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CalMac listens but it can't find any answers

Fish farm decision off again

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The widespread disruption of the Arran ferries since the start of the year has already cost the island economy 'millions of pounds', it was said this week.

There are also fears that many visitors who were caught up in the fiasco will never return to Arran in winter again, damaging attempts to make the island a year-round destination.

Now there are demands for Caledonian MacBrayne bosses to adopt a more 'can do' attitude to keep Arran's lifeline ferry services running.

Top CalMac chiefs were on Arran this week to answer questions from the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee as to why things went so badly wrong in the days immediately following the New Year holidays when cancelled sailings left hundreds of visitors and islanders stranded on Arran.

Cancellation rate

And figures unveiled at the meeting by chairman Iain Thomson showed that of the 292 timetabled sailings since

the start of the year 120 had not sailed – a 41 per cent cancellation rate which he said the island was 'unable to sustain'.

Smaller vessels

This is in part due to the route being serviced by two smaller vessels, the MV Isle of Arran and MV Hebridean Isles, which are unable to operate in windy conditions, while the MV Caledonian Isles is in for its annual refit.

At the specially-convened meeting of the ferry committee on Tuesday, to which the Banner, along with leading hoteliers and others, was invited, CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond, operations director Robert Morrison and new communications director Stuart Wilson answered prearranged questions on the disruption and what actions could be taken to prevent it happening again.

However, there were few answers forthcoming with CalMac admitting:

There is no guarantee the same thing won't happen next

Continued on pages two and three

What a souper day



Volunteers in the kitchen prepare to serve soup and sandwiches for the event held for Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong in Brodick church hall last Saturday. Some of the ladies have been volunteering since the event was first held 13 years ago. Full story page six. 01_B04front01

Consideration of the controversial fish farm application for the north east of Arran has been delayed again.

The application by the Scottish Salmon Company had originally been expected to go before the North Ayrshire Council planning committee in December.

However, days before that meeting, the discussion was postponed at the request of the applicant and Scottish Natural Heritage to allow further talks.

It had been thought that the application would, as a result, go before the January planning meeting held this week – but the application was not on the agenda.

And a spokesman for North Ayrshire Council could only confirm this week that it would be considered 'in the next few months'.

There has been widespread opposition to the proposal for the development of 20 salmon cages, each measuring 120 metres in circumference, at the picturesque Millstone Point on the North Sannox coast.

More than 200 letters of objection have been received, with only a handful in support of the application which is said, by planners, to be under consideration.

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Could Campbeltown be any

The possibility of Campbeltown being used as a mainland port for the Arran ferry is to be considered by CalMac, it was agreed this week.

However the Isle of Arran Ferry committee made it clear that while it thought it a possibility in an extreme situation it would not support it as a port of refuge, given it is 140 miles from Glasgow and has relatively poor transport links.

The topic came up during a long discussion on the urgent need for the ferry to have a

port of refuge, as Gourock is no longer available

CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond said he did not know when or if the harbour at Gourock would be able to be used again as it required extensive work, not just to the linkspan, but to the outer concrete structure. He said port owner CMAL (Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd) was currently looking at a list of options but he was not yet aware what these were.

Other options considered included Wemyss Bay but CalMac operations director

Robert Morrison said that while the MV Isle of Arran could dock there it would not have helped during the recent weather.

The meeting was asked if Campbeltown was an option and it was agreed that despite being 140 miles from Glasgow it should be considered but only as a last-ditch option and not as a port of refuge.

Suggestion

Dunoon was the next suggestion where there is a linkspan, which has not been used for nine years, and this will be looked at.

Arran Economic Group chairman Tom Tracey, thinking outside the box, even came up with Rothesay as an option, if boats were sailing from there.

Throughout the debate there was no mention of Troon until Linda Johnston brought it up. But it was quickly dismissed by the CalMac representatives as, they said, it was 'equally badly affected as Ardrossan' and 'not a reasonable alternative'.

However, they said work was underway which could improve the harbour and they did not rule out using it once this work was done in specific reference to the development work at Ardrossan.

The meeting began with a discussion on events surrounding the New Year holiday chaos.

Mr Morrison explained it had been an almost 'perfect storm' which had led to the widespread disruption from January 2 which had, very unusually, seen sailings stormed off across the whole network.

He was asked why the Caledonian Isles had to go in



CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond, centre, and colleagues meet ferry committee chairman Iain Thomson, to his right, and other ferry committee members. 01_B04calmac01



Robbie Drummond makes his views known to the meeting. 01_B04calmac04

for its annual refit in January and he explained the schedule to service the 33 boats in the fleet was a very tight 26 weeks

which had to be arranged a year in advance, when they could not have known weather conditions.

CalMac listens but it can't find any answers

Continued from page one
as there is a little 'wriggle room' for the MV Caledonian Isles refit and no chance of a bigger replacement boat.

■ It doesn't know when, or even if, Gourock will be able to be used as the port of refuge, with Campbeltown now even being considered.

■ The ageing fleet is under increasing strain as it will be at least two years before the MV Glen Sannox and her sister ship are ready.

■ It will be another 18 months before there is a new ticketing system, replacing the outdated manual one.

■ Demands for a relief crew to help ferries make additional sailings have been repeatedly rejected by Transport Scotland.

■ Mr Drummond also told the meeting there was no long-term strategic plan for

ports and vessels for the next 30 years, something which he had been strongly arguing for and, in what he described as 'short-termism', he said CalMac had only two years of its six-year contract to run.

But Mr Thomson accused the company of a reluctance to step outside its contract for the good of the travelling public.

'There is a "no can do" attitude and we need a "can do" attitude,' he said.

And independent traveller representative Neil Arthur said the investment in the fleet in the last 13 years had been half of that for the previous 13 years.

Arran Dairies managing director Alastair Dobson, who represents business interests on the committee, said it was a hard fact that there was going to be no change in the present

ferry situation for at least two years.

He said: 'There was a time when there was criticism that the boat went to Gourock too much.'

'What would we give for a three-ferry-a-day service just now.'

'We have to accept there is no Gourock; no new boat coming; visitors getting stranded; the community increasingly frustrated and businesses which are going to stop working again.'

'We need to get communication right for tourists, the community and business so that everyone knows just what the ferry is going to do on a day-to-day basis.'

Arran Economic Group chairman Tom Tracey added: 'We need to do better with what we have got.'

New Arran ferry is still less than half built

The new Arran ferry is 'significantly less than half built', a government inquiry has found.

The vessels being built at Ferguson shipyard are £100m over budget and likely to

be three years overdue. A Holyrood inquiry into the delay was told warnings that the Inverclyde yard was not set up to build two ferries side-by-side were ignored.

Work got under way before

designs were finalised and workforce morale was badly hit by the delay, MSPs heard.

Ferguson Marine Engineering Limited was taken into public ownership by the Scottish Government last year.

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port in a storm for ferry?



asked if Arran could not have a more robust boat such as the MV Clansman or the MV Hebrides, which have previously covered the route. "The smaller boats are not fit for purpose at this time of year. We should have a bigger boat."

He was told this was now impossible as they were needed on routes such as Coll and Tiree which could not be served by the MV Isle of Arran because of the dangers a recent incident had highlighted.

There was also a wide ranging discussion on the decision to run a shuttle service between Lochranza and Claonaig on Sunday January 5 which saw hundreds of cars and foot passengers queuing to get on.

While it was agreed there had been an urgent need for the service, there was criticism of the way it had been advertised with committee members concerned that drivers had turned up thinking they were guaranteed to get off the island, which was not the case. There was also concern that hundreds of foot passengers had arrived in Cloonaig unaware there were no forward transport links there.

The CalMac chiefs agreed that this was something which could be looked at but Mr Drummond did not commit to CalMac providing onward transport at any destination as CalMac 'was not a bus company'.

Another bone of contention was the 'mixed messages' which went out on the CalMac app, social media and the company website which communication director Stuart Wilson said they were working hard to fully co-ordinate.

Community council chairman Bill Calderwood said

what was needed was 'clear, concise, consistent communication of clarity and brevity'.

Mr Wilson explained that they were attempting to create a 'single point of truth' across seven platforms so that all the official statements coming from the company were all compatible.

He said a 'mate at the port' telling someone the 7am sailing would be going, when it was not, may think they were helping but this could simply lead to further confusion.

Linda Johnston said

Auchrannie had 300 people on site at New Year and since she said the resort accounted for 25 per cent of all visitors to the island in a year it was important that it was made aware of any last minute changes in sailings. She was assured it and other hotels would receive this information from the port.

Mrs Johnston added: 'We want to be a worldwide tourist destination but the ferry situation is not helping, with Mr Thomson adding: 'People who came for a New Year

break will never come back because of their experience.'

VisitArran's Sheila Gilmore also raised concern about the yellow 'be aware' warning introduced three years ago which she said put people off travelling.

Alastair Dobson asked what parameters were there to use the flag as he said: 'For tourists it is still a bit like Chinese whispers.'

Mr Morrison said it had been introduced at the request of passengers but they could look at how it was used.



The MV Caledonian Isles was expected back in service yesterday (Friday).

However, Auchrannie managing director Linda Johnston explained that the day after New Year was one of the island's busiest days of the year when the island was full and relying on the two smaller boats meant there was a 'high likelihood' that something would go wrong.

He said that with hindsight they may have been able to keep the Caley Isles in service for one or two days, but there was no guarantee it would have sailed and it may have missed its dry dock berthing spot at Gourrock.

Members felt that removing the Caley Isles the day after New Year was a 'bad plan' and CalMac should have created more space around the holiday period.

As is known, the widespread cancellation of services on January 2 led to major traffic

problems in Brodick which the police eventually had to deal with. Arran sergeant Dougie Robertson said drivers were getting mixed messages and that 'tempers became frayed', with only drivers with a 'lucky ticket' getting on the boats. He praised the staff at the pier who he said 'worked like Trojans'.

No guarantee

Mr Morrison and Mr Drummond agreed they would look at the Caley Isles going in a couple of days later next year, but gave no guarantee it would be possible. They also said they would look at the suggestions that it go in for its refit in November or March instead but said this could pose difficulties with the 'legal requirements' of servicing the boats.

Chairman Iain Thomson



The round table discussion at the ferry committee. 01_B04calmac02

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Kestrel goes hunting after being nursed back to health

A young kestrel is back happy hunting on Arran after being nursed back to health after she was found starving following the recent storms.

It is thought the bird is a young female, one of last year's fledglings. She was found weak, thin, hungry and unable to fly on January 7 in Lochranza and brought into the Arran Vets surgery in Brodick that day.

The kestrel was taken in by Judy Simmonds after her Springer Spaniel bitch, Truly, very gently picked her up in the garden where she was lying and carried her into the kitchen to her owner.

Sadly most young birds of prey do not make it through their first winter either because of starvation, road accidents, rodenticide poisoning or flying into electricity wires.

But vet practice owner Charlotte Clough was not going to let that happen. She



The weak kestrel on the day she arrived.

told the Banner: 'She has a truly wild, untamed, fierce nature but was ravenous from day one, eating everything that I offered and gradually gaining strength.'

She was fit enough to be released back to the wild from

Charlotte's shed in Shiskine last Saturday. 'Being calm and sunny it seemed the right time to let her go. She needed a bit of pushing before she left the cage then she soared across the garden, round the fields and far away up into a



The healthy kestrel looking out of the open door of the caged just before release.

distant tall spruce tree. 'There's very little that we can do for most ill or injured wildlife other than give them a peaceful end so it's

been fantastic to see this one recover.'

Charlotte added: 'I may have seen her yesterday Monday morning hunting between

Shiskine and Blackwaterfoot but I can't be sure, of course, as it is hard to tell one from another.'

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Developing a national centre for island care

A series of recommendations aimed at improving primary healthcare for remote, rural and island communities has been welcomed by Arran's MSP, Kenneth Gibson.

These include developing a National Centre for Remote, Rural and Island Care and reaffirming commitments to maintaining GP income, made in a report by the Remote and Rural Working Group, chaired by Sir Lewis Ritchie.

Mr Gibson said: 'People who live in island communities have a right to expect access to the highest quality medical care. The new GP contract is bringing improvements and the working group was established to help ensure that the challenges specific to rural and island areas were addressed.'

'These recommendations aim to enhance primary care across remote, rural and island communities by ensuring



stability for GP incomes alongside other measures that support innovative approaches to the use of IT and physical infrastructure, as well as recruitment and retention practices.

Paramount

'The future well-being of Scottish general practice and primary care is of paramount importance both for those who receive and those who deliver services.'

'There is no one-size-fits-all approach to primary healthcare. The next phase of reform will promote innovation and local solutions, with a focus on island communities. This ties in perfectly with the

concept of island proofing. 'It is important to recruit and retain GPs and I welcome the prospect of increased stability for island practitioners,' Mr Gibson added.

The Remote and Rural Group was formed by the SNP government and the British Medical Association in June 2018 to support the implementation of the new GP contract for remote, rural and island populations. The full report is at:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/shaping-future-together-report-remote-rural-general-practice-working-group/>

Buddies hold their biggest beach clean ups on Arran

Beach Buddies Arran carried out its most successful day in both numbers attending, and rubbish collected, last Sunday.

The day started with 21 adults and some kids and dogs from around the island doing a last-minute beach clean at Blackwaterfoot beach.

It had been reported that a substantial amount of rubbish had been washed up in recent storms and, whilst some had been washed back out to sea and locals had been picking up rubbish on their daily walks, a substantial amount of rubbish was removed.

In the afternoon 20 adults,

plus kids and dogs, including an impressive number of Imachar/Whitefarland residents, carried out a beach clean at the beautiful Imachar shore.

A huge haul of rubbish, including many damaged lobster creels, was removed.

Many thanks went to all who turned up and helped with the Buddies' most successful day of cleaning to date. Check the group facebook page Beach Buddies Arran for details of the next clean at a venue to be decided in February. The group thanks sponsors Isle of Arran Dairy Ice Cream and the Parlour Brodick for their continued support.



The Beach Buddies ready to get to work at Imachar shore.



The rubbish collected from Blackwaterfoot beach.



Clearing the beach at Imachar.



The van is packed with damaged lobster creels.

Clearing up at the dramatic Imachar rocks.

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Souper support enjoyed for Kalimpong homes

What wonderful support the soup and sandwiches event enjoyed for Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong.

People arrived at Brodick church hall until closing time last Saturday to sample the delicious soup, sandwiches,

chat and partake in the fabulous raffle. Good to welcome familiar faces at the event, which has now been running for 13 years, and some new faces too. Good to see you, please come again.

Many thanks to the Friends of Kalimpong and to you our faithful supporters who helped raise the amazing sum of £753, plus some generous donations brought the total to £1,200.

This amount is almost enough to support a child at DGH for one year, a very rewarding day.

Janice Small

Photographs: Colin Smeeton



Heather Gough helps serve up the soup. 01_B04kalimpong05



Supporters help themselves to a wide variety of sandwiches. 01_B04kalimpong02



Raffle tickets being sold. 01_B04kalimpong03



Supporters enjoy their lunch. 01_B04kalimpong04

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New work at Fisherman's Walk damaged by storms

The latest victim of the new year storms to emerge is the Fisherman's Walk in Brodick.

The extension work to the popular shore walk reported by the Banner has been damaged by Storm Brendan which battered the island for days, however, it is not too serious.

The Arran Access Trust has just spent £16,000 extending the boardwalk at the Brodick end another 70 metres along the shore to try to raise the height of the walk above the high tide.

Alastair Deery, who took the photograph, right, showing the damage, said: 'A south wind and a single high tide wrecked new work on Fisherman's Walk. A tide barrier is needed in the bay here.'

Access trust chairman Malcolm Whitmore said: 'Having been alerted to the damage last Thursday I visited on Friday morning to find Scott Murdoch's Arran Footpaths and Forestry team already on the case and effecting repairs.

Modifications

'Despite the combination of exceptionally high tide and gale force winds the majority of the boardwalk weathered the storm without damage indicating that the modifications made to the route during last summer have been successful.

'The most recent work was aimed at extending the boardwalk beyond the concrete bridges which regularly flooded at spring tides and

again this work has been a success having raised the walkway beyond the reach of normal tides.

'Maintaining the Fisherman's Walk in the face of increasingly severe weather events and rising sea levels is always going to be a challenge but the access trust is conscious of its value to the many users – it may well be the most walked path on Arran – and we are committed to keeping it open and walkable for as long as is possible.'

Meanwhile, the flooding clear up has been continuing around the island with extensive damage having been caused to road surfaces and rivers and burns still full to overflowing.



The Fisherman's Walk extension which has been damaged.



Flooding on the shorefront at Whiting Bay is, at last, beginning to recede.

UK government fails on broadband funding

Last week in the Commons, North Ayrshire and Arran MP Patricia Gibson challenged the UK government about its failure to properly fund broadband across Scotland after it refused to acknowledge its financial responsibilities for this matter.

Despite connectivity and broadband being entirely reserved to Westminster, the SNP government has invested £580 million in the 'R100' programme to deliver super-fast broadband to every home and business in Scotland. The UK Government has contributed £21 million – just 3.5 per cent of the total funding.

Mrs Gibson said: 'What is clear is the Tory UK government's complete and utter failure to allocate adequate funding for the rollout of broadband in Scotland, which has left the Scottish government to make up the massive shortfall that is entirely the responsibility of Westminster.

'The SNP government has already made excellent progress in delivering wider access to superfast broadband across North Ayrshire,

Arran and Scotland, to make sure Scotland is not left behind. But there is still more to do. It's not too late for the Tory Government to step up to the plate and join us by fulfilling its remit and investing in broadband here in North Ayrshire and across Scotland.

'Broadband is essential to ensuring communities like Arran are connected and businesses are competitive, and the UK Government must provide Scotland with its fair share of overall funding for the rollout of high-speed broadband.

Disadvantaged

'If it was left to the Tories at Westminster, our rural and island communities would be disadvantaged in digital connectivity for years to come. It is only the SNP Government which has the ambition of making Scotland one of the best-connected nations in Europe. All of Scotland.

'It is time for the UK government to step up to the plate on this issue and stop selling Scotland short.'

SCOTTISH FIELD

February issue



Ayrshire & Arran Area feature

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LETTERS

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Say sorry

There was one word missing from the many, many words spoken by CalMac bosses on Arran this week ... sorry!

In the corporate world these days it is of course hard to say sorry as it could incur liability. But is the entire population of Arran, and hundreds of visitors, really going to try to sue CalMac because the ferries didn't run? We doubt it.

I will go further and suggest they could have added four more words – sorry, it won't happen again. They said quite the opposite.

CalMac boss Robbie Drummond was almost at pains to point out that it could well happen again since they seem pretty determined to keep the Caley Isles refit in January, whatever the consequences – although it could stay another day or so.

And that really was the theme of the answers which CalMac poured out at the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee this week. We won't do that, we can't do that, that's not in the contract. Which all got a bit much even for the chairman Iain Thomson who told them the islanders needed a 'can do' not a 'no can do' attitude.

Yes, CalMac listened and took away some actions to consider. But we will not hold our breath for a much needed major review of the entire service.

My worry is the next time we meet may be in Campbeltown.

Thought for the week

'In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety.' Psalm 4:8

Path praise

Sir,
On behalf of the residents of Lochranza I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the construction and upgrade of the shore path from Newton Point to the Fairy Dell.

Yours,
**Ken Thorburn,
Lochranza and Catacol
Village Association.**

Nursery support

Sir,
I speak with the authority of one with 37 years' experience in primary teaching with additional qualifications in infants and nursery. I was in the forefront of nursery education in primary schools in Ayrshire and trained nursery nurses when head teacher at Springside Primary School.

The few designated nursery schools then were staffed by qualified nursery nurses and a head who was a qualified teacher.

Prior to that there were 'day nurseries' which were not educational establishments, run by social work. They provided care for children from birth to school age.

There were childminders and playgroups, all of whom, by law, had to be registered and for which the parents had to pay.

Children were registered to attend school according to their date of birth and provided that they were considered 'ready' i.e. out of nappies.

I welcomed the provision of nursery education for all four-year-olds as an opportunity for children to socialise. I am impressed with what I have seen here at Corrie School and on the mainland. I know how tiring it is for three-year-olds and can't imagine how two-year-olds can cope!

I regret that Brodick Nursery, which does a splendid job in difficult circumstances, may have to close with the loss to three- and four-year-olds of good educational experience.

Could North Ayrshire consider provision of a Portacabin similar to that formerly at Corrie, based, say, in the grounds of Brodick Primary School

and provide for the children there what is available to others elsewhere on the island.

This is a cause which must be supported.

Yours,
**Elma Stevenson,
Sannox.**

Big Garden Birdwatch

Sir,
As you know, this is the weekend of the Big Garden Birdwatch. So stock up your bird feeders, spend one hour of your weekend watching your garden birds, and note down the highest number you see of each bird species.

Last year nearly half a million people throughout the UK took part in this valuable exercise, and around 30 people on Arran took part. For more information visit this website Big Garden Birdwatch | All You Need to Know About Taking Part – RSPB <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/birdwatch/everything-you-need-to-know-about-big-garden-birdwatch/>

These results provide a 'snapshot' of the numbers of birds in each region and comparisons with data from previous years give an indication of what may be happening to garden bird populations.

As well as sending your records to RSPB please also send them to me, if possible by Sunday February 9. The RSPB, in their collation, lump Arran with North Ayrshire, whereas I am interested in looking at the figures for Arran alone. Each year I share the collated information with participants and more widely through my Banner articles and the arranbirding website.

Finally if you enjoy your garden birds not only take part in the RSPB weekend but consider joining the British Trust for Ornithology's Garden BirdWatch.

It is not just one weekend but every week. Observations collected by BTO Garden BirdWatchers are analysed by BTO researchers and published in leading journals.

BTO Garden BirdWatchers have charted the decline of the house sparrow, the rise of the woodpigeon,

have discovered that urban birds get up later than their rural counterparts, have alerted conservationists to the impact of an emerging disease in greenfinches and much more.

On Arran there are currently nine homes taking part in this straightforward enjoyable yet valuable exercise. If you would like to find out more about the BTO Garden BirdWatch contact me or visit the BTO website. Thank you for all your support.

Yours,
**Jim Cassels,
Arran bird recorder.**

Turkana appeal

Sir,
Mary's Meals has launched an urgent appeal to feed chronically hungry children in Turkana, one of the driest and most impoverished parts of Kenya.

We already serve nutritious meals to more than 23,000 children in nurseries in Turkana, but primary-aged pupils have not received meals since a programme run by another organisation stopped around a year ago.

Desperate pupils can often be found watching children at neighbouring nurseries being fed, and we have heard heartbreaking reports of children as young as three saving their food to take home for hungry siblings.

Mary's Meals already feeds more than 1.5 million children in 18 of the world's poorest countries every school day. We are determined to continue feeding these children while expanding, as funds allow, to reach primary school children in Turkana.

Your readers can support our appeal by visiting marysmeals.org.uk/turkana or phoning 0800 698 1212.

Yours,
**Daniel Adams,
UK executive director of
Mary's Meals.**

Foul-mouthed rabble

Sir,
I write to offer my full backing to the letter from Richard Henderson of Lochranza published in your edition of January 11.

Whilst weather conditions obviously play a significant part in respect of ferry cancellations, the fact that the ferries themselves are way beyond their life expectancy can be wholly laid at the door of the Scottish government whose gross incompetence has led to significant delays in the building of new ferries.

One cannot help but ponder the thoughts on the subject of the small band of island residents who were unable to attend the march through Glasgow that very same day due to the selfsame ferry cancellations. This march – attended by 10,156 according to official police figures, not the 80,000 stated in your edition of January 18 – saw banners proclaiming support for the IRA as well as abusive and foul-mouthed slogans directed at certain individuals and organisations. What were the police doing about the public display of such foul-mouthed slogans – and what exactly were they doing about the intimidation and harassment of innocent passers-by in the streets of the city centre?

Methinks the ferry cancellations did the island residents a favour by denying them the opportunity to be associated with such a foul-mouthed rabble.

Yours,
**Bobby Whitacre,
Glasgow.**

Celebrating older people

Sir,
It is widely accepted that we have an epidemic of loneliness, not just among older people, but younger people too. But our research shows a chink of light.

Almost half of 22-35-year-olds we polled spend time with someone aged 65+ who they are not related to – like a neighbour or friend – every week, and turn to them for advice.

We're calling on people to reach out to older people and ask for their life lessons.

Yours,
**Sam Monaghan,
Chief executive Methodist Homes
(MHA), Derby.**

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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.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



Spectacular skies over Arran

Charles Currie sent the Banner this super view of an orange sky over Kintyre on Sunday night.

Arran was treated to some splendid sunsets across the island on Sunday evening, as these readers' pictures prove.

The sky turned all shades of red, orange and purple because of an unusual combination of weather conditions.

Geoff Monk, from the Mountain Weather Information Service, said a front was passing across Scotland at dusk on Sunday.

'Normally when a front comes in it rains and there's cloud at all sorts of levels,' he told BBC Radio Scotland's Good Morning Scotland programme.

However, Sunday evening was different. He said: 'We had exceedingly clear air below the cloud. The only clouds were thin layers up at about 12-14,000 feet (4,300m).

'Because no other cloud was coming in below it or even above it the sun - when it was virtually horizontal at dawn and dusk near the horizon - reflected off the bottom of the cloud giving those vivid colours.'



Reader Allan Napier sent this spectacular photograph taken in Catacol.

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PRESSPOLICY

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

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

The Editor welcomes letters for publication on this page. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, amend or to 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 a name, full address and phone number.



Keeping Scotland Warm and Cosy For Over 35 Years

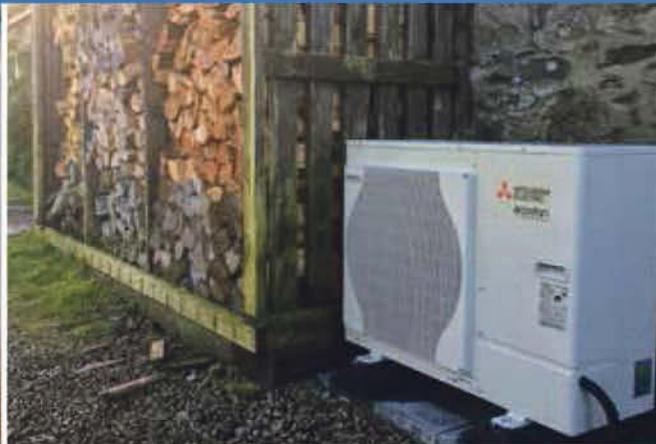
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In the past two years TK Murray have helped 82 people on Arran revolutionise the way they heat their homes and water by installing an air source heat pump. You probably know some of them

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

GEORGE CLARKE
Architect, writer and TV presenter

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



Community sport hub information drop-in session

On Thursday January 30 from 6pm to 8pm there will be a drop-in information session about the new community sport hub. This will be held in the canteen area within Arran High School and is open to all island community sports clubs.

There will be information about what the community hub is and the benefits of joining.

This session will be delivered by the KA community hubs manager, Scott Robertson and Active Schools co-ordinator for the Arran cluster Lauren Gilbert.

They will be able to answer any questions that may arise. There will also be sign-up sheets available on the night for any community sports clubs which are interested.



Local produce sees school dinners retain gold award standard

Arran has helped North Ayrshire Council retain the Gold Food for Life Served Here award for the seventh year running.

Awarded by Soil Association Scotland, the prestigious gold accreditation recognises the council's continued commitment to making good food the easy choice, championing environmentally sustainable, ethical food options, sourced by local suppliers.

The prestigious accolade has been awarded to all 49 North Ayrshire primary schools in addition to 15 early years centres and Arran High School.

And the latest figures show that the majority of ingredients for North Ayrshire

school meals are from Scotland.

A total of 73 per cent of the ingredients are produced in the UK with more than 57 per cent of the fare coming from Scottish suppliers of which more than 27 per cent of the annual spend is from Ayrshire food producers.

Councillor Jim Montgomerie, cabinet member for place, said the council was a front-runner when it came to serving up delicious, healthy meals to school children.

He said: 'We are proud of our continued record in using local produce and supporting businesses in Ayrshire and across Scotland. Our pupils



The council team with the certificate are, left to right: senior manager Carolyn Hope, team manager Una Doolan, catering supervisor Linda Gibson, catering assistant Roslyn Ferguson and Councillor Jim Montgomerie.

are able to enjoy some of the finest school menus anywhere in the country and the quality of the food is second to none.

'We are one of only two local Scottish authorities to hold the Gold Food for Life Served Here award, and the only authority to hold it for every primary school and early years setting, so parents can rest assured that their children are getting the very best local produce available.'

The Food for Life Scotland programme, funded by the Scottish Government and delivered by Soil Association Scotland, supports councils to get more locally-sourced food on the table. Caterers are recognised for serving fresh food, sourcing environmentally sustainable and ethical food, making healthy eating easy and championing local

food producers. Achievement is independently certified at three levels – Bronze, Silver, and Gold – with North Ayrshire achieving the highest certification every year since 2013.

The Gold award rewards local authorities for every penny spent on food produced in Scotland, and is only given to organisations serving up meals in which 15 per cent of ingredients are organic.

Local ingredients

Carolyn Hope, the council's senior facilities manager, says the council goes to great lengths to ensure its catering team continues to use the best, local ingredients to retain the Gold Food for Life Served Here award.

She said: 'Each year, the Soil Association audits our catering units to inspect our

food purchases, provisions stock and lunch menus to ensure compliance with their Gold Food for Life catering standard.

'We work hard to ensure we can support local suppliers by sourcing the healthiest possible ingredients. For example, almost 18 per cent of our fresh ingredients are organic including Scottish milk, pasta, rice, flour, meat and bananas.

'All the milk, yoghurt, cheese, seasonal fruit and vegetables are from Scotland when available, the eggs are free range from an Ayrshire farm and our fresh fish is Marine Stewardship Council certified sustainable seafood and fully traceable. None of our food contains undesirable additives, artificial trans fats or GM ingredients and all our meat is ethically sourced to ensure UK welfare standards. We take a huge amount of care over every single ingredient which goes into our school kitchens.

'We want our children to get the best possible start in life and, for me, that means serving up healthy, nutritious, local produce in our dining halls every single day.'



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Youth group up for two awards

Arran Youth Foundations has been shortlisted for two awards at Youthlink Scotland's national youth work awards.

Having been nominated by young people who attend the group, the charity has made it down to the final three in two separate categories – community-based youth work, and volunteer of the year – for its committed and hard-working volunteer, and Brodick resident Chris Attkins.

The awards ceremony will take place on Thursday March 12 at the Crowne Plaza in Glasgow, where the winners of each award will be announced.

AYF has a successful history at the event. In 2015, its sessional youth worker Bruce Mackintosh won Youth Worker of the Year (sessional paid/part time).

In 2016, youth work project manager Graeme Johnston was shortlisted in the full-time youth worker of the year category – in 2017, he was shortlisted again and won it this time. The same year, Hollie Watkins won part-time youth worker of the year



Chris Attkins has been nominated for the volunteer of the year award.

01_B04chris01

team to have another night at the National Youth Work Awards. We are delighted to learn we are shortlisted in two categories.

'I am particularly pleased for our volunteer, Chris, who gives up every Friday night without fail and helps out in many other ways – offering free counselling to young people in his role as a psychologist, for example. He is a gem of a guy and the award would be well-deserved.'

'We are also so chuffed we have made it to the final three in the community-based award. We take our role in the community of Arran very seriously. We try to ensure that the youth centre is a positive place for all of the island's young people and that through that, we have the young people out and around Arran doing good work in their own community – so it means a lot to be recognised for this important work.'

for the charity. The team was back again in 2018, winning the inaugural mental health and wellbeing award. On this latest announcement, Graeme said: 'I can't wait for the

Up to £20,000 in funding available for local projects

Arran's charities and good causes are being encouraged to apply for funding from more than £3 million that has been raised by the players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Applications are open until February 4, and a whole host of good causes from voluntary groups to community interest companies, as well as registered charities, can apply for grants between £500 and £20,000.

The funding will be awarded through three separate trusts which each support projects focused on different themes: the People's Postcode Trust, the Postcode Community Trust and the Postcode Local Trust.

Ballet classes for people with Parkinson's disease, soup kitchens and sensory gardens are just a few examples of projects which have previously received funding. Good causes are advised

to take advantage of this opportunity by reading the short funding guides available and applying to the trust that best fits the aims of their project.

A minimum of 32 per cent of ticket sales goes directly to charities and players of People's Postcode Lottery have helped to raise more than £500 million to date for good causes across Great Britain and internationally. For more information visit the trusts' websites.



The Alex Harvey Experience will play the PHT in Lamlash.

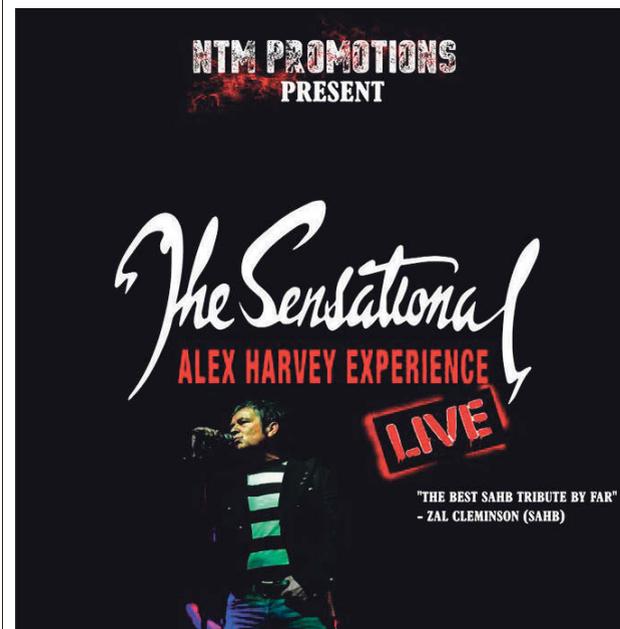
Sensational Alex Harvey Experience

Get the full live Sensational Alex Harvey Experience when the band make a welcome return to Arran this weekend.

They will play the PHT in Lamlash at 9pm today (Saturday January 25). They have been described by the legendary SABH guitarist Zal Cleminson as 'the best SABH tribute by far'. The idea came about when the band were asked to headline

SAHBROCK VI in 2013 and to do a SAHB tribute and went down a storm. So much so, by popular demand, they decided to keep this project going as it was both fun to perform, with all the theatrics and the songs, but also because the die-hard fans wanted to hear SAHB all over again.

They are highly recommended, and it has been said that the boys are one of the best live bands in the circuit.



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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN

Third Age university launches on Arran

At last the launch of Arran's own U3A (University of the Third Age) has been confirmed for Tuesday January 28 in Brodick hall at 2pm.

Everyone is welcome to find out all about the movement, which will provide opportunities for people who have retired from full time work to meet others and follow new interests or revisit old ones.

Almost 500,000 older people across the UK are members of the organisation which has more than 1,000 groups. One of the attractive things about the groups is that they are all different, all independent, supported by a central trust.

On January 28 Ann Keating, who is head of the Scottish trust will be attending the launch.

The day has been organised because of the enthusiasm of islanders, who have helped by suggesting topics and giving encouragement.

Many people have already asked to join, to provide skills or help generally. This will be possible on the day when there will be approximately 10 tables with a leader on each to explain what is on offer and the opportunity will be available to suggest other subjects



Some of the steering committee: Sharon Gregg, George Christie, Karyn Costa, Mhairi Smeir and Mairi Christie.

people may wish to follow.

There is no commitment, though there will be forms to fill at the time or take away and think about.

Groups already proposed include: games (chess for beginners, social bridge, cryptic crosswords); outdoor pursuits (wildlife, bat walks, walking); arts (visual arts, sketching, photography); languages (French, German, Italian); literature (book groups, poetry, creative writing);

sports (badminton, tennis, keep fit, Tai Chi); music and dance (ballroom and Latin, etc, learning the fiddle, music appreciation, movement).

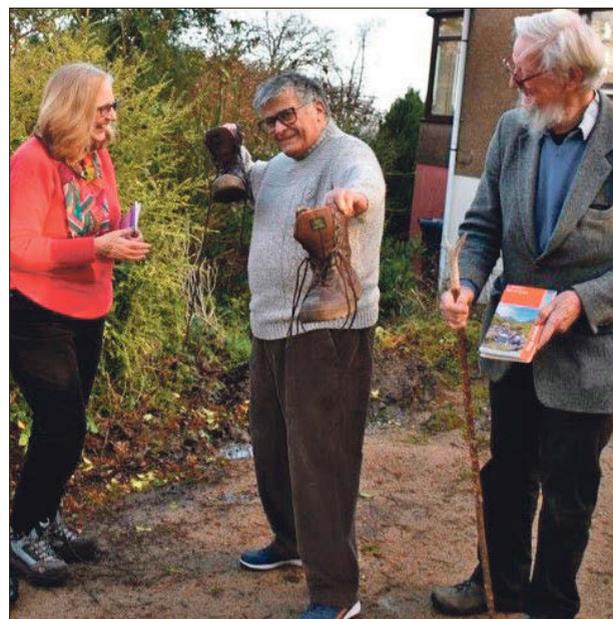
Others could include genealogy, lunch club, local history, computing, crafts, science, cooking and discussion of topical issues.

Of course not all are guaranteed and what happens will depend on the response at the meeting. It is hoped everyone will learn from each other,

help each other and have lots of fun. In addition to the individual groups, there will be monthly meetings, many with speakers, and there will be an opportunity to get together informally and to get help from each other.

On the day Mrs Keating will explain the concept and answer questions. There will be refreshments and entertainment from the Arran choir Ain't Misbehavin'.

Mairi S Christie



Music and games are just two of the proposed groups.

Boots are being looked out for walking.

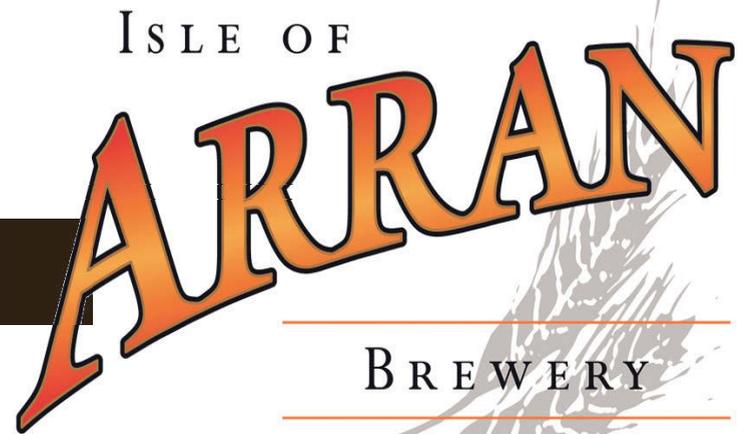
U3A
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Brodick Castle and Gardens Open 10am - 5pm
Octopus Centre Old Pavilion, Lamlash, centre open seven days, 11am - 3pm
Octopus Centre - tennis Old Pavilion, Lamlash, open seven days, any time
Brodick Mini Golf Open seven days, 9am - 5pm-ish, ALL weather
Public swimming Auchrannie Spa Pool, Brodick, 10am - 4pm (last entry 3pm)
and 6pm-8pm (last entry 7pm)
Swimming lessons Auchrannie Hotel Pool, Brodick, Monday -Thursday, 4pm - 6pm
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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 and Co-op Food Share Lochranza Hall, 9.15pm
Over-21s' Disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

Sunday 26th January

Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
Live Music Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 1pm - 4pm
Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Live Music - Nico G, classical guitarist The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
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 27th January

Morning Fitness Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am-10.30am
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 - Fatman and the Angel Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Tae Kwon Do, adults and over 10s Brodick Church Hall, 7pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 28th 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 - two 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 Shiskine Hall, 5.30pm - 6.45pm

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

Wednesday 29th 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
Coffee Morning Brodick Church Hall, Brodick, 10am - 12noon
Archives and Genealogy Service Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Knit and Blether Bay Wool and Crafts, Whiting Bay 2pm - 4pm
Arran Pace Makers' Running Group Brodick, 5.30pm
Kettlercise Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
Tae Kwondo kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors and adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Live Music - Mike Bailey Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Pub Quiz The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
Rock 'n' Pop Bingo Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 30th January

Kettlercise Auchrannie Spa Resort, 11am - 11.45am
Music Matters Lamalsh Church Hall, 2pm
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
Women's Circle - Menopause Support group Heather Lodge, Brodick, 7pm
Arran Punch Out Arran High School, Lamlash, 7.30pm
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 31st 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
Coffee Morning Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, Corrie 10.30am - 12noon
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Tae Kwondo advanced kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
Live Music Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Friday Night Quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
Eco Savvy and Co-op Food Share Octopus Centre, COAST, Lamash, 9pm

Saturday 1st February

Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
Rink Bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, Blackwaterfoot, 1.30pm
Live Music Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
Live Music - Riddemption - Reggae band The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Over-21s' Disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm



THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 29, 2000

Breaking free

The Disruption of the Church in 1843 has given the Free Kirk a reputation for sticking rigidly to their interpretation of the Bible and for disagreeing vigorously with those of a different mind.

Now another schism has erupted, within the Free Kirk, and 10 Arran members have put their name to a document which aligns them with the breakaway group.

Arran Free Kirkers met on Thursday in Shiskine Free Church to decide their position on the dispute whether to remain or join the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), the name given to the breakaway group.

Protected seas

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust, COAST for short, made a small presentation to the community council on Tuesday evening. Don MacNeish and Howard Wood spoke of their plans to regenerate sections of the seabed around Arran so that fish stocks might be built up.

At present the project is only at the early stages and COAST is seeking the approval of the whole of Arran before proceeding with the establishment of a protected area of seabed to be rented from the Crown Commissioners.

COAST's chosen site covers some three-quarters of a mile of coastline around Clauchlands Point, extending into the sea for perhaps a quarter of a mile. When established it is hoped the site may have educational and tourist potential as well as being the best way of regenerating fish stocks.

Open for traffic

The Coastguard had two calls last weekend while the road was closed just south of Whiting Bay. Both concerned people going to hospital by helicopter and it is the Coastguard's task to prepare for and guide in the helicopter.

The first was on Friday evening and the contractors were on site getting ready so the Coastguard were able to pass. For the second, on Saturday, the contractors offered a vehicle which was used from the north side of the break in the road.



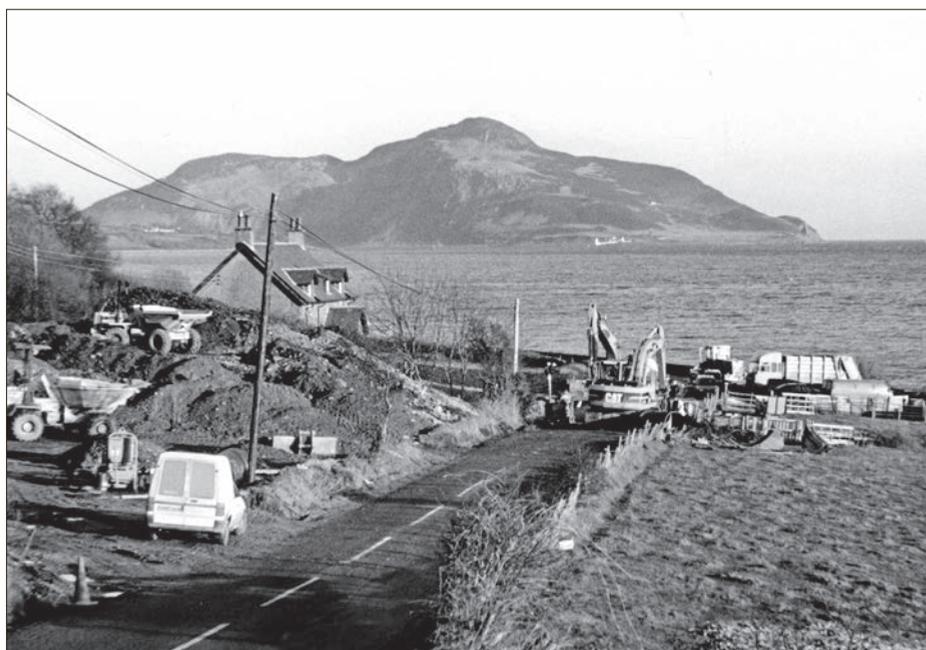
Arran's victorious U18 rugby squad after their first win of the season over Stewartry with a score of 26-15. 01_B04tweY0



Jan Schofield and Angus Nimmo are hoping to set up a forum for elderly people on Arran. The group will not be a recreational group but a campaigning group. 01_B04tweY03



Arran's first baby born in the new millennium is Samuel James Hislop. Samuel was born on Wednesday January 19 and is the second child of Jim and Heather Hislop whose daughter is called Megan. 01_B04tweY01



The road closure at Largymore to repair the damaged bridge has gone ahead with little disruption. 01_B04tweY05



Colin Haggarty and Moira Duff were the winners of the Millennium Mixed Doubles competition. Organised by the Arran Ladies Darts league the event celebrated the millennium and the fact that the ladies' darts has been a winter fixture on Arran for 20 years. 01_B04tweY04

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etc and want to spend the month here. Close to
the beach. Anywhere considered but Lamlash is a
favourite. Wifi required and preferably with parking.

Would consider a house swap if suitable place were
available. We are close to Ascot in a two-bed in a village
with a great pub - and we are away during Royal Ascot
week when the Queen trundles past each day.

Please contact: thatchman64@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE REGISTRATION WEEK

From August 2020 the annual entitlement to early learning and childcare (ELC) will increase to 1140 hours per year for all three and four year olds and eligible two-year olds. To find out how your child could benefit from up to 30 hours per week of funded ELC, visit <http://parentclub.scot/elc>. Information on how the new hours will be delivered within Council run establishments is available at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Parents are advised that registration for the early learning and childcare intake in August 2020 takes place from Monday 3 February 2020 - Thursday 6 February 2020. Children with dates of birth between 1 March 2016 and 28 February 2018 can be registered with Local Authority Early Years establishments or Funded Providers of early learning and childcare in North Ayrshire during this time.

Parents wishing to register their child for early learning and childcare should apply directly to the establishment of their choice. A list of all Local Authority Establishments and Funded Providers can be found on the North Ayrshire Council website, www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages).

The child's birth certificate should be produced at the time of registration. It is not always possible to place all children in the early year's establishment of their choice. You will be asked to state your second and third choice of establishment.

Please note:

- there are no 'catchment areas' for early years establishments and parents can choose to send their child to the most suitable establishment, if a place is available.
- attending an early years class within a primary school does not influence whether your child will be able to transfer to that school in Primary 1.

Please note that North Ayrshire Council operates an Admissions Policy which clearly describes priorities.

Further information on North Ayrshire Council's Admissions Policy and Early Years places can be found on the North Ayrshire website, www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Caroline Amos, Head of Service (Education), Communities Directorate

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

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

*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Written representations may also be made to the Head Of Service (Economic Development & Regeneration) at the above address by 14.02.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

20/00005/PP; Site To North Of Doonhill (Plot 9), Harbour View, Blackwaterfoot, Isle Of Arran; Amendment to planning approval N/11/00776/PP to amend house design to erect one and a half storey detached house.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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- 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
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launching this year on the Isle of Arran

www.arrantheatreandarts.co.uk/opportunities

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Project Manager - deadline 7th Feb
Facilitator - deadline 14th Feb

For queries, contact Eileen Kerr
arrantheatreandarts@gmail.com

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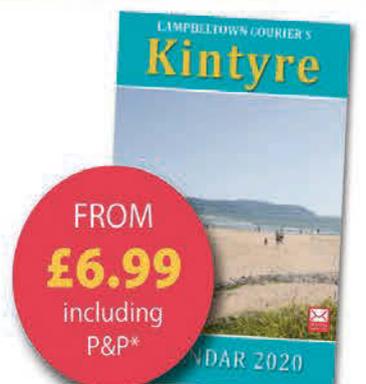
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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson

Parish Assistant:

Mrs Jean Hunter:

Sunday 26th January

Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches Together 10.15am Morning Worship at Lochranza Church.

Shiskine Church, 12noon

Morning Worship.

Brodick Church, 10.30am.

Morning Worship.

Corrie Church, 11.30 am.

Prayer Meeting, 12noon

Morning Worship.

There will also be 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 26th January

Worship will be conducted

by the minister,

Rev Elizabeth Watson,

at 10.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service.

All most welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with

Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a

fellowship to share"

Sunday 26th January

Rev Lily McKinnon

Kilmory at 10am

Lamlash at 11.30am

In Lamlash: Celebration of

the Lord's Supper

All welcome, including

families: children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH

OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 26th 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 26th January

Morning Service at St

Molios, Shiskine at 11am

Evening Service, Brodick

at 6pm

All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL

CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide

Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 26th January

3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Sung Eucharist at 11am

Rev Adrian Fallows

Coffee after service

All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF

FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 26th 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 26th January

Service at 11am

Ormidale Pavilion

Tea and coffee after the

service

Wednesday 29th January

at 7.30pm Home fellowship

group for bible study and

prayer.

Everyone warmly invited.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC

CHURCH

Sunday 26th January

Sunday Morning Mass at

11am

DEATHS



BUSSELL: Gillian

Passed away peacefully on the 11th January at Berry Hill Care Home, Mansfield aged 81. Mum of Suzanne, Stephen and Louise and Grandmother and Great Grandmother. For funeral arrangements please contact Cooperative Funeral Care on 01623 627701. A further celebration will be held on Arran. Date to be confirmed.

WALES: Drew

Peacefully at home on 21st January 2020. Drew much loved husband of Jennifer and the late Linda. Drew was the proud and loving father of Julie and Suzanne and loving step-father of David and Lynsey. He took great pleasure in the grand children, Sam, Jamie and Jessica. A celebration of Drew's life will take place on Friday 31st January at Whiting bay and Kildonan Church, Isle of Arran at 11.30am. Transport will be provided to meet the 9.45am ferry and return for the 4.40pm ferry. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu to ArCaS.

BANNER
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

An almighty roar for team Broar

After more than a month at sea, three Scottish brothers have set three world records in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge – dubbed the toughest row in the world.

Not only are they the fastest trio to ever have rowed across the Atlantic Ocean, beating the previous record by a whopping six days, they are also the first three brothers to row any ocean, and the youngest trio to ever paddle their way across the Atlantic.

To kick-start their fundraising drive, they rowed 300 nautical miles in 2019 up the west coast of Scotland, pilaging from local distilleries. Setting off from Arran, where they visited the Lochranza distillery, and making the long journey to Talisker on Skye, the brothers' expedition was remarkably fruitful – they collected more than 400 bottles in just 10 days, helping them creep closer to their target.

Ewan, Jamie and Lachlan MacLean, sons of acclaimed whisky writer and connoisseur Charles MacLean, set off from La Gomera in the Canary Islands on December



After 35 days at sea, team Broar have made it back to dry land. Photo Atlantic Campaigns

12 last year, spending Christmas and New Year in the middle of the ocean, and completed the epic 3,000-mile row to Antigua in exactly 35 days, nine hours and nine minutes.

The MacLeans overcame severe seasickness, battery issues, storms, dehydration and utter exhaustion – as

well as the typical rowing blisters, aches and pains that come hand in hand with the endurance sport – to reach Antigua.

The sound of Jamie's pipes heralded their arrival on the horizon, and they made their way on to shore to be welcomed by hoards of friends, family and well-wishers.

They have been supporting two charities – Children 1st, Scotland's children's charity, and Feedback Madagascar, which provides people on the African island with access to clean water. Now that they have smashed the World Record, Broar hope to reach their fundraising target of £250,000.



Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday January 19, Ryder Cup, 32 played. Torbeg 2½ v Kilpatrick 1½, Shiskine 3 v Blackwaterfoot 1.

Table after game five: 1 Torbeg 18, 2 Shiskine 14½, 3 Blackwaterfoot 12½, 4th Kilpatrick 11. Nearest Pins: Gator, J Faulkner, W Kelso and H Bannatyne.

Game six, and final game, to be played on Sunday January 26 at 1pm, shotgun.

Twelve-hole Medal and Winter Cup will be played then too. Those who don't want to enter, that is fine. Also a good chance for others to get another card in for handicap.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday January 19, Yellow Tees Sweep, 12 played on a beautiful morning for golf and with the course bene-

fitting from a few days of dry weather good scoring was much in evidence.

Since play was from the yellow tees and 'non counting' there was no CSS but all scores returned were in the net 60s.

That said, the midweek regulars, enjoying official handicaps rather than winter ones, took full advantage of their restored shots to take the top six spots.

Dougie Auld returned a spectacular net 57 to win by two shots.

Results: 1 Douglas Auld (20)-57, 2 David Brookens (12)-59, 3 Wolfi Kroner (14)-61 acb, 4 Stan Rainey (10)-61 and lowest gross.

Graeme Crichton and Neil 'Sonic' Lucas each scored impressive magic twos @7th hole

Fixture: Sunday January 26, Yellow Tees Stableford, one draw at 10am.

Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday January 19, Glenburn Cup. 1 Andy Smith 77-16=61, 2 Lee Dutton, 3 Derek Harrison. Best Scratch Andy Smith 77. No magic twos.

Thursday January 16, Yellow Medal. 1 Alan Smith

81-13=68, 2 Serge El Adm 84-13=69

Fixtures: Sunday January 26, Winter Stableford, 9.30am and 12noon starts. Thursday January 30, Yellow Medal, ballot 11am.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday January 19, Winter Cup Stableford, 18 played, NC. 1 Bruce Jenkins (7) 38pts, 2 Chris Pattenden (15) 37pts acb, 3 Donald McKinnie (10) 37pts acb.

Fixture: Sunday January 26, Winter Cup Stableford, 9am and noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday January 21, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Phil

Betley 41pts, 2 Campbell Laing 40pts, 3 Alistair MacDonald 36pts.

Fixture: Tuesday January 28, Winter Cup, tee off noon.

Arran Golfers' Association

Fixture: Sunday February 2, Winter League (Duncan Trophy) at Corrie GC. Tee Times will be as follows: Corrie v Shiskine 8.30am, Machrie Bay v Lamlash 9.20am, Whiting Bay v Brodick - 11.50am.

Arran Ladies Golf Union

Fixture: Saturday January 25 ALGU Drumadoon, 18 holes, 10.30am first tee off.



Machrie Bay Golf Club.



Archie McNicol fires the ball past the flying Killie keeper for goal number two.



Late show from Killie puts Arran in the dumps

Killie Athletic	4
Arran	2
League Division One	

Arran were looking to bounce back after the week before when they suffered a heavy defeat to Charlie's Bar in the Ayrshire Sunday League.

On Sunday they faced the league leaders Killie Athletic at St Joseph's Academy in Kilmarnock. They got off to a good start, scoring the opener through Ryan Armstrong after Archie McNicol had come close, and they led 1-0 until half-time.

Looking to kick on, Arran

took the game to Killie and scored to make it 2-0 early in the second half through Archie McNicol.

Sadly, it went downhill from there, with a lack of training since before Christmas taking its toll, and Killie scored four goals in the last 25 minutes to win 4-2.

It was disappointing for the Arran boys and they need to bounce back quickly if there is any chance of a trophy this season.

Arran AFC training has now resumed for 2020 on Thursdays at 6pm at Arran High School and all new potential players are welcome.

Meanwhile, Arran can take some pride from the fact that their Scottish Cup opponents in the third round march on in the competition. BSC Glasgow only narrowly dumped Arran out of the competition last November 3-1.

But after their fourth round win over East Kilbride last weekend the team, formed in Broomhill but who play their home games in Alloa, have now won a money-spinning tie against Hibernian or Dundee United in the next round.

Photographs by
Tam Borland



Ryan Armstrong rounds the keeper to put Arran into the lead in the first half.



Killie bounce back with this header narrowly crossing the line to give them a lifeline back into the game.



Archie McNicol is first to the ball in the Killie box.



Arran go further behind in the game's closing stages.



Killie players are convinced the ball has crossed the line.

Mountain bikers maintain trails on Arran

Ingrained in Arran High School Mountain Bike Club's ethos is the guiding belief that looking after its community's precious trails is a key part of

responsible mountain biking and so members are all regularly involved with trail digs, maintenance and repair.

The club is particularly



Enjoying the fruits of their labour, a brave cyclist attempts an impossible manoeuvre in thick mud.



A trail worker poses for a picture during a trail maintenance excursion.

proud of this fact and is now, with funding from North Ayrshire Green Health Partnership, planning to increase the frequency of its trail maintenance and advance its members' skills.

Next month, on Saturday and Sunday February 22

and 23, the club will be running a trail maintenance coordinator course for all of its young members and adult volunteers.

And there is also a space available for anyone in the area who is interested in taking the course. If anyone



Club members undertake path maintenance on a popular trail on Arran.

would like be part of the training or wishes to offer support and help in supervising the young team, they can get in touch by phoning the school office on 600341.

The trail maintenance course will expand the club's capabilities and once com-

pleted, it will help it sustain the current and future work of the group.

The club will be putting members' skills to good use on Arran and is also looking at offering their services further afield on the mainland in future.

Double header in Brodick this weekend

Continued from page 20

As both teams settled into the game, play continued evenly across the field with beautiful set plays, accurate passing and a number of short corners. Troon upped the pressure in the 26th minute as they finally broke Arran's defence to take the lead.

Undeterred, Arran rapidly positioned the ball back into their attacking 'D' where several players took shots on goal only to have it fired back to them by the keeper's pads. The team are trained to never give up and, true to form, Lorraine collected a rebound and fired it into the back of the net, equalising the score once again. The last 10 minutes of the first half were tense, with Arran being awarded two

short corners right up until the final whistle blew.

Heading into the second half, both teams had all to play for. Troon had several long passes up the field, however, Arran's high defensive line had some fantastic steals, running onto the balls before they reached their target and firing them back up the field to Arran's attacking line.

Solid strike

Both teams had attempts on goal, but superb goal-keeping prevented any from crossing the line. Heading in to the 26th minute of play, Ellie strongly passed the ball up field to Hazel, who fired the ball into a space Lorraine was running into. Although Lorraine's solid strike was deflected by Troon's keeper,

Susie was primed for the rebound and walloped the ball past the keeper's blind side to take Arran into a 3-2 lead.

Buoyed by their efforts, Arran dominated the final 10 minutes with all play occurring in Troon's defending half. An amazing arc run from Judith in the final few minutes set Lorraine up for a one-to-one with Troon's keeper. Spinning round to wrong-foot her, Lorraine reverse-flicked the ball into the back of the goal, giving her a hat-trick and bringing the final winning score line of 4-2 to Arran.

Following match teas kindly arranged by the home team, it was announced that Troon had chosen Mia as dame of the game for her excellent



Action from the Troon match which was Arran's first in nine weeks.

multi-position play on the field in the mid and forward positions she was covering. Returning on the ferry, the team were in high spirits and agreed it was a great match with excellent umpiring all round. A huge thanks goes to Arran's umpire Pauline

Reid and extended thanks to Rhoda Howe of Troon.

Finally the team would like to offer a round of applause for the mini-cheerleaders on the sidelines, who gave encouragement cheering on the team.

Arran Ladies return to their

home pitch at the Ormidale in Brodick this weekend for a double header against Uddingston Clinetix 3s today (Saturday) and GHK 4s tomorrow (Sunday), with a passback time of 2.30pm on Saturday and 2pm on Sunday. All support is welcome.

Arran hockey team get year off to a flier

Tron Ladies 2nds	2
Arran Ladies	4
West District Division 3	

Following a nine-week hiatus, Arran Ladies travelled with a squad of 12 players to Tron on Saturday to kick-start the second half of the hockey season.

Goalkeeper Alison McKie was joined on the backline by sweeper Faith McKelvie and the strong defensive team of captain Elyse Aitken, Ellie Wood and Jenny Stark. Susie Murchie, Mia Walker and Annie McKelvie welcomed Hazel Malakoty back into a speedy midfield line up, whilst Hannah McCartney, Lorraine Hewie and Judith Ross assumed the solid attack upfront.

Facing a 16-player strong team, with two sideline coaches, Arran Ladies went out determined from the off. Just six minutes into the game, Susie collected the ball from deep in defence to make a lovely long pass up the pitch to Lorraine, who skilfully manoeuvred around Tron's forceful sweeper and fired the ball into the back of the goal. Arran's lead was short-lived, as Tron responded swiftly with their attack. Just a minute later, the opposition executed a perfect short corner taking the score to 1-1.

Continued on page 19



The team with their mini-cheerleaders after their win at Tron.



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