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Proposed fish farm size cut in bid to secure permission

Liz deserves a medal... and the Queen thinks so too

Mrs Liz Mclean sits in front of her beloved Co-op store in Brodick having just received news she has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list and is to be awarded the British Empire Medal in recognition of her work and dedication during the Covid-19 crisis.

Full story: page 3.



by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has drastically reduced the size of its proposed fish farm at Millstone Point on Arran in a bid to secure planning permission.

It has cut the number of fish pens from 20 to 12 and significantly reduced the surface area of the proposed development in the north east of the island.

The revised planning application is expected to go before the North Ayrshire planning committee in early December.

However, the changes are unlikely to assuage the petitions and dozens of protest letters which have been lodged opposing the plans.

Just over 12 months ago, more than 200 people demonstrated against the plans at the site. Organised by the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), it was one of Arran's biggest protests in years.

SSC first submitted a planning application to North Ayrshire Council in August 2019 for a proposed marine fish farm known as North Arran comprising of 20 x 120 metre circumference fish pens and associated infrastructure to the north-east of Arran.

'This revised proposal still delivers significant economic and social benefits to Arran and the wider economy.'

The updated plans are contained in an additional Environmental Information Report compiled by Glasgow-based Arcus Consultancy Services.

It states: 'Since the Environmental Information Report was submitted, and following discussions with SEPA, SSC has taken the decision to

reduce the fish farm pens to 12 x 120m pens. This reduction is to ensure that a Controlled Activities Regulations licence can be obtained for the revised development, based on the revised approach to modelling.'

The revised development will comprise 12 pens divided into two groups of six pens of 120m circumference (19.1 m radius), with a reduction in surface area to 13,753 m² or approximately 1.4 hectares (ha) from the original 2.3 hectares (ha). The site location remains the same.

The original plans included the SeaQure farm concept but this has been dropped. The concept was to allow the integration of fish welfare improvement space with an integrated central SeaSpine.

The maximum biomass of 5,000 tonnes will be cut to 2,300 tonnes, while the feed holding capacity has been halved in tonnage. The feed barge has been increased in width, but reduced in length

Continued on page two.

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Arran shows its resilience to latest Covid restrictions

Arran remained busy this week despite new restrictions imposed on the hospitality industry last week.

There has been anger Arran has been lumped in with Ayrshire and Arran in having the toughest restrictions imposed in Scotland, with pubs and restaurants being forced to close across the island.

But First Minister Nicola Sturgeon took time at her daily briefing to explain why Arran could not be exempt from the Ayrshire and Arran restrictions. She explained that while it would help the hospitality sector, it would not help stop the spread of coronavirus, with the island still remaining Covid-19 free since April.

While some hotels have closed, the businesses that remain open, including cafes, B&Bs and self-catering, still reported brisk trade and the shops and food stores have been busy with visitors

stocking up with supplies. A number of outlets have also been offering takeaway services, which have proved popular.

One good indicator is always how the popular Auchrannie Resort in Brodick is faring. Co-founder and managing director Linda Johnston told the Banner: 'I am pleased to report Auchrannie is doing not too badly in the current 16 day restrictions. As a resort, with the facilities we have, there are more reasons for people to visit us than a regular hotel or B&B and whilst we have suffered cancellations, mainly for serviced accommodation, our resort occupancy remains over 80 per cent, albeit we would have expected to be full at this time of year.

'Of course, our income is impacted by lower occupancy rates, not being able to welcome chance guests to our restaurants, less tourists using our leisure facilities and not

being able to serve alcoholic beverages to our residents - except by room service.

'Despite this, we have been able to keep our team intact and working and we feel fortunate to be suffering less than most other businesses on Arran. Pubs and restaurants have had to close entirely and whilst cafes are allowed to open, there are less tourists around due to closures and cancellations in the hotel and B&B sector. The supply chain and the whole economy of Arran is affected by the fact there are less tourists and many businesses closed over the October break.

'It's really sad this happened during the final part of Arran's viable tourist season, particularly as Arran has no Covid-19 cases since April.

'We soldier on and hope the government puts suitable schemes in place to protect businesses and their team



Little Rock cafe owner Chris Parks serves another lunch during what he says has been a hectic week, despite the restrictions. 01_B42rock01

members and help us to to withstand any future shocks the winter brings.'

In his weekly update, Arran clinical lead Dr Greg Hamill said: 'We are still covid free on Arran. Cases in Ayrshire are rising steadily, as elsewhere. There was a good period

with no one in intensive care and very few positive cases in any Ayrshire hospital but today there are 31 confirmed positive cases plus a number of suspected cases and five people in intensive care. The message remains the same: keep up the good work that has kept the is-

land free of cases these last few months. Do our best to follow the government guidelines and keep going with social distancing, masks and handwashing. Strictly and immediately self isolate if you or a household member develop symptoms and book a Covid test.

'The flu campaign is going well with several hundred vaccinated in the first two weeks. We know there has been a lot of pressure on phone access at the GP practice as a result but this has eased. Get your flu jab if eligible. So many have helped out and there are lots of people to thank at various sites round the island. Staff, like others, are weary but trying to gather the energy for the winter ahead and remain determined to keep providing the best care they can Dr Hamill added.

It has been confirmed that the annual Brodick fireworks event as been cancelled this year.

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The protest at the site of the proposed fish farm last year. Photograph: James Appleton

Proposed fish farm size cut in bid to secure permission

Continued from page one.

and height above sea level. The report states: 'As part of the development plans in the area, SSC is looking to recruit an additional six full-time equivalent members of staff which will support 31 indirect jobs and six in the wider economy across Scotland with a total Gross Value Added for the Scottish economy of more than £5.9million per year.'

A Scottish Salmon Company spokesperson said: 'SSC has links with salmon farming on Arran stretching back more than 30 years.

'Throughout this project, we have actively consulted with a range of stakeholders, including members of the community, North Ayrshire

Council, SEPA, NatureScot, Marine Scotland, the District Salmon Fishery Board and Fisheries Management Scotland.

'This feedback has been crucial in shaping our plans.

'This revised proposal still delivers significant economic and social benefits to Arran and the wider economy.

'The new employment and investment generated by this site will help support the island's communities in a time of economic uncertainty.

'We take our stewardship of the local environment very seriously and the proposed site will adhere to the very highest levels of environmental care and management.'

Medal of honour is for whole island

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran's community champion Liz Mclean has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for her response to the coronavirus crisis and work to keep the island fed throughout the pandemic.

Liz, the popular store manager at the Co-op's Brodick stores, has received the British Empire Medal (BEM) in recognition of her work as a frontline food retail worker for services to the Covid-19 response.

But she insisted this week the award is not just for her - but for the way the whole island responded to the pandemic.

She said: 'I do not deserve this award for myself. It is really for the magnificent team I have here who were working from 4am to 9pm during the lockdown and making more than 500 deliveries a week during the height of the pandemic to the elderly and vulnerable, as well as others who were shielding.'

Liz's citation highlighted how the store was at the centre of Arran's community response to the crisis also liaising with foodbanks and social services, while playing an active role in the island's resilience service.

'I am just pleased I was able to help keep every one of the island well fed, stocked with supplies and safe. It was the

'I do not deserve this award for myself. It is really for the magnificent team I have here who were working from 4am to 9pm during the lockdown and making more than 500 deliveries a week.'

right thing to do.' Liz's citation highlighted how the store was at the centre of Arran's community response to the crisis, including working round the clock to ensure deliveries were made to hundreds of elderly and vulnerable members of the community so that no one went without.

Resilience

The community focus also ensured liaising with local foodbanks and social services, while playing an active role in the island's resilience service.

And Liz singled out for praise others who helped keep the island going through the crisis - from Struan Armitage delivering the supplies and Colin McCort in the port office, to volunteers Fiona Laing and Chris Traill and her entire staff, including the tireless team manager Carol Harwood.

She also said island police sergeant Dougie Robertson had been 'superb' for his advice and guidance.

Never one to seek the limelight, Liz told the Banner: 'It was a feeling of disbelief when I received the letter, I thought

it was a hoax at first. I love our customers to bits. They are brilliant and the way the community has responded has been incredible.

She did not even know she had been nominated but she is proud for her family - especially her 83-year-old dad Rab back in Linwood, where Liz is from.

Liz is not the first in the family to receive an honour. Her aunt and uncle, Margaret and Ben Mclean, have the MBE and her father danced with the Queen at Ballater when he was a serving soldier.

The British Empire Medal is awarded for a 'hands-on' service to the local community, and recipients are entitled to use the post-nominal letters 'BEM'. The award will be presented to her at a later date by the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, Sheriff Iona McDonald and Liz will attend the Queen's Garden Party at Holyrood Palace next April.

This week the Lord Lieutenant sent her sincere congratulations to Mrs Mclean and thanked her for her significant contribution during the response to the strange times that we are living in.

Sheriff McDonald said: 'Mrs Mclean like many others will probably argue that she was only doing what she thought was her job and failed to appreciate through personal modesty the difference that it made to the community.'

In August Liz and the staff at the Big Co in Brodick were named the best team in the whole of Britain in the 2020 Co-op Succeed Together Awards.



A smiling Liz with letter telling her of the honour. 01_B42coop02

CONTACTUS
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Salmon genetics study launched

One of the most comprehensive studies of wild Atlantic salmon genetics has begun in Scotland to gauge the impact of any interbreeding between wild and farm-raised salmon.

The study has been launched in response to a recent escape of farm-raised salmon and will be managed by the wild-fish conservation body Fisheries Management Scotland, supported by Government scientists from Marine Scotland Science, and funded by Mowi Scotland.

The multi-year study of 115 sites aims to confirm wild salmon's current genetic profile and to track for the potential of genetic changes should interbreeding of farmed and wild salmon occur.

In late August, Mowi Scotland confirmed that 48,834 farm-raised salmon escaped from its aquaculture facility at North Carradale the Kilbrannan Sound after becoming detached from its seabed anchors during a combination of strong weather events.

Since the escape, Fisheries Management Scotland has been working with member District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fisheries Trusts, as well as angling associations, to monitor the situation and mitigate where possible. Escaped farmed salmon have washed ashore on Arran and Kintyre and been caught by anglers in multiple rivers across Loch Lomond, Ayrshire, Clyde,

Argyll and in rivers in north-west England.

The priority for Fisheries Management Scotland and their members has been to ensure that any farmed fish are removed from the rivers, humanely dispatched, and scale samples submitted to enable accurate identification, and Mowi has committed to support these actions.

The announcement came as the Salmon & Trout Conservation (S&TC) formally notified NatureScot (formerly SNH) and the Environment Agency of threat of environmental damage to protected wild salmon SACs following the recent major escape of farmed salmon from the fish farm.

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Boundary shake up could see three become one

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran will have to fight if it wants to retain two councillors after the local council elections in two years.

The Boundary Commission has proposed Arran's representation is cut to one councillor to represent the island and this has been supported by North Ayrshire Council.

At a recent full council meeting, held remotely, the council backed the proposal for Arran to be a single member ward, despite being aware they did not have to decide until after the people of Arran have had their say in the public consultation due to start before the end of the year.

Arran presently has three councillors representing the Ardrossan and Arran ward and it is only by coincidence that two of them – Conservative Timothy Billings and the SNP's Ellen McMaster – live on the island. The other, the SNP's Tony Gurney, lives in Ardrossan.

However, as a result of the 2018 Islands Act, boundaries are being redrawn across Scotland ahead of the local council elections due to be held in May 2022, with Arran being redrawn as a single member ward.

Currently North Ayrshire has 10 wards, comprising 33

members in total. As a result of legislative changes relating to the number of members in each ward, the commission's current proposals now align ward boundaries with those of the six North Ayrshire localities.

In his report to the council, head of democratic services Andrew Fraser said: 'The commission is proposing an Arran ward with a single member. It is important to remember the current boundary review of North Ayrshire is required because we are an 'islands authority' in terms of the Islands (Scotland) Act.

'One-size-fits-all'

'This review is linked to the principle of 'island proofing' in the act, which recognises the needs of islands can be different from those of the mainland and regard should be given to the needs and impacts of islands, rather than simply adopting a 'one-size-fits-all' solution driven by mainland needs.

'This aligns with locality planning in North Ayrshire, which embeds this principle in all six of our localities.

'The proposal in the Islands (Scotland) Bill to allow a one or two-member ward for islands arose from a commitment by the then local government minister to Arran community groups to include this in the consultation on the Bill. The concern of Arran groups,



Councillor Ellen McMaster.

common to islands elsewhere, was that if part of a mixed mainland/island ward it could end up with no resident councillors. As much of the community work of the island takes place in the evening, when ferries no longer run, it would be difficult for non-resident councillors to fully engage in that work.

Constraint

'At this stage it should be noted any island ward is subject to the same constraint as the rest of North Ayrshire, that there should as far as possible be a ratio of 3,000 electorate per councillor.

'Arran has a forecast electorate of 3,858, which would

result in a one member ward having a variation from parity (ie under-represented) of 18 per cent, and a two member ward having a variation from parity (ie over-represented) of 39 per cent.

'Based on Arran's profile of rurality and deprivation, had it been located in one of the purely island authorities, it would have had a ratio of 800 electorate per councillor, entitling it to five councillors. Because it is located in a predominantly mainland authority, its ratio is driven by the mainland population, contrary to the principle of island proofing. Having regard to this, if it is in the interests



Councillor Tony Gurney.

of Arran that there are two members rather than one, there should be scope for the commission to exercise greater latitude than normal.

'In developing the current proposals, the commission on April 7, 2020, noted 'a single-member Arran ward with variation from electoral parity of +18 per cent' but a two-member Arran ward would offer variation from electoral parity of -39 per cent.

On balance the commission believed a single-member Arran ward offered more acceptable variation from electoral parity.

In terms of effective and convenient local government,

Arran enjoys good quality transport links to and from the mainland and within the island compared to other island communities.

'It is also understood the commission was keen to understand the views of the Arran community before considering a two-member ward.

'While Arran groups were anxious to ensure there was a resident councillor, this can never be guaranteed. Electoral law allows candidates to stand for any council ward as long as they either live or work within North Ayrshire or an immediately adjoining authority. Nevertheless, if Arran was a ward in its own right, only Arran voters would determine this.

Community views

'It would be open to council not to respond to this issue at this stage in order to better gauge community views during the public consultation,' he added.

At the meeting, Arran and Ardrossan councillor Timothy Billings proposed an amendment arguing that the council should support a two-member ward which, he said, would provide residents of Arran with a greater diversity to its representation, give continuity during periods of a member's absence and improve public access to members across Arran's large rural areas. The amendment was defeated.

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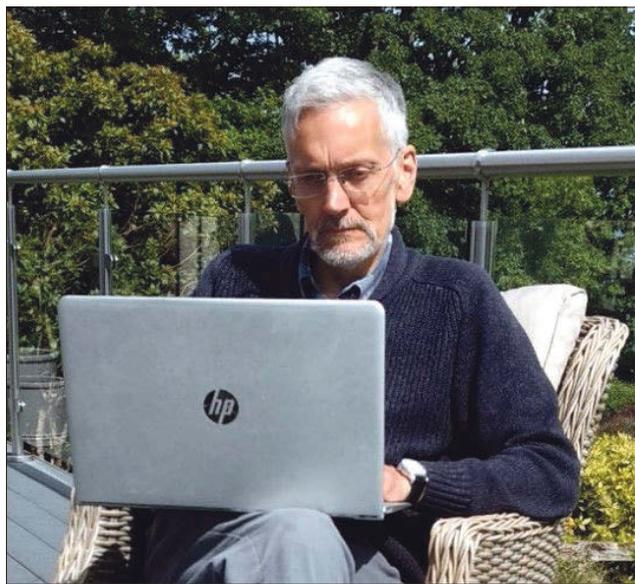
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Councillor Timothy Billings.

Why Arran needs two councillors

By Councillor Timothy Billings

'The proposed change to make Arran a single ward is very much welcomed. After three years as a councillor I know that trying to effectively represent half of a ward that is 15 miles away and takes well over an hour to get to has real challenges. Separation of the two parts of Ardrossan and Arran makes a lot of sense for both communities.

'The main issue here is about the number of councillor members that Arran should have – one or two. There are cases to be made for both numbers, but I am proposing the council recommends to the Boundary Commission that Arran has two councillors.

'I have spoken with a range of people on Arran, including a discussion at last month's community council meeting. Whilst this was in no way representative or comprehensive, I did hear a number of views and reasons and all were supportive of two councillors.

'The reasons why I consider two councillors is the correct position are as follows:

'First is to provide a greater diversity of representation. Scottish councils for many years have been three or four member wards elected by a form of proportional representation. This provides us with councils with a wide base of representation that

are not dominated by a single view of the world. This is also reflected within individual wards, where we have a range of people with differing views, skills and approaches. This is a valuable asset when it comes to representation within the council.

'If Arran were to have a single councillor that diversity of representation within the ward would be removed and whatever an individual councillor may think about his or her abilities, there will be many constituents that would see not having a choice of representative a significant disadvantage. Two councillors will maintain that diversity for Arran which is enjoyed by all other areas of North Ayrshire council area.

'Second is to enable continuity of representation. We all go away – or we used to – or have to be absent for other reasons. Should one councillor be absent, constituents would have the option to approach the other.

'Third is the large geographical size of Arran, which let us remember is comparable in size with the mainland of North Ayrshire. Councillors are all about local representation and with the best will in the world trying to cover a disparate rural community has its challenges. If this were to be a single councillor it would reduce their local presence.'

Continued support for Arran residents with hearing loss

Action on Hearing Loss Scotland is continuing to support NHS hearing aid users on Arran throughout the coronavirus pandemic by offering a free postal service of NHS batteries, tubing and information provision.

Since lockdown began in March, the charity's Community Hearing Support Service has supported 920

people in North Ayrshire including those living on Arran.

The free postal and information service is Action on Hearing Loss Scotland's response to currently being unable to hold drop-ins in community venues. Action on Hearing Loss Scotland's Fiona Goodwin said: 'We are delighted so many people in North Ayrshire have been in touch

to get hearing aid batteries and information. The last few months have been exceedingly difficult for many and it is vital people are not isolated by their hearing aids not working. It is really important during this time that people have properly working hearing aids so they can keep in touch with family and friends by telephone or online. If anyone needs bat-

teries for their NHS hearing aid or require information on hearing loss please get in touch,' she added.

Anyone on Arran who is looking for support with basic hearing aid maintenance or needs information on issues relating to hearing loss can email HearToHelp.Ayrshire@hearingloss.org.uk or contact 07391 017781.

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Representation fight

Making Arran a single ward within North Ayrshire Council seems on the face of it to make sense.

However, the potential loss of representation on the council is a worry, with the Boundary Commission recommending the island should have just one councillor following the local authority elections in May 2022. And the fact North Ayrshire Council was quick to agree says little for the democratic process since a public consultation has yet to be held.

In the days when John Bruce was the only councillor on the Ardrossan and Arran ward to live on Arran, it was easy to let him get on with island business. Now we are in the fortunate position of having two councillors representing the ward living here – Timothy Billings and Ellen McMaster – but that is by coincidence rather than choice.

We believe the island deserves to have two representatives. After all if we were located in one of the purely island authorities, we would have a ratio of 800-1 electorate per councillor, entitling us to five councillors.

Because we are located in a predominantly mainland authority, its ratio is driven by the mainland population of a ratio of 3,000-1. This is why one councillor would give Arran 18 per cent less than electoral parity with the mainland, but two councillors would give it 39 per cent more than parity – hence the resistance to the move. If Arran wants two councillors, following the next local elections, the time to act is now. As soon as the Banner knows when the public consultation is to start – it should be before the end of the year – we will let everyone know.

Then there will be plenty of time for everyone to make their voices heard.

Thought for the week

'The Lord will keep you from all evil; he will keep you safe.' Psalm 121: 7

Follow the rules

Sir,
The purpose of Covid restrictions is to prevent transmission from one person to another and establishments and customers need to follow the rules. We also need to call out people and establishments that fail to do so, otherwise why are we all bothering.

Last weekend I was in Ayr for two nights and visited a total of six eating establishments – one hotel restaurant where we were staying and five cafes. Only two of the six were following the Scottish Government guidelines, with breaches including tables too close together, so customers on different tables were touching each other, staff shaking hands with customers, staff not wearing masks, not disinfecting tables between customers and not taking contact details.

If we are going to slow or stop the spread of this virus, everyone must be clear on what we are trying to achieve with the rules. The closure of particular types of establishments, many of which will have been rigorously enforcing the rules, will fail to stop Covid transmission if the eating establishments allowed to open don't follow the rules.

Surely it is more important that an establishment follows the rules, not that it's a cafe or restaurant? I agree sanctions should be put onto Covid rule breaking establishments or for some other factor, such as excessive alcohol consumption that is aiding virus transmission. Otherwise, they should be allowed to remain open for us to enjoy safely and to protect the jobs in all those rule-abiding eateries.

If that had been the basis of last week's announcements, Arran's rule following establishments would have been allowed to stay open and it would not have mattered that we were lumped in with the mainland hotspots.

Yours,
Timothy Billings,
Lamlash.

Lamentable performance

Sir,
In the last four months we have been to Arran four times – correction, three times, the first, to attend a friend's funeral, foundered on a ferry cancellation due to weather. On the next three occasions we suffered change of plans due to weather issues and 'technical problems'.

The service to Arran, provided by CMAL, is nothing short of appalling. The island is suffering greatly due to people being unable to make

concrete plans not knowing, with any degree of certainty, when they might travel and return. The large number of properties for sale on the island is testament to this lack of confidence.

The problem is the ever larger vessels employed on the route are unable to use Ardrossan harbour and the realigned Brodick pier safely. If the new build MV Glen Sannox is ever deployed on the route the problem will be exacerbated due to her size and the result will be more cancellations.

Larger vessels are not the answer to the problem, they are the cause. There is a solution to which CMAL appear to have a closed mind. Pentland Ferries have, due to her success, replaced the catamaran Pentalina with the 95 car catamaran Alfred operating in the notorious Pentland Firth providing, with amazing manoeuvrability, minimal interruptions. Alfred cost about one third of the price of a CMAL monohull with operating costs around one third of a CMAL monohull of similar capacity.

Perhaps it is time for CMAL when, if ever completed, to deploy the Glen Sannox on a more suitable route and commission catamarans, two, or perhaps, three to provide Arran with the service it needs and deserves at greatly reduced costs with less weather related disruption.

It is time for CMAL to remove the corporate head from the sand and adopt modern practices by providing more reliable, frequent and less expensive services.

Pentland Ferries, an unsubsidised and profitable company, has shown the way with Alfred at one third of the cost of a CMAL monohull or, perhaps, one tenth of the probable cost of the ill fated Glen Sannox.

The Scottish Government throws unlimited amounts of money at CMAL where there is little to suggest there is sufficient expertise to deliver the service required as evidenced by the Ferguson fiasco. So far their performance is lamentable. Taxpayers deserve to see better use of their hard-earned cash.

Yours,
J Patrick Maclean,
Oban.

Warm welcome awaits

Sir,
Your correspondent Yvonne Jamieson asserts that Nicola Sturgeon has a deep hatred of the English. She provides no evidence for this misguided belief, which is unfounded, given that Ms Sturgeon's granny was English. Many members of the SNP Isle of Arran Branch are

also English, and having made the island their home, are fully committed to the wonderful community we all enjoy here.

Ms Sturgeon has worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to try to keep us all safe and to minimize the spread of Covid-19 as much as possible. If Ms Jamieson actually watched the First Minister's daily briefing, as many people living in Yorkshire do, she would see how carefully the FM explains the logic of every decision she takes. This is why she has earned the trust of the majority of people in Scotland, including Arran residents.

Fortunately, sensible holiday makers ignored the fabricated claims that a border closure was likely and, once lockdown was over, many came to the island and enjoyed the great hospitality Arran is famous for.

It is a shame Ms Jamieson believed the scare stories of the worst elements of the media and cancelled her holiday. She can be assured of a warm Scottish welcome on her return to Arran next year.

Yours,
Colin Milne,
Convener,
SNP Isle of Arran Branch.

In praise of CalMac

Sir,
In my residency on Arran of 40 years plus, one consistency in the Banner has been the complaining about CalMac. So much so that it would seem everything to do with them is rubbish. A case of all tarred with same brush.

To redress this tarnished reputation just a little, let me say that over the last few weeks my life has been very difficult. It has involved a fair bit of coming and going to the mainland. During this period all the staff at the pier have been polite and courteous, treating me and my family with great compassion. I will not name anyone in particular to save any embarrassment.

So please everyone, when listening to all the carping about CalMac, remember that the staff at ground level are good people, doing a difficult job in these Covid times.

Yours,
Roy Beddows,
Pirnmill.

Simple argument

Sir,
Regarding his letter in last week's Banner, Mr Grindall misinterprets what I said in my letter

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hold it until all your goods have arrived and deliver it all together to your home. If you're needing special arrangements for your delivery we can help. Just let us know your requirements when you book in. Forklift on site for pallets and as well as our speedy parcel services, we offer a 2 man and tailift service throughout the Island.

of October 2. Maybe I should have put it differently, but my argument was simple and I will repeat it.

Entertaining one visiting person in homes is forbidden. Entertaining one visiting person in a restaurant was permitted. I am surely allowed ask to what an epidemiologist, in theory, would say are the relative risks of these two situations. The truth is both risks are low on Arran.

I have never gone against any of the rules laid down by the government but reserve the right to question some of them when blanket regulations seem inappropriate in places where Covid is low or zero and people behave responsibly.

Yours,
Dr John Cruickshank,
Whiting Bay.

Iain Hendry remembered

Sir,
We were saddened to read of Iain Hendry's death in the Banner.

For many years we were leaders of walking holidays and excursions for the Holiday Fellowship at Altachorvie, Lamlash. We always used local transport and local drivers. Iain was outstanding for his unfailing courtesy and the local knowledge he was always happy to share with us.

Love and condolences to Lavinia and Iain's family.

Yours,
Joyce and David Hilton,
Edinburgh.

HAVE YOUR SAY

email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk

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At The Arran Banner, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

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

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Heather Gough of Arran Theatre and Arts Trust receives the cheque from Tom Tracey of Arran Trust as others look on.

Trust cash for arts heritage trail

Last week, the Arran Trust, the island's visitor gifting scheme, eventually managed to have a socially distanced cheque presentation to Arran Theatre and Arts Trust, which received £8,436 towards an Arran Arts Heritage Trail last year.

This will support the main funding for the project, received by the trust from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Arran has a rich arts heritage and in December 2018, under the umbrella of Arran Theatre and

Arts Trust, an application was submitted to help establish an island-wide arts heritage trail.

The trail will be an archive highlighting the many important visual artists who have been inspired by the environment and landscapes of Arran.

Inspired

The trail will offer residents and visitors the opportunity to visit, learn about and appreciate the locations which have inspired many artists through a dedicated website, leaflets and place markers.

The trail will work with local participants and skills will be learned in preserving the island's arts heritage.

Up to 15 sites with plaques will be established around the island at locations to be defined during the project.

If you have an environmental, conservational or heritage project you feel the Arran Trust might support, then please apply online at www.arrantrust.org or get in touch by email info@arrantrust.org.



Perthshire
Area feature

SCOTTISH FIELD

November issue



Perthshire...

Exclusive short story from Denzil Meyrick...
Formula One's Lee McKenzie... Top drams...
Stunning Edinburgh interiors.. Beautiful butterflies...
Simulated stalking on Skye...
Veterans' inspirational offroad journey

Appeal to spend local as Shop Arran cancelled

The popular pre-Christmas Shop Arran event has been cancelled this year.

The event was due to be staged on the weekend of November 27 but the ongoing pandemic has, unsurprisingly, led organisers to call it off.

However island shopkeepers are urging people to think twice about shopping online and instead support local businesses.

A spokeswoman for the Shop Arran group said: 'After much discussion, we have concluded the safety of all our shoppers and island residents is paramount.'

'Promoting an event which would effectively draw large crowds over a three-day weekend would be irresponsible, particularly for those with small shops.'

'Do not despair though, the Christmas spirit will be very much here and we

wholeheartedly welcome all shoppers over an extended period of time.

'After the year so far, 2020 continues to be a challenge for many sectors and retail is not alone.'

'Arran has many fantastic independent shops, all of whom are working hard to get through 2020 and have thriving businesses well in to 2021 and beyond. Shopping locally has never been more important, especially over the next few months with Christmas on the horizon.'

'Many shops will be running their own Christmas promotions so we would ask everyone to think twice before shopping online and contact your favourite shops to find out more. You will be amazed what you can find on your very own door step. Also keep an eye on the Facebook Shop Arran page.'

Striking logo for new island radio station

Here is the striking logo for Arran's new radio station ArranSound.com.

It was designed from an original drawing by Jemma Totty who won a competition held for S1 to S3 pupils

at Arran High School to come up with a logo. She also received a £50 prize.

'Reveal'

This was awarded to Jemma during school time as unfortunately, due to Covid



The finished logo which will be used by the radio station.



Jemma Totty with her £50 prize for her logo design.

restrictions, the new station could not have the great 'reveal' it had planned.

Jemma's design was chosen because it is bright, cheerful and clearly describes what ArranSound.com does and who it is for.

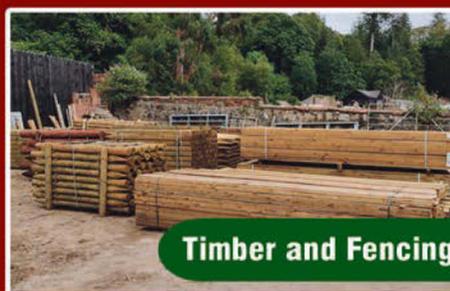
Jemma had carefully thought through her idea and worked with the team to refine it for media use. Arransound.com is a community radio station for everyone living on Arran. In the log, the island is cleverly identified in the earphones,

which also explains what the station is about, along with the colourful soundwaves and slogan 'radio for all'. As first revealed by the Banner in July, the new internet radio station has been born out of The Arran Banner talking newspaper service and aims to provide a new exciting, one touch service which will bring local news and views to everyone on the island overcoming visual and ability barriers, social isolation and physical distance.

Cladach Sawmill and Garden Centre



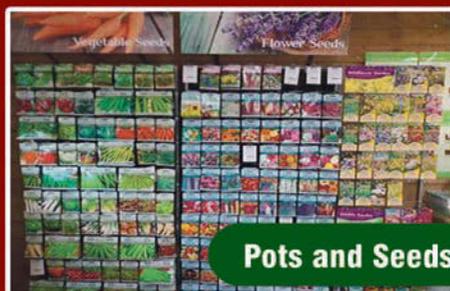
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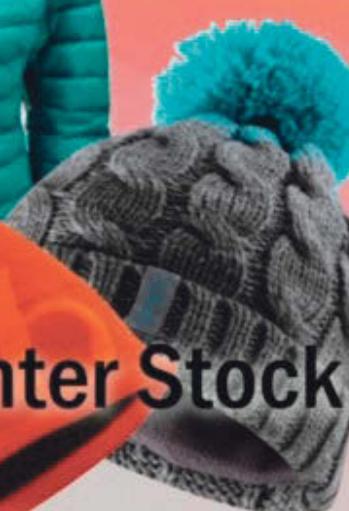
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HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Pupils receive their achievements



S1 winners with their award certificates.



S2 winners with their award certificates.

Arran High School pupils have been presented with their 2019/20 achievement and attainment awards. These were presented on the last day of term ahead of the October school holiday. The



S3 winners with their award certificates.

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index

2021

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ent awards

main school prizegiving was held earlier, as reported in last week's Banner, where Naomi Provan was crowned school Dux.



54 winners with their award certificates.



55 winners with their award certificates.



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Sunday 9.30am – 6pm
Kitchen and hot food takeaway closing @ 4pm
Wee deli open until 6pm with heat at home meals.

MON'S THAI KITCHEN
Every Thursday from 6pm
...for more details and booking visit their FB page.

TAKEAWAY POP UP
The Kebab Collective
Friday 16th and Saturday 17th
then every other weekend
...for more details and booking visit their FB page.

A takeaway has always been a favourite when a quick and easy meal is needed in any household.

But in these trying times it has perhaps taken on even more importance. For not only is it convenient, it is helping out businesses who may otherwise be struggling.

There was a collective sigh of disappointment when the new restrictions shut down Arran's pubs and restaurants - but rather than throwing in the towel many have simply knuckled down and come up with a new way to serve food - a takeaway service.

There are outlets across the island and, while traditional favourites are available, there is also a range of other exciting and varied food from around the world to tempt your tastebuds.

But don't take out word for it a browse through the adverts on these pages should be enough to get you out there and buying and eating. That not just keeps everyone fed but helps the local economy.

The Shore

In addition to cafe opening hours Wednesday - Sunday 11am-4pm, The Shore is delighted to offer you a range of homemade frozen meals - perfect for homes, holiday homes and self catering holidays. Complete with easy heating instructions, there's no need to pre-order - just pop in to collect during cafe opening hours. Fancy a Friday treat? Look no further than our Friday Take Away options - alternating between our very popular Friday Fish Supper Menu and our famous Rotisserie Chicken Boxes (served with hand cut chips, Robin's local leaves & Shore salads). Our Friday Take Aways are pre order only, due to popular demand, and to enable us to provide socially-distanced collection times. Please give us a call on 01770 700161 and we'll be happy to help!

Burlington Takeaway

Fresh and tasty food available for takeaway in Whiting Bay. Conveniently located directly across the road from the beach where you can sit and enjoy your meal! Check out our Facebook page @TheBurlingtonTakeawayArran for weekly specials including our Fish Friday and Pizza Sunday Deals!

The Tee Table

The Tee Table at Lamlash Golf Club will be open for takeaway only Tuesday-Thursday 4-8pm Friday-Sunday 12-8pm. The cafe will be serving pizzas, fish & chips, burgers and kebabs. Food only, no drinks. Get in touch on 07931056792 to book a takeaway slot. The full menu and prices can be found on Facebook & Instagram @theteetable. The Tee Table would like to thank everyone for their continued support through these unprecedented times and look forward to welcoming diners back through the doors as soon as they are able.

The French Fox

The French Fox can be found parked up in their classic Peugeot J7 food truck serving hot food around the island to those in need of a hearty French meal.

During the winter months, The French Fox change their dynamic to provide beautifully pre-cooked French ready meals to reheat at home. Facebook and Instagram highlight where their weekly whereabouts or menus can be found. The reheat at home menus, once posted online, are available to order for collection by telephone, email or facebook message. Bespoke catering is also available.

Hooked and Cooked

Enjoy the perfect treat at Hooked and Cooked. Fresh fish & chips, kebab meat, hand rolled stone baked pizzas, traditional haggis, steak burgers and much much more! You'll find everything you need to satisfy the whole family here. Opposite the pier in Brodick, they are a small family run business priding ourselves in quality food at excellent value.

Through these tough times they are proud to offer our full menu, 7 days a week, from 4pm till 8pm. Call your order on 01770 302656 or pop in and order with their friendly staff for your very own Chippy delight.



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- Battered haddock/vegan tofu seaweed /scampi with chips £10
- Pie of the day with chips or mash £10
- 8oz beef or vegan burger & chips £10 add cheese, bacon for 50p each
- Beef or Quorn and vegetable chilli served with rice £10
- Smoky maple & chilli beef sausage, black pud mash & red wine jus £10
- Vegetable Lasagne & chips (vg option available) £10
- Curry of the day served with rice £12
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THE PIERHEAD TAVERN LAMLASH
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The Drift Inn

It's The Drift Inn... But takeaway! Preorder and collection only. Phone line open from 3pm, pick up slots from 5.15 to 8.30 (last orders 8pm). 01770 600608.

They would love to be more specific with days per week but it's a bit up in the air at the moment while they find their feet!

Little Rock

Little Rock can be found in Brodick behind the Mini Golf.

Open Monday – Saturday 9am -6pm, Sunday 9.30am – 6pm for hot food, light snacks, yummy cakes and soft drinks to sit in and takeaway. Please note the kitchen and hot food takeaway closes at 4pm, however the Wee Deli with ready to go, heat at home meals remains open until 6pm

On a Thursday from 6pm for all things nice and spicy they have a " Mon's Thai Kitchen" Pop up takeaway and this weekend then every other weekend you can head to "The Kebab Collective" Pop up where you can pick up a fresh kebab.

Hunters Coffee Shop

Hunters Coffee Shop or "Mad Mitch's" coffee shop as it is known, serves lovely baked goods, homemade soup and sandwiches and great coffee. This weekend and next it will be offering takeaways on Friday Saturday and Sunday from 5.30pm to 7.00pm Try their legendary venison burgers, or how about a scrumptious Scotch pie and beans, mince curry and rice, a tasty Spaghetti bolognese, or try their crispy chicken nuggets with fries. All cost only £7.50 per meal.

Phone in your order and collect or pop in to Hunters Guest House and Coffee Shop.

The PHT

In these tough times we are still able to give you the best dishes from The PHT kitchen including our amazing seafood pasta with a mix of salmon, crayfish & prawn in a delicious creamy sauce or one of our popular steak & ale or chicken & leek pies. A new addition to our menu due to huge demand is our baked potatoes & nachos loaded with guacamole, salsa, sour cream, cheese with option of Cajun chicken or pulled pork - yum! Takeaway only please but includes wine & beer. Draught beer can be delivered subject to availability of staff.



TAKEAWAY FROM THE
Drift Inn
MAIN MEALS

Burgers (all served with hand cut chips):

- Beef Burger topped with bacon jam and three-cheese topping
- Korean Style Chicken Burger with Asian slaw
- Venison Burger topped with haggis and a mustard glaze.
- Pulled Pork Burger topped with tobacco onions and smoked cheese
- Bhaji Burger topped with salsa and mint yoghurt (VG)

Mains (all £9):

- Scampi with hand cut chips and crushed garden peas
- Beer Battered Haddock with hand cut chips and crushed garden peas
- Langoustines cooked in garlic butter with homemade bread
- Mussels a la Crème with homemade bread
- Vegan Black Pudding Fritters with hand cut chips and vegan mustard mayo (£8.50)
- BBQ Baby Back Ribs with hand cut chips

<p>SIDES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chips £3 • Cajun Chips £3.50 • Cheesy Chips £3.50 • Chilli & Parmesan Chips £3.50 • Onion Rings £2.50 	<p>KIDS MEALS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beef Burger with hand cut chips • Chicken Nuggets with hand cut chips • Fish 'n' Chips • Macaroni Cheese (V) <p>(All £5 inc. a Fruit Shoot)</p>
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AT LAMLASH GOLF CLUB

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Sunday - open 4pm till 8pm
Call 07931056792
to book a takeaway slot
The full menu and prices on Facebook & Instagram @theteetable

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So every time you pick up a copy of The Arran Banner you are not just helping one local business but a whole range of local businesses

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we ♥ local

You should self-isolate if:

- You or anyone at home has symptoms
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Don't go for one last shop or wait for a test result. Support is available and you may be eligible for financial assistance of up to £500* if you are on a low income and are asked to self-isolate by Test & Protect. For more information call the **National Helpline on 0800 111 4000**.

*Terms and conditions apply.



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FACTS



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Two
metres



Self
isolate

Maggie and mum find magic on beautiful Scottish islands

Arran features in a new children's book which follows a young girl as she discovers Scotland's beautiful, wild islands.

After the success of Maggie's Mittens, a Waterstones' Scottish Book of the Month, comes Maggie's Magical Islands by author Coo Clayton and illustrated by Alison Soye.

In the gorgeous and fun-filled adventure, Maggie loves to explore. And now she's found an old map of the Scottish islands. Best of all, it has a mysterious X marking the spot. Map in hand, Maggie and mum set off. Will it lead them to secret treasure?

This book is the perfect gift for little ones all over the country whose lives have changed so much during the lockdown and restrictions of 2020. Perhaps that long-awaited holiday abroad has been cancelled or a cheerful birthday party

with friends put on hold? But, with Maggie's Magical Islands, readers will discover just how much there is to see and do outdoors in their own glorious country. From Arran to Skye, from Mull to Lewis, young readers will delight in helping Maggie find her treasure while exploring with her all the exciting – and sometimes unexpected – attractions the islands have to offer.

In the story, their first stop is Arran where they stay in a campervan and trek across Machrie Moor and admire the Standing Stones.

The book then charts the adventures of Maggie and her mum as they 'hop' from island to island encountering wildlife, experiencing variable weather conditions and dealing with a few accommodation disasters along the way. On her travels, Maggie highlights the joy of simple outdoor pleasures,



The cover of Maggie's Magical Islands.

young children, who all help inspire her work. She enjoys writing about family scenarios and combining these with Scotland's rich culture and landscape. Together with Alison Soye, she created Maggie's Mittens, 2017, and Maggie's Monsters, 2018.

Alison Soye is a Northern Irish illustrator who recently moved from Edinburgh to London. Her artwork is inspired by nature, travel, food and the classic story and picture books she enjoyed as a child. Alison's projects include murals, book illustrations, wedding stationery and personalised prints. If she's not pottering around local cafés or gardens, she'll be painting up a storm at her desk with Radio 4 and endless cups of tea.

Maggie's Magical Islands will be published by Black & White Publishing on Tuesday October 27.

along with the importance of environmental awareness: when we look after our world, nature provides us with the greatest of treasures.

Readers are also encouraged to find the red squirrel hiding on every beautifully illustrated page.

Author Coo grew up in St

Andrews, Fife. She studied Education at Edinburgh University and works as a primary teacher. Coo lives with her husband and three

In search of Stevie the seagull

The mystery of the seagull apparently playing fetch ball at Shiskine Golf Club may have been solved.

A reader contacted the

Banner this week to give us some background on the seagull who has been making the news recently.

The lady, who asked not to be

named, said: 'We call it Stevie as we can't tell if it's a male or female. It originally came from Shawlands, Glasgow. I rescued it from traffic when it was too young to fly. I know the parents usually care for their young while they wander around until they can fly, but the situation didn't allow for him to be released as he was also injured.'

'I decided to take him back to Arran where he lived in our bathtub for the first few weeks. During this time, I did more reading on seagull habits and discovered the parents actually supplement the juveniles' feeding for their first year. We released Stevie to a popular seagull hangout at the bottom of hospital road where we went daily to feed Stevie.'

'Unfortunately Stevie decided to explore his other options, hence the golf ball. He's not actually playing fetch. He thinks he's being fed and if he manages to swallow a golf ball, that will be the end of Stevie, hence me writing.'

'Today, I am going to Shiskine to see if I can find him. I'll be taking my usual offerings of whitebait and seeded bread.'



The seagull with the golf ball in its mouth.

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Look out for turnstone in their breeding plumage

In breeding plumage, the correct name of the ruddy turnstone is apt.

These delightful shore birds have been reported in every month of the year on Arran, turning, not only, stones with their bill in their characteristic way, but seaweed and other items on the shore in the search of insects and other invertebrates.

These birds breed on the tundra all round the Arctic, usually starting to breed in their second year. They winter on the coasts of western Europe, Africa, southern Asia, Australasia including

New Zealand, the west coast of North and South America, the Gulf of Mexico and can be seen on almost any coast in the world especially intertidal rocky shores.

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

SEPTEMBER

On Arran, turnstones are passage migrants and winter visitors. Most of the turn-

stones wintering in the UK breed in northeast Canada and northern Greenland. The first wintering birds arrive in July and the main influx lasts from late August to early October. Studies in Scotland have shown individual birds are remarkably faithful to their wintering area, within and between winters, returning to the same shore year after year with around 86 per cent of adults surviving from one winter to the next.

A study in Australia tracked four birds for a year. In six days, they flew from Victoria to Taiwan, a distance of 4,700



A turnstone in its ruddy coloured breeding plumage. Photograph: Simon Davies.



A turnstone in its non-breeding plumage. Photograph: Simon Davies.

miles, then on to northern Siberia, where they nested and reared young in six weeks, before heading through the Pacific back to Victoria, a total distance of 16,800 miles. As many of these birds live around 20 years, their lifetime travel is huge.

The autumn months, when

some returning adult birds are in their ruddy breeding plumage, is a good time to look for these remarkable birds turning stones on our shores.

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



The rare chaffinch. Photograph: Linda Walker.

White-headed finch sightings

In September, photographs of two unusual looking birds were sent to me. One was photographed in a garden in Lochranza and the other at the Wineport in Strabane. In both cases, the photographers were not sure what these birds were.

The first one was with goldfinches and the second one was with chaffinches. That was a clue to their identity. The first was an unusual goldfinch and the second an unusual chaffinch. Both had unusual amounts of white feathers. Birds like this are said to be leucistic. They are not a separate species, just individual birds with this condition.

Sometimes the condition makes the plumage entirely white and sometimes there are varying sizes of patches of white, as in these photographs.

It is thought to happen when the plumage lacks melanin pigment as a result of the cells responsible for making melanin being absent.

There is more information and a link where these unusual birds can be reported at: [leucism and albinism | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology](https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw/gardens-wildlife/garden-birds/behaviour/plumage/leucism) <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/gbw/gardens-wildlife/garden-birds/behaviour/plumage/leucism>



The unusual goldfinch. Photograph: Douglas Coulter.

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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
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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 06.11.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

Applications for Listed Building Consent.
20/00835/LBC; 10 The Row, Lochranza, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Renewal of 1 no window to front elevation plus 3 no windows & 1 no door in rear extension.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siarachd Air a Tuath

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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 18th 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.

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OUR LADY OF THE ISLES PRAY FOR US

ST COLUMBA PRAY FOR US

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(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay
Sunday 18th October
Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion - 11 am.

Richard Trewby

ALL WELCOME

We follow strict SEC guidelines

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 18th 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.

DEATHS

MURCHIE, Archie. Age 53, died suddenly on the 27th September at home. Dearly loved son, brother, father and partner of Karyn. Funeral will be on Mon 19th Oct, leaving Balnacoolle 11.30, round the square and to the graveside for 12.00 pm.

BANNER
ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER

74%

Local newspapers in print and digital (74%) are more than three times more trusted for local news and information than social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn (22%)

Source: YouGov 2018

Outdoors and nature is helping our recovery

An increase in people visiting the outdoors and engaging with nature has continued after lockdown, a new survey shows.

NatureScot has published the second wave of research into how our relationship with the outdoors and nature has changed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, carried out in partnership with Scottish Forestry, the Cairngorms National Park Authority and Paths for All.

The research was revealed as the nature agency launched its autumn Make Space for Nature campaign, encouraging people to take part in simple, fun activities to help nature thrive.

The latest survey of more than 1,100 people found that during the August to September period, levels of participation increased, with four fifths of adults (80%) visiting the outdoors at least once a week.

The figure is up from 74 per cent during the initial period of lockdown from March to May, as well as the 64 per cent recorded by Scotland's People and Nature survey (SPANS) in August 2019.

An increased proportion reported that after spending time outdoors they felt that they had gained health and wellbeing benefits - 70 per cent felt it helped them to de-stress, relax and unwind (up from 63 per cent for March-May) and 56 per cent agreed that it



Walkers enjoying a woodland walk.

Photograph: Lorne Gill.

improved their physical health (vs 47 per cent).

Overall 49 per cent expect to increase their time outdoors in future, including 20 per cent who would like to spend 'a lot more' time outdoors.

Encouragingly, engagement with nature, which many people reported doing more often during the initial lockdown period, has also been sustained into late summer.

Around two in five Scots said they had spent more time than last year relaxing in their garden (45 per cent), enjoying nature in their garden (41 per cent) and/or enjoying nature or wildlife from indoors (40 per cent).

An increased percentage also agreed that nature had become more important to their health and wellbeing (55 per cent v 49 per cent in March-May).

NatureScot chief executive Francesca Osowska said: 'Nature must be at the heart of a green recovery from this crisis, and it's very encouraging to see that the increased connection to the outdoors and our natural world many reported during lockdown appears to have been sustained as restrictions eased.'

'We know how important nature is for us all, both physically and emotionally, but as this survey shows, participation is lower in some groups including older people, less affluent people and those in poor health.'

'Our new autumn campaign aims to help everyone Make Space for Nature in their lives with simple tips and ideas, from taking time to listen to birdsong to getting involved in citizen science on the doorstep.'

'We want to continue to support people in taking the next step on their journey to caring for nature and experiencing all the benefits that can bring.'

While most of those surveyed had positive experiences, some people have also experienced problems on their outdoor visits.

Around a third of people in the second wave of the research encountered litter, fly tipping or human waste (33 per cent) and a lack of public toilet facilities (32 per cent) on their outdoor visits.

NatureScot is continuing campaigns to promote the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, encouraging people to enjoy the outdoors safely and responsibly, and has recently launched a collaboration with YoungScot targeting younger visitors to the outdoors.



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday October 11, Winter Cup Round 1. Once again the weather was kind for the first round of the Winter Cup.

This is often the round where a low score is posted, setting up the eventual winner before the bad weather settles in but, despite the conditions, scoring was steady rather than spectacular.

A total of 10 of the 20 cards returned scored in the net 60s but CSS still went out to 64. Neil Richardson beat that by one shot to win by two from Ronnie Mann.

Result: 1 Neil Richardson (4) - 63 and lowest gross; 2 Ronnie Mann (12) - 65 acb; 3 Stan Rainey (11) - 65; 4 David Brookens (12) - 66 acb. Stan Rainey bagged the only two of the day @2nd.

The Summer Trophy result posted last week was incorrect. The correct position is:

1 Nicol Auld - 231; 2 Ryan Armstrong - 237; 3 John Pennycott - 239; 4 David Brookens - 245. The club offers apologies to Ryan and congratulations to Nicol.

Fixtures: Sunday October 18, Bogey Competition. Winter rules now in place. Until further notice there will be no draws for partners and members should arrange their own groupings.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday October 8, front 9 medal. 1 Derek Harrison 43-10.5=32.5; 2 Iain Murchie 36-2.5=33.5. Best scratch Iain

Murchie 36. No magic twos. Sunday October 11, Glenburn Cup. 1 Ian Bremner 71-8=63; 2 Andy Smith 82-17=65. Best scratch Ian Bremner 71. Magic two Ian Bremner @14th.

Fixtures: Sunday October 18, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday October 22, back 9 medal, make up own groups and see starter for times.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday October 12, Monday Cup. 1 A Smith 73-12=61; 2 Q Oliver 87-24=62 BIH; 3 J McGovern 74-11=62. Magic twos and best scratch A Smith.

Fixtures: Saturday October 17, Saturday Sweep. Organise your own groupings and register via the online link. Monday October 19, Monday Cup, shotgun start at noon.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday October 11, gents 18 hole medal. 1st Class: 1 and

scratch Jack McNally 68-8=60; 2 Phil Betley 73-10=63; 3 Jimmy Morrison 74-8=66. 2nd Class: 1 Robert Waine 78-15=63; 2 Tony Ellis 84-18=66 BIH; 3 Brian Sherwood 88-17=66.

Magic twos: J Morrison, Q Oliver, R Waine x2, R Crawford x2, W Paton, P Betley x3.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday October 11, Winter Cup Stableford, 25 played, CSS 36 points. 1 Ian Shand (18) 41pts; 2 David Hendry (15) 40pts; 3 Alastair Dobson (11) 36pts acb. Fixture: Sunday October 18, Winter Cup Stableford.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday October 13, Winter Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 68 BIH; 2 John Pennycott 68; 3 Alex Morrison-Cowan 70 BIH.

Fixture: Tuesday October 20, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee off noon.

Three lochs challenge to help save outdoor centre

Staff at the Lochranza Centre Community Interest Company (CIC) are to take on a tough loch challenge to raise money to try and help save the much loved outdoor centre which is struggling to survive as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Taking place this weekend or next, depending on the weather, the team will take on the 'The 3 Lochs Challenge' walking between the Coire Lochan, Loch Tanna and Loch Iorsa canoeing their lengths with an inflatable canoe.

The Lochranza centre has been operating as an outdoor education centre in the village for more than 45 years. Based in the old village school and church, it provides educational

studies and adventure activities for people of all ages.

The centre is a key part of the community providing employment and a place to hold meetings and events. Through the Covid-19 emergency, it has been operating as a community hub, delivering meals, picking up shopping and helping people with their gardens.

Crisis

Director Chris Traill outlined the crisis now facing the centre. He told the Banner: 'Although we can run local activity camps at the centre and provide accommodation for B&B guests, the bulk of our work is from residential school groups. All UK governments



The Lochranza Outdoor Centre is facing a crisis.



A canoe from the outdoor centre on Coire Lochan before the pandemic stopped activities.

will not permit schools to go on overnight residential at this time.

'Across Scotland some outdoor centres have already closed and will not re-open. Others have begun to mark staff redundant or put them onto retainer salaries to return to work at some point in 2021. There is a real danger we could lose all outdoor residential centres in Scotland

without additional support. At Lochranza Centre CIC we think we can steer a path through until Easter, or possibly even September, but it will be difficult.

'Some local authorities in Scotland have already told their schools not to travel anywhere for the whole of 2021.

'We have received some government support for the centre and the Northend and

Arran communities have been fantastic in their support. However, staff want to do something in line with what we generally do - therefore 'The 3 Lochs Challenge'.

'The toughest will possibly be Loch Tanna which I don't believe has had a boat on it before and it sits at about 300m in altitude.

'We would be grateful for any donations. This could be a 'one

off' amount or over a period of months,' Chris added.

To donate go to JustGiving.com and search:

lochranzacentre3lochschallenge





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