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WIN

A TOUCH OF LUXURY SPA DAY AND AFTERNOON TEA AT WALDORF ASTORIA EDINBURGH



Entry details on page 11.

First Arran event cancelled

Ferry crisis and coronavirus result in VegFest called off

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran has this week had its first event cancelled due to a combination of ferry faults and concern over the coronavirus.

The first ever VegFest was due to have been held at Arran High School this weekend, but organisers have taken the decision to postpone the event. Next week's planned Arran Spring Fest, organised by Arran Eco Savvy, is, however, still going ahead.

And mainland guests due to attend the centenary dinner of the Shiskine SWI on Tuesday night were unable to get across due to weather cancelling sailings. They included the granddaughter of the late Lady Jean, Lady Hermione Thornhill.

However, in a rare glimmer of good news, CalMac says the fault on the MV Caledonian Isles should be fixed in less than a week rather than the six weeks originally predicted. A problem with hydraulics of the mezzanine decks, which put them out of action earlier this week, has been

resolved. The issue is related to a cracked casing on an aft winch gearbox which, as a result, may prevent the vessel from tying up in bad weather in Ardrossan. It also restricts the operational limits for the weather conditions it can operate in to around 30 knots.

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'Given the likelihood that this may cause further disruption in the coming days, on top of the recent difficulties, it is not surprising that there is a lot of frustration on the island. It must be a real priority to get this sorted.'

The situation since the start of the year with technical issues and severe winter storms is unprecedented and has already had a huge impact on tourism to the island and the ability of islanders to go about their daily lives without disruption.

Latest figures obtained by the Banner showed just how serious the situation was for the island which again saw continuing major disruption this week.

Until Tuesday of this week

Continued on page two

In a flap over institute's centenary



Shiskine SWI celebrated its 100th anniversary with a centenary dinner in Shiskine Golf Club on Tuesday night. The theme for the evening was flapper costume, given that the club was founded in 1920. Above are members and their guests assembled before sitting down to dinner. See next week's Banner for a full report and more photographs.

01_B11shiskine01



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A beautiful, stylish & newly constructed three bedroom detached villa in Brodick Bay

First Arran event called off by ferry crisis and virus

From page one

there had been 273 cancelled sailings out of a scheduled 781 sailings since the start of 2020 – a staggering 35 per cent of all trips. The February figure was the worst at 39.5 per cent.

The number of first sailings from Ardrossan cancelled has been 26 since the start of the year. This is recorded as this influences health and social care staff and other staff attendance, mail, supplies and services.

The situation was discussed at what has been described as an 'intemperate' Arran Ferry Committee meeting on Monday night attended by Mr Gibson and the new CalMac operations manager, Tommy Gove.

Mr Gibson said: 'What is needed is additional ferry cover, particularly in the run up to and over the start of the

main holiday season at Easter. Ferry chiefs have previously visited Oslo and Copenhagen in the search for short-term replacement vessels and that is something I will be pressing the Scottish Government to consider again.

'There is no doubt that more vessels are needed in the fleet to cover unforeseen circumstances as we now find on the MV Caledonian Isles and, going forward, I support a 10- to 15-year construction plan.'

Meanwhile, the effect on island tourism of the cancellations cannot be overestimated and Mr Gibson said that in order to alleviate the situation reliability of the ferry service in the future had to be the 'number one priority'.

Co-founder and managing director at Auchrannie Linda Johnston told the Banner: 'We have undoubtedly had



MV Caledonian Isles tied up at Brodick during the recent storms.

a period of very extreme weather, and as we live on an island, we must expect some disruption.

'However, we all know there are infrastructure problems with the ferries and harbours and it is important that all stakeholders on and off the is-

land work effectively together to the same priorities and goals to find effective solutions in the quickest possible timescale. As an island, we must all unite to make sure this happens.'

CalMac director of operations Robert Morrison said:

'Due to a technical issue with part of the mooring equipment on MV Caledonian Isles, the vessel may be unable to safely berth during periods of adverse weather which could result in disruption or cancellation to service at short notice. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause passengers.'

'A supplier has now been sourced which has the parts in stock, thus reducing the time frame for repair from what was thought to be around six weeks to approximately seven days as the parts do not need to be fabricated. Estimated completion of repairs is Thursday March 19. However, further updates will be issued as soon as more information is available.'

Meanwhile, in another issue to hit tourism, Auchrannie resort has postponed a refurbishment of its main

hotel in favour of a £1 million investment in additional staff accommodation as Brexit has led to a plunge in applicants from the European Union (EU).

About one-third of staff at the employee-owned resort are EU nationals from outside the UK. However, since the Brexit referendum, the number of applications from those outside the UK has dropped by roughly 75 per cent from around 200 per year to just 50.

Ms Johnston added: 'The main worry for us is the whole workforce thing with the immigration policy.'

The three new staff accommodation units are due to be completed in June, and will take the number of rooms for employees up to 102. The resort currently has approximately 180 staff.

■ See page 11: Arran VegFest postponed.

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Big rise in cost of concession fares on the way from April

With ferry travel disruption at an all-time high, there was more bad news for older and disabled passengers with the announcement there is to be a big increase in concession fares on the ferries and trains next month.

And a review is to be carried out into the future viability of the entire scheme.

The Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) has decided the concessionary ferry fare on the Ardrossan to Brodick route will be £4 return – up from £2.90 – and £3 single. The Lochranza to Claonaig/Tarbert service will increase from £1.50 to £2. The increases will be from April 1.

Concessionary train travel in the SPT area will be £1.50 single and £2 return up to 10 miles and half standard fare over 10 miles.

The increases were agreed at the recent SPT meeting when it set its 2020/21 budget.

A report to the Strathclyde concessionary travel scheme joint committee states the scheme is financially stretched and highlights that significant increases in the over-60s' population are projected within the next five years, meaning



The national entitlement card which gives Arran residents reduced fares.

additional demands being placed upon the scheme.

In a worrying development, an in-depth review of the scheme to ensure its future affordability and sustainability is to be undertaken and does not rule out its complete closure. That is expected to take six to eight months to complete.

The report further states that, based on current projections, the reserves balance will be exhausted within the next one to two years and action is therefore required to guarantee the short- and long-term future of the scheme.

As such, the 'do-nothing' option was not considered viable, as the consequence would be cessation of the scheme over the next few years.

Ironically, it comes just weeks after the Scottish Government

announced it is to grant free concessionary bus travel to under-19s, which some MSPs want extended to ferry journeys.

The SPT report states: 'Historically, the scheme has offered a low fare concession option for eligible users. However, in order to sustain the scheme, it is now necessary to take action to ensure its future operation and financial sustainability.'

'Since March 2019, a series of reports to the committee has clearly detailed the current concerning financial position of the scheme.'

'A number of factors lie behind how this financial situation has evolved.'

'These include that concessionary fares have historically been relatively low and have not kept pace with wider operator fare increases.'

'An immediate fares intervention, consisting of the outlined 50p increase to both single and return concessionary fares will help maintain the scheme in the short term. However, at this stage, it is no longer considered that nominal fare increases can sustain the long-term future of the scheme.'

Groups urged to apply for coast and water funding

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Historic Environment Scotland (HES) is encouraging organisations with community-based projects on Arran to apply for its new Coasts and Waters Heritage Fund for the Year of Coasts and Waters.

As part of the new scheme, grants between £3,000 and £20,000 will be available for projects which help communities to protect, promote or engage with Scotland's coasts or waterways.

This includes projects which are developing and implementing measures to enhance resilience and adapt to climate change.

While community groups are encouraged to apply, the scheme is open to all organisations throughout the country. All applicants

must demonstrate how their project will benefit their community. This could be through developing traditional skills, stabilising historic or marine structures, hosting community outreach and educational activities, or increasing people's understanding of Scotland's coasts and waters heritage.

The Coasts and Waters Heritage Fund is a one-off, competitive fund to celebrate Scotland's themed year and applications will close on Sunday May 31.

Jane Ryder OBE, chairwoman of HES, said: 'For thousands of years, communities across Scotland have lived and worked along or near water, and the Year of Coasts and Waters provides an excellent opportunity to engage people with our coastal and waterway heritage.'

'Through this new grant

programme, we are encouraging communities not only to celebrate our coasts and waters, but also to explore opportunities to adapt to the effects of climate change and help ensure this important aspect of our heritage is protected for future generations.'

The launch of the Coasts and Waters Heritage Fund follows the publication of HES's Climate Action Plan which outlines a programme of climate commitments over the next five years and beyond, in response to the climate crisis.

Jane Ryder OBE, chairwoman of HES, is encouraging groups and organisations to apply for funding that will help preserve and promote Scotland's coastal and waterway heritage.



Members of the Brodick primary pupil council with the cheque and Co-op team leader Janine Orr. 01_B11swim01

Co-op takes a dip into funds to help school swimming pot

Pupils at Brodick Primary School are dipping their toes in the water after a boost for their swimming lessons.

Laura Helliwell, the chairwoman of the parent council, had asked Co-op manager Liz McLean if there was any support the store could provide for the school's swimming lessons.

And she was delighted when Liz said the Inverclyde Co-op would be able to make a donation of £250 towards swimming and also gifted the school with a variety of balls for use in the gym.

The presentation was made to members of the pupil council and deputy head teacher Jane Boyle in the

Co-op store last Friday. All 62 pupils get four sessions at the Auchrannie, which will hopefully be back to six next year.

Each class takes a turn for a block of four weeks.

The cheque will be used by the parent council to pay for the lessons and Auchrannie for use of the pool.

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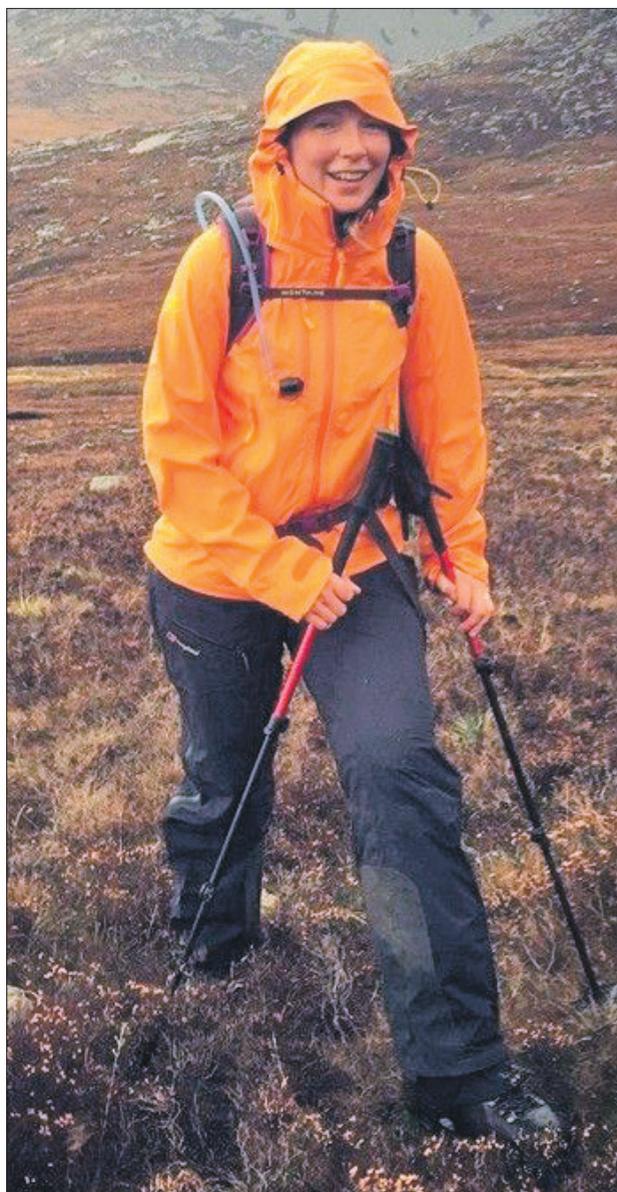
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Lucy breaks new ground with historic appointment



Lucy Wallace rambling on Arran. Photograph: Kirstie Smith

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Well-known on Arran for her wildlife walking tours and for her work with the Arran Mountain Rescue Team, blogger and mountain leader Lucy Wallace has been named as the first woman president of walking charity Ramblers Scotland.

Lucy, who is 45, is a professional wildlife guide and outdoor instructor who holds winter, summer and international Mountain Leader awards. She is an ac-

'It will be a huge honour to be the first female president.'

credited Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme assessor and works with schools and young people on expeditions throughout Scotland.

She will succeed countryside ranger Ben Dolphin as Ramblers Scotland's honorary figurehead, following the organisation's AGM in North Berwick recently.

She follows in the footsteps of the late conservationist Dick Balharry, award-winning broadcaster Cameron McNeish and Dr Andrew Murray, who was the Scottish Government's first physical activity champion.

Lucy hopes to use her presidency to encourage even



Lucy Wallace hopes to encourage more people to enjoy outdoor pursuits.

more people to appreciate Scotland's landscapes and world-class access rights – and to enjoy the health and social benefits of adventures on foot.

Lucy said: 'It will be a huge honour to become Ramblers Scotland's first female president, and I hope to be the first of many. So many women enjoy Scotland's outdoors, yet there is a distinct lack of female voices in prominent positions.'

'The number of people walking for fun is booming, and I want to use this role to encourage even more people to get outdoors and to build a stronger connection

with the amazing natural environment we're so lucky to have on our doorsteps here in Scotland.'

'I'm also looking forward to meeting our members and joining them in the hills.'

Ramblers Scotland director Brendan Paddy was delighted to have Lucy on board and recognised the appointment of a female president was a 'long overdue' step forward in the organisation's 35-year history.

He said: 'We feel truly lucky to have Lucy on board. As a passionate advocate for the outdoors and a highly experienced mountain leader, she has introduced hundreds of

people to the natural world, making her the ideal person to inspire even more people to enjoy our country on foot.'

Lucy grew up in southern England and initially trained as an archaeologist. She moved to Scotland in 2005 with her outdoor instructor husband Wally. She has previously worked at the Arran Outdoor Centre and as RSPB Scotland's information officer for the island before setting up her own wildlife guiding and mountain leading business.

The voluntary position of president is elected on an annual basis, with presidents often serving for the maximum term of three years.



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Road restrictions planned for Brodick will suspend parking

North Ayrshire Council's roads department has advised that a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order will be imposed in Brodick while work is under way on a new housing development.

From Tuesday March 24 this year until Thursday January 28 next year, a parking suspension, which includes no waiting or loading, will be enforced on Tuesdays to Thursdays from 9am to 4.30pm.

The restriction applies to Brathwic Place, east kerb line from its junction with Alma Road to a point near property

number three and also in Brathwic Place, west kerb line from its junction with Alma Road to a point near property number 22.

A further road restriction is also in place on the opposite side of the island at Machrie where an 18-tonne weight restriction has been put in place for 18 months on the Machrie Water bridge on Machrie Moor road.

A spokesperson from North Ayrshire Council, Commercial Services (Roads), said: 'Due to the nature of the works, legislation requires that in the interest

of safety to both pedestrians and the workforce, a parking suspension must be put in place during the days specified within the order. We would like to thank you for your patience in this matter.'

CONTACTUS

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The phonebox in Springbank Terrace which is under threat. 01_B11phone01



The notice that the box is considered for removal.



The phone box in Corrie which has been used just twice in the past 12 months. 01_B11phone03

BT wants to remove most phone boxes

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The phone box at the old Post Office was used 20 times in the past 12 months. 01_B11phone04

Most of the public phone boxes on Arran could be removed if BT gets its way.

BT has notified North Ayrshire Council it would like to remove 15 of the phone boxes around the island, which it has identified as being no longer required given the low numbers of calls made over the preceding 12-month period.

These are the five phone boxes in Brodick, three in Lamash, two in Whiting Bay with the others in Corrie, Sannox, Kildonan, Shannochie and Catacol.

However, while some of the phone boxes have been little used, the phone box in Springbank Terrace has been used 201 times in the past 12 months and the one at Brodick pier 70 times.

However, in contrast, the phones boxes in Kildonan, Kilmory and Shannochie were not used at all and the ones in Corrie and Catacol just twice. The BT notification begins a 90-day consultation period.

BT's justification makes reference to the declining use of call boxes in the UK generally, the increasing incidence of mobile phone ownership and

improvements in the mobile network to provide access to the emergency network even where there is no network coverage from the users' own provider.

In addition, BT has applied three criteria and has not considered locations to which all three apply: the only payphone within an 800m radius; has had at least 12 calls of any

type within the preceding 12-month period; and the local population is not fewer than 500 households within 1km of the payphone.

A spokeswoman for North Ayrshire Council said: 'We have been notified by BT of its intention to remove a number of public payphones in the North Ayrshire area. These payphones have been

identified by BT as no longer required given the low numbers of calls made from them over the past 12 months.

'Planning permission is not required for payphone box removal. However, Ofcom rules require BT to notify the local authority which can decide to use a veto to object to the plans.

'The local community also has the option to adopt a traditional red heritage phone box for a nominal fee (£1) and in turn retain it as a community asset that local people can enjoy.

'As part of the local consultation, we are consulting with the affected local councillors, community councils and housing offices and are inviting public comment.'

Consultation responses should be sent to planning officer John Mack via email: johnmack@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by Thursday April 2.

Torrylinn clean is to go ahead

An improvement in the weather forecast will allow Beach Buddies Arran to undertake their beach clean at Torrylinn Beach, Kilmory, tomorrow (Sunday).

Taking place from 10.30am until 12.30pm - or as long as anyone can manage - volunteers are invited to go along and take part in the fun and environmentally responsible event.

A spokesperson from Beach Buddies said: 'Due to limited parking at the beach please park at Kilmory Hall and enjoy the walk to and from the beach. Thanks to our sponsors Isle of Arran Dairy Ice Cream and the Parlour Brodick for their continued support.'

Volunteers are required to wear sensible footwear and gloves are compulsory. Light showers are forecast so appropriate clothing will be required. Pickers and bags will be provided.

Last chance to nominate

It's people's last chance to nominate for this year's North Ayrshire Council Provost's Recognition Awards. Nominations close on Friday March 20 at noon and a shortlist of finalists will be drawn up by a judging panel ahead of the award events hosted in each of the six localities in May, including Arran.

Multi-user path plan

A new study aims to investigate the feasibility of a multi-user access path between Brodick and Lamash.

The study is being funded through the Sustrans managed Places for Everyone and should create opportunities for active travel for everyday journeys between and within the villages although, due to the existing topography constraints, it is likely the focus of the study will be the improvement of cycling facilities within the settlements themselves.

If anyone is interested in being involved, contact Jennifer McGee jennifermcgee@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

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Maximum rise in council tax as budget approved

Councillors vote through a raft of price rises and service cuts to balance the books

Councillors voted to spend £500,000 on planting thousands of trees in North Ayrshire as part of the council budget.

They also approved a maximum council tax rise of 4.84 per cent, as expected, at a special meeting last week.

The price of care at home and burials is going up among a raft of service charge hikes. Taxi marshal funding is also being cut as part of efforts to balance the multi-million budget.

A council tax increase of 4.84 per cent was signed off despite opposition from a number of councillors.

It will bring in about £58.8million.

Conservative councillor Tom Marshall put forward an amendment that people should only have to pay three per cent more. But his bid was rejected at the council meeting on Thursday.

Council leader, Labour's Joe Cullinane, moved an amendment for proposed school staffing cuts of £850,000 to be ditched, which was

'We're heading into the second decade of austerity but despite the financial challenges we're proud to be creating additional jobs while protecting crucial services.'

successful. An £86,000 pot of cash has also been put aside to tackle the tragedy of drug deaths in the area.

SNP Councillor Christina Larsen got approval for mass tree planting in an amendment, backed by Councillor Cullinane later in the meeting.

Councillor Larsen's amendment called for: '£500,000 towards achieving the required carbon absorption through tree planting in recognition of the importance of this as part of the council's overall approach to becoming net zero.'



Council leader Joe Cullinane.

North Ayrshire Council faced an £11.4 million shortfall for the financial year ahead. It has a revenue budget of £358 million for the day-to-day running of council services.

Despite cutbacks, 86 new jobs will be created, including roles for nursery workers and carers. In addition, some council staff will take voluntary redundancy, early

retirement or move positions. But no employee will face compulsory redundancy.

Councillor Cullinane said: 'We're heading into the second decade of austerity but despite the financial challenges we're proud to be creating additional jobs while protecting crucial services.'

He added: 'It becomes more and more difficult every year to set a balanced budget and it has reached a stage where any further cuts will be likely to impact the services we provide to a greater extent.'

'The price of some services will soar, while others face cutbacks in the budget.'

A number of funeral services will see a hike of 10 per cent with the price of a burial going up from £733 to £806. The cost of a lair will be £859 – up from £781 – also soaring by 10 per cent.

Officials are increasing charges for meals on wheels, care at home, respite care and pest control by five per cent. Grass verges on rural roads are to be cut once a year instead of twice to save £10,000.

Taxi marshal cash will be axed as part of £74,000 worth of cuts within the community safety service.

Other cuts to community safety include removing the out-of-hours service and the neighbour relations team. The changes are rated as having a medium negative impact on residents.

Cash for early years expansion in capital budget

Investment in education will continue to be a key focus for North Ayrshire Council.

Last week, elected members approved a capital budget that will deliver a £269 million programme of works by 2027/28. And at the heart of the programme is a commitment to ensure North Ayrshire's children get the best possible start in life.

While the revenue budget pays for day-to-day services, the capital budget supports investment in buildings, infrastructure and regeneration projects.

The refreshed capital budget will invest in the expansion of early years centres to support delivery of 1,140 hours of early learning and childcare, which rolls out fully this autumn.

On Arran, Lamlash early years is to get £300,000, Shiskine £53,420, Pirnmill £51,755, Corrie £25,700 and Kilmory £20,000. There is no mention of Brodick Nursery in the capital budget statement.

An additional £3m to deliver landside works at Ardrossan Harbour, with the costs met from revenue generated from the terminal building and car park, has also been agreed.

There is also an increase in the roads budget by £2m over the next four years to a total of £15.2m to help maintain standards.

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Left: Carol Harwood of the Co-op speaks with members of Brodick Improvements Committee during their visit. 01_B11CCF01

Right: Kirsten Nicholson, assistant manager of the ArCaS shop in Brodick, spoke to shoppers about the work the charity does for those whose lives are affected by cancer. 01_B11CCF02

Groups pitch for your Co-op cash

The three recipients of this year's Co-op Community Fund visited the Brodick store last Saturday to tell shoppers what they do and how they intend to use the funds.

The selected charities are Arran Cancer Support (ArCaS), Brodick Improvements Committee (BIC) and Arran High School Mountain Bike Club (AHSMTBC).

One per cent of the amount customers spend on selected own brand products and services and the sale of shopping bags goes into the Co-op Community Fund which is donated to selected charities every year.

Co-op members can select which charity their contri-

bution will support by going online or by calling 08000 234708. Last year Mary Davis Trust, Cats Protection Arran and Brodick Nursery received a share of almost £40,000.

Speaking at the event, Bill Calderwood, on behalf of BIC, said: 'Brodick Improvements Committee is grateful to Liz and Carol and the Co-op for the opportunity to raise funds to develop and retain many features around the village which benefit residents and the many guests to Arran who visit the village.'

'Additional funds will help retain public services, brighten up the village with the annual planting which is expanding and work to protect the village green and

footpaths which are popular.

'In winter, we hope to expand the Christmas tree decorations and are considering other features to promote Brodick and Arran as a welcoming community.'

Robert McNeice of AHSMTBC explained what it hopes to achieve with additional funding. He said: 'With funding from the Co-op Community Fund, the club intends to buy a minibus and trailer. This will enable us to take our voluntary trail and bike maintenance projects to more island communities in addition to making the most of Arran's amazing outdoor spaces with regular mini adventures on bikes.'

ArCaS will use the funds to continue with its travel, well-being and nurse support it offers to those on Arran affected by cancer.

Shop manager Lisa Remington said: 'Thanks to everyone who stopped to chat today and huge thanks to Liz McLean and her wonderful staff for making space and time for us. More than £1,000 has already been raised by Co-op shoppers for ArCaS. Whoever you choose for your reward, they really appreciate it.'

Manager Liz McLean, who manages both Brodick Co-op stores, said: 'We are delighted to be helping all of these great causes. Thanks to all of our members, we can help make a real difference in our community. I would urge everyone to sign up to be a Co-op member. The more members that take part, the more the

community benefits. Thank you to all our members and customers for helping us.'



Co-op manager Liz McLean gives Robert McNeice and Kim Toogood of the mountain bike club a helping hand.

01_B11CCF03

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Concern grows over threat from coronavirus

The word on everybody's lips is covid-19 – or coronavirus, as it is more commonly known.

It is almost impossible not to hear or read about some new development numerous times every day. Initially, concern was minimal, because there were no cases on our shores; it was far away in China.

However, then cases appeared in Europe, the United States, the UK, Scotland and then, even closer, Ayrshire.

The rate at which it is reaching ever nearer to us here on Arran is worrying, as are the potential consequences for the island both economically and given our ageing population.

Thankfully, there are no cases of coronavirus on Arran, and we have no doubt that our medical personnel are more than capable of dealing appropriately with any instances, but we are under no illusion that it will continue to play an ever increasing part in our daily lives, directly or indirectly.

The cancellation of the Arran VegFest is the first to suffer from coronavirus concerns.

This is coupled with ferry disruption issues, which disastrously for Arran might continue for six more weeks.

Let us hope that with the end of the worst of the winter storms, the onset of warmer weather and as knowledge increases about the virus, we can all emerge from it relatively unaffected.

Thought for the week

'God is Spirit and only by the power of his Spirit can people worship him as he really is.' John 4:24

Support sought

Sir,
Lamlash Events will be running the third Arran Rock 'n' Blues Festival on September 26 and 27 this year.

The festival takes place in a marquee on Lamlash Green over the weekend with a sensational line-up of around 20 great bands plus a marketplace for island businesses to showcase their wares.

Last year we sold out of 500 tickets prior to the event and we are expecting the festival to again bring a boost to many businesses on the island.

We had great feedback on the success of last year's event and if you have anything you would like to share with us you are invited to the public consultation event we are holding. This will be held at the Co-op in Brodick from 10am to 4pm on April 12. Alternatively you can find out more about the festival on Facebook or take a look at our website www.arranrockandbluesfest.co.uk.

Since the inception of the festival, each year we are being required to provide more infrastructure over and above that provided last year. We are being asked to have a disabled accessible toilet close to the marquee on the green and to pay for four additional police for the event. These, and other such costs, are in addition to the cost of bands, travel, accommodation, marquee and licences.

Ticket costs cannot cover all these expenses and remain reasonable, therefore, we are looking at other avenues to subsidise the event. One such avenue is sponsorship either as a friend of Lamlash Events or a business. Another is advertising in the programme which will be distributed in music venues further afield.

Should you feel able to offer support, please get in touch or donate through our website on the Get Involved page.

Any money raised by the festival will go to Lamlash Events which is a not-for-profit organisation run by island residents who have been driv-

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



The distinctive number plate found on a car in Wisconsin.

What were the odds on parking here?

Sir,
When clearing out old paperwork, I came across this photograph which was taken at the Experimental Aircraft Association Airventure airshow at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, a number of years ago.

When I drove into the car park I parked behind this vehicle.

It is a very big event so I cannot imagine what the odds were of choosing that parking spot.

Yours,
Ian Grant, Lamlash.

ing Santa's Sparkle for the last three years, the Rock 'n' Blues Festival and supporting the Arran VegFest which should have been this weekend.

Lamlash Events is committed to creating opportunities to encourage visitors to Arran and to ensure local businesses benefit and the community enjoys the events. The marketplaces at the Rock 'n' Blues Festival and Santa's Sparkle showcase the great work of crafters and artists along with local produce. We hope to see you at our events and thank you for supporting Lamlash Events.

Yours,

The directors, Lamlash Events.

Passenger comfort

Sir,
I was looking at the minutes of the Arran Ferry Committee meeting held on January 13 and was surprised at item 3.12: 'The plans for a crew gym and relocation of the children's play area have been circulated. The area identified was in the current observation lounge which is often used as a quiet area for passengers. It was disappointing this has been decided without proper passenger engagement and the arrangements

compromised passenger comfort and facilities.'

The lounge can be very busy during the summer and is often full. It is an ideal area for accommodating school parties – so much for being a quiet area. This is just another example of passengers being ignored, eg Brodick terminal. What is the alternative location for these passengers, especially on a rainy day?

The response from the ferry committee 'disappointing' is not encouraging and I can understand why the Arran Ferry Action Group was established. I trust a crew gym is being included in the new ferry, considering the extended period it will be stuck in port due to cancellations.

Yours,

Robin Gardner, Lamlash and
Milton of Campsie

Earth Hour

Sir
I'm writing to encourage readers to join millions around the world in turning off their lights and celebrating the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Earth Hour on Saturday March 28 at 8.30pm.

We are in the midst of a climate

and nature emergency. We have destroyed forests, polluted the oceans and messed up the climate. But what happens next is up to us. You can be part of the change by taking part in Earth Hour.

All eyes are on Scotland this year ahead of the UN climate talks in Glasgow this November, so now is the time for Scottish communities to stand up and be counted.

So whether it's switching off your lights, switching off your phone for an hour or celebrating with others, Earth Hour is a time to reconnect to what is important. Taking part is a great way to showcase your group's environmental action, get new people involved and be part of a global movement. To find out what's on near you, visit wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour.

Yours,
Lang Banks, director, WWF
Scotland.

HAVE YOUR SAY
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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.

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Arran learns all about benefits of land reform

The Scottish Land Commission held an informal public meeting on Arran last week to give residents the opportunity to find out more about land reform and the benefits it can bring to the community.

Around 40 people turned out on a wet Wednesday night to hear about the work of the commission, which was set up just three years ago, and give their views on what land reform priorities should be.

Commission chairman Andrew Thin said: 'Land is at the heart of Scotland's identity, economy and communities, so it matters that it is owned and used in a fair and productive way.'

'There are many benefits land reform can bring to you and your community, including transforming vacant and derelict land, community ownership, community engagement in decisions relating to land and unlocking opportunities through modernising land ownership.'

'We are making more of Scotland's land by stimulating fresh thinking, supporting change on the ground and making recommendations to



Land commission chairman Andrew Thin addresses the meeting in Brodict Hall. 01_B11land01

Scottish ministers, where appropriate, for legislative and policy change across our four priority areas of

work,' he added. This is one of a number of public meetings taking place across Scotland throughout

the year to help the commission shape its new three-year strategic plan.



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Drive-through coronavirus testing now at Crosshouse

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



NHS Ayrshire and Arran has introduced drive through coronavirus testing at University Hospital Crosshouse.

This will allow patients with mild symptoms to drive themselves to a contained area of the hospital for testing, enabling them to avoid public transport or walking, and allowing more people to be tested.

Dr Crawford McGuffie, medical director, said: 'We had been providing hospital-based testing from University Hospital Crosshouse. However, for most people, attending an inpatient ward is not required and this also limits how many tests we can offer each day.

'As we expect the number



The test is a simple throat and nose swab and requires a sputum sample. The tented testing facility has been set up at University Hospital Crosshouse and is currently available by appointment only.

of tests will increase significantly, by introducing a community testing model, as well as inpatient testing, we will be able to increase our

capacity to meet the needs of the population.'

The test is a simple throat and nose swab, with the addition of two sputum



samples if the individual has a productive cough. And, in line with established infection control measures, the team performing the tests

will wear protective clothing. Dr McGuffie added: 'We know that it can be daunting to see the testing team wearing personal protective

equipment. However, we want to reassure people that there is no need to be alarmed. This is part of our usual infection control procedures.'

The testing facility is now up and running. However, members of the public should note that this is not a drop-in facility. They must have a pre-arranged appointment. Anyone who turns up without an appointment will be turned away. If anyone is concerned they may have been exposed to coronavirus, they should telephone their GP surgery during normal working hours or call NHS 24 on 111 if out of hours.

For the latest health and travel advice, see [nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/inform-scot/coronavirus). A free helpline has also been set up for those who do not have symptoms but are looking for general health advice: 0800 028 2816.

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Simon Sloan of the Scottish Salmon Company presents the RNLI with a cheque.

Salmon company nets cash for donation to Arran RNLI

Arran RNLI has been given a donation by the Scottish Salmon Company.

Each year the company raises money for a local charity by serving up salmon in a

bun at its stall at the Brodick Highland Games and this year the company selected the Arran RNLI, which received £550.

A spokeswoman for the

RNLI said: 'We are very grateful for the donation. The £550 raised will stay on the island, and will go towards important maintenance on our channel buoy markers.'

Arran VegFest is postponed due to travel and virus fears

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran's first VegFest, which was scheduled to be held over two days this weekend, has had to be postponed as issues with travel arrangements and concerns over coronavirus intensified in the run up to the event.

The difficult decision made by the organisers has meant that the packed schedule of events, which would have comprised seven speakers, two films, children's entertainment, live music, and 30 food and various other stalls have all had to be cancelled just days before as participants and visitors started withdrawing.

Organiser Jules Lee, speaking to the Banner on Wednesday, said: 'It is with deep regret and sadness, in



view of the fact that a number of participants in, and visitors to, Arran VegFest 2020 have had to withdraw, that the organisers have taken the very difficult decision to postpone the event.

'Arran VegFest was due to take place at Arran High School this weekend. A new date will be announced later in the year.

'The withdrawal of so many participants and visitors has been attributed to a number of factors but largely the

uncertainty as to whether, having already travelled some distance to get to Ardrossan, they will be able to cross to Arran or back with their vehicles.

'This is due to the continuing uncertainty as to whether particular sailings will take place as a result of CalMac's ongoing technical problems. There are currently two technical issues cited by CalMac, the combined results of which are causing reduced vehicle capacity, and

Arran Spring Fest to go ahead

Arran Eco Savvy is planning Spring Fest for Saturday March 21 at Balmichael Glamping and this very exciting event is still set to go ahead. Arran Eco Savvy wants to reassure everyone that precautions are being taken and government recommendations for coronavirus are being followed. Eco Savvy will continue to monitor and review the situation closely and will be sharing any immediate updates on its website and social media channels. Any questions, contact Jude: jude.ecosavvy@gmail.com.

the potential inability of the vessel to dock.

'In addition, we have concerns over the spread of coronavirus on Arran by visitors to Arran VegFest.

'Opinions indicate that a fast spread of the virus is likely to cause an NHS crisis, and we do not wish to be contributors to such a situation on our island or to put any Arran residents at any unnecessary risk.

'This decision is a heart-breaking one, after the many hours of preparation by so many people that have gone into organising the festival. Arran VegFest was to include seven speakers, two films, children's entertainment, live music, and almost 30 food and other stalls.

'It is intended that Arran VegFest will be rearranged for a future date when transportation to and from the is-

land can be better predicted, and coronavirus is no longer a threat.

'Judging of the young people's Creativity Competition, for which many amazing entries have been received, will still take place, and prizes will be awarded. Entries will be posted on social media and the website www.arranvegfest.com, and winners announced over the next week.

'We are also working with the seven VegFest speakers to record the talks they would have been presenting over the weekend, with the intention that these will be made available online.

'The organisers wish to thank the many people on Arran and beyond for their support, help and kindness in helping to create what had promised to be an amazing weekend on Arran.'

New divisional commander to take charge in Ayrshire

Ayrshire has a new divisional police commander. Chief Superintendent Faroque Hussain, who has 20 years' police service, took over this week from Chief Superintendent Mark Hargreaves.

From 2016 to 2018, he served in Ayrshire Division as a superintendent. During this time he formed positive relationships with all three local authorities and understands the unique balance of policing between the urban, rural and island communities of Ayrshire and Arran.

Following his time in Ayrshire, he was seconded to the National Crime Agency in London and formed part of a national unit designed to support UK law enforcement.

In May 2019 he was promoted to chief superintendent, head of analysis, performance, demand and productivity. In this role he oversaw the production of Police Scotland's three-year strategic assessment and the introduction of outcome focused public performance reporting.

Mr Hussain began his police career in Glasgow where he served in uniform as a constable and sergeant. He has



Chief Superintendent Faroque Hussain.

served in a variety of detective roles within the organised crime and counter-terrorism unit from detective sergeant to detective superintendent.

This has included secondments to the British Transport Police in London following the 07/07 atrocities and time with the Home Office providing coaching and training to the Immigration Service.

Mr Hussain has participated in a number of international leadership events that have seen him visit the Middle East and included participation in the US State Department international visitors leadership

programme. He is a strategic firearms commander, having previously been a firearms officer and commander.

Mr Hussain is a resident of Ayrshire and recognises the unique and proud culture within the division, something that is replicated across the communities of Ayrshire. He is married with four children aged between three and 17.

Mr Hussain said: 'My priority is to support our officers and staff ensuring we work hard with our communities and partners to reduce criminality and help the most vulnerable people across Ayrshire.'

OFFERS & competitions

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Obituary: Ian 'Jordan' Kirkwood

January 5, 1942, to February 13, 2020.

Jorden was born Ian Kirkwood on Rothesay, his mother having been advised to relocate from their native Glasgow because of the war.

Jorden joined the army at 17, working as a telephone installer. His records state he was 'most proficient in his trade'. After demobbing in 1968, he worked for Standard Telephones, installing phones all over Scotland.

I met Jorden in 2003, arriving on Arran to help build Samye Ling's new men's retreat on the Ross Road. Jorden had been there for several years and was very much the proprietor.

It was his job to look after the old farm buildings and inhabitants, mostly monks of all ages and dispositions, and from many different homelands.

Glenscorrodale was off-grid in the early days, and it took



Ian 'Jordan' Kirkwood.

all of Jorden's determination and skill to keep the lights on and everything functioning properly.

An ex-corporal, he was gruff with a commanding voice.

I well remember him arriving to inspect our work: red-faced, ginger beard and very blue eyes, he would bawl something intentionally perplexing in the broadest Glaswegian, and then retire to his caravan content that all was well.

When he saw we were intent on transforming the farm into a place of genuine Buddhist practice, he became increasingly sympathetic, turning into a cheerful and amusing, if terse, companion. His stock reply to 'Good morning' was: 'You've got the second part of that right!'

Jorden was not only a dedicated and strict servant of his

lama, he was also generous hearted. If retreatants' funds failed to materialise, he would quietly make them up out of his own pocket. Among other things, he sponsored a stupa at the retreat, now almost complete.

Just before the 2005 retreat started, Jorden surprised us all by appearing in a suit and smart shoes. He had fallen in love!

Following an audition for a part in The Life of Christ with the Torch Players, to the great amusement of all the Buddhists, he landed the part of St Peter. And here he met his new flame, Muriel Park, at the first rehearsal.

Jorden and Muriel served on the committee of the Torch Players and acted in many other plays. He had to give up acting due to ill health, but he continued to support local drama: an

exacting bookkeeper, he became treasurer of Whiting Bay Drama Club. The couple also sat on the board of Arran CVS.

In 2010, Jorden moved to Lamlash, where they remained devoted to each other. He forbade anyone from swearing in Muriel's presence and took her to the Episcopalian church every Sunday, becoming a beloved great-grandpa to her many great-grandchildren.

Jorden passed away on February 13 at the Arran War Memorial Hospital.

Prayers for his future wellbeing were conducted initially on Arran, notably in the Episcopalian Church in Whiting Bay, then at Samye Ling and across the world by those Jorden had cared for as retreat caretaker.

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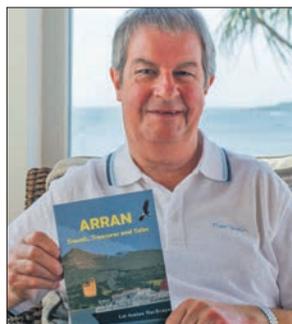
Ian inspires with tales of life on Arran

The guest speaker at the February meeting of the Arran Historical Society was Kildonan author Ian McMurdo.

Ian and his family were frequent holiday visitors to Arran and when he retired from his position as director of education for West Dunbartonshire, he and his wife Nan moved to Kildonan, as it is their favourite place on the planet.

Ian is the author of five books and his talk to the society was about his latest book, Arran, Travels, Treasures and Tales, which was published last year. Ian described his book as a lighthearted, whimsical work which before publication had the working title It could only happen on Arran!

Ian interviewed many well-known Arran characters, who were willing to share stories,



Author Ian McMurdo.

anecdotes and life experiences for publication in the book, and it also includes tales of his own experiences walking the hills and glens with his two dogs.

The book is set out as a form of travelogue with six sections. They are: Over the sea to Arran, The Metropolis, The North Face, The Wild

West, The Deep South and The Far East. From these titles it is easy to ascertain that Ian travelled anti-clockwise around the island. Each section contains many chapters including A Life on the Ocean Waves, Fisherman's Walk and Flying Projectiles, The Dark Side of The Moon, Into the Soup, The Big Yellow Bus and Crime, What Crime?.

Ian kept the audience well entertained with a mixture of laughter and nostalgia and signed copies for the many members who purchased one.

The next meeting for the historical society will take place on Monday March 16 in Brodick Hall. The speaker will be Jim Henderson from Lamash giving a talk on the 18th century Clearances, including the effects on the lowlands of Scotland.



Brodick Nursery pupils celebrate World Book Day with a special dressing up Book Bug session at Arran Library.

Tots dress up for World Book Day

Pupils from Brodick Nursery celebrated World Book Day with a number of literary-themed activities at their nursery and with their neighbours at Arran Library.

During the week children enjoyed some of their favourite

stories which were brought to life with interactive puppet shows. Nursery children regularly enjoy weekly Book Bug sessions at the library with Nickey Summer and to celebrate World Book Day last Wednesday the children

took part in a special Book Bug session where they dressed up as their favourite book characters. These included the much-loved Katie Morag, Fantastic Mr Fox, Gingerbread Man and Aliens Love Underpants.



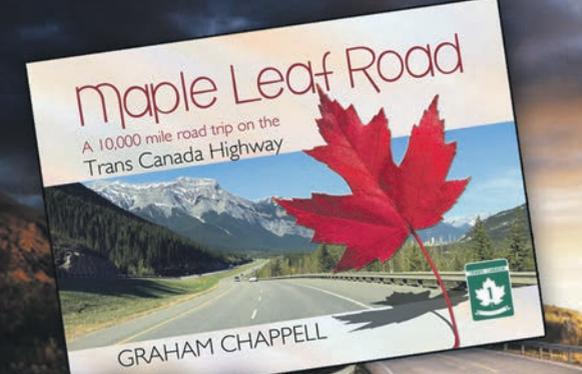
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AdLibitum will round off successful concert season

Music Arran will welcome AdLibitum to Brodick Hall next weekend where the duo will perform the final concert of the 2019/2020 season.

AdLibitum is Latin for 'at one's pleasure' or 'as you desire', and Djordje and Andrea Gajic are well known to Arran audiences, particularly Djordje, who has performed several times in the past.

This exciting violin and accordion duo have an equally exciting repertoire and they will be playing Vivaldi Four Seasons: Winter and Spring; Nicholas Olsen: Comfortable Unknown; Brahms: Hungarian Dances Nos 2 and 5; Achron: Hebrew Melody Op 33; Sarasate: Carmen Fantasy; Sarasate: Romanza Andaluza Op 22; Arkhipovsky: Cinderella; Bartok Romanian Dances; Piazzolla/Gubaidulina: Le Grand Tango.

Andrea received her early music training at St Mary's



Andrea and Djordje Gajic make up the exciting violin/accordion duo, AdLibitum.

Music School in Edinburgh and, aged 12, played for Yehudi Menuhin's 60th birthday celebrations. She went on to study in Moscow, USA, Finland Germany, Russia, Lithuania and France. Djordje began playing aged six in Serbia and graduated

with a Masters in Music in Russia. He has also performed in many countries, including Andorra, Poland, Slovenia, Croatia, Holland and Norway.

Andrea and Djordje now live in Scotland, are both professors of music at the Royal Conservatoire and both teach

at St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh.

The name AdLibitum is made up of A for Andrea and D for Djordje and they interpret libitum as being able to 'perform with free rhythm and expression'.

The concert will take place on Saturday March 21 with doors opening at 7pm before the concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 at the door or from Inspirations in Brodick.

Children and young people are admitted free along with an accompanying adult. The hall will be café style and people are welcome to bring their own bottle. Tea and coffee will be available.

It is hoped this concert will go ahead despite weather, ferries and coronavirus concerns, but in the event of cancellation, members will be informed by email, on the website at <http://www.arran-music.co.uk/> and through the Banner in print and online.

All set for 91st Arran Music Festival 2020

The 91st Isle of Arran Music Festival 2020 will take place in Whiting Bay Hall from Wednesday to Friday, March 18 to 20.

The first session on Wednesday starts at 10am, with the Scottish country dancing section, and the morning session will conclude with choric speaking which starts at approximately 11.45am. The afternoon session starts at 2pm, with verse speaking by nursery and primary children.

On Thursday, the festival starts at 9.45am with the Lamlash Burns Club Arran schools verse speaking competition, which will run through until approximately 2.15pm. This will be followed at approximately 2.30pm by chanters, pipes, pad and sticks and drums.

Friday morning commences at 9.45am with choirs, action songs, group music making, the brass section and strings.

The afternoon session, which starts at 2pm, will feature the piano and the vocal section.

The Friday evening session starts at 6.30pm, and will feature the fiddle section, followed by the open classes with a line-up of traditional fiddle, vocal solo and other traditional instrumental solo, duet and ensemble music.

Full programmes are available at the Book and Card Centre in Brodick, Ship House in Lamlash, Bay Stores and Kitchen, Whiting Bay Post Office, Kilmory Hall and the Harbour Shop in Blackwaterfoot.

One of the organisers said: 'Please come along to support all the entrants and enjoy three days of great entertainment. Session, day and season tickets are all available.'

CONTACTUS
email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk
telephone 01631 568000

Scotland's Languages Wee Ginger Dug

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DL
Friday 20th March 2020 7.30pm

North Ayrshire Council are pleased to present another interesting talk by Paul Kavanagh aka 'Wee Ginger Dug'. Paul will speak about the history of Scottish languages; how different languages have ebbed and flowed across the Scottish landscape; the role of Gaelic in the formation of the Scottish nation, and why it's important to promote and foster Scottish languages today. The Wee Ginger Dug himself will of course be joining Paul.

This event is free of charge.
Tea and Coffee available

For more details please contact SBlain@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

MUSIC ARRAN
presents

Ad Libitum
Violin Accordion Duo
Saturday 21st March
7.30pm, Brodick Hall
Café style - BYOB

Adults £10, children plus accompanying adult free.
Tickets available on line from www.arranevents.com,
at Inspiratons or at the door.



Shiskine Hall is packed with shoppers just minutes after opening the doors. 01_B11popup01

Pop-up shop for charity proves a popular success



Barbara Crawford welcomes everyone to the pop-up shop 01_B11popup04 and people pay close attention 01_B11popup05

A charity pop-up shop held in aid of ArCaS at Shiskine Hall last Sunday was a huge success.

The hall was packed with eager shoppers from before 2pm and as well as hunting for bargains they also enjoyed a special Shiskine cream tea. The day raised a tremendous

£4,002.95 for the cancer charity from the entrance fee, purchases and the raffle.

One of the organisers, Barbara Crawford, said: "Thank you to everyone who came along to the pop-up shop. I hope you all managed to get a bargain. This could not have happened

without the tremendous amount of help from everyone especially my fantastic friends who helped get the hall organised over the last few days/nights.

"Thank you to everyone who turned up to help and also for all the offers of help; to Carol, Fer and Jacqui for the delicious

scones and tablet. Thanks also to ArCaS, Shiskine Hall, Arran Active, Taylor Made Beauty and Red Door. This would not have been as successful without your donations.

"Thanks as well to all who donated those amazing clothes and everyone who donated a raffle prize."



The shoe stall does a roaring trade. 01_B11popup02



Fer Murchie at the raffle stall. 01_B11popuop03

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Octopus Centre – tennis
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Public swimming

Swimming lessons
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Lochranza, 9am - 5pm
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Old Pavilion, Lamlash, centre open seven days, 11am - 3pm
Old Pavilion, Lamlash, open 7 days, any time
Open seven days, 9am - 5pm-ish, ALL weather
Auchrannie Spa Pool, Brodict, 10am - 4pm (last entry 3pm)
and 6pm-8pm (last entry 7pm)
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, Brodict, Monday -Thursday, 4pm – 6pm
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Sunday, 2pm - 4pm. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday
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Open Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 11am – 3.30pm

Isle of Arran Music Festival
Arran Elderly Forum
Chair Yoga & Exercise
Arran Heritage Museum
Archives and Genealogy
Knit and Blether
Arran Pace Makers Running Group
Kettlercise
Lamlash Bowling Club AGM
Flow Yoga
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Arran Access Trust AGM
Live Music – Mike Bailey
Pub Quiz
Rock 'n' Pop Bingo

Whiting Bay Village Hall, from 10am
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30am for 11am
St Molios Church, Shiskine, 11am
Rosaburn, Brodict Open, 11am – 3.30pm
Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm – 3.30pm
Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 2pm – 4pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 5.30pm
Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
Lamlash Bowling Club, 6pm
Shiskine Hall, Shiskine, 6pm
kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 7.30pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm

Arran Heritage Museum

Saturday 14th March

Flow Yoga
Rink Bowls
Pop Up Evening, BYOB (bookings only)
Live Music – Mike Edwards
Live Music – Laura Silverstone
Live Music – Jeremy Levif
Eco Savvy & Co-op Food Share
Over-21's Disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am
Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, Blackwaterfoot, 1.30pm
The Shore, Whiting Bay from 6pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
The Douglas Hotel, Brodict, 9pm
Kilmory Hall, Kilmory, 9.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 10pm

Thursday 19th March

Isle of Arran Music Festival
Chair Yoga & Exercise
Kettlercise
Arran Heritage Museum
Chess Club
CAIM Cancer Support Group
Arran Youth Soul Choir
Body Blitz (booking essential)
Arran Soul Choir
Winter Bridge, visitors welcome, www.arranbridgeweb
Arran Hockey Club – Seniors (12 yrs +)
Arran Punch Out
Machrie Bay Golf Club AGM
Brodict Embroidery Group
Open Session
Eco Savvy & Co-op Food Share
Tommy's General Knowledge Quiz

Whiting Bay Village Hall, from 9.45am
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30am
Auchrannie Spa Resort, 11am – 11.45am
Rosaburn, Brodict Open, 11am – 3.30pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 11am – 1pm
Heather Lodge, Brodict, 2pm -4pm
Community Theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6.15pm – 7.15pm
Community Theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
Little Rock Cafe, 7pm for 7.15pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 7pm – 8.30pm
Arran High School, Lamlash, 7.30pm
Clubhouse, Machrie, 7.30pm
Brodict Library, 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 8pm
Brodict Ormidale Pavilion, 8.15pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm

Sunday 15th March

Beach Clean
Live Music – Mike Edwards
Arran FegFest - Q and A
Family games
Live Music – Mess O' Blues
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Eco Savvy & Co-op Food Share
Folk Music Session

Torrylinn Beach, Kilmory, 10.30am
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, Brodict, 1pm
Arran High School, 3.30pm – 4.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm – 3pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
Brodict Church Hall, 5pm – 6.30pm
Shiskine Hall, Shiskine, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm

Monday 16th March

Morning Fitness
Arran Historical Society - speaker: Jim Henderson
Planning for Arran with NAC planners, Arran Civic Trust
JogScotland mixed ability running group
Arran Punch Out
Circuit training
Junior Rugby (P3-P7)
Rink Games
Junior Rugby (S1-S6)
Winter Bridge, visitors welcome, www.bridgeweb.com/arran
Live Music – Arran Dawn
Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s

Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am-10.30am
Brodict Public Hall, 2.00pm
Auchrannie, Glencloy Suite, 4pm -6.30pm
Whiting Bay, 5.30pm
Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
Ormidale Park, Brodict, 6pm - 7pm
Brodict Bowling Club, 6.15pm
Ormidale Park, Brodict, 7pm - 8pm
Brodict Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 7.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7pm - 8.30pm

Friday 20th March

Yoga
Hydrofit
Isle of Arran Music Festival
Kettlercise
Isle of Arran Music Festival
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Tae Kwondo advanced kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
Live Music – Shindig
Scotland's Languages, Paul Kavanagh aka 'Wee Ginger Dug'
Friday Night Quiz
Eco Savvy & Co-op Food Share
Tom's Open Mic Night

Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
Auchrannie House Hotel, 9.30am – 10.30am
Whiting Bay Village Hall, from 9.45am
Auchrannie Spa Resort, 5.30pm – 6.30pm
Whiting Bay Village Hall, from 6.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
Octopus Centre, COAST, Lamlash, 9pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Tuesday 17th March

Body Blitz (booking essential)
Healthy Outdoors Team
Eco Savvy Energy Surgeries
Chess Club
Rink Bowls
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
"Connect" - social club for seniors
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
Steak Night – 2 Ribeye Steaks & bottle of wine
Arran Pace Makers – Jog Scotland beginners' group
Hatton Boxing
The 1st Shiskine Rainbows and Brownies
Arran Hockey Club – juniors (5-14yrs)
Flow Yoga
Mini Kickers 3-5yrs (preschool)
Scottish Country Dancing
Eco Savvy & Co-op Food Share
Trev's Pop Music Quiz
Traditional Music Sessions

Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
Brodict Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Home Farm House, Brodict, 10am – 3pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 11am - 1pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Heather Lodge, Brodict, 2pm - 4pm
Brodict Golf Club, 2.30pm – 4.30pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, from 5pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 5.30pm
Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
Shiskine Hall, 5.30pm - 6.45pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 6pm – 7pm
Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, Corrie, 6pm
KA Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 6.45pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Eco Savvy Hub Shop, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm
Brodict Bar, 9pm

Saturday 21st March

Flow Yoga
Arran Spring Fest
Rink Bowls
Music Arran presents Ad Libitum, BYOB
Live Music – Wild Horse Will
Live Music – The Postcards
Live Music – Scott MacDonald
Eco Savvy & Co-op Food Share
Over-21's Disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am
Balmichael Glamping, 12noon - 4pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, Blackwaterfoot, 1.30pm
Brodict Hall, 7.30pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
The Douglas Hotel, Brodict, 9pm
Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, Corrie 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 10pm

Wednesday 18th March

Yoga
Hydrofit
Brodict Gardens Volunteers
Kilmory Toddlers

Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
Auchrannie House Hotel, 9.30am - 10.30am
Brodict Castle and Country Park, 9.30am – 1pm
Kilmory Hall, 10am - 12 noon



First signs spring is on the way

Unsettled January weather continued into February. In comparison to last February, this year was milder and wetter.

There were three named storms with prolonged spells of wet and windy weather. The resulting rainfall in February was more than double that of February 2019. The weather was not conducive to being outdoors and this may have had an impact on the number of species seen in February which was down from 96 in 2019 to 80 this year.

Birding highlights included two reports of waxwing. Both sightings on February 24 of this normally gregarious winter visitor were of a single bird, one photographed in a garden in Cordon in the morning and the other reported in a garden in Brodick at lunchtime. Same bird?

In addition there was a report of three snow bunting on Sannox shore on February 27, as well as reports of a single snow bunting in Pirnmill during the month. The Sannox sighting was from a delighted couple who had never seen the species before.

On February 29 another observer was delighted to see two white-winged gull species at Thunderguy in a flock of more common resting gulls. The Iceland gull and glaucous gull were both first-winter gulls. These Arctic breeding species are not reported every winter on Arran.

Wintering wildfowl continued to be present including: a male goldeneye on Mossend Pond on February 10, seven White-fronted geese in the Shiskine Valley on February 11, 350 greylag geese also in the Shiskine Valley on February 17, 12 wigeon in Auchenhew Bay on February 26 and 20 Teal at Carlo also on February 26.

Other wintering flocks included: 46 goldfinch on Brodick shore on February 1, 250 chaffinch with 200 linnet and 10 twite in one field in Machrie on February 9, 15 turnstone in Porta Buidhe on February 6, a mixed flock of redwing and fieldfare of around 80 birds at Clachaig on February 9, 40 curlew at Clauchlands on February 16, 12 lapwing at Shannochie on February 20, five golden plover at Catacol on February 27 and 80 jackdaw at Machrie, also on February 27. In addition, wintering blackcap were reported from gardens in Whiting Bay and Alma Park.

Other sightings included: one dipper in Lochranza

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

FEBRUARY

on February 2, three great northern diver off Kildonan on February 4, one yellow-hammer on Brodick Golf Course also on February 4, one puffin in Brodick Bay on February 7, two moorhen on Mossend Pond on February 11, one white-tailed eagle over Dougarie on February 16, one merlin on Kilpatrick Farm also on February 16, four little grebe at Loch Ranza on February 23, four bullfinch in Cordon on February 24 and a kingfisher on the Rosa Burn on February 27.

Magpie

In addition, the long-staying magpie in Kildonan first reported on May 11 2019 may have been last reported on February 2. In 40 years of the Arran Bird Report, this is by far the longest staying magpie on Arran.

Gannet seemed slow to return this year with only three records, two Pirnmill on February 11, one Kildonan on February 21 and one Lamlash Bay on February 22. A returning lesser black-backed gull was reported from Shannochie on February 16.

Other signs of approaching spring included: grey heron nest building in Stronach

Wood on February 2, pair of golden eagle displaying over Lochranza on February 3, four fulmar exploring nest sites in Catacol on February 18, great spotted woodpecker drumming in Brodick Castle Gardens on February 19, 20 eider displaying off Cosyden on February 20 and song thrush and wren singing in Kilpatrick on February 28. By the end of the month there were signs spring was on its way.

March could see the arrival of some of our summer visitors like wheatear, chiffchaff, willow warbler, sand martin, even swallow and house martin, but their arrival will be dependent on the weather. Keep an eye out for these migrants and let me know when you first see them.

Enjoy your birding.

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 Atlas 2007-2012, the Arran Bird Report 2018 or visit www.arranbirding.co.uk



Glaucous gull in the foreground, by Alex Penn.



Above: Iceland gull is the middle gull in this photograph by Alex Penn.



Snow bunting sighting was a first in Sannox. Photograph: Charlotte Clough



Left: There were two reports of waxwing in February.

Photograph: Arthur Duncan

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday March 18, 2000

Crossing the line

Arran bus drivers formed a picket line on Thursday during a one-day strike. North Ayrshire had brought five coaches plus two minibuses to the island to ferry children to school during the industrial action. As the coaches left the Douglas Hotel where the mainland drivers were staying, a small group of Stagecoach workers shouted at them and held up signs saying 'Scab'.

North Ayrshire Council said it would not contemplate interfering in a Stagecoach dispute but its priority was getting children to school. It also said that while it was paying for the buses, it would be sending a bill to Stagecoach and will be expecting it to pay it. The dispute is over pay and the position is the next strike will be on Monday when similar arrangements will be made.

Saving raptors

Consultation is taking place over a new Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) to be created on Arran. It will cover almost one fifth of the island's area and is planned for the protection of the habitat of the hen harrier.

A meeting took place on Tuesday between Scottish Natural Heritage and farmers and land owners whose land abuts the area concerned.

That area is almost all south of the String Road, an erratic shape bordering areas of improved land or forestry. It also includes a finger of land north of the String towards Sannox. The site was designated on March 8 and consultation will last for three months.

The site stems from a 1998 national survey on hen harriers which identified areas where these birds of prey were flourishing. One of them was Arran. The numbers at the southend of Arran are not huge, perhaps 20 pairs, but the aim is they might remain there undisturbed.

Running for Scotland

Jennifer Emsley of Whiting Bay has been selected to run for Scotland. Readers will already be familiar with Jennifer's successes in cross country running with Arran High School and Arran Runners.

Her performance last week in the Scottish Schools Championship saw her selected to run for Scotland. Now she will run in the under 15 and under 17 sections on April 1 at Irvine against England, Ireland and Wales. The age grouping is such that Jennifer, at 13 years old, will be competing against girls much older than her.



Striking Stagecoach workers demonstrate against the replacement drivers who have been brought over from the mainland for the school runs. 01_B11tweY01



Left: Jennifer Emsley of Arran High School and Arran Runners has been selected to run for Scotland. 01_B11tweY03



Right: Ruth Russell, a founder member of the Corrie and Sannox Wednesday Club, presents Mrs Jenny Morton with a plant and cheque on her retirement as president at the club's 20th annual general meeting last Friday in Corrie and Sannox Hall. 01_B11tweY04



Children enjoy a fun game at the Corrie Primary School Mad March Fair which raised £521 for school and nursery funds. 01_B11tweY02



Friends of Brodick Castle has donated a close circuit television system which can be inserted into a bird box to the Rangers Service. John Simcock and Bill Scott presented it to ranger Duncan Stevenson. 01_B11tweY05

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Plan 2 for North Ayrshire Council
with
Thom Ledingham and Neil McAteer
North Ayrshire Planners

A presentation followed by questions from the audience
and with time at the end for personal enquiries
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Lamlash Bowling Club

AGM

Wednesday 18th March 2020
at 6pm
at Lamlash Bowling Club

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April issue



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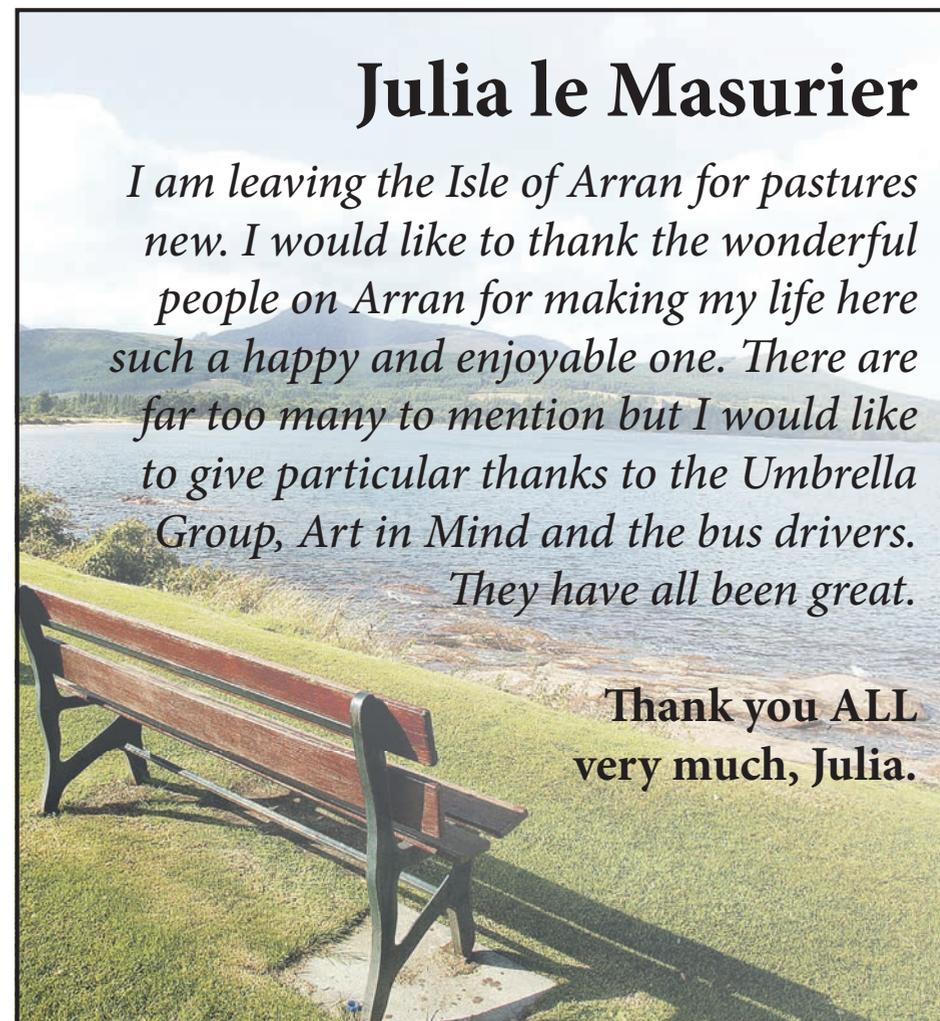
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BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES BANNER

Julia le Masurier

I am leaving the Isle of Arran for pastures new. I would like to thank the wonderful people on Arran for making my life here such a happy and enjoyable one. There are far too many to mention but I would like to give particular thanks to the Umbrella Group, Art in Mind and the bus drivers. They have all been great.

Thank you ALL very much, Julia.



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- 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
- 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
- 5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
- 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
- 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the

case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

- 8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
- 9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

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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 15th March
Pirnmill and Lochranza Churches together, 10.15am Morning Worship at Pirnmill.
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship, followed by the Stated Annual Meeting.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship, followed by the Stated Annual Meeting.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland
Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 15th March
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 welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 15th March
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory at 10am
Lamlash at 11.30am
All welcome, including families: children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(continuing)
Sunday 15th March
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 15th March
Morning Service at Shiskine at 11am

Evening Service, Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick at 6pm
Service will be taken by Rev Malcolm MacLeod (Steadfast Global).

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 15th March
Third Sunday of Lent
Sung Eucharist at 11 am.
Revd Adrian Fallows
Coffee after service
Wednesday 18th March
Holy Communion at 11 am
ALL WELCOME

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
Sunday 15th March
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 15th March
Service at 11am
Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and coffee after the service
Wednesday 18th March
at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.
Everyone warmly invited.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Sunday 15th March
Sunday Morning Mass at 11am

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER PRAYER GROUP
Monday 16th March
St Margaret's Scottish Episcopal Church, Whiting Bay, 2pm - 3pm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KIRKWOOD, Ian (Jordan)
- Muriel and family would like to thank the staff at Arran war Memorial Hospital for their care and kindness to Jordan in his final days. Also, thanks to the friends who attended his Memorial Service at St Margaret's and the flowers, cards and kind wishes at this sad time.

'Train' is chuffed at maiden victory in Friday sweep

Whiting Bay

Friday March 6, Friday Srixon Sweep. The Friday sweep attracts a loyal field every week but it is one we don't usually publish. This one is special, however, as five played and it is the first competition ever won by Jamie 'The Train' Allan. He was so excited. 1 Jamie 'The Train' Allan 21, 37pts, 2 David Blair 10, 35pts. Jamie wins the sleeve of Srixon club balls and, as luck would have it, misses out on a cut to his winter handicap as the Friday sweep is a non counter.

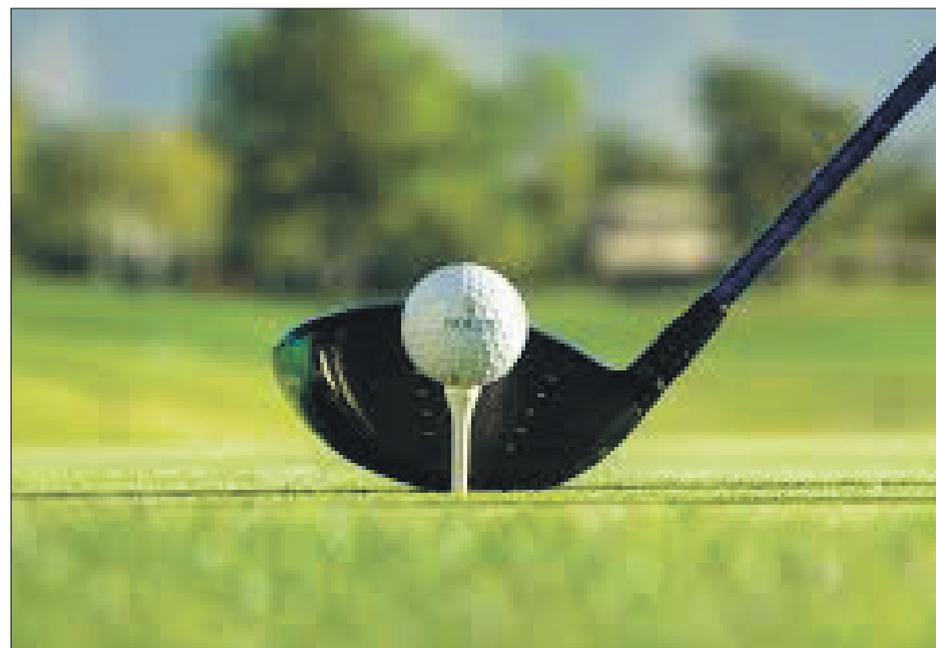
Sunday March 8, Winter Cup round six. With a number of players in contention for the trophy, nine played in the sixth and final round of this season's Winter Cup. Despite wet underfoot conditions, and heavy rain that blighted the final few holes, scoring was good and CSS stayed at 63. Neil 'Sonic' Lucas beat that by one shot to pip John Pennycott. 1 Neil Lucas 14, 62pts, 2 John Pennycott 14, 63pts, 3 Douglas Auld 20, 66pts. Jamie Macpherson returned the lowest gross score with a 71 and Neil Lucas chipped in at the 14th for the only magic two of the round.

The overall winner of the Winter Cup is Wolfi Kroner who prevails on a countback from John Pennycott. Both

DEATHS

CORDOCK - Lance Lewer. Peacefully at Crosshouse hospital on Tuesday, 25th February 2020. Lance, much loved dad of Paul, Melanie, Dianne, Shaun and father-in-law of Hilary, Barrie, Stuart and Sally. Much loved grandad of Jessica, Tom, Stuart, Ben, Sophie, Jack, Lucy, Abigail, Ben, Kerry and Emma, great grandad and great great grandad of the family. Funeral service in Lamlash Church Hall on Tuesday, 24th March at 11:30am and thereafter to Kilbride cemetery to which all are welcome. No dress code. The family would like to thank Arran War Memorial Hospital and Cumbrae Lodge Care Home for their care of Lance during his final illness.

HALL, William (Derek). Following last week's notice: All welcome on 20th March 2020 at Derek Hall's funeral at Lamlash Cemetery 11.15am and after at Brambles, Auchrannie Resort.



players returned three cards totalling level par of 189 but Wolfi's last counting score, a net 61 in the fifth round, was enough to let him retain the trophy he also won last year. Congratulations Wolfi!

Fixture: Sunday March 15, friendly v Lamlash at Lamlash, 10.30am draw for partners.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday March 5, Yellow Medal. 1 Andy Smith 77-16=61, 2 Graeme Andrew 74-10=64 BIH over Serge El Adm. Magic twos Billy O'Connor @13th.

Arran Bridge Club's results for February

Here are the latest results from the Arran Bridge Club competitions played in February.

The results of the aggregate competition played on Monday February 17, six and a half tables: N/S 1 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 3 John Baraclough and Jim Peacock. E/W 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Dougie and Margaret Bruce, 3 Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson.

The results of the aggregate competition played on Thursday February 20 are, five and a half tables: N/S 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 3 Ellie Jones and Elizabeth McKellar. E/W 1 Dougie and Margaret Bruce,

Sunday March 8, Glenburn Cup. 1 Derek Harrison 82-23=59, 2 Serge El Adm 76-16=61, 3 Lee Dutton 86-20=66 BIH over Ian Bremner. Best scratch Ian Bremner 75. Magic twos Andy Smith and Alan Smith @5th.

Fixtures: Sunday March 15, Winter Friendly v Whiting Bay, 10.30am start. Thursday March 19, Yellow Medal, ballot at 11am.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday March 8, Brandon Qualifier, 14 played, NC. Bob McCrae 70-8=62, Bill Donaldson 79-14=65, Brian

Smith 78-12=66. Scratch Bob McCrae 70. Fixture: Sunday March 15, Winter Cup Stableford, 9am/noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday March 14, 18 Hole Sweep, ballots at 9am and 1pm. Monday March 16, Monday Cup, ballot at noon.

Machrie Bay

Saturday March 7, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 37pts, 2 Phil Betley 34pts, 3 Alistair MacDonald 32pts.

Fixtures: Tuesday March 17, Lochranza Hotel Cup, final round, tee off noon.

Shishkin wins by a nose ...

Those with an interest in the Cheltenham Festival could have got their week off to a flyer if they had followed their Arran instincts and chosen the aptly named horse Shishkin in the first race.

Running in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle on Tuesday, the Nicky Henderson-trained horse had been an early favourite but its price had drifted out to 6-1 by the time of the race's start, as few gave him a chance on soft ground.

But jockey Nico de Boinville had other ideas and despite, by his own admission, events conspiring against him in a tremendous final furlong finish, he beat Abacadabras by a nose.

Charlie bowls them over again



Most of the club's prize-winners from last summer's competitions. Left to right: Charlie Weir, Andy McCrindle, Kristina O'Connor, Ernie Stanger, Kate Nichols, Jim Nichols, Paul O'Connor and Ann Hollingworth.

Brodick Bowling Club held its annual lunch and presentation of trophies in the Wineport on Friday February 28.

Despite a torrential down-pour outside, more than 20 members and partners enjoyed a very convivial afternoon and a lovely meal in the dining room, followed by the presentation of last year's trophies to the winners of the club competitions.

One person dominated the prize list, yet again, and that was Charlie Weir, who won almost a full house of trophies.

President Kate Nichols presided and reminded those present that the club's AGM will this year take place in Brodick Church Hall on Monday April 6 at 7.30pm. She hoped that as many as possible would be able to attend, together with anyone interested in joining the club when the season begins in May.

The full results were:
Arran Bowling Clubs Federation Singles Trophy – Charlie Weir.

Brodick Centenary Trophy winners – Brodick team Kate Nichols, Charles Hendry and Andy McCrindle.

George Watson Trophy winners – Charlie Weir and Charles Hendry. Runners-up – Kristina O'Connor and Sid Allan.

President's Bowl winner – Charlie Weir. Runner-up – Jim Gourlay.

Stewart Cup winner – Charlie Weir.

Ladies' singles winner – Ann Hollingworth. Runner-up – Kate Nichols.

Gents' singles winner – Charlie Weir. Runner-up – Andy McCrindle.

Pairs' winners – Colin Haggarty and Robert Crawford. Runners-up – Charlie Weir and John Lauder.

Triples' winners – Charlie Weir, Jim Nichols and Jim Gourlay. Runners-up – Andy McCrindle, Paul O'Connor and Ernie Stanger.

Brodick Champion of Champions winner – Charlie Weir. Runner-up – Ann Hollingworth.



Ian Leader presents the triples trophy to Charlie Weir and Jim Nichols. Jim Gourlay is the third team member.



Ian Leader presents the ladies' singles trophy to Ann Hollingworth.



Ian Leader presents Charlie Weir with the gents' singles trophy.

Entries open for Goatfell hill race

Online entries to take part in the annual Goatfell hill race are now open with the popular event scheduled to take place on Saturday May 16.

Organised by Peter Mackie of Shettleston Harriers, the event is restricted to 200 participants with 47 runners already securing their place.

The gruelling challenge, which is incorporated as a Scottish Athletics 2020

Western District championship race, covers a distance of 15.5km and 870m of ascent. The race starts at Ormidale Pavilion at noon and the first participants start returning approximately an hour and a quarter later.

The course record holders are Murray Strain, who completed the race in 2017 with a time of 1.12.11, and, in the female category, Angela

Mudge achieved the current record of 1.26.21 in 2001.

Following the race a very brief prize-giving is held – as competitors rush to make the 4.40pm ferry – and prizes are awarded in age categories, first team of three, and a special prize for the first local.

The entry fee is £12 and all competitors must be at least 18 years of age. Runners must also carry mandatory

safety gear and are expected to abide by the Scottish Hill Runners safety rules.

Entries for the event can be made online at SiEntries.co.uk with entries closing on Saturday May 2. Further information about the race can be found at shettleston-harriers.org.uk and safety guidelines can be found at <https://www.scottishhillrunners.uk>



Runners set off at the start of last year's Goatfell hill race.

01_B11Goatfell01



Christopher 'Babbies' McNeil seizes an opportunity to score for the Arran side.



Archie McNicol scores his second of three goals in the game.

Hat-trick hero Archie as Arran hit Kilbirnie for six



Donald Park delivers a powerful goal right in front of the opposition keeper.



Nick Emsley, who was awarded man of the match, heads the ball into the goal.



Leaping high, Arran's Matthew Dobson and a Kilbirnie player tussle for the ball.



Man of the match Nick Emsley powers the ball down the field.

Charlie bowls them over again

Entries open for Goatfell hill race



The Kilbirnie keeper makes an impressive leap into the air to prevent an Arran goal.

Hat-trick hero Archie as Arran hit Kilbirnie for six

Most Goals

For 19/20 season

| | |
|----------------|----|
| ARCHIE MCNICOL | 36 |
| JOHNNY SLOSS | 24 |
| RYAN ARMSTRONG | 10 |
| NICK EMSLEY | 10 |
| JOEL SMALL | 7 |
| DONALD PARK | 7 |
| DANNY HEAD | 5 |
| GRANT ADAMSON | 4 |
| JOHN DRUMMOND | 2 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Kilbirnie United | 2 |
| Arran AFC | 6 |
| Ayrshire Sunday League Division One | |

A determined Arran side faced league leaders Kilbirnie United at Beith Astro for the second time in days to secure an excellent 6-2 win against the tough opponents with who they drew 4-4 in the earlier game.

Prolific goalscorer Archie McNicol added to his season tally of 36 goals by scoring a hat-trick while team-mates Nick Emsley, Donald Park

and Christopher 'Babbies' McNeil each added their own contributions to bring the Arran goal tally to half a dozen.

Opponents Kilbirnie dug deep to make their mark on the game but they could only muster two goals in reply, despite some spirited play.

Nick Emsley was awarded man of the match for his performance on the field.

A spokesman for Arran AFC said: 'A great away performance from the boys today. They dug in hard against a good team and now on to the next game.'

'On behalf of the club, we would also like to wish Arran player Sam Tattersfield and his new wife, Hollie Watkins, congratulations on their wedding earlier this week.'

For more photographs, turn to page 23.

Arran AFC wished player Sam Tattersfield and Hollie Watkins congratulations on their nuptials earlier this week.

Photographs by Tam Borland



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