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Ready for the new school year

New captains Erin Macpherson and Rory Currie, kneeling, with the prefects and mentors for the 2020/21 school year outside Arran High School this week. For the full story, turn to page four.

Departures leaves Kirk in limbo

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



'Vacancies take several years to fill and how the island will cope I am not sure.'

Arran will be left without any Church of Scotland ministers by April next year giving serious concern to the parishioners across the island.

All three ministers on the island are either leaving or retiring in the coming months and there is a worry as to how the eight churches on the island will operate after they go - and

with dwindling congregations there are doubts they will all survive.

The Reverend Angus Adamson, who announced he was leaving before the pandemic, will now go at the end of October. The Rev Lily McKinnon, who is 72, will retire next March, with the Rev Elizabeth Watson retiring in April.

The three ministers cover all eight Church of Scotland parishes on the island. The Rev Adamson looks after the North Arran parishes of Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine with the help of parish assistant Mrs Jean Hunter, who also retires in January. The churches all insist they are independent,

but working together. The Rev McKinnon is in charge at Lamlash, which is now linked with Kilmory, while the Rev Watson looks after the single Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church.

Some Kirk Sessions on the island have met remotely to discuss the situation but none of the parishes have yet started to look for a new minister as their hands are tied until the present minister leaves. They

then need permission from Ardrossan Presbytery to 'call' a new minister before the lengthy process of advertising and choosing a minister begins. But there is anxiety over whether all three ministerial posts will be replaced.

Rev McKinnon has been at Lamlash for five and half years and had her tenure extended for 12 months last year. She said: 'It does feel like being pushed rather than graciously

stepping down. My concern is that the eight churches on Arran will all be vacant by the beginning April 2021. Vacancies take several years to fill and how the island will cope without ministers to lead worship, serve communion, conduct weddings, baptisms and funerals, I am not sure.

'I know ministers are not indispensable but to have all Arran churches vacant at the

Continued on page two.

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Rev Angus Adamson



Rev Lily McKinnon



Rev Elizabeth Watson

Departures leaves Kirk in limbo

Continued from page one. A spokesman for the Church of Scotland said: 'None of the three ministers on Arran have been asked to stand down and are leaving their posts for individual and distinct reasons.'

'Rev Elizabeth Watson is expected to retire in April 2021 after 39 years in the charge. 'A five-year reviewable tenure position at Kilmory Church

linked with Lamplash was supposed to end in March but was extended for 12 months until March 2021 when it will end. Rev Lily McKinnon, who took up the role in March 2015 under the terms of the original contract, will step down.

'Rev Angus Adamson has faithfully served the congregations of Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza and Pirnmill and Shiskine, known as the North Parish, since April 2006.

'He has decided to step down from his role for personal reasons and will leave his post near the end of the year.

'We thank the three ministers for their long and committed service to the Church and their congregations.

'Moving forward, the Presbytery of Ardsrossan will consider proposals to ensure that the Church has a long-term, sustainable future on Arran to enable it to continue to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and support local communities.

'Church buildings are expected to reopen under Covid-19 lockdown easing restrictions on October 4.'

However, Lamplash Church Kirk Session has already agreed not to reopen the church on October 4, deciding to wait until there are less risks to the congregation and community. The decision of the other churches on the island is not yet known.

Construction truck demolishes concrete bollard

A construction truck has been blamed after a heavy concrete bollard was extensively damaged at the corner of Brathwic Place in Brodick.

The road is the only way in and out of the site where Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd are building 34 new council houses for North Ayrshire Council, and residents are having to put up with constant construction traffic, as reported in the Banner last month.

The latest incident happened last Friday when a truck coming from the site took the corner too tight and demolished the bollard. One resident said it had been hit so hard it had been practically ripped out of the ground. An investigation is under way.

Residents in Brathwic Place and Brathwic Terrace also say that there was supposed to be an agreement that deliveries to the site would take place during school hours, as there are a lot of children live in the area. Yet trucks, particularly on the agreed Tuesday and Thursday delivery days, go up to the site after they come off the ferry at 8am and after school finishing time.

A North Ayrshire Council spokesperson said: 'Although any development such as this will bring some level of disruption, processes are in place to keep this to a minimum. We will raise the matter with the developers Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd to ensure the agreed processes are being followed.'



The concrete bollard which was seriously damaged.

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Arran remains Covid free despite Ayrshire cluster

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



There are still no new positive cases of Covid-19 on Arran, despite concerns over a coronavirus cluster which emerged this week in the NHS Ayrshire & Arran area.

A total of 55 new cases have been recorded in Ayrshire & Arran in the past week, but all have been on the mainland, it was confirmed as the Banner went to press. It means that Arran has been Covid free since mid-April – a total of 138 days.

Ruth Betley, senior manager Arran Services at North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership also said there has been an increase in tests on Arran, in line with what's happening nationally, and demand on the island has doubled in recent weeks. This is expected to be due



Brodick Test Centre: Arran has remained Covid free for 138 days now.

to the increase in the number of visitors to the island since to easing of lockdown restrictions and the increasing in ferry capacity and the opening up of the tourist trade.

'We have carried out more than 300 test on just over 200 people so far,' Mrs Betley told the Banner.

Arran has its own testing centre at Brodick Health Centre, however anyone

should only book a test if they are displaying symptoms of the coronavirus.

Mrs Betley added: 'We must remain vigilant and continue to follow guidance on hand hygiene, social dis-

tancing and face coverings and book a test if have any symptoms. Even more so as we head towards winter and schools have returned.'

In the new coronavirus cluster which emerged on the Ayrshire mainland, 22 cases were initially been linked to indoor gatherings.

The First Minister Nicola Sturgeon revealed earlier this week that contact tracing has been launched in the area, with fears the outbreak started at indoor events the weekend before last. She added that the outbreak was being investigated by an incident management team.

It comes as restrictions on visiting other households were reintroduced in Glasgow and two neighbouring areas on Tuesday. The new rules affect more than 800,000 people in Glasgow City, West Dunbartonshire

and East Renfrewshire. A further 86 new coronavirus cases in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area were confirmed on Wednesday – accounting for more than half of the total for the whole of Scotland, which was 156.

Restrictions on visiting other households were reintroduced in Glasgow and two neighbouring areas on Tuesday. The new rules affect more than 800,000 people in Glasgow City, West Dunbartonshire and East Renfrewshire.

A further 86 new coronavirus cases in the NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde area were confirmed on Wednesday – accounting for more than half of the total for the whole of Scotland, which was 156.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said of the move: 'It should be a wake up call for all of us.'

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Leading the mentor support programme are Naomi Provan and John McNeish.



Arran High School captains Rory Currie and Erin Macpherson with acting head teacher Susan Foster. 01_B36school01



The 2020/21 school year mentors with Mrs Foster.

Rory and Erin selected as Arran High captains

This year's Arran High School captains are Rory Currie and Erin Macpherson.

The prefects and a new mentor group have also been chosen for the 2020/21 session which will be challenging given the changes at the school caused by the Covid pandemic.

On being elected Erin said: 'I'm very excited to be a school captain this year and help make changes for the school during these uncertain times. Being a role model and representing Arran High School is extremely important to me, especially when speaking on behalf of all pupils. As captain, my main goal is to help pupils' voices be heard, help them challenge their issues and most importantly be a friendly face for them to turn to.'

Rory said: 'I'm delighted to have been chosen as a school captain. This year being captain is going to be especially challenging as we move forward in these ever-changing times. I look forward to overcoming these challenges and representing the school. Throughout my six years at Arran High School, I have looked up to the captains and what they do for the school and now it is my turn to do the same for the younger years.'

This year's school prefects are: John McNeish, Naomi Provan, Charlotte McKillop, Amelia Robertson, Charlie Bonner, Finn MacArthur, Abi Traill, James Reid, Leah Brown, Cameron Mackay and Abbie Mulholland.

The prefects will be respon-

sible for the traditional duties of parents evenings, when they resume, event planning and some responsibilities around the school.

In addition the school has set them a task of researching and meeting - virtually - with other schools that operate a merit/reward system (colours) and to create something that will work for Arran High School. This is part of the school aim of recognising success equally across all areas including art, drama, dance, music and sport, as well as academically.

During the interviews for prefects, there were a number of students who spoke passionately about wanting to support and mentor others as they had been supported themselves and were keen to

offer peer support. This is not a role prefects have traditionally undertaken so the school made a decision from the wealth of feeling it would create a second body equal to the prefects.

Its task is to create a peer mentor support programme for the school, to be lead and organised by them, working with the well-being centre. Last year, the head teachers looked at the nurturing schools award and started work towards the LGBTIQ charter mark. This group will take this forward.

The group will be led by John McNeish and Naomi Provan and the mentors are: Nicol Weir, Malley Robertson, Mhairi Thomas, Millie Young, Molly McNiven, Louie Urquhart-Dixon and Bradley Lord.

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The Coig campaign gives Arran a welcome boost

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

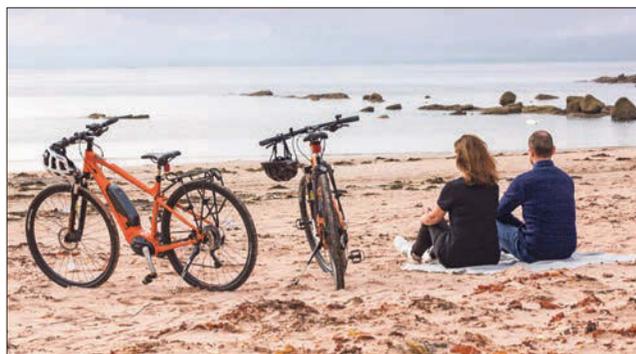


Arran has been given a boost by a campaign launched by The Coig, which has seen a huge spike in interest from domestic visitors looking to explore their local area and enjoy staycations.

Visits to The Coig website have increased by more than 500 per cent since the campaign launched, with more visits in July than the first half of 2020 combined. Meanwhile, the campaign reached over half a million people on social media, with followers for the initiative doubling in just six weeks.

Gaelic for five, The Coig is a series of five tourist routes covering Ayrshire, Arran, Bute and Cumbrae, inspiring people to explore the unique coast and countryside on their doorstep.

Each route is designed to



Formula 1 presenter Lee McKenzie, an ambassador for the The Coig, enjoyed a stop on West Kilbride beach when she cycled the route to promote it.

showcase the outstanding natural beauty, history and heritage, and food and drink, as well the wide range of outdoor and family activities on offer across the region. Visitors can follow a choice of routes as part of a day trip, or as a longer staycation experience.

Aimed at providing a welcome boost for local

restaurants, accommodation, and tourism businesses, the 'You're Invited' campaign was launched in early July to coincide with the easing of lockdown which allowed people to travel more freely.

The campaign was specifically targeted towards locals, encouraging them to explore sites and attractions right on

their doorstep – rediscovering places they had not visited for some time and perhaps finding some hidden gems.

Businesses across the area were encouraged to get involved in the initiative, by using the free campaign toolkit created to support industry, and extending an invite for visitors to return as they reopened by posting them on social media, tagging #LocalInvite

Linda Johnston, managing director of Auchrannie Resort and chairperson of The Coig, said: 'It's been the most difficult of times, but the past few weeks has seen our industry moving into recovery mode as businesses across Ayrshire and the Clyde Islands have focused on safely reopening. This has been guided by advice from government to keep our communities safe.

'Despite launching just a few months ago, the reach of

The Coig is growing quickly by linking the region up. Our rallying cry to get people to support their local industry has been hugely successful and underlines the power of collaboration across the whole region.

'We need domestic visitors to help us recover by exploring their local areas and filling the beds that lay empty for nearly four months. So, we won't be resting on our laurels, and will build on this campaign working alongside public and private sector partners through the autumn and winter to extend the season.'

Daniel Steel, chief executive of The Coig, added: 'This campaign was never about The Coig brand. In order to rebuild our region after lockdown we must work together, so the campaign was developed with industry input to provide inspiration and to help businesses across the region to adopt a

common message that visitors will be safe and welcome to return as safe to do so in the phased re-opening.

'We have been bowled over by the support from partner businesses, and the local people and communities who have got behind the campaign and extended their own invites to friends, to family, and to loyal trusted visitors.'

Club draw winners

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club July draw were: 1st prize Margaret McGivern, 2nd prize Laura Storey.

The winner of Brodick Improvements Committee 200 Club for August asked that the £50 prize money be returned for use by the committee.

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Church at crossroads

The news that all three Church of Scotland ministers will have left their posts in a matter of months must be of great concern to the parishes across the island.

Church membership may be dwindling but there are still eight active parish congregations who play an important part in the fabric of island life.

The ministers on Arran work hard, very hard. Before the pandemic - which shut the churches, along with everything else - Rev Watson had been long looking after the spiritual needs of Whiting Bay and the south end, Rev McKinnon conducted two services every Sunday at Lamlash and Kilmory, and the work the Rev Adamson and Mrs Hunter got through on a Sunday covering five parishes and Montrose House is quite remarkable.

Add to that their daily duties combined with funerals, baptisms, communion and, to a lesser extent these days, weddings, and it is clear the present incumbents will be sadly missed.

A statement from the Church of Scotland Edinburgh headquarters, often referred to as 121 George Street, or simply 121, said this week: 'Moving forward, the Presbytery of Ardsrossan will consider proposals to ensure that the church has a long-term, sustainable future on Arran.'

Consider proposals? That surely means that change is on the way, but given the workload of the three existing ministers it seems absurd that they would try to structure the island parishes with fewer ministers in post.

All eight parishes pride their independence and there may be a long saga ahead to see if the Church of Scotland on Arran can survive in its present form.

Thought for the week

'Six days you shall labour, but on the seventh day you shall rest; even during the ploughing season and harvest you must rest.' Exodus 34:21

Charging point woes

Sir,
Some electric vehicles (EV) can only take certain charge point facilities.

There is one at the Auchrannie that never works despite me specifically phoning before arriving on the island asking if it was in working order and the lady said 'yes' - then put me on hold, came back and said 'yes, it's in working order'.

On arrival to the island with only a few miles left of charge, to my horror I discovered it was out of order and, of course, no one knows anything about them or how to fix them.

I have in past years always had the same issue. Their charge point is first generation long since past its best (per the words of charge your car UK). It seems it's never working, always has faults and needs manually reset by the staff at the soft play area, who are young kids themselves and do not know how to open the unit or reset it.

Then we have the Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash - a more updated charging point tucked away in the most inaccessible place they could find, allowing cars to block the unit completely. When I went into the hotel to ask, and state the car in question, a Volvo, had been blocking the charge point for a few days now, they took my number saying they would get the owner to move and call me when it was moved. Six days later they have yet to call.

The only other unit is at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot. Thankfully I was able to get enough charge there to get back to Brodick and over to the mainland. But if that was not working then I'd have been stuck with an EV car and no charging point usable. The main points on Shore Road are the rarely used fast chargers, meant for high powered Teslas and fast charging vehicles, and



The charging point at the Glenisle Hotel is blocked by another car.

its taken them four plus years to paint the spaces green. Prior to that they were always used by other non-electrical cars blocking for others who may have needed them, a subject I wrote to about previously in the Banner.

This year I was lucky but it seems the Auchrannie and the Glenisle hotels, although claiming to have these facilities, fall far, far short of actually being able to operate them sufficiently for EV users.

Two out of 10 for management of these units, and zero out of 10 on their customer services for assisting users wishing to charge their vehicles on the island. I was stunned and very disappointed

Had it not been for the Blackwaterfoot charge point my car would have had to be collected

by recovery truck at who knows what cost. Do they care? No. Has either hotel called back. No. Given the islands lockdown I'd have thought customer service would have to be at its maximum, going that extra mile to help everyone to a memorable experience. My experience is one of dread now. I am back on the island in October and I could put my life on it that the Auchrannie charge point will still be out of service

Perhaps a warning to EV users that these charging points are not to be relied on.

Despite what the staff say, they know nothing about the operational condition of the units - red on one side, off line; flashing blue on the other, connection error. It's not rocket science.

A very, very disappointing trip.
Yours,
Paul McDowall,
Paisley.

Time to demolish
the McLaren

Sir,
As many will have predicted, myself included, I have not heard back from the owner of the McLaren site in Brodick, see Arran Banner July 24.

It has been a month since I wrote and I have been reassured that he received the letter. So, we are at the same stage now as the hotel is itself - stagnant.

I had such an overwhelmingly positive response to the idea of converting the site to a outdoor

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shopping area with added benefits, that it is frustrating that we cannot take things further.

Even if the price was more than the £285k that was paid five years ago, it would have been interesting to look at the site with eyes on the long-term advantages of owning the site as a community.

As it is, there seems to be little – if any – advancement of plans to create a new £9m hotel. I personally think it's time to start piling on some pressure.

What is certain is that (a) the property is dangerous, (b) it needs demolishing and (c) people are currently using it for whatever purpose they choose. I would ask that we try, individually if necessary, to put some pressure on North Ayrshire Council to impose a demolition order on the premises and perhaps then the owner will return to discuss the options.

Now, I will add here that I know nothing of demolition orders. However, having perused the web, there's a possibility it could cost £80k to level the building. If NAC had to do this themselves, they'd have to seek reimbursement from the owners. But if that's the case and the owner can't pay, I also believe NAC has the right to buy back the site, to reimburse themselves for the demolition.

If all that is correct, and I remind you that I am no expert, then it may be a way to shake things up a little, to say the least – especially if the community can show the council that they are keen to take it on.

I would therefore ask that people write to NAC with their 'concerns' regarding the current state of the site.

I have also started an online petition which can be found at: <http://chnq.it/XkqRTxRLJV>

Yours,
Graham Chappell,
Brodick.

Brodict Bar – the early years

Sir,
I enjoyed reading your article on the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Brodict Bar in last week's Arran Banner. Perhaps your readers would be interested to know more about the founding of the bar and the first 10 years.

The idea of a pub on Arran was the brainwave of local couple Stewart and Alison Currie who, not only took on

the initial financial risk, but also had the vision and enthusiasm to make it a success.

They had to overcome quite a few obstacles along the way, including licensing board approval and some personal local objections. Thanks to the energy and determination of Stewart and Alison, the obstacles were overcome and the pub became an immediate success.

Sadly Stewart is no longer with us, but Alison still lives locally and is an active member of the local community.

As a long-term friend and customer, I have very fond memories of those early years in Brodict Bar. PS – I have an ashtray.

Yours,
Alastair Sillars,
Thornhill.

Help to identify Smiddy tools

Sir,
Now that we are up and running, we are able to turn our attention to our new project at the Arran Heritage Museum. We hope to improve the presentation and interpretation of our smiddy.

When we came to investigate the amazingly diverse contents, left in situ as the smiddy closed for the last time, we realise that none of us has the knowledge to identify many of them, let alone their usage. As so often before, we are turning to Banner readers for help. Is there anyone out there with the knowledge we need? If so, please get in touch with us at the museum.

Yours,
Christine Black,
Honorary secretary,
Arran Heritage Museum,
Brodick.

Well looked after

Sir,
My husband and I were so pleased to return to Arran for a weeks holiday last week. We found the island welcoming and ready to cope with all the new rules.

The reason for this email is to say thank you to each village community for keeping open and maintaining the toilets on the island. Not only were the facilities available, but so well looked after and clean every time.

I'm sure all the visitors to the island are most grateful for this kindness. Well done!

Yours,
Frances Coid, Prestwick.

CONTACTUS

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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.

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

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Delays over new Arran ferry are 'unacceptable', says MSP

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



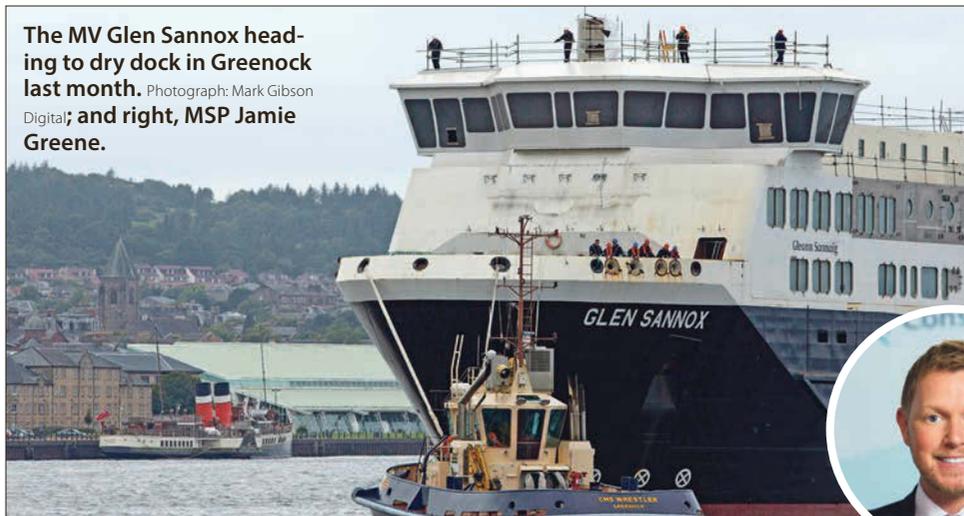
West Scotland MSP Jamie Greene has hit out at the Scottish Government over its failure to deliver the long-awaited replacement ferry vessel, the MV Glen Sannox, for the Ardrrossan-to-Arran route.

He accused the SNP of 'letting the West Scotland region and all of our island communities down' following the news that the Glen Sannox will not be completed until at least 2022 at the earliest, despite originally being planned for a 2018 delivery.

As reported in last week's Banner the official date for the arrival of the ferry on the route is now April 14, 2022 - more than four years late and at more than double the original cost.

That means the two ferries

The MV Glen Sannox heading to dry dock in Greenock last month. Photograph: Mark Gibson Digital; and right, MSP Jamie Greene.



currently serving the route, MV Caledonian Isles and Isle of Arran, will be 29 and 39 years old respectively by the time they are replaced, despite each having a life expectancy of 25 years.

The Banner also revealed that

much of the design work for the new ferry is being carried out in Romania and that hull vibration, which has been discovered, indicates their may be an inherent design problem.

Mr Greene said that residents in Arran and on the mainland

have been let down by the SNP's botched leadership of this flagship project, whilst businesses on both shores had effectively been thrown to the wolves over the failure to deliver a reliable ferry network.

He praised patient workers in Greenock who had the viability of their business put at risk after SNP ministers nationalised the yard despite viable offers from the commercial sector to keep it as a going concern and massively expand its order book.

He has also backed calls for disgraced former finance secretary Derek Mackay, to return to parliament and answer questions about the project which he oversaw in his cabinet role and eventually nationalised.

Mr Greene said: 'It is frankly astonishing and completely unacceptable that the new Arran ferry won't be delivered until 2022 at the earliest and at this point, it wouldn't surprise me if this was delayed even further.'

'The SNP government has let down North Ayrshire and

many coastal communities over its botched project management which nearly collapsed our entire shipbuilding industry.

'At the heart of this matter are communities who have not only been inconvenienced by these delays, but on several occasions have been denied access to key public services such as health because the ferry wasn't in a working order, whilst businesses have been effectively thrown to the wolves.'

'Local residents cannot put up with another two years of delays, disruptions and cancellations. Without that new ferry residents and businesses on both sides of the shore will continue to struggle and be blighted by unreliable services.'

'The local MSP should be apologising for this government handling of this shameful episode,' he added.

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Ferry annual overhaul scheduled to avoid disrupting New Year travel

The annual overhaul of the MV Caledonian Isles has been delayed for a few days next year to prevent a repeat of the problems at the start of the year.

It follows widespread disruption when the ferry was taken out of service at the start of January this year leaving the two replacement vessels struggling to sail in stormy

weather conditions and leaving hundreds of people stranded who had been on the island for the festive holidays.

Following a request from the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee to review the timing of removal of the MV Caledonian Isles, CalMac has confirmed that she will leave service on January 5, 2021, and be replaced by

the usual vessels – the MV Hebridean Isles and MV Isle of Arran - until completion of the work planned for January 20.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'This year's dry dock schedule was planned with public consultation to minimise disruption to communities where possible. This included a decision to defer the departure of the MV

Caledonian Isles until well after New Year to allow festive revelers to leave the island.'

As well as winter maintenance work the main Arran ferry is due to get a navigation radar upgrade. The MV Isle of Arran, when she gets her annual service, is to get a new lift to improve reliability, which has been a problem in recent

months. Every year each of the company's 34 vessels, ranging from the 8,600-tonne MV Loch Seaforth, to the 11-tonne MV Carvorra, all have to have a period of maintenance to ensure continuing seaworthiness.

This presents the company with a complex logistical problem to keep all of its lifeline services running

with minimal disruption. 'Organising time for each vessel to enter dry dock while keeping services running is a real challenge for us that requires detailed planning. When the weather is taken into account this can be real test keeping communities connected,' said CalMac's director of operations, Robert Morrison.

Minister repeats that Troon will only be used in bad weather

Islands minister Paul Wheelhouse has again reiterated that there are no plans for the Arran ferry to move to Troon for any length of time during the improvement works at Ardrossan harbour.

As the Banner revealed last month, these works are due to start next year and will take two years. But at the Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee of the Scottish parliament Mr Wheelhouse repeated that Troon would only be used as an alternative in poor weather conditions.

The minister had been asked again about the use of Troon by Central Scotland Conservative MSP Graham Simpson who said: 'You are familiar with the issues there (at Ardrossan), minister, particularly in bad weather. Have you considered alternatives to Ardrossan, such as Troon, which may be a better port to use?'

Mr Wheelhouse replied: 'It has been suggested, including by your colleague, John Scott, that Troon would be an alternative to Ardrossan.

'We have made a commitment to the communities on Arran and in North Ayrshire that we will stick with Ardrossan. The taskforce considering the infrastructure requirements at Ardrossan is well developed. Things are taking longer than anyone would like. We have made a commitment through the taskforce to use Ardrossan for the long term.

'There may be a role for Troon during the construction period, as we have been exploring during the development of the plans for Ardrossan.

'As I have said, Ardrossan

is a difficult harbour on its approach at the best of times – and that is with the Arran berth set up for the prevailing wind conditions.

'During the construction period, when a pretty invasive exercise will be going on in the Arran berth, moving a lot of earth to create a more open and accessible harbour, the Irish berth will be relied upon. That may not be a fully reliable solution if the weather conditions work against it. Troon would be the obvious place to establish as an alternate during bad weather, and we have had discussions with Associated British Ports, the operator of Troon, to do that.

'However, we are not planning to use Troon in the longer term as the main port to access Arran. It may have a role in future as a refuge port, and that is something that we will discuss with the operator.'

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'We have made a commitment to the communities on Arran and in North Ayrshire that we will stick with Ardrossan.'

'Ayr constituency, which includes Troon, has a Tory majority of 750; Cunninghame North a majority of 8,724 for the SNP, so that could be the motivation of Tory suggestions that Ardrossan is abandoned in favour of Troon. They have given up on this constituency and will focus instead on attempting to retain Ayr at next May's Scottish Parliament election, even if moving the ferry means a longer, more expensive and less frequent service to Brodick and job losses in Ardrossan.'

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Join over 100 Arran householders and order your FREE water saving pack today!

Did you know that, throughout the summer, Scottish Water has worked with Home Energy Scotland and Arran Eco Savvy to offer householders on Arran free water saving packs? More than 100 householders on Arran have already ordered their pack, helping to reduce their water use by around 5%.

The packs include water saving devices such as a low-flow showerhead, a kitchen tap aerator, a garden hose gun and a brochure full of great water saving tips! Whatever the weather, these packs help you to save water, energy and money – as well as protect your local water resources. Read on to find out how to order your pack.

Water efficiency webinar

Want to learn more about saving water on Arran? Take part in our free webinar delivered by Home Energy

Scotland and hosted by Arran Eco Savvy on:

- Thursday 10 September at 7:30pm

As well as getting some great water and energy saving tips, you can also request your FREE water saving pack at the end of the webinar!

To register and book your place, visit: scottishwater.co.uk/savewaterarran.

Arran water saving ambassadors

Sarah Blair from Corrie is one of our five water saving ambassadors on Arran. Last month, she explained how she saved water in the garden, by using the garden hose gun from her free water saving pack. This month we hear from another of our water saving ambassadors, who knows a thing or two about keeping Arran's water flowing.

Mark Bunyan is a multifunctional operator for Scottish Water. He said: "I'm part of a small team on Arran. Being an island, we have limited resources, so we are always looking for ways to save water and improve efficiency. This water saving pack is a great way to just that. For

example, the kitchen tap aerator fits most modern kitchen mixer taps and has two positions, one for filling up containers and one which delivers an aerated spray which saves water while washing fruit and veg".

Our water saving ambassadors have also prepared a short video looking at the free water saving devices included in the pack – check out the video on Scottish Water, Arran Eco Savvy and Home Energy Scotland's social media!

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and receive tailored advice to help you save water, energy and money at home.

You can also order your pack and find out more about saving water on Arran at scottishwater.co.uk/savewaterarran



Have your say on new name for Octopus Centre

Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) opened Scotland's first Marine Protected Area Visitor Centre in Lamlash in 2018.

Since opening, the centre has been known as the Octopus Centre but the trust thinks this can sometimes be misleading.

As COAST approaches the two-year anniversary of the

centre being officially open, it is considering re-naming the centre has produced a short online survey giving people the chance to have their say on a new name.

COAST outreach and communications manager Jenny Stark said: 'There is no right or wrong answer.

'We would appreciate your

opinion on which name would make you interested and leave you wanting to visit or find out more.

'The survey asks if you have visited before, purely so we know if you are selecting an option based on prior knowledge of what is on offer, or from a completely fresh point of view not knowing exactly

what to expect. Both are equally important.

'Your answers will remain anonymous. No personal details will be collected and your IP address will not be recorded. The survey will close on Wednesday September 9.'

The survey can be completed at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6WHDCVR



A new name is being considered for the Octopus Centre.



CalMac ready to help groups make a difference in island communities

Groups on Arran will soon be able to apply for CalMac Community Fund cash.

From October 1, the fund will be seeking applications from non-profit-making organisations which make a difference to communities by tackling social isolation, poor

mental health, loneliness and/or poverty. Groups operating across the CalMac network can apply for an award between £500 to £2,000.

In 2019, the CalMac Community Fund supported 76 groups across the west coast, benefiting the lives of children and young people. Among those helped was Corrie Primary School Parent Council which received £600 to help children develop their swimming skills.

Gordon McKillop, corporate social responsibility manager

for CalMac, said: 'The CalMac Community Fund was created to make a difference to those most in need across our west coast communities.'

'The Covid-19 pandemic placed a huge strain on people's lives and there has been a lot of great community work going on to help those affected. We would love to hear more about these projects and would encourage those eligible to apply for an award.'

'The fund was well received when it was launched and we were able to help 76 groups.'

Left: Brodick port assistant Fiona Hamilton-Bulger presents a cheque to Corrie Primary School Parent Council last year.

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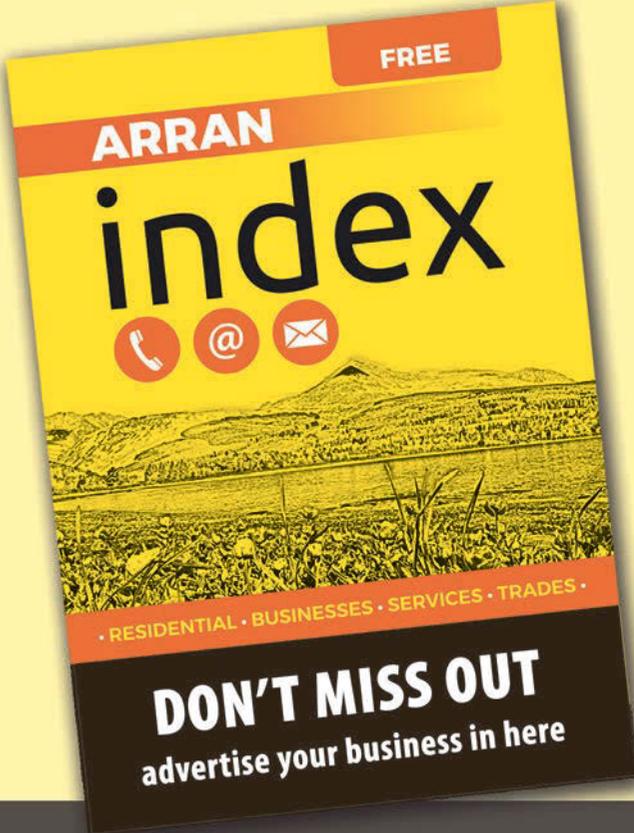
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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday September 9, 2000

Brodick Castle country fair

The fifth Brodick Castle country fair took place in bright sunshine last Sunday and allowed a large number of people to enjoy the atmosphere and witness, and in some cases take part in, a variety of rural pursuits.

There was sheep shearing and horseshoeing with farrier Andy Parry giving a completely

new set of shoes to three horses. There was also a tractor reversing competition won by Geoff Brookes, Murray Boal's dog scurry, sculptor Marvin Elliot and Ian Struthers with his birds of prey.

The National Trust Sheepdog Trials were also held as part of the event.



A sheep shearing demonstration at the country fair with Mike Gilbert with electric clippers on the left and Hugh Stewart with hand shears on the right. 01_B36tweY01



Farrier Andy Parry at work on a horseshoe. 01_B36tweY02



A contestant in the tractor reversing competition at the country fair. 01_B36tweY03



Pictured outside Whiting Bay Church as Highet and Mae Allen of Golf Course Road who were celebrating their Golden Wedding anniversary with a rededication of their vows conducted by the Rev Elizabeth Watson. They are accompanied by Highet's niece Carol Wissett and Mae's nephew John Armstrong who were their bridesmaid and pageboy 50 years ago.

01_B36tweY04



Jane Miller of Lochranza is the new shopkeeper at Pirmill Post Office seen here with customer Sandy Rankin. 01_B36tweY05

PUBLIC NOTICES

Isle of Arran Drama Association IOADA

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 17th September 2020 8 pm

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 situation, this year's AGM will be held via a Zoom link. If you would like to take part, please, contact our secretary, Assja Baumgartner (assja@arrangems.co.uk) to obtain the link. Thank you.



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

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 25.09.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 Regulation 20(1) 20/00710/PP; Sannox Sand Quarry, Sannox, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Extension of existing quarry for extraction of sand and gravel.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1987

Applications for Listed Building Consent.

20/00667/LBC; 12 The Row, Catacol, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Replacement of 2 windows and replacement door to rear elevation including render repair/renewal to gable elevation.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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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 peterdwilko@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

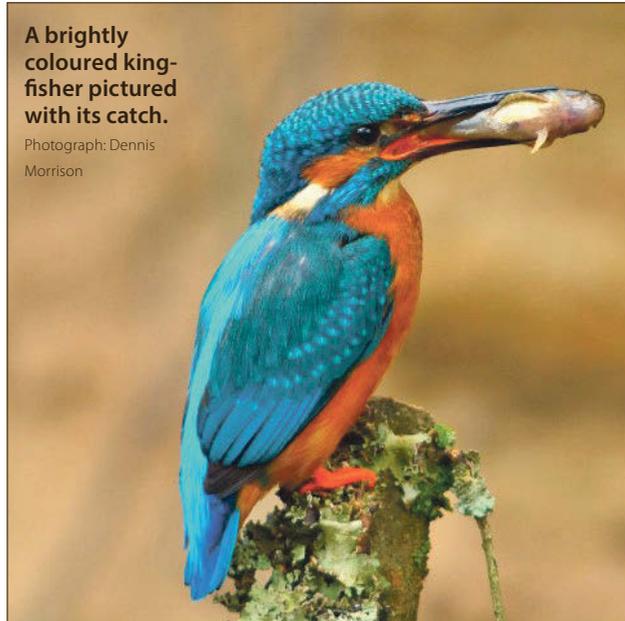
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WHAT'S ON

EVERY DAY
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Arran Heritage Museum
Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am to 4.30pm.

Arran insights into visiting kingfishers

Bird notes
by Jim Cassels



A brightly coloured kingfisher pictured with its catch.
Photograph: Dennis Morrison

This is a good time of year to be looking out for kingfisher on Arran.

Most of the records of kingfisher on Arran are in the late summer/early autumn. For example in September last year there were 11 records from six wide-spread locations, including areas where it has not been recorded regularly like Dhunan, the Roddin and Sannox. Only one of the records was for more than one bird and that was a report of two on the Rosa Burn on 13th. This encouraged me to look at the Arran kingfisher records over the last 10 years to see if I could get some insights into when and where kingfisher are seen on Arran.

Over the last 10 years there have been 206 records of kingfisher on Arran – 198 of these were of single birds and only on eight occasions were two birds seen. The accompanying chart shows all the records plotted against month of the year. With more than 70 per cent of the records in August/

September/October and virtually none in the breeding season, this would suggest that the sightings on Arran are birds dispersing from elsewhere after the breeding season. There have been no confirmed records of kingfisher breeding on Arran. Looking at the number of sightings each year, there is no obvious pattern. For example while there were no records from 2016, there were 82 for 2017. The number of sightings each year may reflect the success or otherwise of breeding else-

where. The better the breeding season, the more birds there are dispersing and the more sightings there are on Arran. The second chart plots the records from the last 10 years against locations on Arran. While the records are quite widespread, the vast majority of the records, over 80 per cent, are from the north end of Brodick Bay around the Rosa and Cloy burns, Fisherman's Walk and Cladach. This starling sized bird is often unobtrusive despite its bright colours, and often all

that is seen is a glimpse of a bright blue back flying off over water. On the other hand this shy bird can allow really close clear views, if you are patient. In Scotland, the kingfisher is a localised breeder found mostly in the south and west mainland. The range of this species is from the British Isles and Scandinavia east across central Europe to the Urals and the Caspian Sea. Populations in the north and east undertake long distance migrations to winter in southern Europe and North Africa, but birds further west and south are either sedentary or short distance migrants. The nearest breeding area to Arran is to the east in North Ayrshire.

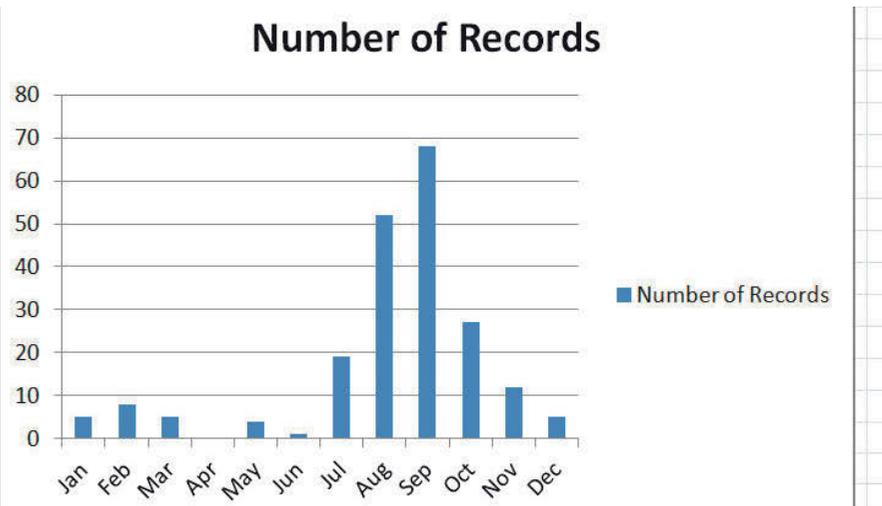
Wherever the birds on Arran come from, their presence brightens any day.

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

I look forward to hearing from you.

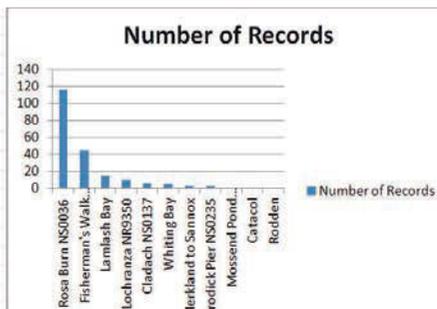
For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report, the first 40 years, which includes the annual report for 2019 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

Month	Number of Records
Jan	5
Feb	8
Mar	5
Apr	0
May	4
Jun	1
Jul	19
Aug	52
Sep	68
Oct	27
Nov	12
Dec	5



Location	Number of Records
Rosa Burn NS0036	116
Fisherman's Walk NS0136	45
Lamlesh Bay	15
Lochranza NR9350	10
Cladach NS0137	6
Whiting Bay	5
Merkland to Sannox	3
Brodick Pier NS0235	3
Mossend Pond NS0037	1
Catacol	1
Rodden	1

Lamlesh: thirteen Cordon, two council offices
Whiting Bay: three Kingscross, one Sandraes, one Glenashdale
Merkland to Sannox: one each Carlo, Rubha Salach and Sannox



These record show the number of kingfisher sighted on Arran by month and also by location.

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Club captain Fiona lifts SWI trophy in some style



Shiskine captain Fiona Henderson won the 2020 Isle of Arran Federation SWI golf trophy last week.

A total of 11 ladies competed for the new trophy, now in its second year, in the 12-hole competition played at Shiskine Golf Club on Thursday August 27.

The result was: 1 Fiona Henderson 52-10=42, 2 Pat Adamson 65-15=50, 3 Fiona Scott 68-15=53. Scratch Jenni Turnbull 63-12=51.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday August 26, The Morton Quaich. A total of 24 played in the quaich, which is also the second qualifying round for the club championship. With the course still showing the effects to the previous day's heavy rain, conditions were not ideal but did improve as the day wore on. Scoring was steady and David Morrison prevailed with a net 61 to win by 1 shot from David Brookens. CSS stayed at 63.

Result: 1 David Morrison (13) 61, 2 David Brookens (12) 62 acb, 3 Jamie Macpherson (4) 62, 4 David Blair (12) 64. Jamie



Fiona Henderson was delighted when she won the Arran Federation SWI golf trophy last week.

Macpherson and Graeme Crichton each bagged a magic two @4th and David Blair did likewise @11th.

Saturday August 29, fun Texas Scramble. Once again our Texas Scramble was blessed with decent weather and fine turnout. We extended the format to 18 holes this year - it seemed a shame to waste such fine weather. Scoring was tight, with a number of teams returning sub 60

scratch scores, but the team

of Shonagh Pringle, husband Sandy, Jimmy Morrison and Babbies McNeil prevailed by a narrow margin.

Thanks to all who played, to Stewart for the magnificent condition of the course, to John, Jamie and Nancy for the clubhouse food and drink, and finally to all the sponsors and donors who gave so generously to ensure such a fine day.

Sunday August 30, The McKelvie Cup - round two. A total of 21 played in the second

round of The McKelvie, the third qualifying round for the club championship. Scoring was good with only three of the 18 returned scores at 70 or over and CSS staying at 63. The runaway winner, however, with a stellar net 57 and lowest gross 69 was Peter Towndrow

Result: 1 Peter Towndrow (12) 57 and lowest gross, 2 Gus MacLeod (14) 60, 3 Gavin Mains (10) 61, 4 Ronnie Mann (12) 64. Magic twos were scored by Johnnie Kelso @1st - which is just showing off really - Gavin Mains @4th and Ryan Armstrong @11th.

The overall winner of the McKelvie Cup is Gavin Mains on 123pts.

Fixtures: Sunday September 6, Club Championship final and JC Reid final. Wednesday September 9, Summer Trophy final round. Until further notice there will be no draws for partners and members should arrange their own groupings.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday August 26, Summer Cup, 36 played, CSS 63. 1 Iain Pittman 71-13=58, 2 Kenny McMillan 75-15=60, 3 Nicol Hume 76-14=62. Scratch Ewan McKinnon 65.

Friday August 28, Club Championship quarter finals, Ross Duncan bt Frazer Barr, Gordon Hendry bt Matt Keir, Ewan McKinnon bt Matt Dobson, Greg McCrae bt Tam McNab.

Sunday August 30, Captain's Prize, Stableford, 30 played,

NC. 1 George Hamilton (15) 39pts, John May (20) 38pts acb, David Hendry (16) 38pts acb.

Fixtures: Friday September 4, Club Championship semi finals, Saturday September 5, Club Championship final. Sunday September 6, Sweep. Wednesday September 9, Summer Cup.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday August 23, gents Murray Cup. 1 Jack McNally and Ross Traill 31 pts BIH,

2 Colin Rutterford and Quentin Oliver 31pts, 3 Sandy Kerr and Robert Waine 26pts

Magic twos Sandy and Robert @4th, Jack and Ross @3rd, Willie and Alan @10th.

Saturday August 29, Past Captains Competition, 9 played. 1 Liz Kerr 26pts, 2 Robert Waine 25pts, 3 Robbie Crawford 23pts. Well done Liz!

Sunday August 30, gents 12-hole medal. 1st Class: 1 (winner and scratch) Sandy Kerr 43-7=36, 2 Robbie Crawford 45-5=40, 3 Jack McNally 51-5=46. 2nd Class: 1 Ross Traill 49-9=40 BIH, 2 William McNally 50-10=40, 3 Robert Waine 52-10=42 BIH.

Magic twos M Campbell and W McNally.

Thursday August 27, ladies 12 hole medal. 1 Fiona Henderson 52-10=42, 2 Isobel MacDonald 57-13=44, 3 and scratch Ann May 50-4=46.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday August 27, Summer Cup, CSS 64. 1 Neil Young

66-6=60, 2 Derek Harrison 85-22=63, 3 Dougie Macfarlane 66-2=64. Best Scratch Dougie Macfarlane 66. Magic twos Dougie Macfarlane, Iain Murchie and Neil Young @16th, Paul Jameson @5th, Alan Smith @5th and 16th.

Sunday August 30, Sunday Stableford, CSS 64. 1 Martin Wallbank 37pts, 2 Paul Jameson 36pts Best Scratch Paul Jameson 27pts to Stableford. No magic twos recorded.

Fixtures: Sunday September 6, Hamilton Bowl (Bogey), 9.30am and 12noon starts. Thursday September 10, Summer Cup. Sunday September 13, Jameson Cup, 9.30am and 12noon starts. Thursday September 17, Summer Cup. Sunday September 20, Scratch Cup, 9.30am and 12noon starts. Thursday September 24, Summer Cup final day. Sunday September 27, Medal Shield, 9.30am and 12noon starts.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday September 1, Stableford. 1 Brian Sherwood 39pts, 2 Phil Betley 36pts, 3 Campbell Laing 31pts.

Fixture: Tuesday, September 8, Stableford, tee-off 12.30pm.





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