transport can do it.

This Mallaig-based company specialises in land and sea transport. They delivered an alligator to the Isle of Rum to act in a television documentary so your kit home or building materials will be all in a day's work.

The star of the show is the landing craft *Spanish John 2*, actually the third vessel to carry the name; the original, a Navy-surplus vessel was legendary in West Highland waters. This incarnation was Clyde-built in 2003 at Alexander Noble and Sons of Girvan.

Sitting at 20m long and 6.5m wide, deck cargo can be up to 40 tons. Power comes from twin 236 hp Daewoo engines. Loading can be either via the 3.6m wide bow door ramp, or with a 23t per metre Palfinger hydraulic crane operated by radio remote control.

They deliver equipment and feed to fish farms daily. Plant and diggers are regular cargos and so are sand and aggregates, council skip lorries with refuse and recycling skips, towing fish farm cages. She has also been a platform for movie making and also featured in the new Ford Eco Sport advert that has just started airing on tv.



For all your Highlands and Islands transport logistics...



Milligan Transport is a family run company based in Mallaig, specialising in the movement of freight, by road and by sea including the famous Spanish John 2

Craigard, Mallaig, Inverness, PH41 4RG

Tel: 07900 564 475 Email: greigmilligan@btinternet.com

 Spanish John [www.milligantransportltd.co.uk](http://www.milligantransportltd.co.uk)

# An island 1

**Do you want to join an island community or build yourself a home in magnificent isolation on the mainland? Don't be daunted by the logistics, when it comes to living on islands or in remote rural places, we've been doing it for centuries . . . we're experts.**

**IF YOU can comply with all the planning permissions, building warrants and regulations, and you have the money, you can build anywhere; it's a simple fact of life. That includes the remotest spot you can find on the Scottish mainland or the islands.**

There are islands that would be offended if you called them remote. Do not forget that in Argyll, with its many peninsulas, and Lochaber's wild mountains there are places on the mainland that it can take longer to reach than an island such as Arran with a dependable ferry service.

Remember that people have lived here for centuries; people in this part of the world know how to get to remote places – and how to get very large loads to remote places. We've had plenty of practice.

Do not just take our word for it; Caledonian MacBrayne ferries have the daily task of their skilled deckhands loading builders' merchants' lorries laden down with materials and roof trusses bound for Lochranza or Brodick.

Many of you will have quietly cursed under your breath and reversed back to a passing place to let a lorry carrying earth moving plant go by, on its way to dig out some new foundations.

It is easier, for example, to get planning permission to build on a plot in the communities of Lamlash or Corrie for example than a remote mainland spot which is in the middle of an SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) where you will find yourself having to provide reports on environmental impact to bodies like SEPA (Scottish Environmental Protection Agency). You might have to prove that there is a need for a house in this particular spot or there could be residency conditions linked to employment.

No community ever stands still; new houses or renovations and extensions are always taking place. Early contact with the council planning department will always pay dividends, especially the pre-planning guidance on offer.

Islands and remote rural communities are



desperate for new families. Your children might mean the difference between a closure or an extra teacher for a primary school. The different areas have different incentives to help make this happen.

Utilities can be expensive and take time to install in a remote location; but nothing that cannot be solved with an innovative approach to waste water disposal, a good quality private water supply and system (it will need to be tested and approved) and the many alternative types of power generation available today. There are some excellent examples to be found all over this region; many of them award-winning.

Just don't be naïve when it comes to the extra expenditure of cash and time - but one of the ways you can help keep this as low as possible is to be thoroughly, thoroughly organised. You have to be right first time, or face a day-and-a-half ferry journey, or a mammoth round trip on single-track roads, to return the wrong part for the right one or pick up extra materials, while the weather closes in or workers have to wait.

Don't even let the lack of a ferry service

# life for me!



worry you; transport companies have boats and vehicles that can get anywhere.

You will see a ferry timetable tucked on the dash board of many a builder's van along with the obligatory old copies of the *Daily Record* and a few used paper coffee cups and crisp bags. Everyone has got the CalMac app on their mobile phones.

One obvious piece of advice is make sure that the majority of the build project takes place during the summer timetable when there are more ferries running, often earlier and later in the day – a blessing for your logistics.

If you are transporting materials and people yourself, remember to book well in advance during the height of the tourist season and on days when major events like Highland games and agricultural shows are taking place. You will also have the advantage of longer daylight and (hopefully) better weather.

## Land

If you already have a plot then one of the hardest parts of the job is over.

If you are searching for a plot always check

the ease and cost of connecting to utilities in this location. Make sure that you have a right of access; some roads can look public but are in private ownership and you might have to cross someone else's land to get to yours.

Also make sure that you are not in a black spot for mobile phone reception (not uncommon) and that you can pick up a satellite signal or are in range for Freeview for terrestrial broadcasting. But that said, you will be pleasantly surprised by how many islands and remote communities do have superfast broadband thanks to government investment.

## Materials and design

If living on an island with a stunning sea view or in a remote rural spot is your dream remember that by your very choice you will almost certainly experience island weather at its most enthusiastic.

Design and materials should be used accordingly and that does not just mean your home. Your garden will need hedging, shrub screens, and plants that are salt spray, deer and rabbit-proof.



## Quantum Solutions, a forward thinking Construction Consultancy

### Fresh

Quantum Solutions was established in 2009 by Richard Neilson, a Chartered Quantity Surveyor, and has become recognised as a leading and forward thinking consultancy. We deliver a fresh approach to clients working within the construction industry and our 'can do' attitude is central to our success.



### Diverse

We deliver Quantity Surveying, Project Management and Development Management services to private clients, residential developers and public sector clients in construction for residential, hotel, hospitality, commercial, distillery, industrial and regeneration projects.



Based in Kilmarnock in Ayrshire, we work across Scotland, and have been working on high profile projects on Arran over the last six years such as the current Isle of Arran Distillery, Visitor Centre and Warehouse project



at Lagg, the Auchrannie Spa Hotel Extension, Staff Accommodation and Spa Refurbishment Projects, and were recently involved with The Douglas Hotel with their Woodland Accommodation development. Our office in Kilmarnock is close to the Ardrossan ferry terminal and are used to being on Arran on a regular basis.

## Build your Own Home – Quantum Solutions House Build Experience

We currently support a variety of clients on Arran with their own house build projects, and have considerable experience in this sector. In the last few years we have also successfully worked closely with a number of clients to complete their bespoke home projects in Kilmarnock, Corraith in Symington, Croy, Doonfoot and Auchterarder. We also have access, and valued working relationships with experienced and motivated consultants, contractors and suppliers who have experience working on Arran and can integrate well with the overall Team.

Before establishing Quantum Solutions, Richard Neilson (Director and Owner) held senior commercial positions with national developers and contractors such as Dandara, Imagine Projects and Kier Group. When working with these companies, Richard was involved in carrying out all aspects of the residential development process to ensure that the houses were built within budget and to designs which fitted the needs and detailed brief requirements of the clients.

### Focused

We are unashamedly methodical and believe having a detailed input at the start of a project is crucial to ensure all parties know exactly what is expected of them, and to guarantee a successful outcome. With a 'hands on' approach, we stay close to every aspect from conception to completion.

We would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact:

**QUANTUM SOLUTIONS LIMITED**  
17 Portland Road, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, KA1 2BT

**T: 07799 315750**

**E: richard@quantumsol.co.uk**

**Web: www.quantumsol.co.uk**

# Scotframe - leading the way in self-build

We provide our customers with a unique one-stop shop service, not only for coordinating the manufacture and delivery of the timber frame structure, but also the supply of windows, external doors, insulation,



plasterboard, stairs, internal door sets, architrave, skirtings and finishings and a whole lot more - the complete package!

Where your house design is concerned, you can either select from the Scotframe Portfolio, Rural, Gaelic or Breton ranges of house styles, encompassing everything from compact bungalows to generously proportioned family homes, or we will be happy to assist with a tailor made package for a bespoke design from your own architectural drawings.

Make sure you talk to us about Val-U-Therm PLUS our unique family of advanced, closed panel, factory insulated, high thermal performance wall, roof and floor systems. Val-U-Therm PLUS provides a winning solution along with extremely low U values and exceptional air tightness making it ideally suited to all forms of self build projects. The thermal efficiency of timber frame is legendary, and Val-U-Therm PLUS ensures properties that are very comfortable and require a lot less energy to heat.

## Bespoke homes individually tailor made just for you... the complete package

- Lower space heating costs
- Unequalled energy efficiency
- Advanced thermal performance
- Quicker build & less labour costs
- Quality controlled factory production
- Fully design flexible



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# Getting your new home on the grid

As far as your kids are concerned broadband and a mobile signal are essential, never mind about mains water!

**OUR great-great grandparents' memories of the Tilley lamp, the earth closet at the end of the garden and the water pump alongside the big stone sink are slowly fading from memory.**

There are very few people left alive today who can recall them – though chances are many of us still have a few Tilley lamps on standby for power cuts.

The utilities we expect today were luxuries back then and some of what we consider basic utilities now were just plain unheard of, luxury or not.

Electricity, water and sewerage are just expected to be available and if we are too far away from mains water or drains or power lines then the technology exists to provide them. 'Town gas' in our major population centres is backed up with gas or oil tanks at our homes outwith the gas supply areas.

We also expect landline and mobile telephones and television and broadband as standard utilities laid on in our homes.

When self-building many plots will already be connected to services, or be close to them.

It is a good plan, early on, when looking for a plot to buy to ask about the ease of connecting up to services and the cost; for some budgets this could be a decisive factor in whether to go ahead with the purchase or not.

It goes without saying that getting services on site as soon as possible is an important step. Builders will need power tools and water right from the start.

Ask your kids what they would think of living in a house with no, or painfully slow, wi-fi, with no mobile network and in a shadow unable to pick up satellite television or

Freeview via terrestrial television. To kids, these services are basic utilities they cannot imagine living without.

Ask some families what they would rather have: a dining room where they can sit and eat together and talk, or a media room where they can watch Sky or Netflix or play games on a massive, wall-covering television with a sound system that rattles the triple-glazing. You know what the answer is going to be.

So it makes sense to check these services out. You might be pleasantly surprised because of the amount of investment in broadband for remote and rural locations by the government. Remember mobile signals can be boosted via broadband.

## Energy and renewables

**Building a new home means you can benefit from the latest energy-saving technology from the day you move in**

INSTALLING green technologies in your self-build offers the chance of energy savings and might also qualify for government schemes or loans.

Organisations like Home Energy Scotland can provide free, in-depth advice custom-designed to your style of home and circumstances.

They can talk you thorough the options for energy saving and generating your own energy for heating or electricity.

Though there have been changes in recent years, renewable heat incentive schemes still exist and so do feed in tariff schemes for the use of small small-scale, renewable and low-carbon technologies to generate electricity.

## Air source heat pumps: Costs, savings and financial support

A typical ASHP installation costs around £6,000 to £8,000 and the Scottish Government is currently funding an interest-free loan of up to £10,000 to help with the installation cost. In addition, under the UK Government's domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) scheme, you could receive quarterly cash payments over seven years if you install or have already installed an eligible renewable heating technology.

Running costs will vary depending on a number of factors like the size of your home, how well insulated it is and what room temperatures suit you.

How much you can save will depend on what system you use now, as well as what you are replacing it with.

Existing system	Annual fuel bill saving*	Potential annual RHI payments (installations between 20 September and 31 December 2017)
Old electric storage heaters	£735 - £820	£1,140 - £1,235
New electric storage heaters	£410 - £445	£1,140 - £1,235
Old (G-rated) oil boiler	£290 - £315	£1,140 - £1,235
New (A-rated) oil boiler	An increase of £155 - £165	£1,140 - £1,235
Old (G-rated) LPG boiler	£1,000 - £1,090	£1,140 - £1,235
New (A-rated) LPG boiler	£290 - £315	£1,140 - £1,235
Old (G-rated) gas boiler	£455 - £485	£1,140 - £1,235
New (A-rated) gas boiler	An increase of £10 - £15	£1,140 - £1,235
Coal	£415 - £465	£1,140 - £1,235

\*The figures above are based on average fuel prices, which vary across the UK. We can help you work out savings based on energy costs in your area.

### Take action

Call Home Energy Scotland free on 01292 525501 to arrange a visit to a Green Homes Network member, or to book a free home visit from one of our home energy specialists to discuss if an ASHP or other renewable system would suit your home.



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# LOOKING FOR THE BEST HEATING SOLUTION FOR YOUR NEW HOME OR RENOVATION ?

**Then Speak to the Experts**

Family business's Smart Group and TK Murray have been building homes and designing and installing central heating systems throughout Scotland since the 80's.

Originally oil and gas installers more and more of our work now centres around designing and installing air source heat pumps throughout Scotland from the Borders up to the Western Isles as this technology becomes more and more popular.

From one off installations for single new build or complete renovations to large scale contracts for Housing Associations you can be assured of a unique one stop service that includes full design spec as well as Energy Performance Certificates and SAP calculations.

We are first and foremost experienced heating engineers and qualified domestic energy advisers who pride ourselves in giving best advice in all situations. We also have all the MCS accreditation you need to ensure a smooth Renewable Heat Incentive application.

Experienced and trained installers of the award-winning Mitsubishi Ecodan range of packaged air source heat pumps and hot water cylinders. Made in Livingston these have been designed for the UK climate.

A one stop shop for air source heat pumps and Solar PV all our client advice, consultations and recommendations are free and without obligation.

If you are building or renovating and are thinking about installing a renewable technology to heat your home or generate electricity then contact us today and speak to one of our experienced, qualified and friendly Domestic Energy Advisers.

## Testimonial

We were very impressed by the advice given on system practicalities, costs and government help by the Smart Group surveyor Norman Paterson. The friendly and efficient team of carpet fitter, joiners, plumbers and electricians completed the installation in only two days, incredible since the old storage heaters had to be removed and complete piping had to be installed for the new radiator system, with changes to hot and cold water systems - all in temperatures below freezing.

*Laurie Thompson, Carluke*

## Mitsubishi Ecodan Coastal Unit with Robot Underfloor Heating System.

### Renovation on Isle of Arran



Underfloor system in place prior to screeding.



System after screed has been laid. Inset: The external heat pump



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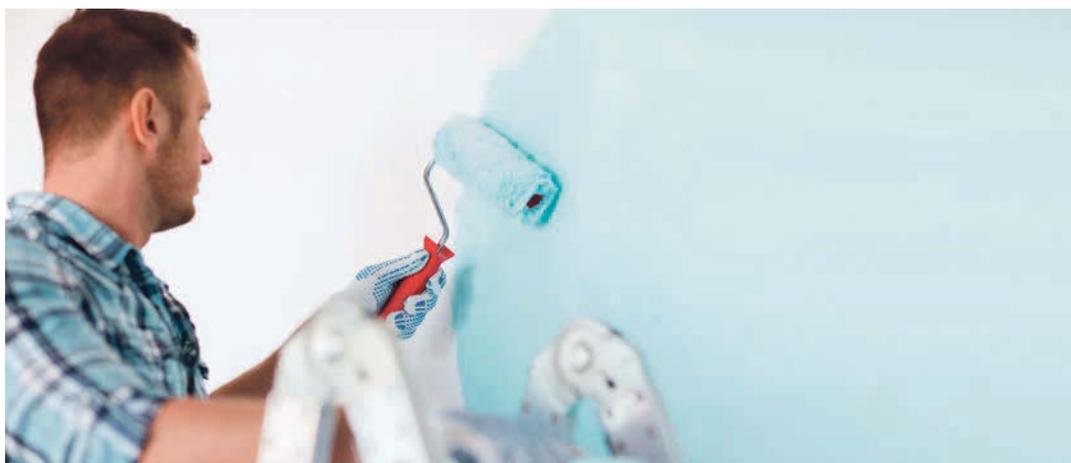
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The roof is all but gone, you can see the rafters; one wall has buckled in, the others are only standing out of force of habit but you can see what it can be once again.

Friends think you are crazy and that it would be cheaper just to bulldoze the entire site and start again, but you know differently.

It is all down to the 'three Rs' of renovation, restoration or remodelling. What needs to be done?

Renovation is renewing what you already have in place and adding new parts where necessary, whether it is floor boards or an entire wall. Restoration returns a room or home back to its former glory, respecting the original, or period, features. Remodelling changes the actual structure or use; like ripping out a wall, moving the kitchen to the other side of the house, or adding an extra bathroom, sunroom or annexe.

The chances are that you will probably be doing a mixture of all three.

If the property is a listed building, or in a conservation area, you must apply for the necessary permissions.

A house that is run down and in need of repair can be a potential bargain and be the best way to put your finances to work and get more home for your money.

For a start they will almost always have road access, water, electricity, sewerage and mains gas, where available making it easier, quicker and cheaper to get connected to the services.

Take into account that in more rural spots when there is a septic tank this might need renewing or repair and if there is a private water supply it might not comply with the latest standards or pass the newer health tests without some major work being carried out.

You will need a surveyor's report. Remember that if it is a major endeavour, comparable to building a new home, an architect will prove just as valuable on this project.

If it is a very old and decaying property the first jobs will be to stabilise it and stop any further decay.

Planning permission and building warrants will be needed for a major rebuild or remodelling, but if you can keep within permitted development rights this will save more money. These rights can vary and what might have been fine where you lived before in the UK might not be the same in your new location.

Once again this is where planning officers can advise you.

Though they are becoming more rare there can be grants or VAT concessions available for certain costs. It is worth checking to see if you qualify.



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Guest singer Kirsty Collins and the Soul Choir match the upbeat music. 01\_B04soul10



Guest singer Kirsty Collins belts out a rendition of the Bonnie Tyler favourite, *Total eclipse of the heart*. 01\_B4soul03



Spike Bayne on saxophone and the Soul Band perform *St Thomas*. 01\_B04soul06

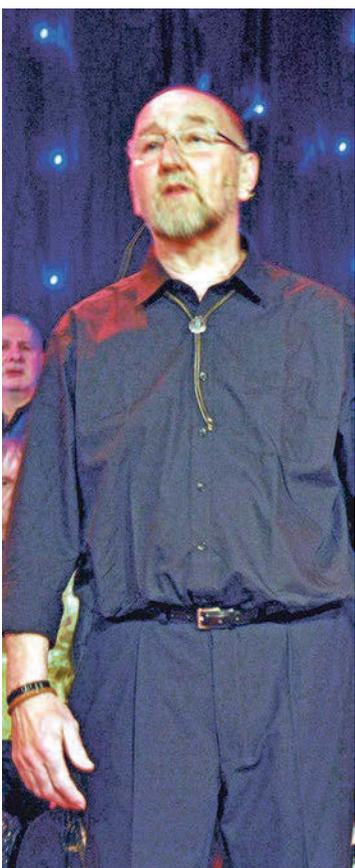
# ds entertain ormance

since it formed. The emphasis is on the enjoyment of music in a no pressure, casual environment where singers of all ages and abilities are welcomed.

Following their debut concert last year the proceeds from the raffle held during the interval contributed a quarter of the annual running costs to the Arran Defibrillator Project. Combined with this year's fundraising,

organisers hope the charitable donation will be sufficient to fund the organisation for a full year.

At the end of an enjoyable evening amid cheers of an encore, musical directors James O'Neil, David Lambert and administrator Carolyn Lambert were thanked by a representative of the choir and presented with a token of thanks to thunderous applause.



Mike Bailey and Company perform the *Cadgwith Anthem*. 01\_B04soul05



Val Waite and Yvonne Brothers perform a rousing rendition of *Proud*, backed by the Soul Choir. 01\_B04soul04



Megan Hamill impressed the audience with a moving and pitch perfect song, *I see fire*. 01\_B04soul6

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# Arran Historical Society members are enthralled

The AGM of Arran Historical Society was held on Monday January 15 in the Brodick Golf Club premises.

Colin MacKenzie welcomed the 62 members followed by an excellent light lunch served by Trish and her helpers.

The meeting continued with official business. The committee and officials will be joined by two new committee members.

The members received the syllabus for the new year.

The committee and officials were thanked for their work during the year and Norma Davidson was singled out for her reporting to the *Arran Banner*, which will be missed as she is retiring after 10 years.

There followed an excellent film show by Ed O'Donnelly, of Arran holiday life and local life from 1929 to 1960 approximately.



Brodick Golf Club was the venue for the meeting of Arran Historical Society.

The audience saw beach huts, bathing, boats for leisure and transport of people and goods, barytes mining, basking shark fishing and the agricultural show.

This was concluded with a

vote of thanks to Trish and her helpers for the lunch and thanks to Ed for his excellent edited film. The meeting concluded around 3.30pm.

The next meeting will be in Brodick Hall at 2pm on Mon-

day February 19 when Penny McWatters will speak about Lord Rossmore (an Irish lord), who married into the Hamilton family in the 18th century. His dowry was the west side of the island.

## Church bells will be Ringing out for Peace

Calls to mark the anniversary of the hour that the guns fell silent in the First World War have been made to churches on Arran.

Ringling out for Peace is a series of commemorations to take place in November of this year to mark the end of the Great War in 1918.

Already organisers have arranged for a small army of pipers and bagpipers to mark the moment on November 11, and now church groups are being encouraged to sound their bells as well.

Ringling out for Peace hopes to see more than 1,000 churches and cathedrals participate at 7.05pm on the night.

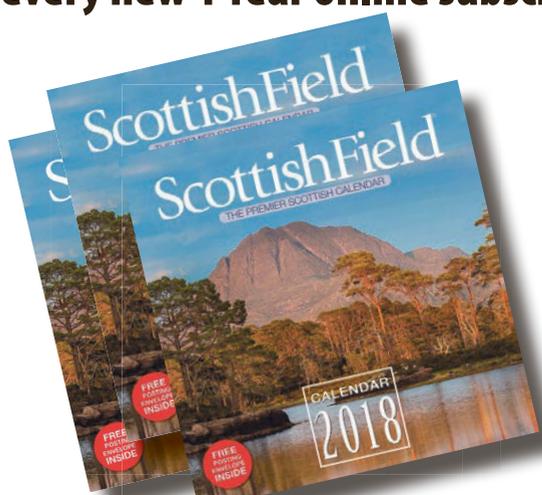
'It would be a fitting and moving tribute to the 1,400 or so bell-ringers that we understand lost their lives during the First World War,' said pageant-master Bruno Peek.

Ringling out for Peace is part of Battle's Over, a day-long, unique commemoration of the end of the First World War taking place throughout the UK and beyond.

Churches can register their involvement by completing the Ringling out for Peace entry form found at [www.brunopeek.co.uk](http://www.brunopeek.co.uk).

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## Dog classes resume

Dog classes will resume in Whiting Bay Hall on Wednesday February 7, at 12.30pm. The sessions are 10 weeks in duration and the training is reward-based.

Anyone interested can contact Margaret Kay on 600858 or can just turn up on the day.

## OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 28 February 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

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as exclusive VIP experiences, discounts on luxury accommodation on the NC500, personalised itinerary planning, and exclusive guide books and other merchandise, including a limited-edition NC500 bottle of multi-award-winning Rock Rose Gin and a Johnstons of Elgin fine merino scarf.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:  
**How many miles long is the North Coast 500 route?**

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

# What's on

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## Every day

Trout fly fishing  
 Brodick Castle  
 Soap making and candle dipping Arran Aromatics  
 Arran Brewery

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
 Garden only open 9am-dusk  
 Brodick, 10am - 4pm  
 Open Mon - Thursday 11.30am - 4.30pm  
 Friday & Saturday, 10am - 4.30pm, Sun - Closed

## Saturday 27th January

Flow Yoga  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Army Cadets  
 Blackwaterfoot bowls  
 Arran Branch Scottish CND Meeting  
 Family games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Lamlash Burns Club Annual Burns Supper  
 Burns Night, Burns songs & poems - Arran Artists  
 Music Arran, DUO BIZ'ART  
 Live Music - Lemon Soul - a soul band covering artists from the '60s  
 Over 21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am  
 9.30am - 11am  
 9.30am - noon  
 Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm  
 Bowling Club, 1.30pm  
 Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 2pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Lamlash Golf Club 7 for 7.30pm  
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm  
 Community Theatre, Lamlash, 7.30pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

## Sunday 28th January

Live Music - Buccaneers  
 Jazz Cafe Band  
 Family games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Dawn Robertson and her Uke is a solo singer, songwriter from Paisley  
 AA meeting

Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 2pm  
 The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 2pm - 5pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm

## Monday 29th January

Morning fitness  
 Arran Vets Surgery  
 Arran Vets Reception  
 Over 50s badminton  
 Arran Skinnymalinks  
 Arran Skinnymalinks  
 Arran Skinnymalinks  
 Adult Tennis  
 Arran Junior Football Club  
 Circuit Training  
 Lamlash Aerobix  
 Badminton  
 Badminton  
 Arran High School's Senior Young Musician Competition, All Welcome  
 Arran Bridge Club  
 Tae Kwon Do

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30am - 10.30am  
 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm-4pm  
 Brèagha Holistic Beauty, Corrie, 5pm  
 Shiskine Church Hall, 5.15pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 6pm  
 Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
 Ormidale Park, 6pm-7.30pm  
 Auchrannie Gym, 6pm-7pm  
 Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm-9pm  
 Douglas Hotel, 7pm  
 Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, Adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

## Tuesday 30th January

Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Healthy Outdoors  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Blackwaterfoot Bowls  
 Bridge class (beginners/improvers)  
 Metafit Class  
 Flow Yoga,  
 Pilates  
 Lamlash Junior Drama Club  
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls  
 Youth club  
 Fiona's FitSteps  
 Arran Rotary Club  
 Scottish Country Dancing  
 Live Music -Mike Bailey  
 Pop quiz

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Bowling Club, 1.30pm  
 Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm  
 Arran High School, 6pm  
 Corrie Hall, 6pm  
 Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
 Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm  
 Brodick, 7pm  
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
 Arran High School, 7pm  
 Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 7pm for 7.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

## Wednesday 31st January

Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Yoga  
 Hydrofit  
 Coffee Morning  
 Chair Yoga  
 Bus Pass Club Free Soup  
 Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service  
 Knittery and Natterry  
 Zumba Gold  
 Arran Skinnymalinks  
 Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness)  
 RUNclub - Mixed Ability  
 Flow Yoga  
 Tae Kwon Do  
 Yoga-Arran  
 Mixed hockey  
 Burger and quiz night  
 Tae Kwon Do  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Family Friendly Pub Quiz, Cash Prize  
 Rock an Pop Bingo

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 5pm  
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am  
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
 St Bride's Church, Brodick, 10.30am - 12noon  
 St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 12noon - 2pm  
 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm  
 Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 4.30pm - 5.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 5pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 5.45pm - 6.45pm  
 Dunfion, Brodick, 5.30pm  
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm  
 Arran High School, Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm  
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30pm-9pm  
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
 Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm - 10pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

## Thursday 1st February

Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Morning fitness, Auchrannie Gym  
 Chair Yoga  
 Arran Skinnymalinks  
 Quilt Arran  
 Adult Tennis  
 10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers  
 Arran Ladies Netball  
 Ladies' Hockey  
 Arran Soul Choir  
 Arran Bridge Club  
 Brodick Embroidery Group  
 General knowledge quiz

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 9.30am - 10.30am  
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am  
 Brodick Church Hall, between 10.30am - 12noon  
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm  
 Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm  
 Arran High School, 6 - 7pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 6.30pm - 8.00pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm  
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm  
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

## Friday 2nd February

Arran Vets  
 Arran Vets  
 Coffee Morning for charities, all welcome.  
 Yoga  
 Hydrofit  
 Smart Recovery Meeting  
 Build a Steak Night  
 Lochranza Children's Badminton  
 AA meeting  
 Arran Youth Foundations  
 Tae Kwon Do  
 Douglas Hotel Burns Supper  
 Live Music - Cams Campbell  
 Lochranza Adults' Badminton  
 Pool, Darts & Poker

Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Corrie and Sannox Hall, 10.30am  
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 1.30pm - 3pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 5pm - 9pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash, adults, 7pm - 9pm  
 Douglas Hotel, 7pm  
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash

## Saturday 3rd February

Flow Yoga  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Army Cadets  
 Blackwaterfoot bowls  
 Family games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Live Music  
 Live Music - Skunnered  
 Over 21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am  
 9.30am - 11am  
 9.30am - noon  
 Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm  
 Bowling Club, 1.30pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm





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**6 Nations Rugby:** All matches shown live with free half time snacks

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Thanks to the help and support from our local community, the Drift Inn is re-opened and ready to make a full comeback! With some new and some old team members, we are proud to be working closely with local farmers, fisherman and suppliers to bring you the freshest and best quality Arran produce. By following the “Farm to Fork” ethos we aim to create a healthier, more delicious dining experience for you whilst supporting Arran’s economy and helping to keep our island beautiful by reducing harmful emissions to the environment.

Dine in with us or stop in for a take away.

Eat Local. Eat Fresh. Eat Responsible.



# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 24, 1998

## New head teacher

A lucky group of pupils got to speak to Arran High's new head teacher, asking questions of the island's first woman in the post.

Ms Sue Smith previously worked on Islay as depute head, however, she hasn't always worked on an island, having had a stint working in Oban. A former physical education teacher, she started this week and introduced herself to the pupils at assembly.

Ms Smith enjoys sailing and golf, and lists the island's seven golf courses as one of the great attractions. When asked what she thought the differences were between island and mainland schools she said that pupils on the island are generally better behaved.

## Working for God

Colin Mills of Shiskine was 'set apart' on Monday evening at a service in St Moli-os Church. This curious expression is the Church of Scotland's archaic way of saying that someone has completed a period

of training towards becoming a part-time minister and may now do many of the things an ordained minister is allowed to do.

Colin said: 'It means that I'm qualified to take all services in the Church of Scotland except for weddings, baptisms and holy communion.'

Thus Colin is now a reader, one of three on Arran. Hight Allan of Whiting Bay has been a reader for a long time and John Stedman of Slidery was set apart in a similar service last year.

## Price hike

Prices on Arran have shot up over the last few months. At least that is the conclusion of the Royal Scotland Price Survey published this week.

A twice yearly survey conducted by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the ladies of the Council of Voluntary Service on Arran and elsewhere fill a shopping basket with exactly the same goods.

Arran's basket cost £54.88 last summer and £58.29 this winter. This represents a six per cent increase in as many months.



Arran Dancers, with their new teacher Caren Jones, are keen to learn ballet, modern and tap. Caren, from Greenock, was hired by the girls' parents after a previous commercial dance class on the island closed. 01\_B04twe01



New Arran High School head teacher Sue Smith has a question and answer session with pupils. 01\_B04twe04



Girls from the new modern dancing class in Brodick School last Saturday were trying out something a little different. It's a sort of less formal ballet and is the dancing often seen in all sorts of musicals from Miss Saigon to Blood Brothers. 01\_B04twe02



The Ardrossan Presbytery, with Colin Mills, centre right, beside the Rev David McKay, Moderator of the Presbytery of Ardrossan. 01\_B05twe05



Arran's Highland dancing class is still going strong, but girls from the island are now enjoying a more modern flavour of dance lessons. 01\_B04twe03

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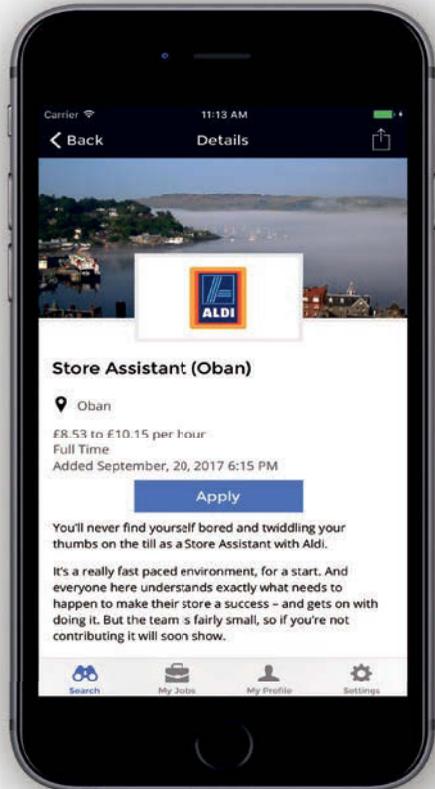
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## Public Notices

### SLIDDERY SUPPLIES

Due to a family bereavement  
Slidderly Supplies will be  
closed on  
**Monday 29th January**  
Apologies for any inconvenience

### COMMUNITY NOTICE – AYRSHIRE SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN PUBLIC CONSULTATION DAYS

A draft Shoreline Management Plan for the Ayrshire coastline has been prepared by North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire Councils. The Plan presents a large-scale assessment of the risks to the people of Ayrshire and its developed, historic and natural environment, from coastal flooding and erosion, and identifies suitable policies for the management of these risks. The Plan covers the entire Ayrshire mainland coastline from Skelmorlie in the north, to the northern shore of Loch Ryan in the south, and the coasts of the islands of Arran and Great Cumbrae.

North Ayrshire Council wish to give the people of Ayrshire the opportunity to comment on and influence the Ayrshire Shoreline Management Plan and associated environmental reports before they are finalised. The draft Ayrshire Shoreline Management Plan and associated environmental reports (Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report and Habitats Regulation Appraisal Record) are therefore available to view in hardcopy at the North Ayrshire Council Headquarters at Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE (during office hours), or digitally on the North Ayrshire Council website <http://www.northyshire.community/consultations/open-consultations/> Public Consultation Days are also planned at various locations throughout North Ayrshire where you can review the draft Ayrshire Shoreline Management Plan and associated environmental reports, and discuss any details with the project team. These consultation days are as follows:

Monday 19 February 2018 12pm – 7pm  
Irvine Library, 168 High Street, Irvine, KA12 8AN  
Tuesday 20 February 2018 12pm – 6:50pm  
Millport Library, The Garrison, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, KA28 0DG  
Wednesday 21 February 2018 12.30pm – 7pm Ardrrossan Civic Centre,  
150 Glasgow Street, Ardrrossan, KA22 8EU  
Thursday 22 February 2018 12pm – 6:30pm  
Broddick Library, Main Street, Broddick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DL  
Friday 23 February 2018 12pm – 5pm  
Largs Library, 26 Allanpark Street, Largs, KA30 9AG

In addition to being able to make comments at the Public Consultation Days, submissions on the draft Shoreline Management Plan and associated environmental reports may be made to North Ayrshire Council Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE between 29 January – 20 April 2018 or via the Council website online survey, or via post to Danielle King, RPS Consulting Engineers, Ocean Point One, 4th Floor, 94 Ocean Drive, Edinburgh.  
Email: [Danielle.King@rpsgroup.com](mailto:Danielle.King@rpsgroup.com).

### 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 Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 9am – 4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to [eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) by 16 February 2018. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

**18/00035/PP;** The Rock Pool, Corrie, Broddick, Isle Of Arran; Change of use from retail to hot and cold food takeaway.  
**18/00019/PP;** Broombrae, Blackwaterfoot, Broddick, Isle Of Arran; Replacement of existing barn with one and a half storey dwellinghouse

### (A841, LOCHRANZA, ISLE OF ARRAN) (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2018

The North Ayrshire Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended by Schedule 1 of the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 and of all other enabling powers, hereby make the above order.

A841, east of Lochranza from Ballarie Bridge to North Sannox Bridge, will be closed daily 9.15am – 4.30pm from 29 January 2018 until 23 March 2018.

Diversion route will be sign posted.

Restriction applies to all motor vehicle, pedestrian and push cycles with the exception of Emergency Services and vehicles involved in the works.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



## Property

### Arran Cottage Owners Website

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

This year's Winter Special Offer till 31 January 2018  
Set Up & Year 1 £150 now £75

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[www.cottagesonarran.co.uk](http://www.cottagesonarran.co.uk)  
Penny Brass, Broddick, Isle of Arran KA27 8EP  
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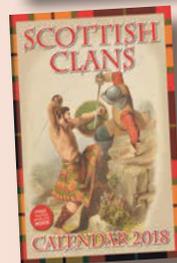
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#### I would like to order 2018 Calendars:

Calendar	U.K. inc P&P	R.O.W. inc P&P	Amount
Scottish Field Large	Price £4.95	£6.50	£
Scottish Field Small	Price £3.95	£4.25	£
Oban Times West Highland	Price £3.95	£4.25	£
Oban Times West Highland	Price £3.95	£4.25	£
Scottish Clans	Price £3.95	£4.25	£
Total			£

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Email \_\_\_\_\_ if you wish to receive this 2018 brochure straight into your inbox please enter your email address here

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# EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine Independent but working together  
Minister:  
Rev Angus Adamson  
Parish Assistant:  
Mrs Jean Hunter  
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

**Sunday 28th January**  
Pirnmill, and Lochranza Churches Together - 10.15am, Morning Worship at Pirnmill Church  
Shiskine Church, 12 noon Morning Worship.  
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.  
Corrie Church - 11.30am, Prayer meeting, 12noon, Morning Worship.  
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 28th January**  
Holy Communion 11am  
Mr John Roberts.  
Coffee after service.  
ALL WELCOME

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
**Sunday 28th January**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All welcome

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 28th January**  
Rev Lily McKinnon  
Kilmory - 10 am,  
Lamlash - 11.30 am  
In Lamlash: Prayer Time 10.45am Praise Service.  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland  
Charity Number: SC014005  
**Sunday 28th January**  
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. There will also be the opportunity to look at Traidcraft goods on sale in the Transept.  
All most welcome.

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Sunday 28th January**  
Sunday Mass 11am

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 28th January**  
Service 11am, Ormidale Pavilion  
Tea and coffee after the service  
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.  
Telephone 600222  
Everyone warmly invited

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm  
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

Sunday meetings at 11am at Brodick Library  
Telephone 700346 or 302246.  
Come and join us

**DEATHS**

**ALLAN:** Peacefully at home on the 21st January, Peter H Allan, beloved husband of the late Jean, much loved father of Sine, Lesley, Midge and the late Robert and dear Grandpa and Great Grandpa. Funeral service at Shiskine Free Church on Monday 29th January at 11.30am (bus from Brodick Pier), thereafter to Brodick New Cemetery at 1pm.

**JOHNSTON:** Donald, 64, Chandler of Lamlash. Suddenly on 14th January, 2018, beloved husband of Heather, loving father to Matthew, brother to Iain and Douglas. Funeral on Friday 26th January at Lamlash Church, 11.30am, followed by burial at Kilbride Cemetery, thereafter a Celebration of his Life at the Drift Inn. All family and friends welcome.

**REVELL:** Muriel Evelyn nee McKelvie peacefully on Sunday 21st January at Abercorn Nursing Home Hamilton formerly of Prospect Hill, Lamlash. Beloved wife of the late Charles, much loved mum to Hazel and Jan, mother in law to Don and Alastair, Grandmother to Jane, Peter, Jonathan, Andrew and Carol and great grandmother to Oscar and Itali. Loving daughter of Robert and Janet McKelvie and sister of Edith. Committal Service at Lamlash Cemetery on Wednesday 31st January at 12.00 noon

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



The 11th hole at Shiskine Golf Club



**Shiskine Golf Club**

Saturday January 20, Gents 18 Hole Medal, 10 played.  
1 and scratch, P Betley 75-11=64, 2 J McNally 76-

7=69, 3 C Rutterford 91-19=72. Magic two, Phil Betley at the 12th.

Fixtures: Saturday January 27, Lochranza Match at Shiskine, 1.30pm start.

Sunday January 28, Gents 12 Hole Medal, 1pm start.

Thursday February 1, Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 10am start.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Fixtures: Saturday January

27, Sweep, ballots at 9am and 12.30pm.

Monday January 28, Monday Cup at noon, weather permitting.

**Brodick Golf Club**

Fixture: Sunday January 28, Winter Cup, 9am and noon.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Fixtures: Sunday January 28, Winter Stableford,

9.30am and noon.  
Thursday February 1, Yellow Medal, 11am

**Arran Golfers Association**

Fixtures: Sunday February 4, Winter League / Duncan Trophy, fourth round at Machrie Bay Golf Club. Draw: Machrie Bay v Whiting Bay at 8.30am, Lamlash v Corrie at 9.20am, Brodick v Shiskine at 11.50am.



Lamlash Golf Club

**PERSONAL**

Helg, a former Buddhist nun is looking for a place (room or flat) to live on Arran

Please give me a call on

**07501 765048**

or email: helga-vogt@gmx.de



Corrie Golf Club

# Tri, tri and tri again!

**Continued from page 20**  
in this innovative approach to developing triathlon in a rural area,' said Mr Reid.

'The job is a great opportunity for a coach to be involved in developing the first School of Sport for Triathlon in Scotland.'

Applications for the lead triathlon coach role closed this week. The post, which pays up to £12,000 per year for 10-15 hours a week, is supported by Triathlon Scotland and is part-funded by Sport Scotland for a period of two years initially.

The coach, who will report to the head teacher of Arran High School and the Arran Junior Triathlon Club committee, will be responsible for future programme planning, coach co-ordination and development, parental liaison and session delivery.

Founder and head coach Craig Wood said that he was delighted the club's hard work was paying off.

'Arran Junior Triathlon Club is going from strength to strength and this is really a step in the right direc-

tion for all of us,' Mr Wood said.

'It's a first for Scotland and, I believe, for Europe. We're breaking down barriers and really growing.

'I'll still be on board as head coach and the new lead coach will work under Barry Smith [head teacher] myself and the committee and push the school of sport role. We thought it might be a hard role to fill because it's only 10 hours or so, but we've had a few applicants.'

Mr Wood said he was delighted the club would remain free of charge and stay true to its founding goals.

'This is a big thing for me "free for all". It's always been about shaping kids' lives and building them into confident individuals, it's not just about breeding champions but building confidence in the kids to say "I can do this", in whatever they go on to do in life,' he added.

The club welcomes new members from age seven onwards and details of their training sessions can be found on their website at [www.isleofarrantriathlon.com](http://www.isleofarrantriathlon.com) or by visiting the Facebook page Arran Junior Triathlon Club.



Luke Goatley puts in a final sprint at the finish line.



Tired junior triathletes grab a group-hug.



This team is reaching for the sky.



Bobble hats keep the cold out on race day.

# SPORT



**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**  
Tri, tri and tri again!

# Arran triathlon club runs up Scottish first

Arran Junior Triathlon Club is going from strength to strength, developing the first School of Sport for Triathlon in Scotland and recruiting a new coach to chase up further successes.

The club was only formed in early 2016 but has already hosted its own Island-2-Island Triathlon and competed in the Scottish

Junior Triathlon Nationals, bringing home a Scottish Junior National winner in Grace Popplewell.

Head coach Craig Wood, a competitive triathlete, formed the Arran Junior Triathlon Club when he moved to Arran and realised what an incredible landscape the island had for triathlon.

Now with a significant percentage of school-aged children on the island involved, the club has teamed up with Arran High School to create the School of Sport for Triathlon.

The first of its kind in Scotland, the school of sport will work to provide focused training for eight students each year. The stu-



Rhea Webster, Ruby Wright and Caylin Lacey show off their medals.



Scottish champion Grace Popplewell, with teammates Ruby Wright and Luke Goatley.

dents will have training incorporated into the curriculum along with attending club sessions.

The unique partnership is supported by Triathlon Scotland and is part-funded by Sport Scotland for a period of two years initially.

This funding is being used

to employ a lead coach for the school of sport.

This coach will help grow the junior triathlon club and develop young athletes in line with British Triathlon's athlete development framework.

Triathlon Scotland's national development manag-

er Calum Reid said the appointment of a lead coach for the island was a great opportunity for the sport of triathlon.

'We're incredibly excited to be working with Arran High School and Arran Junior Triathlon Club

Continued on page 19

**NEW HOMES ON ARRAN**

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