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Tributes flood in for Tony - a popular Arran footballer

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Tributes have been pouring in for Tony McDowall, who tragically passed away while on holiday in Istanbul, Turkey.

The sad news that 28-year-old Tony fell to his death from a hotel balcony while on holiday with his friends has had a profound impact on all those that knew him and especially his teammates who played football with him.

Tony was heavily involved in football on the island. Playing since school age and then representing Brodick in the Arran Dairies League, he helped to win countless trophies for the team. Tony was voted player's player of the year by his opponents in 2015 when he was the man pulling the strings in the middle of the park, leading Brodick to another league title.

He then moved away and linked up with Southside United AFC in Glasgow where

he made a big impact and was held in high regard by the men at the club, fitting in seamlessly on and off the field.

Once the new Arran Amateur Football Club was founded, Tony was enthusiastic about going to play for his native Arran team to join up with many of his old school mates. Unfortunately a serious injury held him back but at the start of 2020 he signed with the team and contributed to their success.

A spokesperson from Arran Amateur Football Club said: 'The club and the Arran community are devastated to learn of the tragic and untimely passing of Tony, a great footballer, athlete and an even better person.'

Southside United AFC echoed the sentiments shared by their contemporaries on Arran, saying: 'We are devastated to hear the news of the passing of Tony McDowall

Continued on page two



Pupils from Arran High School present a cheque to the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) following a month long conservation campaign that involved fundraising and beach cleaning. Pictured with the children are nurture hub staff Jennifer Christie and Eileen Gregg and COAST representative Nikki Harris. See pages eight and nine for the full story. 01_B39COASTAL01

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Tributes pour in for Tony McDowall



Tony McDowall was a well-known and much-loved character on Arran.

Continued from page one

whilst on holiday. Tony played a huge role when we gained promotion to the premier division.

'Tony was a great player and more importantly a great guy. Our thoughts are with his family and friends. RIP Tony.'

Friend and teammate at Arran Amateur Football Club Archie McNicol created a JustGiving page in honour of Tony McDowall with the intention of raising £1,000 to purchase a headstone. Within 15 hours of launching, the crowdfunding initiative surpassed its target by 892 per cent with £8,920 being raised by 251 supporters.

Archie McNicol said: 'Last week we lost Tony McDowall to a tragic accident whilst on

holiday. Since then his family and friends have all been overwhelmed with the many messages they have received, from so many, offering their condolences and support during this incredibly difficult time.

'Tony was always the first to offer his support during hard times for others and this is something that has shone through within the many stories that people have shared with his family and friends.

'This is an opportunity to repay the love and support that Tony shared with others and to pay tribute to Tony's memory and the many great times and nights out we all shared.'

The fundraiser can be found by searching for Tony McDowall on the JustGiving page at justgiving.com

Unemployment concerns loom as furlough scheme winds down

Unemployment figures released by the UK Government have painted a stark picture, not only for Arran but for the entire Ayrshire region, of how the pandemic has affected the area economically and how the situation is anticipated to get worse once the furlough scheme winds down.

The figures released on Tuesday have revealed that 7,390 people in North Ayrshire claimed out-of-work benefits in August with 6,340 people in East Ayrshire and 5,005 in South Ayrshire all contributing to the regional total of 18,735 people who claimed during the month. This equates to 8.4 per cent of the working age population and nine per cent for North Ayrshire.

South Scotland MSP Colin Smyth has said the figures continue to be deeply worrying and he believes unless more is done, the rates of unemployment will only get worse as the furlough scheme finishes at the end of October.

Mr Smyth said: 'The level of unemployment seen in these statistics is deeply shocking and it is particularly devastating among young people across Ayrshire.'

'If this continues, we risk losing a whole generation to the scourge of unemployment, which is heart-breaking. What is worse is that these figures are just the tip of the iceberg. They exclude the thousands of other people locally who are no longer employed compared

to last month but don't receive benefits.'

'I also fear the number of people out of work will rise significantly in the next few months as the UK Government furlough scheme finishes at the end of October.'

'We should never forget that behind the numbers are local people whose livelihoods have been snatched from them, so my thoughts are very much with all those affected.'

'Ayrshire is standing on the edge of an unemployment crisis and without more Government help to support jobs, the number of families who will find themselves out of work is going to rise significantly. Covid-19 is first and foremost a health crisis but it has also now become a massive economic crisis.'

Last Thursday, Arran's MP Patricia Gibson led a debate at Westminster on retaining furlough in the Scottish Parliament. The SNP, Labour, Green and Lib Dem MSPs in the Scottish Parliament voted together for the following motion: 'That the Parliament believes that the UK Government's furlough scheme should be extended to provide support and certainty to employers and workers in Scotland for as long as public health restrictions are required to control the spread of Covid-19, recognising that there are specific sectors that will be affected for a longer period.'

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'Since April, furlough has maintained the viability of businesses and protected jobs over a period unlike anything experienced in our lifetimes. Ending furlough prematurely runs the risk of pushing many into crisis.'

'On Arran, hospitality and tourism businesses are particularly vulnerable.'

'As highlighted by the Scottish Government's chief



MP Patricia Gibson has called on the Government to extend the furlough scheme.

economic adviser, an eight-month extension could reduce unemployment in Scotland by 61,000.

'Many businesses have a viable long-term future only if they continue to be supported. Keeping people in jobs rather than transferring through social security makes sense, as does sustaining businesses.'

'Scottish Ministers moved quickly at the pandemic's outset, putting in place a package of support worth more than £2.3 billion for Scotland's

businesses. This included £49.7 million for ferry services, £34 million for the newly self-employed hardship fund, to help those not covered by UK support; £30 million for the creative, tourism and hospitality enterprises hardship fund, £14 million in large hotel relief and £120 million in the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund to help businesses vital to local economies.'

'Across Scotland £937 million in rates relief was provided, with more than £66 million in grants to almost 6,000 businesses across Ayrshire, including Arran.'

'Going forward, £97 million will support creative industries, with a £100 million green jobs fund, £25 million transition training fund and £60 million youth guarantee fund to help everyone in Scotland under 25 obtain employment, education or training.'

'France and Germany are extending their furlough schemes as are Ireland and Denmark, of similar size to Scotland, realising that only through on-going help and support can they protect jobs and promote business survival.'

Meanwhile at Westminster, SNP MP Gavin Newlands, in a Bill known as the Fire and Rehire Bill seeks to, 'prohibit employers dismissing employees and subsequently re-employing them for the purpose of diminishing the terms and conditions of employment; and for connected purposes'.

Rescue 03 overwhelmed by well-wishers after accident

Rescue 03, also known as Gemma Ferguson, who volunteers as a coastguard rescue officer with the Arran coastguard team, has been moved by the outpouring of support following a small accident which saw the tables being turned with her on the receiving end of assistance.

Gemma was helping with a helicopter medical evacuation during the night and slipped on wet grass.

The accident broke her ankle in two places but fortuitously for her she was with medically trained professionals and within just a few miles of the nearest hospital.

Messages of support, wishing her well, on the official Arran coastguard team Facebook page and on her personal page

rapidly attracted a flurry of more than 200 comments, all wishing her a speedy recovery.

The messages were from work colleagues and Coastguard rescue teams from all across Scotland and England, demonstrating the strong 'family bond' and camaraderie among the teams.

Kind messages were received from Girvin, Mull, Craginure, Fleetwood, Exmouth, Newcastle, Jura, Southend, Port Ellen, Inveraray coastguard rescue teams and even the crew of rescue helicopter R199 took the time to wish her well.

Gemma said: 'I'd just like to say a huge thank you to my Coastguard colleagues, paramedics, doctors and nurses who looked after me. Also to

everyone who has wished me a speedy recovery.

'I'm overwhelmed by everyone who has offered their help too, it means a lot. I'll be back to my usual duties as soon as I'm fit. Looking forward to it.'

Gemma has been with the Arran coastguard rescue team since February 2009 and will be back in action within a few months once her cast has been removed and her ankle has had time to heal. She intends to use her 'down time' to study to become a suitably qualified person as a new qualification for her day job where she works at the local veterinary practice.

Coastguard rescue team members, who volunteer their services, assist with rescues from coasts, cliffs, water, mud and in searches for missing people. They also assist with dealing with coastal pollution and explosive hazards as well as working with emergency services and local authorities during emergencies.

Volunteers need to pass rigorous training to qualify as a coastguard rescue officer with all of the skills, equipment and training being provided for those that qualify. More information on volunteering with HM Coastguard can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/volunteer-as-a-coastguard> or by contacting a local area management team to find out if there are any volunteering opportunities.



The Arran coastguard team practises water rescues at Lochranza.



Arran coastguard, including Gemma on the far right, practise rope techniques.



Gemma Ferguson, second left, with her Arran colleagues.

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Brodick's main road repairs could be seven months away

Work to repair Brodick's main road will likely only begin next spring owing to priority and circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic.

The pot-holed road which has deep gouges and rim-destroying depressions, particularly in the usual trouble spots near the small Co-op, has been prioritised as the last in line in the Arran Roadworks Programme's Order of Works released by North Ayrshire Council.

Work on the C147 at Lochranza and at Pirnmill and the B880 at Shiskine and Balmichael have all been scheduled with work starting on Wednesday September 30. Following that, work will take place at Manse Road and Hospital Road as well as a section at Claulands Road to Hospital Road in Lamplash.

Work on the A841 north of the ferry terminal junction to the Co-op and from Invercloy Guest House to the Brodick Library is 'to be confirmed'



A section of road near the Brodick Co-op which is in a bad state of repair and is crumbling away in numerous places. 01_B39road01

communicated at the earliest opportunity.

'Due to the existing road widths it is necessary for all surfacing works to be carried out under road closures, with these closures taking place during the working day between the hours of 8.30am-4.30pm.

'Unfortunately, due to the road layout, surfacing equipment and material cooling periods it will not be possible to open the road during the working day to accommodate through traffic at the planned locations.

'There will also be occasions where preparatory works will be carried out under traffic management outwith the times of these planned closures, however, any delays caused by this will be minimal.'

and is likely to be an 'outstanding location'.

A spokesperson from North Ayrshire Council's Commercial Services (Roads) said: 'Unfortunately, due to circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic we are unable to complete all of the locations this year. These outstanding locations will be carried out as soon as circumstances allow, however, this will most likely be around April next year.

'Our appointed contractor, Hillhouse Quarry Company, has made arrangements to commence works on Wednesday September 30, and plans to complete works by Friday October 16.

'Given the short timescales it is planned that works will be carried out at weekends where possible. Please be aware that due to unforeseen issues as a result of weather, ferry bookings etc. the works timetable may alter but this will be



Arran High School pupils and staff with the buffs featuring the school logo.

Business fundraiser provides face covering for school pupils

Pupils and teachers at Arran High School have taken delivery of 400 face coverings thanks to the brainchild of Arran Graphics owner Graham Chappell and the generosity of a number of Arran businesses.

Graham came up with the idea and informally approached a number of business owners who, to his surprise, immediately agreed to help fund the venture.

Businesses which contributed include Arran Graphics, James of Arran Chocolate Shop, The Arran Cheese Shop, Arran Dairies, Arran Active and the Brodick Co-op.

The face coverings, sometimes also known as buffs or snoods are a great way of providing sustainable face coverings. They are easy to wash and quick to dry and they help to reduce the waste and litter created by disposable face masks.

The generous donation means that each pupil and member of staff has been provided with one free buff and 100 remain for purchasing at the cost of £5 each through Parent Pay.

As the rules on wearing face coverings on school transport and in school have tightened, having a face covering around the neck means all pupils will have ready access to a face covering, helping to keep them and the community safe.

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Busy spell for Arran's mountain rescue team

The number of callouts for the Arran Mountain Rescue Team seems to be continuing unabated following a busy period at the start of the month, which included attending to the PS Waverley crash and two further rescues for the team of volunteers.

Last week a further three incidents saw the team being tasked with callouts to attend to emergencies in the Arran hills.

On Monday afternoon the team was called out to assist the ambulance service with a fallen mountain biker on the Narachan track, Lochranza, an off-road track which leads to Laggan cottage. The ambulance crew managed to get to the casualty so the team had limited involvement but wished the casualty a speedy recovery.

On Wednesday the team was called out in the early evening to assist two female walkers who had become lost and then ran out of daylight in the Laggan area. The team picked them up from near Millstone Point, thankfully both were uninjured, and were taken to safety.

Fractured ankle

Sunday saw the the team being called out to assist a female with a fractured ankle at the blue pools, Glen Rosa. She was given pain relief and taken out the glen to an awaiting ambulance.

Scottish Mountain Rescue, the organisation which works nationally to support and represent 24 independent mountain rescue teams that operate across Scotland, has reported an increase in the number of mountain incidents

across Scotland, no doubt as people once again start venturing out into the outdoors and mountains.

Lomond Mountain Rescue Team has reported its busiest year yet with call-out number 39 over the weekend, near Ben Venue, where two walkers lost their way and had to be assisted off the mountain and over the Ledard Burn which was in full flow.

Remind

A spokesperson from Scottish Mountain Rescue provided the following advice for hillwalkers and mountain climbers: 'We'd like to remind people venturing into the hills to check your kit to ensure you are fully prepared. Ensure you have suitable clothing for any weather conditions you may encounter and have within your rucksack a spare warm layer (jacket, fleece), spare gloves, hat and extra food.

'In addition to that it is always a good idea to have a map for the area you are walking in, a compass (know how to use it) and a torch and spare batteries. We are moving into autumn now and the evenings are getting darker and the temperature is dropping.

'We recommend that you don't use a mobile phone as your only navigation aid as they have their limitations. If you do get into difficulty try and keep as much charge in your phone battery as you can, (in the cold battery life is very short).

'Remember, if you do require assistance, phone 999 and ask for police then mountain rescue, try and stay calm and give as much information to the operator as you can (what



Team members during a recent training session in the hills of Arran. Photograph: AMRT.

the emergency is, where you are, size of party, telephone numbers in your party, any known medical issues etc), bear in mind, however, that given the remoteness of some of the areas, mobile phone signal can be very poor and it can take a number of hours for the rescue team to get to you.

Assist

'Leaving a route card of your intended journey with family or a friend can assist our mountain rescue teams too.

'With a bit of forward planning, looking at weather forecasts, thinking about your route and your skills will enable you to have an enjoyable day out in the wonderful mountain environment we have in Scotland.'

Appeal following fatal road crash

Police in Ayrshire are appealing for information following a fatal road crash on Arran.

The incident happened around 3.50pm on Saturday September 19 on Mid Mayish Road, Brodick, when a red Citroen car collided with a 78-year-old woman.

Emergency services attended and the woman was pronounced dead at the scene.

Sergeant Stewart Taylor, of the road policing unit, said: 'Enquiries into the circumstances surrounding this incident are ongoing and we are encouraging anyone with any information to get in contact with officers.

'There were a number of passers-by at the time and we are asking anyone who may have witnessed the incident to contact police.

'If you were in the area at the time or have any potential dashcam or CCTV footage that could assist with our investigation, I would urge that you get in touch.'

Police can be contacted on 101 quoting incident number 2647 of 19/09/20.

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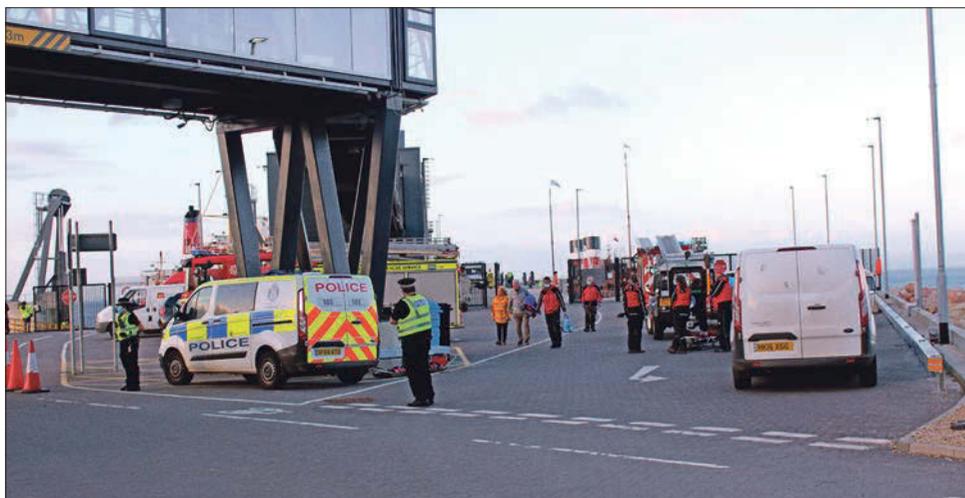
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Arran Mountain Rescue Team members help other emergency services at the recent PS Waverley crash. 01_B39AMRT01

LETTERS

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Community spirit

Arran has been hard hit with a double tragedy this week with the death of Tony McDowall and an as-yet-unnamed pensioner in Brodick.

The shocking news has reverberated around the close-knit communities of Arran and it comes at a time when positive news seems in short supply.

Further news from First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, advising of restrictions on personal liberties necessary to help contain the spread of the virus, will also offer little cheer to those who depend on the hospitality and tourist industry as their source of income. And while it may sound trite in these difficult times, many do find that seeking out the good or the positive, can go some way in helping to counter all of the prevalent negativity.

There is certainly many positives around and there is much to be grateful for, especially here on Arran. People performing kind deeds, showing care and compassion for others, and most importantly, maintaining a sense of community that helps to bolster people, unifying them and helping to tackle debilitating feelings of isolation in troubling times.

The people of Arran have faced difficult times before and they have emerged from it all, stronger and wiser, as we will again once this pandemic has loosed its grip on the nation.

We call on everyone on Arran to keep being kind and considerate and to look out for your neighbours and friends.

Shop locally, support local businesses and help to nurture and keep the community spirit, that we can all find solace in, alive.

Thought for the week

I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. **Philippians 4:13**

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Ferry inquiry

Sir,

I noticed last week's Banner mentioned the Edinburgh Trams fiasco.

Its inquiry was first announced six years ago and is still ongoing, despite then First Minister Alex Salmond stating a report would be available in six months (cost to date £11 m).

A major failure in that project was not assigning responsibility for the preparatory works (digging up roads, moving utility services) to the main contractor.

Nor was Transport Scotland involved, whose senior management team consist of seven directors. Five directors are chartered engineers. However, the director of aviation, maritime, freight and canals previously practised as a solicitor. This seems an unusual background for such a range of responsibilities.

I have not seen a date when the ferry inquiry report is due to be published.

My concern is that the wording for the inquiry in to 'the construction and procurement of ferry vessels' will not cover the pre-tender work and decisions.

It could gloss over the fundamental aspects of the ferry design e.g practical and viability of concept, insistence on LNG, advice on Ardrossan harbour entrance.

No doubt the team involved in the design of the Brodick terminal would give helpful advice. I await with interest to see if there is another attempt by the Scottish Government to influence the outcome with 'contractor failure'.

Yours,

Robin Gardner
Lamlash and Milton of Campsie

Coastal erosion

Sir,

I was interested in the recent article about coastal erosion on Fisherman's Walk.

My sister and I walk there every morning with my dog and can see the ever-changing landscape on a daily basis.

Last year in mid-September, we noted that the ground was level with the post which is just after the bridge over the Cloy Burn.

A year later (see photo above) the ground is now over 4.5 metres away! How long before we lose Fisherman's Walk completely?

Yours,

Ann Hart
Brodick



Coastal erosion at Fisherman's Walk.

Financial control

Sir,

I wonder how many of your readers will benefit from the introduction of the high speed rail link between London and Leeds – not a lot, I hear you cry. Yet every one of them and indeed every tax payer in Scotland is helping, through their taxes, to pay for this project that will never be used by most of them.

The latest estimate of the cost is over £100 billion. Just think what a difference Scotland's population share of this (over £10 billion) could make to the rail and road network in this country if only we were independent and could control all our own finances.

Yours,

Peter Swain
Dunbar

Caring for cats

Sir,

The UK's biggest cat charity is asking animal lovers to get in touch with their local MP to urge them to support compulsory microchipping of pet cats.

Cats Protection is campaigning for microchipping to become a legal requirement for pet cats, as it already is for dogs, to help improve feline welfare.

We need to get as many MPs as possible to support a change in the law to make it compulsory to microchip pet cats. After years of

campaigning by Cats Protection, major political parties put compulsory microchipping of cats in their 2019 election manifestos. But no progress has been made and the issue risks falling off the political agenda.

As a nation of animal lovers, we know that many people will want to see their local MP taking a keen interest in animal welfare issues. By getting in touch with your MP and asking them to join in our online event you'll be helping us move a step closer to a law change which will benefit countless cats and kittens in the future.

Our campaign for compulsory microchipping of pet cats is one of a number of issues we're working on to improve feline welfare across the UK. We're grateful for support from players of People's Postcode Lottery, which helps make this work possible and ensures a better future for one of the nation's favourite pets.

Microchipping is the safe and permanent way to identify a cat and reunite a lost cat with their owner. Owners of unchipped cats can suffer unnecessary heartbreak not knowing the fate of their cat if they go missing. Despite this, statistics show that more than three million owned cats (29 per cent) are still not microchipped. Making microchipping compulsory will significantly drive up numbers of microchipped owned cats. Microchipping was made compulsory for dogs in 2016 and as a result 92 per cent are chipped.

Yours,

Jacqui Cuff
Cats Protection

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NHS urges patients to stop and think before attending the emergency department

While not wishing to dissuade anyone from making use of the emergency department at Arran War Memorial Hospital when necessary, NHS bosses are asking people to stop and think before attending as it may not always be the best place to treat certain conditions.

The message comes from NHS Ayrshire and Arran and applies to all emergency departments in the region where hospital services remain under pressure from the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Dr Crawford McGuffie, medical director and emergency department consultant, said: 'As we move towards the winter months, our emergency departments are getting busier. This year, with the added pressure of Covid-19, our emergency departments are under even more pressure. However, we know that some people who attend them would receive more appropriate and quicker treatment elsewhere.'

'So, we are asking members



of the public to stop, think, and ask, 'Is it an emergency?' If it is an emergency, come straight to the emergency department.

'That way we can ensure that our emergency departments are there for those who need it most - those with life-threatening emergencies, and injuries.'

If anyone does attend an

emergency department and their condition does not need the services of an emergency department, they may be re-directed to a more appropriate service. These include GP surgery, NHS24, pharmacy, emergency dental service, pregnancy services and sexual health services. Redirecting patients to more appropriate

services will help emergency departments run more efficiently and patients will be seen quicker.

Dr McGuffie added: 'We want to make sure that the right patient is seen at the right place at the right time with the right clinician. Our key message is to let people know the most appropriate time to visit

Arran War Memorial Hospital.

an emergency department, and what are the available alternatives. And if you have Covid-19 symptoms, visit NHS Inform for advice and to book a test, and call NHS24 on 111 if symptoms worsen. The emergency department is not the correct route to take if you have mild symptoms or need a test.'

■ The local pharmacy can provide expert advice for common illnesses and ailments.

■ Call NHS24 on 111 to access out-of-hours advice and services, or if unsure where to go.

■ If Covid-19 symptoms occur, visit www.nhsinform.scot for advice and to book a test, and call NHS24 on 111 if symptoms worsen.

■ A GP surgery is for an illness or injury that just won't go away.

■ The emergency department is for life-threatening emergencies and injuries.

CONTACTUS

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Jamie Green calls on government to improve waiting times for mental health services

West Scotland MSP Jamie Greene has called on the Government to improve waiting times for young people who require mental health services.

According to figures released by Public Health Scotland earlier this month, 46 per cent of those still waiting to be seen at the end of June had been doing so for 53 weeks or longer in Ayrshire and Arran.

This equates to hundreds of children waiting for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) appointments who have had to wait more than a year before being seen.

The Scottish Government's target of having 90 per cent of youngsters referred to CAMHS, starting treatment within 18 weeks, show this target was only met for 59.3 per cent of patients across Scotland.

Questioning First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in the chamber during First Minister's Questions, MSP Jamie Greene said: 'The first minister spoke earlier about the effect of Covid-19 on young people and I think whilst they are less likely to suffer from the severe physical effects of the pandemic, they are still suffering the mental health secondary

issues.

'Members right across this chamber have been raising the issue of access to mental health waiting times since I joined this Parliament.

'They were disgracefully long



MSP Jamie Greene in the Scottish Parliament chamber.

before the pandemic hit us and they haven't got any better.

'Can I ask will the first minister finally commit to ensuring that any young person who needs access to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services will get it within the 18-week period that her Government committed to?

'We cannot let these young people down a day longer.'

First Minister Sturgeon

responded: 'We are committed to that.'

'Jamie Greene is right that there were issues before the pandemic, but some of the challenges relating to the CAMHS services have, of course, been exacerbated by the pandemic. As I have said many times, delivering on the commitment requires increased investment, which we have delivered, but it also requires reform of how we deliver mental health services.

'Part of the challenge has been that there have not been enough preventative and early intervention services, so people have ended up being referred to specialist services. If they had had help earlier, that referral would not have been required. That extends waiting times for those services. In order to provide that early intervention and preventative focus, we are putting more counsellors into schools and have committed to the wellbeing service for young people. That work is really important.

'One of the complications of the pandemic has been the difficulty in providing face-to-face consultations - not just in CAMHS, but generally in the health service.'

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Pupils rally to support COA



Archie Adams and Filip Dybalski collect rubbish discarded and washed up on Lamlash beach.



Annmiya and Adon Roy proudly show off their creations during a visit to the craft stall.



Michael Nicholl, Filip Dybalski, Archie Adams and Logan Young with some of the products for sale at their pop up shop.

Pupils from Arran High School have been holding a month-long environmental campaign by cleaning the beach at Lamlash and raising funds for the marine conservation charity, Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST).

The altruistic endeavours of the children raised £104.55 for COAST and in a special handover ceremony early this week they presented COAST representatives Nikki Harris with a cheque which will be used for conservation efforts.

The fundraising idea devised with nurture teachers Jennifer Christie and Eileen Gregg, saw children creating 'I love Arran' stones, heart stones and heart decorative garlands. It was initially planned to sell these items at an Easter market in Brodick, but when these plans were scuppered by coronavirus cancellations they opted to set up a pop-up shop on the benches outside COAST's headquarters, the Octopus Centre.

The shop sold Arran memen-

tos as well as a number of stone sea creatures which children coloured in, in return for a small donation from parents.

The children themselves manned the pop-up shop, many joining the visitors in helping to decorate and personalise the stones, while others collected rubbish from the beach. Other than the reward of contributing to keeping the community clean, and assisting a charity, the contribution made by the children will also be recognised with Saltire Awards for all who took part.



Young Sophie Scott gets to work decorating her stone.

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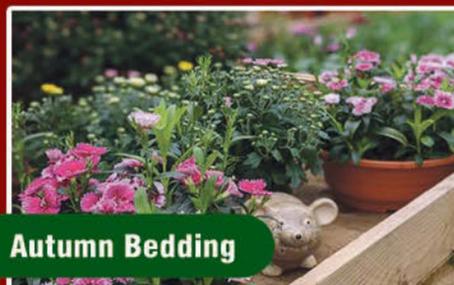
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Catherine Smith prepares the stone creature for children to colour in.



Isla Monteith and Michael Nicholl prepare for a shift of litter picking equipped with gloves and pickers.

Customers from Lamlash support the children and purchase a few trinkets.

Heather Beeton with some of the detailed decorative stones that were available to purchase.

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ON ARRAN

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WELCOME

September weekend on Arran has a great deal to offer: stunning scenery, great places to stay, good food and drink and many places to visit. We all know that 2020 has been a challenging year and everyone is having to abide by new government restrictions in order to keep safe and keep others safe. However, a back-yard break on beautiful Arran is the perfect tonic for a long weekend and the welcome is both warm and safe. There is Brodick Castle and Country Park, the Heritage Museum and our two distilleries at Lochranza and Lagg, operating pretty much as normal. If it is the outdoor life you prefer then there is equally as much on offer,

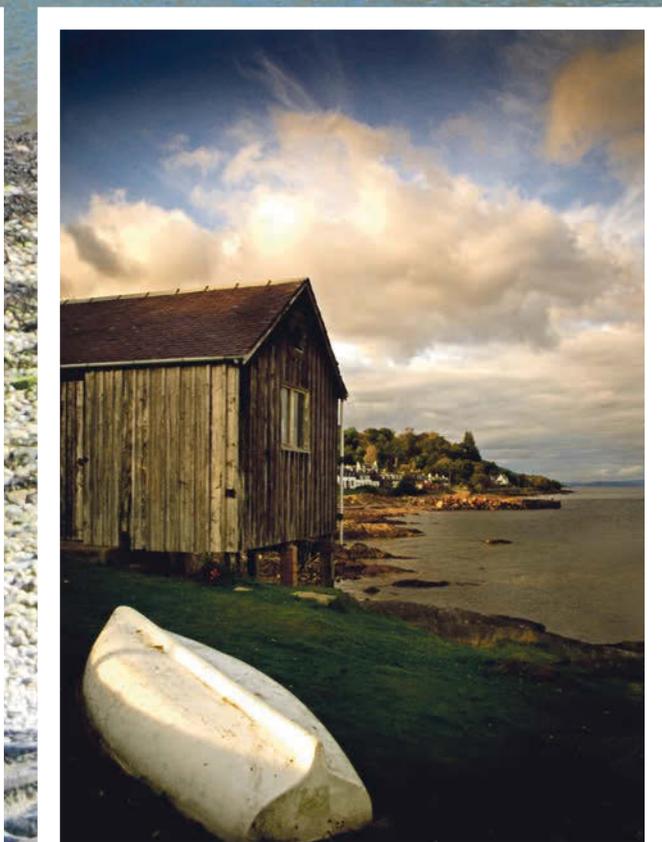
from low level to high level walking, cycling and kayaking and not forgetting Scotland's 'Big Five' - golden eagles, otters, grey seals, red squirrels and red deer, Arran has them all. If it is something more leisurely that you seek, then why not treat yourself to a relaxing spa treatment at Auchrannie, a sumptuous meal in one of the many restaurants, delicious home baking or classic cocktails. Arran has an array of bespoke shopping if you fancy a bit of retail therapy, from clothing - outdoor or fashion, jewellery and pottery to delicious local produce. Whatever you are looking for to help you unwind this weekend, you will find it right here on Arran.

Lochranza and Lagg Distilleries

Lochranza and Lagg Distilleries are open and looking forward to welcoming you!

The Lochranza Distillery gift shop is open 7 days a week 10am - 4pm, with tastings available twice daily from Monday to Friday, the Original & Best Tasting at 12pm and the Limited Editions Tasting at 2.30pm. Please be advised that tastings are not yet available in Lochranza on Saturdays or Sundays.

Lagg Distillery gift shop is open 10am - 5.30pm and tastings are available three times a day at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 3pm 7 days a week. Kilmory Café is also open offering light lunches, hot drinks and a selection of cakes and treats. Please be advised that you must book your table in advance.



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First minister's announcement receives mixed response from hospitality industry

The first minister's announcement on a curfew for pubs and restaurants in Scotland has received a mixed response from business owners, who all share a concern for any long term damage that the restrictions may bring.

On Tuesday afternoon Nicola Sturgeon announced that from Friday (today) onward all pubs and restaurants will have to shut by 10pm in an effort aimed at curtailing the spread of coronavirus which has seen an increase in infection rates in recent weeks.

Detrimental

Household visits have also been banned from Friday but came into immediate effect on Wednesday – and this may also have a detrimental effect on tourist numbers, hospitality and other tourism-related businesses.

Addressing parliament, the first minister described having to take the decision 'to find

a balance between action to suppress the virus and the protection of people's jobs and livelihoods.'

While most businesses acknowledge the need to curtail the virus, many have expressed concern about future survival, staff retention and financial viability for an already beleaguered industry.

Tracy Black, Confederation of British Industry, Scotland director, who represents 190,000 businesses of all sizes and sectors, said: 'A second national lockdown would be devastating for Scotland's economy, so it's only right that the first minister has prioritised bringing infections under control.'

'But there can be no escaping the fact that earlier closing times for Scotland's pubs, cafes and restaurants will be a bitter pill for a sector already hugely impacted by the crisis. With prolonged remote working

also looking likely, there will undoubtedly be a cost to our city centre economies.'

'There must now be a new plan to support businesses this autumn.'

'This should start with a successor to the Job Retention Scheme and allowing cash-strapped businesses to defer their VAT payments from the last quarter – a no-brainer given this latest blow to our economy.'

Work together

'The Scottish and UK governments must work together to do everything they can to protect viable firms and jobs in the coming weeks and months.'

The Scottish Hospitality Group, who represent more than 50 venues in Glasgow, Edinburgh and other locations in Scotland, described the decision as 'damaging' saying: 'With 90,000 Scottish jobs at risk we are heading towards a

cliff edge and time is running out. We have been speaking with government and that will be ongoing but there is only a matter of months before the restrictions on our industry will have irreparable long-term damage on our sector.'

Marc Crothall, chief executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance, said: 'The first minister's announcement that bars, pubs and restaurants will close at 10pm from Friday will serve as a significant blow to many hundreds of businesses across Scotland which have worked hard to ensure compliance with government guidance to protect their staff, customers and to offer confidence that all possible measures have been taken to protect these groups.'

'Sadly, this is likely to be the last straw for many businesses which were only just managing to break even; the impact that this new rule will have on restaurants in particular in terms

of restricting a second seating in the evening will result in a substantial loss of revenue, as indeed it will in other areas of hospitality.'

'I have said throughout this crisis that our industry must continue to do the right thing and comply with every measure imposed on us for the good of all and to bring the virus under control. We welcome the announcement of additional inspection measures and enforcement to identify non-compliance.'

Small percentage

'The evidence we have seen to date shows that incidences of the virus in hospitality businesses account for only a very small percentage of overall cases and I would therefore be hopeful that the further evidence we will gather in the coming days and weeks will feed into the review of this particular measure.'

'There will be only one

way forward for Scotland's tourism industry in light of today's announcement; the immediate survival and future sustainability of the industry is now dependent on a tailored furlough package for the sector, a permanent reduction in VAT to five per cent beyond 2021, a business rates holiday until the end of March 2022 for all tourism businesses and a recapitalisation of borrowing – a mechanism for creating business liquidity for businesses which are quite simply running out of cash.'

'The STA is grateful for the cabinet secretary's [Fergus Ewing MSP] support and understanding of the huge challenges being faced currently by our tourism industry which he recognised and acknowledged at the STA Council meeting and we will continue to work with the Scottish Government and policy makers over the coming weeks.'

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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday September 30, 2000

Private purse

A better school hall has long been on the wish list for Arran High, although supposed lack of finance has always been given as the stumbling block. Now North Ayrshire Council sees a way round this and is proposing to raise money for such a development through private funding.

At a very early stage, all that is happening is that the administration is asking permission of the council to look into ways of this type of capital financing. Other local authorities have already used it successfully although this would be a first for North Ayrshire.

The purpose, should the funding be found, will be entirely for a new hall and PE facilities for the high school. It will not be connected to an earlier suggestion for a hall cum theatre cum community facility built behind the school, which was raised a few years ago.

Two rescues

The mountain rescue team was called out on Wednesday morning to seek a man who had been reported missing the evening before. A 29-year-old man on holiday from Ripon had left Rosaburn Lodge guest house on Tuesday morning but had failed to return. Soon after the mountain rescue team set out in search of him he appeared, apparently unharmed despite having been gone for 24 hours.

A 38-year-old Whiting Bay man was rescued from a ravine in Glenashdale last Saturday after he had fallen from a tree. Having been injured, the man was lucky that a local person, Eric Gregory, chanced to walk by and find him. Mr Gregory called the police, ambulance and the fire brigade and they were all soon on the scene. The man was taken to hospital and was later discharged.



Ladies enjoy an aerobic session during a spirited demonstration at the Kilmory September Weekend Fete. 01_B39TYA01



Moira Starks and Veronica Halstead with some of the pupils from Auchenharvey Academy, who entertained the audience at a concert in the drawing room at Brodick Castle. 01_B39TYA05



Angus Adamson receives a presentation quach from Lindsay Proudfoot to mark his service of 22 years in the Arran Pipe Band, 17 of them as Pipe Major. 01_B39TYA02



Albert and Paris pose at the top of the Eas Mor waterfall which tumbles over 100 feet to the valley floor below. The couple, who had a dream to build a disabled access path to the top, are now close to realising their dream.

01_B39TYA04



Gary Mullen, impersonating Freddie Mercury, thrilled the audience at the Lamalsh Community Centre where he performed for an audience of more than 400 people. 01_B39TYA03

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Congratulations to Sophie Corbett
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Masters in Highlands and Islands Literature at UHI.
Very well done!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NICOL - Margaret Nicol peacefully passed away on the 2nd of September, age 85. Beloved wife of the late James (Hamish) Nicol of Brodick. Dearly loved mother to Gavin. Loving mother-in-law to Eileen and Gran to Deborah, Daniel and Donald. Loving mother to Neil and Gran to Ryan and Kerry. A special thank you to Rev. Elizabeth Watson of Whiting Bay and Kildonan Parish church taken place at Lamlash Cemetery for her service on 16th September. Thank you to ML Williams Funeral Directors of Ayr for all the arrangements and care.

GREATOREX - Irene. With great sadness we announce the peaceful passing of Irene Greatorex on Thursday, September 10th, 2020. Irene enjoyed celebrating her 100th birthday this year and has made Arran her home for over 50 years after moving from Blackburn. Irene and her late husband Bill will be fondly remembered for running the cafe and shop in Whiting Bay for many years. Much loved Aunt of Lynn and Garth and Great Aunt of Gail, Jane and Kate. The family are deeply touched by all of the kind words received and would like to thank all her friends, especially Neilly, the wonderful Arran Carers and the other healthcare professionals on Arran for all the love and support they provided.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

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PERSONALS



Cathy McNeish would like to pass on many thanks to family, friends and Kilmory Parish Church for all the cards, good wishes and gifts she received to celebrate her 90th Birthday.

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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

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay
Sunday 27th September
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion - 11 am.
Richard Trewby
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
We follow strict SEC guidelines

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(Charity Number:SC014005)
Reopening of church
Sunday 4th October 2020:
Worship will be conducted by the minister
Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am

Our capacity will be greatly reduced due to the two metre social distancing. We have introduced a booking system. You are asked to please phone Mrs Enid Halliwell 600010 by the Friday lunchtime if you want to attend Sunday worship.

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Whiting Bay Golf Club
Wednesday September 16, Cancer Relief Stableford. A decent field of 19 turned out for the latest charity opens held over, for obvious reasons, from the earlier part of the season. Ryan Armstrong continued his good form to win on 39 points pipping Sandy Pringle on a back nine countback.

1 Ryan Armstrong 6, 39pts, ACB, 2 Sandy Pringle 13, 39, 3 John Rankin 10, 37, 4 Nicol Auld 4, 35, ACB. CSS stayed at 63/36 points and there were three magic twos, Gus Macleod at fourth, Russell Adams and John Rankin at 17th.

Sunday September 20, Richard Parfitt Stableford. A total of 10 played on yet another beautiful morning for golf.

Just back from a successful golfing trip to some classic courses on the mainland, John Pennycott brought his fine form back with him to win by one point from Stan Rainey. 1 John Pennycott 13, 38pts, 2 Stan Rainey 11, 37, 3 Ronnie Mann 12, 34, 4 Alan Kay 19, 32. CSS stayed at 63/36 points and the only magic two of the day was scored by Gavin Mainds at the fourth.

Fixtures: Sunday September 27, Cooper Angus par three competition. Wednesday September 30, Texas Medalford Sweep (format to be confirmed - check website and notice board).

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

Lamlash Golf Club
Thursday September 17, Summer Cup and Captain's Prize, CSS 64. 1 Stuart Campbell 69-6=63, BIH, 2 Iain Murchie 69-6=63, 3 Martin Wallbank 77-13=64. Best scratch, Dougie Macfarlane 69, BIH over Stuart Campbell, Iain Murchie and Neil Young. Captain's Prize won by Iain Murchie 63. Magic twos, Stuart Campbell, Dougie Macfarlane, Paul Jameson and Norrie MacIntyre all at the 16th, Billy Skinner at the fifth. Hole two drawn - rollover continues.

Saturday September 19, Thomson Cup Final. Iain Murchie beat Ian Bremner, two up after a close game.

Sunday September 20, Scratch Cup, CSS 65. 1 Iain Murchie 66-5=61, 2 Martin Wallbank 77-13=64, 3 Andy Smith 83-17=66. Winner of Scratch Cup, Iain Murchie 66. Congratulations to Iain Murchie on winning four major prizes in eight days.

Fixtures: Saturday September 26, Western Texas Scramble. Make up own fours, see starter for times. Last tee off time at 1.30pm. Sunday September 27, Medal Shield and final day of Eclectic Cup, 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday October 1, Front Nine Medal, make up own groups and see starter for times.

Brodick Golf Club
Friday September 11, Kintyre Cup, Stableford. Finlay Sillars 37pts, ACB, Sid Sillars 37 pts.

Wednesday September 16, Flag Competition. Winner, Graham Dobson. Saturday September 19, Mixed Texas Scramble, teams of four. Ann May/Jim Reid/Graham Dobson/Brian Smith 62-6=56. Fiona Greener/ John May/Douglas Robertson/Ian Shand 65-8.3=56.7. Sunday September 20, John Gemmill Shield, 3 Club Stableford, 20



Whiting Bay's John Pennycott with the Richard Parfitt Trophy.

played, NQ. David Hendry 15, 37pts, ACB, Nicol Hume 14, 37pts, Finlay Sillars 11, 34pts. Fixture: Sunday September 27, Brandon Qualifier.

Shiskine Golf Club
Sunday September 20, Gents' 18-Hole Medal. First class: 1 and scratch W Paton 73-6=67, 2 R Crawford 75-7=68, 3 J Morrison 77-8=69. Second class: 1 T Ellis 82-18=64, BIH, 2 A Campbell 89-25=64, 3 B Sherwood 82-17=65. Magic twos, W Paton, W McNally, G Tod, A Stewart x2.

Machrie Bay Golf Club
Tuesday September 22, Stableford Medal. 1 Kath Lord 34pts, 2 Phil Betley 31pts, 3 Brian Sherwood 30pts.

Fixtures: Tuesday September 29, Sweep, tee off 12.30pm. NOTE: As of Saturday October 3 all competitions will revert to winter tee off times of noon. Saturday October 3, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee off 12noon. Tuesday October 6, Winter Cup, tee off noon.

Victor helps to celebrate recent 40th anniversary of Blackwaterfoot bowls



Victor Iutz receives a gift in recognition of his 40 years of supporting the club.

The longest standing member of the Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, Victor Iutz, was on hand recently to help celebrate the club's 40th anniversary.

Taking place on Saturday September 19, the event was celebrated in a very low key manner with Victor receiving a box of Arran products in recognition of being the longest standing member.

Victor was a member of the founding group of people who paid £100 in 1980 to provide a fund for the establishment of a club in Blackwaterfoot. He still plays on every available occasion and is the only original

member who still attends the club.

A spokesperson from Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club said: "The club has been operating under strict restrictions since the lockdown was lifted. This involves strict social distancing and having to book to play. This regrettably means that we cannot welcome visitors, as we always have in the past, and it is also the reason for the very low key celebration.

"We hope that next year a proper celebration can be held to mark the 40th anniversary of the bowling of the first jack."

John rises from the ashes of adversity to win Phoenix Cup

It was 20 years ago exactly that golfer John Pennycott of Whiting Bay was in a hospital bed in the Beatson getting his first chemotherapy prior to the amputation of his left leg – above the knee – due to a

malignant tumour. Forward 20 years and John is now teeing off at the prestigious Gleneagles and Panmure golf courses and winning an 'international' disabled golf competition called the Phoenix Cup.

The Phoenix Cup, usually played between disabled golfers from Europe and the USA, had to be hastily rearranged this year owing to international travel restrictions, but it still went ahead as a Europe v Great Britain and Ireland championship.

Last year John was selected as the captain for the team but missed out on playing due to hernia surgery a couple of weeks before the event.

This year he was selected to play for the European team, and although missing the disabled golfers from the USA and most of the mainland European golfers, he still represented the European side in a competition where most of the players were Scottish.

John was joined by Stian Halversen from Norway who was the European vice-captain, Kenny Morrison from Harris, Iain Ross (European team captain) from Blairgowrie and Ellie Perks from England who all made up the European team.

Speaking about the three-day event, John said: 'We were lucky enough to play three brilliant courses at Gleneagles, Panmure and Blairgowrie and there was excellent golf and banter with all involved.'

'Strange because for a team event we all had to keep well apart and not socialise in the usual manner before, during or after the games. No team pictures and no group meetings or celebrations and eating only in pairs, although golf

was still allowed to be played with four different players.

'The disabilities included amputees, blind golfers, golfers with MS, Dwarfism, PTSD and other challenges and the handicaps ranged from four-54.

'On day two the three other players in my group were all single figure handicappers and in my singles match at Blairgowrie on day three my opponent played off five. Everybody has adapted their golf around their disability and it was always played in a friendly but very competitive spirit. I was fortunate enough to win all three of my games and team Europe came from behind to win the three-day event by 11.5 - 8.5 points.

'Huge thanks to all the generous sponsors as well as the organisers who must have been nearly crazy at the end having to change plans on a weekly, daily and, at times, hourly basis.

'It was a shame that the original match with the USA couldn't take place but it was a chance for the disabled golfers to showcase the best of disabled golf and the spirit in which it should be played.'

The Phoenix Cup, as the world's first fully inclusive team international, has become so successful, that organisers, Scottish Disability Golf and Curling, merged all its other team events, such as the World Cup, Spanish, Masters and other internationals, under one format which has since been held on 25 occasions in



John with the Phoenix Cup which he won as part of the European team.



six countries, and involving more than 745 golfers with disabilities from 18 nations.



John Pennycott pictured 20 years ago to the day of winning the Phoenix Cup.

LAMLASH GARAGE

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ALL VEHICLE MAKES SERVICED & REPAIRED.
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Strict COVID-19 operating rules apply. Garage office closed to the public. Card payments by phone only

Lamlash Garage