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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2016

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Forestry fully committed to timber slipway at Machrie

Plans have emerged for a fourth site at south end of Arran

REPORT

by **HUGH BOAG**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Despite continuing opposition from residents in Machrie, the Forestry Commission is pressing ahead with plans for a timber transfer station on the west coast of the island, it emerged this week.

It is more than a year since the Commission first proposed the site at Machrie to ship thousands of trees off the island.

But Arran Community Council heard last week that despite a series of meetings held by the Forestry Extraction Work Group there remained 'a basic disagreement' between the Machrie residents and the Forestry Commission.

Pressing ahead

The project had been on hold, but the Commission confirmed this week that they are fully committed to the proposal for Machrie and detailed plans have now been

produced and the site has been granted a Marine Licence.

It also emerged this week that the Commission is looking at a new site for a fourth timber transfer station on the island at the south end.

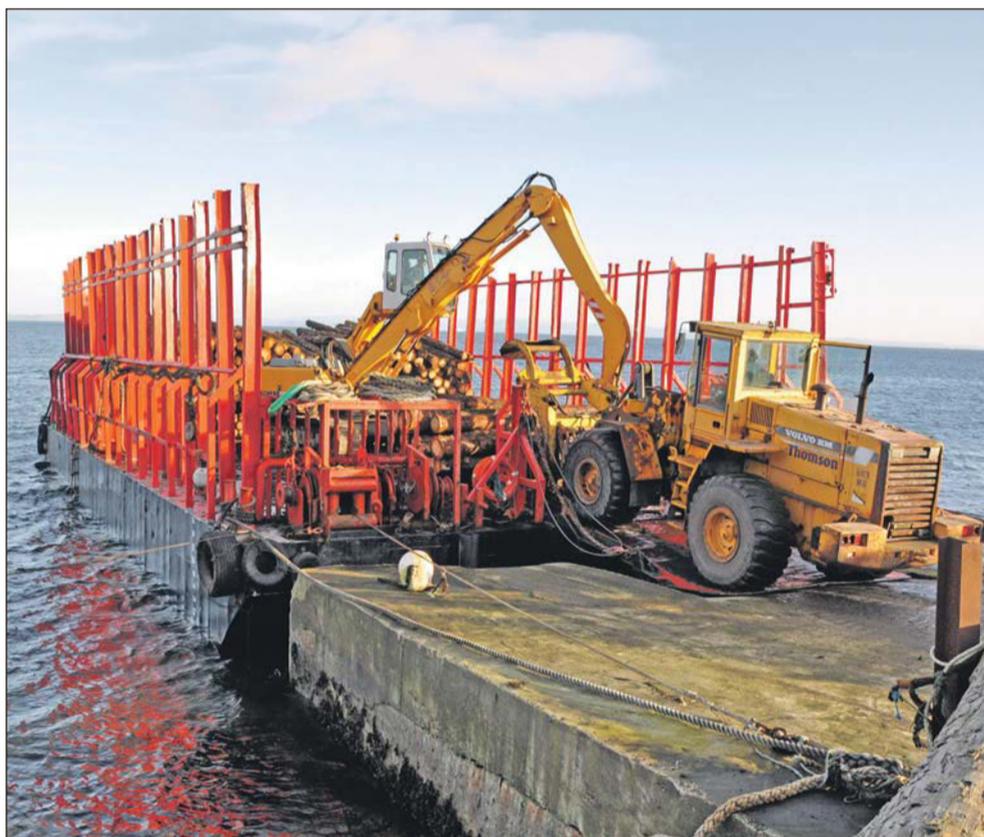
Oppose the plans

At Machrie residents along with VisitArran and the Arran Economic Forum, oppose the plans amid fears they would destroy the tranquility of the 'quiet' side of the island and harm tourism and the environment.

Machrie residents also argue that there has been a lack of consultation and that there is a lack of commercial justification.

They also say there are road safety issues and that it will lead to traffic disruption near to the slipway and on the Machrie Moor road. There is also an absence of any job creation.

Community council chairman Richard McMaster told the meeting: 'The Forestry



Timber is loaded on to a barge at the Brodick slipway this week. 01_B06forest02

Commission said it would be cheaper to ship the timber from Machrie, but it won't supply any figures to support that.'

Work Group member Neil Arthur said that negotiating with the Commission was 'like trying to deal with a

bar of soap'.

And the meeting heard there are more changes ahead. From the end of March the Forestry Commission will start standing timber sales, meaning it will be the contractors' job to fell the trees and transfer

them off the island.

A 'preferred contractor' has already been chosen on Arran, the meeting heard.

Since the work group was set up to discuss the Machrie site its remit has widened to cover the extraction of timber on Arran for the next 50

years, which will be extensive. There are 10 blocks of forestry on Arran which will have thousands of trees removed in that time and other timber transfer station sites are being explored around the island, some of which have now been ruled out, including one at Kings Cross.

One of the sites still being considered is on the land of Mr McMaster who farms at Springfield in the south. He declared an interest at the meeting over the potential development of that site.

The long-term plan would be to have four transfer stations - the two existing at Brodick and North Sannox and two new ones at Machrie and Springfield.

The Forestry Commission this week confirmed it was interested in developing the site but said it was at a 'very early stage'. The Commission said they were 'working through the process' at Machrie.

On the extension of the Work Group a Commission spokesman said: 'It is good that we have got more people in from different parts of the island as it is an opportunity to get a more balanced island-wide view.'



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Charity cash boost

The final sum raised for Arran Heart Start at the charity football match held between County Carpets and Armitage Groundworks and the after party was an amazing £907.76. One of the organisers said: 'We are so delighted with the amount and everyone's generosity. A big thank you to all who supported us.'

• Do you have a story for **The Arran Banner?** Call our reporters on 01770 302142

Warning as Corrie road is closed

The main road between Brodick and Corrie is being shut twice a day until at least next Thursday.

Bad weather disrupted the start of works last Monday but the road is now closed daily between 9.15am and noon and 12.45 to 3pm, with a convoy system operating outwith these times.

The closure, highlighted in *The Banner* last week, is between Glen Rosa Bridge and main entrance to Brodick Castle and is to allow major carriageway improvements.

There will be major disruption to travel with the closure of the main Brodick to Corrie road which starts next week.

Around a dozen businesses at Home Farm and Cladach have concerns how the closures will affect their businesses. Residents in Corrie and Sannox believe the works will cause them major travel headaches. A revised bus timetable is being operated.

During the closure there are to be three convoys a day from 7.30am till 9am; noon to 12.45pm and 3pm to 5pm with traffic lights on the road overnight.

The roadworks started in November with drainage and other preparatory work carried out using temporary traffic lights, which will help cut down the time of the road closure.



Workmen prepare to close the road on Wednesday. Inset road closed sign.

Coast to toast its success

Arran's success in being the first community in Scotland to ensure effective management measures for the island's new Marine Protected Area is being celebrated.

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is to host the event at the Arran Outdoor Education Centre in Lamlash on Wednesday, February 10 from 2pm to 4pm.

They will be giving a short presentation, before hosting a questions and answers session. They will also be sharing their future plans and asking for residents input on opportunities arising related to the new South Arran MPA.

Time running out to vote

Arran residents have just hours to vote for the two Arran candidates in the Cunningham North by-election for the Scottish Youth Parliament.

As reported in last week's Banner, Eilidh Macpherson and Ellie Bonner, both 14 and from Whiting Bay, are running to become Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, a democratically-elected body of Scotland's young people.

Voting opened last Monday morning and runs until today (Friday) at 4pm, after which the two candidates with the highest number of votes will be announced as Cunningham North's new MSYP's. Voting takes place online at <http://elections.youngscot.org>

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Trust support sees major coastal way improvements



Pictured are volunteers Ian McChlery, Margie Currie, Jacqui Rankin, Colin Turbett, Robert Waive and Colin Cameron with sheepdog Ben receiving their cheque.

Major improvements have been made to the Arran Coastal Way route on the West Coast.

The development is thanks to the financial support of the Arran Trust, to the tune of nearly £6,000, and a group of local people, who attended volunteer training sessions with the Arran Coastal Way's footpath team and have developed into a committed group eager to see the paths in Shiskine Valley area improved.

The section of footpath between Drumadoon Point and King's Cave is popular with visitors and residents, and thanks to the upgraded Coastal Way route around Drumadoon Point, this path is getting even more traffic than

before. The group earmarked this section as an area of great need and asked Coastal Way's footpath leader to draw out a schedule of works.

With the cash from the Arran Trust, the path group were able to purchase tools and equipment to enable them to take this project forward by themselves, with the new skills they have learned and the tools purchased, including spades, buckets, machetes and scythes.

The works have also included hiring a machine contractor to upgrade 260 metres of the existing path and putting in four piped culverts. Alongside machine work, the volunteers have improved the surface of 100 metres of path,

putting in 15 cross drains, digging 272 metres of ditches and using stone pitching to repair a small section.

The Arran Trust was delighted to support the works and by upgrading this stretch of footpath the Shiskine Valley volunteers intend to stop further deterioration of this important and well-used route, resulting in a better walker experience and reduced damage and impact on the surrounding landscape.

For more information about the Arran Trust, please contact info@arrantraut.org or contact 01770 302043.

Arran Brewery goes down a treat at European parliament

Last week saw the brewers of Scotland showcase their beers to European parliamentarians, where the range and diversity of styles took many of the politicians by surprise. Speakers at the event included Arran Brewery boss Gerald Michaluk, chairman of the Society of Independent Brewers, and Richard Ashworth MEP, the chairman of the British Pub and Beer Group in the European Parliament.

Mr Michaluk told the audience: 'This is a very exciting time for brewers and it's not only in Scotland but throughout the EU. There are now over 100 breweries in Scotland, supporting jobs, contributing to the exchequer

and gaining increasing export revenue for the country, and this is being repeated right across the length and breadth of Europe.

'It is a politically instigated success story of just what can be achieved with sensible duty management to encourage business growth.'

One MSP suggested that beer should be the official emblem of the EU as it's brewed in every member state and in such diversity that it truly reflects the vision of the EU: common methods but embracing great diversity. Mr Michaeluk agreed that beer is a common thread throughout the EU, and added, perhaps throughout the world.

Young people offered a theatre masterclass at Brodick events

Community arts charity Impact Arts is bringing its popular Gallery 37 workshops to Arran for the first time.

From today (Friday) until Sunday, young people aged 14-19 have the opportunity to work with professional artists and learn a range of creative skills for free, before taking part in an exciting showcase.

More than 85 per cent of young people who take part report improved confidence and successfully return to school or progress to college. Impact Arts will be delivering the Gallery 37 workshops as part of a weekend of creativity on the Island.

The Ayrshire Youth Arts Network is also delivering an intensive filmmaking course to 20 young people with the help of Peter Murray from the

Media Trust and film maker Jennifer Jones.

The group will be trained on using equipment, designing a brief, filming and editing, and will present their films at the Gallery 37 Showcase in Brodick Hall on Sunday afternoon. Over 100 people have taken part in Gallery 37 in Ayrshire since last year.

Opportunity

Amy, aged 17, took part in Gallery 37 in October and had this to say of her experience: 'Through taking part in Gallery 37, I fell in love with drama again and realised how much I want to pursue it in the future. This opportunity has provided me with experience for the future, new friendships, and it has improved my confidence.

'I believe young people

should take part so that they can get as much out of it as I did!'

Workshops are being held today (Friday) from 7pm to 9pm in St Brides Hall, Brodick, and tomorrow (Saturday) and Sunday from 11am to 4pm in Brodick Hall.

A celebration showcase will be held on Sunday from 4pm to 5pm in Brodick Hall.

For more information go to www.impactarts.co.uk

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Bridge results

The results for the Boyd Trophy (Round Four) at Brodick on Thursday, January 28 were as follows: Match points 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Linda Trickett and John Dick, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce.

The results of the aggregate competition held at Lam-lash on Monday, February 1 were as follows: N/S 1 Jim Primrose and John Baraclough, 2 Linda Trickett and Pat Adamson, 3 Margaret McGill and Elizabeth McKellar. E/W 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Jan and John Beattie, 3 Margaret and Douglas Bruce.



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Council welcomes return of Tourism Conference



Delegates at the Cold Water Conference on Arran last year. 20_b06cold01

North Ayrshire Council is delighted to welcome the Cold Water Island Tourism Conference back to Arran for a second year in this the year of Innovation, Architecture and Design.

Due to the success of last year's event, international delegates and local business leaders will flock to the island to take part in discussions on how to enhance tourism on small cold-water island destinations across the globe.

Sponsored by North Ayrshire Council, the two-day event has been organised by VisitArran and Taste of Arran and will feature over 200 delegates from the UK and

abroad. Throughout the conference, leading industry experts including international tourism expert Terry Stevens and Christel Seyfarth, knitwear designer and creator of Fano International Knit Festival, will share their thoughts on how we can work together to grow tourism to boost our local economies.

Overwhelming success

Council leader Willie Gibson said: 'Following the overwhelming success of last year's event we are delighted the conference will be hosted on the beautiful Isle of Arran again this year. North Ayrshire Council is proud to sponsor the event and looks

forward to hearing from the wide variety of speakers from home and overseas.'

Sheila Gilmore of VisitArran said: 'It is great to welcome the Cold Water Island Tourism conference back to Arran.

'Last year's event has resulted in many positive developments for Arran, North Ayrshire and the wider international tourism community'.

The conference will run from 5pm on Monday, March 14 to lunchtime on Wednesday, March 16. Full details can be found at www.cwit2016.com or contact Sheila Gilmore, info@visitarran.com

Tim tells the garden club of castle advances

The Horticultural Society Garden Club began 2016 with an exceptionally good turnout for a wild January evening.

Tim Keyworth was the guest speaker, who had so kindly agreed to update the club on the progress being made in the Brodick Castle Gardens since he took the post of head gardener in 2014.

Tim's passion and knowledge of his profession soon became clear as he eloquently spoke about the gardening team's plans for the future and also what they had managed to achieve over the last year. He mentioned his special interest in cultivating tender, unusual plants that he had not had the chance to do in his former position in colder Aberdeenshire.

The evening was concluded with Jim Jack advocating his Plant of the Month, *Erica carnea*.

Refreshments followed and the popular raffle and everyone then made their way home before the arrival of Storm Gertrude.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 25 at 7.30pm at the Brodick Castle Ranger Centre.

The Rev Jack Patterson will talk about Gardens in England and Wales.

New members and visitors are most welcome. The Garden Club hopes to provide a meeting place for gardeners of all ages to exchange tips, plants and enjoy horticultural speakers.

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Montrose House will help staffing accommodation crisis at the Auchrannie

Former care home Montrose House will provide the Auchrannie with 35 much-needed additional staff bedrooms.

As reported in *The Banner* last week, the Brodick hotel has bought the former home from North Ayrshire Council which, together with a major upgrade for the building, represents a £500,000 investment. Having already spent £600,000 in the last three years on two blocks of staff accommodation it will bring the total bill to over a million.

But Auchrannie director Linda Johnston considers it money well spent.

‘If we don’t give people decent living accommodation, we don’t get decent staff and they don’t stay.’

‘This is money that hotels on their mainland would be investing into their facilities for guests, but given the lack of affordable housing on the island, we have to spend the money on looking after our staff.’

‘The shortage of suitable accommodation for hotel staff on Arran is having a huge impact on our business and has resulted in serious operational difficulties for the Auchrannie.’

‘As the business continues to grow, and there is a limit-

ed pool of available staff on Arran, it is necessary for us to recruit from elsewhere and also be able to house these employees.’

The hotel currently has 69 of its employees living in staff accommodation. As well as the two recent accommodation blocks behind the hotel, it also has St Elmo House and Glen Cloy House.

Linda said the council had been supportive of the Auchrannie’s purchase of the former care home, as it is aware of the accommodation situation on the island.

Montrose House has lain empty since the residents were transferred to their new purpose-built accommodation last year, although the building is said to be in fairly good condition.

Linda said: ‘We have employees who have been in staff accommodation for 10 years, it is a real problem.’

‘Many would like to move into their own flat or cottage, but they simply cannot afford to. If that happened we would have a better turnover for the staff accommodation.’

‘We want the accommodation at Montrose House to be of a good standard, where people will want to stay.’

To that end, a number of new kitchens and bathrooms



Montrose House which the Auchrannie has bought for staff accommodation.

01_b06montrose01

are being added to Montrose House and the bedrooms laid out in three bedroom blocks. There will also be ample laundry and storage facilities. The former day centre will be converted into bedrooms in the phased development.

Planning permission has been sought for a change of use for the building and work will start as soon as it is approved. All going well the first bedrooms could be ready for use by the end of May.

At the hotel, the rolling refurbishment programme will

this year see new carpets 1-12 in the original hotel and throughout the Spa Resort, a new look for Brambles Sea-the refurbishment of rooms food Grill.

Arran to take part in survey

Throughout February North Ayrshire Citizens Advice Service (NACAS) will carry out a survey comparing rural and island life with urban life, and will be visiting Arran as part of this work.

The study will involve research into various aspects of the costs of living, including comparing petrol/diesel prices, transport availability, utilities, food etc. In order to help reach the islands and more rural areas, and to be identifiable, NACAS will be using a converted bus as a mobile bureau.

The bus will have North Ayrshire Citizens Advice Service emblazoned on it, so it will be highly visible. In order to ensure the survey returns effective results, NACAS needs as many people as possible to come and talk to them.

The bus will be arriving in Brodick first thing on Thursday, February 11, before driving round the island. The itinerary is as follows: Brodick 8-10am, Lamlash 10.30am-12.30pm, Whiting Bay 1.30-2.30pm, Blackwaterfoot 3-4pm, Lochranza 4.30-5.30pm.

Machrie matters

Machrie Improvements has produced its first quarterly newsletter, which aims to keep residents abreast of current news and events, as well as being used as a forum to raise concerns and items of interest.

The aim of the charity is to promote the regeneration of the area and to preserve and enhance local amenities.

The first newsletter includes an introduction, dates for your diary and background information on the Forestry Commission’s plans for the slipway and timber storage area at Machrie.

The newsletter can be emailed to any interested parties by contacting the Machrie Improvement secretary Bruce Patrick at brucepatrick@blueyonder.co.uk.

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he who asks is a fool for five minutes,
but he who does not ask remains a fool forever

[as the ancient chinese proverb says]



Specialists from McTear’s travel the UK visiting clients, advising on the auction values of antiques and works of art. One such client, who was moving house, was surprised to be informed that this heirloom was in fact a Japanese cloisonné vase by Kumeno Teitaro.. It was later sold for £17,000.

If you don’t ask...

Specialists from McTear’s are available in February for home visits, free and without obligation. To make an appointment, please contact Magda Ketterer on **0141 810 2880**, or email magda@mctears.co.uk

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Pupils from the Amar Jyoti School which lies at the foot of the Annapurna mountains in Nepal.



Two Amar Jyoti pupils proudly display their artwork.

Arran House of Art to help orphans

A unique halfway house has been set up in Nepal to help children when they leave an orphanage.

And such has been the support of the people of Arran it has been named Arran House.

It has been created with the support of the Scottish landscape artist Gordon Davidson, who is well known on Arran.

He was first introduced to Nepal in 2010 when the Nepalese Ambassador to the UK invited him to Nepal to complete a series of paintings for the Nepal 2011-Year of Tourism celebrations. The works were displayed at the Gurkha museum in Winchester where Gordon was asked if he would be interested in helping a Gurkha project called Kalaa Jyoti, Nepali for art enlightenment. The idea of the project was to take art to poor children and orphans in Nepal who do not normally get the chance to do art.

Since then Gordon has been back to Nepal

five times to promote the project, his latest visit was in September 2015 where he visited an orphanage where some of the children were approaching 16, the age when they are to leave the orphanage and fend for themselves. Facing a bleak and uncertain future the Kalaa Jyoti Gurkhas and Gordon decided that a halfway house should be established so that those children who would sometimes end up on the streets, could have a safe and secure environment to turn to if they required help.

The fundraising began in earnest and with the help of the Isle of Arran Distillery which gave a substantial donation towards costs and with funds raised from the garden party held in the garden of Lady Jean Fforde's last year, the necessary funds were raised to set up and operate the house for two years. Since the majority of the money raised came from Arran fundraisers it was decided that the house would be called



Pupils at the Himalaya Boarding School pose for a photo with Gordon.



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Opens its doors s of Nepal

Arran House and during October the volunteers began setting up the house with furniture, carpets, cooker, fridge, crockery, beds and linen. With two Nepalese staff running Arran House Gordon then went to Pokhara, west of Kathmandu, where he set up his art project with the Amar Jyoti School which lies at the foot of the Annapurna mountains and at the edge of Lake Fewa.

While in Pokhara, Gordon was asked to go to a new home in the town for orphans and poor children from a remote part of Nepal called Mustang. The home was run by Buddhists who were concerned that the children from Mustang were not getting a proper education so they opened up a home in Pokhara in the hope that the children will return to Mustang and take what they learned with them.

The month in Pokhara was hard, with constant work, because the response to the art project

was so successful, the children from the school were in at seven in the morning before the school day even started.

They were so wild and enthusiastic that they got the nickname of the Mustang Monkeys. They just loved doing art and, as this was just the target audience for Kalaa Jyoti, Gordon intends on returning there on his next visit.

On Gordon's days off he explored the mountains around the valley and witnessed some of the awful damage from last year's earthquake. In the hills the villages were devastated and in the city the ancient temples were in ruins, 'It was an incredibly tragic sight to see, Gordon said.

He is currently working on an exhibition celebrating the 250th anniversary of the treaty between Nepal and Great Britain and the Lochranza distillery continue to put on an exhibition every year since the project's inception.



An Amar Jyoti pupil concentrates on the task at hand.



Arran House which will provide orphans with a safe environment once leaving the orphanage.



Gordon Davidson pictured with some of Buddhist monks.



Orphanage with her ladybug

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Slipway debate must go on

The confirmation that the Forestry Commission is pressing ahead with plans for timber transfer station at Machrie will come as a disappointment to most of the local residents this week.

A recent straw poll showed 44 people against and just two in favour of the scheme.

Clearly the Forestry Commission has failed in its attempts over the past year to persuade residents that such a proposal is the best way to transfer the huge amount of timber to be felled in the coming years off the island.

The Forestry Commission argues that it is the most cost-effective solution, with the alternative being to take the timber from the west, across The String road on more and more lorries, for shipment from Brodick.

But opponents in Machrie say that the Forestry Commission has failed to make either a financial or an environmental case for Machrie in the absence of hard facts. They say that using the limited data provided, the case is both uneconomic and more environmentally damaging than the status quo.

One member of the community council even went as far as to say this week that negotiating with the Forestry Commission was like trying to deal with a bar of soap.

Without a doubt, more transparency is needed in the dialogue. The Forestry Commission must come clean with a sound case if it wants to go ahead with the timber plans.

Machrie residents are not alone in their concerns, with VisitArran and the Arran Economic Forum also against the plans, fearing the impact of tourism and the environment on the West Coast.

There is real concern, too, at the road-safety issues and traffic disruption caused by timber being transferred from one side of the A841 to the slipway on the other side.

There are alternatives. A number of ideas for improving transport and reducing export costs have been suggested and are currently being investigated – including transporting timber on the Caledonian Isles ferry. Indeed, CMAL has been approached to consider the need to accommodate unattached log trailers in the design of the new Arran ferry, currently under construction in Port Glasgow.

Therefore, the dialogue must continue so a satisfactory solution can be found for all parties concerned.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.' (2 Corinthians 8:9)

press policy

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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 senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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your letters

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Letters to the Editor



Relative search

Sir,

On researching my maternal line, I have found that I am the great-great-granddaughter of Duncan Macalister and Isabella Robertson who lived on the Isle of Arran in the early 1800s.

Despite searching through many records we have, as yet, been unable to find a record of their son Arthur, my great-grandfather, either of his birth in Scotland or his arrival in Australia.

The first record we have of him is in November 1860 when he was best man at a wedding in Wentworth, New South Wales, Australia. Results of consequent searches into his life in Australia have proved very fruitful, which we will gladly share with anyone interested.

We spent several delightful days on your island in 1982 searching and staying in B&Bs, but sadly with no result; so should there be any descendants of Duncan and Isabella still living on your lovely isle, it would be so wonderful to hear from them as, even though we are still living life to the full here, I am now 86 and my husband 90, so another visit is sadly not being contemplated.

Do hope to hear from someone who has news of the family.

Yours,

Margaret Fay White
Victoria Point,
Queensland,
Australia

*Anyone who wishes to contact Margaret can do so via *The Banner*

Music festival clash

Sir,

What is going on with the music festival? It has been held in March for years, then they move it to June and now it's in February, at the exact same time as the drama festival.

All of us with children performing understand the pressures and time it takes to prepare songs, tunes, solos and duets etc and February leaves a very small time frame to do this. With the drama fes-

tival at the same time some of the youngsters are having to learn two plays and all the music as well as doing all the other things they have to do, such as schoolwork. I know I am not alone in feeling that there has not been enough time to prepare, so please can we move it back to March next year? Our kids are under enough pressure as it is and let's face it without them there would be no music festival! Yours,

Nickey Summer
Lamlash

Right of reply

Sir,

It seems that Jamie Greene, the Tory candidate for Holyrood, is confused about which Parliament he is standing for.

Last year it was Westminster. Maybe that's why he attacked me in the Arran Banner of January 23 regarding SNP Government policy.

I am a strong supporter of the SNP Government but not a member of it and nor am I a member of the Holyrood Parliament, which is responsible for the devolved issues he mentions.

Mr Greene also appears to be quite cocky after coming second on the (all male) Holyrood Tory regional list. So much so that that he considers his election a foregone conclusion, giving up on building the Tory vote, from the unimpressive 13.7 per cent they secured last time in Cunninghame North, to counting his chickens on the list. He even talked in his letter of 'me and my future MSP colleagues'. The voters may have other ideas.

Regarding the scatter-gun points he made, few can take them seriously. He criticised the SNP Government's establishment of Police Scotland, a Tory – and Labour – manifesto commitment at a time when crime in Scotland is at a 41-year low.

Mr Greene claimed, falsely, that the SNP Government is not increasing health expenditure. Despite his Tory colleagues cutting Scotland's Budget by £371 million in the

next financial year, Scottish health spending will increase by £444 million above inflation. The waiting times he decried are better than the SNP inherited and shorter than in the rest of the UK. And our junior doctors have not been out on strike.

Transport? The SNP Government has boosted Arran's economy by cutting fares through RET; the summer service has been greatly extended and a new ferry is being built in Port Glasgow.

On education funding, Mr Greene is on particularly dodgy ground; only last week the Tories in England removed free nursing tuition and bursaries, having abolished educational maintenance allowance for disadvantaged school students, cut college funding by a quarter and imposed tuition fees of £9,000 per university student per year.

Mr Greene urges folk to take another look at the Tories. If they do, I doubt many will like what they see.

Yours,

Patricia Gibson MP
North Ayrshire & Arran

Complete ban call

Sir,

Whilst I am pleased that the Scottish Government has brought in a temporary moratorium on fracking and unconventional gas extraction due to the pressure from their members, and by backing Green MSP Alison Johnstone's motion within the Scottish Parliament, many are feeling really let down.

Due to the temporary nature of current moratorium, we need to see fracking and underground coal gasification (UCG) banned outright. Many quite rightly talk about the dangers associated with UCG, but the argument is very simple: we need to move away from our reliance on fossil fuels and become the innovators that we are so well known for, turning our hand to a mixture of renewable energies.

This week I was really disappointed that the SNP has, yet again, chosen to ignore its

members by not having this discussed at the spring conference; 20 branches tabled a motion for it to be ignored. The message now is very clear – the only way we can ensure that this is taken seriously within the Scottish Government is to back the Scottish Green Party on the list. They are the only ones consistently behind a complete ban and would make a credible constructive opposition.

Some will argue that you cannot ban it completely, but we can! It can be banned in the same way we stopped the production of new nuclear plants and through planning and environmental powers which we do have.

Yours,

George Murray
Lamlash

Is 4G the answer?

Sir,

I was reading in last week's Banner about the provision of 4G phone coverage in Lamlash. Is this to be only 4G, which is primarily aimed at 'superfast internet speeds'?

This will severely restrict local phone usage since a considerable number of phones only operate on 3G (as preferred frequency band) at present, relying on 2G as a fallback in outlying areas – including Arran! It would also affect tourists.

The phone companies coverage maps are only computer predictions, which I have found to be inaccurate at times. Also when checking a particular area for coverage, the make/model of phone is requested (to ascertain what frequency bands it has installed).

Perhaps ArranConnect could clarify what is actually being proposed in greater detail, since their website indicates a timescale February/March 2016.

Yours,

Robin Gardner
Lamlash and
Milton of Campsie

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SWI MEETINGS ON ARRAN

Shiskine SWI learn of work of Arran Trust

Chair Evelyn Hamilton welcomed members of Shiskine SWI to the last meeting of 2015 back in December. The evening's speaker is very well known to us all – Sheila Gilmore from the Arran Trust.

Sheila gave us a very informative and entertaining talk about the history and work of the Arran Trust.

Arran is such a special and magical place that it's estimated that around a quarter of a million people come to Arran each year. The Arran Trust helps to safeguard our special island, making sure that Arran is looked after not just for now, but also for the years to come.

The Trust runs the island's Visitor Gifting Scheme and also raises funds in other

ways to help to look after the stunning landscapes and environment of our beautiful island. By working with visitors, island businesses and community groups, such as the Arran Access Trust, village improvement groups and others, the Arran Trust has supported and continues to support sustainable projects and practices all over the island.

The trust's income comes from several different sources. Hotels collect donations from visitors leaving hotels and there are collecting tins in the shops. Local products are sponsored and there is also a Just Giving page.

The Arran Trust welcomes applications for funding for environmental and conservation projects. The aim is to encourage visitors, and islanders, to enjoy our island's environment and all its benefits. The trust is a registered charity and so it has strict criteria. Seven voluntary trustees meet to discuss project applications. No one project will ever receive 100 per cent funding, but they will get a great deal of encouragement from the trust and our community.

As a direct result of the De-

cember Shiskine SWI meeting, it is hoped the Arran Trust will be holding a fundraising Texas Scramble in the summer at Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club.

Thank you, Sheila, for answering our questions and for such an interesting talk.

Competition results: Evelyn Hamilton won the competition for a Victoria sponge.

The mobile phone cover competition was won by Alice Anderson, with Evelyn Hamilton in second place.
Susie Thompson

Corrie and Sannox SWI enjoy Auld Year's Night

A very happy Auld Year's Night, was celebrated in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall on Thursday January 14, when Corrie and Sannox SWI held a buffet supper and entertained our guests from Shiskine SWI, as well as friends and partners from Corrie and Brodick. Our president Morag Munro welcomed everyone and wished them a Happy New Year.

The evening started with a very good buffet supper provided by all our members which was enjoyed by

everyone, and then after we had settled down with a welcome coffee we all enjoyed a quiz which our president had compiled. The prize, a box of biscuits, was competed for keenly as was the booby prize of a stuffed fish! Then our past President Elma Stevenson entertained us with some great Scottish poems, finishing up with a great rendition of *The Wee Cock Sparra*.

Our raffle for Scottish War Blinded then took place and the magnificent sum of £137 was collected for this very worthwhile cause. Our secretary finished up the entertainment by teaching everyone the Arran version of EenyMeenyMinyMo – Eenty-FeentyFickeryFell!

Our friends from Shiskine then departed into a snowy night and we wished them safe home over The String.

Our next meeting is on Thursday, February 11 at 2pm in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, when Stuart Gough will entertain us with his talk on postcards and the competition, unsurprisingly, will be for a postcard. The hostesses are Morag Munro, Mairi Turnbull and Vicki Milne. Look forward to seeing you there.

Anne Pringle



Terry Southall.

Friends hear about bird migration

The Friends of Brodick Castle met on Wednesday afternoon (January 20) in the castle tearoom. The speaker was Terry Southall from Kildonan who has spent many years studying birds on Arran and further afield.

His topic was bird migration and the friends were interested to learn where some of our Arran birds migrate to in the winter. Some travel to Africa, others to the Baltic, but some only go across the Clyde to the mainland to moult. Terry has been involved in tagging birds for many years and relies on individuals returning tags from birds. America has

used satellite tagging with surprising results. One species was tracked from Alaska round the Pacific as far as New Zealand and back. The talk was followed by questions from the members.

The next meeting of the Friends is on Wednesday February 17 at 2.30pm in the castle tearoom, when the speaker will be Derek Alexander from the National Trust for Scotland. His talk is on archaeology and all are welcome. The Crafts at the Castle shop in the Visitors' Centre will not reopen until Easter weekend due to road closures.

The Heretics are resurrected and make their way to Arran

The newly burgeoning Saltire Society on Arran follows its excellent talk by Anne Bruce with a visit from a group called The Heretics.

The February Saltire will be held at Altachorvie on Wednesday February 10 at 7.30pm.

The original Heretics were formed as a group of poets, playwrights, musicians, thinkers, raconteurs and friends in 1970, but the original group disbanded in 1980. When Edinburgh writers Craig Gibson

and Peter Burnett interviewed John Herdman, one of the original founding members, last year, they mischievously asked if they could 'resurrect the name and continue the tradition'.

John was delighted by the idea and by a remarkable coincidence informed them that a reunion of the old guard was due to happen at the Saltire Society HQ in the month of August.

Three brilliant events took place and the baton was thus

passed from the old to the new.

The resurrected Heretics are staunch admirers of the ceilidh tradition and their gatherings are replete with songs, poetry, storytelling and laughter. The night planned by the Saltire Society for Arran promises to be a diverse and entertaining affair, with variety guaranteed. Local poets, musicians, writers and eccentrics are warmly invited to share in this evening celebrating Scots music and

writing. 'Conviviality and entertainment is ultimately what we strive for', say The Heretics. Local participation is welcome, nay encouraged!

Scots language will be heard from visitors and hosts alike and your support is invited.

For more information phone Hazel Gardiner on 830635.



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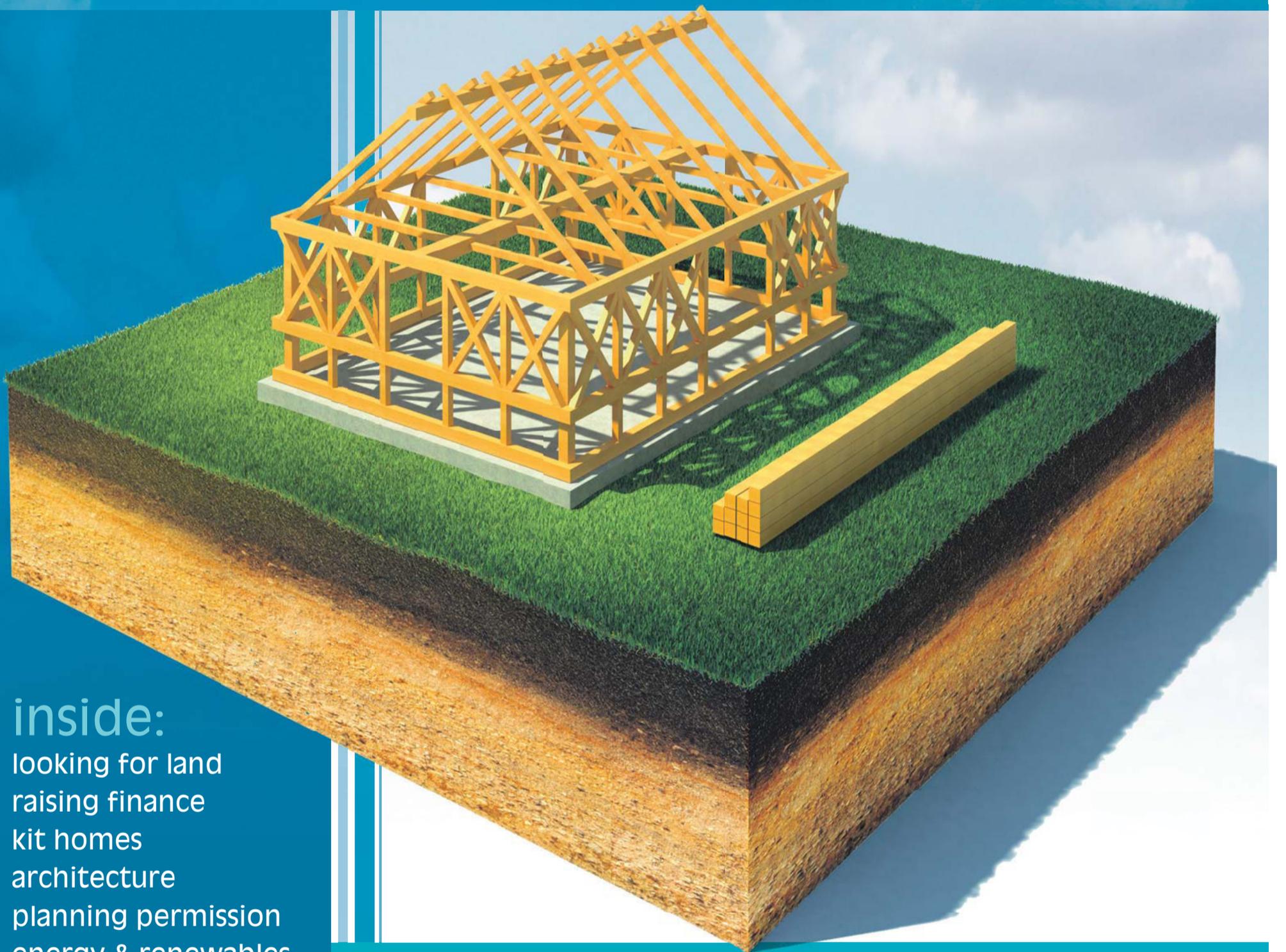
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Beginner's guide to self-build

WHAT IF you could build the perfect home from scratch? A self-build could open the door to your bespoke dream home. Imagine stamping your own design and tastes on the entire property from the start.

'Self and custom build has long been seen as the friendly face of new housing,' said Michael Holmes, Chair of National Custom and Self Build Association. 'When people build homes for themselves and their families to live in, they not only tend to build houses that are better designed and of higher quality and have less impact, but they are much more likely to put down roots and become contributors to that community.'

Whether it's a desire to create a modern, environmentally friendly home, or the vision of that picture-perfect spot overlooking a stunning view that motivates them, more than 12,000 Brits that embark on a self-build adventure each year. 'Building your own home is a big project to undertake, but the rewards can greatly outweigh the hoops that homeowners need to jump through to make it happen,' shared Brian Kilroy of Building LifePlans Ltd. 'Self-building provides the opportunity to build the perfect home to suit your lifestyle, and help is at hand to guide you through the process.'

The process can seem overwhelming, but our guide will help you get on track to your dream home, starting with the first steps you will need to take.

Set a realistic budget

Take a sensible approach to your budget and your project won't turn into a money pit like

those seen on shows such as Grand Designs. Set a firm, realistic figure before the design stage begins, but include a contingency- at least 10% of your overall budget is wise. Use this money only for unexpected cost or unavoidable delays. If you don't spend the contingency by the end, consider using it to upgrade interior finishes or landscaping.

Arrange financing

Whether through a bank or a dedicated self-build mortgage company, your next step should be to secure funding. That way you will know exactly what your budget is from the start, and when you find a plot you love, you will be able to seal the deal before it gets sold out from under you. Self build mortgages often work on a stage payment basis, in which funds are released at key points throughout the project, either in advance or in arrears, depending on the product you choose. Be careful to note that this relates not necessarily to the actual money spent on a specific stage, but to the value by which it has increased the property as a whole.

Choose a building route

Many first-time builders choose a package company to guide them through the entire process, from design to build. These companies generally offer customisable standard houses and bespoke design options.

The other option is to hire an architect and contractor or professional project manager, so that the house can be built to your exact specifications. Check listings, then ask around to find out if others had a good experience with your potentials. You may decide to project

manage the build yourself with a view to saving money by keeping a close eye on labour and materials- just keep in mind this can be overwhelming for those with no budgetary experience or time to take care of all the details.

Find an architect or self build package company

Whether you choose a package supplier (who designs and builds the home for you) or a local architect, make sure they understand your requirements and budget. The more information they have up front, the more efficiently they will be able to design your dream home. Continually going back to them with changes or additions will slow down the process and add to the cost.

Start the planning process

Get in touch with the local planning authority early. North Ayrshire Council offers a pre-application service so you can find out whether your proposal is likely to be acceptable in terms of the provisions of the adopted development plan. They even provide guidance prior to committing to comprehensive architect or agent commissions, and in some cases it may be possible to agree a timetable for your planning application to be determined based on the information you submit.

Sort out the essentials

Before going any further, make certain you have all the proper consents in addition to planning permission (sometimes you need other special local permissions, such as conservation area consent.) Be sure to safeguard your investment by getting the contracts, warranties and

insurance in place. Even if your contractor has insurance, you may need to take specialist self build insurance.

Prepare the plot

The first step before starting the build is preparing the site, something your contractor usually deals with. This includes clearing vegetation, levelling the plot, installing drainage and setting out the trenches. Don't be surprised if unexpected problems crop up during this phase- for example, the discovery of a spring running under the proposed location for the foundation, or trees that you had hoped to keep end up interfering with the build.

Get building

Most home building projects fall into five stages: foundation work; getting the house wind and weather tight (roof on, windows and doors in); first fix (initial services, structural carpentry and plastering); second fix (after the plastering) and final decoration. You can choose to have the interior completely fitted out, or, if you are handy with carpentry, perform the details such as cabinet installation, carpet laying and painting yourself.

Enjoy your dream home!

By this stage, you will be raring to move in. First, consider a few practicalities, such as obtaining the Completion Certificate from building control, making sure any last minute snags are dealt with- and don't forget reclaiming the VAT. After months of paperwork and stress, it's time to enjoy the fruits of your labour!



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high standard of service whilst maintaining a very personal approach, always ensuring that we have been happy with choices and decisions being made along the way. We were concerned that commissioning a new

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Tips on finding land for your self-build

- Search the Scottish Property website for suitable public sector land for sale;
- Check your local Solicitors Property Centre or estate agents;
- Look out for 'For Sale' signs; Approach local private developers with undeveloped or partly developed land to see if they would consider selling you a plot;
- See if there are any community trusts in the area which may have land available for self-builders, especially if you want to build in a rural area; or Consider sites with a derelict property which could be demolished or substantially renovated. See estate agents or the Buildings at Risk Register to find possible properties.

Finding land

A RECENT survey by the National Custom & Self Build Association (NaCSBA) revealed the toughest obstacles faced by self-build hopefuls. A staggering 56% claimed finding an affordable/suitable site with which to build their own home was by far the biggest challenge they faced. Mike Hardwick, NaCSBA CEO, said, 'These figures make interesting reading and echo the views of self and custom builders that I meet. The demand for land is still well above the available supply and so many of our supporters are eager to start their projects in the next couple of years but are held back by this critical shortfall! Starting a self-build can be very easy if you or your family already own a suitable piece of land, or it may take years of effort if you have geographical or budgetary constraints. Once you have worked out what budget you have available, you can find out about plots of land for sale which may be suitable for self-build from a number of sources. There are several websites that allow you to search for details of plots for sale, although for some of these you need to pay a fee for membership. A range of websites are available, such as Buildstore Plotsearch, UK Land Directory Ltd or plotfinder.net. Some other methods for plot hunting include networking (ask all your friends on Facebook to look out for one for you, for example); contacting estate agents and landowners, checking out auction houses,

hiring agents to search for you, advertising in the local press, in pubs and shops, and with mobile workers such as taxi drivers, mobile gardeners and hairdressers. You can also search an area for an untended garden or neglected building, and then approach the owners. If you have a defined search area, buy a high resolution Ordnance Survey map as this can sometimes help you identify quirky potential infill sites that are not visible from the main roads. Google Earth can sometimes be useful for this too.

A word of warning

Don't get conned into buying land by a property scam company. These organisations often advertise plots of land that will never realistically get planning permission (for example, in areas that are protected by the Green Belt). If someone is selling a wonderful plot of land at an unbelievable price it's probably too good to be true. And if you buy a site like this – usually still costing tens of thousands of pounds – you're very unlikely to ever recover your money. Be warned.

Consider crofting

If you are keen to raise produce or keep a herd of sheep or cattle, consider a croft site on which to build. The crofting counties of Scotland, including Argyll, have a long tradition of smallholding known as crofting. Existing crofts for sale are priced about the same as other housing land, and sometimes come with planning permission

for the building of a house. And according to an announcement by Environment Minister Aileen McLeod this week, the level of grant support available to help crofters build their homes is to be significantly increased. From April 1 this year, crofters will be able to apply for up to £28,000 under the new Croft House Grant Scheme – and up to £38,000 if they live in island and specified mainland communities. The three previous funding rates will be replaced with a new standard level of grant and a higher level for the islands and some mainland areas. These new rates are significantly higher and mean some crofters will be eligible for more than double the funding available under the old scheme.

Dr McLeod said: 'Good quality housing is essential to help attract and retain people in Scotland's most remote and rural communities, and to help crofters fulfil their duty of living on or close to their croft.' 'The Scottish Government's Croft House Grant Scheme has invested £14 million to build or improve almost 700 homes since 2007 and the changes I am announcing will help ensure this support is fit for purpose in the years to come.' More information on how to apply, including guidance for applicants and the application form, will be available on the Scottish Government's Rural Payments website in due course at www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/.

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Neil Young Joinery & Building provides their clients with competitive prices without compromising on quality, making certain that their new builds will be the pride and joy of their owners for years to come, and offer excellent re-sale value down the road. Neil's customers value his team's commitment, their high standards of workmanship and excellent customer service. 'We are driven by customer satisfaction, meaning we continually strive to deliver top quality craftsmanship at affordable prices,' Neil said. 'Our goal is to give our clients their perfect dream home.' Visit neilyoungjoineryandbuilding.co.uk or ring 01770 600 500.



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Noremac Argyll Ltd

Noremac is a well-established, family-run business, founded in 2002. They have gained a good reputation for building high quality homes, offices, extensions, conversions and all types of building and joinery projects throughout Argyll and the greater Glasgow area. The majority of their work comes from recommendations from local Architects and from satisfied clients that trust in the work they do. Offering a complete builders' service in Argyll is vital to the smooth running of any project. You can rest assured that Noremac will work with you from the early planning stages, right through to handing over the completion certificate. All sizes of projects

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Raising finance

THE FIRST hurdle to overcome on a homebuilding project is funding. There are several ways to secure the money you need, but the three most common routes are to use existing savings, sell your current house (or use it as security on a loan) or borrow the money by taking out a self-build mortgage.

The first two options are pretty self-explanatory. The third – self-build mortgages – operate very similarly to conventional mortgages, except that payments are staggered to coincide with various stages of your project.

How much can I get?

Like all mortgage finance, self-build mortgages were affected by the credit crunch. However, in the wake of government support for self-build, more and more lenders are returning to or entering the market for the first time. Potential homebuilders can access suitable mortgages directly with a bank or building society, or through a specialist self-build mortgage broker. Pre-credit crunch, it was fairly common for self-builders to be able to secure 95% borrowing on both land and the build. These days, lenders are looking for higher deposits – so 70-80% on each is more common.

What type of mortgage should I get?

The advance stage payment mortgage remains a stalwart of self-build finance, as it offers positive cash flow up front. The beauty of advance stage payment mortgages is that you agree with the borrower up front how much each stage will cost (including the land purchase). Each tranche of money is then released to you prior to commencement of the relevant stage.

That puts you into positive cash flow, so you can pay bills when they're due and keep workmen on site. It also means you can be a cash buyer of building materials, with no need for credit accounts, which can also help a project run more smoothly. There are fees involved with an advance stage payment mortgage, but the savings in hassle and time make an advance mortgage a great option if you don't have significant amounts of cash available at the start of your project.

The other main option is the arrears stage payment mortgage, whereby money is released after each agreed stage of the work is completed. You'll usually need to pay for an assessment (typically totting up to £200-£300) after each phase before the funds are made available.

What about budgets?

When it comes to planning your budget and arranging your finances, don't forget to take other financial commitments into account, such as an existing mortgage or temporary accommodation.

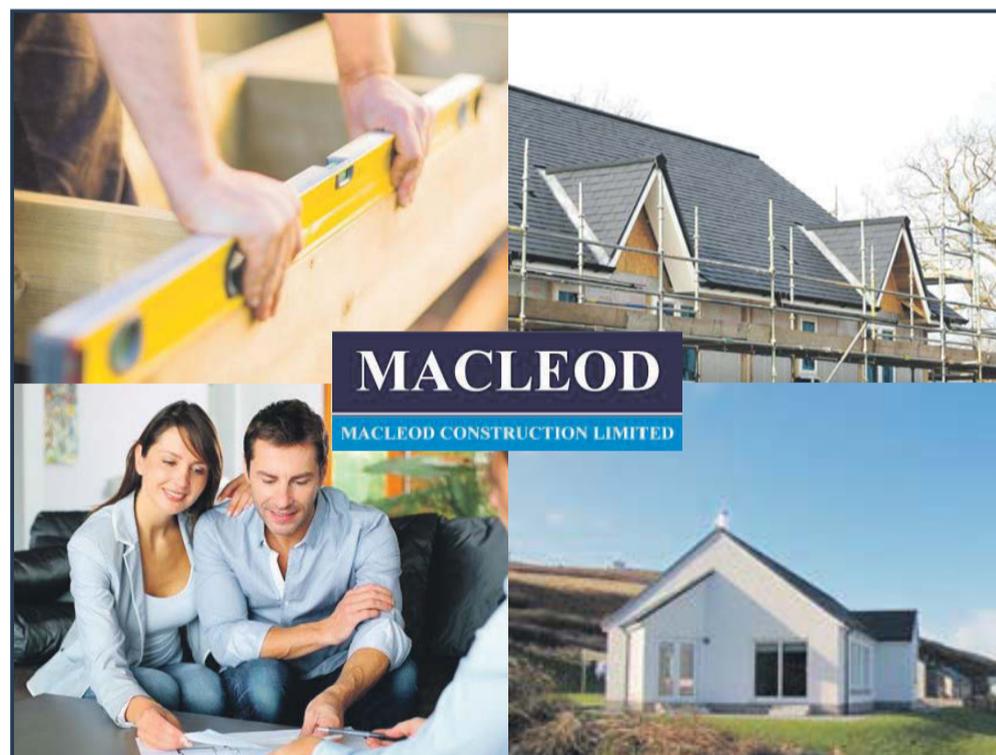
'Lenders understand that you have to live somewhere during your project and, quite understandably, not everyone wants to stay in a caravan on site or with relatives,' said Rachel Pyne, director of financial services at BuildStore. 'They also appreciate that if you sell your current home and move into rented accommodation during the build you will still have housing costs, paying rent rather than a mortgage. Consequently, they allow you to run a self-build mortgage alongside the mortgage on your current house, although, like the rest of the market, the rules are tighter now than pre-credit crunch. However, the lender will want to ensure that you are in a position to support both mortgages, and your current mortgage will be taken into account when deciding how much you can borrow for the build.'

'Some lenders calculate the total amount you can borrow based on your income and then deduct the amount of your current mortgage from this. So unless you have a very high income or a tiny current mortgage, this method

is unlikely to provide you with sufficient borrowing for your project

'There are, however, a number of more enlightened lenders that view affordability differently. They treat your current mortgage as a regular commitment in the same way as they treat a personal loan. They include the monthly mortgage payment in their affordability calculation, and provide you with a loan amount that your remaining income will support.' The extra involvement and administration cost for the lender means that a self-build mortgage is likely to be more expensive than a standard mortgage for the same amount – though of course you may need to borrow less. Once the build is completed, many self-builders switch to a different mortgage deal.

Many people choose self-build because they want to create a home they expect to stay in for good. But if you do choose to move from your self-build property, the good news is that its resale value may well be higher than what you paid to build it. This is Money estimates that self-build properties sold on the open market could fetch 20-25% more than their build costs – although this, of course, depends on location, build quality and the state of the wider property market.



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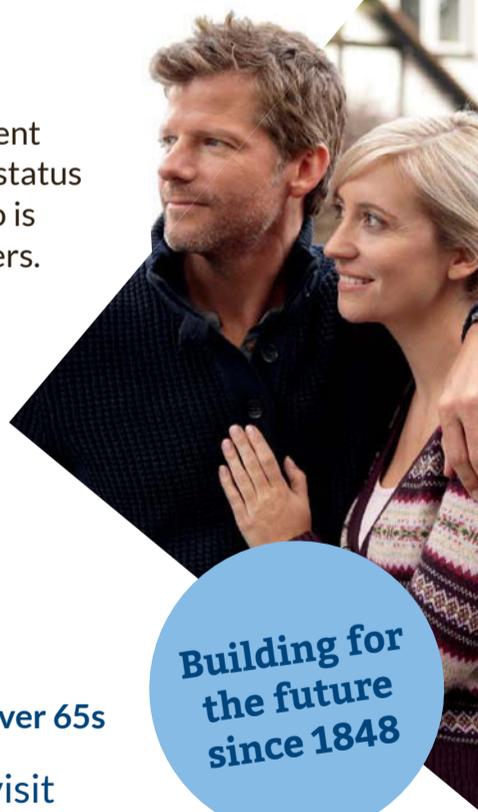
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homes a year.'

The process is very flexible, allowing you to customise the kit to your own specifications. They can simply supply a timber frame kit (one of their tried and tested designs, or based on an architect's drawings), or they can manage the whole design and build project from start to finish.

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Scottish Building Society has been helping people in Scotland buy homes since 1848. Self Build Mortgages are one of their specialties, with expert advisers available to help you through the entire application process.

A Self Build Mortgage from Scottish Building Society is different from a regular mortgage, in that the funds are released in stages as the build progresses. You can borrow up to 80% of the total cost of the land and construction costs or valuation, whichever is lower, so the whole build process is more flexible.

Scottish Building Society has been recognised with a 'Highly Commended' award by Savings Champion in the Best Savings Provider for

Existing Customers category. They are the only independent building society based in Scotland, and is believed to be the world's oldest building society. It has assets of some £397 million, a mortgage book of £275 million and a network of six branch offices and 60 agencies throughout Scotland.

To find out more about a Self-Build Mortgage, talk to one of the Scottish Building Society qualified mortgage advisers on 0345 600 4085, or visit www.scottishbs.co.uk



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'It is never too early to come in to talk to us,' said Iain Campbell, 'to discuss your dreams and your present and future requirements, what your ideas and aspirations are and your budget and programme.

'We can help assess your options from the start; our design and technical expertise guides projects through from consent to completion.' The team's 3-D modelling helps bring ideas to life and test them out along with their skills in integrated renewable energy systems each

individually designed for existing properties and new-builds.

The experienced team at CP Architects is headed by Iain, with Robert Wilson, architect; Iain Hurst, associate; supported by Brian Reffin and Jimmy Crawford. Together they have a reputation for reliability and innovation and this can be seen by the number of their projects short-listed for Argyll and Bute Council Design Awards.



Planning permission

If there is not already detailed planning permission for your home for your plot of land, you will need to secure this before you can start building, as the planning authority of North Ayrshire Council will need to be satisfied that your plans for your home are in line with the Council's Development Plans and that your home's design will be acceptable in terms of its impact on the surrounding homes and landscape.

You should try to get planning permission as early as possible, as the process can take some time and you should aim to secure planning permission before you enter into a contract with any building firms in case your planning application is rejected. Try to speak to a planning officer at the council (or the National Park authority if your home will be in Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park) before submitting your application, as they should be able to let you know if there are any issues you should be aware of or any restrictions they might impose (for example they might restrict the size or height of the home, its distance from a road or the plot boundary, etc.)

The council should also be able to help if you need advice or guidance on completing a planning application. There will be a fee for submitting an application.

Planning online

The Scottish Government's existing ePlanning portal has been upgraded, and over the next four years the new system

is predicted to save approximately £17 million across the country's planning authorities. The revamped version of ePlanning Scotland, first launched in 2009 and now ePlanning.scot, lets individuals, architects and agents submit and manage planning applications online, saving millions. The new system, which went live on Wednesday January 13, is set to be quicker and easier to use.

Nearly 70 per cent of all planning applications nationally are submitted electronically through the portal. Some councils now receive more than half of its planning applications electronically. Social Justice Secretary Alex Neil said: 'Seventy per cent of planning applications are now made online, double the original forecast. The new service will continue to provide access to the planning system in a way customers want, delivering a high quality consistent service, saving time and money.'

Two new forms are now available for completion online, the post submission additional documentation (PSAD) and the notice of review (NoR). In the future another two forms will be available, the appeals refusal and the appeals notice. The Government is also developing a new national eBuilding Standards portal for public launch in August 2016, with Argyll and Bute's own building standards service providing support for this new national portal. Visit argyll-bute.gov.uk/planning-and-environment for more information.



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'We operate a turnkey package offering all services from both operated, non-operated and specialist plant,' Darran said. 'Our environmental services division can also deal with all aspects of waste disposal, skip hire and recycling.'

All three of West Coast Tool & Plant Hire's depots offer well stocked tool shops with everything from power tools and

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The friendly staff at West Coast Tool & Plant Hire can help you choose the right tool for the right job, and if they don't have what you need, they will get it for you. To enquire about anything from a complete site clearance to a DIY finishing touch, visit one of their three depots, fill out an enquiry form at westcoastplanthire.co.uk, or telephone 01546 602992.

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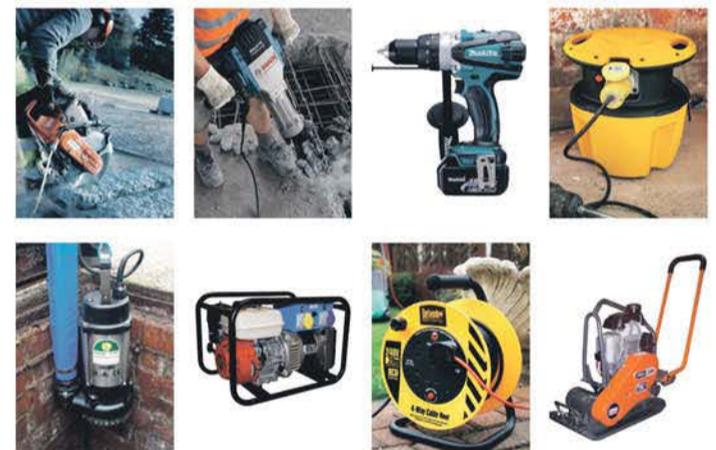


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Benefits of a kit home

- It is simple and relatively risk free.
- It is fairly simple to get a home built this way.
- It is usually one of the fastest ways of getting a home built.
- Some kit homes are quite modestly priced.
- Brings predictability and greater control to the construction process.
- Meets and often exceeds all current Building Regulations.
- Provides excellent thermal efficiency.
- Vast range of designs are available.
- Construction can continue through cold and inclement weather.
- Significantly faster construction period overall.
- Particularly suited to sites with poor soil conditions and sites with restricted access.

Kit homes

DON'T let the term 'prefab home' scare you away – today's kit homes are downright fabulous. Not only do they provide home buyers with a custom, energy-efficient building solution, they're also typically more affordable than traditional stick-built homes.

Also known as prefabricated homes or modular construction, essentially, kit homes are constructed in a factory before being shipped to a building site in pieces, where they're then assembled on-site in a matter of days. Unlike manufactured or mobile homes, kit homes must be constructed according to local building codes. This makes them a widely-accepted form of new construction that isn't subject to the same zoning restrictions that frequently limit the placement of manufactured and mobile homes. In other words, prefab homes must meet the same building codes as traditional 'sticks and bricks' construction, so you can build a prefab home practically anywhere.

Also, like traditionally-built homes, prefab homes typically qualify for construction and home loans, so you don't have to have the total home cost on-hand. And in some cases, kit home manufacturers are prepared to help you find appropriate financing (sometimes offering in-house financing) to get your home construction started.

In addition to reduced build times, there are several advantages to kit homes versus masonry built homes, according

to Peter J Body, managing director of Norscot Joinery Ltd. These include:

- Quality assured off-site manufacture significantly simplifies construction, resulting in less on-site waste (as much as 20-40%, compared with other construction methods).
- Promotes greater efficiency and supply chain integration by combining component and material deliveries. Prefabricated components are also easy to transport and handle.
- Brings predictability and greater control to the construction process.
- Meets and often exceeds all current Building Regulations.
- Improves on-site construction health and safety. Off-site manufacture with automated machinery reduces accidents, as a controlled factory environment is a safer work space.
- Significantly faster construction period overall. Requires 20 per cent fewer on-site labour days. This means a faster return on investment, reduced disruption to local communities and tidier, safer sites.
- Wet trades are eliminated, so there's no drying out time before work can continue on interior finishes.
- Construction can continue through cold and inclement weather – meaning shorter and more predictable build programmes.
- Particularly suited to sites with poor soil conditions (sites that favour lighter buildings), and sites with restricted

access. Modular components are also easy to transport whilst prefabricated panels offer strict quality control and fewer post erection quality problems.

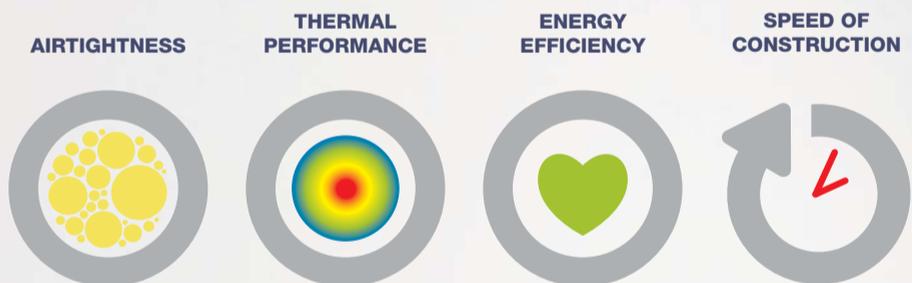
- Manufacture takes place in a quality controlled factory environment, resulting in less on-site defects.
- Provides excellent thermal efficiency, with lifetime savings in energy cost so an extremely environmentally friendly way to build. Timber is an organic, non-toxic and naturally renewable building material.
- Easier to achieve a high performance building fabric by maximising thermal performance and minimising air leakage. This approach is a low risk, cost-effective way to achieve sustainable homes.

In addition, there are virtually no restrictions as far as design choices with kit homes. 'Any style of house which can be built using masonry construction can be built using timber frame construction,' Peter said. 'In the case of more 'exotic' house designs, where there may be cantilevered upper sections, timber frame construction offers the advantages of being lighter and more flexible. In Scotland, most timber frame kit houses will have a brick or rendered block outer wall which makes them indistinguishable from masonry built houses. Similarly, masonry built houses will often be timber lined inside (to accommodate additional insulation and services) making them indistinguishable from timber frame built

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houses. In reality, the opposite is true – timber frame construction offers more design options than masonry construction.'

Home Package Inclusions

When considering a prefab home, it's very important to pay close attention to what is and isn't included in the home package you select. For instance, modular homes are often (but not always) sold with a full package of fixtures, appliances, windows, and flooring, while pre-cut and panelised homes often consist just of the materials necessary for a wall, roof, or frame. These walls and roofs may or may not include insulation, wiring for electrical, windows, doors, or even drywall. In some cases you can pay additional for the completed wall structure, but in most cases you have to work with an onsite contractor to help you complete and finish your home, including the finishings of the roof and walls.

What's Typically Not Included

Don't get lulled into a happy sleep with the phrase 'all inclusive' when it comes to buying a modular home – it can be misleading. Understand that the base price of a prefab home doesn't account for many of the expenses required to build a home.

You must be prepared to pay additional expenses, which may include the land the house will be built on, site survey, utility hookups, if necessary (water, waste water or septic, electrical, cable), the prepared foundation for the home to be built on (concrete slab or pier and beam framing), landscaping, driveways and pavements, garage or carport (may be available

from some manufacturers) and possibly a local contractor or builder to finish the interior.

These expenses are incredibly variable based on location, size of home, and even council requirements or personal preference. For instance, if you're building in the country, you may not need or want much in the way of outdoor landscaping. However, if you're building in the city – or in a neighbourhood with strict home owners' association standards – you may be required to put in some kind of landscaping. That said you can expect to spend possibly tens of thousands on permits, fees, foundation, and utility hook-ups – especially if your property isn't served by a local sewer and water system and you'll need to put in a septic system and well.

Options and Upgrades

In addition to the modular home finishes that come standard in a preselected home build, it's important to understand that there may be a selection of upgrades to choose from for an additional price. For instance, you can upgrade items, such as opting for bamboo instead of cork floors.

The cost of a prefab home will vary depending on how much you're willing to do yourself and how much you outsource to others. Some ambitious home purchases prefer to buy a prefab home as a kit and assemble it themselves, with the help of a few (very good) friends. Others are happy to spend the money to have the details of construction and permitting taken out of their hands. Wherever you fall on the spectrum, make sure you understand exactly what you're paying for into before you go the kit home route.

Your self-build specialists...

Scotframe

The fabric of a building gives substance to its thermal performance
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In practice the energy efficiency of a building boils down to a couple of things. How much fuel is required to power its heating and water systems and how well the building manages to retain the heat that is generated

The better a building performs in these two areas, the less fuel its occupants will use on a daily basis and the lower its emissions will be. As such the fabric of a building is central to its green credentials. Increasingly this is becoming a significant factor in the decision making process for all house builders. Within the past few years, the building standard regulations were amended to ensure all new properties deliver a 30% cut in the current benchmark for CO2 emissions. The standard will then be reduced again by a further 30% in 2016.

In the same way that fuel consumption for cars has become an important factor, people are being encouraged to look at the energy performance of a property, understand its ongoing running costs and include this in their purchasing decision.

For those looking to build their own home, constructing a property that meets not only today's standards, but also those of the years to come, has significant benefits in relation to the day-to-day costs of living in the property. In short, the fabric of the building and the way it is put together means homes of this type can be heated up very quickly and retain their temperature for incredibly long periods of time. This reduces their energy needs significantly. This is where our focus should lie, rather than with using renewable energy to make up for poor design and build quality.

For further information, contact Peter Hall – Marketing Manager
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Norscot

Norscot Kit Homes Offer Gold Standard

Norscot is a leading manufacturer of timber frame kit homes in the Highlands & Islands. Since its inception in 1984 over 1,000 kits have been supplied, primarily to self-builders.

Norscot is a member of the Structural Timber Association, the trade association representing 85% of UK timber frame manufacturers. One of the STA's roles is to promote higher standards through their Q-Mark quality scheme and training services. Norscot kit homes are accredited with Q-Mark Plus, representing the 'gold standard' for the industry.

The structural panel construction employed by Norscot is simple in design and that used by most house builders in Scotland, where over 80% of all new homes are built using timber frame. Norscot kit homes are individually certified by an independent structural engineer and, in standard form, suitable for any UK mainland or

island location.

What sets Norscot apart from other conventional timber frame manufacturers is its overall external wall construction 'EcoWall'. The type, thickness and position of insulation and other non-structural components which, combined with high levels of air tightness, provide the perfect balance between cost and benefit in terms of energy efficiency. Norscot's 'EcoWall' achieves significantly better thermal performance than that required by Scottish Building Standards.





Architectural designs

THINKING of building your own home in 2016? You aren't alone! The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) has published new research forecasting the main trends in UK housing design for the year ahead.

Over the course of 2015, RIBA Chartered Architects have reported the design trends in greatest demand:

- Sustainable and energy conservation measures - demand for sustainable materials, advanced insulation products, water conservation and recycling features
- Larger extensions and bigger new build bespoke houses
- Adaptable designs - increased demand for homes that can make living easier for ageing occupants and live-in relatives
- Family social hubs - multi-functional open-plan spaces are still highly desirable

An increase in land availability and the relaxation of planning restrictions have led to an increase of one-off single houses and housing extensions. 55% of RIBA architects reported that bespoke homes and housing extensions are getting bigger in size. As the ageing population increases, more of us are planning ahead for later in life by seeking design solutions to facilitate easier living. Adaptations to make independent living simpler, or adjusting a family home layout for the addition of an older family member are the two main drivers in this growing market. The popularity of generous multi-functional

living spaces - combining cooking, dining and living space shows no sign of diminishing - when these spaces are combined with direct access to gardens and outside space, they are even more popular with 66% of architects reporting a demand.

Sustainability and energy conservation are no longer niche concerns, but factor prominently in the design decisions of many clients. 70% of RIBA architects expect to see an increase in specifying advanced insulation products and 66% expect to see a rise in the use of solar/PV panels.

RIBA President Jane Duncan said: 'The appetite for building or improving your own home for your family and future shows no sign of abating, with architects experiencing increased demand from creative and ambitious homeowners. This new RIBA report gives a glimpse of what to expect in housing design for 2016 and beyond. It shows the insight, value for money and peace of mind that an architect can bring to any housing project.' Choosing an accredited RIBA Chartered Practice will give you peace of mind. They comply with strict criteria covering insurance, health and safety and quality management systems.

Use the RIBA's free 'Find an Architect' directory at www.architecture.com/FindAnArchitect and search for an RIBA Chartered Practice that is right for you. Architects are highly skilled, and professionally trained to turn your aspirations into reality.



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Interior design

A NEW house is the chance to inject some new life into your personal space. From bold colours to metal trimmings, Hamdi Ben Yaghane, Designer and Managing Partner at DND Contemporary Furniture Studio shares the scoop on the five home design trends that are set to be all the rage in 2016.

Trend #1 - Year of the Metal

The 1950s and 1970s are hot trends in fashion right now, and it is no different in interiors. The year 2016 will see more and more designers include all different textures of metals in their designs and furniture pieces. Accessories and decorative objects such as lanterns, vases, and mirrors will have metal elements incorporated in their design, reflecting back to the Golden Era.

Trend #2 – The Spirit of Nature

The spirit of nature can be seen in some elements of Scandinavian style, particularly in raw wooden elements. By leveraging a natural feel for winter, the 'mountain lodge' look transports you directly into an enveloping cocooning atmosphere that is simple and warming. With this design option, the ubiquity of white wood modernized, all made cosy with comfortable materials such as linen, mohair and cashmere seen on accessories such as rugs, cushions, carpets.

Trend #3 – Bold Colours

Translating to wall colours and ceramic backsplashes, the presence of vivid colour is back. Creating bold, statement-colour combinations, the aim is to use strong shades to create fluid movement from room to room. Hard textures like cement and wood are also playing a key role in this trend for contrast.

Trend #4 – The Age of sustainability

From the padding in our sofas to the premium wood sourced for counter worktops, sustainability is at the heart of everything for 2016. Recycling, repurposing, reinventing and reusing are all things that consumers are beginning to consider when they make purchases today.

Trend #5 - Outdoor Living Areas

Porches, patios and decks inspired by interior design principles are replacing the traditional backyard. From decorating smaller spaces with greenery to turning expansive backyards into glamping adventures, 2016 should bring in experimentation with nature into the home- for example buying furniture that can be used indoors and outdoors. In terms of interior décor, wall decorations, accessories and small plant life inspired items are going to be hot.

Your self-build specialists...

John Lamb Architect

Every family and plot is different, so when you undertake such a major investment as building your own home, it should be just right, and tailored to suit you. The layout, the views, maximising daylight at all times and keeping running costs down are all important and the only person

who can get it all right, as well as creating a building that is unique to you, is an Architect. A great design is essential for a great house.

John Lamb specializes in designing houses as individual as you. To discuss your ideas, call for a free consultation.



Oban Stove Centre

The Oban Stove Centre is ground zero for wood burning and multi fuel stoves for the West Coast of Scotland. A family run business, OSC offers all the highest quality stove brands, including Charnwood, Morso, Everhot, Rayburn, Jotul and Stovax. From traditional to contemporary, you'll find a wide range of stoves as well as range cookers on display in their shop in Oban town centre.

of OSC are happy to welcome you into their showroom to discuss the best stoves and flue systems for you, from a fireplace and range cooker to a full set of stoves throughout the home.

To find out how Oban Stove Centre can help make your dream home even cosier, ring 01631 564790 or visit Oban Stove Centre, Old Crofters Yard (near Stoddarts).

Rising electric prices mean that stove heat is a better value than ever. In addition to stove and flues, OSC supplies spares and accessories, as well as fuels, including solid fuel, pellet, biomass, peat, logs and coal. A stove from OSC means your home will be warm and cosy, with the lovely ambience of a crackling fire. Whether you choose a freestanding or insert model, let OSC assist you with design and installation from start to finish. The friendly and experienced staff



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Kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms

THE BIGGEST trend in home design going into 2016 is personalization-fitting the house to the needs of each member of the family. It's all about tailoring your home to fit your lifestyle, especially in the three areas of the home we spend the most time in- bedrooms, kitchens and bathrooms.

Convenient bedrooms and baths with plenty of storage

Adults and children spend a good deal of their time in their bedrooms and trends reflect this. Homeowners want spacious master bedrooms, with dressing areas and a bathroom within the space. They want to walk just a few steps to find everything they need for relaxation and grooming. The biggest request is for lots of storage space in the form of built-in drawers and

cabinets and walk-in closets. For children's rooms, parents want toy space, shelving for books and areas to display hobbies. Room for the plethora of electronics is also a primary demand when it comes time to designing new homes.

Requests for bathroom features in the master bedroom involve spa-like conveniences, turning a utilitarian room into a peaceful retreat.

Open, Light-Filled Kitchens

Kitchens have always been the one room in the home where owners are willing to spend the most money. Modern homeowners are asking for kitchens that are spacious and airy with lots of windows. Another big trend in kitchen design is extra-large islands with sinks and cutting areas for food prep, stovetops for cooking, counter area for eating and stools for sitting.

According to Sergei Kaminskiy of Kaminskiy Design and Remodeling, 'One of the most popular trends in the early stages of 2016, for kitchen remodelling, is in the area of transitional kitchens. So called because they blend elements of traditional and contemporary kitchens, transitionals incorporate modern elements like stainless steel appliances with traditional interior design.'

Pets are family, too

With the increasing popularity of pets, many homeowners are asking for amenities for their furry friends. In the kitchen, dog doors, also suitable for cats, are just the beginning. Feeding stations in the kitchen and pet bathing areas in the utility room are also common.

Getaway, But Not Too Far

There is a trend for rooms made just for concentrated work and private downtime. Using one bedroom as a study or home office fits in with the work-from-home movement. When doing their job, adults can lock the door and focus on work. The preference is for lots of light, bright colours and as much storage as possible.

There is also a trend for bigger children's playrooms, with desks and electronic capability for homework, games and their digital social life. For younger children, requests are for lots of floor space and child-accessible places to put toys.

In short, customization is the big trend for home design in 2016. What that means is designing your space to suit your needs, instead of the other way around.

Top 2016 kitchen trends

Slide-out shelving is a kitchen strategy which is both clever and functional, making use of available space for necessary storage. Pots, pans, and cleaning accessories can all be stowed under the sink or elsewhere, with sliding shelves that are easily accessed on demand.

Hardwood flooring is becoming a strong alternative to recently favoured systems

like laminates and tiles, and is appearing in planks six inches wide and more. Antique wooden flooring for the kitchen is also trending significantly in 2016.

Farmhouse sinks, a.k.a. apron sinks, are also trending in new kitchens. Their compelling size alone makes them a focal point in the kitchen, and since they are now available in a huge variety of sizes and styles, they are very versatile in how

they can be used in almost any style of kitchen.

Technology is also featured in 2016 kitchen trends, with the general move toward 'smart' devices moving into the kitchen. Having coffee automatically brewed for the morning wake-up is just one example, but programmed lighting and heat levels can also be managed in a modernized kitchen.



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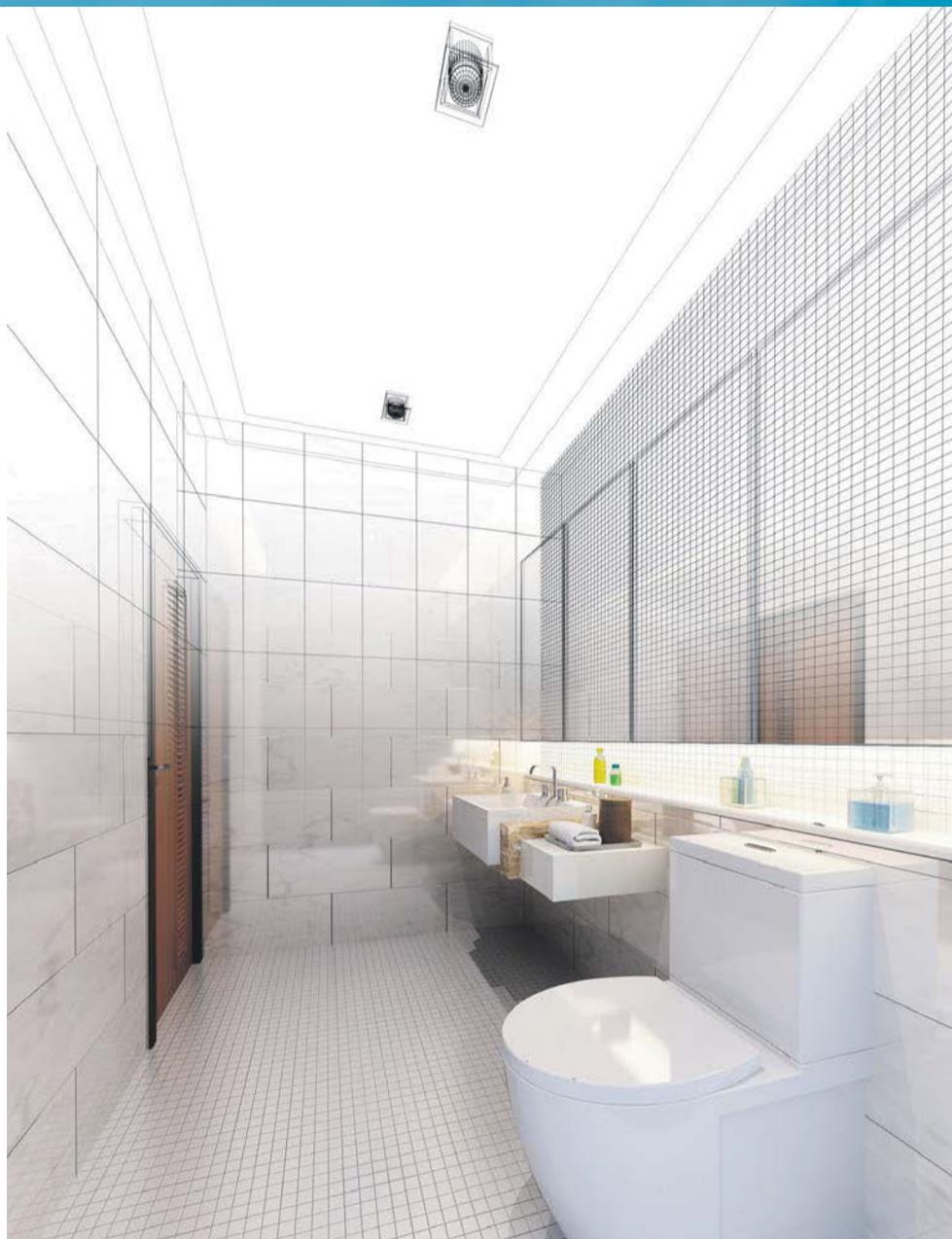
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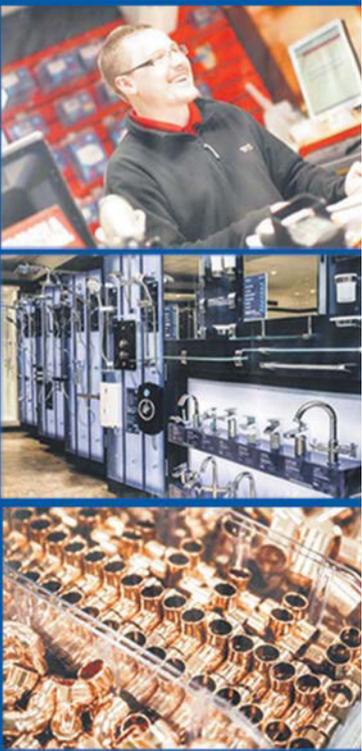
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- Seek references, speak to previous customers and if possible, visit previous jobs.
- Don't just go with the cheapest, consider your ability to communicate with the firm and the quality of their work.
- If materials need to be bought in advance by the tradesman, it is reasonable that the customer is asked to pay a fair percentage of these costs as the job progresses.

Trades and professionals

When building a home, it's vital that you choose tradesmen that you can trust. Follow these handy tips to help you choose the most suitable tradesmen for the job:

Check credentials and trade association membership

If a gas engineer says that they're Gas Safe registered or if a builder says they're in the Federation of Master Builders, then ask for proof. In some cases, this may be essential, such as if you're installing a boiler and need to ensure the engineer is Gas Safe-registered. Does the builder belong to a professional body or trade association? Contact those organisations to verify membership and enquire about what assurances they offer to consumers if things go wrong.

Ask For a Written Quotation

Get a full written quotation for your project. It should include full details of the work being carried out, the total cost and give you an idea of when the work will be finished. Having a document like this is essential if the cost of the project later increases or is delayed for a long period. If there are revisions to the quote later on, ask for these in writing.

Make sure that the builder has public liability insurance

Ask to see the builder's public liability insurance certificate. Building work may also affect your home and contents insurance, so check with your insurance company before work begins.

Check if the builder intends to use sub-contractors

Make sure the builder knows that he or she is responsible for all team members, including sub-contractors. They should be covered by the builder's public liability insurance and suitably qualified if tasked with gas or electrical work.

Check Previous Work

Make sure you check the company's experience of carrying out similar work. There are some ways of doing this online, such as using Google Plus, or you could ask the business for references from satisfied customers. Make sure you are getting access to recent references.

Seek Assurances

Ask if the work is covered by a guarantee, how long that guarantee will be for, and whether it is backed by insurance. If the company stops trading, this will ensure that any work owed will be remedied.

Evaluate Performance

Does the tradesman turn up on time? Does he/she respond promptly to questions? How closely do they listen to what you're saying? Do they take time to survey and measure the project? It's important that you trust your tradesman and so getting a read on how well they do small tasks at the start of a project may give you an idea of what they'll be like further down the road and how thorough their work will be.

Don't Pay In Full Up Front

Be very wary if any tradesman asks you to pay in full up front. For the majority of building or plumbing work, standard practice is to either agree 50% at the start of the job (this would normally be to cover materials) and 50% on completion, or for staggered payments throughout the job. Larger jobs will tend to involve part-payments whereas small or medium-sized jobs will often simply involve full payment on completion. Be cautious if you are asked for the full amount up front, particularly for larger projects.



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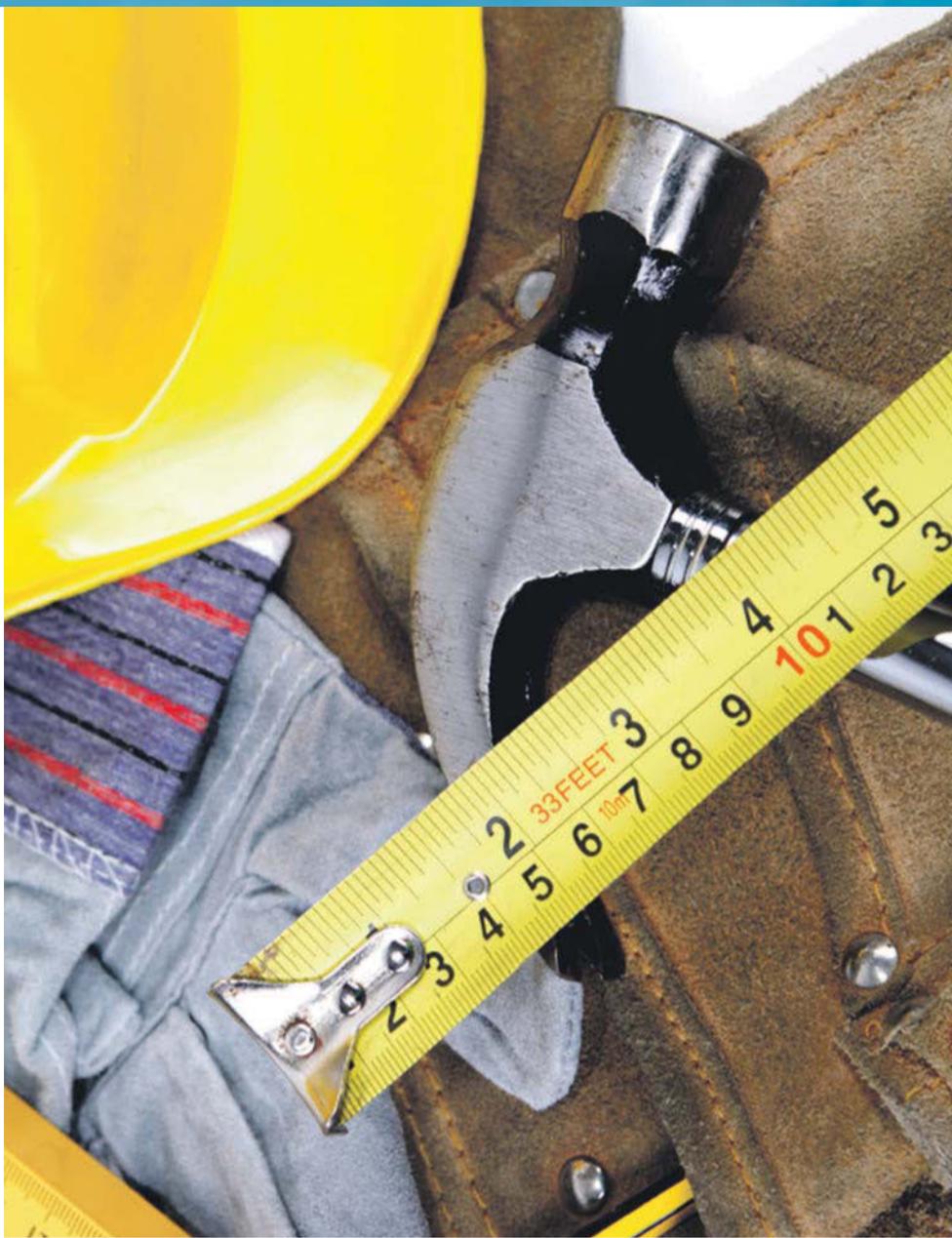
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Your self-build specialists...

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John MacLachlan Ltd started as a construction business around Oban in 1919. The family business has continued to grow and has now developed to the point where it offers a wide range of consumer and business to business services in Argyll and further afield.

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The current proprietors, John and Susan MacLachlan operate with a team of 50 staff and are continuing to develop these businesses, create new opportunities and providing valuable services to the local and wider communities of Argyll and Scotland.



Jewson

Jewson can offer a whole range of help for a variety of self build projects from costing your project to recommending a kitchen. Sales Executive Dan Baxter explains: 'When we get an enquiry we will send you a self build pack that will have brochures from the likes of Velux windows so you can see a range of products.'

When you have an idea of what you want the self build team will cost the plans for you and provide support from foundations to roofing and getting the inside just the way you like it.

As well as brand new houses they help with other projects as well. Dan says: 'The self build team can help with building things like conservatories and extensions.'

If you discover you don't quite have the right tools for the job Jewsons offer a tool

hire scheme. There are tools that will only be needed for a short time and this means there is no need to buy them.

Jewsons also have experts in lots of different areas Dan said: 'The knowledge these specialist have is great and there are specialist in areas like drainage and roofing.'



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Email: archie.houston@btinternet.com
Colonsay Woodlands Drive Campbeltown Argyll PA28 6JW

Financial incentives

- The Home Energy Scotland renewables loan scheme funded by the Scottish Government offers interest free loans up to £10,000 for those who install a domestic renewables system.
- The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) encourages uptake of renewable heat technologies. It provides financial support to the owner of the renewable heating system for seven years.
- Under Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) you could be paid for the electricity you generate if you install or have installed an eligible system like solar PV, a wind or hydro turbine, or micro CHP.
- Visit ofgem.gov.uk for more information.

Energy and renewables

GREEN living is becoming easier with the renewable energy industry at an all-time high. Innovative new products are emerging all the time and finally government subsidies may be available to support this development. If you want the ultimate in green energy there's no better solution than building your house from the ground up. It provides the ideal chance to integrate energy efficient measures at the earliest stages of design. The measures could include under-floor heating that is integrated with an air source heat pump- this will make a long-term difference to your heating system efficiency.

Think insulation

Every building and the way energy is used within it is different. Before you consider making any green additions to your home, you need to take a look at the fabric of the building and examine its insulation efficiency. Ensuring your property has the best insulation possible can be the most cost effective energy improvement. Self-builders can benefit from choosing materials such as Warmcel, a recycled sustainable insulation with a high thermal mass and 30% improved airtightness. 'Annual energy cost for a house built to current building regulation insulation levels is likely to cost around £900,' said Gareth Major, Design & Marketing at PYC Group. 'If the levels of

insulation are increased to a higher level (up to Passivhaus Standards) the annual energy costs would be less than £100. Over the lifetime of a building, at today's fuel prices, cost savings are likely to exceed £50,000.' According to Gareth, the benefits from building sustainably are not only financial, but environmental and social. 'An initial investment of improving the building fabric by increasing the insulation thickness will not only save the occupant money but enhance their overall quality of life by giving them a warmer, more comfortable environment to live in.'

Heating Options

The advancement of renewable heating options over the last few years have been significant. There are now efficient solutions for almost every property. Speak with a professional about the benefits of renewable heating in your self-build. Well-insulated homes are best suited to an air or ground source heat pump. To reduce the cost of high hot water usage, consider a solar thermal system or hot water heat pump.

Electricity Options

Solar PV is the obvious choice for renewable electricity for your self-build. Panel prices have recently dropped making it a more affordable solution on the road to self-generation. The UK has a Feed-in Tariff provided by the

government too, which rewards you for solar installation and gives 20 years of tax-free income from the power you generate- that's on top of the savings you'll be making on electricity bills. If your property doesn't have a south-facing roof, solar panels are still an option. You could consider panels on another out building/garage or having a ground-mounted system in your garden. When you've got a lot of land with your property you could also have a look into small-scale wind turbines. These latest renewable energy additions can generate power day and night when placed in the right location there are no restrictions, unlike solar, turbine generation also comes with the Feed-in Tariff benefits. If you are completing a self-build, consider getting renewable energy experts on board to assess your plans and advise on how to make them more effective.



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and NAPIT, the regulatory bodies for the renewables industry ensuring that all works carried out are regulated, audited and assessed, an assurance for every client that their workmanship is to the highest standard. If you'd like to make a no-commitment enquiry, contact Alistair Barr on (07554 377491 or at info@barr-renewables.co.uk alternatively have a look on our facebook page)



Alistair Barr offers green renewable energy in the form of solar panels for domestic homes and biomass boilers for commercial businesses.

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Visit our excellent website which offers a virtual showroom, along with a wealth of information on installation, chimneys, fuel, water-heating and much more besides. Or call us to arrange an appointment at our premises in Barcaldine.

For further information please contact us:-
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 Barcaldine By OBAN
 Argyll PA37 1SG
 T. 01631 720539
sales@backwoodsman-stoves.co.uk

www.backwoodsman-stoves.co.uk

Backwoodsman

NEW BUILD PROJECTS AND TWIN-WALL CHIMNEY DESIGN

The whole emphasis in chimney design is to minimise heat loss so that the flue gases remain hot right to the point where they exit the stack. There are compelling reasons for keeping a chimney as straight as possible as even slight bends introduce friction and in marginal situations this may be enough to upset performance. The exit point for the head of a chimney is another critical factor in its performance. Every effort should be made to locate the terminal high up on the roof in an area of "clear air". The ridge of a roof creates turbulence and down-draughts as do dormer windows and other projections. The safest bet is to bring the chimney head out within the top third of the slope, though a shallow-pitch roof creates less turbulence making location of the chimney head less critical. Every effort should be made to keep the

chimney within the warmth and shelter of the building. Exposing long lengths of sectional chimney is likely to result in severe fouling up of the chimney over time with deposits of moisture, tar and creosote.



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Sandwich treat for Robin

The robin sits on the car wing mirror.

There are many robins about at this time of year and on Arran they seem particularly tame.

Reader Jo Johannesson sent us these lovely photos

and takes up the story: 'I was in the car park near the ferry at Lochranza with my friend Gerry Callan when a robin settled on my exterior mirror. Gerry had some

crumbs left in his sandwich bag so we lowered the window and the robin happily fluttered down and grabbed a big crumb, then repeated the process.'



The movement of the window being lowered fails to scare it away.



It flutters down to eat the crumbs from Gerry's sandwich bag.

Know who to turn to for relief from muscle or joint pain

Do you have a muscle or joint problem that is interfering with your life or your work? If so, and are aged 16-years or over, you can call the national musculoskeletal advice and triage helpline on 0800 917 9390 or visit www.nhsinform.scot/msk to find out how you can help yourself. The non-emergency service offers advice, information and assessment of muscle and joint problems.

Judith Reid, physiotherapy consultant in Musculoskeletal (MSK) for NHS Ayrshire & Arran explains: 'Most

people with a muscle or joint problem would automatically go to their GP, or visit their nearest emergency department. However, that is not always the most appropriate place to go'.

'When you call the national musculoskeletal advice and triage helpline, you will speak to a trained adviser who will ask you some questions about your condition, so that you can be screened for potentially serious conditions. You will then be directed to the website or referred to local MSK services (Physiother-

apy, Occupational Therapy, Podiatry or Orthotics).'

Tim Eltringham, Director of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and lead for Allied Health Professions (AHPs) for the whole of Ayrshire, says: 'We all know our GP and accident and emergency services are busy. Yet, we often see patients turning up who don't need to be there.'

To find out how you can help yourself, visit www.nhsinform.scot/msk, or call 0800 917 9390 Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Arran residents urged to check their vote ahead of the Scottish elections

There are now fewer than 100 days until the Scottish Parliament election – and people across Arran are being urged to check they are eligible to have their say.

Voters will go to the polls on Thursday, May 5 to elect 129 members to the Scottish Parliament, but only those who are on the Electoral Register will be able to cast their vote.

As the countdown to the big day begins, people are being reminded: 'Your Vote Matters – Don't Lose It'.

For the first time ever at a Scottish Parliament Election, 16 and 17-year-olds are being given a chance to vote. However, many of these first-time voters in North Ayrshire are not currently registered and will miss out unless they sign up.

Deputy Returning Officer Andrew Fraser said: 'No one should miss out on their right to be part of the democratic

process and I would encourage everyone, including those who will be 16 and 17 on May 5, to activate their entitlement to vote.

'Ensuring your name is on the Electoral Register is a straightforward and quick process so I hope everyone takes advantage of that to ensure they can cast their vote.'

Urged

Residents have until April 18 to register in time to vote in the election but are being urged to do so as soon as possible to avoid any problems.

Those applying for a postal vote have until midnight on April 19, while the deadline for new proxy applications is 5pm on April 26.

If you have recently moved address or your details have changed (e.g. you have got married) then you will need to update your details on the Electoral Register.

People can check they are

registered by visiting www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or by contacting the Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board, 9 Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1HL, on 01292 612221.

Alternatively, a special app has been created by Ayrshire Voter Registration, which allows people to update their name, address or other details on the Electoral Register.

The voter registration app is available for download at www.moderndemocracy.co.uk/ayrshire_valuation_joint_board.html for Android or Apple devices.

On May 5, Voters in North Ayrshire will elect constituency MSPs for the Cunninghame North and Cunninghame South areas. In addition, North Ayrshire forms part of the West of Scotland Region which elects seven list MSPs to represent the area in the Scottish Parliament.

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New funds available for local charitable groups on Arran

A new fund will give a boost to local charitable groups both on Arran and throughout North Ayrshire.

This week, the North Ayrshire Ventures (Charitable) Trust (NAVt) was launched to enable local voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises to explore new opportunities to help them grow in size, improve long-term sustainability and increase their impact.

Successful bids will benefit from funding of up to £10,000, or from £10,000 to £30,000 over one to three years.

Administered by North Ayrshire Council, the trust seeks ambitious applications from a whole host of third sector and community organisations whose annual income in the 2014/15 financial year was £300,000 or less.

Projects and ideas seeking funding can be wide and varied, as long as they support the trust's core objectives which include: to relieve pov-

erty among local residents; to advance education, particularly among the unemployed; to promote training in skills of all kinds, particularly those that will assist residents in obtaining paid employment; to promote other schemes of a charitable nature; and to promote the advancement of citizenship or community development.

Excited

Trust chairwoman councillor Marie Burns, said: 'I'm extremely excited about the trust as it has the potential to make a real difference across North Ayrshire and transform our communities.'

'I would urge local community groups and charitable organisations to think big and submit applications which could change the way things are done – whether that be through developing new social enterprises, supporting more people, expanding their work in to new areas or working with completely new clients.



Trust board members Councillor John Hunter, left, Billy Kirkwood, RDK Construction; Councillor Marie Burns, Dr Audrey Sutton and Craig Crosthwaite of North Ayrshire Foodbank.

'I look forward to seeing the ideas and projects that these groups come up with and

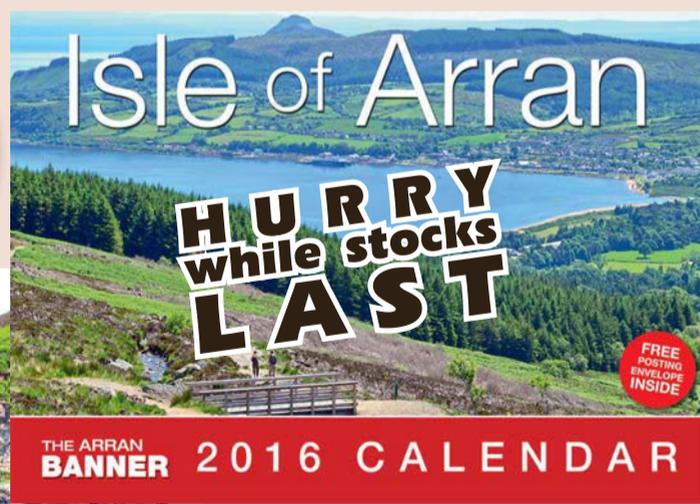
looking at ways in which this fund could help them achieve their ambitions.'

To find out more about the fund as well as getting a copy of the application form, vis-

it the council's website on: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/navt

Isle of Arran Calendar 2016 *The ideal gift...*

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We have set out to show some of those unique qualities in our Arran Banner Isle of Arran Calendar 2016 by scouring dozens of images of the island to find the best that represent the light, scenery and places dear to those who also love the island.

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Sixty years of wildlife through the lens

Last month Howard Walker delivered a fascinating talk to the Arran Natural History Society about his lifetime working with, and photographing, wildlife.

Howard's love of Arran started at the age of seven, when his family moved to Corrie during the war. He was later to marry a local girl, and return to Arran as a game keeper for Lady Jean in 1958. After a couple of years based at Lochranza, he was made head game keeper and was responsible for 40,000 acres from Brodick round to Catcol and spent much of his time out in the wilder places of Arran. Luckily, he took his camera with him. As a result, Howard has a fascinating archive of wildlife photos, many of which he has had to convert from slides into digital images so that he can show them today.

When he first started working with deer, Howard noticed the high mortality of deer on the hill, seeing over 230 dead beasts on the moorland over one winter. Howard set about changing this and

initiated a policy of culling sick and injured deer and to his credit, within four years he had reduced the mortality to just a handful of deer.

Howard explained the history of the deer on Arran showing a wapiti stag that was introduced to improve the stags' heads. He also had a photo of Angus, the original white deer stag, whose genes are popping up in today's herd with a white hind and stag been seen south of The String road.

Adaptability and versatility are characteristics Howard has had as his career went from game keeper to animal welfare when in 1972 he started working for the University Federation for Animal Welfare and was in charge of Holy Island. As part of this post he annually monitored seal populations by taking photos from fixed-winged areoplanes flying across the wash.

Throughout his life Howard has had a passion for wildlife. He confessed to not being quite as fit as he was for traipsing over rough moorland, however, he continues



A Lochranza stag with a good head.

All photos by Howard Walker

to find delight in photographing smaller wildlife such as red polls, blue tits and siskins on his bird feeder and his acrobatic visiting red squirrels. He also finds fungi fascinating and very helpful for photographers as they don't run away! As versatile as ever, he built himself a moth trap and has spent many an hour photographing moths before letting them go, including canary-shouldered thorns, poplar hawk moths, and a beautiful silver Y. His top tip: put the moths in the fridge for a bit before photographing them, that way they stay still, if only for a short time!

To finish Howard showed the group a fabulous sequence of photos of an eagle eyrie, showing development from an egg to a fully-fledged eagle, taken with a long lens so as not to disturb the birds - these days you need a licence to photograph nest sites. They showed the eaglet growing on a diet of rabbit, with some very soggy pictures of a sorry eaglet in Arran summer weather, and finishing with a dramatic photo of the fully fledged adult bird flying off the nest.

Thanks to Howard for a fascinating insight into Arran's wildlife. *Kate Sampson*



Right: Angus, the original white deer.



A poplar hawk moth.



A common seal pup.

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THE ARRAN

BANNER


 TWENTY
YEARS AGO

Saturday 10 February, 1996

Kildonan bunker

In a sign that the Cold War is over, a newspaper advert has appeared to sell an underground bunker in Kildonan.

It is believed to be the bunker, which was used by the Royal Observer Corps, is opposite Grouse Lodge.

There are at least two others on the island, one at Corriegills and one at Torbeg. The ROC would meet in their bunkers with the purpose of spotting enemy aircraft in the event of an emergency. The Corps was disbanded about five years ago.

Craft village plans

Balmichael Farm, that elegant if slightly weary steading to the west of the String Road, has been the subject of much speculation in recent years.

The home of Colin and Isobel Currie, they put forward their land as a potential airstrip for Arran and when an official report was commissioned, that was the site recommended. When nothing happened there a proposal for a golf course and a country house hotel.

Nothing came of that either and last Autumn they sold their farm. Now new owners David and Gillian McClelland have moved in



Married at Monkton and Prestwick North Parish Church on Saturday January 20 were Deborah Cannell of Prestwick and Willie Robertson of Shiskine. Deborah and Willie met when Willie was attending Auchencruive Agricultural College where Deborah worked in administration. The couple married in Berwick-upon-Tweed and returned to the Kinloch Hotel last Saturday where family and friends welcomed them home with a special dance. b06twe01



Arran firefighters beat the blazing heather at last Saturday's hill fire and kept it from getting too close to the trees. The fire was started as a controlled burning by a local farmer but the fire brigade was called to put it out. Visible from Blackwaterfoot and even from Kintyre the fire was at Cnocan Donn (above Brown Head) and was very near to the forest. At the scene the farmer insisted that all was well and that it looked more spectacular than it was serious. Having climbed the hill and not wanting to take any risks the firefighters beat out the flames and descended to their fire engines on the road along the Leacan Bhreac. There they sat in the sunshine and enjoyed their Mars Bars, part of the rations kept in the fire truck. b06twe05 and b06twe06

last week and they too have plans. They plan to create a small craft village by leasing the shops and restoring the last remaining watermill on Arran.

Pupils council

A new pupils council is due to have its first meeting at Arran High School next week. An exercise in consultation with pupils, it will consist of several teachers, the head teacher and one elected representative from each class.

Ferry disruption

Strong south easterly winds this morning (Friday) have prevented the ferry from sailing. The weather position will be reviewed at midday and she may sail at 1.50pm if conditions at either Ardrossan or Gourock make it possible.

This is the first ferry disruption since last October. In contrast, three years ago during the month of January the ferry was cancelled or diverted on 29 days out of 31.

New administrator

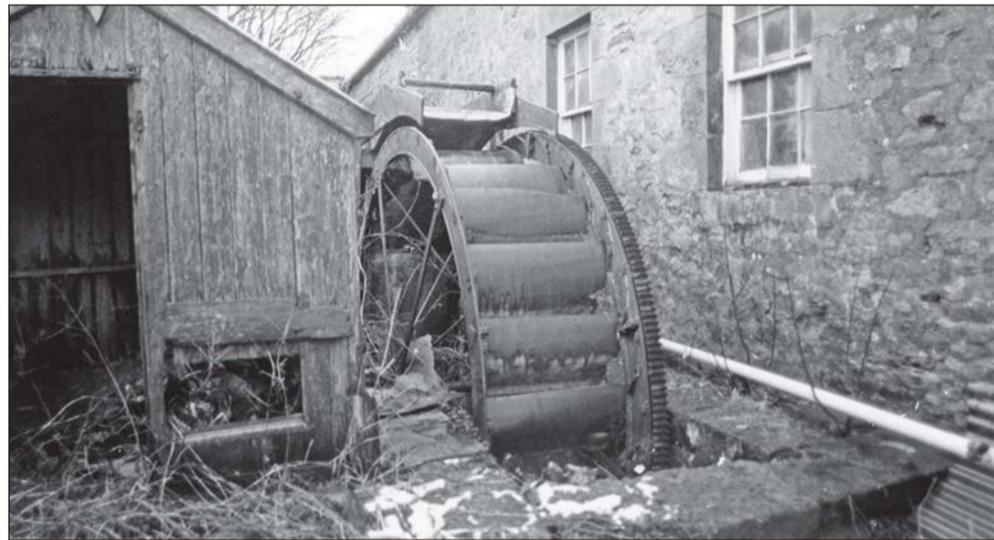
A new administrator has been appointed to take charge at Brodick Castle on the retirement of Mrs Olive Raymond. She is Mrs Veronica Woodman who is currently in charge of Falkland Palace in Fife. Mrs Woodman takes up her new post on April 22, giving an overlap of one week prior to Mrs Raymond's retirement.



Alan Hardie, who with fellow director Ian Appleton, bought over Paterson Arran at the end of last year, was on the island visiting the Lamlash factory last Friday. With 23 staff in Lamlash at the time of the takeover Mr Hardie reports that the change is going well and that they are now up to 27 staff. b06twe03



The Lagg pool team were victorious last Thursday after beating Corrie Hotel to win the annual pool league. Runners up, defeated by Lagg a week ago, were The Drift Inn. b06twe02



The last remaining watermill on Arran at Balmichael. b06twe04



What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Brewery
 Arran Brewery tour
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green

Loch Garbad, bank fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 12.30 - 5pm, Sat 10-5
 2pm (limited spaces call for availability)
 Open all day

Healthy Outdoors
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 RunArran Run Coaching
 Open Cricket Session
 Non- competitive bridge
 Lamlash Drama Club
 Winter Bowls
 Scottish Country Dancing

NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm
 Lamlash, 5.30pm
 Brodick Astro Turf 7pm-9pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm - 9pm
 Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
 Auchrannie, 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

Saturday 6th February

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Arran Vets - Surgery,
 Live music
 Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
 Ceilidh Dancing
 Yoga
 Live music from James Burge

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Brodick, 9.30am - 11am
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 7.30pm
arranphysiotherapy.co.uk 9-12noon
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm
 Lamlash Bowling Club, 2pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 9am - 10am
 The Douglas Hotel, 9pm

Wednesday 10th February

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 RunArran Mixed Ability
 JogScotland Beginners
 Yoga-Arran
 Live music
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey
 Dog classes
 Knitting & Crochet drop in group
 South Arran MPA celebration and public meeting

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Brodick, 9am - 10.30am & 6pm - 7pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Brodick, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie Car Park, 7pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
 Brodick Library, 4pm - 6pm
 Outdoor Centre, Lamlash, 2pm-4pm

Sunday 7th February

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 AA Meeting
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm

Monday 8th February

Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Morning Fitness
 Badminton
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Circuit Training
 WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
 Citizens advice
 Lamlash Aerobix
 RunArran Jogscotland Beginners
 RunArran Mixed Ability
 Bridge Club
 Scottish Country Dancing for beginners & improvers
 Yoga
 Tae Kwondo
 Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals
 Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals
 Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 9am - 10.30am & 3pm - 4pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
 Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm
 Whiting Bay, 5pm
 Whiting Bay, 5.30pm
 Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm
 Corrie Hall, 2-4pm
 Corrie & Sannox Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall 3:45 - 4:30pm
 Brèagha Holistic Beauty, Corrie 5pm-5.45pm
 Brodick Church Kitchen 6:30 - 7:00pm

Thursday 11th February

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Mixed Ability
 Cardiac Rehab
 Burger & Quiz night
 Winter Bowls
 Embroidery group
 Eco Savvy Sale

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 9am - 10.30am
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
 Brodick, 6pm
 Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
 Auchrannie, 7pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Whiting Bay, 10.30a. - 4.30pm

Friday 12th February

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Live music
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Quiz
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 AA Meeting
 Live music
 Tae Kwondo
 Young Farmers AGM
 Eco Savvy Sale

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm
 9am - 10.30am and 3pm - 4pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Arran high School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 7.30pm
 Whiting Bay, 10.30a. - 4.30pm

Tuesday 9th February

Pop Quiz
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Rotary club

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 9am - 10.30am
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm

www.arranbrewery.com



Recruitment

The Fairways

Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club

The Fairways is looking to recruit a full time cook/chef to join our team for the forthcoming season (March to November).

Experience of a busy kitchen is essential and work will involve both daytime and evening shifts.

Current Food Hygiene Certificate is essential as well as experience in Ordering and pricing Menus. Hourly rate is negotiable based on experience and although we do not offer live-in accommodation we can help in finding accommodation nearby.

If interested please forward a current C.V and photo to Sara;
Sara19041981@aol.com

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Angela Gibson
The Scottish Salmon Company
Ardkinglas, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8HB
Tel: 01499 600 430 angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com
Closing date for applications: Monday 15th February 2016
www.scottishsalmon.com

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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL - GRASS CUTTING SCHEME 2016

North Ayrshire Council is now accepting applications to the Council's Grass Cutting Scheme, which is limited to grass and hedge cutting.

The scheme covers cutting grass of an area no bigger than 150 square metres and hedges where they border a path. No weeding or planting is provided for however, we will maintain gardens to an acceptable standard. Due to the limited number of gardens to be included on the scheme, applications will be accepted on a "first come first served basis".

To be eligible the applicants must permanently reside at the property and meet the following eligibility criteria:

Be aged 75 and over.

Or

Aged 65 and over and in receipt of Attendance Allowance (higher rate) or free personal care.

Or

Aged under 65 and in receipt of DLA mobility (higher rate) or care (highest rate).

Or

Aged under 65 and in receipt of PIP mobility (enhanced rate) or daily living component (enhanced rate).

To apply contact the Council online at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/grasscuttingscheme or by telephone from Monday 8 February 2016 on 01294 310000. An assessment of eligibility will be made during the application process and payment for the scheme will be taken. The charge for the scheme is £61.00 including VAT.

Applications will close on Friday 4 March 2016. Applicants from previous years are not automatically re-enrolled on the scheme and are required to re-apply. The grass cutting scheme will commence on Monday 4 April and terminate Friday 7 October 2016.

THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL A841, BRODICK (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2016

On the 25 January 2016 North Ayrshire Council made the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit any motor vehicle to drive (with the exception of vehicles engaged on resurfacing works) on A841 from its junction with B880 (The String) and the main entrance to Brodick Castle, Brodick, from 9.15am to 12noon and from 12.45pm to 3pm on Wednesday 3 to Thursday 11 February 2016, or until the works are completed whichever is the earlier, by reason of works proposed to be executed on or near that road.

Full details of traffic management for the works are detailed below.

A841 Roadworks at Brodick Castle: Traffic Management Timings

Mon 1 Feb, Tues 2 Feb Convoy working 7:30am to 5pm

Wed 3 Feb to Thur 11 Feb Convoy working 7:30am to 9:15am

Road Closure 9:15am to 12noon

Convoy working 12noon to 12:45pm

Road Closure 12:45pm to 3pm

Convoy Working 3pm to 5pm

Fri 12 Feb to Mon 15 Feb No road closures (please refer to www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk for further updates)

Diversion Route

Diversion Routes will be signposted

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

ARRAN BRASS BAND

A.G.M.

Wednesday 17th February. 7-00 p.m.
Brodick Church Hall
All Welcome

Arran Golf Pass AGM

on Wednesday 24 Feb
in Brodick Golf Club at 7.30p.m.
All welcome.



Support Arran's Marine Protected Area

Arran Marine Protected Area Celebration and Public Meeting

Wednesday 10th of February from 2pm to 4pm at Arran Outdoor Education Centre in Lamlash. Presentation, Q&A, tea and coffee. All welcome.

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- An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
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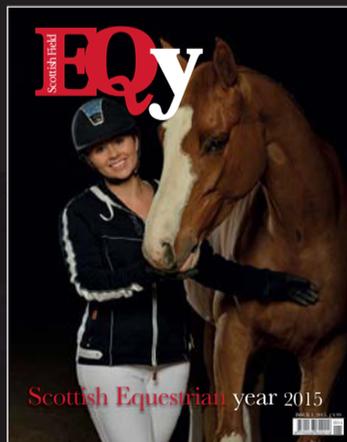
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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 7th February

Holy Communion, 11.00 am.

Mrs Janis Gallagher.

Coffee after service.

Wednesday, 10th February

(Ash Wednesday)

Holy Communion, 12.00 noon.

ALL WELCOME

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 fol-

lowing times to which

all are invited.

Sunday 7th February

Lochranza and Pirnmill

Churches, 10.15am Morning

Worship in Pirnmill Church.

Shiskine Church, 12noon

Morning Worship.

Brodick Church, 10.30am

Morning Worship including the

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Corrie Church, 11.30am

Prayer Meeting, 12noon

Morning Worship including the

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

There will also be a Service of

Worship in Montrose House

including the Sacrament of the

Lord's Supper at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a

fellowship to share"

Sunday 7th February

Kilmory 10am

Lamlash 11.30 am

Rev. Lily McKinnon

All welcome, including

families; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 7th February

Morning Service 11am

Trust Housing Lounge,

Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening service 6.30pm

5 Glen Estate, Brodick

All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 7th February

Shiskine 11am (Church on road

between Blackwaterfoot and

Machrie)

Brodick 6pm (Church behind

post office)

Rev Benjamin von Rensberg

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 7th February

The Sacrament of Communion

will be celebrated by the

minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson,

at 10.30am.

This table belongs to the Lord

Jesus and all who love Him

are most welcome.

There will be activities for our

young people in the Church

Hall. Tea and coffee will be

served after the service.

All welcome.

There will be a service in

Cooriedoon at 2.30pm to which

all friends are welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 7th February

Morning Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 7th February

11am Morning worship

in the Ormidale Sports

Pavilion, Brodick

Tea and Coffee after the service.

Wednesday at 7.30pm

Home Fellowship Group for

Bible Study and Prayer.

Contact phone no 600222

Everyone warmly invited

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Quakers meet every Sunday at

11am. For meeting venue ring -

830622, 820223

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Brodick Golf Club

Sunday, January 31, Winter

Cup, 13 played, Stableford,

non counter. 1 Gordon Hendry

38pts, 2 Bruce Jenkins

37pts, Ian Macdonald, 30pts.

With wet conditions but

good greens the scoring im-

proved from last week, top

three in particular.

Fixtures: Sunday, February

7, Duncan Trophy, Brodick

v Lamlash at Corrie. Start

11.50am, meet at clubhouse

Arran curlers take part in contest after 60 year gap



Competitors from Arran, Bute and Cumbrae pose for a group photo.



Fierce competition at the Greenacres rink.

Arran curlers have competed at the Inter Island Cup after a 60 year hiatus.

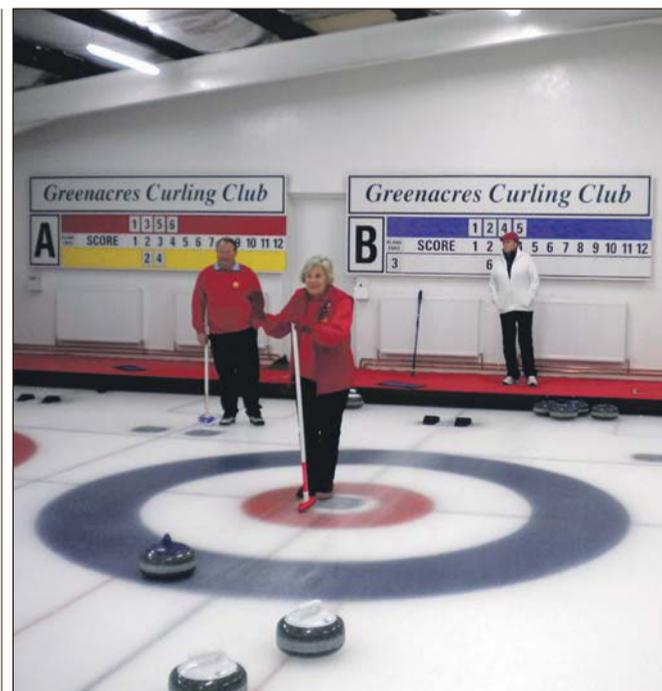
Almost 40 curlers from Arran, Bute and Cumbrae gathered on Wednesday, January 27 at Greenacres in Renfrewshire to contest the Inter Island Cup. Formerly this was known as the County Cup in the days when these islands were part of the County of Bute. It was first played for in 1938 and Arran last took part in 1956.

Competition was fierce but friendly with Cumbrae

emerging as worthy winners. Arran were just edged out of second place.

The team members, however, thoroughly enjoyed their first taste of competition and have resolved to make a better showing next year. More members with an interest in joining the team would be most welcome.

Is there anyone on the island who took part in previous competitions, or knew someone who did. If so Anne Coulter would like to hear from you on 830219.



The curlers in action.

11.15am. Also on Sunday will be 9am and 12noon sweeps.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday, January 31, 12 Hole

Medal and Winter Cup, 16

played. 1st Class: 1 W Kelso

47-5=42, 2 B Sherwood

51-7=44, 3 A Stewart 53-

7=46 BIH, scratch, W Kelso

47. 2nd Class: 1 J McNally

52-9=43 BIH, 2 P Betley 51-

8=43, 3 B Green 60-13=47

BIH. Magic twos, C Rae and

A Napier.

Lamlash Golf Club

No results due to weather

preventing play.

Fixtures: Sunday, February

7, Winter League at Corrie,

team game - Lamlash v

Brodick. Thursday, Febru-

ary 11, Yellow Medal, 11am start.

Machrie Golf Club

Tuesday, January 26, Winter

Cup, 3 played. 1 Brian Sher-

wood 76-10=66, 2 Phil Bet-

ley 76-9=67, 3 Ruben Betley

102-28=74.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixture: Saturday, February 6,

Winter Cup, ballots 8.30am

and 12noon.

Arran Golfers Association

Sunday, February 7, Arran

Golfers Association Win-

ter League/Duncan Trophy

2015/2016, 4th Round at

Corrie Golf Club. Draw:

Corrie v Machrie @ 8.30am,

Shiskine v Whiting Bay @

9.20am, Lamlash v Brodick

@ 11.50am.

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Rugby club face fixtures pile up a after nightmare season

Team may have to play on a Sunday

The Isle of Arran Rugby Club face some gruelling months ahead with a fixtures pile up.

The winter storms and flooded pitches have led to game after game being postponed both home and away.

The team have not played since the end of October and despite a plea to the Scottish Rugby Union to make rescheduled matches 'double

headers' they have been ordered to play all their home and away matches.

Deducted

As a result of all the disruption the team, which was newly promoted to the BT West Division 2 this season, sit 10th and bottom with no points, after the two points they picked up earlier in the season were deducted.

Club president Angus Adamson said: 'It has been a really frustrating season. We are keen to fulfil our fixtures but if we are going to do so we are going to have to play on a Saturday and Sunday some weekends, which is far from ideal.

'We also may have to play an 11-a-side game on Easter Sunday, after the Arran Rugby 7s on March 26. But our biggest concern is that

we are going to run out of Saturdays.'

Fixtures have now been rearranged by the SRU well into May.

Basketball

The team have been continuing to train on Wednesday nights and last weekend they got together for the first time in weeks on Saturday for a game of basketball.

'For morale it was good that the

team was able to get together,' Angus said.

They could play their first game in nearly four months when Paisley visit next weekend, weather permitting. The following week they have another home game against Waysiders Drumpellier - both games rescheduled from last September. Clydebank are then due on Arran on March 5.

Arran pick up valuable away point in Ardrossan

Ardrossan Ladies 2nds 1 Arran Ladies 1

Arran Ladies hockey team made the short trip to Ardrossan for their West District Women's Hockey League Division 4 match last Sunday.

Arran had great possession in the first-half, with a lot of shots on target on goal and credit to Ardrossan's goalkeeper for keeping the first half goalless.

Arran's fighting spirit came back in the second-half and Catherine McBain scored within the first five minutes of the second-half. The game

remained tough with both teams applying pressure and having attempts to score, and eventually Ardrossan broke through Arran's defences and scored the equaliser.

Arran were awarded a penalty flick in the final five minutes of the game, when an Ardrossan defender fell on the ball, illegally stopping an on target shot on goal. Unfortunately the flick was saved by Ardrossan's goalkeeper and the game ended with the result of a 1-1 draw.

Arran's goalkeeper, Ali Hollingworth, was voted man

of the match by Ardrossan, which was well deserved with superb saves throughout the game and Catherine McBain was voted dame of the game by the Arran team.

They presently sit third in the league just three points off the top spot.

Arran have two home games scheduled for this weekend and entertain Loch Lomond Ladies 2s today (Saturday) with a late 5pm pass back. Tomorrow (Sunday) they are at home to Garnock in the West District Plate competition, pass back 11.30am.



Arran Ladies show their team spirit ahead of the game.



Photos by Faith McKelvie

Arran defend an Ardrossan attack.



Dame of the game Catherine McBain.

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Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran
Tel: 01770 302142 - Fax 01770 302021
E-mail: editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 2nd January 2012 and 30th December 2012 for combined print and digital editions was 3,307.

The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.