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Energy saving feature

Pages 12 & 13

Our miracle Maisie

'We count our blessings every single day'

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Little Maisie Picken is a walking miracle.

Just months ago she was fighting for her life with a horrific head injury. Now she is fully recovered and back at Brodick nursery and raising

money to say 'thank you' to the doctors who saved her life. Three-year-old Maisie, from Shiskine, suffered a life-threatening injury when she fell from a trampoline, after zipping her brother, two-year-old Jack, in so that he was safe inside.

After a dash to Arran War Memorial Hospital, she was flown by air ambulance to the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow. There she underwent life-saving surgery and spent time in intensive care, later being transferred to a general ward where she received physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

Mum Kirsten and dad Jamie never count their blessings every day.

Dad Jamie said: 'We did not think our girl would return home with us but she did. Miraculously, she is back to mischief and her own wee self. We count our blessings every single day.'

'First, our thanks go to the Arran War Memorial Hospital, paramedics and helicopter crew. You never

Continued on page two



Mum Kirsten, dad Jamie with Maisie and Jack raising money for the Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity.



Little miracle Maisie Picken is back at nursery.

Return journey guarantee for sick

Patients who have been sent to the mainland on doctors' orders will in future be guaranteed a return trip as CalMac has reconsidered how it deals with medical emergencies.

Under the current guidelines, doctors can write patients a note to present at the port at Brodick to ensure their passage to the mainland. However, the doctor's note only guarantees transportation one way, with patients then expected to organise their own transport back to Arran.

This procedure has been criticised by many islanders, who have highlighted how attending medical emergencies can leave residents stranded on the mainland.

This concern had previously been raised at the island's Patient User Support Group, however, CalMac had previously said that no changes would be made to the current procedure.

West of Scotland MSP Jamie Greene wrote to CalMac's chief executive officer Duncan Mackison last month to urge them to reconsider their position on this matter.

In his letter, Mr Greene highlighted that those attending to medical emergencies at Crosshouse Hospital should 'always be able to get back to the island when required'.

As a result, the ferry operator has now announced that a

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JUST 3 REMAINING

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Hope on the horizon for Ferguson Marine purchase

There was renewed hope of resolving Arran's ferry fiasco this week when administrators for Ferguson Marine announced that they have held talks with a number of potential buyers of the nationalised shipyard.

Around 20 expressions of interest have been received to take over the shipyard, which is believed to be offered for sale in the vicinity of £60 million.

When Ferguson Marine went into administration on Friday August 16, control of the facility was handed over to Scottish ministers in a management agreement with administrators Deloitte UK.

According to the deal, if no private buyer is found within four weeks of the date of administration then Scottish ministers will buy the concern, in which they have already invested over £45m.

News of new owners and a

potential delivery date would end months of uncertainty and be welcomed by the 343 employees of the shipyard which is currently building the MV Glen Sannox, which is destined for the Ardrossan to Brodick route, along with a second ship known only as Hull 802.

A return to progress from the yard would also be welcomed, not only by the taxpayers who are effectively paying for the vessels to be built and for staff wages, but also from the Arran public who have seen delay after delay with the delivery of the Glen Sannox which was meant to be completed by summer 2018 and is now not expected to be completed until 2021.

The Scottish Government remains open to discussion with any parties interested in a commercial future for the Ferguson Marine shipyard,



The MV Glen Sannox is launched at Port Glasgow in November 2017.

Economy Secretary Derek Mackay told the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday.

Mr Mackay said: 'My focus is, and has always been, on ensuring completion of the two public sector ferries at the best value for money for the taxpayer, while also working towards the delivery

of the other vessels under construction at the yard, and in doing so securing jobs for the workforce through continuity of employment.'

'The Scottish Government will at all times remain open to discussions with any parties interested in securing a viable commercial future

for the yard. But we will also explore the option of keeping the yard in public ownership, and how this might protect sustainable shipbuilding on the lower Clyde.

'While clearly there is much work yet to do, our actions have ensured that there will be a future for Fergusons,' he added.

The decision to nationalise the shipyard has faced intense criticism from political opponents and from one of North America's largest shipbuilders, Davie Shipyard in Canada, who described public control of Ferguson Marine as 'insanity' and 'a slow motion car-crash' for workers and taxpayers.

But Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson hit back saying: 'How many jobs in total, including in the supply chain, would have been lost if we had just abandoned the yard to market forces, as the Tories

believe we should have? How much longer would the islanders on Arran and in the Hebrides have had to wait for their new ferries if FMEL had been allowed to close - an outcome that, for ideological reasons, the Tories seemed happy to see?'

As part of the agreement entered into with the administrators, the Scottish Government will acquire Ferguson Marine Engineering Limited (FMEL) at the end of that process should no viable commercial offer be forthcoming during that period. This process is expected to last another two to four weeks and involves the administrators undertaking a market testing exercise.

A Scottish Government spokeswoman added: 'Our first priority is to establish a new delivery programme to ensure the completion of the CMAL ferry contracts.'

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Our little miracle Maisie

Continued from page one
imagine this could happen to your own wee family but it did. We nearly lost our girl. 'We are overwhelmed and grateful for all the support received during time. We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us.'

Now Maisie and her family are raising money for the

Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity to say a special thank you to the intensive care department and ward 3A of the hospital which looked after Maisie.

Maisie and her family took part in the Oor Wullie's Big Bucket 10k trail in Glasgow on Saturday August 10 which was a fundraiser for the charity and has raised a whopping

£1,799.46 on her Justgiving page which is still growing, as well as £902 in cash.

Maisie also raised £250 for the halfway house Ronald McDonald House where her parents and brother stayed during her hospital time.

If you would like to donate please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/kirsten-picken2>.



Maisie with the cheque for he £902 of cash donations.



Maisie and Jack take part in the Oor Wullie challenge.

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The fallen eucalyptus tree blocked the main A841 road between Brodick and Lamlash.
Photo: John Baraclough

Fallen tree cuts electricity to hundreds of customers

A fallen eucalyptus tree caused severe disruption to road users and affected the electricity supply of just under 1,000 customers after high winds toppled it onto live power wires.

The tree, still in full summer leaf, was located on the main A841 road, near the Brodick ferry terminal, when it was brought down shortly after 10am on Saturday morning. The difficulty in removing the large tree was compounded by the fact that a large branch made contact with overhead power lines.

Police and Scottish and Southern Electricity workers were quick to attend the scene but a permit had to be sought to switch off the power supply and the line earthed to protect workers.

While the earth connection necessitated a trip over the String road and back over the Ross road, a small workforce comprising a chainsaw crew

and removal vehicle stood at the ready for the area to be declared safe. Lumberjack Mark Bunyan was at the nearby ferry terminal when he was made aware of the situation so he was able to assist with a collection of suitable chainsaws and equipment and expertise.

During the blockage, a number of non-essential services were allowed to cross the road as pedestrians and a Royal Mail postman was seen delivering mail on foot. Paramedics were also seen leaving their ambulance and walking into Brodick.

People disembarking from the ferry terminal were allowed to proceed on foot while residents in the adjacent area of Corriegills and surrounding areas experienced telephone and power outages during the shut-off.

Once the threat of a live power line was removed, workers set about releasing

some of the tension on the line and cut the tree into manageable sections while a crane removed the wood from the road. The road was reopened before 2pm.

A spokesperson from SSE said: 'On Saturday August 31, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SEN) was alerted to a tree brought down by high winds and affecting the power lines on the A841.'

'Engineers attended and in order to ensure the safety of those working to remove the tree, power supplies had to be temporarily cut to just under 1,000 customers at 11.05am. By 11.07am, 824 of those customers were back on supply, with just 103 customers remaining without power until 2.08pm.'

'SEN would like to thank those affected while engineers worked to ensure the safety of supply and the safety of those working to remove the tree.'

Return journey guarantee for sick

Continued from page 1

new protocol is being agreed and will be ready to implement at the end of September.

Under the new system, islanders will be transported as foot passengers and a taxi will be arranged to take them to the hospital. This will cover transport in both directions, meaning that patients will be guaranteed a space on the ferry.

Mr Greene praised the changes made and highlighted the importance of ensuring islanders' passage home. Mr Greene said: 'I'm encouraged to see that CalMac has

changed its medical emergency protocol to ensure that islanders are guaranteed travel back home. Especially after attending to a medical emergency, being stranded on the mainland is the last thing that people need.'

'However, part of the reason this issue has been prominent is because there is a lack of space on our ferries. Ardrossan to Brodick is one of the busiest ferry routes in Scotland and after being promised new vessels from the government, our island communities are still being let down.'

Mr Mackison told the MSP: 'Following representations to ministers from across the network on the issue, a protocol is currently being agreed between Transport Scotland and CalMac to help island residents with urgent medical needs travel when needed.'

'We expect the protocol to be ready by the end of September and full communications will be issued to island communities to advise of the support that will be provided by CalMac for customers' priority medical travel,' he added.



Eilidh is Arran High School Dux

Eilidh Hamill is the 2019 Arran High School Dux. Here she is seen being congratulated by head teacher Barry Smith at the school awards ceremony held on Wednesday night. See next week's Banner for full coverage of all the awards presented. 01_B36dux01

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The summer school students after they performed at Corrie Church. 01_B36mclellan01



The summer school students in full voice at Corrie Church. 01_B26mclellan02

Grand finale for McLellan Arts Festival

From the thoughtful verse of the McLellan poetry prize winners, the fun of a rip-roaring ceilidh, beautiful sacred music in Corrie Church and a fascinating talk from Kirsty Wark, this has already been a McLellan Arts Festival to remember.

Not only that, there has been the rousing fiddling of Paul Anderson, bothy ballads with Geordie Murison, verse from the north-east with Shona Donaldson, lovely singing from John Cruikshank and pawky McLellan from Sheila Gilmore, John Sillars, Stuart Gough and James Mutch, as well. And it's not over yet!

Tonight (Friday) in the Community Theatre in Lamlash, we will have the treat of the superb young opera singers performing an Opera Gala followed tomorrow night (Saturday) in Corrie Hall with the talented young actors of the Royal Scottish Conservatoire presenting their exciting work. Finally, on Sunday, the

summer school closes with a performance of Handel's Messiah, giving us another chance to hear these talented young people accompanied by members of the Arran community in the McLellan Festival Chorus.

Don't forget the final performance of the McLellan Arts Festival in conjunction with Music Arran on Saturday September 14 when the talented young professional company, Opera Bohemia perform *The Merry Widow* in the Community Theatre.

Talented

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Arran Summer School, founded by Peter Alexander Wilson in 2009. Since then, many students have taken part and what a worthwhile experience it has been for the students and for the island giving us the opportunity not just to hear beautiful music but to be involved with these talented young people in an oratorio each year.

The said young people who have attended the school have gone on to be professionals of the highest standard, singing throughout the world. Over the years, many well-known tutors have taken part, tutors who have worked with the Royal Northern College in Manchester, Covent Garden, the Royal Academy of Music, English National Opera and the New York Met – to name a few.

We are grateful to all of them for their expertise and their wisdom but a special mention must be made here of Peter Alexander Wilson himself. Peter has worked tirelessly and completely voluntarily over the past 10 years to make the summer school happen and without him it never would have been. We owe him a deep debt of gratitude.

Tickets online at [arran events.com](http://arranevents.com), the Book and Card Shop, Brodick, or at the door.

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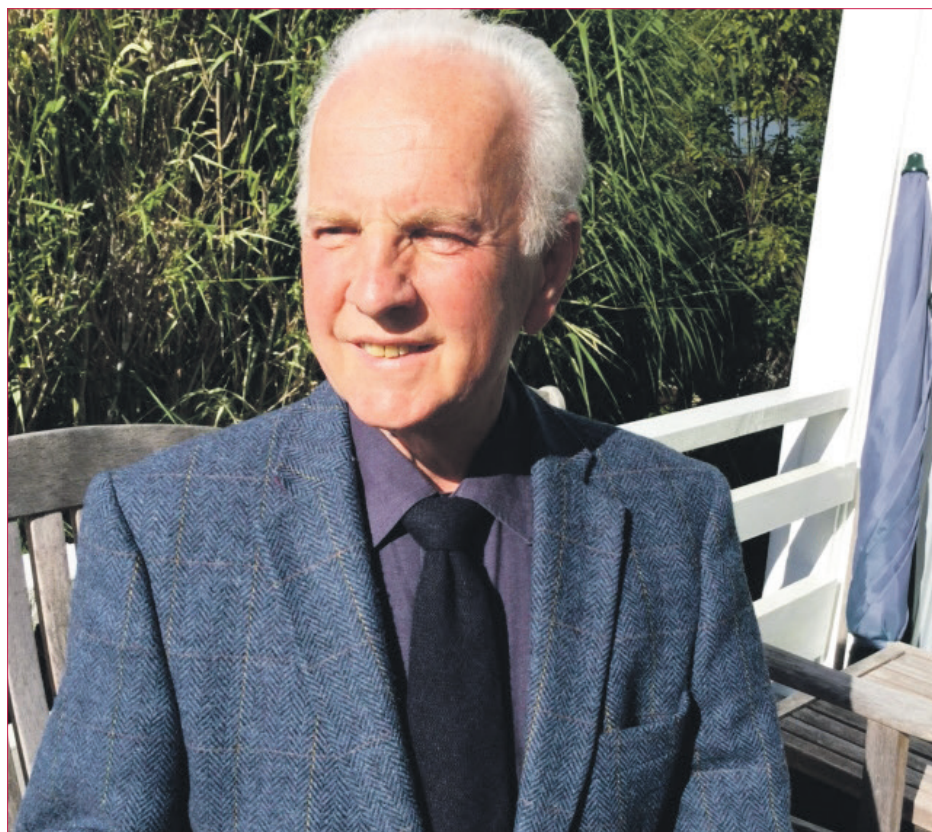
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Kirsty Wark is pictured with book supplier Tom Fleming and her new novel *The House by the Loch* at the end of the Clamjamfry at the Community Theatre.



Sean O'Brien with McLellan poetry competition winners, Pamela Brough, James Caruth, Kitty Donnelly, Jane Kinton and competition organisers, Cicely Gill and David Underdown.



Peter Wilson started the summer school 10 years ago.



Poetry first prize winner, Pamela Brough from Leek, Staffordshire, with judge Sean O'Brien.



A scene from the Opera Bohemia production of The Merry Widow coming to Arran next weekend.

MCLELLAN ARTS FESTIVAL 2019

Fri 30th August - Sunday 14th September

Friday 6th September - OPERA GALA NIGHT
Community Theatre, Lamlash, 7.30pm.
£12, Children and young people at school free.

Saturday 7th September - DRAMA LIVE
Corrie and Sannox Hall, 7.30pm. Book early as numbers are restricted to 50
£12, Children and young people at school free.

Sunday 8th September - THE MESSIAH
Community Theatre, Lamlash School, Lamlash 7.30pm
£12, Children and young people at school free.

Saturday 14th September - THE MERRY WIDOW (LEHÁR) - OPERA BOHEMIA
McLellan Arts Festival with Music Arran Community Theatre, Lamlash, 7.30pm.
£16, Children and young people at school free.

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ScotRail launches £4m improvement initiative

Arran residents and visitors who make use of the train to get to and from the ferry will be delighted to learn that a £4 million investment plan has been launched by operator ScotRail to improve customer service.

The raft of improvements follows a customer satisfaction remedial notice issued by Transport Scotland which will see additional deep cleaning of trains, easier delay repay and refunds, and the creation of regional customer advisory groups.

There will also be additional investment in technology for frontline staff to access live disruption information and, in a first for UK train operating companies, ScotRail has also introduced a WhatsApp channel for customer to directly deal with the company. Customers can connect to ScotRail's WhatsApp channel by visiting the website or messaging direct on 07555 012345.

ScotRail's head of customer operations, Phil Campbell, said: 'We are always looking for new and innovative ways to speak with customers, which is why we are so excited to launch WhatsApp.'

'We know we still have much to do to regain the trust of our customers, but the unprecedented investment we are making is already paying off, delivering more seats, more services and faster journeys across the country.'

ScotRail is a subsidiary of the Dutch company Abellio.



Volunteers help to collect litter on Blackwaterfoot beach.

Beach clean assists with marine litter research

Think About Plastic-Arran (TAP) will be co-ordinating Arran's contribution to the Great British Beach Clean which collects data as well as beach litter later this month.

The beach clean will take place between Friday September 20 and Monday September 23 when 100m lengths of beaches on Arran will be cleaned and all of the litter recorded and weighed. Data from Arran will add to the Marine Conservation Society's national database on the condition of our beaches.

Data collection

Last year more than 100 people from organisations and villages all over Arran joined in and this year's event looks set to be even bigger with more beaches being covered. You can see the result of last year's data collection on the TAP website and this year's

data will be added so that it can be compared with last year.

Many of the villages and organisations who regularly lead beach cleans over the weekend. TAP recognises that it is the regular, often daily, work done by individuals and groups which makes the real difference to how our beaches look. This is important to residents and visitors. TAP provides a platform for beach clean organisers to co-ordinate events using the TAP website and is also able to offer expert advice.

However, this is a beach clean with a difference. Working closely with the Marine Conservation Society, Scotland, participants will also be involved in citizen science by helping to survey a stretch of beach and recording their findings.

TAP will collate data from these sample litter surveys to monitor any changes in the type and quantity of litter found on Arran's beaches. This data will contribute to scientific research and monitoring and used by the Scottish and UK governments and researchers worldwide to inform policy.

Collect

All beaches are risk-assessed and participants are briefed on safety issues by trained leaders. The survey is simple to complete but if you simply want some fresh air and to collect beach litter you are welcome to join in. Beaches are being added all the time so if you'd like to participate in (or lead) a beach clean near you and contribute to this important work, go to www.thinkaboutplastic-arran.co.uk for details or to contact TAP.

EU citizens urged to apply for settled status

EU citizens currently living on Arran are being urged to apply for settled status as soon as possible.

Europeans who previously moved to the UK will have to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by June 30, 2021, or December 31, 2020, if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

Councillor Louise McPhater, cabinet member for communities at North Ayrshire Council, urged people to apply as soon as possible to avoid a possible late surge in applications.

'EU citizens make a fantastic contribution to our communities, our economy and our society, and we hugely value that contribution,' said Councillor McPhater.

'We want to ensure that whatever happens with Brexit, they can continue to live and work in Scotland, where they have made their home. While many EU citizens have already applied to the EU Settlement Scheme, we know that a large number have still to do so.'

'We would urge family, friends and neighbours - if you know of someone who needs to apply, please let them know so they can secure settled status.'

The application process is free and you can find out more information about how to apply at www.mygov.scot/eu-exit-citizens.

A specialist full-time national helpline is also available on 0800 916 9847. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

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Business as usual as new owner takes over firm

Paterson Arran may have a new owner but it is business as usual at the firm which has a production facility in Lamlash.

Burton's Biscuit Co, manufacturer of some of the UK's best-loved biscuit brands, has strengthened its Scottish presence with the acquisition of Paterson Arran, complementing the existing Burton's biscuit portfolio.

Paterson Arran employs around 200 people at the Royal Burgh Bakery in Livingston, West Lothian, which produces an award-winning range of shortbread, oatcakes, biscuits and cookies and at the Old Mill, Lamlash, which primarily produces a range of delicious chutneys, mustards and preserves under the Arran Fine Foods brand.

The move will see Paterson Arran's current production facilities continue to deliver its range of shortbread, chut-

neys and catering biscuits alongside Burton's portfolio which includes some of the nation's best-loved biscuits including Maryland Cookies, Jammie Dodgers and Wagon Wheels.

Nick Field, Burton's Biscuit Co's CEO, said: 'Paterson Arran is a superb business with a first-rate product portfolio and baking expertise which combines time honoured methods with the very latest technology, to make outstanding products.'

Integrating

'We look forward to integrating leading brands such as Paterson's, Brontë, Café Brontë and Arran Fine Foods into our business. The acquisition is a further indication of our intent to increase our production capability, to extend our product offering and to continue growing our presence in the biscuit market.'



The entrance to the Paterson Arran factory in Lamlash. 01_B36patersons01

The move not only strengthens Burton's branded proposition, Paterson Arran's strength in food service (catering) and portion packing

also unlocks significant new trading opportunities for the company's existing product portfolio.

Retiring Paterson Arran

chairman Alan Hardie added: 'I am honoured to have been at the helm of this great company for the past 25 years and am equally as excited

about what the future holds. Paterson Arran and Burton's have shared values of a commitment to baking excellence and to producing top quality, great-tasting products, of which everyone associated with them can be extremely proud.'

Paterson Arran has a significant presence as a Scottish manufacturer of biscuits, oatcakes, chutneys, relishes and preserves.

Burton's Biscuit Co already has a major manufacturing facility in Scotland, with its Edinburgh bakery employing almost 450 people and celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

The acquisition of Paterson Arran is the second major acquisition by Burton's this year. In February, the company completed the acquisition of premium sweet and savoury biscuit manufacturer, Thomas Fudge's.

Bid to set up new retirement group

A public meeting is being held in Brodick next week to test interest for a U3A group on Arran and, if there is, to help local folk set one up.

The University of the Third Age is an international movement whose aims are the education and stimulation of mainly retired members of the community – those in their third 'age' of life.

Ed Link, of the Third Age Trust, explained: 'The U3A movement is a voluntary self help movement for retired people. The whole of the U3A movement is about active and positive ageing and living life to the full. In this the U3A makes a massive contribution to the individual, to family and friends and through them to local communities and society in general. This is especially important in areas of social isolation and loneliness.'

'Every U3A is a separately managed organisation affiliated to the Third Age Trust, which provides advice and support through a network of volunteers. There are 55 U3As in Scotland from Shetland to the Borders, with over 1,000 throughout the UK. There is even one on the Isle of Coll. Arran would be the 56th.'

'Retirement can be the most invigorating and rewarding of times. The great thing is

that the choice of what kind of retirement you have is entirely down to the individual.

'The U3A is a self-help organisation where people can meet new people and do new things, maybe something that they have always wanted to do but just have not had the time.'

'And, what's more, in these days of services disappearing through cutbacks or having to pay ever-increasing charges, the U3A self-help model means it only costs a few pounds a year to join and participate in a huge range of interests and pastimes.'

'The U3A does not ask for nor give any qualifications. People participate entirely for the pleasure of doing what

they do – be that learning a new language, singing with others, playing the ukulele, walking the hills, studying philosophy, or dozens of other social and learning activities that members want to pursue.'

'What's more, all these activities take place through the day and at the convenience of the members. There are just dozens of stories from members who say that joining their U3A was a life changing experience.'

Anyone interested can attend the public meeting which will be held on Friday September 13 in Brodick Church Hall, Knowe Road, at 2.30pm.



Christina McKelvie, minister for older people and equalities, with some U3A members at their stand at the recent engAGE conference on Glasgow.

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Quality of life

That Arran should have the second highest quality of life in Scotland will come as no surprise to anyone who lives on the island.

And it is heartening to see that the island has moved up one place in the rankings of two years ago to beat the leafy suburbs of Bearsden and Milngavie of East Dunbartonshire into third place.

But does it really matter? Well the statistics certainly suggest it does. People on the island feel a strong sense of community, feel safe out at night and in their homes, have faith in the local services and have confidence in the local economy.

Of course there are concerns with housing provision being among the highest followed by the health services for ageing population, roads concerns and minor neighbourhood issues.

But to have all this important data available at island level is just what is needed to help plan the future development of all services, while at the same time maintaining that vital sense of community.

The Arran Economic Group are to be congratulated in developing these island specific statistics which have now been produced for the second time. We hope they will be used well.

Thought for the week

'Six days you shall labour, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the ploughing season and harvest you must rest.' **Exodus 34:21**

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Workboats apology

Sir,
In my letter published in The Banner two weeks ago I incorrectly suggested Arran Workboats simply fitted out previously manufactured hulls but, in fact, I now understand, they build the entire craft from scratch with rubberised materials offering a unique and tailor-made product for the hull. I thus owe the company an apology for misrepresenting their product line.

Yours,
**John Campbell,
Lamlash.**

Voice your views

Sir,
Would it be OK to site a huge US-style intensive factory farm raising poultry or pigs in either Glen Rosa or Glen Sannox? I think not!

Then why would it be OK to site a mega, open-cage salmon farm off Millstone Point along the north east of Arran; an area of wild coastal scenic beauty?

The proposal is for a near automated salmon feedlot discharging some 2,000 tonnes of untreated excrement mixed with treatment chemicals each year.

Tourism on our island depends on our scenery and environment, that's what people clearly state in VisitArran surveys. Over the past few decades I know of many dedicated individuals, businesses and organisations who have spent an enormous amount of their time and effort building Arran's image of a beautiful island, whose residents and visitors alike care for its environment and place enormous value on their surroundings, whether that be terrestrial or marine. As many businesses know to their cost, reputation can be lost overnight with the wrong headlines or TripAdvisor reviews.

I have spent more than two decades supported by dozens of our community volunteers to protect the seas around Arran from over-fishing and pollution.

A huge amount of time has been devoted to research, education and understanding that what's in and under the sea is no longer 'out of sight and therefore out of mind'.

Our island does not end at the beach but continues into many fascinating habitats along our coastal fringe. Surely we have moved on from using our sea as an open sewer?

The only way to persuade North Ayrshire planners that this planning application isn't welcome is to write to them or post your comments on their website before September 30. Further information on how to do this can be found at arrancoast.com website.

Please act now to voice your views about this specific development.

Yours,
**Howard Wood OBE,
Co-founder Community of
Arran Seabed Trust.**

Simple sign

Sir,
The climbing of Goatfell is a wonderful activity for visitors and Arran residents alike.

When I retired here a few years ago I used to climb it with a regularity bordering on the psychiatric and I really believed I knew it inside out.

Then one winter, when mist had descended over its top, I managed to descend into the wrong valley and was lucky to get home in one piece.

Then last year a sensible and fit relative made the same error and took 10 hours to return in a tattered and exhausted state.

I understand from conversations with Mountain Rescue members that a significant number of rescues happen because walkers get confused about which way to descend Goatfell especially in cloudy weather. To the west of the peak are the Goatfell Slabs and descent there is invariably fatal.

The danger of a wrong direction of descent of Goatfell, coupled with the relative mountaineering inexperience of many Arran visitors, makes this mountain more dangerous than most. I therefore suggest that there

should be a simple metal sign at the top indicating the way to find the well made path that everyone uses to ascend.

The National Trust has constructed and maintained an excellent path enabling climbers with varying mountaineering skills to climb Goatfell. Would it not be a welcome lifesaver to have such a simple metal sign at the top to indicate the safe descent to Brodick?

I would be very interested to hear the views of the National Trust owners, who have the responsibility of administering Goatfell, and also the views of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team.

Yours,
**Colin Guthrie,
Brodick.**

Private enterprise

Sir,
I am writing to express my empathy with the Arran islanders in their frustration with a ferry operation that is called a 'service' by CalMac and to encourage the community to seek an independent competitor.

I recently had the experience of travelling from Perthshire towards Ardrossan for a ferry only to be advised by CalMac, as I was crossing the Clyde in Glasgow, that it was cancelled and later sailings that day and the next day were fully booked.

Apart from abandoning a long booked holiday, the only recourse was to set off on a 120-mile trip up Loch Lomondside, via Inverary to Claonaig in the hope that the ferry to Lochranza was still running, if not we would be marooned on Kintyre. Thankfully it was running.

Today it was announced that the independent ferry company, Pentland Ferries, who operate between the mainland and Orkney, are about to take delivery of their brand new custom-designed catamaran that has been built in Vietnam for £14million. This to replace their current vessel and is testament to what an independent operator can achieve. The new vessel will carry 430 passengers, 12 articulated lor-

ries and 54 cars (or up to 98 cars if fewer lorries).

After starting the service in 2001 with former CalMac ships, Andrew Banks and family invested in their first catamaran in 2008. This ship was chosen to suit the needs of the crossing. It has been a great success and operates in direct competition to the CalMac type operation, NorthLink Ferries, out of Scrabster with traditional single hulled vessels and large crews. Mr Banks has claimed that if he had been given the same subsidies that NorthernLink received, he could have provided the service free of charge.

For a description of how an independent operator can succeed in the face of concerted establishment opposition, I recommend the book *Pentland Hero* by Roy Pederson.

Surely somewhere there is another entrepreneur who could emulate this, possibly by operating a Troon to Lamlash route which would be far less subject to cancellation by anything other than a light breeze that we seem to suffer from at present,

Yours,
**Ian A Brown,
Blairgowrie.**

Banana logic

Sir,
In last week's Banner (30.8.19), Alistair McIntosh critiques my friend Dr Eamonn Butler (Banner 24.8.19). Mr McIntosh wrote that 'competition' and tendering of ferries 'butters no parsnips'.

To torture Alistair's analogy, he is comparing apples with oranges and ending up with banana logic. To say an alternative to CalMac via tendering would result in the worst of London Crossrail locomotive problems being visited upon Arran ferries is pear-shaped reasoning.

The facts are clear. The existing competition to CalMac is Western Ferries and Pentland Ferries. The private ferry companies receive NO operating subsidy and NO capital freebies to build their ships. Whereas CalMac are gifted £100million every year to operate a 'lifeline' ferry ser-

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hold it until all your goods have arrived and deliver it all together to your home. If you're needing special arrangements for your delivery we can help. Just let us know your requirements when you book in. Forklift on site for pallets and as well as our speedy parcel services, we offer a 2 man and tailift service throughout the Island.

vice and an extra £97m plus £40m to build ships that are becalmed in a sea of rusty promises, fake wooden wheelhouses and even rustier hulks. Meanwhile, both competitors/private ferry companies are based in their local communities and offer a safe, efficient and proven reliable service.

Currently, CalMac/CMAL are in a quagmire of Edinburgh's finest gurdyloo. The quango par excellence, Transport Scotland et al, just don't listen to Arran islanders. Worse, Scottish Transport ministers fail to examine the best parts of Western Ferries and Pentland Ferries and study those lessons the political class are so fond of promising to learn.

Transport Scotland fail to apply the best protocols from private ferry companies to improve the state operator for the benefit of islanders.

I do agree with Alistair's narrative in that the current tendering process is a charade. When we tendered for the Campbeltown-Ballycastle route several years ago, that feckless exercise cost us £12,480 in paperwork, bona fides and professional fees.

Ironically our bid was rejected specifically because we proposed an 'Ayrshire variant' which was outside the EU tender specification. To their credit, the Scottish Government did eventually put on an Ardrossan to Campbeltown ferry service a few years later. But the general ferry competition tendering process is an utter, malfunctioning nightmare and deterrent to any remedial competition. So Arran and all the other islanders suffer.

The problem right now is that a private ferry company is blocked by cost and questionable triumvirate of state-aid packages in stymying embryonic and innovative ferry services between Ardrossan and Brodick. A bureaucratic masterstroke is the introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET).

Pentland Ferries are suffering existentially as they receive no RET state aid, while Northlink Ferries receive several subsidies including one to cover RET.

What is unforgivable, is that CalMac and the string-pullers at Transport Scotland effectively block private operators such as Western Ferries/Pentland Ferries or even an Arran-based ferry company through grotesque distortion of state aid.

So Arran islanders have to put up with a dreadful Soviet business model ferry service. Or perchance ask Derek Mackay the Transport Minister to get a grip and sort out the current ferry disruption to Arran.

When do we have to pay CalMac's next billion pounds subsidy and how much worse will the service become? Or would it conceivably be better to pay NO subsidy to CalMac. This would encourage private ferry companies.

Arran needs a better service and it can be provided for less money. But not with the old guard at Holyrood. Aye, the logic of bananas is alive and well at Holyrood.

Yours,
Russ McLean,
Scotslion Ferries Ltd.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



Our picture of the week is from Banner reader Peter Allen of Catacol who sent us this gorgeous image of a long line of sea potatoes on Pirmill beach. Also known as heart urchins, owing to their distinctive heart shape, the test (shell) of the urchin is usually covered in dense fur-like spines while the animal is alive. When empty the test is white and very brittle and can be found on sandy and muddy shores all round the UK.

Arran observations

Sir,
I have just returned from another glorious week of enjoying Arran and everything that it has to offer. I offer some observations from my experience as a long-time visitor to Arran.

The new distillery at Lagg is a wonderful building and the staff are a credit to it. In particular the young lady on reception who insisted on carrying my tray of drinks up the stairs to the upper viewing area. Damn, do I look that old?! A wonderful asset for the island and I hope it goes from strength to strength.

The castle is open again and in my opinion well worth the wait. The new games area adjacent to the shop certainly had my grandchildren going, especially the horse racing game, and they spent many hours in the adventure playground.

I do have some sympathy with last week's correspondent who bemoaned the relocation of the coffee facilities in front of the castle, but at least I managed a can of Irn Brew and an empire biscuit, so all is not lost. But overall another great asset and lovely to see it back in action.

It was sad to see the cheese factory at Kilmory closed. I did manage to buy some five blocks of the last production from Arran Provision. It's a unique and flavoursome cheese which I understand has recently won awards.

What a loss both to the island and the people who worked there. What a shame production could not have been switched to a modern

warehouse type building on the site of the new distillery and with better promotion, I feel there must be massive potential for sales. Sadly I am not wealthy enough to do anything about it so I will make the most of every morsel I have left.

Arran has probably never had as many eating places as it has now and I cannot single any out but local delights such as cheese and haggis toasties, banana cake and tartiflette all went down well.

One of the things I noticed this year was the significant number of camper vans on the island. I did see some selfish parking, for example at Kildonan where the little car park which would hold five cars nose in was occupied by one camper side on.

I was also saddened to see the green areas in front of the Corrie cottages occupied and the usually wild and remote are to the North of Machrie was beginning to resemble a caravan park!

I wonder if the boom in this type of accommodation will be a good or bad thing for the island?

And in closing, myself and my family managed to survive the ferry lottery, although travelling on Friday August 9 and 16 many didn't.

I would like to thank the crew of the Catriona for braving the sea conditions on the 9.30am sailing from Lochranza for getting my daughter and young family back to the mainland when it would have been easy not to sail. A great week again and I must now be patient until we return in November.

Yours,
Michael Smith
North Shields

Martin backs McMillan biggest coffee morning

Sir,
I am thrilled that Macmillan Cancer Support's World Biggest Coffee Morning event is fast approaching. I love a cuppa as much as the next person and it's great that you can help people with cancer at the same time, so I would love for readers in your area to get involved.

Macmillan's coffee morning raises millions for the ever-growing number of people affected by cancer. Macmillan is not government funded, so without the public's generous help, they simply can't provide the services that are needed in Scotland.

Around 200,000 every year host coffee mornings in their workplaces, schools and homes across the country. It couldn't be simpler and more fun to take part – come together as a community in support of people living with cancer and raise money for Macmillan.

Macmillan is here to help everyone with cancer live life as fully as they can, providing physical, financial and emotional support. The charity provides advice and support seven days a week on its free support line as well as through its 7,700 health-care professionals. But demand for Macmillan's services is constantly growing and it needs your help to support the growing number of people living with cancer across the country.

Macmillan's Coffee Morning takes place on Friday September 27 – but people can host whenever they want

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– and people will be making a difference however they get involved.

Whoever you invite and whatever you serve, you can host your coffee morning your way – if you can't bake, that doesn't have to stop you!

Homes, workplaces and communities from the Shetland Islands to Land's End will be hosting coffee mornings this year. Your readers can find events nearby using the interactive map on the coffee morning website (www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee).

Do something amazing today sign up to host a World's Biggest Coffee Morning at coffeeregister.macmillan.org.uk

Thank you very much.
Yours,
Martin Clunes,
Celebrity patron.



Martin Clunes.

Fresh redesign captures the spirit of the island



Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd has launched a new look across its range of Arran single malt whiskies, including a new logo and packaging for its core range.

The campaign, which incorporates an entirely new visual identity for the brand, is entitled 'A Breath of Fresh Arran' and aims to showcase the natural elements and authenticity of the island malts by focusing on the unique provenance of its home village, Lochranza, where its first distillery was opened in 1995.

The contemporary new bottle design reflects the journey of the water source for the Arran single malts, which cascades through a series of six mountain waterfalls, each one purifying the water further. The ripples on the new glass bottles illustrate this and emphasise

the pure nature of the spirit. An updated icon, which will appear on the new bottles in copper foil, is in the shape of the island itself and features a pair of eagles, which have always been an important part of the Lochranza Distillery story. Their nesting season prompted a break in construction back in 1994 when the distillery was being built and they have remained in residence for the past 25 years.

Natural materials and colour tones are used across all brand touch points, as well as tactile emboss and delicate foiling with clean lines in order to maintain a consistent look and feel that keeps simplicity at the core.

Crucially, the liquid inside remains unchanged and fans of the distillers can continue to enjoy the authentic Arran single malts.



How the rebranded Lochranza produced whisky will look.

Alongside the new branding, there are also two new expressions joining the core range.

Firstly, Barrel Reserve, which has a light, flexible and fruity character, and the cask strength The Bodega, a sherry cask-matured spirit that partners the award-win-

ning quarter cask The Bothy. The first four expressions in the new pack will be released this month, with bottles available to purchase from arranwhisky.com from Monday September 16.

Newly packaged 18-year-old and 21-year-old age statement single malts will also join the

core range in October 2019. The opening of the company's Lagg Distillery has partly prompted the repackaging as the company now becomes the owners of two very different sites with different brand identities.

Master blender James MacTaggart, said: 'As a

company, we have grown immensely since I joined the team over 12 years ago.

'We were one of the first wave of new distillers back in the early 1990s and in June this year, we started a new chapter in our story with the opening of our second distillery at Lagg. It felt like the right time to make the clear distinction between the unique and very different spirits produced at each of our island homes.

'We've taken inspiration from the elements that make Lochranza so special to produce a unique and beautiful new pack, which does justice to the liquid it contains. We are very excited about the future of our original Arran single malt.'

The new Arran single malt branding has been created by London-based drinks packaging design experts Stranger & Stranger.

ARRAN GEOFEST 2019

13th – 15th September

All events are **FREE** (donations welcome). Please book via our Facebook page or on www.arrangeopark.co.uk

Friday 13th September

18.30 – 20.00 **Talk:** 'Introduction to Arran Geology'

Saturday 14th September

10.00 – 12.00 **Walk:** Hutton's Unconformity

10.00 – 12.30 **Walk:** The Geology of the Corrie Shoreline

11.00 – 15.00 **Walk:** King's Cave and Drumadoon

19.00 – 20.30 **Guest Speaker:** Angus Miller – 'Land, Rocks, and People: How Geology Shapes Scotland'

Afternoon **Activities** at Lochranza Geopark Centre

Sunday 15th September

10.00 – 15.00 **Walk:** The Geology of North Arran

10.00 – 12.00 **Walk:** The Glacial Landscapes of Glen Rosa

Young people's grants scheme open for bids

Could your group or project use funding to make a difference to the lives of young people in your community? If so why not submit a bid and let the young people of the area decide where the cash should be spent.

Submissions

The latest round of North Ayrshire Council's young people's participatory budgeting scheme is open for submissions, offering the chance to secure grants of up to £1,000 per project.

Applications can be sent in by individuals, clubs or groups and parent councils and should fit with at least one of the following themes: health and well-being, poverty and inequality or

participation and young people's voice. The closing date for submissions is at noon on Sunday October 13, and application packs are available online from www.young.scot/napb, by emailing youthpb@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or by calling 01294 324749.

A total of £60,000 is available to share between all of the six North Ayrshire localities, including Arran, £10,000 of which will focus on young people's mental health and well-being.

Even if you're not bidding for funds, you can play an important role by voting for the projects that you believe will best use the funding.

Voting is open to all eight to 25-year-olds who live in

North Ayrshire and will be officially opened at North Ayrshire Youth Conference on Friday, November 1, with the vote going live on the Young Scot website on Friday, November 8. Voting will close on Friday, November 22.

Online voting

Access to the online voting platform will be through your Young Scot National Entitlement Card – or you can obtain a temporary number to vote by emailing youthpb@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

To find out more about North Ayrshire Council's Participatory Budgeting schemes, visit www.nor-thayrshire.com/munity/get-involved/participatory-budgeting-in-north-ayrshire.



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Kilmory Café, located downstairs, provides homemade soup, light bites and on-the-go refreshments.
Please visit laggwhisky.com for more info and serving times




The Douglas Hotel

The Douglas Hotel offers a modern yet classic take on Bistro style dining. We serve classic dishes and established favourites which can be enjoyed in our bistro, bar and terraces. Our menus seek to promote and support local producers, with treats such as Wooleys of Arran oatcakes, Island Cheese, Creelers Smoked Products, Paterson Arran mustards and preserves, Arran Butcher the famous Arran Dairies ice cream, Arran Brewery beers and

Arran Whisky are all incorporated into the menu. We offer daily specials which cater to the more adventurous pallet with influences from our fabulous multicultural kitchen team. Food is served daily 12-9.30pm and we pride ourselves on a genuine warm welcome and our outdoor terraces are the best place to soak up the sun and enjoy an array of Scottish gins, beverages and a cocktail or two, whilst taking in the stunning views across the bay over to Goatfell and Brodick Castle!



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Wood-fuelled heating systems

Wood-fuelled heating systems, also called biomass systems, burn wood pellets and offer considerable savings over conventional systems. According to The Energy Saving Trust a biomass boiler can save you up to £960 a year compared to an old electric heating system, and the carbon dioxide emitted during burning is the same amount that was absorbed over the years that the plant was growing, making it carbon neutral.

The Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is a Government scheme to encourage uptake of renewable heat technologies. Cash incentives from the scheme makes buying and running your new biomass boiler even cheaper.

Arran Energy Ltd is your local supplier of RHI approved wood fuels and they deliver to homes and businesses across the Island daily. They ensure all wood fuels delivered to you are in full compliance with the RHI scheme requirements. They even assist with the official forms and regular statistical reporting needs.

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Energy saving tips and tricks

As we come more ecologically aware and with waste reducing principals at the forefront of all of our minds there is continued interest in trying to find ways to save both energy and money.

Whatever your budget or energy saving goals there are many readily available options out there which we can all take advantage of to help reduce our bills and carbon footprint.

From simply changing your light bulbs, improving your insulation and draught-proofing to changing to a heat source pump or a wood-fuelled heating system - or even installing solar panels - we can all afford to play our part in saving energy reducing costs and preventing wastage.

And there are even ways that you can start to make change right now, without any major outlay. Why not try some of these small tips and tricks which can help to make a big difference.

- Switch off standby.
- Only fill the kettle with what you need.
- Spend one minute less in the shower or better still buy a shower timer.
- Fit a water efficient shower head.
- Remember to turn off lights.
- Change bulbs to LEDs.
- Draught proof doors and windows.
- Turn the heating down by 1degree.



AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP SOCIAL

Chat with **2 installers** who work on the island!

TUES 10TH SEPT
12.30 - 13.30

Chat to Arran residents who have heat pumps!

HOME FARM HOUSE, BRODICK

@12.30 - Presentation from Eco Savvy & Home Energy Scotland

@13.00 - Questions to 2 installers & Arran residents with heat pumps

Book your place by emailing: charlotte.ecosavvy@gmail.com

Early Man | Tudors | Georgian | Victorian | 1950s | 1960s | 21st Century

Fire | Wood Burning Hearth | Coal Stove | Open Coal Fire | Electric Heaters | Gas Boiler | Air Source Heat Pumps

HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR NEIGHBOURS WITH AN AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP BUT AREN'T SURE ABOUT HOW TO GET ONE FOR YOURSELF?

- Find out how they work and if your home is suitable for this renewable
- Get advice on how much you will save on your electricity bills
- Discover how much you can earn through the Renewable Heat Incentive
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Are you a landlord with a property on the island?

| Energy Efficiency Rating | | | Environmental Impact (CO2) Rating | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------|---|-------------------------|-----------|
| | Current | Potential | | Current | Potential |
| Very energy efficient - lower running costs | | | Very environmentally friendly - lower CO2 emissions | | |
| (92 plus) A | | 95 | (92 plus) A | | |
| (81-91) B | | | (81-91) B | 86 | |
| (69-80) C | | | (69-80) C | | |
| (55-68) D | | | (55-68) D | | |
| (39-54) E | 40 | | (39-54) E | | |
| (21-38) F | | | (21-38) F | 35 | |
| (1-20) G | | | (1-20) G | | |
| Not energy efficient - higher running costs | | | Not environmentally friendly - higher CO2 emissions | | |
| Scotland | EU Directive 2002/91/EC | | Scotland | EU Directive 2002/91/EC | |

Then you should be aware of the upcoming minimum Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) requirements for private rentals in Scotland.

- From 1 April 2020, any new tenancy will require the property to have an EPC of at least band E.
- By 31 March 2022, all properties will need to have at least EPC band E.

It is currently a legal requirement that all property that is marked for sale or let

carries a valid EPC. The contains information about a property's energy use and recommendations on how to reduce energy consumption. An EPC gives a property an energy efficiency rating from A to G and is valid for 10 years.

Arran Eco Savvys' energy auditor Charlotte is the only resident qualified to complete these assessments on Arran. To book in at a discounted price, please email: charlotte.ecosavvy@gmail.com or call: 01770 303028.

For more information about how to benefit from our energy efficiency project visit our website: <http://arranecosavvy.org.uk/arran-energy-challenge/>.



How to avoid being mis-sold My top ten tips

By Norman Paterson DipDEA

Choosing a renewable heating system is a big decision. Possibly the most important one you will make for your home. So it makes sense to do your research in your own time and don't allow anyone to pressurise you into making a quick decision. We are lucky in Scotland. We have the Energy Saving Trust who provide free impartial advice along with interest free loans. They and the Scottish Government are very supportive of the renewable energy industry. And are only a phone call away. So, the first thing I would recommend when looking into a new heating system for your home is to them a call on 0808 808 2282.

Here are my top ten tips to avoid being mis-sold

1. Be wary of cold callers who use phrases like "We have been allocated funding" or "We are carrying out free Energy Surveys in your area". Funding means they want you to take out a loan. Free Energy Surveys means they want to send round a high-pressure salesman.
2. Watch adverts that pop up on your Facebook page for home improvements. These are usually call centre marketing campaigns. They use words like "funding" and "click here to see if you qualify". These are cleverly designed to make it sound like government grants are involved. They are not. They want to send round a salesman. They are trained to get you to sign up on the day.
3. Never make any decision on the day no matter what deal is offered. Make that clear at the start.
4. Ask if it's a salesman or a surveyor you will be seeing. If they say surveyor, ask what qualifications they have. Companies in the renewable industry are not allowed to call their salesmen surveyors.
5. Research your installer. Ask how long they have been in business.
6. Ask who will be doing the installation. Is it their own workforce or do they sub-contract the work out.
7. Ask for details of work they have done in your area. Then contact them and see how the job went.
8. Check they have the proper accreditation and what trade associations they are members of.
9. Be wary of internet reviews. Many are false. Local word of mouth recommendations are the best reviews.
10. Don't pay any money up front for technical surveys. Some companies will charge £300 and its non-refundable if you decide not to take up their offer.

I believe choosing a new heating system is one of the most important decisions you will make. You will be living with it long after the job has been completed. For me the first visit to your home is simply a fact finding exercise. There will be lots of measuring and photographing. And you will probably have a lot of questions I can answer. Be wary of anyone who can price up a new central heating job during a visit. It takes me a good number of hours back at the office to do this accurately. On average I see clients four times from the start to the end of the project. This gives them one point of main contact throughout the process. If you are unhappy with your present heating system and I can be of any help I will be happy to drop in for a chat. I am on Arran usually twice a week. You can get me on 079 1234 6360.



In the last three years TK Murray have installed 146 air source heating systems on Arran alone



Keeping Scotland Warm and Cosy For Over 35 Years

Join The Arran Renewable Heating Revolution



In the past two years TK Murray have helped 82 people on Arran revolutionise the way they heat their homes and water by installing an air source heat pump. You probably know some of them

All now enjoy warmer more comfortable homes and lower energy bills...As well as doing their bit to help save the planet.

Don't wait until its cold to think about keeping warm. It can take up to 3 months to design, get the necessary Government approvals and install a new renewable heating system. Act now and be ready for the cold nights



Right now the Government will pay you an incentive of up to £10500* to replace your existing oil, LPG or storage heaters with a renewable air source heat pump.

The heat pump will provide you with all year round warmth and comfort and all the hot water you need at about the same running costs as a mains gas boiler.



Don't miss out on this generous government incentive. It won't be around for ever.

To Join The Arran Renewable Revolution and start reducing your energy bills and help save the planet simply call us today on 01236 730 579 or send an email to info@tkmurray.co.uk. We are on Arran twice a week, every week and would be happy to drop by for a chat.

"To benefit the planet by reducing carbon emissions, not use fossil fuels and reduce my annual energy bills, the technology is a no-brainer"

GEORGE CLARKE

Architect, writer and TV presenter

*This refers to the Governments Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme. For more information go to website: www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/domestic-rhi



John McConnachie and Henry McNicol enjoy their retirement to the full on Arran.



Many people on Arran find a quality of life with their pets.

Arran has second highest quality of life

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran has the second highest quality of life in Scotland, a new study has revealed.

Only Orkney rates higher with Arran moving up one slot from its third place finish in the last survey undertaken in 2017, putting East Dunbartonshire down into third place.

There is a 'chasing pack' of three areas whose scores were only marginally below Arran's: Shetland, Na h-Eileanan Siar and East Renfrewshire. East Ayrshire comes bottom of the survey, only narrowly below Glasgow City and North Lanarkshire.

The 2019 report provides the results of the second quality of life survey for Arran, commissioned by the Arran Economic Group. The first survey of residents, also processed and analysed by Hubble Research, determined the baseline figures for 2016-17 and this recent survey not only provides 2019 data showing change, but also examines important new issues.

The purpose of the research was initially to address a perceived data gap; national surveys provide rich data but only down to local authority level and no further. The Arran surveys aimed to provide reliable local information, at previously unavailable sub-authority level, in order to measure quality of life locally and enable comparison with other local authority areas in Scotland.

The survey used 24 indicators to be used to score quality of life on Arran compared with other Scottish local authorities, drawing on the Scottish health survey, Scottish crime and justice survey, Scottish household survey, Scottish house condition survey, CACI household income survey and BRES data.

It was also designed to track change in a statis-

tically reliable way, using a selection of questions that exactly matched those used in national, government-sponsored surveys, administered to a longitudinal panel of Arran residents.

Here are a summary of the findings.

Sense of community

A total of 99% of respondents rated their neighbourhood positively (85% very positively) and 90% of people felt strongly that they 'belonged' to their community. Further, 92% agreed that people tended to show 'kindness within their community'. Similarly, trust within communities was prevalent with 65% strongly agreeing and 32% tending to agree (97% agreement rate overall).

Crime and safety

Feelings of safety when outside after dark were encouragingly high with 86% feeling very safe and 14% fairly safe. Similarly, feeling safe when alone at home after dark were identical with 86% feeling very safe and 14% feeling fairly safe. This was reinforced by the finding that only 4% felt crime had increased in the past two years while 9% felt it had reduced, a +5% net positive balance. Also, 85% were confident in the police being able to catch criminals.

Roads and related services

In all 11% expressed positivity about road condition but satisfaction was low overall, with 85% dissatisfied to some degree and this is unsurprising as national figures show similar views. Consequently, there was strong support for roads investment with 90% stating it their top priority of all roads-related issues. Three quarters of resi-



Where better to enjoy the quality of life on Arran than on Blackwaterfoot beach.

Second best in Scotland



Health

Ratings of health were generally positive. Despite 29% having a chronic condition, 79% felt their health good or very good and only 3% bad/very bad. 45% had lost no sleep at all (over worries) recently and 46% felt optimistic about the future often or all of the time. Three in five reported feeling relaxed often or all of the time and 78% had not felt lonely at all (or almost none of the time).

Local services

Ratings of local services were generally positive and, in particular, 81% were satisfied with local health services, 65% were satisfied with local police services, 48% were satisfied with local schools and 47% were satisfied with public transport, 34% felt local council services were high quality, 40% felt the council does the best it can with the money it has available while 22% felt not (net +18%).

Economy and finances

Confidence in the local economy is very high: 64% are confident and only 17% unconfident. Further, only 8% of respondents were in any financial difficulty while 66% stated they get by very or quite well, much higher than national figures observed for Scotland as a whole. Even though half (52%) spend more than 10% of their disposable income on heating, 92% reported being able to maintain acceptable living standards after fuel, childcare and housing costs were met.

The report is available via the www.discoverarran.com website.

Neighbourhood issues

Animal nuisance and rubbish/litter were again the most frequently experienced neighbourhood issues but vandalism was notably reduced in this year's findings. 80% of Arran's residents reported being within five minutes walk of green space, an undoubted asset of the island.

Housing provision

Only 4% felt there was sufficient housing on Arran and, while 23% felt there was sufficient, they felt they were not occupied by the 'right' people. 64% felt more housing was needed and a large minority, 47%, thought action on second homes was required to curb the issue on Arran while 62% felt more charging was merited to reduce the preponderance of second and holiday homes.



Photo Stuart Whiston



Some of the Arran War Memorial Hospital nurses who are currently making good use of the e-bikes.

Eco Savvy's e-bike revolution is here

Eco Savvy's Arran e-bike trials are going at full speed ahead with the bikes currently whisking five NHS nurses to the hospital each day, leading to a significant reduction in car miles being undertaken on the island's roads.

The scheme is proving so popular that a further 24 NHS staff have signed up to join the trial and a second trial month for the hospital staff will be organised for later in the year.

Previously, Arran Dairies and the Isle of Arran Distillery at Lochranza have trialled the bikes with staff and managers all enthusiastic about the project.

Alastair Dobson from Taste of Arran said: 'The bikes have been a real eye-opener for my team, two of whom used the bikes to get over the Lamash to Brodick hill each day. As well as reducing petrol miles, they increased staff awareness of other road users and made us all think about more active ways to get to work.'

Siobhan McGinlay, one of the nurses trialling the bike at the Arran War Memorial Hospital, said: 'An e-bike will allow me to enjoy longer, more challenging cycles with my wife as I don't have the



Gerard and Anne Tattersfield of Arran Distillers deliver bikes to Arran Dairies.

fitness she does. I am keen to explore the options to purchase one in the near future.'

Pam Duncan at the Lochranza distillery is also a convert. She said: 'I have just bought my own electric mountain bike after trying them at the distillery and I am having an absolute ball. I can't thank Gerard Tattersfield enough for introducing the Eco Savvy e-bikes to us.'

The Savvy Traveller Team at Eco Savvy is currently working with businesses and groups around the island to schedule further month-long trials with different groups.

Andrew Binnie, who works with Emma Tracey on the project, said: 'We are aiming to reduce the island's carbon

footprint by encouraging cycling, e-biking, walking, car sharing and bus use. E-bikes are a great option, particularly for folk who have a hill between them and work, or who just need to turn up without getting into a sweat.'

'There is always the option of a good workout on the way home. We are also liaising with the council and local stakeholders to see if there are ways we can improve cycling routes around the island. At the moment, Arran is a popular destination for road bikes and mountain bikers but less popular with families or less confident cyclists, all of whom would benefit from cycle tracks that separated them from car traffic.'

To help Eco Savvy envisage a plan on how they would like on-island travel and transport to work, they will be hosting an event titled 'Arran in 10 years: Travel and Transport' on Tuesday October 1 in Brodick Hall from 4pm with the opportunity to try out an e-bike and a transport discussion around 6pm. All are welcome to go along and participate in what, given the impending e-bike and electric car revolution, should be a positive and creative look to the future.



Siobhan McGinlay enjoys a cycle on an e-bike with her wife.

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN



A crashing wave painting by artist Senja Brendon's who will be the featured artist at the Arran Library this month.

Senja September show

The featured artist for the month of September at the Arran Library will be Senja Brendon.

Senja is a contemporary Scottish seascape painter who has recently moved to Whiting Bay. With a background in watersports and a love of surfing, Senja shares a close affinity with her subject. Paintings include local Arran scenes, seascapes in all weathers and large crashing wave studies.

On display in the library will be a new range of framed ceramic tiles, with the original paintings on display at The Arran Art Gallery.

Senja has completed artist residencies across Scotland, has exhibited in mixed and solo exhibitions and has undertaken large commissions for both private and public customers. Her work is gathering a loyal, and increasingly international, following of lovers of Scotland, art and the sea.

Anniversary celebration at Pirnmill

Villagers are marking the 30th anniversary of the Pirnmill Village Hall this evening (Saturday) with a special anniversary celebration in the hall, which officially opened its doors on September 1, 1989.

The creation of the hall was fraught with difficulties, but in a triumph over adversity, the villagers managed to erect a hall which has served the community well over the last 30 years.

Mrs Wilma Morton, the then headteacher of Pirnmill primary, remembers the day vividly. She writes: 'On September 1, 1989, Pirnmill Village Hall was finally opened by Mrs Cathie Craig, one of Pirnmill's oldest and most respected residents.

Obstacles

The road leading to this special event was not an easy one and, as the committee discovered, there were many obstacles along the way. Two main problems – land and finance – took time to resolve but, thanks to the perseverance of Mrs Christine Black and others, these were overcome.

'Redundant portable cabins and fittings from Arran High School were obtained and men from the village

volunteered to help with the removal to Pirnmill. The first attempts were unsuccessful and there were more delays. However, in the summer of 1989 building had commenced. It was a particularly wet summer but Mr Donald Logan did not let that deter him. Then it was all hands on deck to paint the interiors and set up the kitchen with donations of equipment.

Young and old came to help.

'A new committee was formed with Mrs Janet Logan in the chair and the date set for the opening. Everyone in the village and further afield was invited to join in the celebrations. A grand night it was too!'

Over the years the hall has been used to host many events: leisure classes, SWI, Guild, surgery and school

performances to name a few. After 30 years the hall is in need of some TLC but it will undoubtedly continue to be a focal point for village activities for years to come

The 30th anniversary celebration will be held in the hall at 6pm and will be followed by the monthly pub quiz night. Everyone is invited to join in the celebration and will be made most welcome.



Pirnmill Village Hall as it looks today.

ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Scottish Charity Number SC002089 Telephone 01770 302636
Web site: www.arranmuseum.co.uk email: info@arranmuseum.co.uk
Rosburn, Brodick, Open Daily 10.30am to 4.30pm



THIS IS THE 40TH SUMMER SEASON OF THE ISLAND'S FOUR STAR FAMILY DAY OUT

Learn about Arran's Unique Geology, Farming, Archaeology, Social History, Clearances, etc., and visit the 19th Century Cottage, the 1940's Schoolroom, the Blacksmith's Forge, and lots more.

Archive and Genealogy researchers welcomed

(on Wednesdays only from 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm or by appointment).

Children's Quiz and Play Area. Riverside Picnic Area. Gift Shop. Lovely Snacks and Meals at Café Rosburn.

ARRAN JEWISH CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, in partnership with the Jewish Music Institute and the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, presents:

HOUSE RECITAL AND TALK:

Music in the Time of Anne Frank

Featuring Deborah Nemko, pianist & professor of music at Bridgewater State University, playing rediscovered works by Holocaust composers, from classical to jazz

THURSDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER
LAMLASH
7PM: REFRESHMENTS
8PM: RECITAL

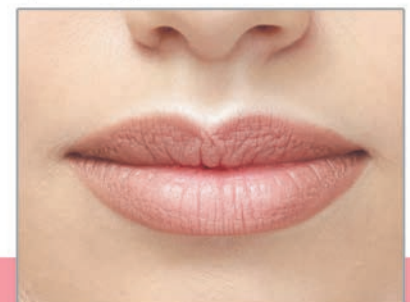
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Alison Page and the Mary's Meals volunteers who helped to raise the fantastic sum of £1046.02 for the charity.

Coffee morning raises funds for Mary's Meals

A well attended and well supported Mary's Meals fundraiser held recently at Lamlash Church has raised enough money to feed 75 poor and impoverished children at schools for a year.

At the mid week coffee morning run by volunteers, and with an extensive variety of donated home baking, the volunteers and supporters raised £1,046.02 for the charity.

Alison Page, Mary's Meals Arran ambassador said: 'Our Mary's Meals fundraiser was a great success. Thank you to Natalie of Unfolding Moments for her great photos, the big Co-op, Brodick Bar

& Brasserie, Lamlash Church, Charlotte's Flowers and Bewitching Beauty on Arran for the fabulous raffle prizes.

'Thanks too, to the wonderful coffee team led by Patricia Trewby who never stopped all morning and a huge thanks to the bakers, servers, helpers and everyone for coming along to support Mary's Meals.'

'I never cease to be amazed at the generosity of the Arran folks and those that visit the island. You're just brilliant,' Alison added.

Photographs by Natalie Lambie - Unfolding Moments



On offer for visitors was a feast of scones, pancakes, fruit loaves and sponge cake.



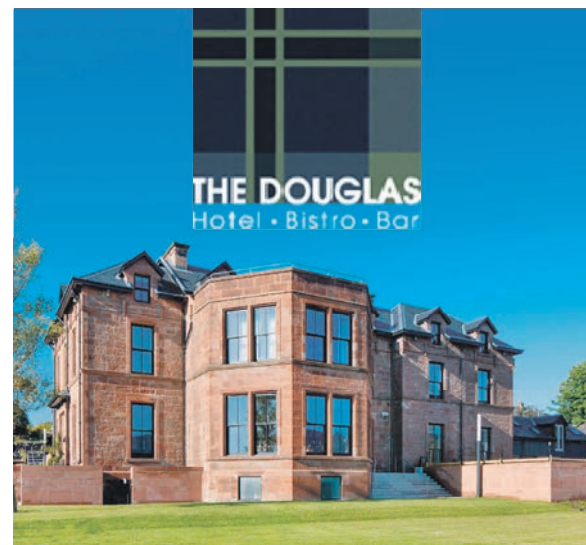
Volunteer Margaret Auld ensures that the hot drinks keep flowing.



Visitors enjoy a cup of tea, some home baking and conversation.



A simple solution to world hunger.



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Elderly Forum enjoy a day out at Arran Distillery

The excitement was palpable as a group of recycled teenagers waited at the Ormidale Pavilion for the coach to take them on the annual Arran Elderly Forum summer outing, writes Mairi S Christie.

long and poured into the coach, welcomed by a big smile from Alastair Forsyth, the bus driver. The bus was full and everyone was looking forward to seeing the new distillery at Lagg.

Southend from Brodick was enhanced by Stuart Gough's superb commentary. All were fascinated by his knowledge of the history of, and special aspects of, each village and area. Even those born on this beautiful island learned something new and enjoyed reliving fond memories. There were many great stories, many jokes, much laughter and even the sun came out. The views were beautiful as ever, and the distillery presented a marvelous venue for lunch.

Most people were impressed by the beautifully designed spaces, the ease of movement around the building and the facilities for all – a great deal of thought had gone into making people feel at home. The chatter level was high as was the laughter. Lunch was enjoyed amid interesting discussion, much of it about which of the two very differ-



The bus ride was made enjoyable with the knowledgeable commentary from Stuart Gough.



Elderly Forum members wait excitedly for the bus to take them to the new distillery.

ent distilleries they liked best. As the group returned to the coach, provided free of charge by Stagecoach, the rain came on, but nobody seemed to mind too much as they returned to Brodick. All had been highly entertained by great commentary, skilled driving and a lovely welcome at the distillery.

The new session of monthly meetings begins later this month after the Summer break, with the agm being held on Wednesday September 18 in the Ormidale Pavilion, 10.30am for an 11am start.

The forum has many issues to think about and many actions to decide. Our island has many problems as well as joys. Hopefully the group will have influence on some of those and will be strengthened by new members with varied interests and expertise. All are welcome and meetings are open to everyone.



The visitors take a tour of the building and have a look at all of the facilities.



The visit stimulated a rich discussion and brought back vivid memories after seeing the historic displays.



Forum members enjoy a meal at The Sheiling Restaurant.

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COAST invites film-goers to get a healthy dose of Vitamin Sea

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) will be hosting a screening of the film Vitamin Sea next week along with the chance to meet Cal Major, the star of the show, who completed a world record stand up paddle board expedition from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Vitamin Sea documents Cal's journey in the summer of 2018 and the 80-minute film also focuses on community action around plastic pollution, the need to reconnect to nature in order to drive a desire to protect it, and the importance of time in nature for mental health.

The film was made by award-winning photographer and film-maker, James Appleton and shows off the

UK in all its beauty. However, as well as detailing the adventure, the underlying messages are a big focus of the film. There is a focus on plastic pollution, and the positive things happening in the UK to tackle them. But also a focus on one of the most important lessons Cal learned during the expedition – people protect what they love.

Cal said: 'We are increasingly frazzled, increasingly disconnected from our natural world, and what it means to be a human as a part of it. Scientific research is proving that being among nature, particularly around water, is beneficial for our mental health. Cal strongly believes the two are connected – if we can reconnect to nature,

appreciate what it means to us and our wellbeing, we're more likely to want to protect it.'

Cal undertook this challenge because she is 'really passionate about plastic pollution and talking to people about the positive solutions to help tackle it'. In the film, it becomes apparent that plastic pollution is prolific in certain areas of the UK.

Cal said: 'In one morning, I counted 691 plastic bottles, just in the first hour of paddling.' She also explained that she wanted the expedition to 'highlight the plastic found along the length of the UK, but also to look at all the amazing, incredible stuff that individuals and communities are doing to help tackle it.'

Cal visited Arran during her



The poster for the film Vitamin Sea.

journey and her documentary features a 10-minute segment on the work of COAST and Arran Eco Savvy who are both working to prevent plastic pollution in our seas.

The screening of Vitamin

Sea will take place at the Arran Community Theatre, Lamlash, on Tuesday September 10, at 7.15pm, with an opportunity for a Q&A session with Cal after the showing.

Entrance is free, however donations on the door will be gratefully received and will be split between The Vitamin Sea Project and COAST. To book please visit www.arran-coast.com/whats-on

Open doors weekend in Ayrshire

Anyone making a trip to the mainland will find a host of fascinating buildings and visitor attractions across North Ayrshire have opened their doors for free this weekend as the annual Doors Open Day event celebrates its 30th anniversary year.

North Ayrshire Heritage Centre in Saltcoats will be open from 9.30am to 4.30pm today (Saturday), and this year they are delighted to welcome 'Captain Betsy Miller' – the first registered female ship's captain, who sailed from Saltcoats during the latter half of the 19th century.

'Betsy' will take you on a walking tour around Saltcoats, visiting her place of birth, the harbour from which she sailed and her burial place, before arriving back at the centre for some rations. Free tours leave the centre at 10am and 2pm, but booking is essential by calling 01293 464174.

Or why not pop along to Irvine's Townhouse where guided tours will leave from The Portal foyer at 11am and 1pm today (Saturday). Built in 1862, the recently renovated cultural hub hosts art and heritage exhibitions, family and local history resources, civic events and weddings. The Townhouse will be open

from 9.30am to 4.30pm. In Kilwinning, you can visit the Abbey Tower Heritage Centre today and tomorrow from 11am to 4pm, with guided tours up the 143 steps to the roof available. Or you can step back in time with the Countryside Rangers at Eglinton Country Park as they lead a tour of some of the venue's most important heritage sites on both days from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Pre-booking is essential on 01294 551776.

In Kilbirnie, Stoneyholm

Mill will be opening its doors to the public on tomorrow (Sunday) between 10am and 4pm.

Also open will be the Ayrshire Hospice where visitors will be given guided tours of hospice facilities, including the gardens and day services, and a brief history of the hospice and how its services have developed over the last 30 years. You can visit between 11am and 4pm on Sunday September 8 at 35 Racecourse Road, Ayr, with free entry.



Irvine Townhouse is part of doors open day.

TASTE ITALY'S TOP TEN FOODS AT LAGG DISTILLERY

Join us at the Lagg distillery for delicious antipasto, arancini, lasagne, saltimbocca, torrone, tiramisu, twice boiled stew, ossobuco, ragu, and gelato.

Friday 13th September 2019

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T: 01770 870565

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

CRAFT BREWERY TOURS AVAILABLE DAILY



Every day

| | |
|---|--|
| Trout Fly Fishing | Loch Garbad, bank fishing |
| Arran Geopark Information & Activity Centre | Lochranza, 9am - 5pm |
| Brodick Castle and Gardens | Open 10am - 5pm |
| Octopus Centre | Old Pavilion, Lamlash, centre open seven days, 10am - 5pm |
| Octopus Centre - tennis | Old Pavilion, Lamlash, open 7 days, any time |
| Brodick Mini Golf | Open seven days, 9am - 6pm-ish, ALL weather |
| Public swimming | Auchrannie Spa Pool, Brodick, 10am - 4pm (last entry 3pm) and 6pm-8pm (last entry 7pm) |
| Swimming lessons | Auchrannie Hotel Pool, Brodick, Monday -Thursday, 4pm - 6pm |
| Arran Brewery | Open Monday - Saturday, 10.30am - 5pm |
| Arran Heritage Museum | Sunday, 12.30am - 5pm. Tours daily at 11am & 2pm or by arrangement |
| McLellan Festival | Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm |
| | Various venues and times as listed below |

Saturday 7th September

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Rink Games | Brodick Bowling Green, 2pm |
| Rink Bowls | Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 2pm |
| Rink Bowls | Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm |
| Family games | Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm |
| Gym Induction | Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 2.30pm |
| Fun in the pool | Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm - 4pm |
| McLellan Festival - Drama Live | Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 7.30pm |
| Calluna Duo Autumn Tour 2019 | St Molios Church, Shiskine, 7.30pm |
| Live Music - Gregor Flynn | Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm |
| Live Music - Matt Scott & Anna Sweeny | Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 8pm -11pm |
| Live Music - Scott Nicol | The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm |
| Over-21s Disco | Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm |

Sunday 8th September

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Live Music - Gregor Flynn | Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 1pm - 4pm |
| Family games | Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm |
| Beach Buddies Lochranza Beach Clean | Meet The Sandwich Station, 2pm - 4pm |
| Gym induction | Auchrannie Spa, 2.30pm |
| Fun in the pool | Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm - 4pm |
| Live Music - Scott Nicol & Friends | The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm - 6pm |
| Alcoholics Anonymous meeting | Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm |
| McLellan Festival - The Messiah | Community Theatre, Lamlash, 7.30pm |
| Eco Savvy Food Share | Shiskine Hall, Shiskine, 9pm |
| Folk Music Session | Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm |

Monday 9th September

| | |
|---|--|
| Morning Fitness | Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am-10.30am |
| Adult Tennis | Blackwaterfoot, 5pm |
| JogScotland mixed ability running group | Whiting Bay, 5.30pm |
| Junior Rugby (P3-P7) | Ormidale Park, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm |
| Junior Rugby (S1-S6) | Ormidale Park, Brodick, 7pm - 8pm |
| Circuit training | Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6pm - 7pm |
| Summer Bridge, all welcome, phone 600835 or 700396 | Arran High School 6.15pm for 6.30pm |
| Rink Games | Brodick Bowling Club, 6.45pm |
| Rink Bowls | Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.45pm |
| Live Music | Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 8pm |
| Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s | Brodick Church Hall, 7pm - 8.30pm |
| Understanding Dementia - Prevention, Playlists & Progress | Brodick Hall, 7pm - 9pm |

Tuesday 10th September

| | |
|---|---|
| Body Blitz (booking essential) | Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am |
| Healthy Outdoors Team | Brodick Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm |
| Eco Savvy Energy Surgeries | Home House House, Brodick, 10am - 3pm |
| Air Source Heat pumps- All you need to know | Eco Savvy Office, Home Farm, Brodick, 12:30pm |
| Rink Bowls | Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 2pm |
| Alcoholics Anonymous meeting | Brodick Church Hall, 2pm |
| Bridge class (beginners/improvers) | Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm-4.30pm |
| Arran Pace Makers - Jog Scotland beginners' group | Ormidale pavilion, Brodick, 5.30pm |
| Steak Night - 2 Ribeye Steaks & bottle of wine | Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 5.30pm |
| Gym induction | Auchrannie Spa, 5.30pm |
| The 1st Shiskine Rainbows and Brownies | Shiskine Hall, 5.30pm - 6.45pm |
| Arran Hockey Club - juniors (5-14yrs) | Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm |
| Mini Kickers 3-5yrs (preschool) | KA Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm -6.45pm |

Junior Football, P4 -P6s
Flow Yoga
Eco Savvy Food Share
Trev's Pop Music Quiz
Traditional Music Sessions

KA Leisure, Lamlash, 6.45pm - 7.45pm
Corrie Hall, 6pm
Whiting Bay Eco Savvy Hub Shop, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Brodick Bar, 9pm

Wednesday 11th September

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Yoga | Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am |
| Hydrofit | Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.30am - 10.30am |
| Brodick Gardens Volunteers | Brodick Castle and Country Park, 9.30am - 1pm |
| Kilmory Toddlers | Kilmory Hall, 10am - 12 noon |
| Lamlash Church Coffee Morning | Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon |
| Archives and Genealogy Service | Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm |
| Chair Yoga Exercise Class | St Molios Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am |
| Knit and Blether | Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 11.30am - 1.30pm |
| Talk Introducing Arran's Geology | Arran Heritage Museum, Brodick, 1.30pm and 2.30pm |
| Arran Pace Makers Running Group | Brodick, 5.30pm |
| Flow Yoga | Shiskine Hall, 6pm |
| Junior Football, P1 - P3s (5 - 7yrs) | KA Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 7pm |
| Rink Games | Brodick Bowling Club, 6.45pm |
| Rink Bowls | Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.45pm |
| Tae Kwondo | juniors 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 8.30pm |
| Alcoholics Anonymous meeting | Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm |
| Live Music - Fatman & Angel | Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 8pm |
| Pub Quiz | The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm |
| Rock 'n' Pop Bingo | Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm |

Thursday 12th September

| | |
|--|---|
| Morning fitness | Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30 -10.30am |
| Chair Yoga Exercise Class | Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 10.30am |
| Adult Tennis | Blackwaterfoot, 5pm |
| Body Blitz (booking essential) | Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6.15pm - 7.15pm |
| Arran Hockey Club - Seniors (12 yrs +) | Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8.30pm |
| Summer Quiz Night - Snacks, Tea/Coffee all welcome | Brodick Church Hall, 7.00pm |
| Music in the time of Anne Frank | Lamlash Community Theatre, refreshments - 7pm, recital, 8pm |
| Lamlash SWI | Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm |
| Eco Savvy Food Share | Brodick Ormidale Pavilion, 8.15pm |
| Eco Savvy Food Share | Kilmory Hall, 8.30pm |
| Tommy's General Knowledge Quiz | Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm |

Friday 13th September

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Yoga | Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am |
| Hydrofit | Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.30am - 10.30am |
| ACLI - Friday Garden Club | Golf Course Road, Whiting Bay, 10am - 12.30pm |
| Adult Tennis | Blackwaterfoot, 11am |
| Qi Gong (Tai Chi), all welcome | Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 11.30am - 12.30pm |
| Gym Induction | Auchrannie Spa, 5.30pm |
| Pop -Up Evening, BYOB (bookings only) | The Shore, Whiting Bay from 6pm |
| Alcoholics Anonymous meeting | Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm |
| "Italy's Top Ten" Food Pop-up | Lagg Distillery, 7pm for 7.30pm start |
| Tae Kwondo | Advanced (Advanced Class) Arran High School, 7.30pm - 8.30pm |
| Live Music - Shindig | Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 8pm |
| Friday Night Quiz | Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm |
| Eco Savvy Food Share | Octopus Centre, COAST, Lamash, 9pm |

Saturday 14th September

| | |
|---|--|
| Arran Highland Dancers | Arran High School Games Hall, Lamlash, 11am |
| Rink Games | Brodick Bowling Green, 2pm |
| Rink Bowls | Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 2pm |
| Rink Bowls | Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm |
| Family games | Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm |
| Gym Induction | Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 2.30pm |
| Fun in the pool | Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm - 4pm |
| Pop -Up Evening, BYOB (bookings only) | The Shore, Whiting Bay from 6pm |
| Young Naturalists' Club - Young Nats for Bats | Arran Rangers Centre, Brodick Castle, 7pm |
| McLellan Fest. - The Merry Widow (Lehár), Opera Bohemia | Lamlash Community Theatre, 7.30pm |
| Live Music - Cams Campbell | Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm |
| Live Music - Alan Frew | Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 8pm -11pm |
| Live Music - Videostar 80's sensation | The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm |
| Over-21s Disco | Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm |

John Anderson

6th February 1933 to 14th July 2019

John Anderson of Hillcrest Farm, Auchengallon died on 14th July 2019, aged 86 at Arran War Memorial Hospital.

The cottage hospital was where John was born on 6th February 1933, weighing just over three pounds. His survival in those days was nothing short of miraculous and was, no doubt, down to the enormous skill of the medical team led by Dr James Buchanan, who in a small rural maternity unit had few of the modern resources we take for granted today. John, being John, kept one of his tiny baby socks to prove it.

Along with older brother Campbell, John was raised in Pirnmill, where his parents Johnny and Nessie ran the shop, tearoom and garage at the heart of the Anderson Empire, and John was very proud of his Pirnmill upbringing. Perhaps due to his fight to survive at birth, he had an enormous love of life and that extra spark that made him such a character was evident even from an early age. By all accounts he was

quite a handful. He relished the freedom to run wild, ferreting rabbits, fishing and, as he said, sometimes reluctantly working in his father's shop during the wartime years, as well as repairing bicycle punctures for the visitors.

When pressed into such service, devilment was never far away from proceedings, like the time he climbed up on the roof of the tearoom and lowered a fish on the end of his fishing line in through the skylight, causing his poor mother to faint when the shock of a wet fish dropping down the back of her dress came as very unexpected and no doubt very unwelcome surprise.

Ambition

After schooling at Pirnmill school and then Lamlash, John had no intention of going into the family business. Instead he had an ambition, held from his earliest days, of being a farmer. And so, at 14 he got a job working with the Hendries at Catacol Farm, where he learned to plough with horses, shaw neeps and stook corn.

He then went to work at Cleeves farm at Dalry in Ayrshire and after a spell there worked at Monkridge Farm in Otterburn, Northumberland.

Being an island lad, he missed the sound of the sea, but he enjoyed his time there, finding the Northumbrian folk to be warm and welcoming and made lifelong friends with the Murray family.

Eventually the draw of Arran pulled him home and he considered himself a truly fortunate man to be able to secure and expand the tenancy at Hillcrest, Auchengallon, overlooking Machrie Bay. Once secured John wasn't going to give it up and in time that would involve some disputes with Dougarie Estate, not least in his famous victory after a hard-won battle involving a convening of the Land Court.

In total, John spent more than 50 years farming his land and for a significant part of that time with his soul mate in life, Jean.

John met Jean Taylor while working at Catacol and she had been holidaying at Craigard with her family. John's trusty BSA motorbike ensured that no matter where he worked, he was able to keep in touch during their years of long-distance courting. They married in 1956 and expanded the Anderson clan with the births of Rhona, Iain and Audrey.

Life at Hillcrest was busy and hectic; as well as dairying, then rearing the usual cows and sheep, John also variously kept pigs, goats, dogs, cats, ducks, hens, guinea fowl and Jacob sheep. Hillcrest was also a place of much fun and laughter. John never lost his own childlike sense of joy de vivre and was forever playing tricks on his offspring ... 'Hunt the Gouk' being an annual favourite.

Traditions

Following the old farming traditions, John and neighbouring farmers would help each other in collective activities such as gathering sheep from Ben Nuis, clipping ewes in July, harvesting crops and sharing equipment.

Hillcrest was also a welcoming place when every summer, half the farmhouse was rented out to summer visitors, many of whom returned year after year, becoming firm friends of the family. Many a visitor's summer holiday was made memorable as they enjoyed the craic stacking hay bales

or learning how to roll fleeces.

To accommodate holiday-letting, the Anderson family spent the summer months living in a collection of 'quaint' huts resembling a shanty town out the back. Hillcrest also welcomed the extended Anderson and Taylor families every summer.

Although summertime was a particularly busy time on the farm, John made time for his favourite hobby of sea angling, taking every opportunity to go out in his rowing boat to 'catch a haddie', or maybe a lobster from his creels. The fact he couldn't swim didn't deter him and many of those summer visitors enjoyed trips out in the boat with much hilarity at midnight frying fish and chips back in the Hillcrest kitchen.

John was never more content than when he was at home at Hillcrest, particularly when surrounded by family and friends. In more recent times he delighted in visits from his grandchildren and was proud of their achievements in life.

Metropolis

John's trips off the island were few and far between; typically to buy Hereford cattle in Wales or to sell store lambs at Biggar market. Only one family holiday in the 1960s is remembered: to the far-flung metropolis of Tarbert, Loch Fyne, where John got the family up at 5am to watch the fishing boats unload their catch on the quayside and another day he dragged everyone off to visit the Auchendrain Museum of Farming Life!

On Arran, John willingly gave what precious free time he had to be a member of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team. He said being part of the team gave him more than he gave, but with his own hill craft honed over a lifetime of herding sheep on Ben Nuis, he would have been a great asset when it came to helping people in difficulties on the hills he knew as well as the back of his hand. I am also sure having John in the ranks always ensured morale was kept upbeat, even in adversity and challenging situations inevitably faced over the years of countless rescues.

John enjoyed his moment of fame appearing in the television dramatisation of the Goatfell Murder and joked that unlike many of his fellow team members, it needed



John Anderson as he will best be remembered.

little makeup to transform him into a 19th century character! Resourceful, hardy and resilient, John was never in need of rescuing himself, not even during the big snowfall of Easter 2013. Concerned members of the Mountain Rescue Team reached John snowed-in for several days at Hillcrest, only to be met with an offer of food for themselves and a point-blank refusal to leave home.

Life at home however, was at times tough. After her death in 1994, John missed Jean terribly and in many ways soldiering on farming despite bad knees was his way of coping. He also spent a great deal of time developing photographs from his father's glass plate negatives, which give a wonderful and invaluable insight into life and events at Pirnmill in bygone times. John also took part in the wonderful heritage project instigated by Maureen Farquarson at Arran High School, willingly recounting to primary aged youngsters his knowledge of life on Arran.

The fabulous book produced, *Isle of Arran Heritage*, is due for posterity. In it are some of John's photographic collection, but more importantly there is a wonderful photograph of John in it, underneath the caption reads: John Anderson with three of his 'scholars'. The intensity with which a smiling John recounting his Pirnmill memories holding his young audience spellbound, says it all.

Besides history John always had a great interest in wildlife and nature as he tramped the hills gathering his blackface sheep from Banyerley and Ben Nuis. A pair of binoculars was always kept in the glove compartment of the

car, although not just to view wildlife, but any passing boat on the Kilbrannan Sound and indeed the goings-on of his neighbours in Machrie. Not much escaped his eagle eye from his eyre on top of the Auchengallon Hill.

An environmentalist way before the term was invented, John advocated and instilled in his offspring the need to preserve and protect the world's resources. That must have rubbed off on his nephew, Kevin Anderson, who is now a Professor in Climate Change. And for sure John liked a good debate on environmental issues or indeed religious issues.

Grateful

Latterly, due to failing health, John had his own struggles, but was determined to remain at Hillcrest. He was enormously grateful to the many friends who continued to visit, especially after he was no longer fit to get out in the car, keeping him abreast of community life and also those further afield who continued to keep in regular touch via letters and phone calls.

John finally agreed to go into Montrose House in January where he came to terms with life in his lovely wee room and he was appreciative of the care and enjoyed visits from so many friends. His days ended where they had begun, in the gentle care of Arran War Memorial Hospital.

Eighty-six years of a full, happy and fulfilling life were granted to this gregarious character, John Anderson, whose love of life touched and enriched so many. One of Arran's real characters, John will be sadly missed.

Contributed by the Anderson family, with thanks to Reverend Angus Adamson.



John pictured at his beloved Hillcrest Farm.

Arran's first recorded sighting of rare black-headed bunting

On the evening of Saturday June 8, during the interval at the Arran Folk Festival Concert, I received an email asking: 'Can you identify this bird, please' with a photo attached. The email finished: 'It has certainly got me flummoxed'.

When I looked at her photos with the house sparrows there for comparison of size, I felt that this finch-like bird with the black hood and the unstreaked red brown upper parts could only be a male black-headed bunting. It was unmistakable.

A bit of a heart stopping moment because this is a rare bird here. In recent years there have only been around five recorded a year in the UK and Ireland and never before on Arran.

Black-headed bunting winter in India and in the spring move to breeding grounds in Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Israel and south-eastern Europe from Italy and the Balkans east to the Black and Caspian

Seas. Perhaps assisted by the weather conditions this bird had over-shot and finished up in a garden in Strathwillan!

Later, when I contacted Isla Murchie, who had sent the original email, she gave me this account.

'On Thursday June 6, I was in my kitchen looking out at the bird feeders and saw this strange bird feeding on the ground with the house sparrows. My kitchen window is very close to my outside area so I had a really good view of the bird. I thought wow, who are you? I had never seen a bird like this before and felt quite excited. It was just so different, so yellow and bright.

'I reached in my bag for my phone hoping it would not disappear before I could get a photo or two which I managed to do. I noticed that on its back the colour was tan. Maybe it belonged to the finch family. A car passed and suddenly all the birds were gone. But my luck was

in and it reappeared with the others and continued feeding on the ground. I managed to take a video then. I knew I must find out what bird it was so I emailed Jim Cassels on the evening of Saturday June 8. I have not seen it since Thursday.'

When I received the email on the Saturday at the concert I forwarded it to the assistant Clyde recorder who has even more experience than me with my addition, 'Looks like a black-headed bunting. What do you think?' Her prompt response indicated that it was a black-headed bunting.

She added 'Apparently one on Gigha today (Saturday) which might be the same bird?' No point in leaving the concert then if the bird had moved on!

With the permission of the original observer, I shared her photos and video on social media. Very quickly almost 1,400 people viewed the video such was the interest in this bird.

The 'reward' for finding this rare bird is to complete a form for the British Birds Rarities Committee (BBRC). A record of a rarity will not be accepted unless the form is completed and the data looked at by the BBRC. It is their decision but with the description including photos and video it should be accepted as the first black-headed bunting



The features of the bird can clearly be seen in this image by Dennis Morrison in Bulgaria, one of the areas where it should be at this time of year.

on Arran. What about the bird? It is lost. There it is in its breeding plumage but it has over-shot its breeding areas and is unlikely to get back. Sad in some ways ...

Please send any bird notes

with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.

For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2018 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

Grab the last few copies

The Arran Natural History Society no longer has copies of the Arran Bird Atlas. A total of 1,000 copies were printed but each one has been sold.

Some outlets round the island have a few copies. For example the Harbour Shop in Blackwaterfoot has six copies still for sale, other outlets have are sold out.

My thanks to all who helped with this successful publication.



The photograph from Isla Murchie that shows the black-headed bunting among house sparrows.



A second photograph from Isla Murchie shows the bright breeding plumage of the rare bird.

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday September 4, 1999

Village revolt

North Ayrshire Council fails to provide the Shiskine Valley area with a proper cleaning service. That was the main point to emerge from a meeting earlier this week between concerned residents and Arran's local council officer Gus MacLeod.

Such is the frustration felt by local people at this deficiency that an angry public notice to shame the council has been produced and put on display at several prominent locations listing 16 points in which the council was failing in its duty. These include failure to empty litter bins, the location of dog waste receptacles and even the garish colour of Blackwaterfoot's litter bins.

Vic Iutz of the Harbour Shop in Blackwaterfoot, who sits on the Improvements Committee, said that although these points seem minor when taken individually, together they make a significant litany of complaint. He says that a lack of resources is the standard answer as to why they, according to Vic, are failing in their duty. It is reported that Gus MacLeod did say that there was a lack of resources and also that 'there was no way that he could wave a magic wand'.

Children's guide

Arran could have an alternative tourist guide

next summer which will cater for a very specific group of visitors who may not find the kind of information available now to be very interesting.

The idea is for a tourist brochure for children by children. More specifically, by the children of Arran's primary schools for visiting children of similar age. At the Community Council on Tuesday evening, chairwoman Sheila Gilmore read out a letter from Corrie Primary headmistress, Mrs Angie Fisher, asking whether councillors would be prepared to support such a project. The consensus view was to give it 'full support'.

Submissions have already started and editing will take place early in the new year with an intended date of distribution to tourist offices and other outlets next March.

Bussed in

A new bus stop marked by white line painters opposite Bay News in Whiting Bay saw a bus driver quite legally park and leave his bus last Sunday. The problem is the new bus stop blocks at least one residential driveway and meant that when a householder fell ill the emergency services were unable to reach him as quickly as they might have. Local council officer Gus MacLeod is to contact Strathclyde Passenger Transport to try and resolve the problem.



Joining the players of Arran Rugby Club's youth section are secretary Catherine McIntyre and sponsor of their new red and black jerseys, David McClelland of the Balmichael Visitor Centre. 01_B36twe01



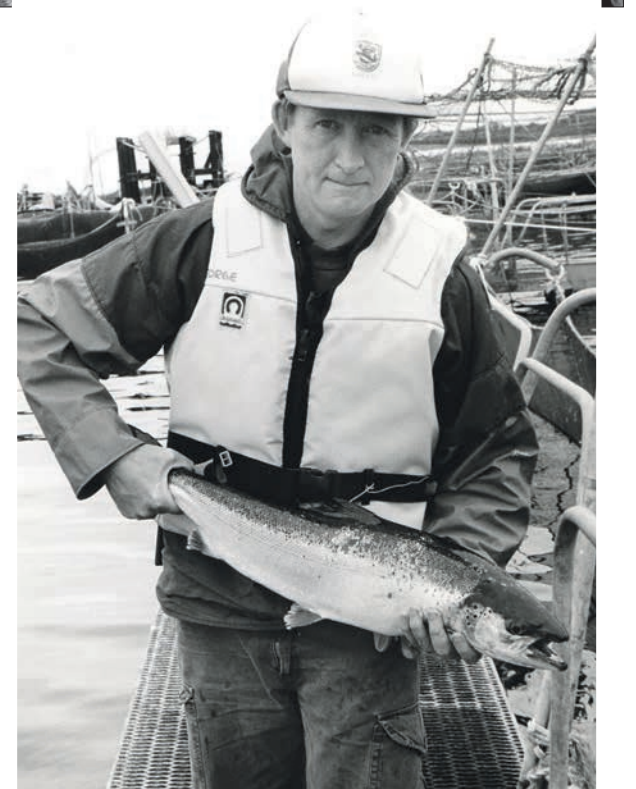
New teachers at Arran High School – Mr Robertson, physics; Mr Donaldson, temporary technology; Miss Gourlay, temporary Music; Mrs Walker, behavioural support; and Mr Munro, technical. 01_B36twe02



Lamlash fish farm has been bought by Nutreco, ending 18 months of uncertainty for staff. Left to right: Brendan Bailey, Mark Bailey, Dougie Macfarlane, George Nicholson, Charles Todd, Jamie Sillars and Nathaniel l'Anson. 01_B36twe03



Testing out his latest purchase is aircraft builder David Murchie of Cairnhouse and pilot Joe Turner with the Kit Fox plane which David will use once he completes his solo licence. 01_B36twe05



Fish farm manager George Nicholson shows an Atlantic salmon which has been farmed at the Lamlash facility. 01_B36twe04

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 09.00-16.45 weekdays (16.30 Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Written representations may also be made to the Head Of Service (Economic Development & Regeneration) at the above address by 27.09.19. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

19/00643/PP; Torbeg Farm, Shiskine, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Renewal of unexpired planning permission 16/00717/PP for conversion of redundant agricultural building to form two dwelling houses, together with demolition of existing byre and hay shed and formation of access road and parking.

19/00606/PP; Site To West Of Ailsa Cottage, Kilmory, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Erection of detached dwelling house and detached double garage.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine Independent but working together

Minister: Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant: Mrs Jean Hunter
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

Sunday 8th September
Lochranza Church at 9.30 am. Morning Worship
Pirnmill Church at 10.45am. Morning Worship
Shiskine Church at 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church at 10.30am Morning Worship.
Corrie Church at 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland
Charity Number: SC014005

Sunday 8th September
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Everyone most welcome. Tea and coffee will be served in the transept immediately after the service; please stay and enjoy more fellowship.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 8th September
12th Sunday after Trinity
Sung Eucharist at 11am.
Revd Canon Simon Mackenzie
Coffee after service

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 8th September
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 8th September
Mrs Liz Clarke
Kilmory at 10 am
Lamlash at 11.30 am
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

Thursday 12th September
Summer Quiz Night at 7.00pm
Brodick Church Hall
Snacks, Tea/Coffee.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 8th September
Sunday Worship at 11am
'Heather Lodge', Brodick
Left of the Douglas Hotel, opposite the ferry terminal.
Telephone 700346, 820223
Everyone Warmly Invited

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 8th September
Service at 11am
Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and coffee after the service
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.
Telephone 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 8th September
Shiskine at 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick at 6pm
Services will be taken by Rev David Ford

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday 7th September
Saturday Vigil Mass at 7.30pm
Sunday 8th September
Sunday Morning Mass at 11am

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Thursday 12th September
Summer Quiz Night at 7.00pm, Brodick Church Hall
Snacks, Tea/Coffee.
All are welcome.

DEATH

SILLARS - John Douglas
Peacefully at Montrose House on Sunday, 1 st September 2019. Dougie, aged 79 years, beloved husband of Celia, father of Craig and Jamie and grandpa of Ethan and Jamie. Funeral service at Brodick cemetery on Thursday, 12th September at 11:30am to which all are welcome.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ROSS - Alan Simpson
The family of the late Alan Simpson Ross would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the cards, telephone calls, visits and flowers. Thanks also to Rev. Elizabeth Watson, doctors, district nurses, paramedics, Clair and David Hendry and Brodick Golf Club for the catering. £607.50 was collected for ArCaS.



An Arran team of golfers have secured the return of the Mitchell Quaich at the SWI national finals for the first time since 1974.

Piet Johnston and Fiona Scott took the title at the Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club where they joined 30 other SWI golfers from 14 federations from all over Scotland to take part in the 18-hole greensome competition.

Participants reported that they all enjoyed the course but found the third hole challenging. Official umpire Ann May was kept busy checking cards and keeping the leaderboard up to date with the help of Fiona Henderson, the club captain.

Linda Retson, SWI national president, thanked Arran Federation for hosting the competition, Stewart and the greens staff for the wonderful

Golfers end 45-year wait to retake the SWI title

condition of the course, Alan Dunlop for the catering and everyone who helped to make the day a success.

Following an enjoyable day of golfing in fine weather conditions, Linda presented the trophies. Scratch winners were Dorothy Bell-Sneddon and Ruby Logan (82) of West Lothian and the handicap winners of the Mitchell Quaich were Arran Team 1 comprising Piet Johnston and Fiona Scott (65.2).

The finals next year will be hosted by Wigtownshire on Monday August 24 when Piet and Fiona will have a chance to retain their title.



Linda Retson, SWI national president, with the Arran team of Piet Johnston and Fiona Scott who won the Mitchell Quaich. 01_B36golf01

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday August 29, Summer Cup/Commando Cup, CSS 66. 1 Martin Wallbank 76-13=63, 2 Iain Murchie 71-6=65 BIH, 3 Scott Macfarlane 75-10=65, 4 Neil Young 73-6=67. Best scratch Iain Murchie 71. Magic twos, Jim Young, Todd Jameson, both at 16th, Alan Colquhoun at 13th. Hole 5 drawn, no winner so rollover continues. Winner of Commando Cup, Martin Wallbank.

Ladies' section: Monday August 30, Medal 8, CSS 63, Par 65, 8 played. 1 Kate McAdam 78-16=62, 2 Ruth Hardy 88-25=63. Scratch, Kate 78.

Fixtures: Sunday September 8, Captain's Prize, 9.30am and 12.30pm starts. Thursday September 12, Summer Cup.

Brodick Golf Club

Thursday August 22, Summer Cup, 7 played, CSS 66. Bob McCrae 74-8=66, Finlay Sillars 81-12=69, Babbies

MacNeill 91-19=72. Scratch, Bob McCrae 74.

Wednesday August 28, Summer Cup, 37 played, CSS 64. Ross Duncan 64-3=61, Bob McCrae 70-8=62, Bruce Jenkins 70-7=63. Scratch, Ross Duncan 64.

Fixtures: Sunday September 8, Brandon Qualifier, 8.30am and 1pm. Wednesday September 11, Flag Competition and annual prize-giving.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday August 28, Summer Cup and magic twos. 1 A Hart 77-19=58, 2 R Logan 67-7=60, scratch, 3 D Logan 74-12=62. Magic twos, Peter McMillan, but alas not the correct one.

Fixtures: Saturday September 7, Summer Cup, ballots at 9am and 2pm. Wednesday September 11, Millennium Trophy and magic twos, ballot at 4pm. Members please note that this

will be the grand final of the Wednesday competitions. The magic twos must be won. Please note the earlier start time.

Shiskine Golf Club

Friday August 30, Ladies' 18-hole medal. 1 and scratch Sheila Gray 83-15=68, 2 Alice Anderson 89-16=73 BIH, 3 Kema Genda 86-13=73.

Sunday August 1, Past Captain's Day. 11 past captains played, also current club captain Fiona Henderson, on an exceptionally wild day. 1 R Crawford 23pts BIH, 2 Martyn Ker 23pts, 3 Gator 22pts.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday September 3, yellow tee Stableford. 1 Alistair MacDonald 35pts, BIH, 2 Brian Sherwood 35pts, Winner of Lady Mary Eclectic, Barbara Waring 54, runner up, Kath Lord 57. Winner of Peter Sutton, best of 6 scores, Phil Betley 378, runner up, Ross Traill 386.

Fixtures: Tuesday September 10, Captain's Charity Prize, tee off at 12.30pm followed by tea and cakes.

Arran Golfers' Association

Sunday September 1, AGA Autumn Handicap, 25 played at Shiskine. 1st class, 1 Alan McEwan 76-10=66, 2 and scratch, Ewan McKinnon 67-0=67, 3 Graeme Andrew 78-10=68. 2nd class, 1 Richard Blair 83-16=67, 2 Colin Rutterford 88-20=68, 3 Brian Sherwood 86-16=70.

No magic twos were record-

ed and Alan McEwan also wins the JC Reid award (over 55). Congratulations Alan on winning the Drumadoon Cup. AGA president Brian Sherwood was on hand to do the result and presentation. A huge thanks to Stewart and his team for the super condition of the course. Catering was also excellent so many thanks to Alan and his team. Midges and some heavy rain bothered the morning players but the afternoon golfers had it better.

Fixture: Saturday September 14, Seniors Handicap, qualifying age 55, at Machrie, 1pm tee off, yellow tees.

Arran Ladies' Golf Union

Fixture: Sunday September 8, ALGU Island Championship Final. Will be played between Ann May and Kema Genda at Brodick Golf Club at 1.30pm. Spectators and supporters most welcome.



AGA president Brian Sherwood presents Alan McEwan with the Drumadoon Cup at Shiskine. 01_B36golf03



A total of 12 Shiskine past captains, including 95-year-old Andrew L Howie, played a game on the last day of August followed by a meal in the clubhouse. Robbie Crawford won on the day and the club thanked all of them for their work and support over the many years.

Johnny takes top title but Southend sweep up

Johnny Sloss has been named player of the year in the annual Arran Football Association awards.

The Lamash forward was the only player from another team to feature in the awards which were almost a clean sweep for Southend.

The trophies were presented by John Copperwheat at the conclusion of the Copperwheat Knockout Cup final in which Southend beat Northend 7-0, as reported in last week's Banner.

Runner-up to Johnny as player of the year was Southender Ryan Armstrong. It was a switch in the golden

boot as Ryan pipped Johnny with 17 goals to Johnny's 16.

In the under-18s category, it was a similar story as the Southenders dominated. Gregor Crichton won young player of the year with his team-mate Liam Bremner coming runner-up. However, Liam won the golden boot with nine goals just ahead of Gregor with eight.

A spokesman for the Arran Football Association said: 'As the 2019 season draws to a close, we would like to thank John, Arran Haulage and Arran Dairies for their sponsorship and keeping the league going.'



Southend with their team and individual trophy haul for the season. 01_B35year05



Johnny Sloss is congratulated as player of the year by John Copperwheat. 01_B35year04



Liam Bremner with his under-18 awards. 01_B35year01



Ryan Armstrong is all smiles as receives the golden boot award from John Copperwheat. 01_B35year03



Gregor Crichton with his under-18 awards. 01_B35year02



The mixed 240+ team round Craigleith island.



The mixed open team in action.



The women's 40+ team prepare for the race start. All photos: Steve Thomson

Arran team forced into the rocks at North Berwick

A depleted team of just eight Arran rowers and seven guest rowers, from the Firth of Clyde and Glasgow coastal rowing clubs, made up the island contingent who headed east for the 10th annual North Berwick Coastal Rowing Regatta.

The weather was perfect with sun beating down all day, and the water flat calm. There were 10, 3km races around Craigleith island, which proved exhausting in the heat, and with most Arran rowers competing in

three races during the day, they were struggling to hit form.

In most races, the field of up to 13 skiffs reached the island at roughly the same time, causing a maelstrom of skiffs as they fought it out on the long section at the back of the rock, often with oar tips just meters away from the imposing, near vertical rock wall.

Skilful coxing was needed to guide each boat through this very demanding part of the race.

In the men's 50+ race, Arran's skiff was hemmed in at both bow and stern by two skiffs, themselves unable to find space. Then Broughty Ferry CRC came on Arran's port side, almost touching hulls, forcing Arran so perilously close to Craigleith that contact was made with the unforgiving rock and broke the blade of an Arran oar. The incident was seen by the umpire in a support RIB, and it was judged to be a dangerous manoeuvre and thus earned Broughty Ferry a penalty. Ironically, this was Arran's best race of the day finishing fourth.

There were 12 clubs in total racing 14 skiffs and Arran finished eighth overall. Troon was the only other south-west region club attending, and had an excellent day winning gold in the mixed 45+ race.

Dave Ingham

More photographs on page 27



The men's 40+ team power through the water.



The men's 40+ team go paddle to paddle with their opponents.



The women's 50+ team in action.



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