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Pressure to demolish ugly eyesore mounts

by Hugh Boag
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk



There was hope this week that some progress may at last be being made at the eyesore McLaren Hotel site in Brodick.

Work has been carried out to seal and secure the building after the former hotel had regularly been entered and ransacked with repeated reports of squatters.

After pressure from the authorities, the Norfolk-based abodeGroup finally agreed to act to secure the building and John Thomson Construction Ltd carried out the work instructed.

It is now five years since the hotel closed and two years since the abodeGroup was given planning permission to demolish the hotel and build a £9m, 88-bedroom aparthotel, despite considerable local opposition.

Now North Ayrshire Council

planners have made it clear to the owners they are willing to consider a demolition only application to rid the Brodick shorefront of an increasingly ugly eyesore.

Not only is the hotel in a dilapidated state, but the ground surrounding it is overgrown

'The council made recommendations to the owners that the building needed to be secure, although it should really be demolished.'

and unkempt, with the council already having had to trim the bushes overgrowing the pavement. The beer garden's bouncy castle still lies deflated and rotting along with the broken sign for the Indian

restaurant, which was once housed in the hotel.

Demolition would at least leave a clear site as, given the present global financial situation due to the pandemic, it would seem unlikely a new hotel will be built on the island any time soon.

A site visit was made recently by North Ayrshire Council building control and planning officials, Arran local officer Rosslyn Mills and Arran police sergeant Dougie Robertson.

The latest developments were also discussed by Arran Community Council when it held its September meeting on the video conference platform Zoom, which it has embraced during the pandemic.

Sergeant Robertson reported to the community council: 'It appears that the owners are now engaging with North Ayrshire Council through their agent and hopefully the property will be properly secured

Continued on page two.



Naomi Provan is this year's Arran High School Dux. She is seen here receiving her John S Scott Award for Dux medal from acting head teacher Mrs Susan Foster. Full story see pages 4 and 5.

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October holiday blow as Arran is hit by harshest restrictions

Arran's beleaguered hospitality sector is to take another battering after new restrictions were announced to fight the Covid-19 pandemic, writes Hugh Boag.

All pubs and restaurants on the island will have to close by 6pm tonight (Friday) for more than two weeks at the start of what should have been a busy school holiday week for Arran.

And there was concern that the latest blow could be the final straw that finishes some island businesses which rely on the tourist trade.

Hotels on the island will be able to stay open, but only for guests, and without the sale of alcohol. Cafes, which do not have an alcohol licence, will be able to stay open until 6pm.

Arran has been hit by the harshest measures because it is part of Ayrshire and Arran, one of the five health board areas which have been targeted for tougher measures because of concern at the spread of the virus in the central belt. The others are: Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Lanarkshire, Forth Valley and Lothian.

People have also been asked not to travel beyond their own health board area in the central belt if they don't need to, and are being asked to avoid public transport unless it is

absolutely necessary. People in other parts of Scotland should not travel to these areas if they don't need to, the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has said, which raises questions over whether people should travel to Arran if they have booked a holiday.

The measures are intended to be in force for 16 days, from Friday October 9 at 6pm to Sunday 25 October inclusive.

Owner of the Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash Jane Howe posted on Facebook: 'Absolutely tragic news for us, Arran has had no cases and yet we are shut down as we are classed as Ayrshire and Arran. I'm in shock - not again, all that wastage.'

In a statement to parliament on Wednesday the first minister said the action was necessary in order to prevent a resurgence in community transmission of the virus and the potential for a rapid return to the pressures the NHS experienced earlier in the year.

She said an additional £40m in funding will be made available to businesses impacted by new restrictions, and said the Scottish Government would work to target the support to businesses most in need.

She also said Scotland would be toughening rules on face coverings she also said shops



Nicola Sturgeon announced the latest restrictions in a statement at the Scottish parliament.

the height of the pandemic earlier in the year.

VisitArran executive director Sheila Gilmore said: 'I am devastated for those in our hospitality sector who are most affected by the new guidelines released today. Secondly, I think we all recognise how hard our businesses have worked within the community to ensure everyone's safely by adhering to everything that has been thrown their way.'

should return to measures used previously such as two-metre social distancing.

Contact sports for people aged 18 and over will be suspended for the next two weeks - with an exception for professional sports.

Indoor group exercise activities will not be allowed, although the current rules will remain in place for under 18s and gyms can remain open for individual exercise.

It comes as Scotland recorded more than 1,000 new confirmed cases of the virus in a single day for the first time - although the country is doing far more testing now than at

'There were no Covid-19 cases on Arran as at last Friday, yet as part of NHS Ayrshire and Arran area we are penalised with the additional restrictions, due to the sad and worrying rise of cases within the mainland area. However, at the round table discussion a fortnight ago, Professor Jason Leitch advised that he would not distinguish within local health board areas between those areas where the pandemic is prevalent and those where it is not. He demonstrated concerns that if that was the case, everyone would flock to the uninfected areas and possibly end up spreading the virus further.'

Pressure to demolish ugly eyesore mounts

Continued from page one.
Construction confirmed this pending works commencing to demolish the building once the necessary permissions are in place to do so.'

Ms Mills added: 'The council made some recommendations to the owners that the building needed to be secure, although it should really be demolished.'

Iain Thomson of Thomson

Construction confirmed this week that the work to secure the site had been carried out, which included boarding up windows at the front and sealing the rear door. He said they were in talks with the owners about demolition but no progress had been made.

However, while the ground floor may now be secure,



Upstairs windows remain open below the sign showing the name of the hotel in Gaelic. 01_B41mclaren2



The dilapidated McLaren Hotel has been re-secured. 01_B41mclaren

windows on the first floor remained open and accessible when the Banner took the latest photographs on Tuesday.

Chairman Bill Calderwood said: 'It would be great if we could finally get the site cleared

up and the hotel demolished, but at least there seems to be a bit of progress.'

The Arran Banner's calls to the abodeGroup, based in King's Lynn, were not returned.

Major milestone is reached by Arran foodshare project

A free foodshare project on Arran has seen food worth more than £100,000 used rather than thrown away in less than two years.

Arran Eco Savvy has been running a foodshare scheme in conjunction with the local Co-op supermarkets since November 2018. Last month the foodshare reached a milestone having diverted almost 15 tonnes worth of food from landfill.

This would not have been possible without the support of the fantastic Eco Savvy volunteers who collected and distributed the food around the island for the first 15 months of the scheme and more recently the supportive Co-op staff who have kept the foodshare going in line with Covid-19 restrictions.

In November 2018, the foodshare began with the collection of short life, orange label food once per week. This was then distributed on the evening of collection in Brodick. Over the next three months the foodshare grew to be held three nights a week. A volunteer co-ordinator was appointed in mid 2019 and the foodshare continued to expand.

By March 2020 there were collections on five nights per week from the three Co-op supermarkets. This was distributed in seven locations on the island. Having the

'£100,000 of food that would otherwise have been binned has been kept out of landfill, lowering the island's carbon footprint'

foodshare in the different villages allowed for wide reaching access to the food. An exceptional network of more than 40 volunteers made the scheme possible, collecting food come rain or shine, sometimes up to 100kg worth at a time. The largest recorded collection was on December 27 2019 when 180kg, more than £1,000 worth, was distributed in Lamlash.

The foodshare scheme is about raising awareness of and preventing, food waste. It is not a foodbank. All island residents and visitors are welcome to collect food that would otherwise be destined for landfill. Food waste and its breakdown is a leading cause of methane emissions, a harmful greenhouse gas, and by using the foodshare and preventing the food being wasted this methane release is stopped.

The foodshare nights are run to be inclusive for all and some became social events in the island villages with coffee,

cake and recipes being shared.

The lockdown at the end of March put a stop to the foodshare being run in the collect and distribute model. It prompted a re-think of how to continue the scheme and ensure that Arran was diverting as much food waste from landfill as possible. Managers at the Co-ops on the island were very supportive in helping move the Eco Savvy foodshare into the stores.

Currently food is available from 8.15pm daily to be collected from fridges in both the big Co-op in Brodick and Lamlash Co-op. Eco Savvy has recently donated a freezer to the big Co-op Brodick to ensure the preservation of food left over from foodshare.

This is accessible at any time of day.

Arran Eco Savvy thanks the volunteers, Co-op staff and the Arran community for making this incredible achievement possible. £100,000 of food that would otherwise have been binned has been kept out of landfill, lowering the island's carbon footprint and helping to put a stop to food waste. The Co-op is very kindly donating £100 of food to the foodbank to mark this milestone. Thank you for supporting the foodshare.

Jessica Wallace,
Sustainable Food
Co-ordinator



The foodshare project was featured in the BBC Bitesize film series to help illustrate the UN Sustainable Development Goal Zero Hunger.

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The foodshare set up at the Big Co-op in Brodick, including the recently donated Eco Savvy freezer. Insert: Jessica Wallace.

A very different awards d



Naomi Provan with the John S Scott Award for Dux Medal and Milo Godwin who was awarded the Margaret Wright Award for Attainment in S4 exams.

Arran High School last week held their annual prizegiving in very different circumstances than usual.

Unfortunately, this had to be a closed event due to Covid-19 restrictions, so not the grand affair it has been in the past, but the ceremony still saw special prizes handed out to the pupils who are currently in school.

Award winners who have left will have their notification letters and awards posted to them.

The full awards list:

John S Scott Award for Dux - Medal - Naomi Provan.

Margaret Wright Award for attainment in S4 Exams - Milo Godwin.

JD MacKinnon, entering further education or apprenticeship - Ian McAdam, Darren Hewie, Gregor Crichton, James Currie, Alexander Macbeth, Liam

Bremner and Jack Crisp. Arran Society of Glasgow Endeavour Award: S1 - Jemma Totty, S2 - Hamish Campbell, S3 - Andrew Bunting, S4 - Callum Haddow, S5 - John McNeish, S6 - Hannah McCartney.

Andrew J Johnson Award for attainment in S2 Mathematics - Beth McCarthy.

Andrew J Johnson Award for attainment in S5 Mathematics - Naomi Provan.

A R Humphreys Award for attainment in S5 English - Naomi Provan.

Arran Dairies Hospitality Trophy for attainment in Home Economics - Freya Campbell.

Brian Miller Trophy for attainment in S5/6 Social Subjects - Joseph Gosman.

Buchanan Prize for essay writing in S4 English - Cerys Herapath.

Charles Russell Trophy for attainment in Technical Education - Gregor Morrison.

Heather Gough Trophy for speech and

drama - Harry Gilmore. Ian Watt Trophy for attainment in S5/6 Science - Naomi Provan.

Lamlash Millennium Cup for citizenship - Nicol Weir (Café).

Nicola McConnell Trophy for contribution to the Music Department - Finlay Elliott.

Golf Champion - First Minister's Trophy - Kyle McNicol.

Active Schools leadership - Sarah Costley-Wood.

Active Schools community - Charlotte McKillop.

Active Schools participant - Stanley Hale.

See next week's Banner for photographs of attainment and achievement certificates handed out in a short year group award ceremony.



The pupils receiving certificates of recognition of the YPI final held in school earlier this year.



Dux Naomi Provan with her English and Maths awards.



Cerys Herapath received the Buchanan Prize for essay writing in S4 English.



Beth McCarthy with the Andrew J Johnson Award for attainment in S2 Mathematics.

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Day at Arran High School



The winners and the awards which were handed out at the ceremony.



The award winners with their certificates.



Milo Godwin with the Margaret Wright Award for attainment in S4 exams.



Active Schools community winner Charlotte McKillop with Active Schools participant winner Stanley Hale.



Andrew Bunting of S3 received a special award for his round Arran running challenge.



Nicol Weir (Café) with the Lamash Millennium Cup for citizenship.



Naomi Provan with the Ian Watt Trophy for attainment in S5/6 Science.



Left: Harry Gilmore received the Heather Gough Trophy for Speech and Drama.

Arran Society of Glasgow Endeavour Awards were presented to the following pupils:
S1 – Jemma Totty; S2 – Hamish Campbell; S3 – Andrew Bunting; S4 – Callum Haddow; S5 – John McNeish, S6 – Hannah McCartney. Four of the recipients are pictured, right.



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Let's get going >

Let's get ready for new

The way the UK does business with Europe changes from January 1, heralding a new start for the small and medium-sized companies. Let's get businesses ready to take advantage of new opportunities ...

A NEW year, a new start. The UK has left the EU and will leave the single market and customs union at the end of transition period on December 31 2020.

This means changes in the way the UK does business with Europe and companies need to be ready to make the most of new opportunities.

While the final form of that relationship is still being established in negotiations between the UK and the EU, there are important preparations that all businesses should be making now in order to head off potential problems.

The UK Government has put a range of support measures in place.

If you run a business, it is important that you check what you need to do now. To make the process easy the UK Government has set up the [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) website. Here you will find all the information, tools, advice and checklists you need.

It includes how to continue trading to and from the EU. These rules also apply to importing goods from the rest of the world.

You can find out how commodities – wine, hops, eggs, poultry meat, beef and veal, fruit and vegetables – meet the requirements for export to the EU from January 1 2021.

There is also information and what to do if your employees need a visa or work permit and whether they meet the professional requirements for the country they're travelling to.



SUPPORT MEASURES: The UK Government announced a £705 million funding package for border infrastructure, staffing and IT.

The site includes information for all business types including advanced manufacturing and services like aerospace and electronics, agriculture, animals, fisheries and forestry; business and personal services, charities and voluntary organisations, construction and environmental services, defence, entertainment, education, transport and tourism.

The UK Government has also implemented other measures including introducing new border controls in stages up until July 1 2021 and providing more than



The UK Government has put a range of support measures in place, including introducing new border controls, and providing more than £80 million to boost the capacity of the customs intermediary sector.

£80 million to boost the capacity of the customs intermediary sector.

It has announced a £705 million funding package for border infrastructure, staffing and IT to ensure border systems are fully operational when the UK takes back control of its border after the end of transition.

As well as the [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) website, trade associations, chambers of commerce and business support groups also offer valuable support.

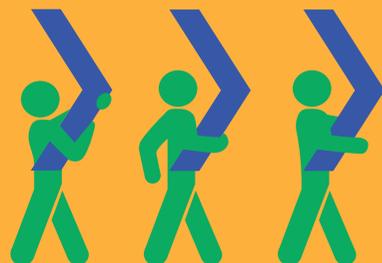
Now is the time to put the right preparations in place.

Ensure you are prepared

Make sure your business is ready for the end of transition period by visiting [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition)

Check tariffs that will apply to goods you import at [gov.uk/guidance/uk-tariffs-from-1-january-2021](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-tariffs-from-1-january-2021)

For more information on staff travel, work and providing services to any country in the EU, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway or Switzerland from 2021 visit [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition)



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NEW BEGINNING:
Simon Boyd with
Boris Johnson.



LOOKING AHEAD: REIDsteel Managing Director Simon Boyd is 'incredibly positive' about the new start.

'We aim to make the most of new opportunities'

One firm looking forward to new opportunities the new year will bring is John Reid & Sons Ltd (REIDsteel).

Managing Director Simon Boyd said: "We are incredibly positive about the new start, not only for our business but also for the UK economy. International trade is in the DNA of our company from its birth over a century ago to the modern day."

His £30 million turnover structural steel company has exported to more than 140 countries to date, directly employing 130 staff and at peak times providing work for 400 subcontractors.

"I believe it is a tremendous opportunity to restore British Standards to their rightful position as a hallmark of excellence worldwide while giving a shot in the arm to British manufacturing," continued the MD.

"We will be seeking to invest as a company and take full advantage of the benefits the new start will bring, allowing us to improve productivity, create jobs, grow our business, ultimately boosting the economy and Great Britain's place in the world."

REIDsteel is well versed in the

intricacies of trading in the European Union and worldwide, having drawn on its own expertise while also utilising UK Government resources such as the gov.uk/transition website for detailed planning to ensure business continuity in the days, weeks and months leading up to December 31 as well as for longer term strategic considerations.

REIDsteel has long-standing plans in place to capitalise on the benefits the new start will bring, including a multi-million-pound new manufacturing facility.

Mr Boyd said: "We immediately hit the go button on our long-held plans for a new manufacturing facility once the country voted to leave the EU. It will considerably boost the company's productivity, allow us to create more jobs, take our apprenticeship programme to the next level, provide more work for firms in our supply chain and grow our business."

"But, more than that, we see it is a vote of confidence in Great Britain. We are an ambitious company, both for ourselves and the country. This gives us the potential to achieve those ambitions."

REIDsteel has used home products for

most of its history but consolidated that in December when it made British Steel its primary supplier.

Mr Boyd continued: "We do trade in Europe, but not as much as we would like, as the bureaucracy and protectionism that has built up over many years can make it extremely difficult."

"The gov.uk/transition site does the hard work by identifying key issues of concern for individual businesses."

"Many businesses could be forgiven for wanting to switch off but it is critical that they engage," added Mr Boyd.

"It is not too late to get to grips with the issues involved, and the gov.uk/transition site is the best place to start."

"With its interactive format it will only

“

We are an ambitious company, both for ourselves and the country. This gives us the potential to achieve those ambitions.

present the relevant issues affecting a business, which means a hard-pressed director or time-poor SME boss doesn't have to plough through reams of information.

"It serves as a checklist of issues to consider or address, but also has links to other government resources for relevant information."

"But, more than that, it can also serve as inspiration for potential business opportunities after transition or for ways to improve business efficiency or productivity."

"I would encourage all firms to view this move positively and take advantage of the support on offer from the UK Government."

To find out more about the UK's new start
go to gov.uk/transition

Let's get going >

LETTERS

Write to us: send your letters to editor@arranbanner.co.uk
or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ

Clean up the site

The McLaren Hotel saga has gone on far too long. It is time to put an end to it now. If the owners do not apply for a demolition order, then the authorities should act to clear the site, send them the bill – and revoke the planning permission granted for a new hotel.

The once fine hotel, even in its latter years, was an asset to Brodick and its shorefront. Now it lies as a dilapidated ugly eyesore – the building rotting and the grounds unkempt and overgrown. Hardly a sign for first time visitors which says: 'Welcome to a thriving Arran'.

At least for now the building has been re-secured, which may stop it being further ransacked. Inside the building is said to be a deathtrap, so the fact there are still windows open upstairs is a concern.

At least if the site was cleared it would not be such an eyesore and maybe it could even be put to temporary use as a car park, given the parking situation in Brodick, particular in the summer.

Given the current global economic climate, it seems highly unlikely that a new £9 million hotel is going to be built on Arran anytime soon. And given the owner's silence since being given planning permission nearly two years ago, we do not expect the position to change any time soon.

It is all very well for the owners in Norfolk to ignore the site; they don't have to look at it every day. We say it is up to the authorities to demand, not ask, that action be taken to clean up the site – and soon.

Thought for the week

'The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding have all those who practise it.' **Psalm 111: 10**

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Opening the door

Sir,
It was with a growing sense of irritation that I read the letter from Mr Cruickshank in last week's edition of the Arran Banner in which he suggests the second opinion of an epidemiologist might clear the way for entertaining a guest in his home.

The correspondent and guest are over 70 – as indeed am I – and therefore in the 'vulnerable' category. We have all heaped criticism on the comings and goings of Margaret Farrier MP, Robert Genrick MP, Dr Catherine Calderwood and Dominic Cummings, whose actions were in breach of the coronavirus restrictions and we should be better than them and observe the rules because it may save our lives and those of others.

I well remember the furore in 1973 and 1983 when motorcycle crash helmets and car seatbelt legislation came into force. These laws saved lives and that is what the coronavirus restrictions are trying to do. Ignoring the rules for one's own gratification simply opens the door to possible infection.

Yours,
**Brian Grindall,
Torbeg.**

Political games

Sir,
After seeing the recent reports regarding the loss of revenue experienced by Arran, I feel it is important you put the blame squarely at the SNP, in particular, Nicola Sturgeon.

We had booked a holiday on Arran for the end of August/September and looked forward to revisiting your beautiful island. However, due to the messages constantly given out by Ms Sturgeon we decided that travelling from England to Arran was going to be traumatic as we did not know from one day to the next if she was going to put restrictions on the crossing from England to Scotland. She has such a deep hatred of the English and at any moment she was possibly going to introduce restrictions which would have greatly affected our holiday and caused great distress.

Your island should be pushing for compensation from the Scottish Government

We have rebooked for June 2021 and look forward to a stress free journey.

Yours,
**Yvonne Jamieson,
Bridlington.**

Well-being is a priority

A copy of this letter was sent to VisitArran. Here is executive director Sheila Gilmore's reply.

Hi Yvonne,

I'm so sorry that you felt the need to cancel your break to Scotland due to the possible impacts of the Covid-19 restrictions.

VisitArran is completely apolitical and, as such, I cannot respond to your comments about the First Minister. However, the Scottish Government are very aware of the situation and businesses have been able to access a range of support and funding programmes specifically. We are living in ever changing circumstances and it is difficult for everyone in the country to keep track of the restrictions.

We have been very fortunate in that there have been no cases on Arran since April, but we are not complacent and recognise that we've been very lucky in that many people have been able to come to our island on holiday. Equally, we do recognise that this may not always be possible.

The health and well-being of our small community is our priority and, as such, we must follow the guidelines published by the Scottish Government, as well as encouraging community and visitors with our #WeAreArran poster.

I am very glad you are booked for 2021. Let us hope this pandemic is behind us by then.

Yours,
**Sheila Gilmore,
Executive director,
VisitArran.**

A joy to my EV needs

Sir,
I wrote to the Banner in August about the outdated and antiquated 1st Generation EV charging point at the Auchrannie Hotel in Brodick and how for many years it had been inoperable, never functioning correctly, failing to connect and more often than not off line completely.

I am delighted now that six weeks after the Banner published my letter, the Auchrannie has installed a new 7.2W 32A, RolecEV Charge point at the Playbarn where the old unit was positioned.

It's plug in and charge now. It takes less than five seconds to plug in your cable and start charging, a joy to my EV needs and those of many others who can now rely on this charge point in the future.

Also in response to a follow up story in August about online phone applications being able to



The new EV charging point at Auchrannie.

show if chargers were in use, I was fully aware of this, however, the Auchrannie never showed out of service, or in use, because it wasn't connecting with the servers – a vicious circle.

Some apps will show a unit's last charge date and those who have checked-in to let other EV users know if the units are working, a function now that will be most helpful to EV users coming to the island in the future.

Thank you to the Auchrannie for finally updating their technology with a modern functional and hopefully reliable new charging station.

No more worries on island visits for me. Thank you again.

Yours,
**Paul McDowall,
Paisley.**

Seagull antics

Sir,
I really liked Sharon Wedge's seagull photograph in last week's Banner.

I wonder if it could be the same bird that took a liking to my golf shoes at Shiskine Golf Club.

After it finished untying my laces it proceeded to play fetch with my golf ball.

I have a video of each caper.

I wonder what Mr Cassels would make of these antics.

Yours,
**Graeme Thomson,
Torrance.**

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The seagull playing fetch ball at Shiskine.

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However, we realise that mistakes happen from time to time. If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the chief reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter, by emailing: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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

Son follows father into the ministry

The Rev Gordon Macleod has finally followed in his father's footsteps by becoming a minister later in life.

Gordon was back on Arran this week to see his parents, the Rev Dr Ian Macleod and his mum Nancy, following his recent ordination in Liverpool Cathedral.

Gordon came to Arran at the age of seven and attended Brodick primary and Arran high schools. After school, he studied at Moray House College of Education in Edinburgh, qualifying three years later with a diploma in social work.

Thereafter he worked as a social worker with the elderly for 25 years, during which time he also graduated as a Bachelor of Laws at London University.

Moving to England around seven years ago, he was employed by the Church of England, eventually starting training for the priesthood, and is now Curate in the parish of Maghull and Melling in Liverpool.

His father's career in the Church of Scotland began first as a Lay



Reverend Dr Ian Macleod and Reverend Gordon Macleod in Brodick this week. 01_B41liverpool01

Missionary in Lanarkshire, Glasgow, and Shetland from 1961-1964.

Ordained

In 1964, he started studying for the ministry at Glasgow University and was ordained to his first charge of Canal Street in Paisley in 1969.

Five years later, he came to the

parishes of Brodick and Corrie, enjoying a 32 year ministry on Arran retiring at the age of 65 in 2006.

Both Ian and Gordon followed in a family tradition of ministry, Ian's grandfather and Gordon's great grandfather, the Reverend Alexander Hendry, having been an Episcopalian minister in Glasgow.

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Chances for young jobless

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK Government has continued to act with speed to protect Scottish companies and safeguard jobs. The Kickstart scheme, currently underway, is one such way of getting the country's young people into a job. This is how the initiative works and who it is aimed at.

A NEW scheme to help young people in Scotland into work and boost the country's economic revival has been launched by the UK Government.

Businesses are now able to sign up to be part of the landmark £2billion Kickstart scheme, giving unemployed young people a future of opportunity and hope by creating high-quality, government-subsidised jobs.

Under the scheme, announced by Chancellor Rishi Sunak as part of his Plan for Jobs, Scottish employers can offer youngsters aged 16 to 24, who are claiming Universal Credit, a six-month work placement.

The Government will fully fund each Kickstart job by paying 100 per cent of the age-relevant National Minimum Wage, National Insurance and pension contributions for 25 hours a week.

Employers will be able to top up this wage, while the UK Government will also pay employers £1,500 to set up support and training for people on Kickstart placements, as well as helping pay for uniforms and other set up costs. The jobs will give young people – who are more likely to have been

“

The scheme will open the door to a brighter future for a new generation, helping Scotland bounce back stronger as a country.

Useful links

Kickstart scheme

gov.uk/government/collections/kickstart-scheme

Job Retention

gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-job-retention-scheme

Working safely

gov.uk/guidance/working-safely-during-coronavirus-covid-19

furloughed, many working in sectors disproportionately hit by the pandemic – the opportunity to build their skills in the workplace and gain experience to improve their chances of finding long-term work.

The Chancellor said: “This isn't just about kickstarting our economy – it is an opportunity to kickstart the careers of thousands of young people who could otherwise be left behind as a result of the pandemic.”

The scheme will open the door to a brighter future for a new generation, helping Scotland bounce back stronger as a country.

Secretary of State for Scotland Alister Jack said: “The UK Government's Kickstart scheme will give young people in Scotland the support they need at this difficult time. The £2 billion Kickstart scheme will create thousands of high quality jobs for young people with the UK Government directly subsidising wages for six months. Young people will also get additional support through the Jobcentre network. I urge employers in Scotland to sign up to this.”

Businesses of all sizes looking to create quality jobs for young

KICKSTART:
Unemployed young people in Scotland are being given a future of opportunity and hope.



■ As the rate of infection of coronavirus changes, please ensure that you adhere to any localised measures that are introduced in your area.

people can apply and there is no cap on the number of places. Household names including Tesco and The Prince's Trust are among those who have already pledged to offer Kickstart jobs.

The scheme, being delivered by the Department for Work and Pensions, will initially be open until December 2021 with the option of being extended.

As part of the plan to support jobs, a Job Retention Bonus will be introduced to help firms keep furloughed workers. All Scottish employers will receive a one-off bonus of £1,000 for each furloughed employee who remains continuously employed through to the end of January 2021.

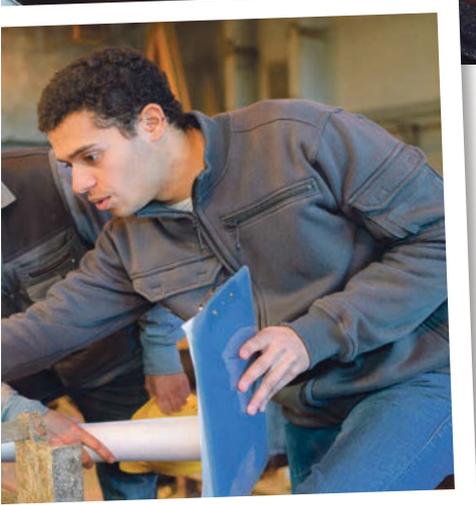
Employees must earn above the Lower Earnings Limit (£520 per month) on average between the end of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and the end of January 2021 with payments made from February 2021.



Supporting business

Supporting business

are given a £2bn Kickstart



Winter Economy Plan

IN HIS Winter Economy Plan the Chancellor announced more measures to try to prevent mass job losses across the UK when the Jobs Retention Scheme ends at the end of October.

The three main pillars of the plan of the UK Government's new Job Support Scheme, expected to cost an estimated £500 million, are ...

■ Supporting viable jobs, making sure that employees must work

a third of their normal hours, paid as normal by the employer, with a top-up provided by the UK Government.

■ Six months of targeted support at firms that need it the most – mostly smaller and medium sized businesses – with larger firms allowed to apply if turnover has fallen.

■ Extending the existing self-employment grant as it currently stands.



OPPORTUNITY:
James Vargo, Chief Executive of DirectID

'A great chance to build momentum'

A Scottish company CEO praised the UK Government's Kickstart scheme as a "great opportunity".

James Vargo, Chief Executive of Edinburgh-based DirectID, hopes to take on 30 recruits thanks to the initiative.

His fintech firm, supplying bank data products to customers across more than 30 countries, has been operating for a decade.

Companies use DirectID to verify the identity of their customers or applicants, carry out regulatory and compliance checks such as Anti-Money Laundering and Know Your Customer, also assessing affordability and spending patterns.

DirectID connects to more than 13,000 banks globally, having customers across the UK, Europe and continental America.

It gives the user the ability to do more online, by taking trusted data in your bank account and using it to access additional services.

"The Kickstart scheme is a great opportunity," said Mr Vargo, originally from Vancouver, based in the UK for 24 years.

"We have actually just stretched ourselves and put in an application for 30 people".

He hoped they could entice other fintech companies to join the bid but, when that did not happen, "we decided to go for it any way and play our part."

DirectID already employs 25 people with company revenues having doubled this year, allowing the operation to more than double its workforce by taking on 30 job-seekers.

"There is a buzz around this kind of business right now and it is a good time to expand," he explained.

DirectID is using the Kickstart scheme to recruit across the board, including sales and marketing roles, data insights and data analysis positions.

Mr Vargo encouraged other Scottish firms to embrace the scheme, seeing it as an opportunity to build more momentum in fintech – one area that has increased amid the current pandemic.

The UK Government hopes that, after the six months, those on the scheme will become permanent staff.

"If we can use this to find some people, and it's all productive and effective, then absolutely we will look to keep them on," he added.

You're hired – the apprentices helping to build the Arran ferry

Meet some of the apprentices helping to build the new Arran ferry the MV Glen Sannox.

A record number of 25 young people have been given modern apprenticeships at the Scottish government owned Ferguson Marine yard at Port Glasgow.

And last week the economy and fair work secretary Fiona Hyslop made a virtual visit to the yard to meet some of the young people set to embark on the three-year course at the yard and at college.

As part of its mission to invest in the long-term future and sustainability of the yard, Ferguson awarded a record number of 25 young people with modern apprenticeships this year across a variety of trades including fabrication, welding, mechanical engineering and technical support.

They will work on a variety of projects at the yard including the delayed MV Glen Sannox, due to start in service on the Ardrossan to Brodick route in April 2022 and her sister ship Hull 802.

Four new apprentices were at the Port Glasgow yard to meet Fiona Hyslop via video link.

Lewis Emerson, 21, Beth Atkinson, 25, James McEwan, 17, and Marley Weir, 18, shared their hopes and ambitions for their future careers with the cabinet secretary.

Working in partnership with West College Scotland, Ferguson gives young people the opportunity to gain an academic understanding of their work in the classroom while combining it with the practical experience of one-to-one mentoring within the shipyard setting.



Four of the new apprentices at the Ferguson yard with the MV Glen Sannox behind them.

Ms Hyslop commented: 'It was great to meet the new apprentices at Ferguson's and hear about their plans for the future.'

Michael Sinclair, 25, who started a Ferguson modern

apprenticeship in 2012 in fabrication, also spoke with the cabinet secretary, who congratulated him on achieving his recent first class honours degree. Obtained via Skills Development Scotland's new graduate level apprenticeship at the University of the West of Scotland, Michael achieved the top grade of his year and was the first person from Inverclyde to complete the degree in engineering, design



Michael Sinclair, who started a Ferguson modern apprenticeship in 2012 and has now graduated, also met Ms Hyslop via the video link.

and manufacturing. Michael said: 'Shipbuilding has always been a dream career for me.'

'My dad and my uncle both worked for Ferguson so you could even say it's in the blood.' 'The achievements of people like Michael show the success of these schemes and the power of learning while you earn. It was a pleasure to present Michael with his degree certificate and I wish all of this year's intake the best of luck for

their careers,' said Ms Hyslop.

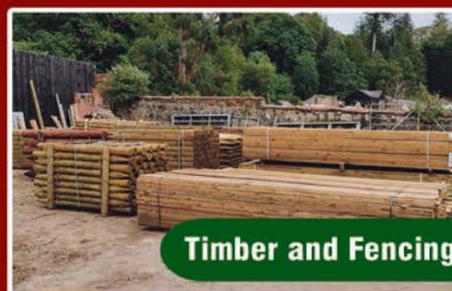
Tim Hair, turnaround director at Ferguson Marine, added: 'These are uncertain times for school leavers, so it is more important than ever before to help young people into jobs.'

'Our apprenticeship programme not only benefits each individual enrolled but also helps secure the long-term future of the yard by creating a team of successors capable of taking the business forward.'

Cladach Sawmill and Garden Centre



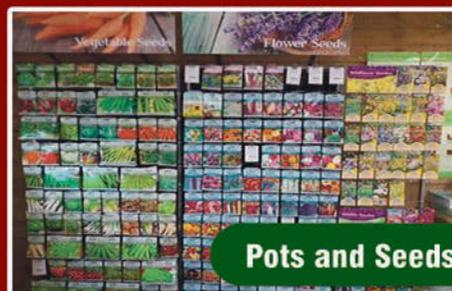
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Hebridean Princess given good to go status by VisitScotland

Hebridean Island Cruises Ltd, the operator of the luxury 50 passenger Scottish cruise ship Hebridean Princess, has been awarded 'We're Good to Go' accreditation by VisitScotland.

A regular visitor to Arran, she will visit the island on her first cruise in March next year taking passengers to Lochranza and Lagg distilleries.

VisitScotland award a 'We're Good to Go' certificate to all tourism businesses who have carried out a Covid-19 risk assessment to check they have everything in place to re-open safely.

Of the announcement, managing director Ken Charleson said: 'Protecting the health, safety and welfare of our guests, crew and the remote communities which we visit is our number one priority and we have been



The Hebridean Princess on a previous visit to Arran

01_B12hebo1

working hard to adhere to government and public health guidance. We are delighted to have been awarded the 'We're Good to Go' accreditation for when we resume operations in March of next year.'

Hebridean Princess will recommence cruise operations on March 1 2021 with a four night Greenock to Greenock departure entitled Pearls of the Clyde. It will visit Loch Fyne, Crarae Garden, Arran distilleries, Mount Stuart

House, on the Isle of Bute and Charles Rennie Mackintosh's masterpiece Hill House.

Hebridean Princess will then sail to the Highlands and islands of Scotland, Orkney, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and Norway during the season.

With 30 individually designed cabins, all named after Scottish isles, castles, lochs and sounds, the ship is regarded as one of the finest country houses afloat.

New Scottish Legislation for Fire and Smoke Alarms

Scottish legislation has changed. Introduced in February 2019, the change applies to all households in Scotland and must be met by February 2021. The new Scottish legislation states that an interlinked Fire and Smoke alarm system must be fitted in your property and that there should be adequate Carbon Monoxide protection.

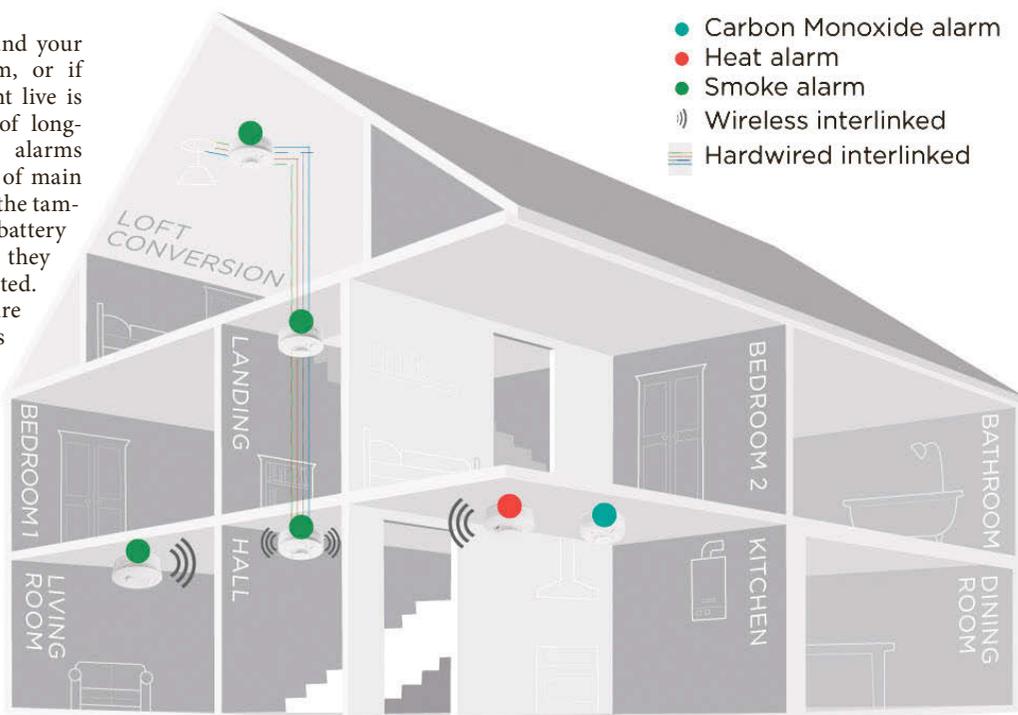
This legislative change to the Tolerable Standard covers all homes, both in the private and social housing sectors. The standard now requires a fully interlinked LD2 Fire and Smoke alarm system:

- One smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used for general daytime living purposes
- One smoke alarm in every circulation space on each storey, such as hallways and landings
- One heat alarm installed in every kitchen

Fire and Smoke alarms must be interconnected and this can be achieved via traditional cabling methods or wirelessly. This new legislation also requires a Carbon Monoxide detector to be installed where there is a fuel-burning appliance (such as boilers, fires, heaters and stoves) or where there is a flue. Homeowners and landlords must comply to the new Scottish legislation by February 2021.

If you already have Fire and Smoke alarms installed in your property, check that they are interlinked. If you have an alarm system but it does not currently meet the new requirements, you can expand your system with wireless interconnection. By having an interlinked system, the whole alarm system will be triggered if one alarm is activated meaning you are alerted immediately in the event of a fire.

If you need to expand your current alarm system, or if access to a permanent live is difficult, tamper proof long-life battery powered alarms can be used in place of main powered alarms with the tamper proof long-life battery back-up, providing they can be interconnected. The Aico 600 Series Fire and Smoke alarms are battery powered units that meet this requirement, whereas the Aico 3000 Series is the mains powered equivalent.



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Free heating helping to end fuel poverty



The Scottish government is offering free energy efficient heating for a limited period.

Householders should be entitled to claim this free government grant if they are on a range of benefits and local energy surveyor Paul Campbell is the man to get in touch with.

His Ardrossan-based company, Green Energy EPC, regularly travels to Arran and they focus on providing heating systems, roof in room insulation, loft insulation and cavity wall insulation - which are all 100 per cent free under the scheme to help people on benefits reduce their bills and carbon footprint.

Single mum Louise Horne was this week over the moon about having her free high heat retention electric heating system and free solar panels installed in her Kilwinning home. They are so advanced they tell the customer if a door is open and to close it.

Fuel poverty is at an all time

Paul with Louise outside her house with the new solar panels which were installed this week.

high affecting more than 4.5 million homes throughout the UK. Arran has only one main energy source - electricity - which means higher bills, which may result in fuel poverty. This is caused by inadequate heating and insulation, low household incomes and the high rising costs of energy.

Individuals are experiencing the effects of this by having psychological stress, social isolation, exacerbating serious illness such as respiratory and circulatory conditions.

Children are suffering and are over twice as likely to suffer from conditions such as asthma and bronchitis as those living in a low heated home.

People shouldn't have to decide between eating or heating. As prices increase, people in fuel poverty are falling into debt and can't afford to properly do both.

It is important to know there is help out there that isn't common knowledge. Government funding is available to insulate your home and install a new energy efficient heating system which will reduce your energy costs.



Louise Horne with her new electric heating system.

Why is it free?

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) began in April 2013. This is a government energy efficiency scheme in the UK to assist in reducing carbon emissions and end fuel poverty.

We all have been warned if it's too good to be true it probably isn't genuine. This is a pity as so many people are missing out on free government funding to improve their homes. ECO is focussed on the Home Heating Cost Reduction Obligation. This was introduced to help low income, fuel poor and vulnerable households to heat their homes. This includes actions that result in heating savings, such as the replacement of a broken heating system or the upgrade of an inefficient heating system and insulation to stop the heat escaping. The current funding scheme is limited but it is applicable if you are on benefits including state pension, child tax credits, child benefit, universal credit, disability living allowance, PIP and carer allowance, among others. Contact Paul Campbell on 07972 411503 or by email at greenenergpc@outlook.com

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No bat concerns over new glamping plans

Concerns over bats and lizards have failed to stop a plan to build three glamping pods in Corriegills from being given the go ahead.

A planning application for the erection of three glamping pods, with permeable parking and paths at the former hotel and B&B The Sheilin had been submitted to North Ayrshire Council, as previously reported in the Banner.

However, objections and concerns regarding the development's potential impact on protected species, namely bats and common lizard *Zootoca vivipara*, were raised.

As a result United Environmental Services (UES) was instructed to provide a response relating to ecology concerns, but these were largely dismissed.

The report states: 'Bats require a structure to roost in and have been known to roost

within buildings, bridges and other structures and trees.

'However, there are no buildings, structures or trees onsite or immediately adjacent to the site that will be impacted by the development.

'As such, the proposed development will have no impact on roosting bats and a further bat roost potential survey/bat scoping survey is not required and cannot be undertaken due to the lack of roosting opportunities on site.

Grassland

'The entire site entirely comprises improved grassland which provides poor quality habitat for common lizard as it offers negligible foraging, hibernating and sheltered commuting opportunities.

'The hedgerows at the site boundaries offer some, albeit limited, opportunities.

'As such, it is considered highly unlikely that common



A digital image of the proposed glamping pods.

lizard are present on site and no further surveys are required.'

As a result they conclude: 'Following a review of all

documents and comments submitted as part of the planning application and a review of photos and aerial imagery of the site, it is UES' opinion the

proposed development has a very limited potential to have adverse impacts upon any designated site or any protected or otherwise notable species.'

New houses for Kilmory

A new application has been made to build seven affordable family homes in Kilmory.

A planning application to build the detached houses on the former site of Kilmory Primary School was approved by North Ayrshire Council planning officials a year ago but now needs renewal.

Planning permission was first granted in 2008 for the development of five detached houses but applicant, architect John Lamb, believes there is now a need for cheaper more affordable homes.

In a statement to support the application by Beechacre Homes Limited, Mr Lamb says: 'Since then [2008] market conditions have changed, with the applicant believing demand for larger family houses in Kilmory is diminishing with an increased awareness of a need for more affordable homes on Arran. In light of this, the applicant has re-evaluated the design brief.'

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Make a Will For

Monday 19th and Friday 30th October

Make a Will, Make a Difference

The Ayrshire Hospice "Make a Will Fortnight" campaign takes place during October 2020 and it's another fantastic opportunity to support your local hospice particularly during the current pandemic where fundraising is challenging for charities.

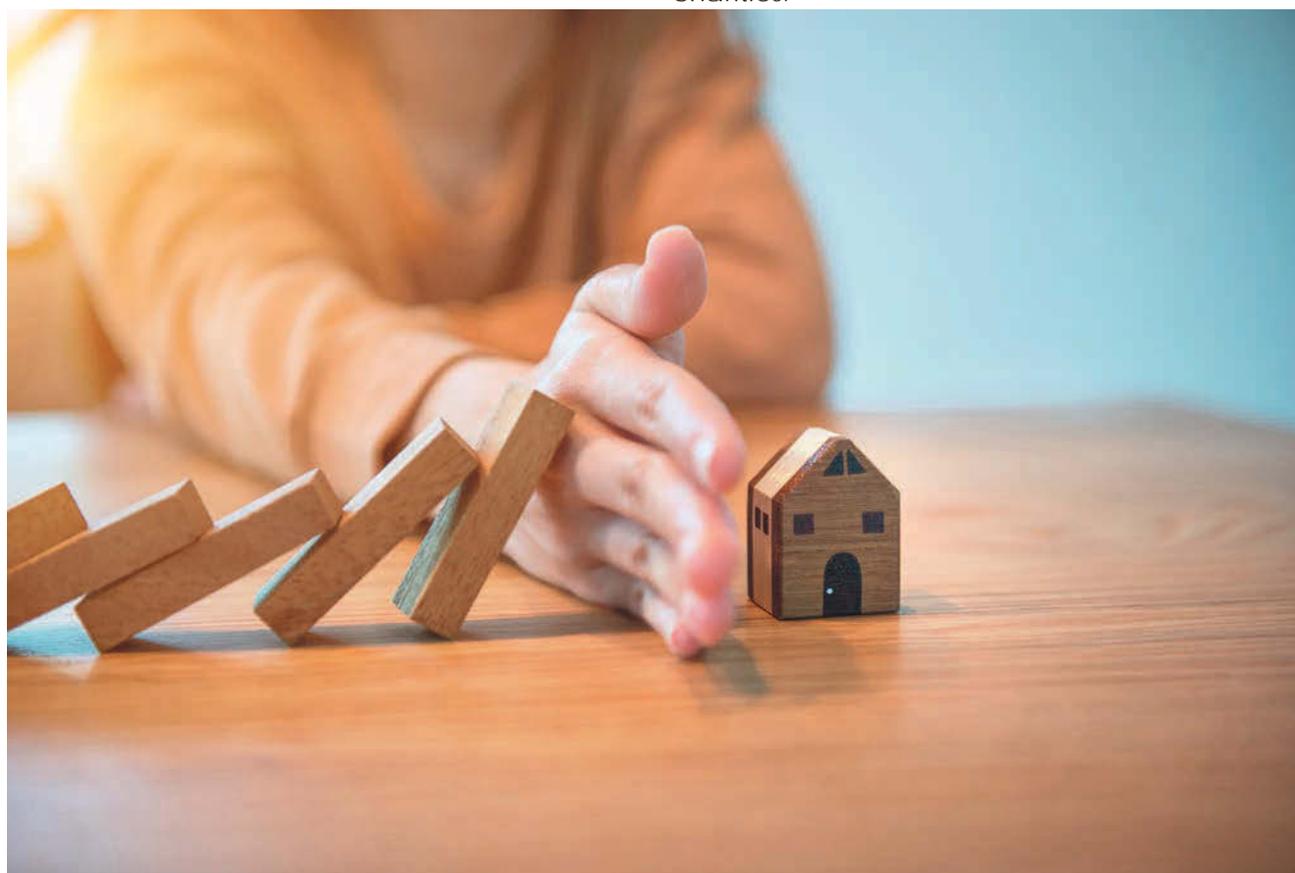
Between Monday 19th and Friday 30th October, people in Ayrshire will have the opportunity to make or update their Will in exchange for a donation to the hospice.

The Covid-19 pandemic has been a difficult situation for everyone and also a reflective time for many. By making a Will, you can ensure that those closest to you are looked after in the future. You will not only be taking care of your loved ones but also helping your local hospice by making a donation to the campaign.

It's easy and affordable – all you have to do is arrange an appointment with one of the participating solicitors.

Ron Swanson, Assistant Fundraising Manager at the Ayrshire Hospice said: "We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to all participating solicitors who are giving their time and expertise free of charge, and to supporters across the Ayrshire community."

Last year, over £22,000 was raised during the Make a Will Fortnight with over 400 Wills being prepared or updated by a team of over 30 supporting solicitors across Ayrshire and Arran. This established campaign has collectively raised over £200,000 for the hospice since it was introduced nine years ago.



JAS CAMPBELL & CO
solicitors financial advisers estate agents



Between 19th - 30th October, Jas Campbell & Co. Solicitors and Estate Agents in Brodick will be supporting Ayrshire Hospice's "Make a Will Fortnight". We shall waive our fees for writing or updating simple Wills in exchange for adonation to Ayrshire Hospice.

Do you have a valid Will?

If you would like to make use of this opportunity, please contact our Brodick office to arrange an appointment where one of our Solicitors will guide you through the process. Socially distanced and remote appointments are available. Jas Campbell & Co. Solicitors offer a complete and professional service designed to provide you with the expert advice you require to make an informed decision on the contents of your Will.



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Making a Will is one of the most important things you can do -

after all it determines how our most personal possessions and hard-earned savings will be shared among close family and friends. Failure to make a will could mean that your estate - money, other assets and possessions - could be distributed according to the law rather than your wishes.

We are delighted to be once again supporting Ayrshire Hospice with a free will writing service in return for a donation to the hospice, during Make a Will Fortnight.



Nellany^{5Co.}
SOLICITORS

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email rhona@nellanysols.co.uk**

tnight 2020

Ron added: "It really is an exceptional amount to raise during the two-week campaign whilst at the same time providing our supporters with some important guidance on making their Will.

"If the time is ever right for you to remember a charity in your Will, please remember Ayrshire Hospice. Every gift in every Will, regardless of size, makes a difference to the exceptional and compassionate care that we provide to patients and their families today and in the future. You can leave us a gift of even 1% in your Will so those closest to you inherit 99%."

The care provided by Ayrshire Hospice is at no cost to patients or their families, however, it does require extensive, on-going fundraising support. It costs £7.9 million per year to run all hospice services, including patient, fundraising and support services – equating to approximately £22,000 per day; and 80p in every £1 raised goes directly towards patient care.

For more information visit www.ayrshirehospice.org/make-a-will-campaign or please phone our hospice team on 01292 288488.



STEWART & OSBORNE LEGAL LLP

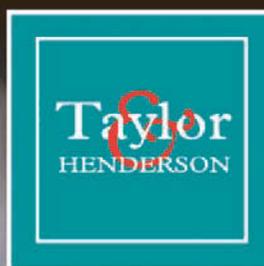
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Eco Savvy eBikes put to the test

As part of the Arran Eco Savvy initiative aimed at reducing our carbon footprint and encouraging less polluting methods of transport, The Arran Banner's Hugh Boag and Colin Smeeton were given the opportunity to trial two eBikes to see if they could be a viable alternative to the Banner car for work and play.

The initiative, supported by Energy Saving Trust, Transport Scotland, North Ayrshire Council and Arran Bike Club, has already provided organisations on Arran, including Arran Dairies, Arran Distillery and NHS staff, with a small fleet of eBikes which have been borrowed on a month-long basis to introduce people to the technology and to encourage the use of low carbon transport alternatives.

Reporter Colin Smeeton said: Living on Arran within a few miles of work and local shops, my total weekly vehicle mileage is minimal, often less than 15 miles. Where possible, I enjoy walking but for rainy days and for when I need carrying capacity, such as collecting shopping or taking my son to nursery, the use of a car with a boot and child seat is inescapable. Some background on my

usual cycling habits: I consider myself an occasional and fair weather cyclist. My decade-old mountain bike gets wheeled out of the garage about every two weeks with the majority of my cycling on off-road paths and forestry tracks. The rusting wheels and scratched paintwork on my bicycle tell the story of a bicycle that is seldom used but one that has provided many years of service in nothing more than a leisure capacity.

So while I cannot claim using the Eco savvy eBike has reduced my vehicle mileage any more than it already is - as I generally only use my car for short essential trips - I can certainly say it has improved my leisure pursuits enormously and contributed to spending



Arran Banner reporter Colin Smeeton with his Eco Savvy eBike and Goatfell in the background.

more time outdoors with all of the health benefits cycling can bring.

The eBike has also encouraged me to venture out further than usual. Surrounding forestry tracks and cycling locations to the north of Brodick were often reserved for those days where I felt like an extended 'expedition type' adventure owing to the hills between villages. But with the eBike - which Eco Savvy describe in their literature as helping to flatten out the connecting routes between homes, workplaces and villages - I have been taking on bigger challenges, steeper hills and exploring outlying areas which has expanded my cycling horizons.

The option on the eBike to select as much assistance through the use of the eco, normal, sport and sport + modes as required, is something I have found useful. It is comforting to know the additional assistance is there if required, especially when you find yourself many miles away from home, having possibly bitten off more than you can chew.

eBikes are heavier than normal bikes, and there is no getting around that, owing to battery requirements and therefore weight, but that is offset by the pedal assistance which drastically reduces the amount of energy required to peddle such a heavy bicycle. Without the assistance, all cycling on the eBike would be comparable to carrying a small person, or the equivalent of 25-30kg, with you wherever you go. Recognising this helped alleviate some of the feelings of guilt associated with using the pedal assistance when I some-

times felt I should be cycling without assistance.

So the question has to be answered, could an eBike replace my normal vehicle mileage? In my case, in my circumstances, the honest answer has to be no. If I lived elsewhere and had a longer commute or my usual visiting locations were spaced further apart, it would undoubtedly be yes. If I travelled more, or further, each day I could, without a doubt, replace some of my vehicle miles with cleaner and healthier pedal miles.

Active lifestyle

Having said that, the eBike has definitely encouraged me to get out more, to live a more active lifestyle and there has been occasions where it has replaced the use of a vehicle.

When the PS Waverley collided with Brodick pier recently, I needed to get to the scene with my camera as quickly as possible. I knew that vehicle traffic in the area, especially with emergency services, would be restricted with serious congestion.

The eBike was a perfect option. I slipped through the traffic effortlessly, arrived there quickly, fresh, and was able to get around places inaccessible by car.

My colleague Hugh Boag and I were able to cover the event from the pier to the other side of Brodick at Ormidale Pavilion and provide immediate photographs and reporting on the incident thanks, in part, to the Eco Savvy eBike.

I will be sad when I have to return the smile-inducing bicycle and, when battery technology improves and prices come down, I will be looking at buying my own eBike. With the implications for my health,

and that of the planet, it will be a worthwhile investment. I would urge everyone to contact Eco Savvy to book an eBike trial free of charge. It may change the way you think about commuting and reduce some of your annual mileage. At worst, it will bring a huge smile to your face.

News editor Hugh Boag said: I am afraid the eBike just wasn't for me. The biggest drawback for me was the sheer weight of the bike and getting it in and out of storage was a real problem for me.

Once on the road it was fine. However I felt - and this was probably my fault - I was letting the electrics do most of the work. This was most pleasurable going up hills but - as an occasional runner - I did not feel I was getting much of a workout.

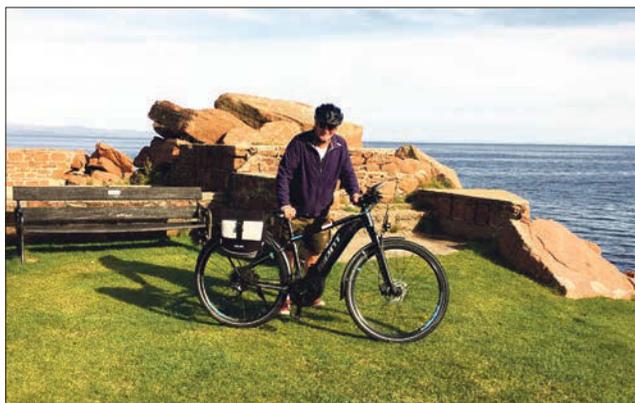
Also with the bike in its 'Sport +' fastest mode, I did feel the bike was getting away from me a bit going downhill.

I also discovered just how bad the roads on Arran are. The road edges are badly eroded in many places and the uneven surfaces and divots are a real menace to cyclists. These can be avoided sometimes, but not when cars are passing.

I didn't enjoy being off-road on the eBike either as I felt the back wheel tended to skid and did not fancy a fall in the gravel - too many memories of playing football on red blaise!

The one thing I did find was that the vast majority of drivers were courteous enough to give me a wide berth. But that maybe says more about my cycling than the drivers themselves.

I enjoyed the experience of trying an eBike, but I am afraid it is not for me.



Hugh Boag at Sandstone Quay in Corrie. 01_B41ebikes02

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index

2021

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Birds flock together ready for migration

September was cooler than August. There were no 'named storms' and the second half of the month was particularly dry and settled. September is the start of the peak migration season when many birds are on the move. The weather was conducive for watching this migration.

There were several first records for the year; a Slavonian grebe at Machriewaterfoot on 17th, a curlew sandpiper at Drumadoon Point on 18th, a ring ouzel on the Narachan on 24th and a little egret in Lochranza on 28th. Curlew sandpiper was last recorded on Arran in 2006.

Other birds on migration included: six white wagtail at Porta Buidhe on 1st, a greenshank on Silver Sands on 5th, two sanderling at Drumadoon Point on 9th, four knot also at Drumadoon Point on 15th, two sandwich tern at Blackwaterfoot also on 15th, a merlin on Meall Bhreac on 17th, 12 dunlin on Silver Sands on 20th and six wheatear on Shiskine Golf Course on 21st.

At this time of year, birds begin to flock together, often in preparation for migration.

Reports included: 50 pied wagtail at Corriecravie on 1st, 32 robin on Silver Sands on 6th, 300 starling also Silver Sands on 15th, 40 kittiwake at Sandbraes on 17th, 158 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot on 18th, also on 18th 300



A dead Razorbil, one of the victims of the August named storms. Photograph: Jim Cassels.

skylark and 300 goldfinch on Cleats Shore, 40 redshank at Sandbraes on 20th, 50 turnstone at Machriewaterfoot on 22nd, 70 long-tailed tit at Sannox on 23rd and 250 linnets on Cleats Shore also on 23rd. This gives an indication of the

numbers of birds that are on the move at this time of year.

In September there were reports of returning winter visitors including 48 rook in Slidery on 1st, 18 wigeon in Cosyden on 21st, 50 pink-footed geese over Kildonan on 23rd, 25 whooper swan over Coire Fhionn Lochan on 25th and three redwing over Slidery Shore on 27th. A number of summer visitors were still around in September including: 46 lesser black-backed gull at Lochranza on 1st, a willow warbler at Pirnmill on 5th, a spotted flycatcher on High Corrie on 6th and six chiffchaff at Slidery on 20th. The last hirundine records to date are one sand martin at Machrie on 1st, two swallow at Porta Buidhe on 26th and one house martin at Machrie on 28th. October should see the last of the house martins, swallows and other summer visitors departing south.

In all, 110 species were recorded on Arran in September, 10 more than last September.

Other interesting sightings this month included: four water rail at Corriecravie on 1st, four moorhen on Mossend



Bird
notes
by Jim Cassels
SEPTEMBER

Swallow are among the few summer migrants still lingering. Photograph: Shona Redmayne.

Pond also on 1st, a kingfisher at Port na Lochan on 10th, three goosander at Dougarie on 12th, a shelduck, returning after the autumn moult, at Cosyden on 14th, two dipper by Brodick Golf Course on 18th and 15 gannet off Loch

Ranza pier on 21st. Gannet also will soon be heading south for the winter.

The other widely reported event was the number of dead auks washed up on Arran's shores, mainly on the west coast. Around 30 bodies were reported - the majority were razorbills with some guillemots.

One of the razorbills had been ringed on the Shiantas as a fledgling in 2018. The event was also reported from other shores in the Firth of Clyde and was monitored by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency. It was thought to be related to the two named storms in August which had disrupted the birds' feeding.

My thanks to all the volunteers who took part in the eider

survey in September. There will be a brief report on this in the October notes.

Enjoy your birding and keep safe.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran buy the Arran Bird Report, the first 40 years, which includes the annual report for 2019 and visit www.arranbirding.co.uk

There is no 20 Years Ago this week as the Banner took an annual holiday back then. It will be back in two weeks.



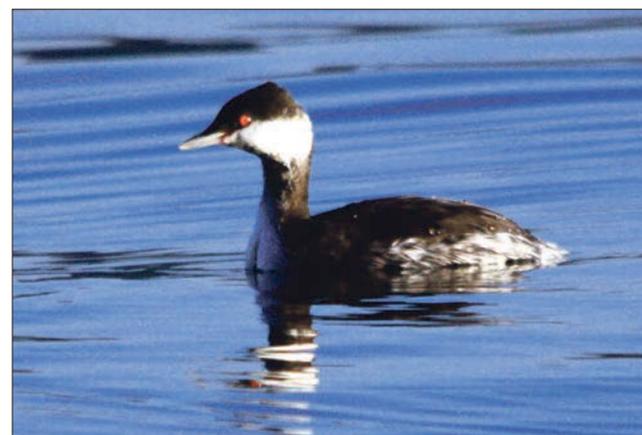
Golden Plover - another species on migration - flocking together. Photograph: Nick Giles.



Knot, one of number of regular Arctic breeding birds migrating through Arran at this time. Photograph: Simon Davies.



Whooper swans arriving. Photograph: Angela Cassels.



The first Arran record this year of a Slavonian grebe - an occasional passage migrant. Photograph: Brian Henderson.



The Arran Staycation –

The October school holiday week on Arran is going to have a very different feel to it this year. While the pubs and restaurants may be closed the hotels are still open and welcoming guests and are the island's B&Bs and self-catering establishments.

And while travel has been curtailed the restrictions are not mandatory so people can travel, if they so wish. So a backyard break on beautiful Arran

is the perfect tonic for a long weekend or a longer break and the welcome is both warm and safe.

There is Brodick Castle and Country Park, the Arran Heritage Museum and the two distilleries at Lochranza and Lagg are still open, but check what is available before travelling.

If it is the outdoor life you prefer then there is equally as much to offer from low level to high level walking, cycling, kayaking and not forgetting Scotland's big five – golden eagles, otters, seals, red squirrels and red deer.

Take-Away @thePHT

Cut out & keep! ✂

Our takeaway menu is available Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday from 3pm until 10pm (please see our facebook page for updates)

Menu

Haggis and Black pudding fritters with peppercorn sauce - £3.95
Battered haddock or vegan tofu wrapped with nori seaweed or scampi with chips & peas £10

Steak pie with chips and vegetables £10

8oz 100% beef or vegan burger, lettuce, tomato, and chips £10 (smoked beef £12)
- add cheese, bacon for £2 each

Beef or Quorn and vegetable chilli served with rice £10

Pork and leek sausage with haggis mash and cider sauce £10

Vegetable Lasagne & chips (vg option available) £10

Curry of the day served with rice (check availability) £12

Seafood pasta or other seafood dish as availability £15-£17

Desserts £4.50 each:

Belgian waffle with chocolate sauce, jam sponge,
hot chocolate fudge cake or chocolate brownie

Winter opening hours

From Friday 20th November we are open on Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday from 1pm until 10pm and available for private functions on other days by arrangement

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December - full menu

Christmas Day - Pre booking only - Christmas menu with two sittings

Boxing Day - bar menu available

Thursday 31st December - Pre booking only - Hogmanay Dinner with two sittings

New Year's Day - bar menu available

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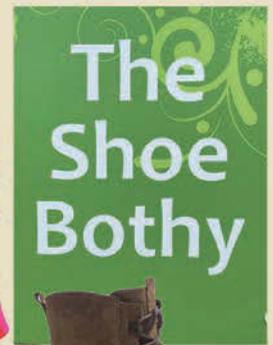
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The Old Byre Showroom has quality knitwear, sustainable clothing brands, woollen throws, handbags, sheepskin rugs and accessories. If you're after footwear, The Shoe Bothy – Arran's new shoe shop – offers shoes for everyone.

Treat yourself to a meal while you're here – Café Thyme offers delicious food from our wood burning oven with a Mediterranean/Scottish mix.



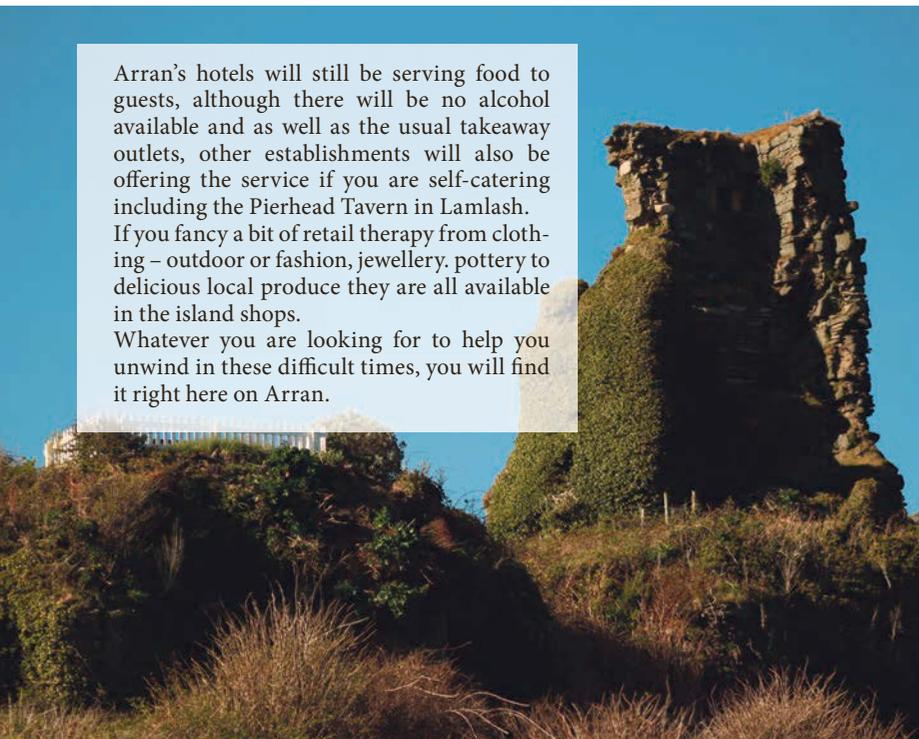
Welcome to Archie and Gregor's Play Area
Cool Kids allowed

Our outdoor playpark has swings, climbing wall, digger den, trampoline etc and which keeps the kids entertained while you enjoy the stunning views!



Here come the October Holidays!

Arran's hotels will still be serving food to guests, although there will be no alcohol available and as well as the usual takeaway outlets, other establishments will also be offering the service if you are self-catering including the Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash. If you fancy a bit of retail therapy from clothing – outdoor or fashion, jewellery, pottery to delicious local produce they are all available in the island shops. Whatever you are looking for to help you unwind in these difficult times, you will find it right here on Arran.



How's this for some great Autumn fun?!

'The Tattie-Bogle Trail'

Join in the scarecrow fun at Brodick Country Park!

Make your own scarecrow then bring it along to Brodick Country Park and get free family entry to the gardens and estate for the day.

Leave it with us and we will install it on our

tattie-bogle trail.

Come back and see your scarecrow during the holidays and at the end of the holidays there will be a grand scarecrow competition, the winners decided by public facebook likes!

Tattie-bogles will be along the fairy trail for all to see from 3rd - 30th October.

Arran
Single Malt

A Breath of Fresh Arran

The full range of Arran Single Malts are available to buy from Lochranza and Lagg Distilleries for you to enjoy at home.

We can't wait to welcome you back for tastings soon.

BRODICK CASTLE, GARDEN & COUNTRY PARK

There is plenty to see and do this autumn.

'The Tattie-Bogle Trail'

Join in the scarecrow fun at Brodick Country Park!

Make your own scarecrow then bring it along to Brodick Country Park and get free family entry to the gardens and estate for the day. (see pic attached)

Fairy Door Trail

Take part in the autumn themed fairy door trail inside the Castle

Pumpkin Carving!

Carve your own pumpkin at home and enter a picture in to our competition on the Brodick Castle, Gardens and Estate Facebook page.

All events run from the 3rd - 30th October.

Badger Watches may be scheduled during the autumn holidays. Check out our Facebook page Arran Ranger Service, for more details.

CLASSIFIEDS

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PUBLIC NOTICES

HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED)

THE ARDROSSAN HARBOUR REVISION ORDER 2020

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Ardrossan Harbour Revision Order 2020 was made by the Scottish Ministers on 1 October 2020 and came into force on 2 October 2020.

The Scottish Ministers decision letter can be found at:
<https://www.transport.gov.scot/transport-network/ports-and-harbours/harbour-orders/harbour-order-decisions/>

A copy of the Order may be inspected at the offices of Ardrossan Harbour Company Limited, 16 Robertson Street, Glasgow G2 8DS between the hours of 9.00am to 5.00pm Mondays to Fridays by telephoning 0141 241 8547 to make an appointment. The Order may also be viewed at www.legislation.gov.uk.

Any person who desires to question the making of the Order on the grounds that there was no power to make the Order or that a requirement of the Harbours Act 1964 was not complied with in relation to the Order may, within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order came into force, make an application for that purpose to the Court of Session.

BDB PITMANS LLP

Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents acting on behalf of
Ardrossan Harbour Company Limited
One Bartholomew Close, London EC1A 7BL
7 October 2020

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 09.11.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)

19/00609/PPM; Site To East Of Millstone Point, Lochranza, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Installation and operation of an Atlantic Salmon Fish Farm comprising 12 x 120m circumference fish pens and an accompanying feed barge.

PLEASE NOTE - All competent representations previously made in respect of the planning application will be considered during the determination of the application. **PLEASE DO NOT COMMENT UNLESS YOU HAVE SPECIFIC COMMENTS RELATING TO THE AMENDED APPLICATION.**

THE TOWN AND COUNTY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) SCOTLAND REGULATIONS 2017 As amended by The Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 21

The proposed development site at Site to East of Millstone Point, Lochranza, Isle of Arran is subject to assessment under the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Scotland Regulation 2017

Notice is hereby given that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report has been submitted to North Ayrshire Council by The Scottish Salmon Company relating to planning application (ref: 19/00609/PPM) in respect of the erection of the development of Installation and Operation of an Atlantic Salmon Fish Farm. The application may be approved (either unconditionally or subject to conditions) or refused. A copy of the information for the EIA Report may be viewed online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk until 9th November 2020. This application is being re-advertised as it has been amended. The number of proposed pens has been reduced from 20 to 12.

Given the Town and Country Planning (Miscellaneous Temporary Modifications) (Coronavirus) (Scotland) Regulations 2020, no physical copies will be available to view at public buildings.

Copies of the EIA Report may be purchased from The Scottish Salmon Company at a cost of £250 per paper copy and £5 per digital copy.

Written representations about the EIA Report may be made to the Head of Service (Economic Development & Regeneration). It is strongly encouraged that any representations are made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk using the reference 19/00609/PPM. Postal representations can also be made to Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE. All representations must be made by Monday 9th November 2020.

PLEASE NOTE - All competent representations previously made in respect of the EIA and planning application will be considered during the determination of the application. **PLEASE DO NOT COMMENT UNLESS YOU HAVE SPECIFIC COMMENTS RELATING TO THE AMENDED APPLICATION.**

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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friends and family for the kind
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our recent anniversary.*

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14TH OCTOBER
Arran Geopark Guided Walk, Glen Sannox and Blue Rocks - 10am -1pm



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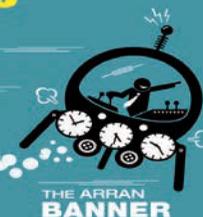
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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Independent but working together
Parish Assistant: Mrs Jean Hunter:

As numbers will be limited at all services places will need to be booked by the Friday.

Congregations will be advised who to contact for each Church to book a place. For Shiskine please contact John Kerr on 01770 860498. For Brodick please contact Liz Lawrie 01770 302782.

There will be a streamed service weekly, this can be found on the three Church websites, www.stmoliosshiskine.org.uk, www.brodickchurch.org, www.lochranzachurch.org.uk

Sunday 11th October

Lochranza Church 9.30am Morning worship.

Pirnmill Church 10.45am. Morning worship

Shiskine Church 12 noon. Morning worship

Brodick Church 10.30am. Morning worship.

Corrie Church 12noon. Morning worship.

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 11th October
Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Holy Communion - 11 am.
Revd Canon Simon Mackenzie
ALL WELCOME
We follow strict SEC guidelines

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 11th 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.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEATHS

GRAHAM - Margaret. Peacefully at home in Whiting Bay on the 5th October 2020. Much loved wife of James and mother of Douglas, Sandra and Gregor and loving grandmother of James, Douglas and Keivan. Regrettably, due to restrictions, the funeral on the 16th October will be by invitation.

HENDRY Iain - the family announce with great sadness his passing on the 7th October in Arran War Memorial Hospital. Beloved husband of Lavinia, father and grandpa. Funeral private due to current restrictions. Many thanks to Arran medical team.



Lamlash Golf Club

The ladies section Captain's Prize was played on Sunday October 4. After a very wet morning, the rain stopped and the sunshine came out allowing 11 ladies to enjoy playing a Stableford competition over 15 holes. The winner was Susan Butchard winning by six points with a score of 32.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday October 1. Ladies 12 hole medal. Silver: 1 J Turnbull 54-12=42 BIH; 2 and scratch Liz Kerr 52-10=42. Bronze: 1 Marlene Waudby 59-13=46 BIH; 2 M J Tod 62-16=46.

Sunday October 4, Gents Sunday Stableford. 1st Class: 1 J Bell 25pts BIH; 2 J Faulkner 25pts; 3 D Pilkington 24pts. 2nd Class: 1 P King 34pts; 2 A Campbell 30pts; 3 R Waine 26pts. Magic twos D Pilkington, G Hay x2, P King, A Campbell, J Faulkner and R Waine.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday October 3, The Corrie Cup. 1 A Smith 72-14=58; 2 J McGovern 73-13=60.

Monday October 5, Monday Cup. 1 I McMillan 75-17=58, 2 A Smith 72-14=58. Scratch J McGovern 71. Magic twos

Susan lifts the Captain's Prize



Lamlash captain Alison Heron, left, presents the Captain's Prize trophy to Susan Butchard.

from from J McGovern x2, A Smith and I McMillan.

Fixtures: Saturday October 10, sweep. No ballot. Make up your own matches and register in the current fashion. Monday October 12, Monday Cup, ballot at noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday October 1, Front Nine Medal. 1 Norrie MacIntyre 38-4.5=33.5; 2 Billy Skinner 45-10= 35 (better last six); 3 Alan Smith 42-7=45. Magic twos Derek Harrison @5th. Best scratch Iain Murchie 38 (best last six) over Norrie MacIntyre.

Sunday October 4, Glenburn Cup. 1 Derek Harrison 83-21=62. No magic twos.

Fixtures: Sunday October 11, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday October 15, Back Nine Medal. Make up own groups. See starter for times.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday September 29, Stableford. 1 John Pennycott 39pts; 2 Alex Morrison-Cowan 35pts; 3 Kath Lord 31pts.

Saturday October 3, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Reuben Betley 32pts; 2 Phil Betley 30pts; 3 John Milesi 29pts. Tuesday October 6, Winter Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 65; 2 Phil Betley 67; 3 Alistair MacDonald 69 BIH.

Fixtures: Tuesday October 13, Winter Cup, tee off noon.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Summer Trophy 2020, overall result, four best rounds out of six played. 1 Nicol Auld - 233; 2 John Pennycott - 239; 3 Ryan Armstrong - 243. Fixtures: Sunday October 11 Winter Cup round one. Winter rules now in place. Until further notice there will be no draws for partners and members should arrange their own groupings.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday October 4, Brandon qualifier, 19 played, CSS 65. 1 Graham Dobson 81-22=59; 2 Donald McKinnie 76-11=65; 3 Brian Smith 80-13=67 acb. Scratch Bruce Jenkins 74.

Fixture: Sunday October 11, Winter Cup Stableford.

Golf events raise funds for smile charity

The Smile of Arran charity may have been unable to undertake its annual round Arran walk this year due to coronavirus restrictions, but that did not stop their fundraising efforts.

Lamlash and Brodick golf clubs both held fundraising events which raised more than £1,000 for the charity set up in memory of Arran Tosh to raise funds for children and families affected by brain tumours.

The charity, run by his mum and dad Alison and Steve Tosh, stage an annual 55-mile round Arran walk which normally starts on Brodick Highland Games day, where they also have a stall, but this had to be cancelled this year.

However the golf events went ahead and Steve said: 'We would like to thank Graham Dobson and Brodick Golf Club for raising a fantastic £175 through our charity collection boxes.'

'A big thank you also to Kerr Manson for arranging a charity golf event at Lamlash Golf Club and to everyone taking



Alison and Steve Tosh in Brodick with the round Arran walkers in 2018.

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part. It raised an incredible £919, a total of £1,094 for a week on Arran.

'We would like to thank the golf clubs and the people of Arran for their continued support of the charity.'

'A special thank you to Iain Hutchison for continually raising awareness of the charity over the past five years.'

Iain, from Erskine, is a regular visitor to the island with his family.

It was in 2014 that the Tosh family suffered the devastating

loss of their 13-year-old son Arran, who sadly passed away within days of being diagnosed with a brain tumour.

In memory Arran, the Tosh family, from Sudbury, Suffolk, started the Smile of Arran Trust which provides grants and support to individuals and families who have been affected by brain tumours and brain cancer.

Through their fundraising, they also make donations towards brain cancer and brain tumour research.

Families are also able to access grants through the programme called Arran Grants which is available through the charity's website.

The Smile of Arran Trust has received a great deal of support from islanders and from celebrity backers, including the Proclaimers and numerous individuals who fundraise through various sponsored events.

Further information can be found on the trust's website at <http://smileofarran.org>



The Monday night Whiting Bay group at Sandbraes after a recent run.

Back on the run together while staying safely apart



The Arran Pace Makers on a recent run at Dunfion.

After a six month absence due to the Covid-19 lockdown, and the subsequent restrictions, two running groups on Arran were permitted to start back at the beginning of September.

Both groups are part of jogscotland/Scottish Athletics and as organised running groups adhere to the guidance issued by these bodies.

The Monday night group meets at 5.30pm in Whiting Bay and the jog leaders are Jean and Gordon McInnes. You can find their facebook page at jogscotlandarran or email jogscotlandarran@gmail.com for more details.

The Wednesday night group meets at 5.30pm at Ormidale Pavilion and jog leaders are Lorna Logan and Gordon. You can find their facebook page at Arran Pace Makers where details of their running sessions are shared.

Jean commented: 'It's fantastic to be back running with the group. We've been overwhelmed by the support from members who are also delighted to be back. The camaraderie is wonderful which always helps us stay motivated through the winter when the weather is less kind. We're hopeful the group will

be permitted to continue and updates will be shared on our facebook page.'

Due to current guidance, numbers are currently restricted so anyone planning to join needs to book a place through the facebook pages of the groups. They also require to be a member of jogscotland and be aged 18 or over.





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