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# Concerns for wild salmon after farmed fish escape

There is growing concern for Arran's population of wild salmon following the escape of thousands of genetically inferior fish which escaped from the Mowi site at Carradale North during storm Ellen.

The escapees pose such a threat to the genetic integrity of Scottish wild salmon, including those on Arran, that Fisheries Management Scotland has appealed to anglers and people in the marine industry to assist them with the monitoring and mitigation of the issue.

Some of the 48,834 fish, which Mowi has confirmed to have escaped after the farm became detached from its sea bed anchors, have been washed ashore at beaches on Arran and Carradale and some have already been caught by anglers in rivers across Loch Lomond, Ayrshire, Clyde and Argyll.

Wild salmon and farmed salmon are genetically very different to each other and while farmed salmon grow

very quickly they do not have the characteristics which produce stable wild populations.

In fact, their negative traits such as aggressiveness, body size, and lack of disease resistance, as well as susceptibility to wild predators, all erode the strength of the gene pool and threaten local populations.

Fisheries Management Scotland Aquaculture Interactions Manager, Polly Burns,

**'An escape of farmed salmon on this scale is an ecological disaster'**

said: 'Fisheries Management Scotland are working with our members to ensure everything is being done to monitor the situation and mitigate where possible. Given the risks these fish pose to the genetic integrity of Scotland's wild salmon populations, we appreciate the ongoing vigilance among the angling community. It is es-

sential that this continues and that anglers are clear about what to do should they capture such fish.

'Farmed fish are most usually distinguishable by damaged fins. If a farmed fish is caught it should be humanely killed. Importantly a sample of scales should be taken, which will allow us to confirm that the fish is of farmed origin. Detailed guidance on this process is available on the news pages of the Fisheries Management Scotland website. These salmon could show up further afield from the Clyde area so we're asking all anglers on the West Coast to be aware.

'We also need to understand any impacts this escape will have on our wild salmon through interbreeding of wild and farmed fish. Fisheries Management Scotland are working with Marine Scotland Science and Mowi to develop a genetic monitoring programme.'

Continued on page two



**Harry couldn't be happier**

An accomplished actor, despite his young age, 12-year-old Harry Gilmore is delighted to have been offered a scholarship at the prestigious Glasgow Academy of Music, Theatre and Arts, where he has spent the past year starring in a number of performances including Bussy Malone and the panto Cinderella. Full story on page three.

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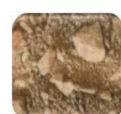
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# CalMac's winter timetable launched

CalMac has released its winter timetable which will allow ferry passengers to book for sailings from October onwards for journeys for the period Monday October 19, 2020 until Thursday March 25, 2021.

Customers are being encouraged to make reservations online, as it is expected that both the website and phone lines will be busier than usual at first and a queuing system will be used during high demand.

Robert Morrison, director of operations for CalMac, said: 'The winter timetable has been released following consultation with Transport Scotland, and we look forward to welcoming passengers on board. As Scotland is still in phase three of covid restrictions, there are slight changes to some sailings and capacity is still less than usual.

'We are encouraging passengers to plan ahead as much as possible and to wear face coverings when required to do



MV Caledonian Isles enters Brodick harbour during a winter storm. 01\_B38winter01

so, unless they are exempt.

'More information about the measures we are taking to keep staff and passengers safe can be found in our travel guidelines

on our website.' Passengers are advised to plan ahead and to book their ticket before travel, even if they are a foot passenger. People are advised

to not travel on the ferry and stay at home if they feel unwell or if anyone in their household is experiencing coronavirus symptoms.

## Thousands of farmed salmon escape

Continued from page one.

On Arran, a number of these farmed salmon have been washed ashore on both the east and west coasts and the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is increasingly alarmed about the developing situation.

A spokesperson from COAST said: 'COAST is very concerned by the events at North Carradale and resultant escape of tens of thousands of farmed fish.

'It is of no exaggeration to say that an escape of farmed salmon on this scale is an

ecological disaster; on the west coast, there are only around 20,000 Scottish wild salmon left which could face extinction as interbreeding with farmed salmon results in genetic weakness and disease.

'What is worrying is local anglers on Arran could end up catching these escapees – it is vital they do not consume them as farmed salmon, before meeting food standard levels, must complete a withdrawal phase from the chemical treatments they are exposed to; there is no way of knowing when these escapees were last



The escaped fish are easily distinguishable by the damaged fins and deformed jaws and gills.



A farmed salmon escapee that was washed up on an Arran beach.

treated by these harmful substances which can pose a risk to human health.

Farmed salmon can be identified from a wild salmon as they have stubby and damaged fins, deformed and damaged jaws and gills, and an increased incident of spots.

'COAST have been receiving reports of dead salmon washing up on Arran's shores by disgusted residents and visitors, and we urge anyone who finds a suspected farmed salmon to please call and report it to Marine Scotland

on 0131 244 1833.' The Salmon Interactions Working Group (SIWG) made several recommendations in relation to escaped farmed fish earlier this year but only once the SIWG recommendations are adopted, can the regulatory system enforce tighter restrictions and increased penalties for any escapes.

Fisheries Management Scotland is actively working with the Scottish Government to ensure these recommendations are implemented as soon as possible.

# Harry raises the curtain on his acting career with prestigious scholarship

A familiar face on the acting and drama scene on Arran, 12-year-old Harry Gilmore has been offered a career-boosting opportunity with a scholarship from Glasgow Academy of Music, Theatre and Arts (GAMTA).

The welcome news comes after just one year with the organisation, where Harry has been hard at work starring in a number of 'big stage productions' in Glasgow which involved, among others, a punishing run of nine shows in a six-day period.

Harry received the offer from Sharon Graham, principal of GAMTA, by letter – owing to the pandemic which is also the reason for the cancellation of any further pantos this year – following a meeting with tutors and relevant staff who decided to offer Harry the exciting opportunity due to his 'aptitude and dedication,' adding that they 'hope to see him go very far'.

Students at GAMTA are mentored by professionals who have experienced the world of theatre first hand; professional actors, singers, dancers, choreographers, directors and academics, who help to devel-

op and advance the skills of students, many of whom graduate to become professionals in their respective fields.



Harry Gilmore has been offered a scholarship at the Glasgow Academy of Music, Theatre and Arts after a successful run of performances last year.

Only a small number of students are recruited each year to offer personalised training

and skills development which is aimed at developing the individual and advancing their unique talents. GAMTA is the oldest and most established musical theatre training in Scotland and graduates are keenly sought after in the industry.

Harry will continue with his acting on Arran, being part of the Arran Drama Group, with Maureen Smith, where he recently played the part of Kurt Von Trapp in the Sound of Music and John Darling in Peter Pan. He also took part in the Arran Drama Festival with Jenny Tweedy.

Harry's parents Clare and Tom Gilmore, along with his brothers, nanas, grandpas, aunts, uncle and cousins and friends, were all excited to hear the good news and wished him well. Claire said: 'We couldn't be prouder of him, I was in tears when we received the news.'

Unfortunately there won't be any pantos this year due to the pandemic, but island-based actors, and those on the mainland, look forward to getting back on the stage next summer for another season of exciting productions.



Harry, left, starred in the panto production of Peter Pan last year at Lamlash Community Theatre.

## Celebrating success at Arran High School

Senior students at Arran High School are celebrating success after achieving excellent results this year.

Four S5 pupils gained five Highers at A and in S4 three were awarded six As at National 5 whilst another two were awarded five As at National 5, and gained As in Higher Music.



Milo Godwin, Mackenzie Campbell and Callum Haddow were all awarded 6 As at National 5, whilst Cerys Herapath and Freya Campbell (not pictured) were awarded 5 As at National 5 and gained As in Higher Music.

Abbie Mulholland, Naomi Provan, John McNeish and Rory Currie achieved five Highers at A.



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# Auchrannie Leisure Club opens its doors

The largest leisure facilities on Arran at the Auchrannie Spa Resort have once again opened their doors to members of the public.

Returning to business as usual, albeit with a number of restrictions to comply with Government guidelines and social distancing measures, the pools, fitness suite and games hall all reopened on Monday.

The Playbarn, however, remains shut.

Among the many changes to protect patrons and staff are that all facilities need to be booked prior to visiting by telephoning 01770 302234.

Face coverings are mandatory and two-metre social distancing will also be required.

Use of the facilities has also been reduced to 45 minute sessions and while showers and toilets will be available, personal equipment such as arm bands, gym mats and googles cannot be provided.

The membership programme has also been suspended, although it is hoped to reinstate this soon, and until then everyone will pay the same entrance charges.

Those who were members when the facilities closed will continue to enjoy membership benefits.

Opening hours along with charges and changes to the facilities are all available on the Auchrannie website at <http://www.auchrannie.co.uk/>



The Auchrannie Spa Resort has reopened with strict safety measures to protect the public.

## Disappointment for WASPI women

Women against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) were once again left disappointed with the unsuccessful High Court Judicial Review earlier this week.

Despite this setback WASPI has confirmed that it will continue to campaign for what it believes is achievable and affordable – compensation for women who have been unfairly disadvantaged with a rapid increase to their State Pension age (SPA).

A spokesperson from WASPI said: 'WASPI is not opposed to the equalisation of the SPA with men but it was done without adequate notice, leaving no time to make alternative arrangements.'

'Women were informed directly some 14 years after the SPA was first changed, many only given 18 months notice of up to a six-year increase, many others were not informed at all.'

'This left their retirement plans shattered.'

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman is currently considering six sample cases of maladministration out of the thousands of complaints made to the DWP by WASPI women.

## Club draw winner – September 2020

The winner of the Brodick improvements Committee 200 Club draw for September is Ian MacLeod from Brodick, who wins the £50 monthly prize.

# Endoscopy services to be restarted within months

Routine endoscopy appointments which were cancelled owing to the coronavirus pandemic are due to be restarted with patients receiving appointments over the following few months.

These appointments, including colonoscopy, will now start to be scheduled but with a number of processes in place to ensure the safety of patients and staff.

Dr Crawford McGuffie, medical director NHS Ayrshire and Arran, said: 'While we have now restarted endoscopy services, we have had to look at how we deliver those services. This is not only to ensure patients get the

treatment they need, but also to ensure that staff and patients are safe.

'Those attending for an appointment will see that we have a reduced number of rooms and recovery space available, and we can't see as many patients every day. So, we are currently focusing on the most urgent cases first.'

'If you were referred urgently, you can expect to be contacted within the next three months. Your appointment might be at a different hospital than where you were expecting to attend. If yours is a routine referral, you may need to wait a little longer.'

A new requirement to attend an appointment will be a Covid-19 test.

This will be arranged and may also require self-isolation for a period of time. If anyone requires a fit note for work to confirm this, they can contact the endoscopy office on receipt of an appointment letter.

If anyone is unable to attend an appointment, they should contact the office to let it know so that staff can allocate the appointment to another patient.

### Don't be late

Advice is to attend as close to an appointment time as possible – don't be late, but also don't arrive early. If anyone has a relative or friend accompanying them, they will not be able to

wait in the hospital, but when ready to go home the department will call them, and take patients to the exit to meet them.

Dr McGuffie added: 'We will have infection control measures in place, including physically distanced waiting areas, staff in personal protective equipment and hand washing facilities. We will also check your temperature before your appointment. And don't forget to wear a face covering or mask to your appointment.'

A series of information leaflets and short videos are available. Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/healthcare/caring-for-ayrshire/endoscopy/> to find out more.

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# Arran Sound secures rights to broadcast Captain Bobo series

In a coup for Arran's first community radio station, Arran Sound has been awarded the rights to broadcast a popular 10-part radio series of the Captain Bobo children's books.

The books, written by RD Dijkstra and Kay Hutchison, with illustrations by Matt Rowe, are inspired by the PS Waverley and tales told by Kay's father, Captain Robin 'Hurricane Hutch' Hutchison, who was one of the youngest captains to serve on the Firth of Clyde where he worked for more than 40 years.

Mhairi-Aileen Smeir, chairwoman of Arran Sound, said: 'This is great news for

Arransound.com and all our listeners. We are so delighted to be able to bring this to Arran, especially with the Waverley being so topical and it is a good news Arran story for the Waverley too.

### Very familiar

'If you listen carefully, there is an island in the story that sounds very much like Arran and I am sure some of the characters may be very familiar to Arranites too.'

The Captain Bobo series has been produced in both English and Gaelic and Arran Sound will initially broadcast the English version narrated by Largs born actor John Sessions. The Book and Card Centre

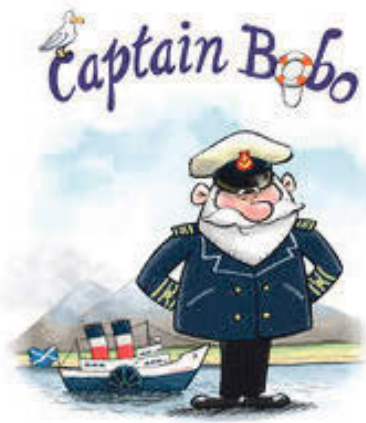
in Brodick will also be stocking the books. Author Kay Hutchison said: 'This is an exciting time for us. We are really looking forward to being able to share Captain Bobo's stories with a wider audience.'

'We are particularly pleased to be producing a Gaelic version as many of the crew my father sailed with were from the Western Isles. I know he would be delighted we are able to honour them in this way.'

The first episode of the Captain Bobo series will be broadcast at 3.30pm on Thursday September 24 at Arransound.com with a new episode every week until Thursday November 26.

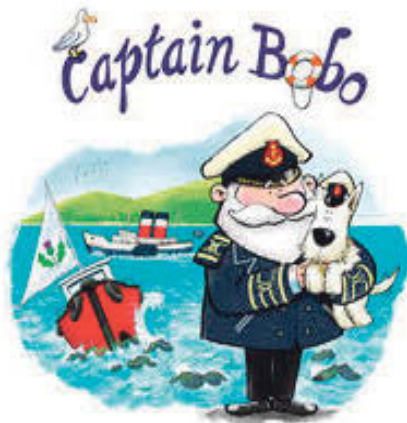


Author Kay Hutchison with her father Captain Robin 'Hurricane Hutch' Hutchison, who was the inspiration for the Captain Bobo books.



### Bananas!

The first episode is called Bananas and it tells the story of the ship taking on a new role when a missing elephant turns up out of the blue.



### On The Rocks

The second episode is called On the Rocks - a race to the pier ends up with a ship on the rocks.

## Arran MP petitions parliament to abolish the House of Lords

North Ayrshire and Arran MP Patricia Gibson, has lodged a parliamentary petition in the House of Commons calling for the abolition of the House of Lords.

The move follows the recent creation of 36 new life peers, drawn primarily from the ranks of political party donors, former MPs and MSPs, increasing the size of the legislature to nearly 800 members, despite the UK Government's commitment to reducing its numbers.

The House of Lords is the second largest parliamentary chamber in the world after China, and - with 26 Anglican Bishops as members - one of only two with reserved places for members of the clergy, along with Iran.

Mrs Gibson said: 'This is an archaic, unelected institution which is accountable to no one and yet it wields huge influence over how our laws

are made. Stuffed full of retired politicians, cronies, party donors, bishops and aristocrats, it is appalling that any modern country retains such overt patronage, symbolising the UK establishment's absurd institutions.'

### Tax-free allowance

'Too many Lords are inactive, yet receive £323 a day attendance allowance tax-free, even if they do not participate in any deliberations. To put that in perspective, a single person over 25 on Universal Credit can claim only £317.82 per month.'

'The most important aspect of a democracy is accountability - the ability to remove people from positions of power - yet voters cannot remove peers, pick its members or influence its decisions. There is no place in a modern democracy for such an institution.'

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## LETTERS

Write to us: send  
or The Editor, Arran**Lurking danger**

At the time of going to press, Arran remains Covid free since April. This is largely due to people taking responsibility for themselves and others, being aware of the dangers and exercising safety measures.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for another outbreak, that of the thousands of fish that have escaped from the Mowi site at Carradale North. Once again, escaped farmed salmon have been allowed into the wild population and the consequences, while not plain to immediately see, will have a devastating impact on the gene pool of wild salmon and the long-term survival of the species in our waters.

Environmentalists and those who are aware of the dangers have warned about this for decades, yet here we are with an underwater ecological disaster slowly taking place, out of sight and out of mind for many.

While countries like Denmark have recognised the dangers of open pen fish farming at sea – akin to raising wolves in a pen of sheep with only a thin barrier between them – Scotland has been slow in curbing the expansion of the industry and imposing strict regulations.

For those who watched David Attenborough's recent Extinction documentary, an insightful and stark warning about what the future holds for our planet and wildlife, the urgency of the situation will be apparent.

Immense damage has already been done and it is high time the polluters and those who damage our environment and ecosystems are held accountable for their actions.

**Thought for the week**

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

John 15:13

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**Beckford silver**

Sir,

Just to say I am extremely pleased to read in your excellent article (Banner, September 11) that new temporary interpretation material has already been installed in the castle and no less pleased to hear the NTS admitting it has fallen short in its relating of stories of slavery and colonialism up until now and that it will be working hard to rectify the situation with its Facing the Past project.

I am glad to have contributed to this change and I was strengthened by the letters – all of them – which widened the debate and thereby drew attention to the issue and I was heartened by the people who let me know I had their support.

Still, many rivers to cross, of course, and if I might have a last word: it is essential that we look together at the facts of the past and understand how they often relate to present injustice. The understanding will spur the actions which will move us towards a more equitable future.

Yours,

Cicely Gill  
Whiting Bay

**Battle of Britain**

Sir,

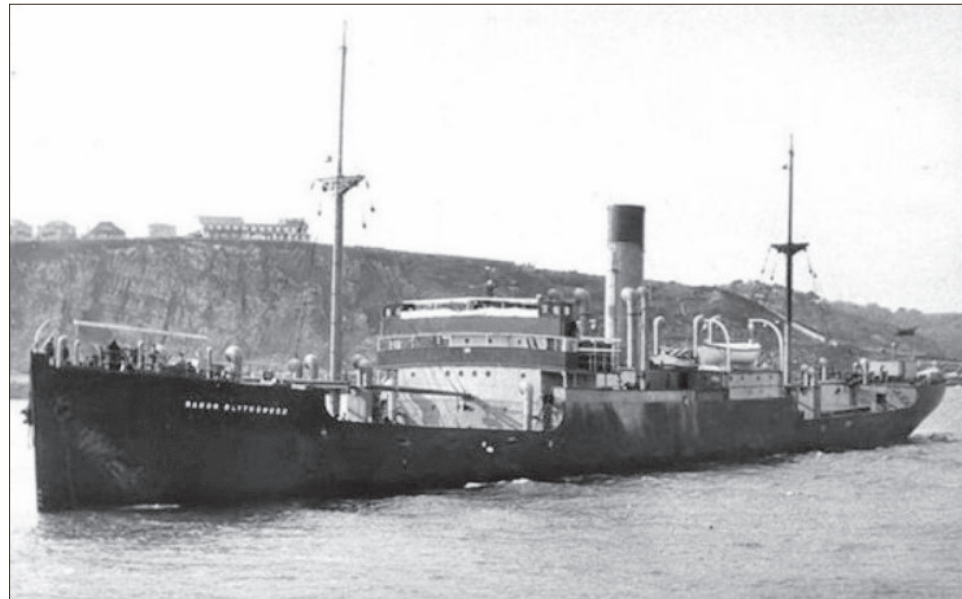
To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Britain last week, the RAF Benevolent Fund is working to highlight the role of the many who each played a critical part in securing victory.

Many of them lived and worked in Scotland, home to not just airfields but also other critical installations such as radar. Others in the region may recall seeing the dogfights in the skies during that summer of 1940.

To pay tribute to all those who worked towards victory, we created a poignant light show projected onto two radar sites with images of a range of RAF personnel from air crew to radar operators. These help to remind us of the many who supported the few, not just during the Second World War, but right up to the present day.

The RAF Benevolent Fund is there for the many – anyone who has EVER served in the RAF. We have a duty to support them in their time of need. We all have a last chance to do our duty, just as they did theirs, by giving them and their families the support they deserve.

In 2019, the RAF Benevolent Fund spent more than £400,000 supporting 196 beneficiaries in



SS Baron Blythswood.

Scotland – but we know there are thousands more veterans out there in need of assistance.

Given the important role the RAF has played in the recent heritage of the region, we ask your readers to think if they know of any RAF veterans or their partners who may be in need of our support, particularly during this difficult time. We can help them in so many ways.

To find out more or let us know of someone we might be able to help, please visit [www.rafbf.org](http://www.rafbf.org).

Yours,  
Air Vice Marshall Chris Elliot  
RAF Benevolent Fund

**Frightful behaviour**

Sir,

Blue Cross is horrified about the latest social media craze where pet owners are sharing videos and images of themselves getting up close to their pet and surprising them when they are asleep or removing their food when eating.

Using hashtags like '#invadeyourdogspersonalspace' and '#invadeyourpetspace' there have been more than half a million views of these posts so far.

Examples we've seen include making loud noises next to sleeping pets to film how they react, getting into a pet's bed when they are sleeping and waking them suddenly when face to face. While we are sure the intent is innocent fun, it is vital pet owners understand that this is

a potentially dangerous activity and extremely traumatic and stressful for most pets who may go on to develop serious behaviour problems.

Yours,

Claire Stallard, Animal Behaviourist  
Blue Cross

**Unsung heros**

Sir,

In these days of remembrance of the heroic events 80 years ago in the skies above southern England, we should also remember the sacrifice made at the same time by the merchant seamen bringing essential supplies across the Atlantic due to u-boat attack.

A case in point is the SS Baron Blythswood, a bulk carrier whose home port was Ardrrossan. It was travelling in a convoy and was carrying a cargo of 5,450 tons of iron ore to Port Talbot.

At 4am on September 21, 1940 it was struck amid ships by a single torpedo from a u-boat (u-99) and within 40 seconds had disappeared below the waves.

The torpedo punctured the buoyant area between the cargo holds whose heavy contents quickly took it to the bottom. The complete crew of 35 was lost including the chief officer, William Simpson Ure, husband to Johana Ure of Largs and Arran, and the chief engineer, John Niven of Kilmarnock.

Two other ships were struck in the same

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attack: the MV Invershannon and MV Elmbank. These ships did not sink but were crippled and the crews took to the lifeboats. Later in the day the u-boat returned to sink the floating hulks.

On the way the u-99 came across a survivor standing on a raft, dressed only in underwear and holding an oar with a white garment flying from it. He was picked up and revived over a few hours. As the u-boat crew were wearing boiler suits and spoke only English to him, he mistakenly believed he had been rescued by the Royal Navy. He spoke disparagingly about the u-boat that had sunk his ship. He was the sole survivor of the Baron Blythswood.

After sinking the disabled ships, the u-boat came alongside the three lifeboats from the Invershannon. The rescued man was transferred to one of these. This was the point when he realised who his rescuers were. The u-boat commander gave the lifeboats supplies and a course to follow to get to the Irish coast some 600 miles distant.

Two of the lifeboats did make it to safety but due to a storm the third, containing 16 men, was lost. The rescued man from the Baron Blythswood was on this boat and his identity has never been determined,

Yours,  
**Ian A Brown**  
Blairgowrie

### Carers survey

Sir  
It is estimated that there could now be as many as 1.1 million people in Scotland caring unpaid for a loved one who is older, disabled, or seriously ill during the Coronavirus pandemic.

We know that it has been an especially difficult time for family carers, with the majority having to provide more care during the pandemic – on average 10 additional hours a week. With many face-to-face day services still closed or limited because of Covid, some families are caring round the clock without a break.

It's thanks to carers telling Carers Scotland about their personal experiences that we are able to explain to politicians and policy makers the challenges they are facing six months on from the Coronavirus outbreak, as we head into winter.

By filling in our survey Caring Behind Closed Doors: six months on (on the Carers UK website) unpaid carers in Scotland can help inform the UK's most comprehensive study into experiences of looking after a loved one during the Coronavirus crisis.

With a Scottish Government plan for social care reform currently in the making, it has never been more important for unpaid carers to share their experiences.

Fill in the survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CJ89NCH>

Yours,  
**Simon Hodgson**  
Director, Carers Scotland

### Cautionary tale

Sir,  
It would appear that islanders are being penalised by some internet providers in addition to online retailers. According to a recent exchange with Plusnet, Arran does not have 'low cost' telephone exchanges (so much for a level playing field).

In this instance the quoted price was £30.49pm for the island compared with £22.95pm on the mainland, a hike of 23 per cent. I have yet to come across other providers that discriminate in this manner so the message is clear – shop around, check, try inputting different postcodes before you sign up!

Yours,  
**Ken Campbell**  
Renfrewshire

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
email us at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

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## PRESSPOLICY

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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](mailto: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](mailto:inquiries@ipso.co.uk).

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All that time spent. All those efforts made. All those tears shed. Let's not go backwards. The more we stick to the coronavirus guidance now, the sooner we can move forwards, as one, to better days.

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# Plant highlights at Brodi

As we enter the final weeks of the summer season there is still plenty of colour to see in and around the walled garden at Brodick Castle. Here gardens and designed landscape manager Tim Keyworth gives his five highlight plants for September.

## Anigozanthos manglesii

The Kangaroos paw is a terrific plant for showcasing the rare climate that the gardens at Brodick Castle enjoy. Native to Western Australia, it is frost

tender but survived the winter in the walled garden having been planted in 2019. A frost is a rare occurrence in the gardens here and we are one of the warmest gardens in Scotland. The rain and wind being our biggest challenge.

Back to the Kangaroo paw,



Dahlia 'Mexican Star'.



Kangaroo paw.



Eucomis autumnalis.



Hydrangea quercifolia.

the red and green flower is exquisite. The tall stems are so that they can be easily pollinated by birds. This plant can be seen in the south facing border near the top entrance to the walled garden.

## Eucomis autumnalis

The pineapple lily is currently thriving in the borders leading down to the sundial space

in the walled garden. This tender bulb is easy to grow and survives quite happily through the winter here given a mulch to protect it from the worst of the winter wet.

It is the unusual flower which

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# ck Castle this September

gives the bulb its common name. Being from South Africa it prefers a sunny, well drained position where possible. Adored by the bees these plants are certainly a buzz at the moment.

## Dahlia 'Mexican Star'

This is by far one of the most elegant flowers on display in the gardens just now. It is a hybrid cross with Chocolate Cosmos so boasts a faint smell of chocolate – what more could you ask for? The single maroon flowers work well in the summer border and can also be used for cut flowers. We will be lifting these in the coming months to protect from the worst of the winter wet. You will find the Mexican Dahlia in the borders that lead from the sundial space.

## Brassica oleracea var capitata Frubra

More commonly known as red cabbage – it is a bit of a wild card inclusion in to this month's highlight plants, but it fully deserves its place in the top five.

Brassicas are very useful architectural plants for use in summer bedding displays and ours can be seen flourishing around the outside of the sundial space in the walled garden. The bright red leaves

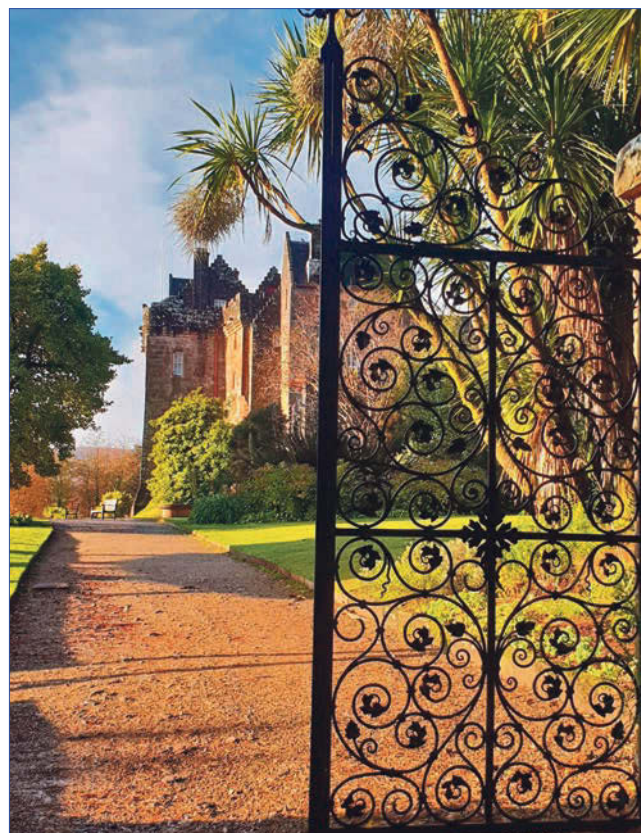
provide a nice contrast to the plants nearby and they have escaped being attacked by the caterpillars.

Using vegetables to form a display in the walled garden is also a nod to the past and the gardens' history.

The upper walled garden was originally built as a productive garden in 1710 and remained this way up until the marriage of Princess Marie of Baden to the 11th Duke of Hamilton in 1843. It will be lovely to grow more of an ornamental vegetable display in part of this space in the future but for now our focus is very much maintenance and growing the rare and unusual in the walled garden.



Red cabbage.



Brodick Castle.

## Hydrangea quercifolia

The oak leaved Hydrangea, is well worth growing for the unusual leaf alone. Originating

from the United States it boasts white flowers during August and September that then give way to stunning Autumn colour as the leaves change from green to shades of red and purple.

It can be seen growing around the outside of the walled garden not far from the main gate and next to the bananas.

The gardens, grounds and adventure playground are now

open seven days a week from 10am to 5pm. Please check the National Trust for Scotland website before visiting.

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
emaileditor@arranbanner.co.uk

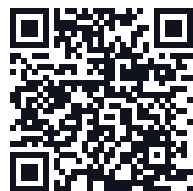
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By downloading the app **today**, we can all help protect ourselves, our families and Scotland against coronavirus.

To find out more about the app visit [protect.scot](https://protect.scot)



Download the free **Protect Scotland** app today



#WeAreScotland

# Beekeeping talk stung by Covid restrictions

A much anticipated talk on beekeeping which was scheduled for next week has had to be cancelled owing to new gov't Covid-19 restrictions.

The talk by bee expert, Bill Anderson, still went ahead via a live Zoom link and was based on his recently published book, 'The Idle Beekeeper: The Low Effort, Natural Way to Raise Bees.'

Bill, who lives in Aberdeen, has a long history linking him to Arran through his wife's family and has filmed here (Sword of Honour with Daniel Craig) for his day job.

The online Zoom talk was very useful for the many beekeepers on Arran, and those aspiring beekeepers, and covered the principals and practice of natural beekeeping.

Bill's book on beekeeping has been well received with professor Thomas Seeley of Cornell University saying: 'The Idle Beekeeper is a beautifully written and wonderfully informative book on how to



**Beekeeper and author Bill Anderson hosted an online talk on beekeeping owing to the cancellation of his live talk which was meant to take place at Corrie and Sannox Hall.**

be a hobby beekeeper who is deeply respectful of his or her bees. Bill Anderson describes in detail how he succeeds as a hive keeper, not a beekeeper, for he knows that the bees keep

themselves far better than he would ever do.'

Bill's book is available at Amazon and other book retailers and is also available in digital formats.

# Watch out for 'DVLA' phishing scam



People on Arran are being bombarded with telephonic and electronic scams of all types on a daily basis but one Banner reader recently received a realistic looking phishing email which he thought might be worth sharing with others in the hope of protecting them from falling prey to fraudsters.

## Purporting

Alastair Bilsland of Brodick received an email, purporting to be from the DVLA, stating that his car vehicle tax renewal had failed and that he had to make a payment by following a link provided in the email.

The email appeared legitimate with GOV.UK headers and applicable reference numbers, including a threat that there would be a penalty if the vehicle

was not taxed, along with a penalty for late payment.

Alastair Bilsland warned others to be on the lookout for this particular scam, saying: 'I have no doubt it is a scam but I wondered whether it would be worth letting other readers be aware of this. It is a new one for me.'

The email said: 'DVLA have been notified electronically about your latest payment for your vehicle tax. It failed because there is not enough money on your debit card. Your vehicle is no longer taxed.'

'We have generated a new invoice, and we suggest you use a credit card instead of a debit, to avoid any other consequences that might appear in case as lack of funds.'

'You must tax this vehicle before it is driven on the road, tax now (link provided). It's illegal to drive your

vehicle until you've taxed it. You will be fined £80 if you do not tax your vehicle or tell DVLA that it's off the road. You'll also have to pay for the time it was not taxed.'

## Fraudulent

Phishing is defined as the fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce people to reveal personal information, passwords and credit card numbers or to trick people into parting with their money.

Details on how to avoid falling prey to fraudsters can be found on the website of the National Cyber Security Centre at <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/> which helps internet users to recognise scams, how to avoid them and where to report them.

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# Flamingo study will help shape sick children services



A multi-disciplinary team including nursing, paediatric and GP colleagues from the Universities of Aberdeen, Stirling and Edinburgh Napier are taking part in a FLAMINGO (flow of hospital admissions in children and young people) study to help shape sick children's services.

This Scotland-wide project seeks to get a fuller understanding of parents' and carers' experience when a sick child requires a short admission to hospital. The research team is keen to hear the experiences of parents and carers in Ayrshire and Arran.

Parents and carers of children who have had a short, unplanned stay in hospital within the last five years are being asked to help share their experiences and provide information to shape the future of sick children's services across Scotland.

Dr Christine Findlay, a consult-

ant paediatrician at University Hospital Crosshouse, Kilmarnock explained that researchers are interested in speaking to parents or carers whose child has had an urgent or unplanned admission due to illness (not accidents or broken bones) and has stayed in hospital for less than 24 hours.

Dr Findlay said: 'These are confusing and worrying times for parents of young children, who can be uncertain about the best thing to do if their child becomes sick.'

'The NHS is continuing to see children as normal and parents are advised to seek help as they usually would if worried about their child.'

'Covid-19 has increased family anxieties and is changing the way we all respond to symptoms of illness. We're asking families and healthcare workers, when this pandemic has passed, 'what

would you like services for sick kids to look like?'

'We are keen to involve the public and NHS staff to help improve how we deliver services, so that children in Scotland get the right care at the right time, and the best possible start for their future health.'

In addition to interviewing parents and carers the study is also keen to learn from the experiences of healthcare workers involved in providing short-stay emergency care for children and young people. Anyone who is a parent or a professional working with sick kids, can have their say in shaping future services in Scotland.

Parents or NHS staff who are interested in taking part and talking to a researcher can contact Emma King ([emma.king@stir.ac.uk](mailto:emma.king@stir.ac.uk)) or Steve Turner ([s.w.turner@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:s.w.turner@abdn.ac.uk)).

## Charity warns of Test and Protect scams

Age Scotland has issued a warning for older people to be on the look out for Test and Protect scams after reports of fraudsters conning older people into paying for tests or handing over financial details.

The warning comes after cold callers, posing as contact tracers, have attempted to cash in on the crisis by telling people they need to pay for a Covid-19 test and to divulge their bank details and other personal information on the phone.

Brian Sloan, Age Scotland's chief executive, said: 'It's absolutely disgusting that anyone would try to use the Test and Protect scheme to exploit people and con them out of their money.'

'Genuine contact tracers will never ask for payment or any financial or confidential details. If you have any concerns, you can always hang up and call back on the official number (0800 030 8012), ideally from another phone or after waiting to make sure the line is clear.'

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# Residents urged to download the Protect Scotland app

The Scottish Government, along with NHS Scotland and a number of public figures, have joined the chorus of organisations and people urging members of the public to download the Protect Scotland app to suppress the spread of Covid-19.

The Protect Scotland app from NHS Scotland's Test and Protect is a free, mobile phone app designed to help reduce the spread of coronavirus and avoid further lockdowns by employing electronic tracing measures.

The app is designed to alert users if they have been in close contact with another app user who has tested positive for coronavirus and it can help to determine contacts while keeping all personal details private and anonymous.

Once downloaded, the app works in the background, using Bluetooth technology to

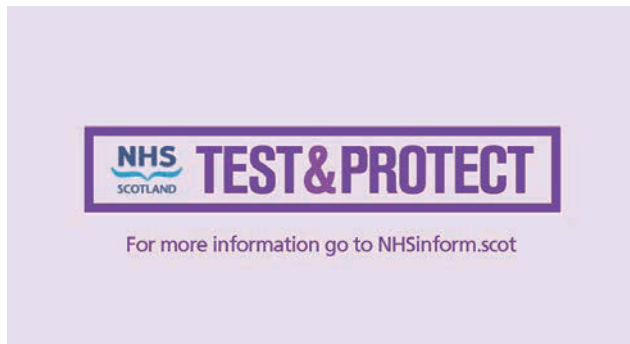
alert people if they have been within two metres – for at least 15 minutes – with another app user who has tested positive for coronavirus.

It also quickly alerts app users that have been in close contact if another tests positive, even if those contacts are unknown to them.

People's privacy will be protected, as the app uses encrypted and anonymised codes to determine close contacts, which are deleted after 14 days. It doesn't store details on an individual, or their location.

Using this technology, the app will alert people to self-isolate far quicker if they are exposed to the virus, reducing the risk of them infecting others – and the more people who use the app, the better it will work.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson has also urged islanders to download the new



Protect Scotland app, saying: 'The Scottish Government has launched the Protect Scotland proximity tracing app to help stop the spread of Covid-19 and complement the person-to-person approach of Test and Protect.'

'The app – which takes less than a minute to download – will allow us to alert people at risk far more quickly, so we can take steps to reduce the risk of infecting others.'

'Scotland's official contact tracing app will help us all to protect ourselves, family, friends and community by enabling faster contact tracing.'

'The more people who have the app, the more it will assist in slowing the spread of Coronavirus. That's why I'm urging everyone to download the app; so we can all do our bit to protect the people of Arran and Scotland.'

Health Secretary Jeane

Freeman said: 'What each one of us does in how we behave – wearing face covering, washing our hands and cleaning surfaces, staying two metres apart and avoiding crowded places – all of that really matters in our joint goal of suppressing this virus.'

'The launch of the Protect Scotland app offers an additional level of protection, supporting NHS Scotland's Test and Protect system to continue to drive down the spread of Covid-19 across the country.'

'I would encourage everyone to download the free app if they have a compatible smartphone, and help slow the spread of Covid-19. This will support the work of NHS Scotland and has the potential to help avoid local lockdowns.'

'The app will enhance, not replace the work of our team of contact tracers by adding an additional means of notifying

people who may have been exposed to the virus and require to self-isolate.'

'Users of the app who test positive will still get a call from a contact tracer to confirm their details and who they have been in close contact with. The app will, however, allow contacts unknown to the positive individual to be traced – for example fellow passengers on a train or bus.'

'We also know that not everyone uses a mobile phone or will be able to access the app, which is why this software is very much there to complement existing contact tracing methods.'

In the first 24 hours after launching last week on Wednesday September 9, the app was downloaded more than 300,000 times. The app is available at <https://protect.scot/> for both Apple and Android mobile devices.

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Source: YouGov 2018

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday September 23, 2000



## Work experience

Arran High School pupils have been out on work experience this week. Here we see Lynsey Stewart from Shiskine, who has been at Brodick playgroup learning how to work and deal with young children and Joseph Stewart, also from Shiskine, who spent his week with the Royal Mail.

Meanwhile Ashley Devlin from Whiting Bay spent her week at the opticians in Brodick, and is seen with receptionist Margaret McKay, while Becky Jones from Kildonan spent her week at the Banner and is seen drawing the competition winners for the Ideal Homes Show in Glasgow. 01\_B38tweY01, 01\_B38tweY02, 01\_B38tweY03, 01\_B38tweY04



The Lamlash tennis champions 2000. Back row: Jimmy Stewart and Campbell Seaton. Front row: Sally Brookes, Jane Boyle, Isabelle McClure and Tania Merand. 01\_B38tweY05



Retiring after a total of 60 years toiling at hot stoves in the school kitchens are Jean McCormack and Ann Miller from Lamlash and May Hamilton, who worked at Kilmory. They were presented with bouquets by two North Ayrshire Council catering managers seen behind them. 01\_B38tweY06

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Comments should be made online at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) by 09.10.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1) 20/00778/PP; Altgolach Farm, Pirnmill, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Erection of detached cottage.

Craig Hatton  
Chief Executive  
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11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

## DRIVE TIMES

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80400 miles.  
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If you are thinking of selling your home, please contact our Estate Agency Team for more information or to arrange a no obligation Valuation on Tel: 01770 302027

ARRAN OFFICE ADDRESS: Unit 2, Douglas Centre, Brodick, KA27 8AJ

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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](http://www.brodickchurch.org) or [www.stmoliosshiskine.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 20th September  
Trinity 16**

11.00: Eucharist  
We are pleased to welcome  
Rev'd Paul Fletcher  
*ALL WELCOME*

## WHAT'S ON

### EVERY DAY

Eco Savvy and Co-op food share at Big Co, Brodick and Lamlash 8.15pm

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

# Delayed championship final goes ahead at Lamlash Golf Club

The 36-hole championship for 2020 between Iain Murchie and Paul Cowan was delayed from July due to the Covid-19 pandemic but was played on Saturday September 12 at 10.30am and 4pm to accommodate a charity event.

The first 18 was played in dry conditions, with the course rather wet underfoot, in parts, due to the constant rain of the previous day. The first 18 also produced the best golf from both players. Apart from a couple of concessions, Paul lost a ball at the fourth and Iain one at the sixth due to a plugged ball, which could not be found. Otherwise it was a game which remained level through 17 holes with the 18th going to Paul's birdie after Iain's approach ended through the green by the old teeing area. Best ball for the 18 being 64 - 35 out and 29 in.

Forecast for the evening was not good, rain started just before 4pm and became worse as the match continued.

Paul had a one-hole advantage, which soon changed to a three-hole deficit by the fifth. The conditions seemed to affect Paul, but Iain produced steady golf including a birdie two at the fourth. The next two were halved in pars, Paul won the eighth in par and the next four holes were halved - good golf in trying conditions.

Paul won the 13th to reduce his deficit to one after Iain went out of bounds, then at the 14th Paul gave it back by also going out of bounds. At 15 Paul had an excellent birdie, again reducing his deficit to one. The 16th was halved in bogeys following some entertainment for the number of spectators who turned out in the heavy rain to watch the final holes.

The match ended at the 17th when Iain holed a longish putt for his par three. Best ball for the 17 holes completed being 62 - 35 out and 27 in. This records two finals for Paul and Iain's fourth win, including 2009, 2011 and 2013.



Paul Cowan congratulates championship final winner Iain Murchie on his fine performance.



### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday September 13 - The Hamilton Salver. A total of 12 played and endured a blustery morning and a course very wet underfoot.

Thankfully the rain stayed away but even so Kevin Jackson's winning score of 38 points was quite an achievement standing the conditions: 1 Kevin Jackson 8, 38pts; 2 John Pennycott 13, 36; 3 Douglas Auld 18, 34; 4 Gus Macleod 13, 33. CSS stayed at 63/36pts and there were no magic twos recorded.

Fixtures: Sunday September 20, The Richard Parfitt Stableford. Wednesday September 23, The Bannatyne Cup. Until further notice there will be no draws for partners and members should arrange their own groupings.

### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday September 9, Summer Cup, 31 played, CSS 64. Chris Pattenden 78-17=61; Finlay Sillars 74-12=62 ACB; Gordon Hendy 68-6=62. Scratch, Gordon Hendy 68. Summer Cup final results

(best five rounds), Finlay Sillars 310, Gordon Hendy, Greg McCrae and Babbies MacNeil 315. Scratch Jug, Ewan McKinnon 319, Greg McCrae 340, Gordon Hendy 342. Summer Eclectic, Ewan McKinnon and Greg McCrae 48, Iain MacDonald 50. Jinty Trophy (number of twos), Ewan McKinnon 10, Greg McCrae 9, Gordon Hendy 7.

Thursday September 10, McLelland Medal final, Graham Dobson beat George Hamilton.

Sunday September 13, Brandon Cup final, winner, Gordon Hendy. Sweep, 22 played, CSS 67, Alistair Hume 78-12=66, David Hendy 82-15=67, Gordon Hendy 74-6=68. Scratch, Gordon Hendy 74.

Fixtures: Saturday September 19, Mixed Texas Scramble, arrange own games. Sunday September 20, Sweep.

### Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday September 10, Summer Cup, CSS 64. 1 Serge El Adm 68-12=56; 2 Paul Jameson 73-11=62; 3 Iain Murchie 69-6=63. Best scratch, Serge El Adm 68. Magic twos, Douglas Macfarlane, Scott Campbell, Stuart Campbell both at fifth, Norrie MacIntyre at 16th. Hole 16 drawn, Norrie MacIntyre winner.

Sunday September 13, Jamieson Cup, CSS 66. 1 Graeme Andrew 76-10=66; 2 Ian Bremner 77-8=69. Best

scratch, Graeme Andrew 76. No magic twos recorded.

Fixtures: Sunday September 20, Scratch Cup, 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday September 24, Summer Cup final day. Sunday September 27, Medal Shield and final day of Eclectic Cup, 9.30am and noon starts.

### Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday September 10, Ladies' 18-hole medal. Silver: 1 Liz Kerr 83-16=67; 2 Alice Anderson 85-17=68. Bronze: 1 Sally Brookes 97-22=75; 2 Esther Henderson 103-26=77. Scratch, Ann May 76.

Sunday September 13, Gents' Sunday Stableford. 1 Black Stewart 30pts; 2 Q Oliver 28pts; 3 W McNally 26pts. Magic twos, W McNally, A Leek, J Faulkner, S Black.

### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday September 8, Stableford from the yellow tees. 1 Alexander Morrison-Cowan 35, 2 Brian Sherwood 34, 3 Campbell Laing 31.

Tuesday September 15, 1 William Kelso and Alex Morrison-Cowan 34pts, 3 Reuben Betley 31. Magic twos, Willie Kelso.

Fixtures: Tuesday September 22, Stableford Medal, tee off 12.30pm.

### Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday September 26, Captain's Prize. Arrange own games and notify the club

as per current Covid rules.

Members are also invited to bring along 'a little something' to sponsor a hole of their choice.

Let's have a good turnout to celebrate Peter's final year in office.

Prize giving circa 4.30pm.



Kevin Jackson with the Hamilton Salver which he won in challenging weather conditions.

## PERSONALS



Ian and Nancy MacLeod express their thanks to all who sent cards and good wishes after Ian's operation. He is recovering well.



Betty Bunyan would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for the lovely cards and gifts received on the occasion of her birthday.

Sorry I can't thank everyone individually but they were very much appreciated.

# Rory keeps fighting fit for the world championships

World champion sailor Rory Hunter from Lamlash has been spending some time at home during the pandemic but he has not been sitting idle and has continued with his punishing training regime to keep in world champion form.

Having won the 2019 International WASPZ Games in Perth Australia last January and also lifting the U21 title at the same time, Rory is in training for the WASPZ class UK national competition early next year and will be fighting to retain his title in the world championships in August next year.

The Banner caught up with Rory during his time back on

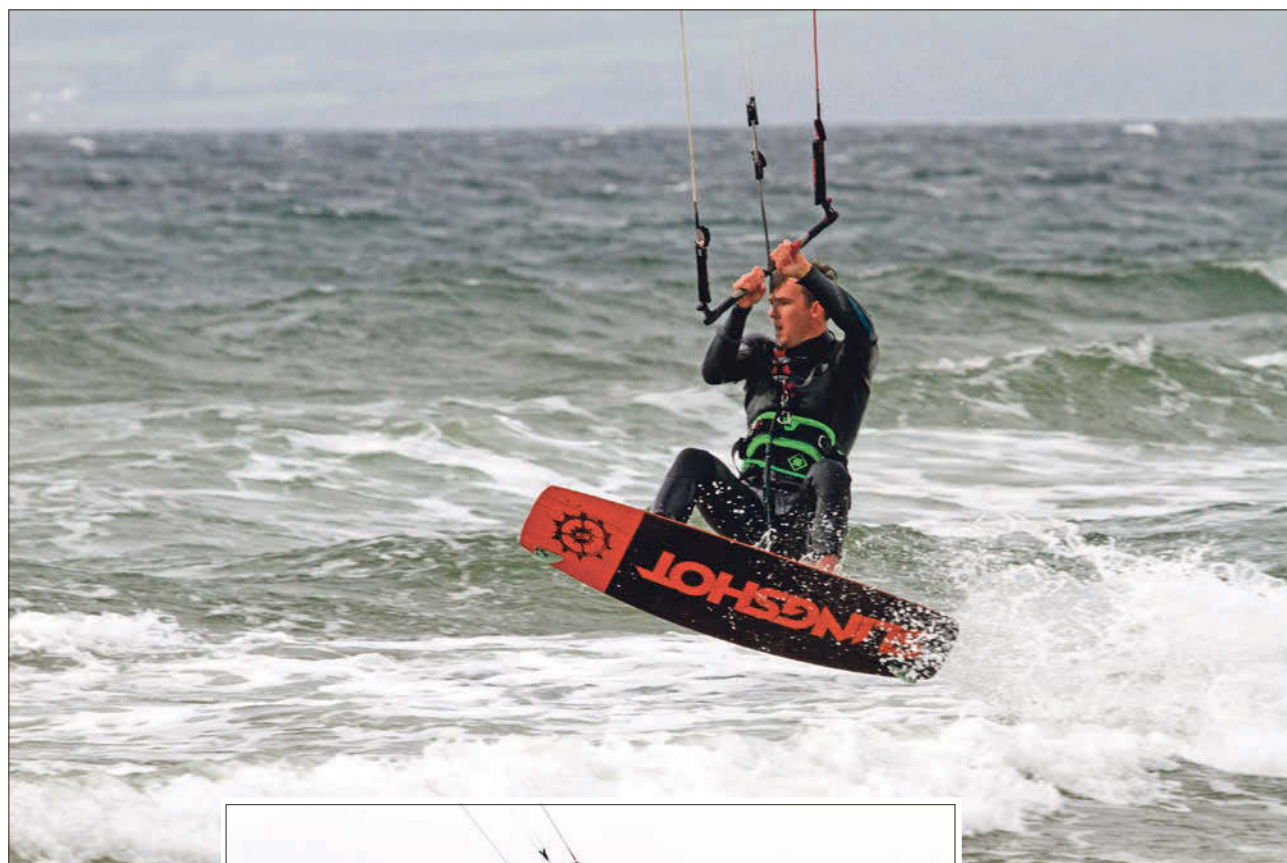
Arran and learned that despite gyms being closed Rory has managed to keep up his fitness levels with recreational and more professional sailing as well as working out in his gym in his garden and running up and down the hills on Arran.

Other than the WASPZ competitions Rory is currently working on his next big challenge and is looking for a sponsor for his 2024 Olympic campaign where he hopes to compete in the NACRA 17 class which is a two-person performance catamaran boat which, like the WASPZ class, also utilises hydrofoils.

*Photographs:  
Stephen Garraway*



The world champion sailor prepares to use the waves as a ramp.



Rory gains air in this one-handed manoeuvre.



Rory enjoys some kitesurfing in Blackwaterfoot.





## LAMLASH GARAGE



**SERVICE & MOT APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE**

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For fast, efficient, friendly service - contact our reception on: 01770 600328  
Strict COVID-19 operating rules apply. Garage office closed to the public. Card payments by phone only



 Lamlash Garage