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Romanian specialists now designing new Arran ferry

Hull vibration found may show MV Glen Sannox has inherent design problem

EXCLUSIVE
by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A new report has unveiled the catalogue of failures which continues to dog the ill-fated MV Glen Sannox.

It includes revelations that much of the design work is now being carried out in Romania, that hull vibration, which has been discovered, indicates there may be an inherent design problem, and that materials which have been stored offsite are in a poor condition after being left unmanned.

It has also been disclosed that the half-built ferry had spent so long at the quayside at Ferguson Marine in Port Glasgow that 42 tonnes of mussels had to be removed from the hull of the vessel when she went into dry dock earlier this month, but the paintwork, which had

been a concern, was found to be in good condition. The yard is also struggling to hire and retain staff.

However, despite all this, the Scottish Government has given an exact date when the new ferry will begin services on the on the Ardrossan to Brodick

42 tonnes of mussels were removed from the hull in dry dock

route – April 14, 2022 – four years after it was first expected to arrive. That is after eight weeks of sea trials, beginning in February of that year.

And the government has also admitted that the cost of the MV Glen Sannox and her sister ship will be more than double the original contract cost of £97 million, with an extra price

tag of £110.3m to £114.3m to complete them.

The ferry is being built at the now nationalised Ferguson Marine yard at Port Glasgow which, like the rest of the country, was closed during lockdown and work only resumed on the ferries at the end of June. Around 130 workers – 50 per cent – of the workforce are now back, with many still working from home. The estimated cost related to the Covid delays is put at £3.3m.

However, it is the revelation in the latest updated report by turnaround director Tim Hair, issued this week – that the government has now hired 80 specialists in Romania – that is the most startling.

The report states: 'Recruitment of technical specialists to re-evaluate the ferry

Continued on page two.

Police chief makes first visit to Arran



Chief Superintendent Faroque Hussain, the local police commander, right, is seen chatting to the summer police officers and special constable Andrew Perrie during his first visit to Arran this week. Full story pages four and five. 01_B35police03

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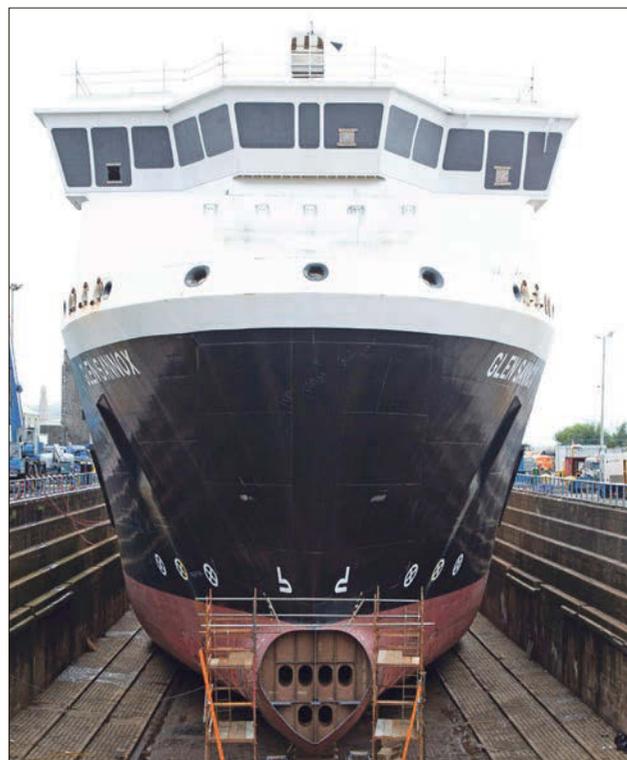
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Arran ferry now being designed in Romania

Continued from page one. designs and then complete the project has proved extremely difficult. Although some good appointments have been possible, the local demand for these skills on either a contract or employed basis is high and it has not been possible to resource the project at the required level.

A contingency plan was being developed when the original report was submitted and in February 2020 International Contract Engineering (ICE) was awarded a contract to provide assistance to Ferguson to complete the basic and detailed design of the ferries. ICE is an internationally recognised marine designer and the largest independent ship design consultancy in Europe. UK-owned and with an operating base in Romania, ICE employs over 300 graduate naval architects and marine engineers, and has a track record of delivering complex vessel designs to shipyards across the world. Currently, ICE has over 80 specialists working on the ferry project, a level that could never have been achieved



The MV Glen Sannox had 42 tonnes of mussels removed when she was in dry dock at Greenock. Photograph Mark Gibson Digital.

‘Despite that interruption to business much has been achieved. The turnaround director has significantly strengthened the senior management team. I have appointed a new board to help drive the business forward. Trade union representatives have direct access to the board and a workers’ liaison committee is being set up.

‘Vessel design has progressed significantly and the dry dock inspection of 801 (MV Glen Sannox) demonstrated the paintwork is sound. Work to complete the ferries can now proceed at full speed. I believe we can look to the future with confidence.’

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson said: ‘While this has been a long and winding road, I’m pleased that we are now making steady progress, securing 350 jobs directly at Ferguson Marine and a similar number in the supply chain.’

by Ferguson or its previous sub-contract design partner.’

In a statement to parliament this week economy secretary Fiona Hyslop told MSPs: ‘This has been a hugely challenging

year for the business (Ferguson Marine). In line with much economic activity across Europe, the Covid pandemic has essentially closed the yard for six months.

Top 10 risks in the report that could still hit project

- Covid -19 has required the shutdown of the yard and may have a significant further impact to delivery.
- Covid-19: there is a risk on-going effect may impact the yard or suppliers.
- Materials have been stored offsite at Westway in poor conditions and unmanned. The material condition and level of stock is uncertain and may result in material stock write downs.

- Work packaging arrangements are not robust enough to control properly the work sequence and capturing performance.
- In a competitive market for skills, they may be unable to recruit or retain enough production staff with suitable qualifications and experience.
- Level of rework is not sufficiently scoped. Known rework is not fully scoped. Unknown rework will occur, particularly during the test and commissioning phase.

- A commercial decision has not been reached with the original electrical contractor to allow electrical work to progress to the plan.
- Equipment may not work during the setting to work and commissioning phase as a result of being idle for a significant length of time.
- Vessel cannot meet contract deadweight.
- Hull vibration analysis indicates that there may be an inherent design problem.

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Castle set to reopen earlier than planned

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Brodick Castle will open its doors to visitors tomorrow (Saturday) after a decision not to open it until 2021 was reversed.

It follows the news that all 16 jobs that were under threat at the castle and country park have been saved, as reported in last week's Banner.

Most of the jobs saved are in the castle among guides, educational workers and the collections team, however, a number of seasonal posts which would have been created have been lost this year.

They also included that of Corinna Goeckeritz of the Arran Ranger Service, who this week thanked the people of Arran for signing petitions and lobbying for her vital conservation job to be saved.

She said: 'A massive thank you is due to the amazing Arran community for lobbying for these



A smiling Corinna Goeckeritz leads another Arran Ranger Service walk into the hills.

jobs to be saved. It has been a difficult time, but thanks for all your support.'

In another development Jarred Bowers has left his post as operations manager at the castle and has returned to the United States.

Tim Keyworth has taken on a dual role and is at present both acting operations manager and gardens manager.

A statement from the castle said: 'The team is working hard at the moment to make this possible

and we very much look forward to welcoming you back.

'The castle will be open – with a few changes – five days a week Saturday-Wednesday, 11am to 4pm. We are also excited to announce that the gardens, estate and Isle be Wild play park will be open seven days a week from September, 10am to 5pm.

We are aiming to open the Red Squirrel tuck shop the same days as the castle, from tomorrow (Saturday) for basic refreshments.

'Please be aware though that the visitor offering may need to change at short notice, these are challenging times and we will be re-opening with a much-reduced team for the season.'

Face mask rule for pupils from Monday

Pupils and staff at Arran High School will have to wear face coverings in corridors, communal areas and school buses from next Monday, North Ayrshire Council has confirmed.

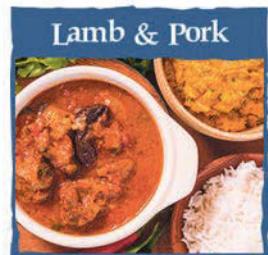
Earlier Education Secretary John Swinney said the new rules would apply to all pupils aged over 12 in Scottish secondary schools. He said the guidance had been updated based on new advice from the World Health Organisation (WHO). There will be no requirement to wear face coverings in classrooms where distancing measures are in place.

Mr Swinney said individual exemptions could be granted for health reasons, but the guidance would be 'obligatory' for all secondary, special and grant-aided schools.

He said: 'From August 31 young people over the age of 12 in secondary schools should habitually be wearing face coverings when they are moving around schools and corridors and in communal areas where it is difficult to deliver the physical distancing.'

He said the Scottish government had acted in the light of the new WHO advice based on evidence that teenagers can infect others in the same way as adults, but had decided to go further by extending it to school transport.

The new rules for school buses will apply to pupils over the age of five, in line with guidelines for public transport. Staff and students can continue to wear face coverings in all settings voluntarily if they wish.



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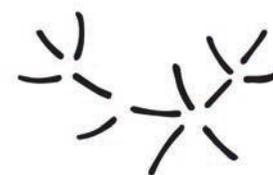
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Police chief on whistlestop

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Ayrshire police chief Farouque Hussain made a whistlestop visit to Arran on Monday to meet and thank some of those who have helped the island get through the lockdown weeks of the coronavirus pandemic.

Chief Superintendent Hussain was making his first visit to Arran as chief, but had been to the island before as an Ayrshire resident.

He was accompanied throughout his visit by North Ayrshire commander, chief inspector Brian Shaw and Arran sergeant Dougie Robertson.

The chief inspector said: 'I was really keen to come over to meet some of the people on the island who have been key in getting Arran through the months of the pandemic and to thank them for all their work.'

His first call was to meet port manager Colin McCort at Brodick ferry terminal, before travelling across the island to meet Alan McNicol, the outgoing team leader of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team, at his home in Blackwaterfoot, to thank him for his many years of service. He remains an active member of the team.

It was then on to the Arran Outdoor Centre in Lamash, which has been the North Ayrshire Council co-ordination hub for volunteers and services during the pandemic. There he met manager Ian Staples, Councillor Ellen McMaster, chairperson of Arran locality partnership,



Left, team leader Ewan McKinnon and the police team at the mountain rescue centre at Cladach. 01_b35police05; and below, The Outdoor Centre meeting adjourns outside to the veranda overlooking Holy Isle. 01_b35police02

and Darryl Urquhart-Dixon. They discussed various matters of island concern.

Lamlash police office was his next stop where he chatted with constables Sarah Jackson, Will Dove and Ewan McCurrach, the summer secondees, and special constable Andrew Perrie, who he thanked for his work during the lockdown.

Next stop was the coastguard station where he popped in to see Dave Graham of the HMCG, then it was round to

meet the new mountain rescue team leader Ewan McKinnon. Ewan has recently stepped into the team leader post having previously been deputy team leader under Alan for six years. Ewan has been in the team for 14 years and his deputy is Martin Ross.

It has been a quiet time for the mountain rescue team during lockdown with just a handful of callouts. Ewan said it was good to meeting the new police commander but he

added: 'We have a really good relationship with the local police and we have no issues.'

Chief Superintendent Hussain, who took over his new post in March, has 20 years' police service. 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



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At the Outdoor Centre from left: Darryl Urquhart-Dixon, Ian Staples, Councillor Ellen McMaster, Sgt Dougie Robertson, Chief Sup Faroque Hussain and Chief Insp Brian Shaw

01_B35police01

communities of Ayrshire.

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.

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

Sergeant Robertson said: 'We were glad of the opportunity to

welcome chief superintendent Hussain to Arran. We had a very productive and positive day meeting with some of our key partners to discuss local policing issues. Mr Hussain's visit reinforced that although Arran is an island, it is very much part of the division and all the support that brings.'

People urged to stay safe online after fraud doubles

People in Ayrshire and Arran are being urged to stay safe online after reports of fraud more than doubled year-on-year, writes Hugh Boag.

A total of 273 crimes of fraud were recorded in the division between April 1 and June 30, 2020, up from the 116 recorded in the same period last year.

The rise reflects a national increase in fraud which is increasingly cyber-enabled as criminals take advantage of new technologies to profit from their victims.

The Management Information data published for Ayrshire and Arran also showed positive results of proactive policing by officers in the division on crimes such as knife-carrying and drugs.

Work by officers in Ayrshire led to an increase in recorded crimes of the carrying of offensive weapons with 36 crimes recorded, 10 more than last year.

Crimes relating to the

supply of drugs remained stable (87 this year, compared with 85 last year) but there was a 20 per cent increase in detections as officers targeted drug dealers.

Road policing officers have continued patrols across the division and the number of drink and drug driving offences rose by more than 54 per cent (from 99 to 153) while detections also increased from 98 to 151. It comes as the Police Scotland Q1 Performance Report, introduced by deputy chief constable Fiona Taylor, showed that public confidence in policing was up by 20 percentage points during the first quarter of 2020-21.

Chief superintendent Faroque Hussain, commander of Ayrshire Division, said: 'Police Scotland officers have been working throughout the pandemic keeping people in Ayrshire safe in public, private and virtual spaces.'

'As DCC Taylor has said, this has been an extraordinary pe-

riod and it is too early to draw any conclusions about long-term crime trends. However, we are committed to taking weapons and drugs off our streets and the latest figures show our determination to protect our communities from harm.

'We work with colleagues in our specialist resources to tackle issues such as fraud and we will persistently pursue those who set out to cause misery to our communities.'

'It is important that people also remain vigilant and take steps to protect themselves from fraud.'

'It is disappointing that despite fewer cars being on the road, some motorists have continued to drive dangerously and under the influence of alcohol and drugs.'

'The devastating impact of drink and drug driving cannot be understated and we are committed to reducing road casualties and improving road safety in the division.'

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Managing Director, Lorna Blain, commented: "We look forward to serving the people of Arran on all of the above matters and bringing our expertise to bear in an ethical, efficient and confidential manner."

These challenging times have certainly highlighted the importance of having a valid, clear and concise Will in place, updated for all current developments, should the unexpected happen. Then you can be secure in the knowledge that everything has been done to protect your loved ones.

For a FREE confidential discussion about how best we can address your requirements, please phone 01505 871915 or 07771 363170.

Lorna is intending to schedule 1-to-1 meetings on the island soon, so please phone and book your place.



Lorna Blain BSc.
Chartered MCS1, MSWW

LETTERS

Write to us: send
or The Editor, Arran**A date for your diary**

Here's a date for your diary and you heard it here first ... Arran will have its new ferry on April 14, 2022.

That is the exact date set this week by the Scottish Government, but it seems that there is a long way to go yet.

The latest progress report on the completion of the MV Glen Sannox and her sister ship makes disturbing reading and clearly a lot is going to have to go right, and go quickly, if that specific 2022 date is to be met.

The fact that the design work is now being carried out by more than 80 specialists in Romania shows that, even now, a huge amount of technical work still needs to be done.

The work has gone abroad, the turn-around director Tim Hair says, because the 'technical specialists' could not be found here, and this is not the only area of expertise the yard is struggling to find.

Another huge worry must be the admission that the ferry may have an 'inherent design problem' after hull vibration analysis. Talk about getting your excuses in early.

The last thing the long-suffering travelling public on Arran need is a ferry with a fault – two years before it even arrives.

The top 10 of risks to the project, contained in the report, does not fill us with complete confidence that we will see the boat in two years – if at all. However, the government have made a commitment and they should be held to account.

Thought for the week

'Everyone who makes himself great will be humbled, and everyone who humbles himself will be made great.' **Luke 14:11**

HAVE YOUR SAY

emailusateditor@arranbanner.co.uk

Readers have been getting in touch to tell us how well Arran is doing looking after its visitors in this new post-lockdown world. Here are a selection of the letters we have received.

Exemplary response from islanders and businesses

Sir,
Just completed the 12-hour journey from Brodick to Somerset after a lovely 10-day stay on the island. It was my wife's first visit and the weather was so great she actually thought it was normal to wake up and see the top of Goatfell!

But I wanted to write and say a massive thank you to all the island businesses, your response to the Covid-19 has been inspirational and exemplary.

Somerset has one of the lowest rates of Covid in the country and to be honest we were a bit worried about how things would be elsewhere.

But you guys have got the safety measures so normalised, it really has been impressive.

Hand sanitisers at every shop, face masks for 99 per cent of people, restaurants and cafés sanitising tables between customers, taking contact details, even people at shop entrances to explain the protocols. Really impressive stuff guys.

Don't get complacent, but do give yourselves a harty pat on the back!

See you all again soon.

Yours,
Nick and Heidi Amey,
South Petherton, Somerset.

Give yourselves a large pat on the back

Sir,
Having just return from our annual family holiday on Arran, I thought I would write to congratulate the island on its handling of the necessary precautions in this unsettling time.

From the ferry to the shops and tearooms, we found that measures were taken thoroughly and seriously but in a very friendly fashion in a way that made us feel both safe and welcome. We had a great time – helped by some unexpectedly good weather!

I know island life is not without its trials and

tribulations but you deserve a collective pat on the back for your resilience.

Yours,
Alistair Mutch, West Bridgford,
Nottinghamshire.

CalMac professionals

Sir,
May I through your pages thank the crew of the MV Catriona for saving our weekend break to Arran.

While enroute to Ardrossan on Thursday last we received a text informing us that our booked ferry had been cancelled and we were rebooked on a later ferry. By the time we had arrived at Ardrossan we received another text informing us that all ferries were cancelled for the day. For the first time in over 50 years of visiting Arran it looked like it wasn't to be.

The CalMac website offered us a ray of hope in the form of a diverted service from Tarbert to Lochranza at 5.25pm. We set off on a road trip negotiating, amongst other things, the diversions on the A83.

We were lucky enough to bag a place on the MV Catriona for what was the most lively journey to Lochranza. That little ferry pitched and turned and waves broke over the vessel for an hour and a half but that did not faze the crew one little bit. Their professionalism was evident for all to see and they were cheery to boot. Thank you and well done.

This, of course, begs the question that if a little vessel like Catriona can make it why can't Caledonian Isles? Of course we know it's not the boat but the harbour.

Ardrossan seems impossible to enter in anything other than a breeze. Why, oh why, have CalMac persisted with Ardrossan and I presume the planned improvements will do little to improve service reliability. Such is progress!

Yours,
Mike Smith, North Shields.

Disabled help services

Sir,
Recent research from the Disabled Children's Partnership found that 66 per cent of families with disabled children in Scotland have been providing a lot more care during lockdown and many continue to do so despite restrictions easing.

The current national emergency has compounded the challenges many parents of dis-

abled children faced, and added layers of new ones as respite, therapies, care and schooling arrangements were largely stopped or changed and usual routines disrupted. Contact, the charity for families with disabled children, is offering a helping hand to families in Ayrshire during this difficult time.

We've launched free one-to-one telephone appointments with a family support adviser for parent carers looking for a listening ear, reassurance and practical and emotional support.

We are also running free virtual workshops on topics such as sleep, behaviour, wellbeing, money matters, and speech and language, to provide additional support for families who may be struggling during this crisis.

Families who have a disabled child can make an appointment or find out more details on the Contact website www.contact.org.uk/covid-response-services/

Yours,
Susan Walls, Contact Scotland, Edinburgh.

Take midges home

Sir,
It has happened again – it happens every year – and our lovely tourists have done it again.

Forget Covid, they have brought the midges with them and are encouraging them. The white van men can be seen around the island flapping their arms and sacrificing their blood to the beasts. During lockdown the happy 4,600 lived in peace.

Dear tourists and the white van men please take your midges home again!

Yours,
Derek Shand, Brodick.

Unlimited funds

Sir,
I note with interest the plans for a new health care centre for the island and continuing expenditure on the new ferry and docks to accommodate it (Arran Banner, August 21).

Can I suggest that a slight modification is made to the health centre plans, perhaps an express lane painted on the road to the pier for ambulances, to link it to the new ferry project.

In this way unlimited funds will be immediately released if past history is anything to go by.

Yours,
Ian A Brown, Blairgowrie.

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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.

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The smiling dragonfly pictured by Pauline Lockhart.

The beauty and the beast

Sir,
We have been coming to Arran for 27 years and just love the people and the island.

The other day myself, partner Martin Game and our dog Bramble had a lovely walk at North Sannox Glen and Falls and were so incredibly lucky to see a dragonfly land just next to where we were walking.

It was just amazing and here's the photo I was so pleased to get. I'm a complete novice at photography and took it on my iphone - I think I just got lucky!

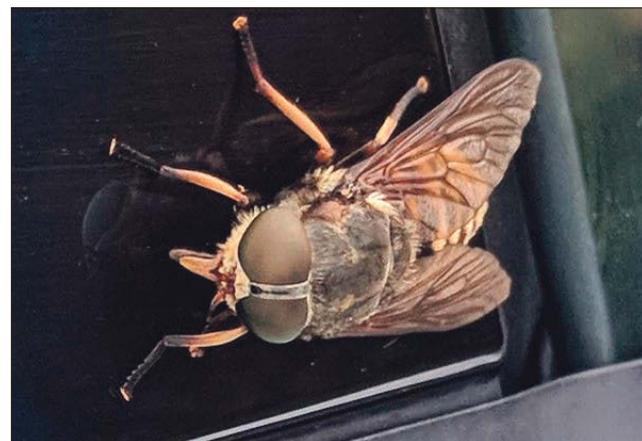
Look at that face - just so detailed and cute! In fact, I think the dragonfly is smiling, probably at my camera skills.

Yours,
Pauline Lockhart,
Auchetarder.

However, visitor Nicola Harrison did not have such a pleasant experience with an insect she found on the window of her car in Corrie last week, a photograph of which she sent to the Arran Ranger Service.

Here is their reply: 'Great photo taken by Nicola it's the UK's biggest fly, the dark giant horsefly. This is a female as her eyes are separated by a bar, and she needs to feed on blood before she can lay her eggs. They can give a nasty bite as their mandibles are serrated choppers which will tear and rip at your skin, ouch! These giant flies can reach up to 5cm long.'

Below, the giant horsefly Nicola Harrison found in Corrie.



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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 timeous, 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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Waverley makes a triumpha



The Waverley docks at Lochranza on Monday.



Passengers could disembark to spend half an hour in Lochranza.

The 70-year-old Waverley paddle steamer returned to Arran for the first time in more than two years on Monday with her first port of call Lochranza.

Waverley has returned to passenger service following her boiler refit which was delayed during the lockdown. The much-admired iconic vessel should have departed Glasgow on Friday morning for her first trip of the season but a slight hiccup led to sailings being delayed by a day for her first north Arran coast cruise on Monday.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there are now fewer passengers and face masks must be worn. Hand sanitiser has also been provided.

Waverley's general manager, Paul Semple, said: 'We are delighted that Waverley is back in-service operating on the Clyde and carrying passengers.'

'We are grateful to all those who supported our boiler refit appeal in 2019 and helped ensure that Waverley lives on. Since we opened bookings just four weeks ago demand for tickets has been high with

several sailings now sold out. Waverley has a loyal customer base and we know many are keen to step aboard the rejuvenated steamship.'

Waverley's reboiling started in mid-January following the successful appeal in 2019 which raised £2.3m in just seven months. The refit project has seen new boilers and electrical systems installed with other areas of the vessel refurbished.

Restrictions

A revised sailing programme will be in operation due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions with a reduced number of calling points, reduced capacity and increased time to board and disembark passengers. Waverley will operate on the Clyde until Sunday September 6.

Mr Semple added: 'With the length of Waverley's sailing season being reduced from five months to just over two weeks due to Covid-19, this will present a funding challenge as we try to cover the costs associated with the coming winter period.'

'We are now opening an

emergency appeal to seek donations to ensure Waverley can survive beyond Covid-19.'

While the Waverley was spotted in Brodick Bay on Monday, she was due to make her first visit to Brodick yesterday (Thursday) to pick up passengers for her first sail round Holy Isle to Pladda.

All photographs by Allan Napier



The crew chat in the shadow of the paddle steamer's famous twin funnels.

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nt return



The splendid sight of the Waverley ploughing through the water as it leaves Lochranza on Monday.



Passengers keep socially distant as they embark on their north Arran cruise.



A crew member ready to cast off the Waverley.

Age Scotland hold Haud Yer Wheesht challenge

People living in Ayrshire and Arran are being asked to support Age Scotland's latest fundraising challenge to Haud Yer Wheesht.

The leading national charity for older people launches the Big Wheesht on Tuesday September 1 and is urging as many people as possible in the area to sign up for a sponsored

silence with a difference. Individuals, families, businesses and other organisations can be sponsored to switch off their phones, stay away from social media, hold a silent disco or simply sit in silence.

The challenge is fun but the message is designed to highlight the unwelcome silence that so many older people live

with every day. Isolation and chronic loneliness affect tens of thousands of older people across the country.

The situation has grown much worse during Covid-19, with older people who were shielding feeling increasingly cut off from family, friends and their community.

The Big Wheesht will raise

money for the charity's free national friendship line, which is a life-enhancing resource for older people looking for someone to chat to and a friendly ear to listen. The more money raised, the more friendship calls the service will be able to offer those in need.

Visit www.age.scot/bigwheesht.

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Self-isolating and getting tested is crucial to stop the virus spreading any further.

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- The Arran Banner appeared in the Guinness Book of Records in 1984 for its 97% household penetration.
- In 2018, The Arran Banner was named as one of only three newspapers in Scotland with a rise in circulation.
- The Arran Banner is 46 years old!
- The Arran Banner has over 5,000 Facebook followers
- The Arran Banner website had 102% more page views in May 2020 than May 2019.
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*source: Jicreg/ABC

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AUCTIONEERS

Brodick Bar – an Arran institution since 1970

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Brodick Bar & Brasserie has knocked up a half-century of service on Arran and is celebrating its 50th birthday next month.

And it continues to go from strength to strength despite its rocky start in 1970 when there was, understandably, some opposition to the opening of the first bar on Arran outside of hotels.

Brodick Bar & Brasserie was recently awarded the TripAdvisor Travel Choice award, putting it in the top 10% of restaurants in world!

On that day all customers were given a memento of the opening – an oak ashtray with the new bar's name and date of opening. Some customers still use their ashtray to this day!

The Brodick Bar has been a go-to establishment for many years, and the McKinnon family, who purchased it in 2018, are building on the solid foundation thanks to the care and dedication of its previous owners, the McFadzean family who consistently



Clockwise from top left: Owner Graeme McKinnon outside the Brodick Bar & Brasserie. 01_B35bar01; pouring a pint in the popular bar. 01_B35bar02; diners enjoying lunch in the restaurant. 01_B35bar03; the ashtray which was given to customers when the Brodick Bar opened in 1970. 01_B35bar05; one of the chefs prepares a meal in the kitchen. 01_B35bar04.

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served good food for 40 years. Graeme McKinnon is no stranger to hospitality, having owned a restaurant in Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street as well as running outside catering for two prestigious golf clubs and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra at Henry Wood Hall during rehearsals and concerts.

Graeme is in his element running the Brodick Bar with daughter Laura, son Nelson and grandson Timur.

As a family, the McKinnons and the well trained, knowledgeable and friendly staff are all working hard to maintain Brodick Bar's high standards, while offering something fresh and exciting.

From its humble beginnings in 1970, Brodick Bar & Brasserie is a recognised favourite destination for many and contributes substantially to the economy of the island.

Brodick Bar & Brasserie goes from strength to strength and was recently awarded the TripAdvisor Travel Choice award which puts the business in the top 10 per cent of restaurants in the world!

The McKinnon family have added a lovely outdoor space which is being appreciated by families and dog owners. The bespoke tables for this are made from sustainable larch from Brodick Castle estate and were expertly

crafted by Tom Buchan, a carpenter in Brodick. Graeme said: 'We are committed to supporting local businesses and community events. In our first year we held a fundraiser for Mary's Meals and this year we are planning a fundraising dinner for Arran Foodbank.'

'Brodick Bar & Brasserie has come a long way in its 50 years and the McKinnons are proud to continue the journey towards the next 50 years!'



Salmon escape after fish farm storm

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



There growing concern that close to 50,000 farmed salmon, which escaped from cages in the Kilbrannan Sound after it was hit last week by Storm Ellen, could find their way into local rivers.

Fisheries Management Scotland, the representative body for Scotland's District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fisheries Trusts, said they anticipated that a 'significant numbers of adult' salmon may have escaped.

The incident happened when the 10 cages at the Mowi Scotland-owned salmon farm at North Carradale shifted position when its seabed anchors became dislodged during Storm Ellen which hit the UK and Ireland.

Four of the nets were damaged – two with sizeable holes – and on the basis the farm held 550,000 salmon it is estimated that tens of thousands of fish are at large. Mowi confirmed on



The North Carradale fish farm which was hit by the storm. 01_B35mowistorm01

Tuesday that a total of 48,834 salmon escaped, 30,616 died and a further 125,000 were harvested.

In recent years escaped farm fish have not always entered the rivers as soon as they escape. If they do so it is

very difficult to remove them, particularly at a time when it would be hoped wild salmon are entering the rivers.

Anglers on Arran and across Ayrshire have been warned to report any obviously farmed salmon they find to Marine

Scotland. The farmed fish are identifiable because of deformed or shortened features such as their fins, gill covers and snouts. Their pigmentation can be heavier with more spots than are usual on wild salmon.

Farmed fish can have a devastating impact on the wild population and the escape has caused frustration among anglers.

The farm contains around half a million fish but owners Mowi said the pens have been temporarily secured after their seabed anchors became dislodged.

The firm said it informed Marine Scotland of the potential for some fish to escape 'immediately'.

The managing director of Mowi has been in touch with Fishery Management Scotland (FMS) and has offered any assistance.

Dr Alan Wells, chief executive of FMS, said: 'This is clearly a very concerning event, and we need to understand the circumstances which led to the integrity of the farm being compromised to this extent during weather conditions not unknown in the Firth of Clyde.'

'In Norway, interbreeding between wild and escaped farmed fish is considered

the greatest threat to wild Atlantic salmon and it is important that all avenues are explored to mitigate impacts on wild salmon arising from this event. We will be working with Mowi Scotland and Marine Scotland to ensure that this occurs.

'In the longer-term we must learn the lessons required to ensure that it is not repeated in future.'

'Fisheries Management Scotland have contacted the relevant District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fisheries Trusts to alert them to this situation and to remain vigilant to reports of capture of these fish.'

'It is important that anglers remain alert to any farmed fish entering our rivers. Any farmed fish caught by anglers should be humanely despatched and reported to the Fish Health Inspectorate.'

If anglers catch suspected farmed fish they should alert Marine Scotland's duty inspector via the mailbox at ms.fishhealth@gov.scot



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Plants to look out for at Brodi



Actaea simplex
'Atropurpurea Group'

Salvia Amistad.

Brodick Castle may reopen to the public tomorrow (Saturday) but since July visitors have been enjoying the blossoming gardens.

'It's been great to see visitors exploring the gardens and estate at Brodick Castle since the grounds reopened in July. And now that the Isle Be Wild play park is open again, it's terrific to see so many families enjoying the gardens,' said Tim Keyworth, gardens and designed landscape manager.

There's lots of colour in the walled garden at the moment – here are five highlight plants to look out for this August chosen by Tim:

Melianthus major

Commonly known as the honey flower, this magnificent plant from South Africa is perfect for giving borders an exotic feel. It can be grown outside in mild regions or plunge-planted in colder climates. It's worth growing for the striking and unusual grey-green leaves, but the maroon flower spikes (if they appear) are a spectacular

added bonus.

It prefers moist but well-drained soil and shelter from cold winds and can be pruned hard to keep it in shape.

At Brodick you can see it in the borders that run down the length of the upper lawns in the walled garden.

Actaea simplex 'Atropurpurea Group'

Another plant grown for its stunning leaf colour is the baneberry.

The purple foliage works very nicely with the spikes of the Kniphofia (red hot poker) and adds a lovely contrast to the foliage of grasses and other shades of green.

This is a fairly easy to grow herbaceous perennial, which does best in moist soil enriched by organic matter. Flower spikes with clusters of scented small white flowers appear later in the season, but be wary of the berries it produces as they are poisonous.

You can see these plants in the walled garden, where they help to provide a fabulous

display in the upper lawns.

Inula hookeri

Inula hookeri is a must-have plant in your garden. Its bold, yellow daisy-like flowers can be up to 8cm across and provide a colourful display. They're also loved by butterflies and bees.

Don't be fooled though – this herbaceous perennial needs space and can be rampant if left unchecked. But it's easy to lift, split and divide in the dormant season.

This plant has overtaken a shady corner in the walled garden, located not far from the lower gate. It isn't easily missed!

Tritonia 'Rosea' (*Tritonia disticha* subsp. *rubrolucens*)

This dainty pink monbretia is full of grace and elegance and is one of my favourite flowers at the moment. It originates from South Africa and just now is looking particularly good planted alongside the tall flower spikes of *Verbena bonariensis*.

It will flower for the next

couple of months and can be easily split and divided to make further clumps in the autumn. I think it works particularly well alongside grasses and in prairie-style planting schemes.

See this lovely display in the walled garden not far from the sundial.

Salvia 'Amistad'

Put simply, this has to be one of the very best salvias in cultivation. It's an absolute beauty that's hard to beat. The large, deep purple flowers produce a striking display and bees love them. It prefers a sunny spot with a bit of shelter, and like many salvias will benefit from a bit of a prune once new growth starts to show in spring. If looked after, this plant will reward you for much of the summer season – and it's great for cut flowers too!

You'll find these in the Tresco borders just outside the lower gate to the walled garden.

'We look forward to welcoming everyone back – remember to check opening times before you visit,' Tim added.

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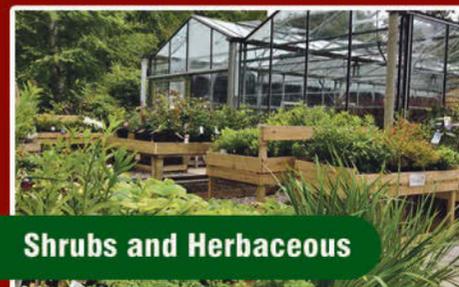
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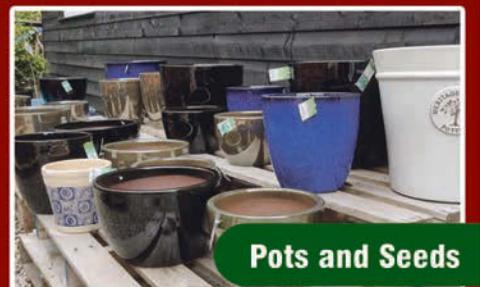
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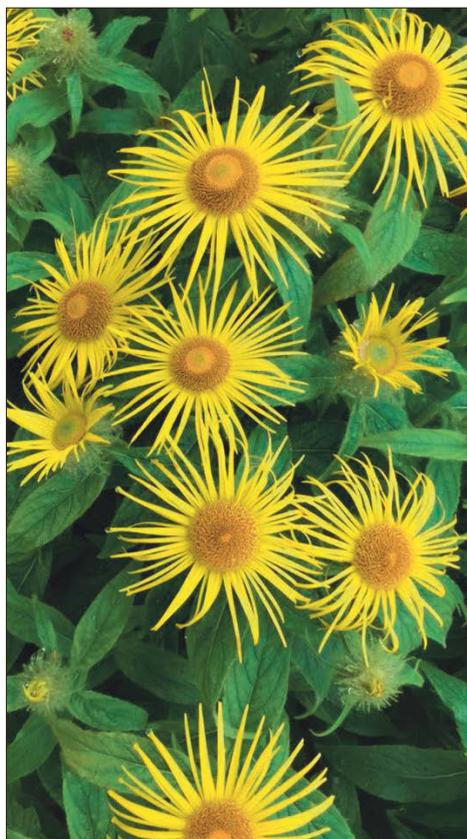
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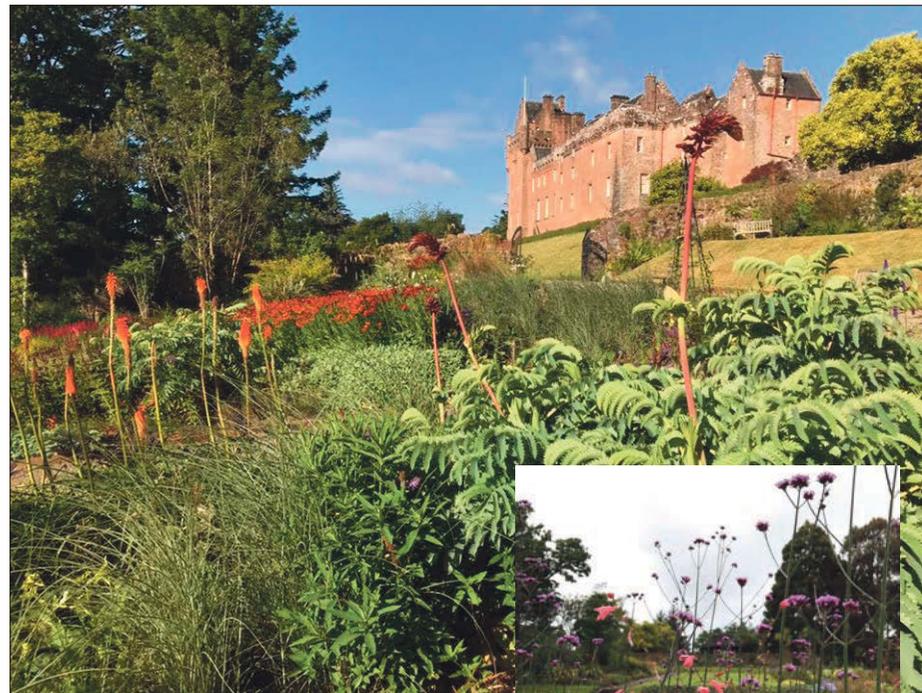
Brook Castle gardens this August



Inula hookeri



Brook Castle salvia.



Melianthus major.



Tritonea Rosea.

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A life lived for others

Nan McMurdo MBE

November 7 1950 to July 12 2020

Nan McMurdo died on July 12 after a long and debilitating illness which had confined her to a wheelchair for the last 40 years. Nan was born and bred in the Ayrshire village of New Cumnock and later moved to neighbouring Cumnock, where she and husband Ian raised their family. There, she worked for many years as a teacher, also supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable people on a voluntary basis, despite her serious disability. However, throughout her whole life, Nan spent much of her time on her favourite place on earth, the island of Arran. Nan finally realised her dream in 2007, when she and Ian bought their home in Kildonan. Despite her advancing illness, Nan continued her voluntary work on the island, and in 2015 she received the MBE from the Queen. Her last few years on Arran were among the happiest of her life. Nan had lived her dream.

One of the saddest things for me about Covid has been having to deal with grieving families remotely. Yet often the challenge of putting down in print the details of a loved one's life has produced some wonderfully poignant stories and so often tales of daunting

challenges overcome, such as the life of Nan McMurdo.

Nan was a lassie from New Cumnock. Her husband Ian relates that though they went to the same school, their paths never crossed until one night at a charity bash in Glasgow. Ian recalls: 'I spotted this

beautiful young girl dressed in her granny's nightdress and asked her up to dance.

'However, I soon realised that asking her out would be a complete waste of time, because if she even remembered her own name the next day it would be a miracle.' Ian and



Nan McMurdo as her family like to remember her.

Nan had met in 1971, got engaged in 1972 and married in 1973. They don't 'hing about' in New Cumnock.

Nan was from the very earliest a force of nature ... a permanent smile on her face, always larger than life. But that life for Nan was soon to change.

Her beloved dad died suddenly in 1975, then she gave birth to her daughter Jillian the following year, only to be diagnosed with multiple sclerosis a few months later. Gone were the carefree days of ice-skating, horse-riding and water-skiing, to be replaced by walking sticks, zimmers and wheelchairs.

After the birth of her son Derek she became heavily involved in the voluntary sector.

Everything Nan did was about helping others, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and children with learning difficulties. In

1989 she was awarded the title of Cumnock Citizen of the Year, even if the awards ceremony was ruined by Ian and Derek moaning all night about missing a live televised Rangers match – the pair o' them never had much sense!

A few years later, Ian became a missionary to deepest Dunbartonshire, as our director of education. Many will remember him.

Nan's ongoing work was formally recognised in 2015, when she was awarded the MBE by Queen Elizabeth II. The award was for Services to Disadvantaged and Vulnerable People.

She was a real battler all her life, especially for others. When you met Nan, you fell in love with her. She was unique, and though she had her own health problems, that was never the focus of your attention. It was on this vibrant force of nature that charmed you, chal-

lenged you and after speaking to her, the overwhelming feeling was not of sympathy, but instead one of immense admiration and not a little awe. I confess there was a tear in my eye and a lump in my throat when at the end of the service her favourite karaoke song ... Da Doo Ron Ron ... boomed out of the speakers.

Nan McMurdo did not lose the battle. She simply retired from ill health undefeated.

*Rev Ian Miller,
Bonhill Parish Church*

Footnote: The family would like to indicate that they are in the process of setting up the Nan McMurdo Memorial Fund, the purpose of which will be to provide support to disadvantaged and vulnerable people in Nan's local communities. For those who are interested in contributing to this fund, details will be made available shortly.

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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday September 2, 2000



Industrial action by local government workers seeking a better pay deal saw picket lines on Arran for the third time this year. Our picture shows the picket line at the coup which was closed along with the library and the community education department. Technicians at the high school and several workers at the North Ayrshire Council offices at Lamlash also took part. 01_B35tweY01



John and Pam Duncan have just opened their first shop in the Douglas Centre in Brodick called Chuckies which stocks a wide range of geological stones, many with crystal healing powers. Pam is pictured holding a soda light sphere. 01_B35tweY02



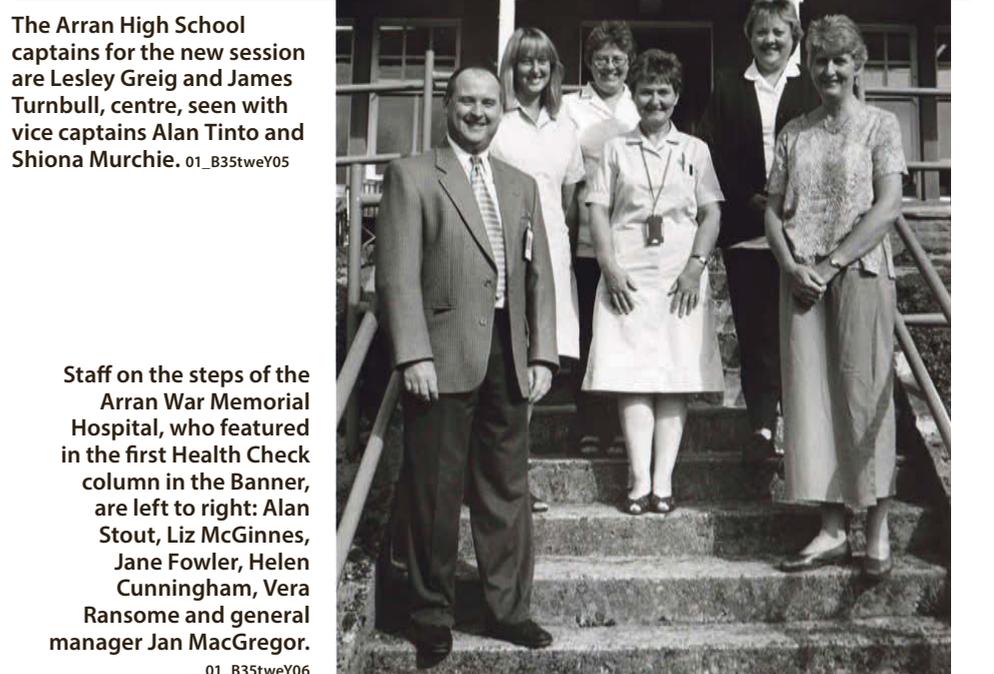
Freddie Mercury tribute act Gary Mullen, who earlier this year won the TV talent show Stars in their Eyes, performed a sold-out concert in Whiting Bay village hall on Saturday night. His wife is from Arran. 01_B35tweY04



The Arran High School captains for the new session are Lesley Greig and James Turnbull, centre, seen with vice captains Alan Tinto and Shiona Murchie. 01_B35tweY05



Ross MacKay, Gege Kroner, Kathy Steed and Marc Head with the new Whiting Bay Community Bus purchased with money raised at the Cameronia quiz nights. 01_B35tweY03



Staff on the steps of the Arran War Memorial Hospital, who featured in the first Health Check column in the Banner, are left to right: Alan Stout, Liz McGinnes, Jane Fowler, Helen Cunningham, Vera Ransome and general manager Jan MacGregor. 01_B35tweY06

PUBLIC NOTICES



Unless Scottish Government COVID guidance changes, we plan to hold our 2020 AGM at 7:30pm on Thursday 17th September using Zoom. If you would like to attend, please email David Penn at arcassecretary@gmail.com or complete the 'Contact Me' form on our website arrancancersupport.org and we will ensure you receive an invite and link to the Zoom meeting.

Thanks for supporting ArCaS

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 SLIPWAY REPAIRS

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Holy Island Inner	55° 30.732' N	05° 04.227' W
Holy Island Inner	55° 30.730' N	05° 04.225' W
Holy Island Inner	55° 30.739' N	05° 04.204' W
Holy Island Inner	55° 30.737' N	05° 04.202' W
Fladda	56° 14.911' N	05° 40.849' W
Fladda	56° 14.911' N	05° 40.846' W
Fladda	56° 14.941' N	05° 40.851' W
Fladda	56° 14.945' N	05° 40.848' W
Fladda	56° 14.946' N	05° 40.850' W
Fladda	56° 14.941' N	05° 40.853' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at <https://bit.ly/2QkcfYP>.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made by email to: MS.MarineLicensing@gov.scot, quoting reference: 00008859 and Northern Lighthouse Board.

Fair Processing Notice

The Scottish Government's Marine Scotland Licensing Operations Team (MS-LOT) determine applications for marine licences under the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. During the consultation process any person having an interest in the outcome of the application may make representation to MS-LOT. The representation may contain personal information, for example a name or address. This representation will only be used for the purpose of determining an application and will be stored securely in the Scottish Government's official corporate record. Representations will be shared with the applicant and/or agent acting on behalf of the applicant, any people or organisations that we consult in relation to the application and, where necessary, be published online, however personal information will be removed before sharing or publishing.

A full privacy notice can be found at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Licensing/marine/PrivacyNotice>. If you are unable to access this, or you have any queries or concerns about how your personal information will be handled, contact MS-LOT at: ms.marinelicensing@gov.scot or Marine Scotland - Licensing Operations Team, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB.

PERSONAL NOTICE



Congratulations to Rodden and Ann on your 70th Wedding anniversary.
Lots of love from all the family and friends.

XX

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HOUSE FOR LET WANTED

Full time key worker looking for long let of 1 bed accommodation, small flat/cottage preferably in Brodick.

Can provide reference.

Non smoker with no pets.

Please message me at 07429093743

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Candidate must be based on Arran.
Applications with CV to be sent to hr@awaze.co.uk.

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Part-time permanent – 26 hours per week – National Minimum Wage

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We are looking for a qualified HGV Mechanic to join our team at Arran Haulage.

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CHURCH NOTICES

With regret, due to the threat of Covid-19,
ALL CHURCH SERVICES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie,
Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine**

Although the Church is still closed an internet service at 11 a.m. Sunday morning and over the rest of the week can be received at

**www.brodickchurch.org or
www.stmoliosshiskine.org.uk**

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

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass will be said on Saturday Vigil and Sunday Morning.

Capacity in church is severely restricted. Please note attendance at Mass is by booking only. Please telephone 600595 or email peterwilko@gmail.com to book a seat. Please book by the Friday before each weekend Mass. Strict social distancing and hygiene restrictions apply including the wearing of your own face covering. IF YOU ARE DISPLAYING ANY COVID 19 SYMPTOMS, FEELING UNWELL OR HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT RETURNING TO CHURCH AT THIS TIME, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO MASS. THE OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS REMAINS SUSPENDED.

Please access www.rcdai.org.uk to check the availability of online Mass from Bishop's House Oban.

BLESS O LORD THIS ISLE OF ARRAN
ST ROCH PATRON OF THE SICK PRAY FOR US
OUR LADY OF THE ISLES PRAY FOR US
ST COLUMBA PRAY FOR US

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

**St Margaret's, Whiting Bay
Sunday 30th August**

Thirteenth Sunday of Trinity
Holy Communion – 11 am.

Rev Barry Roberts
ALL WELCOME

We will observe strict SEC guidelines

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

MULHOLLAND – Janet.

The Mulholland family would like to thank all who attended Janet's funeral on that dreadful day and in particular the Rev Angus Adamson in the performance of his duties in such a stoical manner.

To all home care staff with special thanks to Alisdair and Maggie who cared for Janet in her last years and the district nurses and doctors who attended so diligently in the final few months.

Thanks to all expressions of sympathy received and for the many cards from people unable to attend in person due to the current circumstances.

To David and Clair Hendry for their professionalism and advice throughout. Eleanor for the management of the many flowers.

Our thanks are extended to Andrea for the catering arrangements and to Kilmory Hall for Janet's final celebration.

DEATH

RAINEY - Lily Rainey, 13th May 1952 to 22nd August 2020. Lily Rainey of Craigielea House, Whiting Bay died peacefully on 22nd August 2020. Stan and Jennifer would like to thank the staff at Crosshouse Hospital and all friends on Arran and beyond who have given support and good wishes over the last few months.

Helping get Arran digitally connected

The arrival of Covid-19 and the lockdown period has meant more focus on digital delivery of communications, support and social activity for everyone.

It is important to have equity of access to internet for everyone, particularly in rural areas where people often have pre-existing social isolation and reduced contact with some public services.

As a proactive approach Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS) lodged an application with Connecting Scotland to be part of the Scottish government national initiative, which was set up in response to coronavirus, with the aim of getting 30,000 digitally excluded households online in 2020.

Arran CVS was fortunate enough to secure 10 iPads with free 3G access for 12 months and training for support. This coupled with Big Lottery funding, for a direct Covid-19 response which took place during lockdown, has

created the fortunate position of being able to double the number of iPads and digital support available to 20 people.

Arran CVS is now rolling out the Connecting Arran Digital Inclusion Pro-gramme, which will be focussing primarily on older people in the community who may have been affected by digital exclusion or social isolation.

And now Arran CVS is looking for help from anyone with spare time to help and be a volunteer who will buddy up with an iPad recipient (at safe distance) and give basic digital support. Following successful completion of PVG check through Disclosure Scotland, there is a two-hour training session to become a digital champion delivered by Connecting Scotland.

If anyone would like to become a volunteer or knows of someone who would like to get connected please contact info@arrancvs.org.uk or call 01770 600611



The iPads the ACVS has received from Connecting Scotland.

ARRAN: AROUND THE GOLF COURSES



Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday August 20, Summer Cup, CSS 64. 1 Serge El Adm 78-13=65, 2 Norrie MacIntyre 74-9=65, 3 Iain Murchie 71-6=65. Best scratch Iain Murchie 71.

Magic twos Alan Smith @16th, Neil Young @5th and 16th, Stuart Campbell @17th. Hole 13 drawn, rollover continues Sunday August 23, Club Championship qualifier, CSS 64. 1 Scott Campbell 77-15=62, 2 Iain Murchie 69-6=63, 3 Derek Harrison 86-23=63.

Best scratch Iain Murchie 69. Winter Qualifying Cup, Scott Campbell 77-15=62.

Magic twos Scott Campbell @15th, and Iain Murchie @6th. Hole four drawn, rollover continues.

Fixtures: Saturday August 29, Club Championship qualifying finals, 4pm start.

Sunday August 30, Summer Stableford, 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday September 3, Summer Cup, make up own groups, see starter for times.

Club Championship draw: 1 Iain Murchie v 8 Scott Campbell; 3 Neil Young v 6 Serge El Adm; 4 Norrie MacIntyre v 5 Ian Bremner; 7 Paul Cowan v 2 Stuart Campbell. To be played Saturday August 29, 4 pm start. Semi-final Saturday September 5, 4 pm start. Final – 36 holes – Saturday September 12, 11 am start.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday August 19, Summer Trophy, 21 played, CSS 62. 1 Ronnie Mann (12) 60, 2 Gordon MacLachlan (21) 61, 3 Nicol Auld (4) 62 and lowest gross, 4 Neil McKechnie (12) 6. Magic twos Jamie Macpherson @2nd and 7th, Ryan Armstrong @4th, Nicol Auld @12th, David Morrison @16th and Kevin McAleney @17th.

Sunday August 23, The McKelvie Cup Rd 1, 21 played in the first of the three club championship qualifying rounds and braved sporadic light rain with piranha midges,

compounded by the complete absence of wind for much of the morning.

Scoring was steady rather than spectacular and CSS stayed at 63. 1 Gavin Mains (10) 62, 2 Douglas Auld (18) 64, 3 David Brookens (11) 65 acb, 4 Gus MacLeod (14) 65. No magic twos were recorded.

Fixtures: Tuesday September 1, Club Championship 1/4 finals. Wednesday September 2, Bannatyne Cup. Thursday September 3, Club Championship semi-finals. Sunday September 6, Club Championship final.

Until further notice there will be no draws for partners and members should arrange their own groupings.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday August 19, round 3 McCarfrae Trophy, Club Championship qualifying and Summer Cup, 36 played, CSS 64. 1 Neil Duncan 85-22=63, 2 George Hamilton 79-15=64 acb, 3 Babbies MacNeil 81-17=64. Scratch, Ewan McKinnon 65.

Leading Club Championship qualifiers: Ewan McKinnon 65 65 130 and McCarfrae Trophy winner, Greg McCrae 69 64

133, Matt Keir 66 70 136.

Sunday August 23, Centenary Quaich Stableford, 29 played, CSS 36 points. 1 Ewan McKinnon (0) 40pts, 2 Iain MacDonald (7) 39pts, 3 John May (20) 36pts. Ewan's scratch score of 61 included an amazing back nine of 26, six under par.

Monday August 24, first round Club Championship matches featured a hole in one by Babbies MacNeil in his match against 11 times champion, Ewan McKinnon.

Fixtures: Sunday August 30, Captain's Prize. Wednesday September 2, Summer Cup. Friday September 4, Club Championship quarter finals, Ross Duncan v Frazer Barr, Matt Keir v Gordon Hendry, Ewan McKinnon v Matt Dobson, Greg McCrae v Tam McNab.

Saturday September 5, Club Championship final.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Congratulations to Corrie on beating Machrie Bay in the Eddie Rankin on Saturday September 2 at Corrie.

Fixtures: Tuesday September 1, Stableford played from yellow tees, tee off 12.30pm.



Phased opening planned for Auchrannie sports facilities

The Scottish government has given the go-ahead for indoor swimming pools, gyms and games halls to reopen from Monday, August 31, and soft play centres can re-open from September 14, subject to government confirmation nearer the time.

At Auchrannie Resort in Brodick there will be a re-opening to ensure it is offering a safe environment for guests and team members. The facilities will open to resident guests first so the resort can check that its new procedures are working well in this new operating environment.

Auchrannie hopes to re-open the pools, gym, games hall and playbarn to leisure members by mid-September with other community and non-resident visitors being admitted shortly after this date. Opening dates are dependent on pools being successfully commissioned and reaching the correct

temperature after a long shut down.

The resort will be operating with physical distancing restrictions and this will mean reduced capacities in all of the facilities. To manage this safely it will be implementing booking systems for the pool, gym and playbarn. The games hall booking system will remain as it was before the Covid-19 crisis.

Timeslots

There will be fixed timeslots to accommodate everyone and to prevent overcrowding.

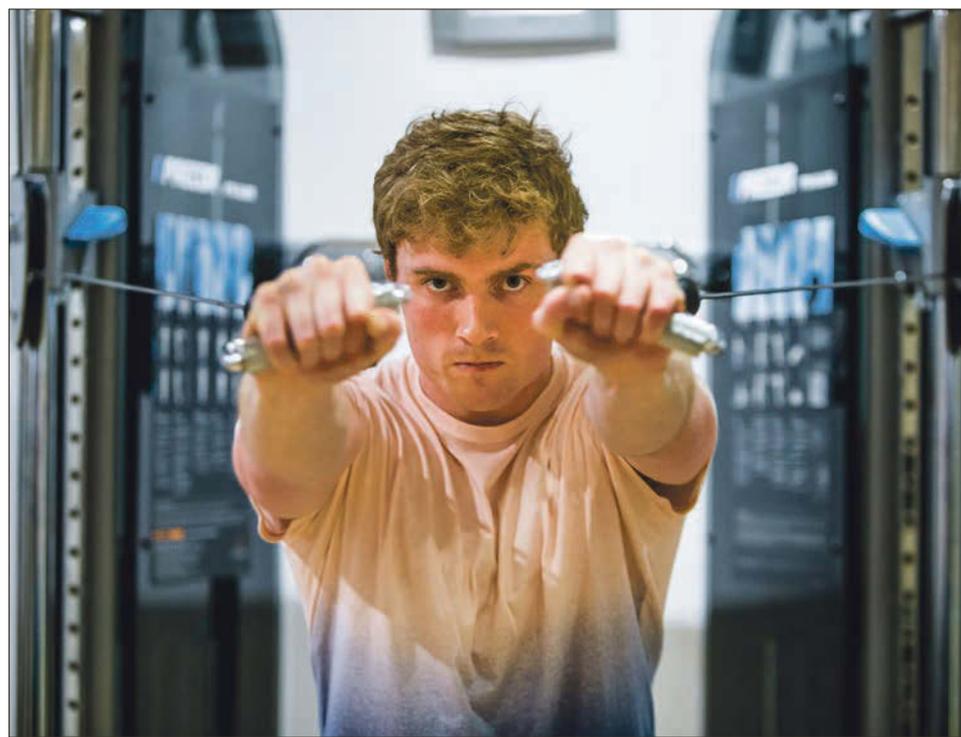
Sessions in the gym and pool will be for 45 minutes and users will be asked to arrive ready for their activity, only using changing rooms and showers for a minimum time if they have to.

Opening hours will be the same as before the lockdown. For leisure members, the hotel pool will open 8am-8pm, and the Spa Resort pool and gym

from 7am-9pm (10am-4pm and 6pm-8pm for non-members). The games hall will be open from 7am-9pm and the playbarn from 10am-6pm for all users.

Some facilities and activities will be unavailable at the moment. Thermal suites (including sauna, steam and thermal beds) in each pool will remain closed due to government regulations. Gym equipment will be socially distanced and some pieces of equipment will be out of use. Activities available in the games hall will be badminton, tennis, and table tennis. Team games and larger group activities can't be accommodated in the hall to prevent overcrowding. Catering within the leisure facilities will remain closed but Auchrannie's restaurants will be open.

Linda Johnston, co-founder and managing director at Auchrannie Resort, said: 'Our



There will be a phased return to working out at the Auchrannie gym.



The swimming pool at the Spa Resort.

priority at this time is to safely re-open our facilities for the general use of the community, resort residents and island visitors.

'To accomplish this, we can't re-start swimming lessons or club and group activities until restrictions are relaxed or removed. We will consider restarting fitness classes with restricted numbers once we have successfully opened access to all user groups.'

'We look forward to welcoming the local community back to the facilities after such a long shut down. We want

to make sure that everyone feels safe and secure when using facilities and hope the community will understand the phased timetable for re-opening this complex operation as well as being supportive of the changes we have made to ensure our facilities are Covid secure.'



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