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No. 2209 Arran's Weekly Newspaper

Friday 4 December, 2020

www.arranbanner.co.uk

85p



Decision on controversial fish farm is delayed again

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A controversial planning decision to establish a 12-pen fish farm near Millstone Point in the north east of Arran has once again been delayed.

The application by the Scottish Salmon Company was first made in August last year, with a discussion by North Ayrshire Council planning committee expected to take place in December. However this was postponed at the request of the applicant and Scottish Natural Heritage.

In October this year, a revised application – reducing the scale of the operation from 20 to 12 fish pens with a 120m circumference and a reduced biomass from 5,000 tonnes to 2,300 tonnes – was submitted and a consultation period was then undertaken with members of the public having until Monday November 9 to submit comments on the application.

The application garnered 397 comments, 374 objecting and 22 in support, with a determina-

nation – taking into account the consultation responses – expected earlier this week, on Wednesday December 2.

However, that has now been postponed due to further responses being required from statutory consultees and so will go ahead early in the new year.

A North Ayrshire Council

'The application is to be considered by the Planning Committee in 2021...'

spokesperson said: 'The planning application for the fish farm (ref: 19/00609/PPM) was amended by the applicant from 20 to 12 pens.'

'As such, the application has been subject to further consultation. We are currently awaiting a response from statutory consultees, including NatureScot.'

'The application is scheduled to be considered by the Planning Committee in 2021

when the consultee responses have been received and assessed.'

The proposed fish farm has been one of the most controversial planning applications on Arran in decades, with opponents voicing their concerns about a large-scale fish farm being sited in an area of undeveloped natural beauty. Objectors also cited concerns of fish welfare, risks to wild salmon populations and the effects that fish farms have on sensitive ecological systems.

Opponents also staged one of the largest protests in decades earlier this year when more than 200 people walked 3.5km to the proposed site as a gesture to show their determined opposition to the development. This included members of the public, members of Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) and residents of Lochranza, the closest village to the proposed site.

COAST, as the driving force behind the establishment of

Continued on page two.

Congratulations Sumdog winners



These are the exuberant faces of Lamlash Primary School pupils who excelled at the North Ayrshire maths contest known as the Sumdog competition. The P6 and P7 class were the overall winners, as well as being the daily winner on Thursday November 19. The P4 and P5 pupils also performed exceptionally well, coming sixth overall, as well as being the daily winners on Friday November 13. The top two pupils of the competition were also from Lamlash Primary School with first place going to Louie Ross, P7, while Warran Jackson, P7, took second place.



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University Hospital Ayr closes ward due to Covid

A ward has had to be closed at University Hospital Ayr after a number of staff and patients contracted coronavirus, writes Colin Smeeton.

Up to 22 possible cases have been detected and all patients who have been confirmed positive have been transferred to a dedicated ward while a deep clean is undertaken.

The news comes as the latest figures from the Scottish Government show that there have been 754 new cases in Scotland with 44 of them in Ayrshire and Arran.

There are 95 people with confirmed coronavirus in hospitals in the NHS Ayrshire and Arran health board region,

University Hospital Ayr.



with five patients in intensive care *Correct as of Wednesday December 2.

Medical director Dr Crawford McGuffie confirmed that a number of cases connected to a ward in University Hospital Ayr had been detected, but said a programme of screening asymptomatic patients and staff is now in place and that all necessary measures are being taken to protect everyone within the hospital.

Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infection Scotland has been notified of the incident in line with national reporting requirements.

Controversial fish farm decision delayed again

Continued from page one.
the Marine Protected Area (MPA) and the Lamlash No Take Zone, has been instrumental in calling for a halt on the salmon industry expansion on Arran. A campaign, with a petition calling for the rejection of planning permission for new or expanded salmonid production sites in the North Ayrshire Council islands and coastal areas, was also instituted with 7,667 people showing their support.

The outcome of the determination has been eagerly anticipated, not only by residents on Arran but by the Scottish Salmon Company which submitted hundreds of pages of documents, including environmental impact reports and numerous studies by consultants, supporting its application.

The Scottish Salmon Company states that the fish farm will provide employment



Protestors show their opposition to the proposal at a demonstration held earlier this year. 01_B49fishfarm01

on Arran by creating six full-time equivalent members of staff, which will support 31 indirect jobs and six in the wider economy across Scotland with a total Gross Value Added for the Scottish economy of more than £5.9million per year.

In a statement issued at the

time of the revised application, a Scottish Salmon Company spokesperson said: 'SSC has links with salmon farming on Arran stretching back more than 30 years.'

'Throughout this project, we have actively consulted with a range of stakeholders, includ-

ing members of the community, North Ayrshire Council, SEPA, NatureScot, Marine Scotland, the District Salmon Fishery Board and Fisheries Management Scotland. This feedback has been crucial in shaping our plans.'

'This revised proposal still delivers significant economic and social benefits to Arran and the wider economy.'

'The new employment and investment generated by this site will help support the island's communities in a time of economic uncertainty. We take our stewardship of the local environment very seriously and the proposed site will adhere to the very highest levels of environmental care and management.'

A determination date will be published once all consultees have responded and a decision has been reached by planning officials.

Strict action announced to control wild wrasse fisheries

Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing has announced stricter measures to control the over harvesting of wild wrasse which are used for managing sea lice in the salmon farming industry.

The move comes after calls by various environmental groups, and those involved in marine activities, who voiced their concerns about unsustainable and damaging practices for the species which are used as natural cleaners in fish farms.

The mandatory controls have been accepted by the industry after a public consultation which began earlier this year. The new measures are to be brought into effect from May 1, 2021.

Fishers will have to meet certain criteria, show they have an appropriate relationship with an aquaculture business and have a proven track record to obtain a permit for harvesting wild wrasse.

The new measures include the introduction of minimum and maximum landing sizes, limits on time spent fishing at sea and certain other limitations during spawning.

The tighter controls are expected to improve manage-



Fergus Ewing made the announcement following consultations with industry players and environmental groups.

ment of the fishery, provide clear instructions to all those involved and secure better reporting of activity and data from fishers to Marine Scotland.

Mr Ewing said: 'These measures will support the sustainable growth of our valuable aquaculture industry while also maintaining the right balance across our economic, environmental and social responsibilities.'

'Mandatory measures for wild wrasse harvesting will

help to maintain healthy stocks of this fish which is so important for treating and controlling lice in our salmon farms while improvements to the way we consider regulation of fish farms will ensure the impact from interactions with iconic wild salmon and sea trout is reduced.'

'We will work with fishers to help ensure reasonable fishing opportunities remain, that there is access for new entrants to wrasse fishing and that there is a fair recruitment system that takes into account sustainability and the aspirations of fishermen who may wish to diversify. This is an area we will continue to develop. Measures will be kept under review and we will look to refine them as more evidence, data and technology becomes available.'

'As we look ahead to economic recovery and the development of the Blue Economy, sustainability must be at the heart of what we do to ensure future generations can enjoy all of the beauty and nature that Scotland has to offer whilst safeguarding jobs in some of our most rural and fragile communities.'

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Eric Milton and Gavin Mutch, both in black jackets, take delivery of a stockpile of Christmas trees from Jackie Kemp and Gordon Boyle of Forestry and Land Scotland.

Cladach Garden Centre keeps Christmas tree tradition alive

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Cladach Garden Centre has ensured that a decades old tradition of buying locally-sourced and sustainable Christmas trees grown on Arran will continue this year by partnering with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS).

As reported in last week's Banner, FLS's Brodick office has been closed owing to the pandemic and many people - who have for over 30 years bought their Christmas trees from them - thought that this year they would be unable to.

But thanks to Gavin Mutch and his team at the Cladach Garden Centre the tradition

can continue, with Arran FLS noble fir trees now being sold along with a selection of 'imported' Nordmann firs. The Nordmann fir trees have been pruned and specially-grown for Christmas trees while the Arran versions, which have also been slightly pruned after cutting, have been allowed to grow naturally without any interference.

This means that the trees are not as 'perfect' as their counterparts but are equally attractive, grown on Arran, and as an added bonus are also more affordable.

Mr Mutch said: 'We are more than delighted to be able to offer FLS Christmas trees along with our own stock of bought-in trees.'

People who buy Arran trees each year will be able to continue the tradition by purchasing the trees from our premises at Cladach. We are open from Monday to Saturday from 10am to 5pm and we would be happy to help with your Christmas trees and any other gardening or landscaping needs.'

FLS have been supplying locals with Christmas trees for 30 years this year. The trees are planted and there is no maintenance or continual training or pruning involved. A small number are grown each year and made available as an informal festive gesture which is well supported by the Arran community.

CalMac defer freight service cancellation

CalMac has apologised for any confusion regarding the proposal to stop the loose freight service as reported in last week's Banner and will hold an engagement process in January.

CalMac Area operations manager Tommy Gore said: 'We, as CalMac, fully accept that our language was not as clear as it could have been,

and we apologise if there has been any misunderstanding. We are listening to what you have to say and would like to work with you to understand any specific issues and help to identify potential solutions. We will ensure no community is left without an alternative solution. We are also engaging with local NHS providers to ensure

suitable arrangements are in place and critical services are maintained. The proposed date of change has been deferred until February 28 2021. The engagement process will now take place through to January. I intend to meet with the Arran Ferry Committee and would ask that any feedback is passed to them.'

CalMac praised for infection control during pandemic

CalMac is the first ferry operator in the UK to receive a top industry verification for its infection risk management processes from independent experts in risk management and quality assurance organisation DNV GL.

CalMac's health, safety, quality and environmental team (HSQE) worked closely with DNV GL and completed a verification assessment of the readiness of the organisation in managing infection risk from emerging pathogens.

The ferry operator was evaluated and found compliant to a high standard for infection risk management, earning the right to use DNV GL's My Care Readiness Mark.

All processes were reviewed using the My Care framework which assesses, manages and mitigates infection risk in management systems, business processes and operations. This was carried out through document review, remote discussions with onboard management teams,

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and included eight site visits. Louis de Wolff, director of HSQE at CalMac, said: 'The My Care Readiness Mark provides formal recognition of the high standards of health and safety protection on our routes to reduce the risk of infection.'

'This award reaffirms our commitment to ensuring a safe environment for passengers, colleagues and communities, during the current COVID pandemic and beyond.'

'The review process was in-depth and rigorous and I am grateful to CalMac staff for

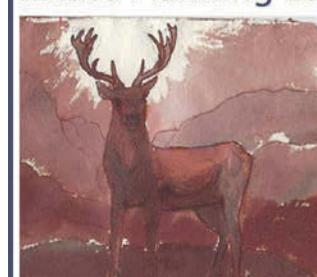
their open and honest insight into our processes and how they are implemented across the organisation.'

Aileen Orr, healthcare lead at DNV GL - Business Assurance in the UK, said: 'Many congratulations to CalMac on this achievement, which is well deserved. I was impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment of staff at all levels.'

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Play writer, Andy McNamara, joined actors, Patrick and Beverley Scott, and videographers, Chris and Jan Atkins, to watch a live screening of the play *Nunquam Non Paratus* in the international online festival.

Whiting Bay's winning play shown on international stage

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

In this time of Covid, there has not been much theatre on offer, particularly not on Arran.

However, the Whiting Bay Drama Club has kept the stage lights burning with their play *Nunquam Non Paratus*, which was accepted as the United Kingdom's entry in an international online festival of amateur theatre

called Theatre is my Love. Hosted by Moscow, Russia, it attracted 18 entries, of which 10 were selected to be shown during the festival, which ran from Sunday November 22 to Saturday November 28.

The other nine entries accepted were from Russia, Malaysia, Estonia, Romania, Mexico, Spain, Germany, Slovenia and Lithuania. The festival was non-competitive and in giving critical feedback at the end of the festival, Thorgeir Tryggvason (Toggi),

an Icelandic theatre critic, described the Whiting Bay entry as a well-produced short play that 'cracked him up'.

He noted that the play started seriously but about halfway through, the penny dropped – 'oh, it's not *Braveheart*, it's *Blackadder*, and it ended like *Monty Python*!'

Nunquam Non Paratus was the winning play at the 2019 Arran Drama Festival, with Alan Nichol and Andy McNamara winning best actor and supporting actor awards.

The play, written by Andy McNamara and directed by David Simkin, went on to compete in the East Kilbride Drama Festival later in the year, and took third place.

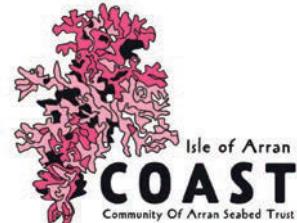
The version of the play, which was shown at the international festival, was filmed in the forest at the Dyemill, by Chris and Jan Atkins.

The award-winning cast featured Alan and Andy, together with Zoe McGovern, Val Waite and Patrick and Beverley Scott.

Views sought to help shape Arran's coasts in future

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is currently planning for brighter days beyond the pandemic by developing a new strategic plan, writes Colin Smeeton.

As part of the process they are keen to hear from Arran residents and have recently launched an online survey. They would like to hear islanders' ideas on a variety of topics from community engagement to refurbishment and development of the COAST Discovery Centre. COAST's Andrew Binnie explained: 'To my knowledge this is the first time COAST has conducted an online survey to gather ideas and suggestions on COAST as an organisation, how effectively we engage with our fellow residents and supporters, and how people think we are doing in standing up for Arran's coastal



waters. We are also keen to hear ideas on how we can best reimagine the courts area at the south of Lamlash Green, while retaining two courts for tennis as promised when we took them over in 2016.'

'We'd like this area to be a real asset to Lamlash and Arran with putting, tennis, marine and shore line activities sympathetically integrated.'

To participate in the survey go to COAST's website at www.arrancoast.com or follow the link in their advert.



COAST hopes its survey will come with ideas for the courts area.

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Alison Page Community Ambassador

Three-year fight starts to rid island of larch disease

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



It will take more than three years to clear the thousands of larch trees on Arran which have been hit by an outbreak of a fatal tree disease.

Work is likely to start this week at Kilpatrick on the west coast on the felling of trees infected by *phytophthora ramorum* which has been present in the rhododendrons in the grounds of Brodick Castle for eight years, but at quite a low level, according to Andy Walker of the Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) team on Arran.

He told a Zoom meeting of the Arran Community Council last week that, while the disease can infect a range

of host species, it causes particularly damaging infections on larch trees.

As reported in the Banner last month, a large scale clearance of around 440,000 trees will lead to substantial changes in well-loved landscapes on the island.

Mr Walker told the community council that the infected areas stretched across the island from Kings Cross to Dyemill and Brodick to Glenashdale. Putting it into context, he said the FLS annually cuts down 250,000 trees in its usual harvesting programme – four to five per cent of all the trees on Arran.

He said the work should be completed by February of next year but because of the scale of the problem the Arran FLS team had been given an

extra three years to do it. He said they would be substituting spruce for larch when replanting.

The felled trees, he said, would be harvested in the normal way, and sold to existing markets on the mainland and for chipping by Arran Energy.

Mr Walker was asked about the ability of the disease to 'species jump' since it had originally been found on rhododendron on Arran.

He said there had been a couple of cases of sitka spruce being infected, but it had not happened on a large scale. He said the disease was originally an oak disease in North America.

He accepted that some of the larch to be felled were quite young, at around eight years, but said no larch had been planted on the island in the last five years.

The public have been asked to help as the spores that spread the disease can be carried to other sites in mud and forest debris. They are being asked to follow the forestry Keep it Clean advice and take a few minutes to brush or wipe off boots, bike wheels, tent pegs and even dogs' paws before and after a visit to any woodland in the area. Mr Walker said there were no plans to install footbaths or close any forest paths as he said the disease was primarily wind borne. He added they would be seeking any further advice they needed from the likes of Dumfries and Galloway which had much wider problems with the disease.



A stretch of trees in Kilpatrick Forest where there are diseased larch trees. 01_B49larch01



A larch tree in Glenashdale showing signs of the disease.

01_B49larch03



The entrance to Kilpatrick Forest where work will start. 01_B49larch02

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Long-awaited decision no nearer being made

That Arran has to wait another few months for a determination on the proposal for a fish farm at Millstone Point is frustrating to say the least for all parties concerned.

The decision is one that could have serious implications for Arran for generations to come and it is only right it receives the due consideration – taking all science, data and opinions into account – to make a responsible decision.

It does have to be said though that the reams of data, consultations and reports, running into hundreds of pages, cannot be helping to make the decision any easier or clearer.

The revision of the proposal, which reminds me of my four-year-old son asking for a bar of chocolate then reducing it to just a few pieces, has now thrown a spanner in the works so to speak.

Whether intentional or not, the further delay has had no impact on the strong feelings that the proposal has stirred in those, both for and against the application.

This can clearly be seen in our letters pages and the fact that campaigners are still holding a camping protest at the site to raise awareness of the issue.

We eagerly await the day that this determination will be announced and we will publish it in full, when it is eventually made.

Thought for the week

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

YOUR STORY

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Auld Alliance decree

Sir,

Boris Johnson could deliver part of his 'levelling up' mantra by allowing Scottish residents the same rights as those in Northern Ireland, which also voted to remain within the EU, the right to EU citizenship. This is enshrined within the Good Friday agreement and the current Brexit Northern Ireland arrangements. Similarly the right to conduct a poll to reunite Ireland, if public polling in both jurisdictions suggests a majority, cannot be denied by the UK government.

Scotsmen keen to maintain EU citizenship can cite the Auld Alliance 1513 decree of King Louis 12th – Lettres de Naturalite - which bestowed on Scotsmen the same rights as Frenchmen under the law – pity about the women and children!

Yours,
John Lamont, Whiting Bay

Give a shift

Sir,

Marie Curie in Ayrshire have launched a new Christmas appeal to run throughout December.

The end of life charity is encouraging local businesses, employees, groups and families to club together and help 'Give a Shift' to local Marie Curie nurses this Christmas and donations can be made at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/marie-curie-Ayrshire

Due to the pandemic, Marie Curie has had to cancel many fundraising events, so the charity has lost a substantial amount of revenue, but services are in demand more than ever. So this Christmas, we need your help.

Our nurses, have been here through it all, 24/7, caring for people with and without coronavirus. They never stopped. We have adapted quickly and our Information and Support line is now open seven days a week with Marie Curie Nurses available over the phone. We know it is a difficult time for everyone, but for those living with a terminal illness it is even more so. We need your support to continue to be there for people at their time of need.

Each shift of Marie Curie Nursing care costs around £180 and we are appealing to local businesses, group and families to 'Give a Shift' this Christmas and help us fund as many shifts as possible over the coming weeks. Let Christmas 2020 be different in a positive way and make a real difference to those living with a terminal illness and their families.

Yours,
Elma Mitchell, Marie Curie Community Fundraiser.

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PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



Our photograph of the week is from reader Peter Wilkinson, parish co-ordinator at the Holy Cross Catholic Church. The brightly coloured image shows a part of the church's Advent display. Advent celebrates the birth of Christ and His return at the Second Coming.

Turkey free Christmas

Sir,

As Christmas approaches, and we think about the season of peace and goodwill to all, we encourage everybody to consider the impact they have on animals.

Every year, around 14 million turkeys are farmed and slaughtered in the UK - the vast majority of them for Christmas dinners. Most of these turkeys will have spent their short lives on a factory farm, where they are denied their basic needs. There is rarely any natural sunlight, there is no grass and premature death and disease is commonplace.

Animal Aid has uncovered the horrific conditions on turkey farms over the years, including on so-called 'high welfare' farms.

Regardless of whether these animals are farmed on factory farms or smaller 'high-welfare' farms, they always end up facing horrific and terrifying deaths at the slaughterhouse.

The good news is that there is a number of plant-based options available in supermarkets and from independent retailers, as well as a plethora of recipes online. In fact, Animal Aid is offering a free digital copy of our Have a Very Vegan Christmas recipe booklet to anyone who wants to have a cruelty-free Christmas this year.

Show compassion for all animals this festive season and opt for a vegan Christmas dinner.

Those interested in learning more or receiving a free copy of our vegan Christmas recipe book can visit www.animalaid.org.uk/their-christmas-wish

Yours,
Tod Bradbury, Campaign Manager - Animal Aid

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

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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.

Get set now to do business when the UK's trading with the EU changes on January 1

FROM JANUARY 1 2021 the way the UK trades with the EU will change. Businesses need to act now!

This is true for retail, those trading in consumer goods, services and investment, construction and housing as well as vehicle and haulier firms.

The UK Government has put a raft of measures in place for all firms across England, Scotland and Wales.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster Michael Gove said: "We are leaving the EU single market and customs union. This will bring both new challenges and new opportunities for businesses. We recognise this is a challenging time for everyone. We are determined to support

KEY CONTACTS

- Make sure you're ready gov.uk/transition
- Data protection and transfers gov.uk/guidance/using-personal-data-after-brexit
- EU and EEA countries gov.uk/eu-eea

businesses to be ready for 1 January 2021 and beyond."

These are actions to take now...

■ Selling goods to the EU? Prepare for new customs procedures.

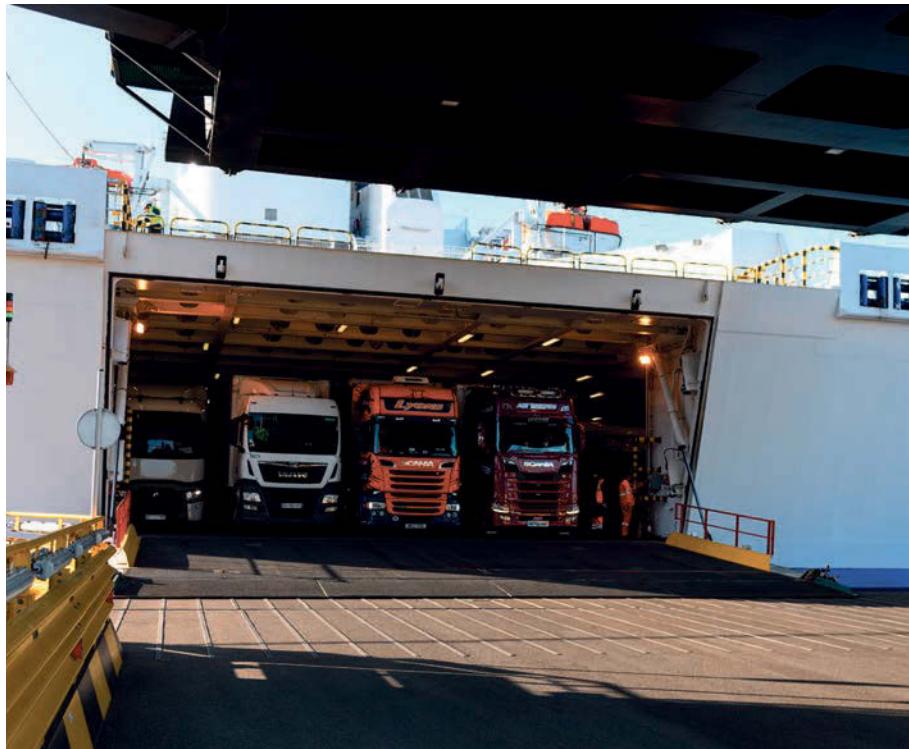
■ Travelling to the EU for work purposes? Check if you need a visa or work permit, and apply if necessary.

■ Employing overseas nationals? Prepare your business for the implementation of the new immigration system.

■ Receiving personal data from contacts in the EEA? You may need to take extra steps to ensure that data can continue to flow legally at the end of the transition period.

■ Providing services in the EU? Ensure your qualifications are recognised by EU regulations to be able to practice or service clients in the EU.

■ This article is part of a paid-for Partnership with the UK Government



NEW CHALLENGE: If you are selling goods to the EU, prepare for new customs procedures.



LEADING THE WAY: Laura Hobbs

'Businesses must prepare for the end of the UK transition period in a planned and coordinated way'

Procurement expert Laura Hobbs has led the way for the construction industry to prepare for the end of the UK transition period. Laura is the UK and Ireland One Procurement Programme Lead at Royal BAM Group, which is among the biggest construction firms covering England, Wales and Scotland. She said: "We have created a snapshot to give a clear picture for the industry where we believe pinch

points are." Laura explained: "I decided to pull my peers together; all the other main contractors that are part of the Construction Senior Leaders Group which I chair. We decided to write one set of questions for the end of UK transition and also share the workload – to go to all those different product categories key to construction.

"As main contractors we deal a lot with sub-contractors so we need to ensure the message gets further into the supply chain."

The Construction Senior Leaders

Group also includes representatives from Skanska, Costain, Murphys, Laing O'Rourke, housebuilders Berkeley and clients including Highways UK and Clarion Housing Group.

Manufacturers are employing new customs experts to help them get in position for the new start, creating more strategic programmes to negate any currency fluctuations.

Laura worked with Build UK, receiving useful information around imports and exports from the UK Government.

"Information is the key and

preparation is essential. The organisations we work with have been preparing for this for a long time so they are on their final rehearsals now.

"To be able to give your own business the comfort you are going into this in a planned, coordinated way, it is key for people to start the exercise sooner rather than later," stressed Laura.

She said the new start will bring opportunities to invest in the UK supply chain. "We always see the positives and, definitely for the UK, there are opportunities coming."

Check, Change, Go

To find out more about the UK's new start
go to gov.uk/transition



Let's get going ➤

Race on to plug repair fund shortfall in time for 2021

The last seagoing paddle steamer in the world, Waverley, is facing a shortfall of nearly a quarter of a million pounds to keep her in shipshape condition if she is to sail again next year.

While the current Covid-19 Relief Appeal for Waverley has exceeded £130,000 with donations received from generous supporters, the appeal must raise more than £500,000 in total, with a target of £350,000 from individuals. Other sources of funding are being pursued given that winter maintenance work is under way with insufficient funds to complete it.

Waverley's general manager Paul Semple said: 'I am delighted with the positive response and the support Waverley is once again receiving from so many people.'

The success of our Covid-19

Appeal is vital if we are to survive the winter and sail Waverley in summer 2021.

'The impact of Covid denied us the opportunity to sail Waverley for a full season on the Firth of Clyde and around other areas of the UK. When the ship did sail this year, passenger numbers were strictly limited to under 30 per cent capacity resulting in a dramatic reduction in income.'

Waverley returned to service for two weeks in late August. During the short season, most sailings were sold out with many passengers unable to book a cruise given the reduced capacity due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Mr Semple added: 'Waverley normally carries more than 100,000 passengers annually but this season we saw less than 6,000 aboard. The ship needs to operate a full summer

season to earn sufficient funds and cover costs. Waverley must be maintained to remain in operation and that maintenance comes at a high cost. This winter, more than £400,000 will be spent on routine works and drydocking.'

Following heavy contact with the pier at Brodick, Waverley will receive a new bow when she is dry docked next spring ahead of the 2021 season. The cost of repairs to the bow will be met by insurance and not from funds raised through the Covid-19 Relief Appeal.

Donations to the Waverley Covid-19 Relief Appeal can be made online at waverley-excursions.co.uk or by calling 0141 243 2224 or by texting STEAM followed by £10 or £20 to 70085.

Those donating online can opt to be included on the virtual donor wall.



Running and maintenance costs for PS Waverley have been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

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- 9. Universal Credit

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Gourock linkspan project delayed

Installation of the new linkspan at Gourock Ferry Terminal, which was meant to be completed just prior to Christmas this year, has been delayed and is now estimated to be completed early next year.

The delay to work at Gourock, which is used as an alternative port in bad weather for Arran and Bute ferries, is due to recently discovered issues with the berth structure which were uncovered during additional surveys.

A specialised craneship, the LARA 1 crane barge, removed the old linkspan at the start of November but subsequent infrastructure and underwater surveys have uncovered unexpected anomalies in the 50-year old berth, making it difficult to put the new linkspan into place.

The LARA 1 crane barge is currently at Gourock Ferry

Terminal as part of plans to install the new linkspan this week, however, CMAL will carry out the necessary rectifications to the berth before lifting the linkspan in.

Paul Colenso, senior civil engineer at CMAL, said: 'We're extremely frustrated by this unexpected issue. Extensive surveys were conducted as part of the project planning process. However, the old linkspan was concealing issues that only became apparent through the technical checks we conducted after it was removed. This can happen with marine engineering projects, when positioning of harbour structures and water levels mean it is not possible to see everything.'

'Unfortunately, additional work is required to address the issues, which will inevitably cause delays. The programme for rectifying the issue has not yet been determined, but we anticipate the installation of the linkspan and the subsequent return of the berth to full operations will now be in

January 2021. We will be able to provide more clarity around the revised programme in the next couple of weeks.'

The delivery of new fenders for the project has also been delayed. The fenders are on a container ship waiting to enter the port of Felixstowe, which is currently experiencing issues with delays and stockpiles created by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is understood though, the ship is expected to enter the port imminently.

The fenders are essential to complete the project and allow the linkspan to be commissioned for use.

CMAL, which owns Gourock Ferry Terminal, started the linkspan project in October, with an original completion date of Wednesday December 3. As well as repairing the linkspan supports, the project includes replacing the steel deck and associated mechanical and electrical equipment.

When complete, Gourock will once again be available as an alternative mainland port for vehicle services.

READ MORE
www.arranbanner.co.uk

Distillery does its bit to save Waverley

Isle of Arran Distillers is helping to raise funds to save the Waverley paddle steamer by auctioning an exclusive bottle of single cask whisky.

Open for bids via www.whisky.auction, the whisky is number one of just 225 bottles of 12-year-old single malt aged in a single bourbon barrel and bottled at 59.6 per cent ABV.

Campbell Laing, tour guide at Lochranza

Distillery, had the idea to reserve a cask to raise money for the ship's repairs, with £10 from each bottle sold going to the cause. In recognition, Campbell was given bottle number one, which he has now chosen to auction to raise more funds for the Waverley.

The Isle of Arran Distillers team said: 'Many Scots hold fond memories of times spent on it

enjoying the journey up and down the West Coast. We at Isle of Arran Distillers, together with our thoughtful and generous tour guide Campbell Laing, want to do our best to help ensure the Waverley keeps sailing. It is not every day you can find bottle number one of an Arran single cask, and what better occasion to get involved, donate and support a good cause.'

We would also like to express our appreciation and gratitude to the wonderful team at Whisky Auction for making all this possible.'

The bottle is packaged along with a hipflask and mini glass decanter with matching tot glasses. The auction will be live until Tuesday December 8. Bidders can register for an account by visiting www.whisky.auction.



Campbell Laing shows off the whisky that is being auctioned to raise funds for the Waverley.



The single malt Scotch whisky is labelled as bottle number one out of 225 bottles.

HM Government
UK TRANSITION

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NEED
TO ACT
NOW

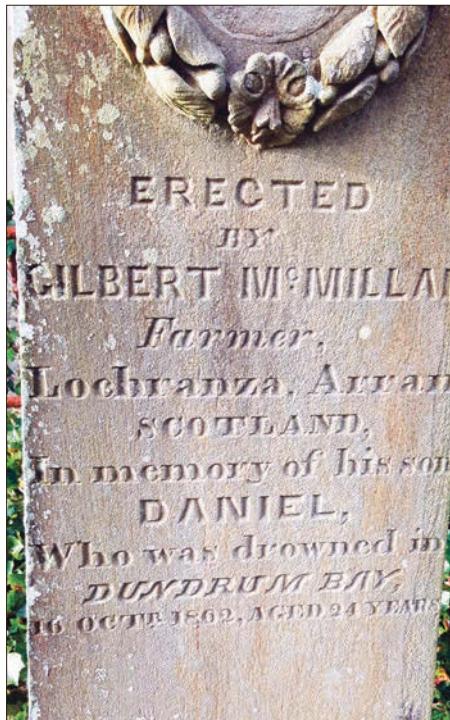
**NEW RULES FOR BUSINESS WITH
EUROPE START ON 01 JAN 2021**

THERE ARE ACTIONS YOUR BUSINESS
NEEDS TO TAKE NOW AT GOV.UK/TRANSITION

✓ Check
✓ Change
✓ Go

Arran fishermen found at rest in Ardglass graveyard

The gravestone of Daniel McMillan in Ardglass cemetery.



by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The gravestones of three fishermen of Arran, who died more than 150 years ago, have been found in a quiet cemetery in Northern Ireland.

The three crewmen drowned following the sinking of the fishing smack Tickler from Lochranza on October 16, 1862, in Dundrum Bay, off the coast of County Down.

Historian Neville Turkington recently made the discovery in the graveyard of the Church of Ireland in Ardglass and is asking Arran Banner readers if they can shed any more light on the tragedy.

The men who died were Daniel McMillan of Lochranza and brothers John and Dugald from Whitefarland.

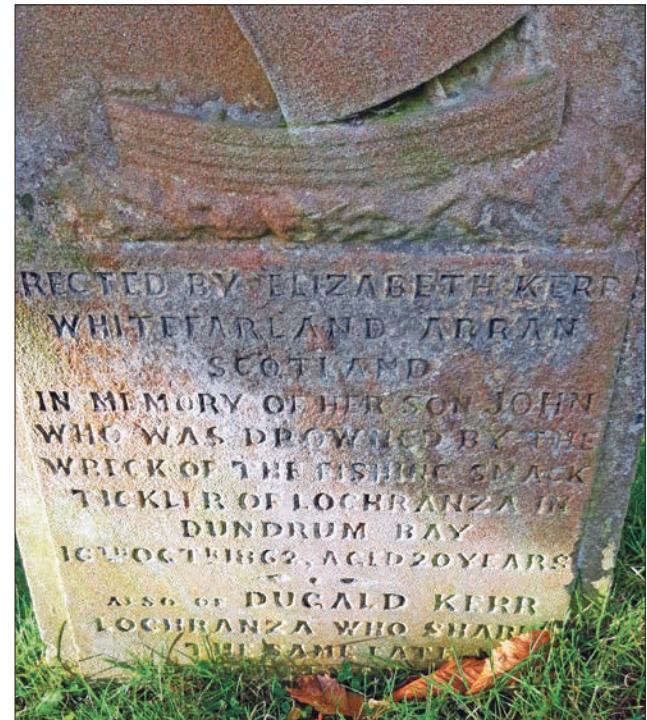
There may have been more crewmen lost, but no more graves were found by Neville in Ardglass.

He said: 'Daniel McMillan's father, who was a farmer in Lochranza, erected a fine headstone to his lost son.'

John and Dugald's mother, Elizabeth Kerr of Whitefarland, also erected a headstone to the loss of her aforementioned sons.

'Hopefully your readers will find this piece of lost history to some of Arran's sons, who are interred here in Ardglass Northern Ireland, of interest. Maybe there are descendants of the McMillan and Kerr families who could shed more light on this or they now know where their distant relatives rest.'

Brothers John and Dugald Kerr drowned in the Tickler tragedy.



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Arran from Edinburgh?

An Arran Banner reader who has a holiday house in Kings Cross experienced an unusual amalgamation of perfect meteorological conditions which afforded him a view of Arran all the way from Edinburgh.

Roddy McAllister was with his friend Cammy Wilson, who also used to take his holidays on the island, and was on the top of Edinburgh's

Pentlands Hills where they enjoyed stunning clear views.

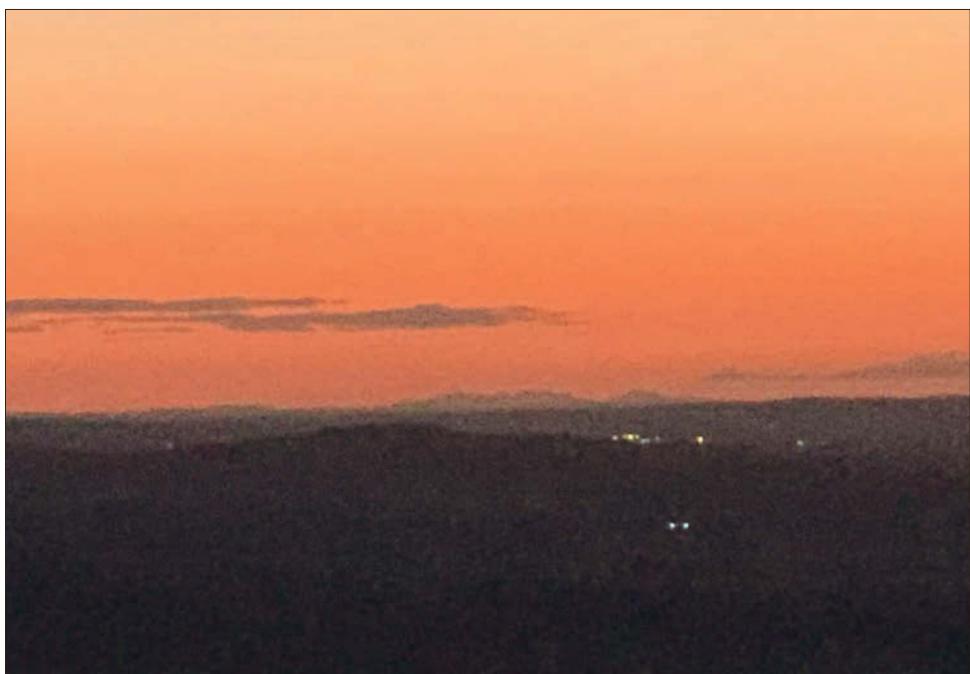
In the distance they thought they could make out the distinctive shape of Arran but they had their doubts owing to their location which is around 100 miles away from Arran.

Roddy said: 'We think we could see Arran in the distance.'

'It was due west of our

position when facing north. I've popped it on the Arran Facebook media channel and most folk think it's Arran. Who would have thought you could see Arran from Edinburgh?'

Editors note: The picture supplied was taken at night and lacks detail but it has been reproduced here for readers to decide for themselves.



Can you make out Arran in the distance?

Employees' bereavement leave must be enshrined in law, says Arran MP

Arran's MP, Patricia Gibson, recently led a debate in Westminster where she called for two weeks' statutory paid bereavement leave for all employees who lose a close family member or partner.

Having worked cross-party to secure paid bereavement leave for parents following the loss of a child, Mrs Gibson has now urged the UK Government to extend such rights for immediate family members.

Typically, employers offer three to five days' compassionate leave but its discretionary nature means some employees are unable to take leave without fearing it could undermine their job security.

Around a quarter of all employees experienced a bereavement in the last year.

Mrs Gibson said: 'Bereavement is a fact of life and yet a third of employees who experience it don't receive any leave and only a third know if their workplace has a bereavement policy.'

'People in low-paid jobs are far less likely to receive any paid compassionate leave.'

'They are also at greater risk of losing their job for taking time off, and to struggle with the immediate financial impact of bereavement.'

'This increases the pressure and financial stress on employees trying their best to cope with the loss of a close family member.'

'While many employers are supportive and understanding, others are not.'

'Such a profoundly life-changing experience,

potentially with long-term mental and physical health consequences, cannot be left to the goodwill of employers.'

'Death is the great leveller, so

the time and space to grieve without worrying about loss of pay, or pressure to return to work too soon, should be available to all.'

MP Patricia Gibson is calling on the UK Government to secure two-weeks' paid bereavement leave for workers.



Young Louis raises £100 for Brodick nursery funds

Three-year-old Louis Bunyan of Brodick has raised £100 for Brodick Nursery. As a Christmas fundraiser, he sold tickets to win a voucher for a stay, wine and dine break at the Burlington Hotel in Whiting Bay. Shelly Cummings from Lamlash won the voucher and is looking forward to enjoying a relaxing few days this weekend with her partner as she's expecting twins after Christmas.



THE WAY WE ACCESS URGENT CARE HAS CHANGED

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DAY OR NIGHT

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nhsaaa.net/right-care-right-place

Mental health: help is at hand



Do you know someone who is socially isolated that would benefit from an iPad, internet access and a digital support buddy for a year.

Arran CVS have iPads obtained via the Scottish Government Connecting Scotland project for distribution to people within the Arran community.

There is no cost involved.

For further details please contact:
James on 01770 600611 or email
james.conlan@arrancvs.org.uk



In a follow up to last week's story on mental health being the largest concern in a community survey, Arran Community and Voluntary Service (Arran CVS) has compiled a repository of services, assistance and guidance on the work around mental health and social isolation that is available to Arran residents.

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Early on in the pandemic Arran CVS pulled together a trifold leaflet with useful numbers and information, which provides details on local and national support.

It also set up a telephone support service called Keep Arran Talking (KAT) and has trained volunteers, fully armed with all of the information they need to support someone, and it has matched others with individuals who have accessed or requested the service.

Calls are available to anyone on Arran who may feel isolated, unconnected, lonely or

just want to talk to someone locally. The volunteers arrange a suitable time to make regular calls with the service user for a catch-up and informal chat.

Further island telephone support was set up by Heather Lodge in association with the Mary Davies Trust, with the support from Foundation Scotland.

Called the Arran Ear, this service is intended as a low-level brief intervention for islanders experiencing anxiety and fear during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The line is staffed by six trained listeners, all of whom undertake regular continuing professional development (CPD) and have tried and tested methods to support anxious clients.

Arran CVS also launched the Connecting Arran Digital Project, run in conjunction with the national Connecting Scotland campaign.

The project has been set up to support those who are socially isolated and do not have digital access or the knowledge to use the technology.

It has now issued 16 iPads with MiFi internet and has matched up Digital Buddy volunteers with iPad recipients.

The two established lunch clubs in Lamlash and Brodick were halted due to Covid as communal areas have been closed within the sheltered housing complexes.

But organisers have been in regular contact with lunch club attendees and volunteers to check in and ensure that they have someone to raise any concerns with.

The existing Befriending Arran project has moved from face to face contact to telephone and video contact. Again, Arran CVS staff have kept in regular contact with volunteer befrienders and befriendees.

Further to the projects and support that have recently been set up, there is also the Community Link Worker Service.

Lorraine Hewie is the community link worker on Arran and she also works for Arran CVS. She provides support under the third sector interface umbrella, covering the Arran locality for community support and providing link working patient support within Arran Medical Group surgeries.

Her role is as a non-clinical social practitioner, who pro-

vides support for issues that go beyond the scope of medical treatment.

As such, she can provide support for individuals around a range of social points that affect health and wellbeing, which include money worries, debt, unemployment, social isolation, bereavement support, alcohol and drug use and managing stress and living a healthier lifestyle.

The support centres on the self-management of low mood and anxiety and assists individuals over time to access the resources needed to keep them well.

This support is provided on a one-to-one basis for individuals via face-to-face consultations, telephone or video appointments using Attend Anywhere.

As part of her role, Lorraine also runs a Mental Health Improvement and Awareness workshop, alongside her colleague and counterpart, Michelle Trainer, who covers Largs and Millport and North Coast areas.

Lorraine and Michelle have been delivering the Mental Health Improvement workshops since June to various community and voluntary

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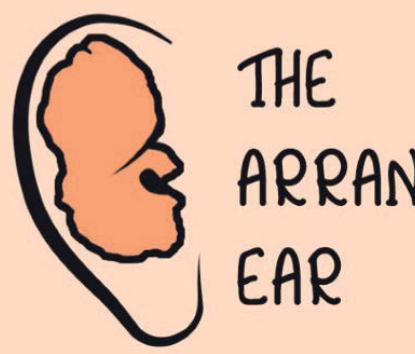
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Anxious or stressed because of the current pandemic?

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Trouble sleeping?



Call the Arran Ear to speak with a member of the dedicated local listening team in complete confidence.

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Call any time between 9am & 5pm

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and around Arran



Arran community link worker, Lorraine Hewie, pictured at an information session at Arran Library last year where she provided visitors with details on the services that are available on Arran. 01_B49mental01

groups and organisations across North Ayrshire and Arran.

It is a two-hour session over Zoom; part one is about mental health and well-being, part two is about how and where to get help if anyone is struggling with their mental health and well-being.

Once the workshop has been completed, participants receive the Powerpoint work-

shop presentation, supporting documents and worksheets, and an information pack of support in local and surrounding areas as well as websites and telephone numbers which provide support locally and nationally.

The workshop is open to anyone on Arran who wants to improve things for their members, teams or themselves in supporting and

improving mental health. There are many other organisations around the island keeping up those morale boosting discussions with members, such as U3A, Arran Community Land Initiative and the Healthy Outdoors Team (HOT).

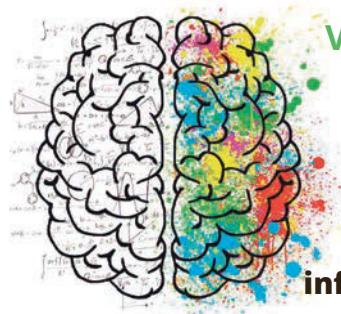
All of them help to tackle social isolation, loneliness and support mental health and wellbeing.

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Virtual sessions currently available:

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info@arrancvs.org.uk or Tel: 01770 600611



Keep Arran Talking

Arran CVS
Arran CVS
Arran Community Voluntary Service

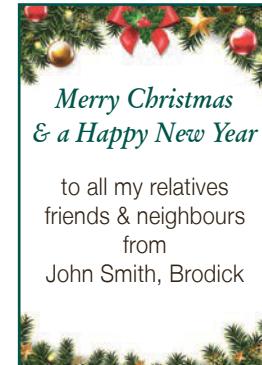
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CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 11th December

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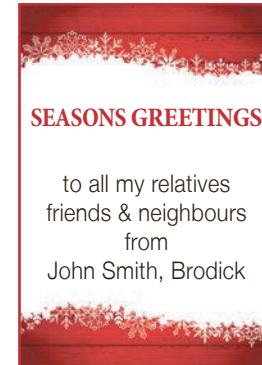
A



*Merry Christmas
& a Happy New Year*

to all my relatives
friends & neighbours
from
John Smith, Brodick

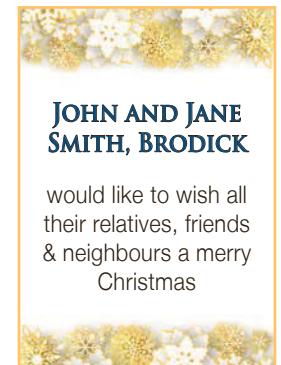
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SEASONS GREETINGS

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friends & neighbours
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John Smith, Brodick

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Arran Banner we ❤️ local

The decorations are starting to go up, there's a chill in the air and there's a festive feeling brewing. This can only mean one thing, the run up to Christmas has well and truly begun.

In what can be a very busy period with sprucing up the house, preparing family meals and welcoming those near and dear to us, we are determined to avoid any last minute rushing around this year by being well prepared in advance of the big day.

To help with that we have prepared a long list of those people, places and businesses on Arran that are offering great festive deals and bargains to help

make this the most wonderful and stress free Christmas ever.

Of course we will always encourage you to SHOP LOCAL everything that you could possibly need can be found right on your doorstep, and what's more you will be supporting a local business, who might be struggling in these trying times, and most importantly of all, you will be contributing to the local economy and local causes!

Needless to say, products purchased on Arran offer a special uniqueness and quality, without having to trawl online to find an equivalent. And you may also find that the number of special



deals and discounts are like nothing ever experienced before, if there ever was a good time to take advantage of great prices, superb quality and festive offers, this is it, but get started early, Christmas will be here before you know it.

*Merry Christmas
and happy shopping!*

ARRAN GIN COMPANY

Starting in Brodick some might tempt you

with a refreshing glass of Prosecco or mulled wine. At Cladach you will find the Arran Gin Company - What an exciting year at Cladach Beach House! - making Cassis; serving-up beach cocktails.... and now they aim to make people feel as Christmassy as possible in their beach front shop. What's on offer: Limited edition Arran Cassis, made from this year's local blackcurrants -squished and delightfully fermented on Arran, large & small bottles of gin. NEW - denim bags, aprons and branded facemasks. Hand-selected Corney & Barrow wines, champagne and port, lets you create your own perfect Christmas drink. With roaring

fire and Christmas spirit - they promise to make it fun this year at Cladach! www.isleofarrangin.com

CLADACH SAWMILL AND GARDEN CENTRE

If you are looking for a shed, garden furniture, plants or a real Christmas tree then pay a visit to Cladach Sawmill and Garden Centre who have Norway spruce, or Noble/Nordmann, fir trees for sale. They offer a full landscaping and fencing service, or supply only with delivery available. The Garden Centre stocks carries a comprehensive range of seasonal plants, many produced on site, along with pots, composts, seeds, tools and sundries all

at a very competitive price. Gift vouchers also available. Call 01770 302622 or email: cladachsawmill@btinternet.com

RED DOOR

Christmas shopping is going to be a bit different this year, and the girls at Red Door have tried to do the hard work for you! They have a great selection of gift ideas for the whole family, all behind one little Red Door! There are stunning new cashmere blend scarves, with matching gloves for a touch of luxury! Gents scarves, wallets and gloves for those hard to buy for men of the family! There is a HUGE selection of beautiful kiddies goodies, from a Wooden

Island Gourmet Christmas Menu

Terrine of Ham Hough, Rhubarb & Date Chutney, Mixed leaves
Squid, filled with Wild Rice, and a Squat Lobster & Mussel Sauce (f)(c)

Redwoods Farm Soy Free Chicken a la Coq au Vin,
with Creamed Potatoes & Roasted Veg(m)

Gartmoran Farm Free Range Bronze Turkey Breast and Stuffed Leg,
Pigs in Blankets, Squash & Brussel Sprouts, Roast Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce
Venison Wellington, Loin of Arran Wild Venison, wrapped in Wild
Mushrooms & Puff Pastry, Venison Jus, Potato & Beetroot Gratin(m)

Tiramisu Ice Cream, Fresh Genoise Sponge soaked in Coffee Rum, with a
Vanilla & Marsala Ice Cream, Chocolate Syrup(m)
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m=milk,,c=crustacean,f=fish (cooking guidelines included)
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their shop, James of Arran, their years of experience is plain to see, and taste. Offering a tempting array of sweet treats including their Brandy Christmas pudding truffles, fresh cream truffles and mint truffles, Christmas gifts, chocolate bars, gift boxes and what woman doesn't love her shoes, they are amazing! Mail order service available. www.jamesofarran.com or call 01770302873

ARRAN ACTIVE

No visit to Arran is complete without making a visit to Arran Active, which is so much more than just an outdoor store, with great gifts for all the family. Arran's specialist outdoor shop has a huge amount of

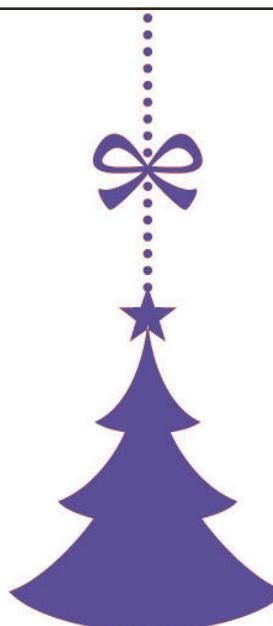
space and an equally large range of outdoor clothing, footwear, rucksacks and equipment. With a great deal of new stock having just arrived it may be worth your while to

pay them a visit. In addition to the expected range of active items they extend further than just that and also stock ladies fashion wear, pet supplies, toys, Arran gifts and an impressive collection of whiskies and gins, perfect for Christmas. Tel: 01770 302113, Email: info@arranactive.co.uk

DRIFTWOOD

Next to that, Driftwood strives to capture the essence of Christmas, and you are certain to find a wide selection of tempting gifts for friends and family.

With a knack for stocking items that are all carefully selected to match the style of the charming shop. As well as their collection of Christmas decorations and present ideas, they have lanterns and candle holders, lamps and mirrors, clocks, cosy throws. they are proud to stock local products: Arran prints by Catriona Tod, Jewellery by Ailsa McNicol, Candles by the Arran Wax company, Arran Bee products. As well as have a huge selection of Jellycat soft lovelies! Driftwood also sell Peppermint Grove candles and diffusers, East of India and Gisela Graham. Driftwood offers something for everyone. And as a thank you for being there and all



your support they are offering 10% off everything in stock (not including Ailsa McNicol jewellery) right up to Christmas!! Call 01770 303970

JOHNSTON'S ARRAN BOOKROOM

Johnston's Arran Bookroom is a small bookshop in Atholl

House, Lamlash specialising in rare and out-of-print books about the Isle of Arran. There are also many collectable nautical and old children's books.

The Bookroom will be open to individual customers during December but please get in touch to arrange a time. Phone 01770 600344, message me on Facebook or email: heather@johnstonsarranbookroom.co.uk. If you are looking for a particular title, Arran related or otherwise get in touch. I can send photos and even deliver to your home. Some of my books are listed online here: <https://www.abebooks.co.uk/johnstons-arran.../50603826/sf>

JANELLE'S

Round in Lamlash, a particular highlight for many is Janelle's, the interior design gift shop which stocks a wide range of unique giftware and home décor, and which always manages to stock tastefully selected and ultra-desirable items. It's all about Christmas this year at Janelle's even more so this year as everyone needs a bit of cheering up and they are happy to deliver to Lamlash, Brodick & Whiting Bay (all other villages would post) Very happy also to post to mainland also, just message them on Facebook.

ISLAND PORCELAIN

Next door, at Island Porcelain, if their wonderfully cute cele-

bration mouse, which can be personalised for that special occasion, be it birth, wedding or engagement doesn't get you, the charming porcelain sheep, seals, birds and sea animals certainly will. These elegant and collectable porcelain designs are uniquely charming, will enhance any home and make ideal gifts. With no two the same, each piece is individually hand crafted and hand painted, ensuring that every single piece is a unique and collectable keepsake. Well worth a visit to pick your favourite or buy online at www.islandporcelain.com

CHAMELEON LADIES BOUTIQUE

Further along the road is Chameleon Ladies

Boutique for all your wardrobe needs and enjoy an 'Awesome Autumn 20% Off' everything in the shop (except sale goods and Gift Vouchers). They have a range of seasonal collections from leading European brands, as well as a great range of basics. Don't forget they also stock winter boots & cosy lined leggings.

For Christmas, they have a selection of great gift ideas including snoods, scarves, costume jewellery and bags. Open Wednesday to Saturday 10:30am - 5pm and can also offer personal appointments outwith those times, just get in touch. Chameleon are also online 24/7 at [www.chameleonarran.com!](http://www.chameleonarran.com)

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ARRAN BUTCHER

Further around the island at Blackwaterfoot is the Arran Butcher who have turkeys with all of the trimmings. But be sure to order yours by Friday 11th December! Along with their famous haggis and black pudding they also have gammon, steak pies and a selection of fish along with their usual quality selection of beef, pork and lamb. Please phone 860354, E-mail Info@thearranbutcher.com or Facebook @thearranbutcher for more information or to place your order.

OLD BYRE VISITOR CENTRE

Another unmissable stop is the Old Byre Visitor Centre in Machrie where



there is the Old Byre Showroom stocking sustainable clothing, stocking fillers, beautiful knitwear, handbags, throws and accessories. This is mirrored in the sister shop The Byre at Brodick. The extensive new addition Shoe Bothy offers an exciting range of shoes, boots and sheepskin slippers for all the family with the team trained in feet measuring. Some

ranges are rarely seen elsewhere in the UK and are that little bit different, there are also well known brands such as Dubarry of Ireland, Hunter and Start-Rite, if we do not have your size we are happy to order it for you. This year why not join their loyalty scheme to enjoy 10% off your shopping until Christmas Eve and gain points throughout the year for vouchers. While there why not enjoy a delicious lunch at Café Thyme and let the kids let off steam in the play area. Tel: 01770 840227

TAYLOR MADE BEAUTY.

If you fancy a bit of pampering, or treating that special person in your life then why not get a voucher from

Taylor Made Beauty. Taylor offers a range of professional beauty treatments in the relaxing setting of a small salon based in Machrie. Whether it's nails, facials, make up or eyebrows and lashes there is something to suit everyone! Contact Taylor on 07789043108 or email: contact@taylormadebeauty.info

WHINS CRAFT SHOP

Whins Craft shop is the home of the Arran Stonemen, a collection of painted stones which have been collected from around the shoreline of Arran. The stones are wonderfully sculpted into little stonemen, all with their own unique appearance and character. Situated up the North Newton track on

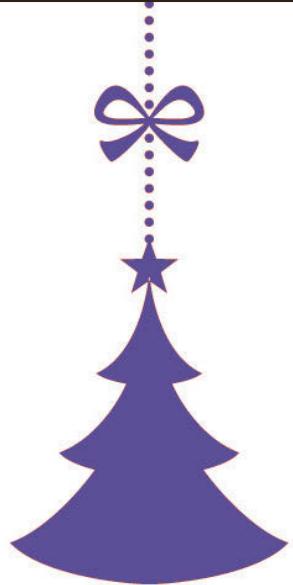
the north side of the loch at Lochranza it is well worth a visit even if just for the stunning views. Tel: 01770 830650

LOCHRANZA DISTILLERY

The Lochranza Distillery gift shop is still open this month with lots of beautiful Christmas gift ideas and of course plenty of our delicious local Arran Single Malt. The Visitor Centre shop is open every day 10am

- 4pm and the team is

on hand to help make sure that you get what you need in a safe and socially distant way. You can also place your order over the phone for collection if this suits you better. Call 01770 830 264 where one of the team will be delighted to take your



Our Lochranza Distillery shop is open 10am-4pm every day and is full of great gift ideas and your favourite local whiskies!

Unfortunately due to changing circumstances around COVID-19 on the island, our Lagg Distillery is temporarily closed until further notice.



Should you prefer, we are happy to take your order over the phone for you to collect safely.

For any enquiry please call 01770 830264 or email bookings@arranwhisky.com



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www.laggwhisky.com



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your choice of denomination; a great Secret Santa present! You can also gift a new skill in the form of embroidery and cross-stitch kits and there is always their wide range of wool, plus knitting and crochet supplies.

Bay Wool and Crafts offer free island delivery. Call 01770 700481, visit the website: www.baywoolcrafts.co.uk, or visit in person Tuesday - Saturday 11am-3pm.

ROBIN'S CHRISTMAS MENU

Robin and Rosario's farm in Whiting Bay produces local veg to island outlets. Popular at many catering pop ups around the island, Chef Robin's Island Gourmet specialises in locally led provenance in producing

his menus. The dining menu can be delivered to your door or pick up from the farm with a new menu created every weekend and Christmas menu available to order from this week, delivered on 24th Dec. The Christmas menu combines farm reared pork, local seafood, farm veg, wild Arran venison, Redwoods Farm Chicken, and Gartmoran Farm Turkey, which they believe is the best sourced quality around.

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THE SHORE

The Shore are serving up delicious home-made food, drinks, Christmas lights & a warm fire in December

Wednesday - Sunday
11.30am - 2pm

Still selling homemade frozen meals - with no pre-orders needed - pop in to collect during opening hours.

Festive Platters/ Hogmanay Platters (ready to serve) & BYOB at Home Fresh Christmas Dinners are available to pre order NOW! Free delivery to Brodick collection point available, please see their menus on Facebook or in the cafe, for dates & details.

The Shore will be open until Sunday 20th December, providing a service to our much-loved community. After this time, the cafe will be closed until the end of January, as sadly the cost of opening

would not be sustainable for their business during the current Covid-19 pandemic. They would like to thank you everyone for the ongoing support, it means a lot to them and they look forward to seeing you again soon.

THE ARRANCARD

A great idea from VisitArran, the ArranCard is a pre-paid gift card that offers an easy way to get someone an Arran present when you don't know exactly what they might want! The ArranCard is accepted in over 50 businesses,

including accommodation, food & drink, activity and retail. You can order online at www.arrancard.com and balance on the card, and where to spend it, can be easily checked this way too.

So if you're looking for an Arran gift, why not consider an ArranCard? This is a sure-fire way of supporting island businesses whilst also offering a choice to the recipient!

Thank you for supporting your local businesses, it is because of you they are still open!

we  local

The Arran Card



The perfect gift this Christmas -
The Arran Card is the island's destination card
which can be used in over 50 businesses on the island



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Lochranza • 01770 830650

Spotting different divers more difficult in winter

As autumn moves into winter, this is a good time of year to be looking for divers.

Arran is fortunate in that three species of diver - red-throated diver, black-throated diver and great northern diver - can be seen most months around our coast. With their legs set well back on their body, their design is for diving. They can barely walk on land.

All dive from the surface, sliding easily into the water head first with barely a ripple, unlike the more common Shags which tend to arch out of the water as they dive. All three divers can submerge for lengthy periods, often reappearing a long way from the initial dive.

Arran has one of the most southerly breeding populations of red-throated diver in the UK. Our coast is an area of national importance for the black-throated diver when the bird is passing through in autumn. It breeds on large lochs with small islands in remote areas in the north of Scotland. The nearest breeding population of great northern diver is Iceland.

Looking at your bird book, all

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

three divers in their distinctive summer breeding plumage are easy to tell apart.

In winter, out of their breeding plumage, they are less distinctive and when they are bobbing about on a grey sea, identification can be a challenge but there are key features that can help tell them apart. Some are shown in these photographs taken round Arran's shores.

The red-throated diver is the smallest. It is finely built with a small head, thin neck and usually holds its head and bill pointing slightly upwards. It looks a bit aloof.

The black-throated diver has a thicker neck and a straight bill. This diver is the only one to show a distinct white patch on the rear flank above the water level. The great northern diver is the largest of the three with heavier features including



Red-throated diver. Photograph: Arthur Duncan

a large dagger like bill. Its head is often an angular shape with a 'bump' on the forehead.

While these illustrative photographs can help with identification, the moving images and helpful commentary in this short video are much better at highlighting the distinguishing features.

Produced by the British Trust for Ornithology on Winter Divers - YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29f3i-XXDuU>, it is part of the excellent series of BTO Bird ID videos.

Enjoy your birding and keep safe.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email jim@arranbirding.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you.

For more information on birding on Arran, purchase the Arran Bird Report, the first 40 years, which includes the annual report for 2019 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Black-throated diver. Photograph: Nick Giles



Great northern diver. Photograph: David Kilpatrick

Study raises concerns about harbour seal populations

New research attributing the deaths of several seals in Scotland to attacks by grey seals has raised concerns about the impact predation could have on seal populations, writes Hugh Boag.

In a study led by Scotland's Rural College (SRUC), the deaths of two harbour seals and a grey seal from wounds infected with the bacterium *Campylobacter pinnipedorum* have been attributed to attacks by other animals, with grey seals the most likely aggressor.

The same organism was found in the wounds of four sea lions stranded in California, which are also suspected to have resulted from an attack by other sea lions.

In the study, funded by the Scottish Government Marine Directorate, post-mortem results from the three seals from Scottish waters and the four sea lions found stranded in



Harbour and grey seal. Photograph: Dr Monica Arso Civil.

California were examined to determine the cause of death.

The paper, published in Diseases of Aquatic Organisms, highlights how the same bacterium

- *Campylobacter pinnipedorum* - was recovered from both locations and apparently associated with predation.

However, the Scottish and Californian campylobacters

differed sufficiently from one another to be classified as separate subspecies of the same organism. Lead researcher Dr Geoff Foster, a microbiologist at SRUC, said: 'The differences

in the two strains may be due to evolution over a long period in different host animals inhabiting separate oceans, the Atlantic and Pacific.

'In Scotland, the wounds are likely to be from grey seals that are known to attack and kill harbour and other grey seals.'

An earlier study, published in 2016, attributed the deaths of seals found with 'corkscrew' wounds to grey seal predation.

'The animals in the current study appear to have survived an attack only to die later of the *Campylobacter* infection. The same bacterium has also been found in the mouths of grey seals,' said the report.

He said the findings raised concerns about the declining numbers in some populations of harbour seals in Scotland and are similar to those he reported last year in which harbour porpoises had died from infected wounds follow-

ing grey seal attacks.

Dr Monica Arso Civil, of the Sea Mammal Research Institute in St Andrews, said: 'Populations of harbour seals have generally declined along the east coast of Scotland and the Northern Isles, while populations in western Scotland are either stable or increasing.'

'Research efforts are currently focused on investigating the potential causes of these declines, including interactions with grey seals. It is yet not known to what extent grey seal predation may be impacting harbour seal populations, but this paper demonstrates that even non-fatal attacks can result in ultimately death through infection introduced during the bite.'

The research was carried out in partnership with the Moredun Research Institute and researchers in the Netherlands and USA.

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday December 2, 2000



Lamlash Bowling Club prizewinners at their annual dinner last Saturday. 01_B49tweY06



Above: Gordon and Edith Yates celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a family party at the Breadalbane Hotel, Kildonan, last Saturday. They are pictured with sons Stuart and Alistair, their families and Edith's brother Stuart Robertson. 01_B49tweY02

Left: Work on the new Lochranza and Catacol village hall is nearing completion. Pictured in the main hall are Tom Knox and Robert Kerr, two of the technical committee who have overseen the work.

01_B49tweY03

Below: The main hall and stage. When the soundproof doors are closed, the stage becomes the lesser hall.

01_B49tweY04



Ladies of Whiting Bay Golf Club enjoyed their annual dinner and prizegiving in the Trafalgar Restaurant last Saturday night. 01_B49tweY05



Saskia Pomeroy, Lindsay Wheeler, Shiona Murchie and Rachel McLean travelled to Irvine last Friday to collect their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. Lindsay and Shiona were presented with their silver awards, while Saskia and Rachel picked up bronze awards. 01_B49tweY01

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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 www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 25.12.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 Regulation 20(1)
20/01050/PP; Site To North Of Driftwood, Kildonan Road, Kildonan, Brodick; Erection of a residential mobile home with attached external decking area with associated access and parking area.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunningham House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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PRIVATE CLASSIFIEDS

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- Small antique chest of draws, walnut? - **£80 ono**
- Upholstered Victorian armchair - **£75 ono**
- Georgian style armchair - **£70 ono**
- 3 Small antique bedroom chairs - **£30 each ono**

Modern bedroom furniture, dishwasher, washing machine and drier also available - offers

All offers considered.

The house is empty and may be viewed alone if preferred, to make an appointment please call: 01770 601 395

PRIVATE SALES

FREE TO UPLIFT

Frameless Glass Shower Screen. 2000mm high by 700mm wide, Aqua Dart AQ8410-SM, frameless smoked glass, wetroom type, shower screen available free for collection. The item was wrongly delivered and so is still boxed and has not been used / fitted. Collection from Kingscross, Isle of Arran. Call mobile 07788 968 386

FOR SALE

2 x 3 drawer white cupboards, 23" high x 19" wide x 15" deep. £15 each. Buyer to uplift. Please call 01770 601281.

2x Christmas table cloths, 70" x 48" with 4 matching napkins for each cloth. £10 each set. Call 01770 601281

BANNER
CLASSIFIEDS

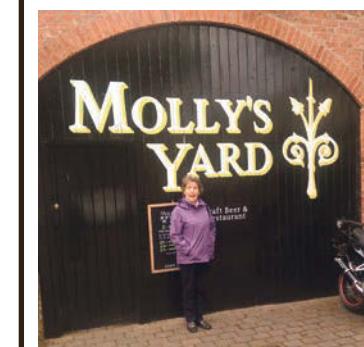
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PERSONALS



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DUNCAN - HALL

Following two pandemic related postponements, Becca Hall, youngest daughter of Mike and Gill Hall of Campbeltown, and Jamie Duncan, middle son of Russell and Jan Duncan of Brodick, were finally married on Arran on the 12th November.
Both families are delighted!



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Hunter:

As numbers will be limited at all services places will need to be booked by the Friday. Congregations will be advised who to contact for each Church to book a place. For Shiskine please contact John Kerr on 01770 860498. For Brodick please contact Liz Lawrie 01770 302782.

There will be a streamed service weekly, this can be found on the three Church websites, www.stmoliosshiskine.org.uk, www.brodickchurch.org, www.lochranzachurch.org.uk

Sunday 6th December
Lochranza & Pirnmill
Churches

Service at Lochranza Church 10.15am Morning worship.
Shiskine Church at 12 noon.

Morning worship.

Brodick Church at 10.30am

Morning worship.

Corrie Church at 12 noon.

Morning worship.

Please note that Brodick Church is still accessible for the Food bank

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

Sunday 6th December

Worship for 2nd Sunday of Advent will be conducted by the minister Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am

Our capacity will be greatly reduced due to the two metre social distancing.

You are asked to please phone Mrs Enid Halliwell on 600010 by Friday lunchtime if you want to attend Sunday worship.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 6th December

Kilmory at 10 am

Lamlash Church Hall at 11.30 am

Due to our reduced capacity, if you wish to attend Sunday Worship in Lamlash, please phone Mrs Vivienne Haigh on 600092 by midday on Friday.

All welcome

We will be observing all socially distancing procedures
Scottish Charity SC015072

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL

CHURCH
(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 6th December

2nd Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion – 11 am.

Richard Trewby

ALL WELCOME

We will observe strict SEC guidelines

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

A reminder that our mini-service is still available every week on our website: www.arranbaptistchurch.btck.co.uk If you go to the homepage and look below the map picture you will find the link to pick up the service. To access click on the first letter of the link.

We would love you to join us.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC
CHURCH

2nd Sunday in Advent.

There will be a Vigil Mass on **Saturday 5th December** and a Morning Mass on

Sunday 6th December.

Please note that capacity is restricted and attendance is by booking only. Social Distancing and Hygiene measures apply, including the wearing of your own face covering.

Please email peterdwilko@gmail.com or telephone 600595 to reserve a place.

BLESS O LORD THIS ISLE OF ARRAN

ST ROCH, PATRON OF THE SICK, PRAY FOR US
OUR LADY OF THE ISLES, PRAY FOR US

ST COLUMBA, PRAY FOR US.

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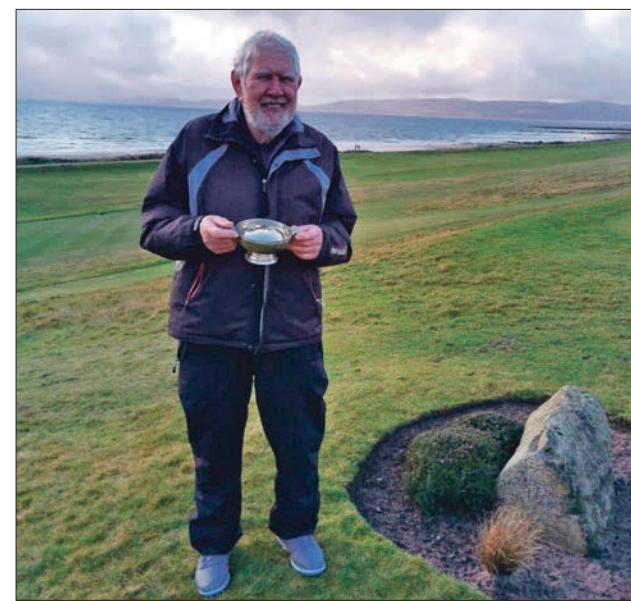
ARRAN BANNER GOLF

Whiting Bay

Sunday November 22, Yellow Tees Sweep. A total of 11 played and after initial confusion about the format returned some very reasonable scores especially considering the recent handicap system revision which has reduced most playing handicaps. Dougie Auld carded a fine 61 off his new reduced handicap to win by two from Gavin Maids. 1 Douglas Auld 17, 61; 2 Gavin Maids 7, 63; 3 Stewart Hammond 26, 65. Jamie Macpherson returned the best gross score of 70. David Morrison bagged the only Magic Twos of the day at the 4th and 17th. This being a non counter, there was no CSS.

Sunday November 29, Yellow Tees Stableford. A total of 15 played and scoring was undoubtedly helped by the calm conditions.

A level par 36 points was only good enough for seventh place! That said, Graeme Crichton produced some spectacular golf, 11 4s and seven 3s, three of them birdies, to win on 45 points. 1 Graeme Crichton 11, 45 points; 2 Alan Kay 20, 40; 3 Douglas Auld 17, 39, ACB; 4 Andrew Martin 15, 39. Andy Martin and David Blair bagged the only Magic Twos of the day at the 4th and



Colin Rutherford with the Alan C Bannatyne Quaich which he won at Shiskine.

the 14th respectively. Fixtures: Sunday December 6, AGA Winter League match against Machrie Bay at Whiting Bay, 9am tee-off. Course reserved until 11.30am.

Shiskine

Thursday November 26, Ladies 12 Hole Medal. Silver: 1 Shona Weir 49-7=42; 2 Fiona Henderson 54-10=44, BIH; 3 and scratch, Ann May 48-4=44. Bronze: 1 Carole Stewart



Tom Mitchell, winner of the Shiskine Gents Final.

HAVE YOUR SAY
emaileditor@arranbanner.co.uk



Ann May, winner of the Shiskine Ladies Final.

6, Winter League, team game, Lamlash v Shiskine at Whiting Bay, also Sweep at Lamlash, 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday December 10, Yellow Medal, draw at 11am.

Brodick

Sunday November 22, Winter Cup Stableford, 23 played. Fred Galbraith 15, 41 points; John May 22, 39 points; David Hendry 18, 38 points, ACB.

Sunday November 29, Brandon Qualifier, 30 played. Babbies MacNeil 79-19=60; Fred Galbraith 76-15=61; Matt Dobson 72-10=62, ACB. Scratch, Gordon Hendry 67.

Fixtures: Sunday December 6, Sweep.

Corrie

Fixture: Saturday December 5, Saturday Sweep. Competitors arrange their own matches and register in the normal fashion. Monday December 7, Monday Cup. Draw at noon, shotgun start.

Machrie Bay

Tuesday December 1, Winter Cup. 1 John Pennycott 62; 2 Phil Betley 64; 3 Reuben Betley 66.

Fixtures: Saturday December 5, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off noon. Tuesday December 8, Winter Cup, tee-off noon.

Arran Golfers Association

Fixture: Sunday December 6, AGA Winter League/Duncan Trophy second round at Whiting Bay Golf Club. No shotgun start and teams of four to ensure the safety of golfers. No catering all winter. Whiting Bay v Machrie Bay, 9am, Brodick v Corrie, 9.30am, Lamlash v Shiskine, 10am.

The table going into round two is Brodick 2 points; Machrie Bay 2 points; Lamlash 1 point; Whiting Bay 1 point; Corrie 0 points; Shiskine 0 points.

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Above: The large Christmas tree in Lamlash has already started to attract families who gather on the village green to have a look. 01_B49Christmas01; Top right: Brodick Village Hall is illuminated with festive lights adorning the building. 01_B49Christmas02; Right: A stretch of Brodick Main Road bedecked in festive lights. 01_B49Christmas03

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas on Arran

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Christmas trees and decorations have started to appear all over Arran in the last week in an effort to spread some festive cheer in these challenging times.

In Lamlash, a spectacular tree has appeared thanks

to Lamlash Improvements Committee which funded the lights and star.

The group enlisted the help of the Arran Fire Service to erect the tree, which was supplied by Forestry and Land Scotland.

John Thomson Construction transported the tree and many people have been flocking there

every evening with one visitor describing it as a beacon of hope in exceptional times.

In Brodick, the Village Hall is ablaze with colour, and with little outside lighting the bright blue and green lights are amplified in the darkness.

Along Brodick Main Road, between Hunters Guest House and the chocolate shop,

the walkway is filled with twinkling lights, creating a festive atmosphere. Many more trees and decorations will undoubtedly start to appear across the island in the next few days and weeks as other villages and organisations start to put up their decorations.

This Sunday, P7 pupils from Shiskine Primary School

will be lighting their village Christmas tree which will be live streamed on Facebook. The pupils have already decorated their school railings with festive decorations.

And, as for taking the trees down, tradition dictates that this should be done on January 5 or 6 on what is known as Twelfth Night. But if you want to extend

the festive feeling for as long as possible, we suggest just ignoring that!



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Lamlash Garage