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Brodick Nursery closure threat due to extra hours

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Brodick Nursery could have to close its doors by August this year if a solution cannot be found to a problem that has arisen due to the roll-out of a Scottish Government initiative which will extend nursery hours in a bid to relieve pressure on parents.

The Scottish Government has invested £2 billion towards increasing funded childcare for two, three and four-year-olds from 600 hours to 1,140 hours in an effort aimed at helping parents and carers to explore work, education and training opportunities.

And while this is good news for the five council-funded nurseries on the island, it presents a number of issues for Brodick Nursery, which is a non-profit nursery run by a committee of parents.

Brodick Nursery currently receives an allocated childcare allowance which assists with some of the costs but it does not cover rent, running costs, wages and other required resources.



If Brodick Nursery is to expand its hours in line with Government policy it will experience a huge increase in costs and resources and, as it is housed in the Brodick Village Hall, it will mean that the premises would become unsuitable and the service will be unable to meet these new requirements.

Currently the premises are not purpose-built for

nursery use and staff have to 'set up and take down' the nursery on a daily basis to accommodate other events. The kitchen facilities are too small for anything other than providing light snacks, and children need to use public toilet facilities shared with the Arran Library. While not ideal, the situation has been tenable, but when the expanded hours are introduced

it will become unworkable. The Brodick Nursery parent committee has been aware of the issue for some time and over the last 10 months has been looking at workable solutions to the problem.

Working with North Ayrshire Council, a number of meetings have been held, looking at expanding Brodick Hall - which will need to be self-funded to the tune of

Brodick Nursery pupils, parents and staff are facing the threat of closure in August - when the new expanded childcare provision is introduced - if solutions to their problem can not be found.

hundreds of thousands of pounds - and finding alternative premises, as well as seeking financial assistance from outside bodies.

So far no viable alternative premises have been identified and purchasing land upon which to build a purpose-built, albeit affordable, solution is not within Brodick Nursery's financial capabilities.

The nursery has consistently raised funds to sustain itself and committee members have investigated various funding options but the cost implications, they believe, are beyond the realm of possibility without financial assistance from an external source.

At a recent meeting held with the committee and concerned parents, chairperson of the Brodick Nursery

committee Jenny Duncan said: 'We have tried to remain positive and proactive with the imminent delivery of the expanded nursery hours in August, but have exhausted many options available to us in terms of location, funding and the general security of being able to remain operational within our own village of Brodick.'

'The implications for the community would be dire if the nursery closed as the nearest alternatives would be Lamlash and Corrie nurseries. Both of these would be under immense pressure to cope with the huge additional demand, especially considering that a potential intake of an additional 20 to 25 ante and pre-schoolers is expected by August.'

'The parents, committee and nursery manager Aileen Brand have received huge support from the community who have helped to keep this community asset available for our children. The potential loss of the facility will not

Continued on page two

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Huge changes will double Arran childcare provision

From the end of this month, Arran families can enrol their children for early learning and childcare places ahead of the roll-out of extra funded hours which will almost double the number of funded hours they currently receive.

From August, all three- and four-year-olds – and around a quarter of two-year-olds – will be entitled to 1,140 hours of funded childcare per year.

The increase in hours, backed by £2 billion of investment from the Government, has seen more than 270 nurseries built, extended or refurbished since March 2018 and an additional 4,300 full-time equivalent staff are already in post.

Due to the phasing in of the increased entitlement, almost 50,000 children are already receiving more than the current 600 hours they have previously been entitled to, allowing parents and carers to explore work, education and training opportunities.

Parents or carers can apply for the option that suits their needs, including

council-run, private or third sector nursery, playgroup or childminder.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'If you have one or more children who will be two, three or four, now is the time to see what they could receive from this August.'

'It will make an enormous difference to families in terms of enabling mums and dads, who currently look after children and are not in employment, to return to work.'

'I encourage all Arran parents with eligible children to get in touch with the nursery of their choice to identify the funded option that is best for their child. There is no cost to families who take up this offer that can save each family as much as £4,500.'

Children should be registered from the January following their second birthday. Contact the nursery of choice, usually the one nearest the family home. If anyone is unsure where that is, please call the Childcare and Recreation Information Service (CARIS) on 0345 351 3000.

Delayed charter ready to set sail

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A chartered boat journey around Arran which was meant to take place last weekend, but was postponed owing to the weather, has been rescheduled to take place this weekend.

The five-hour cruise on-board MV Isle of Arran will take place today (Saturday). It will depart from Ardrossan at 11am and sail around Arran at a leisurely pace before returning to Ardrossan at 4pm.

Organised by the Clyde River Steamer Club (CRSC), the trip aboard MV Isle of Arran is expected to be extremely popular as it is only the third time that the vessel has been chartered by the club which has been chartering various vessels for a number of decades.



The round Arran cruise on MV Isle of Arran will take place today (Saturday) after severe weather postponed the event last weekend.

Photograph: Clyde River Steamer Club.

The MV Isle of Arran, Eilean Arainn in Gaelic, is very familiar to all on Arran as it spends its summers sailing from Ardrossan to Arran and Campbeltown. During the winter months it provides much-needed support across the network, allowing other ferries time away from their route to complete their

annual maintenance periods. Launched in 1984, she served on the route from Ardrossan to Brodick for 10 years, then covered a stint to Islay, before taking up her current duties.

It is expected that MV Isle of Arran will be replaced by MV Glen Sannox, the much delayed new ferry being built at Ferguson Marine

Engineering at Port Glasgow on the Clyde. It may then become the second ferry on the Oban-Craignure ferry crossing alongside Isle of Mull.

The charter, which includes a two-course meal with tea/coffee is available to book online on the CRSC website at crsc.org.uk



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Brodick Nursery is currently accommodated in Brodick Hall but the premises will become unsuitable when nursery hours are increased in August.

01_B03BrodickN01

Brodick Nursery faces closure due to government's extended hours plan

Continued page one

only have severe cost implications for North Ayrshire Council, not to mention the disruption to the children and parents of the village, but it will also have the opposite effect of what the initiative is trying to achieve – allowing parents to explore work, education and training opportunities.

'With registration starting next month, an additional concern is that parents will be enrolling their children in a nursery which faces an uncertain future. We need practical solutions and we need things to start happen-

ing now so that whatever the solution is, it is up and running by August if we want to save our nursery.'

A North Ayrshire Council spokesperson said: 'We are hugely sympathetic to the position of Brodick Early Years. We have supported them in their consideration of a range of options and will continue to work with them and the parents in the days and weeks ahead.'

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson said that he is quite astonished by the development and that he would take it up with Caroline Amos, head of service (Education) at NAC and Maree Todd

MSP, minister for children and young people, to see if solutions can be found.

Mr Gibson added: 'The SNP Government has allocated £11,400,000 in capital – to physically expand facilities – and £13,549,000 in resources – to employ and train additional staff.'

'These resources are to equip nurseries across the board, private, public and voluntary and this goes against the grain. I have asked NAC what contingency it will put in place to ensure delivery of 1,140 hours of free nursery provision for all who qualify if they will not provide capital funding.'

Perfect pies praised at awards

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Wooleys of Arran has enjoyed success at the 21st World Championship Scotch Pie Awards, winning a coveted bronze award for its steak pies.

The awards were presented by television personality Carol Smillie at the Westerwood Hotel in Cumbernauld, but owing to ferry disruption Wooleys owner Matt Keir and baker Edyta Dylewska were unable to receive the accolade in person.

The Wooleys steak pies faced fierce competition against more than 75 professional pie makers who entered more than 460 pies into 11 categories. It was in the hand held steak pie category that a panel of 60 judges awarded Wooleys of Arran the bronze award.

Matthew Keir said: 'We are delighted with our win and can go away with our heads held very high indeed. To have been judged as one of the best against so many of our peers is a huge achievement.'

Television presenter and entre-



Matt Keir and Edyta Dylewska with their award-winning pies which took bronze at the World Championship Scotch Pie Awards. 01_B03pie01

preneur Carol Smillie, who presented the awards said: 'The World Championship Scotch Pie Awards really is one of the highlights of my year. I have been hosting it

since 2016 and I have seen many well-deserved winners in all the categories taking to the stage, and I know what it means to win. Every winner should be proud of their

success and I hope they all see their businesses grow and prosper in the year to come.'

'For 21 years now professional pie makers throughout Scotland,

and from even further afield, have been so proud of their produce, which they have taken the time and trouble to enter into 'The World Championship Scotch Pie Awards,' said head judge Ian Nelson, who oversaw the judging process to ensure the best pies were recognised. 'And I must say that the standard keeps getting better each year. All of our winners deserve the accolades they have taken home.'

Wooleys of Arran has been baking on the Isle of Arran since the middle of the 19th century. The company has two shops on the island, one in Brodick and the other in Lamlash, both of which have a wide range of homemade pies, filled rolls, cakes and freshly ground coffee, along with an internationally renowned biscuit and oatcake range.

Gemma smashes fundraising target for lung cancer charity

Gemma Ferguson of Brodick undertook a charity swim towards the end of last year with the intention of raising at least £200 for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, writes Colin Smeeton.

The busy mother of two completed the challenge of swimming 403 lengths of the Auchrannie pool, a total of five miles over the period of one month, and has now raised £830 between her JustGiving page and cash donations.

As reported in the Banner in November, Gemma squeezed in the fundraising challenge between being a veterinary assistant at Arran Vets, a wife and mum of two children, and her volunteering with the Arran Coastguard Rescue Team.

Raising money for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation is a cause very dear to her heart and she dedicated the challenge to her step-grandfather, Iain McNeil, who passed away with lung cancer in 1993.

Gemma, who has just



Gemma in the swimming pool undertaking her charity challenge.

received and tallied up all of the donations, said: 'I did not imagine I would raise this total so close to Christmas but everyone has been so generous!'

'Thank you to everyone who has supported me in this, in whatever way, especially John, Penny and Rosie, and all my friends and family, without whom this would not be possible.'

The story behind the challenge and why she completed it in memory of her step-grandfather harks all the way back to 1953.

Gemma's grandmother, Valerie McNeil - on her 17th birthday - met Iain McNeil at a dance in Blackpool and although it was memorable for both of them they never

kept in contact.

Many years later while working in a local bar in Liscard on the Wirral in Merseyside, a gentleman who she was serving asked if she remembered him.

As it turns out the customer was none other than Iain McNeil with whom she danced all those years ago on her 17th birthday on October 18, 1953.

Ever since that reunion they started to see more of each other and married in 1985.

Gemma neatly wraps up the love story and her challenge by saying: 'We all loved him very much.'

'I am proud to be raising money for lung cancer research in his memory.'

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Ferry committee vows to push forward service improvements

The Arran Ferry Committee met again on Monday to discuss in detail the points highlighted from the recent and ongoing interruptions and to make progress on options that can be implemented to improve the service.

In attendance were representatives of independent travellers and private and voluntary sectors.

Appreciation was recorded for the efforts of the local CalMac management and staff under exceptionally difficult circumstances. The committee found it unacceptable to hear that port staff had endured aggressive threats and personal abuse and have faith this will not reoccur.

The committee has arranged for senior management from CalMac to attend a further meeting next week with key stakeholders to enforce the impact the cancellations are causing to residents, essential supplies, health services and businesses, and seek respons-

es to what they are proposing to do differently for future events. Feedback to the community will be provided following the meeting.

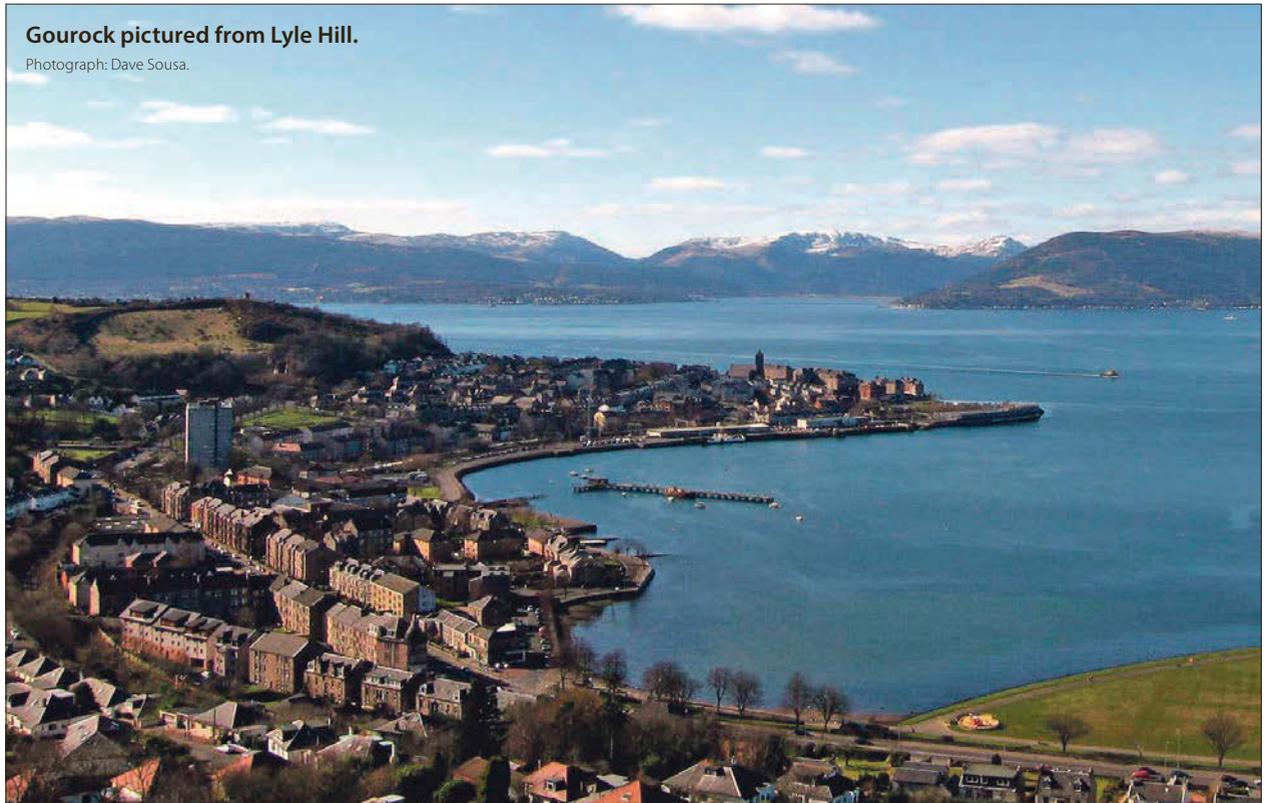
The subject of alternative ports will be followed up with the appropriate bodies to expedite investment on completion of the current engineering analysis work at Gourock and to develop other practical alternatives.

Provision of services for foot passengers will be a key aspect of the discussion to ensure that the needs of all customers are included in future planning. They have also highlighted the need for consistent, effective and timely communications at all times.

The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee has made the decision to have a presence on social media through Facebook and all future updates will be published in the Arran Banner and through its social media channel.

Gourock pictured from Lyle Hill.

Photograph: Dave Sousa.



Isle of Bute also feels Gourock restrictions

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell is seeking urgent action and an immediate solution to the issues with the CalMac Rothesay to Wemyss Bay service which also makes use of Gourock as a port of refuge.

When bad weather prevents the ferry from docking at Wemyss Bay the restrictions imposed on the Gourock linkspan by its owner CMAL, in place since August, means that there is no other port for vehicle traffic to disembark.

The situation has become particularly serious during the recent period of bad weather, causing disruption to hospital appointments, including regular kidney dialysis, commuting and normal commerce.

Alternative arrangements for traffic via the A83 – along the Rest and Be Thankful, the ferry to Dunoon and the crossing at Colintrave – are lengthy and difficult, requiring an extra two to three hours of travel depending on the route taken.

Michael Russell MSP said: 'I am deeply concerned that the effect of the broken Gourock linkspan on the port of refuge arrangements for Bute and Arran, about which I warned in the autumn of last year, are now causing real, recurring problems for the population



Argyll and Bute MSP Michael Russell has called for urgent action.

of both islands and particularly Bute. There has still been no adequate explanation to why such a serious problem with the linkspan occurred, no one has taken responsibility for the situation and now the population of the island feels that there is no explanation being given of what is being done to put it right and within what timetable.

'The issue also affects the service to Arran and vehicles were left there recently because the normal port of refuge arrangements could not operate.

'It is essential that urgent action is taken to remedy this situation without any further delay and that is the message I have given very clearly to the Minister, Paul Wheelhouse

MSP.'

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson also posed a number of questions to the minister asking when the linkspan would be repaired or replaced, and when the government would produce a long-term infrastructure and vessel replacement plan.

Mr Wheelhouse replied: 'Over the past few months, CMAL, our agency, has carried out a series of repairs and maintenance to the linkspan at Gourock to maintain operations. A review is currently being undertaken by a consultant engineer on behalf of CMAL to identify the feasibility of returning the linkspan to accept vehicle loading capacity. We expect to receive the consultant engineer's report later this month, which I appreciate is not immediate, but it is relatively soon. We will take appropriate action thereafter, at which point Transport Scotland, in conjunction with CMAL, will consider the options.'

He added: 'CMAL is in discussion with Transport Scotland about finalising a masterplan to enable the redevelopment of the Gourock ferry terminal as a whole to provide updated facilities for the Gourock to Dunoon passenger service and to continue its role as a port of refuge for services from Bute and Arran.'

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Brendan batters the island

The first weather warning of the year for the first major storm, named Storm Brendan by the Irish Met office, struck Arran on Monday bringing high winds, rain and travel disruption.

With the worst of the weather predicted to hit in the early afternoon, some early ferry sailings were able to make it before the high winds struck and all sailings for the remainder of the day, and the following morning, were cancelled.

Coincided

The storm, which brought winds gusting at up to 80mph, affected the whole of the UK and as it coincided with higher than usual spring tides, SEPA issued flood

warnings to low lying land and coastal areas. As predicted, coastal routes on Arran, including those between Corrie and Sannox, Lamlash, Whiting Bay and Pirnmill, experienced waves overtopping with stones and sea debris littering the roads. A large section of an old railway carriage below Imacher was also washed onto the road.

In Brodick the golf course was submerged, as was the lower portion of the small Co-op car park and the mini golf course. In Sannox the road nearest the stepping stones also experienced flooding as did some in Lochranza.

By Tuesday weather conditions improved slightly with temperatures hovering

around five degrees but wind conditions persisted, causing ferry cancellations on Arran and further afield across the CalMac network.

Strong winds

Throughout the night and into Wednesday widespread rain continued with strong winds once again affecting ferry sailings. Snow also fell on higher elevations with Goatfell receiving a large accumulation.

The outlook for the week-end is forecast to be much improved with temperatures of five degrees and below with sleet showers and a moderate breeze, none of which, at the time of going to press, was forecast to be significant enough to disrupt travel.



Waves overtopping made conditions treacherous for driving along coastal routes.

01_B03Brendan05



MV Hebridean Isles and MV Isle of Arran are securely berthed with storm ropes during Storm Brendan.

01_B03Brendan01



NLV Pole Star, a lighthouse tender usually based in Oban, takes shelter in Brodick Bay.

01_B03Brendan02



On Monday the Brodick car park at the small Co-op experienced flooding.

01_B03Brendan03



The mini golf course in Brodick is waterlogged while vessels can be seen behind taking shelter from the storm.

01_B03Brendan04



A driver entering Brodick approaches cautiously to avoid being hit by large waves.

01_B03Brendan06

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Stormbound marchers brave the weather for Scottish independence

Arran residents who were unable to attend a march for Scottish independence in Glasgow – owing to ferry cancellations – held an impromptu pop-up Yes rally in Brodick.

Similarly the march in Glasgow, organised by All Under One Banner, was cancelled owing to the bad weather but thousands still turned out for the event.

Taking place on Saturday January 11 with all of the morning ferries cancelled, around 30 Arran residents braved the high winds and the rain for a short march along the seafront. Included

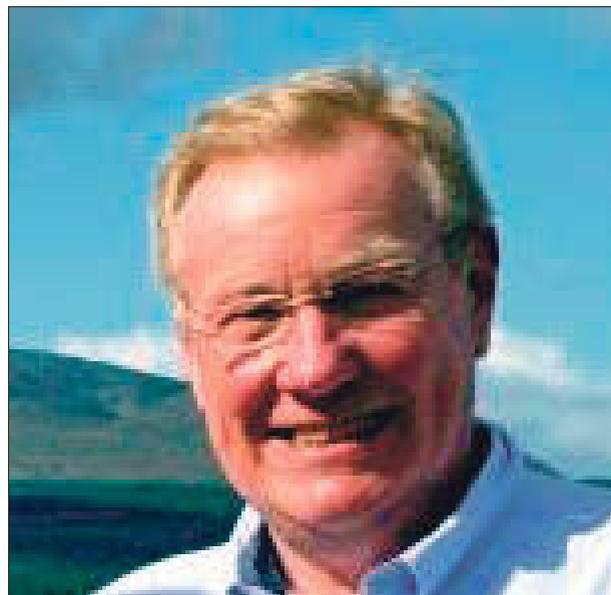
among them were individuals with no political affiliation, representatives of several political organisations, trade unions and members of Scottish CND.

While flying the flag for independence, the demonstrators, determined to show their support despite the travel disruption and weather, carried the flags of the Yes campaign, the Scottish Socialist Party, the Welsh flag and one saying Brave Scotland.

With the number of protesters in Glasgow estimated to be around 80,000, a number of smaller demonstrations

were also held in various locations throughout the country in solidarity with those in Glasgow.

Despite the wind and heavy rain around 30 demonstrators showed their support for Scottish independence on the Brodick seafront.



Arran Economic Group chairman Tom Tracey.

Economic Group sets its sights on 2030

The Arran Economic Group has its sights set on the challenges and opportunities leading up to and including the new decade and will be discussing these topics at a public meeting next week.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday January 22, between 6.15pm and 8.30pm, at Brodick hall. The format for this Arran 2030 meeting will be; overview, workshops, feedback, summary.

Chairman Tom Tracey said: 'As we move into a new decade, the members of the Arran Economic Group have been forecasting what Arran could look like in 2030 and how collectively Arran and its community can help manage sustainable development. We looked at economic trends over the last 10 years, along with known plans, to indicate the

direction of travel between now and 2030. The objective is to identify what needs to be done to shape the inevitable change in favour of the Arran community. Our start point is generally positive: very high quality of life and consistent economic growth. On the downside, we have an ageing population and a chronic lack of affordable housing.

'Historic indicators and current plans suggest we need to define infrastructure and services to support an additional 100,000 tourists, spending £20m with 450 new residents and if nothing changes, 50,000 more vehicle movements in 2030 than we have now. Based on the known plans and proposals, we will have two 1,000-passenger ferries and 5G network providing physical and digital connectivity. More affordable housing

supporting more people. Health and social care, organisationally and physically integrated, supported by an expanding third sector.

'The scale of change will require a governance process that supports local decisions taken close to where their impact is felt. This "locality" principle drives the local authority initiative for locality planning. This is further reinforced in law, through the Islands Bill.

'All this needs to be achieved whilst maintaining quality of life, the environment and the community spirit, which is the essence of the island.'

If anyone plans to attend the discussion on Arran 2030 Projections and Challenges, they are asked to please confirm with sheena.borthwick@btinternet.com.

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Art in Mind exhibition at Arran Library

The January exhibition at the Arran Library comprises a variety of artworks, in various mediums, from the Arran group Art in Mind.

There are more than 20 individual artworks in paint, pastel, charcoal and pencil, ranging from Arran's fauna, flora and landscapes to portraits, aircraft and abstract designs.

Art in Mind is a community project set up in 2004 to introduce those with mental health concerns and/or social isolation problems to gain confidence and self-worth through art and creativity.

Professional artists and creatives visit the group, who meet weekly at the Brodick Castle Rangers Centre, to

teach and support members with their artistic efforts.

In addition to feeling included in a safe, friendly and supportive environment the members also enjoy being creative and having regular chats and coffee with friends.

There is no regular commitment to attend and visitors are welcome to come and go as they please. In addition to gaining self confidence, support, a sense of worth and companionship, members' creativity can be explored and some remarkable art is produced.

The exhibition is on until the end of January and cards are also on sale with the proceeds all going to support Art in Mind.



A variety of artworks are on display at the January exhibition of Art in Mind at Arran Library. 01_B03AIM01

Gaelic gets the go ahead for bi-lingual customer care

Ferry and harbour operator CalMac is now offering its customers a telephonic customer care service in Gaelic after a pilot project over the summer showed that there is a demand for it.

The move which enhances the company's support of Gaelic has also seen CalMac create a new customer care centre in Stornoway which has brought six new jobs to the town.

Previously assistance from a Gaelic speaker was only available to Gaelic-speaking customers telephoning or visiting port offices in Gaelic-speaking areas, but now anyone who would like to make an enquiry in Gaelic can be transferred to a native speaker to deal with their booking.

The Stornoway team will also be steadily transforming CalMac's social media channels into a bi-lingual offering as well.

There are around 60,000 Gaelic speakers in Scotland, and the majority of people living in the Western Isles are able to speak Gaelic.

CalMac Managing Director



Caledonian MacBrayne Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

Robbie Drummond said: 'We are committed to looking at ways of spreading jobs more evenly across our area of operations and I'm delighted to confirm that the summer pilot we ran in Stornoway will now be a permanent fixture in the town.'

'Given the prevalence of the Gaelic language in the Western Isles it was a natural step to make this the centre of our new bi-lingual customer service offering.'

'This is something we have been keen to introduce for some time and this new centre now gives us the capacity to support this.'

CalMac has a long history of support for the Gaelic language, including as the principal commercial supporter

of the Royal National Mod. Shona MacLennan, chief executive of Bord na Gaidhlig, said: 'We always welcome new developments which contribute to the National Gaelic Language Plan's aim that more people use Gaelic more often in more situations. CalMac's introduction of this service will support that aim, and is particularly appropriate in their customer care centre which is in Stornoway. By locating those jobs in a Gaelic-speaking community this will bring important economic benefits to the Western Isles.'

CalMac's customer service team handles more than 300,000 calls and 44,000 emails every year as well as 30,000 social media messages.



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LETTERS

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Unintended consequences

The impending expansion of childcare hours for nurseries on Arran is a positive change with virtuous intentions, so it is particularly sad that for Brodick Nursery it could be the death knell of what is unquestionably a community asset.

The community has nurtured and supported the nursery with many people and organisations investing a great deal of time, effort and money to ensure that it succeeds for the common good of the community.

There can be no doubt that a parent-run organisation that funds itself, granted with assistance, is something to be encouraged, promoted and protected.

No one wants to see any extra burden placed on parents who would have to travel to alternative nurseries in neighbouring villages, necessitating more time away from employment and only adding to their expenses. Neither would anyone want to see any community-orientated childcare – with all of its benefits – be taken from any child whether they live in Brodick, Corrie, Pirnmill, Shiskine or Lamlash.

The necessity and even the political will is very much evident to help Brodick Nursery overcome its challenges. Evident, too, are the myriad of reasons why a nursery in Brodick has to be retained.

Let us hope the predicament spurs on those with a vested interest in it continuing to act quickly, decisively and responsibly to end the uncertainty.

Thought for the week

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

Tesco kindness at Christmas

Sir,

It is not often one can praise the service and customer care from a supermarket but this Christmas Tesco in Irvine deserves the greatest 'thank you' that my husband and I can give.

My husband, Mike, is rather seriously ill and has a very poor appetite. When he said he would like one of Tesco's turkey joints with trimmings for his Christmas dinner I was determined to get one.

I caught the 8.20am boat from Brodick to Ardrossan, walked up to Prince's Street and waited in the cold wind for half an hour for the Ayr bus which took me to Tesco in Irvine.

Imagine my disappointment when I found they hadn't any turkey with trimmings left. I asked for help so Julia and Amanda searched the back store to no avail. Then Russell, the store manager, came to my rescue. He found the Kilmarnock store had one and sent Stacey to pick it up for me – as it would have taken three buses for me to get there – meanwhile he treated me to a cup of tea whilst we waited.

On Stacey's return, Russell presented me with the turkey and trimmings as a Christmas present – I was overwhelmed, but Russell decided that wasn't enough and dispatched Amanda and me to choose a jumper each for Mike and I as Christmas presents. His kindness reduced me to tears – not an easy feat as anyone who knows me can testify!

The spirit of Christmas lives on in people like Russell, Julia, Amanda and Stacey. Thank you Tesco so much for your thoughtfulness, kindness and generosity. Why don't you open a Tesco on Arran?

Yours,
Liz Rose,
Lamlash

Lights thanks

Sir,

Just a wee note to say thank you to everyone who braved the weather

and came round to look at the Christmas lights this year and to those who made a donation. A cheque for £107 has been sent to Whiting Bay Improvements.

Once again thank you and hopefully I will be doing it again next Christmas which will be the 31st year.

Yours,
Bernie Jackson
Whiting Bay

Ferry madness

Sir,

As I write this (Tuesday January 7) the MVs Isle of Arran and Hebridean Isles are tied up at the monstrosity that is the new pier at Brodick. The Bute ferries are running a passenger service to Gourock (the linkspan there having been out of service for months if not years). Meanwhile on the Pentland Firth, a notorious stretch of wild water, even in calm weather both the Northlink Ferry Hamnavoe and Pentland Ferries Alfred have both managed to maintain service to the Orkneys. In Alfred's case having crossed the firth several times. When will someone/anyone wake up to the idea that CMAL may not be fit for purpose and CalMac's insistence on using Ardrossan, with no back-up port for the Brodick service, be seen for what it is, MADNESS.

I go far enough back to remember Fairlie, a sensible winter alternative, unfortunately consigned to the history books; and a time when the ferry, the MV Isle of Arran, would run to Gourock, to the inconvenience of all, but at least it maintained a link. Come on CMAL fix the linkspan at Gourock even if it means the passengers have to exit via the car deck (just like the Irish Berth at Ardrossan).

Yours,
Eric Gilmour
Lochwinnoch

Joined forces

Sir,

It was with a strong feeling of déjà vu that I read PW Yates' letter published in last week's Banner; I wholeheartedly agree with the sen-

timents expressed but the views are not new – what goes around comes around and the woes and inconvenience we experience at the hands of the unreliable ferry service will continue. My view with issues of a technical nature is: 'They put two men on the Moon and got them back in 1969 – what's your problem?'

I was interested to compare the article featuring Sally Campbell and the Arran Ferry Action Group with the update from the Arran Ferry Committee; the latter stating that the recent disruption was 'unacceptable'. We all know that, but it keeps happening, again and again and again. If it came to an election as to which group is more effective in representing the views of the island population and more focused on matters that need urgent action, my vote would go to the Arran Ferry Action Group.

Why cannot these two organisations join forces and work together?

Yours,
Brian Grindall
Torberg

Ferry failures

Sir,

The saga that is CalMac rumbles on and things don't look likely to improve anytime soon. But I do get annoyed when the company blames all on the weather when there are other shortcomings quite often to account for reduced service.

Two of note occurred on the weekend of January 4-5. The first was the withdrawal from service of the Caledonian Isles on Friday 3rd instead of Monday 6th, while being fully aware of the large number of bookings to leave Arran that weekend.

The other, which is an on-going issue, is why cannot a decision to cancel the service 'for the rest of the day' be revoked when weather conditions improve as happened on Sunday January 5?

It was good to read the report of Arran Ferry Committee and I hope that it will challenge bad decisions such as these.

Everyone on Arran has a gripe with the service and nothing short

of a public inquiry into the whole debacle which is CalMac/CMAL and taxpayers' money already expended will suffice.

It will take a concerted campaign by all parties to seek even limited mitigation such as the reinstatement of Gourock and impress upon the Scottish Government that the current situation is not sustainable for Arran.

Special appreciation is due to Gavin Fulton, chairman of the Arran Ferry Action Group, who has become an excellent media correspondent and spokesman. All power to him for keeping up the pressure in the public domain.

Yours,
Margie Currie
Blackwaterfoot

Young dancers

Sir,

YDance (Scottish Youth Dance) is seeking talented dancers aged 16 to 25 years for the dance performance training programme, the Project Y Performance Course 2020.

Established by YDance in 2006, Project Y is the only intensive dance training programme in the UK offering young dancers the experience of creating, rehearsing and performing as part of a touring contemporary dance company.

Spending four weeks during the summer as a member of the Project Y Company, dancers will work with four choreographers to create and rehearse four new dance works before performing in venues across Scotland in the annual Project Y Tour.

The dancers are involved at the heart of the creative process and gain invaluable experience of what it's like to rehearse and perform as a professional dancer. The four choreographers confirmed to work with the young dancers this year are Anna Kenrick, Sandrine Monin, Emma Jayne Park and Jessie Roberts-Smith.

The course runs from Monday July 6 – Sunday August 2 2020.

Yours,
Kirsty Rough
Scottish Youth Dance

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PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



Our photograph of the week is of another spectacular sunrise taken from Lamlash. Showing simple unaltered orange tones but a surprisingly large amount of textured layering and detail, this photograph from Emma Clarkson of Ladybank, Fife was captured during her seventh visit to Arran. Emma said: 'Despite the very mixed weather my Dalmatian dog, Trooper, and I made the most of our four-night stay and I am already planning another visit.'



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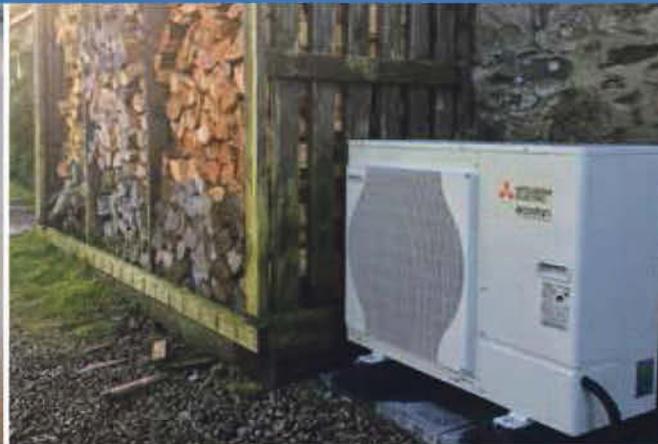
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*This refers to the Governments Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme. For more information go to website: www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-programmes/domestic-rhi



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To Join The Arran Renewable Revoution 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.

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GEORGE CLARKE

Architect, writer and TV presenter

NEWS IN BRIEF

Imacher in line to receive the Beach Buddy treatment

Imacher Beach will be the first beach of the new decade to be cleaned by the Arran Beach Buddies who hold monthly beach clean-ups around the island.

With the weather forecast and the tides looking favourable for the event, the January beach clean will take place on Sunday (tomorrow) at 2pm.

Everyone is welcome to join and pickers and bags will be supplied. Volunteers are requested to wear stout boots and gloves are compulsory. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Volunteers can meet at the small car park just before the road turns right up the hill towards Pirnmill when coming from Machrie. Beach clean-ups by the Arran Beach Buddies are sponsored by Isle of Arran Ice Cream and The Parlour, Brodick.

Winter dog trials

The second winter dog trial was recently held at Birchburn Farm with John Craig of Imacher judging the event.

A total of nine dogs ran and trophies were awarded to the winners.

Donald Currie jnr, with his dog Sid, was awarded the Best Young Handler and the Druid Cup.

The results of the competition are: 1 Iain McConnell with Sam 78pts, 2 Niall McMaster with Gail 70pts, 3 Mathew McNeish with Pip 66pts, 4 Jen McNeish with Glen 64pts.

Organisers thanked all participants and thanked Alistair Currie for allowing the use of the venue.

Have your say on the future of Scottish Forestry

Residents on Arran and anyone with an interest in the policy, support and regulation of forestry in Scotland is invited to help shape the new executive agency, Scottish Forestry's (SF), first draft Corporate Plan.

The plan sets out the agency's proposed direction and priorities for the next three years and outlines the organisation's proposed focus, and the strategic goals that will frame the delivery of its work.

A four-week public consultation, which has already begun and ends on Wednesday February 5, will help to test and further refine the draft plan before publication in April 2020.

Announcing the con-



Scottish Forestry is seeking public opinion to formulate a strategy that will help to expand Scotland's forests and woodlands and to ensure that they are sustainably managed. 01_B03forests01

sultation, rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing MSP said: 'Scottish Forestry was established on Monday April 1, 2019 to advise on forestry policy, regulate the sector and support sustainable forest management.'

'Getting the corporate plan right will help to deliver this purpose and contribute to the delivery of Scotland's forestry strategy, which has the overall aim of creating more healthy, sustainable and productive forests across the country.'

'This is important for the wide range of benefits that forests deliver - economic, environmental and social - but it is crucial for the on-going contribution that Scotland's forests make in tackling the overarching challenge of climate change.'

'Their contribution in soaking up carbon emissions - and transforming them into a versatile, sustainable and renewable raw material - is invaluable.'

'I would strongly encourage everyone with an interest in forestry to take part and help shape the organisation.'

Key role

In 2018-19, 11,210 hectares of woodland were created in Scotland, 84 per cent of the UK total. Scottish Forestry will play a key role in ensuring that Scotland's future forests and woodlands continue to expand and are sustainably managed.

Chief executive of Scottish Forestry Dave Signorini added: 'I am delighted to be leading this consultation to develop Scottish Forestry's

first Corporate Plan. It will give me and everyone at SF the chance to listen to stakeholders and the public and hear directly from them on how they want us to deliver on our purpose.'

Following the consultation Scottish Forestry will revise the draft strategy, taking into account the views expressed, as well as updating it where necessary to reflect developments since the draft was published.

A breakdown of responses and how they were addressed will also be published.

To share any views, offer suggestions or to provide feedback, the consultation can be accessed at <https://consult.gov.scot/environment-forestry/scottish-forestry-corporate-plan>

Scots urged to unite for World Cancer Day

Residents on Arran are being urged to show support on World Cancer Day for everyone affected by the disease.

Cancer Research UK is calling on men, women and children to wear one of the charity's brightly coloured Unity Bands with pride on Tuesday February 4.

The Unity Band is avail-

able in three different colours: pink, navy and blue. It can be worn in memory of a loved one, to celebrate people who have overcome cancer or in support of those going through treatment.

Unity Bands are available for a suggested donation of £2 from all 83 Cancer Research UK shops across

Scotland and online at cruk.org/worldcancerday

By making a donation for a Unity Band, people across Scotland can also help to fund life-saving research to bring forward the day when all cancers are cured.

World Cancer Day is an international movement, uniting people across the globe to help beat cancer.

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Howard highlights the heyday of Clyde fishing



Howard Wood, co-founder of COAST (Community of Arran Seabed Trust) was the guest speaker at the Arran Historical Society when he spoke to members about the history of fishing around Arran and in the Clyde *writes Hugh Brown*.

In 1725 the Clyde had vast stocks and varieties of fish. In the 1800s it was recorded that pods of 40 whales visited and fed on the shoals of fish. Herring fishing dominated the catch in the Clyde and around the UK in the 1800s to the 1900s.

The industry employed hundreds of thousands of people. The methods of manual fishing were seine, trammel, and drift nets, suited to different sizes of boats and crews with varying efficiency.

Ill-feeling

This generated ill-feeling between communities and a fisherman was shot dead in Loch Fyne in 1862. Steam powered larger vessels, nets, and beam trawls came into being. There were larger catches and the species caught increased. In 1889 Clyde fishermen persuaded the Fisheries Board (established in 1882) to ban bottom trawling in the Clyde as it was damaging the seabed.

The official records show from 1899 to 1940 the catch halved. Harbours were full of fishing boats, so many that you could walk from one side to the other. The drop in catches started in the 20th century. In the 1930s and '40s there was a basking shark fishery based in Carradale. In the 1980s a



Howard Wood of COAST spoke to members of the Arran Historical Society about fishing on Arran in the Clyde in years gone by.

Girvan fisherman re-started hunting legally. Official catch limits of approximately 200 for research purposes was set but the true catch may be up to 800 a season.

In 1962 bottom trawls were allowed again to compensate for the decline. Initially this helped with a three-mile limit to reduce the destructive effects.

Before modern technology fishermen used experience and a 'feeling wire' to locate the shoals. The white fish

catch had dropped but remained relatively stable until the efficiency of the new technology resulted in a collapse in the stocks.

Devoid

Fishermen's representatives, running out of options, persuaded the Government to open waters within the three-mile limit using Newhaven scallop dredgers. The seabed was soon devoid of scallops and the side catch of nursery fish was fatal. The scallops also disappeared within a

short time. Discard rates in the fishery were 1kg scallops to 9 kg by catch.

What's left in the Clyde? 14 species are now ecologically extinct and 90 per cent of commercial catches in the Clyde today are prawns residing in the mud and caught individually in creels. 25,000 tonnes of discards are generated every year. The Clyde is now a fishery of last resort as the fish are being cast aside before they can mature.

The Clyde economy has

declined. Through the '70s and '80s the Clyde supported vibrant recreational fishing festivals. These events attracted sponsors and played an important part in the coastal communities. Brodick had an annual festival and Lamlash boasted two per year. The first recorded fishing festival in Scotland took place on Arran in 1963.

The European Boat Cod Festival was held in the Firth of Clyde on three occasions between 1979 and 2000. Such

events no longer exist. A 2009 Government report showed that sea angling at 1982 levels, could be worth £10 million of revenue to the Clyde economy and £2 million to Arran alone.

The next meeting of the Arran Historical Society will be its AGM on Monday January 20 in the Brodick Golf Club at 1.30pm. Any new members are welcome at this event and there will be a buffet and a film showing Arran in the past.

Scottish Calendars 2020



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YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN



A painting of Arran from the same year the article was published. Loch Ranza Arran 1891 by John MacWhirter.

A trip to Arran in 1891

Reader B Ingram of Widnes, Cheshire was browsing through a publication 'Home Words' dated 1891 when he came across an article on Arran. Being a frequent visitor, he thought that Banner readers would be interested in the piece called A Trip to Arran.

A Trip to Arran

By Andrew James Symington

Why not a summer trip to Arran? Steamers and railroads compete with each other in tempting 'fares', and a week of change is anyhow worth a doctor's bill. Nasmyth found the value of going abroad, 'with his eyes open'; and so may others too, if they open theirs.

Certainly Arran is an island of rare and exquisite beauty. 'There is more beauty and more grandeur in little Arran than in the whole of this great island-continent,' said an old traveller in the southern district of New South Wales, remarkable for great magnificence of mountain forms and forest scenery.

Arran, in the Firth of Clyde, is 20 and a half miles long, and 11 and a quarter broad at its greatest breadth. Its scenery is greatly varied, being wildest in the north. High peaks rise in grandeur sheer from deep rocky glens; then there are green fertile valleys – fringed with pine trees, birch, and the mountain ash, gay with its bright clusters of scarlet berries. Again we have cultivated slopes and

patches of verdure, alternating with tracts of moorland purple with heather; while here and there the little low-roofed whitewashed cottages, with roses and fuchsias clambering over them, sparsely nestle in sheltered sunny nooks.

Mountain streams flash in silvery foam over rock-ledges, bicker through the boulders, or quietly sing their way over the sea, over beds of white and red pebbles, or of yellow sand; sparkling and splashing in the golden sun-gleams, flecked by the flickering leaf shadows, and the bottom curiously netted with tremulous shadows cast upon it by the surface ripples.

Soft, balmy and delicious – the air is full of health-bringing ozone, fragrant with heather and bog myrtle, and musical with the singing of birds. Nowhere are there finer ferns to be found from the tiny Fairy fern to the stately Royal fern, which last, although now somewhat rare, has actually been found on the island, in some cases, of 11 feet in height.

Of Arran, Wordsworth, in a sonnet writes:

*'Arran! a single crested Teneriffe,
A St Helena next – in shape and hue,
Varying her crowded peaks and ridges
blue.'*

Then, vainly wishing that he could wing his way, at will, from the steamer, and alight on the top-most cliff, he takes occasion wisely to draw a lesson which nature teaches in such glorious scenes:

*'Beneath stern mountains, many a
soft vale lies,
And lofty springs give birth to lowly
streams.'*

Brodick is the chief place in the island, and the Castle is the residence of the Duke of Hamilton.

The Bay has well been compared to the Bay of Naples. Loch Ranza, on the north-east of the island, Sir Walter Scott, in his 'Lord of the Isles,' calls 'an enchanting scene'.

Those who climb to the summit of Goatfell, and gaze sheer down into Glen Rosa, a depth of 2,500 feet, with its many gorges surrounded by giant peaks – even if they have seen Switzerland – will never forget it.

Mr William Sharp, writing in the Art Journal, whilst allowing that Scotland contains some 'more impressive localities' – Glencoe, Staffa, Ben Nevis, Loch Awe, and Loch Lomond – adds: 'Yet the face remains that there is no part of Scotland of equal extent that contains anything like the same amount of beauty and grandeur combined. Those who have lived in Arran one summer will admit this: those who have spent two seasons there will declare there is no place like it anywhere: those who have dwelt in it summer after summer find it lovelier every year.'

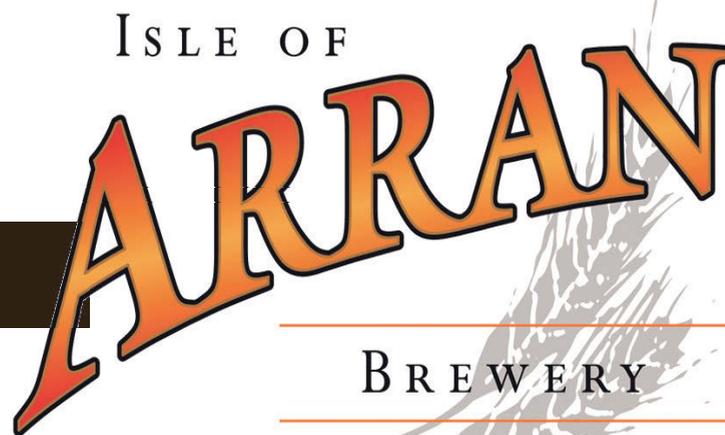
A trip to Arran, we may safely say, will satisfy the tourist that it 'contains infinite riches in a little room'.

What's on

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Octopus Centre - tennis Old Pavilion, Lamlash, open 7 days, any time
Brodick Mini Golf Open seven days, 9am - 5pm-ish, ALL weather
Public swimming Auchrannie Spa Pool, Brodick, 10am - 4pm (last entry 3pm)
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Saturday 18th January

Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
Dr Graham's Homes, Soup and Sandwiches Brodick Church Hall, 12noon - 2pm
Music Arran presents - Trio Volant Brodick Hall, 1.30pm
Rink Bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, Blackwaterfoot, 1.30pm
Screen Machine Auchrannie Hotel, Brodick, from 5.30pm
Live Music - Kate McCabe Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Eco Savvy Food Share Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 9pm
Over-21s' Disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

Sunday 19th January

Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
Live Music - Kate McCabe Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 1pm - 4pm
Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Beach Clean - Imacher Imacher Beach, 2pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
Eco Savvy and Co-op Food Share Shiskine Hall, Shiskine, 9pm
Folk Music Session Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Monday 20th January

Morning Fitness Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am-10.30am
Arran Churches Together Prayer Group St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church, W/Bay, 2pm
JogScotland mixed ability running group Whiting Bay, 5.30pm
Arran Punch Out Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
Circuit training Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
Junior Rugby (P3-P7) Ormidale Park, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm
Rink Games Brodick Bowling Club, 6.15pm
Junior Rugby (S1-S6) Ormidale Park, Brodick, 7pm - 8pm
Winter Bridge, visitors welcome, www.arranbridgeweb Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Live Music - Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s Brodick Church Hall, 7pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 21st January

Body Blitz (booking essential) Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
Healthy Outdoors Team Brodick Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Eco Savvy Energy Surgeries Home House House, Brodick, 10am - 3pm
Chess Morning Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 11am
Rink Bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
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 and bottle of wine Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 5.30pm
Hatton Boxing Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm

The 1st Shiskine Rainbows and Brownies
Arran Hockey Club - juniors (5-14yrs)
Mini Kickers 3-5yrs (preschool)
Junior Football, P4 -P6s
Scottish Country Dancing
Eco Savvy and Co-op Food Share
Trev's Pop Music Quiz
Traditional Music Sessions

Shiskine Hall, 5.30pm - 6.45pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm
KA Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 6.45pm
KA Leisure, Lamlash, 6.45pm - 7.45pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Eco Savvy Hub Shop, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Brodick Bar, 9pm

Wednesday 22nd January

Yoga Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
Hydrofit Auchrannie House Hotel, 9.30am - 10.30am
Brodick Gardens Volunteers Brodick Castle and Country Park, 9.30am - 1pm
Kilmory Toddlers Kilmory Hall, 10am - 12 noon
Archives and Genealogy Service Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Knit and Blether Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 2pm - 4pm
Arran Pace Makers Running Group Brodick, 5.30pm
Kettlercise Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
Arran 2030 Projections & Challenges Brodick Hall, 6.15pm - 8.30pm
Tae Kwondo kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Live Music - Arran Dawn Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Pub Quiz The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
Rock 'n' Pop Bingo Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 23rd January

Kettlercise Auchrannie Spa Resort, 11am - 11.45am
Arran Youth Soul Choir Community Theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
Body Blitz (booking essential) Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Arran Soul Choir Community Theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
Winter Bridge, visitors welcome, www.arranbridgeweb Little Rock Cafe, 7pm for 7.15pm
Arran Hockey Club - Seniors (12 yrs +) Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8.30pm
Arran Punch Out Arran High School, Lamlash, 7.30pm
Arran Angling Association AGM Forestry Commission Offices, Briodick, 7.45pm
Brodick Embroidery Group Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Eco Savvy and Co-op Food Share Brodick Ormidale Pavilion, 8.15pm
Eco Savvy and Co-op Food Share Kilmory Hall, 8.30pm
Tommy's General Knowledge Quiz Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 24th January

Yoga Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
Hydrofit Auchrannie House Hotel, 9.30am - 10.30am
ACLI - Friday Garden Club Golf Course Road, Whiting Bay, 10am - 12.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Tae Kwondo advanced kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
Live Music - Shindig Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Friday Night Quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
Eco Savvy & Co-op Food Share Octopus Centre, COAST, Lamash, 9pm

Saturday 25th January

Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
Rink Bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, Blackwaterfoot, 1.30pm
Lamlash Burns Club Annual Burns Supper Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm for 7.30pm
Live Music Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Live Music - Sensational Alex Harvey Experience The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Eco Savvy & Co-op Food Share Lochranza Hall, 9.15pm
Over-21s' Disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm



THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 22, 2000



Organic farmer Rosemary Glister of Auchaleffan Farm feeds two of her Oxford Sandy and Black pigs. 01_B03tweY01



Bus driver Morag McQueen with her young charges who she had just rescued from a sinking bus. 01_B03tweY02



Friends of Brodick Castle cut back rhododendrons and finish removing trees that have been waiting to be removed since last year's fierce storms which brought down many trees. 01_B03tweY03

Sinking feeling

Stagecoach bus driver Morag McQueen was driving children home from Whiting Bay Primary School when she stopped her minibus opposite the Coffee Pot in Whiting Bay to let some children off. She then tried to move off again but the bus would not budge. 'I thought the brakes had seized,' she said.

Morag jumped out of the bus and was amazed to see that the front off-side wheel had sunk right into the road. She got the rest of the children out of the bus and telephoned the depot in Brodick. Stagecoach manager Colin McCort said: 'The bus had sunk right down to the cross member and chassis and that was what prevented it sinking further into the road.'

There have been two instances of wind-screens breaking in the last fortnight owing to the road twisting the bus frame and smashing the glass.

Last week a driver also refused to take the school bus any further when he encountered subsidence in Kildonan. These incidents are not a reflection of the bus service itself, but on the condition of the roads.

Soap opera

Just outside Whiting Bay Garage there is a pothole. It's one of these perennial potholes which the council carefully fill but it seems to need regular treatment. And it has been appearing there for many years, long before

current proprietor George Lammie bought the garage.

But when George recently phoned the Roads Department to say that the hole again needed their attention, he was amazed to hear that he himself could be at the root of the problem. He has since received a written warning from the Assistant Island Officer that he should cease washing cars at the side of his garage as he is contravening Section 99 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 by allowing foul water to flow on to a public road.

George says that he only washes a couple of cars a week that have had a major service, and with professional car shampoo. So now customers get their cars back dirty and perhaps we now know the reason behind Arran's potholes – too much soapy water!

Millennium mirror

Some might remember receiving a mug with HM The Queen's head, or something else depending on where you lived, to commemorate the Coronation. Children from Corrie will in the future also have something to remember the Millennium thanks to the village committee. At the Corrie New Year party each of the 44 children under 18 was presented with a Millennium mirror. Carved by Marvin Elliott in wood and then cast in bronze resin, each mirror is about seven inches high. Those who still have the Coronation mugs will now know how valuable they are and in time the Corrie Millennium mirror may be too.



An Arran contingent of 62 islanders joined the Clyde River Steamer Club's annual outing when they sailed around Pladda on CalMac's latest addition to the fleet, the MV Clansman. 01_B03tweY04



A bulk tanker carrying animal feeds took a full day to be unloaded and pulled out of a ditch. Not the result of poor roads but the result of pulling into the ditch to save an overtaking car which could not make it back on to the road while an oncoming car approached. 01_B03tweY05

PUBLIC NOTICE

AGM

Arran Angling Association
Thursday 23rd January
7.45pm
Forestry Offices, Brodick

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THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (MACHRIE MOOR ROAD, MACHRIE WATER BRIDGE) ISLE OF ARRAN (TEMPORARY 18 TONNE WEIGHT RESTRICTION) ORDER 2020

Notice is hereby given that North Ayrshire Council propose to make the above named Order under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended.

The general effect of the Order will be to make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any motor vehicle the weight of which whether laden or unladen exceeds the weight limit of 18 tonnes on the Machrie Water Bridge, Machrie Moor Road, Isle of Arran.

Copies of the draft Order and a Statement of Reasons may be inspected, free of charge, at the following locations;

• Arran Council Office, Claulachlands Road, Lamlash, Brodick, KA27 8SW, (when open) between 20 January 2020 and 7 February 2020

• Arran Library, Main Street, Brodick, KA27 8DL (when open) between 18 January 2020 and 8 February 2020

And available online at;

• <https://www.tellmescotland.gov.uk/>

Any person who wishes to object to the proposed Order should send details, in writing and stating the grounds and including their name and address, to the undersigned by 7 February 2020.

Team Leader (Structures), North Ayrshire Council, Commercial Services (Roads), Cunninghame House, Friars Croft, Irvine, KA12 8EE.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



Arran Coastal Rowing Club AGM



Wednesday 5th February 2020 in
Arran Yacht Club, Lamlash,
at 7.30pm.

ALL WELCOME

Nominations for committee (together with the names of a proposer and a seconder) from club members should be sent to the secretary:

secretary@arrancoastalrowing.co.uk
by Wednesday 22nd January 2020 at the latest.

SCOTTISH FIELD

February issue



**Ayrshire
& Arran
Area feature**

Ayrshire & Arran...
Outlander author Diana Gabaldon...
Scotland's wild goats... Scotland's top
independent schools... Stunning wedding
photography... Comedian Sanjeev Kohli...
Top tattie recipes

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The Secretary, The Church of Scotland General Trustees, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YR (Tel: 0131 225 5722, ext. 2268) with whom offers to be lodged by 12 noon on 31 January 2020.

Please contact The Church of Scotland General Trustees to note your interest. Only offers on forms provided by the Church of Scotland General Trustees will be considered at the closing date.



Scottish Charity Number SC014574

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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson

Parish Assistant:

Mrs Jean Hunter:

Sunday 19th January

Christian Unity Service at Shiskine Church at 12 noon for all.

There will be also a service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30 pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland

Charity Number: SC014005

Sunday 19th January

There will be no service today at 10.30am as the Arran Churches Together Service for Christian Unity will be at 12noon in Shiskine Church of Scotland to which everyone is warmly invited.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Sunday 19th January

Rev Lily McKinnon No Church Service in either Church

You are invited to attend the Service of Christian Unity in St Molios Church, Shiskine at 12noon.

Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 19th January

Morning Service at 11am Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick Evening Service at 6.30pm 5 Glen Road, Brodick All welcome.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 19th January

Morning Service at St Molios, Shiskine at 11am Evening Service, Brodick at 6pm Service will be taken by Rev Duncan Peters

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 19th January

Sunday Morning Mass at 11am

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 19th January

There will be no service today at 11am we will be joining the Arran Churches Together Service for Christian Unity will be at 12noon in St Molios Church, Shiskine to which everyone is warmly invited.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 19th January

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 19th January

We will be joining the Service of Christian Unity, 12 noon at St Molios Church, Shiskine to which everyone is warmly invited.

Wednesday 22nd January

at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer. Everyone warmly invited.

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER GROUP

Monday 20th January

St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church, Whiting Bay, 2pm - 3pm.

DEATHS

WHITE: Antony

Peacefully at Crosshouse Hospital on 30th December 2019, Antony aged 87 years beloved husband of the late Mary and much loved dad of Sy. Funeral Service will take place on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 in Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreg-horn at 11.30am

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Round Arran's golf courses



Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday January 1, Hirsell Trophy, Stableford, NC, eight played. Iain MacDonald 7, 40pts, Nicol Hume 14, 38pts.

Sunday January 5, Stableford Sweep, NC, four played. George Hamilton 15, 39pts, Brian Smith 14, 37pts, ACB, John May 20, 37pts.

Sunday January 12, Brandon Qualifier, NC, 18 played.

Brian Smith 71-14=57, Babbies MacNeil 78-19=59, Frazer Barr 70-9=61. Scratch, Frazer Barr 70. Magic twos, Alistair Hume x 3.

Fixture: Sunday January 19, Winter Cup Stableford, 9am/noon.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday January 12, Winter Cup, Round four. A total of 10 played in the first Winter Cup round of the year. Persistent rain, that stopped just in time to entice golfers to go, left treacherous underfoot conditions requiring care

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ROBERTS: Sheila Currie

Sheila's family would like to thank everyone for cards, messages of sympathy, and attending the funeral.

The staff of Montrose House who made Sheila's stay comfortable and enjoyable. Friends who visited Sheila there.

Doctors and district nurses for unflinching attention.

Mrs J Hunter for a comforting service, Hendry's funeral services for arrangements.

£550 was raised for the Museum.

SELKIRK: Sheila (nee Page), wife of late John Selkirk, much loved mum, grandmother, great-aunt, peacefully at home on 28/12/19 aged 91.

Thanks to hospital staff, Lynn MacVicar and Community Nursing for support.

Thanks to all who attended funeral or sent condolences.

The sum of £350.60 from retiring collection was divided between Mary's Meals and Water Aid.



Shiskine golf course photographed from the Doon. Photograph: Shiskinegolf.co.uk.

to be taken on the steeper parts of the course. The greens, having been recently cut - great work Stewart and Corey, don't know how you managed it - were playing well, though, and scoring was such that CSS went down to 62. 1 David Brookens 12, 63, ACB and lowest gross, 2 Wolfi Kroner 14, 63, 3 John Pennycott 14, 64, ACB, 4 Neil Lucas 14, 64. There were no magic twos but heartfelt congratulations to Graeme Crichton for topping the list of 'no returns'.

Fixture: Sunday January 19,

Sweep, one draw at 10am.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday January 9, Yellow Medal. 1 Serge El Adm 79-15=64, 2 Derek Harrison 85-20=65, BIH over John O'Sullivan. Magic twos, Serge El Adm at 16th.

Sunday January 12, Glenburn Cup. 1 Scott Campbell 79-15=64, 2 Serge El Adm 90-15=65, BIH over Derek Harrison.

Best scratch, Ian Bremner 75.

Fixtures: Sunday January 19, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday

January 23, Yellow Medal, ballot at 11am.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday January 18, 18-hole sweep, ballots at 9am and 12.30pm. Monday January 20, Monday Cup, ballot at noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday January 7, Winter Cup. 1 Phil Betley 69, 2 Brian Sherwood 79. Tuesday January 14, Winter Cup. 1 Phil Betley 67, 2 Campbell Laing 70, 3 Alistair MacDonald 74.

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



The Arran ladies at the start of one of their games last year.

Hockey ladies ready to resume play

The Arran Ladies Hockey Club are ready to resume play in the West District Women's League Division 3 in their first game of the new year against Troon Ladies 2s.

The team, who have enjoyed a break over the festive period, will travel to Troon today (Saturday) to take on the Troon Ladies 2s

at the Marr playing field on Dundonald Road.

Training has already resumed for the Arran players who will be keen to get the season underway again as they are only one point away from the league leaders Greenock Morton Ladies, who currently have 19 points.

Following the Troon match, the team will be propelled into league fixtures again with a double header scheduled for the following weekend on Saturday and Sunday January 25 and 26, when they will face Uddingston Clinetix Ladies 3s and GHK Ladies 4s respectively.



Arran footballers face defeat from Charlie's Bar

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Charlie's Bar | 8 |
| Arran | 2 |
| League Division One | |

Arran AFC started the first game of the new year on the wrong foot after suffering a 8-2 defeat by Charlie's Bar at Kilwinning Sports Club last weekend.

While the result was not

the preferred outcome a spokesman for the club said: 'Bad day at the office today, Charlie's Bar were the much better team from start to finish and we wish them all the best for the season.'

Isle of Arran AFC remain fourth in the league table with 18 points, just one point behind Kilbirnie United. Killie Athletic are currently

in the top spot with 24 points and Irvine CSC are in second place with 21 points.

The next fixture for Arran AFC will be tomorrow (Sunday) when they face league leaders Killie Athletic at St Josephs Academy, Kilmarnock with a kick off time of 2.30pm.

Photographs: Tam Borland.



Goalmouth action from the Arran vs Charlie's Bar game.



Arran makes a spirited attack in order to increase their goal tally against Charlie's Bar.



Arran players congratulate their opponents after the game.

Duncan donates to grassroots football club

Arran businessman Duncan Yates has ensured the grass is always greener on the other side for a grassroots football club.

Mr Yates – who is company director of Glasgow-based domestic and commercial

artificial grass supplier CY Turf – spent his childhood growing up in Kildonan.

He has been based on the mainland for several years and recently decided to provide support to Thorn Athletic Football Club, which

are based a few miles from the company's premises in Hillington on the outskirts of Glasgow.

CY Turf – which offers a full design, landscaping and installation service – is in a league of its own when it comes to artificial grass and decided to form a winning combination with 'The Thorn'.

Mr Yates said: 'I previously worked with one of the members of the team and I was only too happy to help them out when approached as I know how difficult it can be to run a community group on a voluntary basis.'

'We are delighted to have the company name on a new distinctive Nike kit and look forward to them representing us across the West of Scotland. I'm hopeful that they can visit Arran at some point in the near future and hopefully get a game arranged.'

Club secretary Mark McGee said: 'We are grateful to



Duncan Yates, centre, is pictured with Thorn Athletic Football Club captain Ryan Crawford and goalkeeper Liam McWilliams.



Sponsor Duncan Yates with Thorn Athletic Football Club players who hope to visit Arran in the future.

Duncan for his support and the players are hopeful that

we can visit the beautiful Isle of Arran and return to

Duncan's roots representing his business.'



Some of the Arran High School pupils who will be undertaking the Outer Hebrides challenge later this year.

High School pupils prepare for Outer Hebrides challenge

A total of 16 Arran High School's S1 to S3 pupils will be taking on their biggest challenge yet in June this year when they cycle the length of the Outer Hebrides from Vatersay to the Butt of Lewis.

The pupils who will be taking on the gruelling challenge with four members of staff, including head teacher Barry Smith, will be covering a distance of 185 miles over six days.

Students will have responsibility to plan their trip, have basic knowledge of bike maintenance and plan their meals for the journey. Due to the physical demands of this trip, the students will also be following a strict training plan which will include hills and group rides on Arran which is ideally suited for the training as it has a wide range of hills similar to the terrain that they will face.

Students will not only be

cycling the Hebridean Way but they will be taking part in a number of activities before they embark on the adventure. The team has split into different committees to organise their part of the trip. Groups include bike maintenance, training, food and nutrition, accommodation, travel arrangements and fundraising.

The fundraising team will be organising activities over the next few months in the community, from a jumble sale and a themed concert to an all-you-can eat cake and coffee morning among many other ideas that are planned.

A spokesperson on behalf of the group said: 'We hope the community and island visitors will support these events which will be advertised in the Banner and on social media. Any surplus money raised from these events will be donated to a charity in the

Outer Hebrides.'

In early December last year GB paralympian cyclist Mel Nicholls, who completed a record-breaking cycle from Land's End to John O' Groats, spoke to the pupils during a visit to Arran and provided them with inspiration and useful advice on nutrition, motivation and useful tips and tricks for their challenge.

Anyone who can provide services or advice for the students is invited to contact the school. Each part of the trip, including the planning stages, will be overseen by a teacher and pupils hope to provide frequent updates on their plans, and the trip itself on social media.

GB paralympian cyclist and endurance wheelchair racer Mel Nicholls has visited the Arran pupils to provide them with some insight into their upcoming trip.



Arran's Rory makes big waves in the sailing world

Sailor Rory Hunter continues to make an impression in the sailing world by being nominated for a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Scotland Award.

The RYA Scotland Awards are an annual celebration of the people who make a difference across the recreational and competitive boating community in Scotland.

Rory, from Lamlash, was shortlisted for the award in the Performance of the Year category after winning the International WASPZ Games in Perth, Australia where he also lifted the U21 title at the same time.

Rory trained continuously for the event, which was considered the first World Championships in the class, even acquiring a second boat, Chris Thomas the Second, so that it could be kept in Australia while he trained on Chris Thomas back in the UK.

On receiving the nomination Rory said: 'I'm delighted to have been shortlisted for the award. In early 2018 I was torn as to whether or not to buy a WASPZ. I just can't believe how quickly the time has gone from then; to racing in Perth and having the best regatta of my life and now being shortlisted for this award.'

'I really owe the majority of my success this season to having found my love of sailing again. I came back from a bit of time out of the sport and almost every regatta I've



Rory's boat, number 2681, is captured at high speed during the competition.

Photo: WASPZ.

done this year I've loved – the results just seemed to come with that.

'My performance in Perth was a big moment for me in sailing generally. I went into the final race on very tight points. This was the first time I'd been put under this kind of pressure in a long time and I'd never had a very good history of dealing with it. To come away with the win under all that pressure was



Rory Hunter at the International WASPZ Games in Perth, Australia which he won.

honestly one of the best moments of my life – I'm never going to forget that event and it gives me huge confidence for future sailing.'

James Allan, RYA Scotland

CEO, said. 'The eighth RYA Scotland Annual Awards is an opportunity for RYA Scotland to celebrate the people, who through their dedication and devotion, make our activities

successful. The people who bring new participants into our community and our sport, those who make the future possible for others and celebrate those who have

excelled as a result of this and their own endeavours.'

The awards will take place at The Falkirk Wheel on Saturday January 25 where the winners will be announced.



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