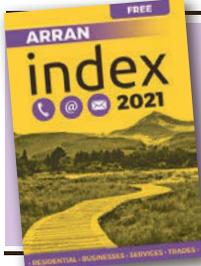


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Co-op deliveries switched to mainland after 30 years

Arran Haulage contract comes to an end

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Deliveries of supplies to Co-op stores on Arran will now be operated from the mainland, ending a tradition stretching back more than 30 years.

In a major change, the contract of Arran Haulage to bring the goods from the Co-op's main warehouse in Newhouse, North Lanarkshire, to the island every day was not renewed from January 1.

It is a major blow for the Arran company which has carried out the work, with its predecessors Arran Transport and Bannatyne's, for more than 30 years.

The contract loss is the result of the Co-op taking deliveries to its three Arran stores in-house using its own lorries and drivers.

One concern is that drivers on the mainland delivering goods to Arran may be reluc-

tant to cross if the weather means they may not get back. However, the Co-op insist drivers are provided with overnight accommodation as standard practice. Arran Haulage also says it would be willing to assist, if required.

'We have picked up enough work locally to cushion the blow'

Arran Haulage first learned of the proposal more than a year ago and the contract was due to finish in May.

However, as a result of the pandemic, it was agreed with the Co-op to extend it to the end of the year. As a result, some Arran Haulage drivers stayed on the mainland to service supplies to the island.

Owner Struan Armitage told the Banner: 'It is disappointing but we have been planning for

the finish of the contract for a while.

'We have picked up enough work locally to cushion the blow, but the biggest concern for us, and a lot of other companies, at the moment is getting through this latest lockdown.'

He said although the contract supported two full-time drivers it had been 'very time consuming' operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with deliveries to the two Brodick Co-ops six days a week in the winter and it was a seven-day operation in the summer.

'The ending of the contract has given us the time to look at other opportunities and we are looking at exciting things happening in the months ahead,' he added.

Arran is not alone with the Co-op taking deliveries in-house when other sub-contracted delivery contracts

Continued on page 2.



Ready for a Ne'erday dook

These brave dookers took to the icy waters of Brodick Bay on New Year's Day. The Nelsons, Tanya, Kate and Jim, prepare to take the plunge at the Douglas Dook with a snow-covered Goatfell behind them. See more photographs pages eight and nine.

01_B02front01



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Warning over Covid text message scams

Text message scams about Covid-19 vaccinations are being reported in Scotland, including links to fake NHS websites that ask for bank details.

Messages were first reported at the end of December on the Western Isles. Similar scams have been reported in Edinburgh, where forms ask for details from recipients' bank cards to 'verify their identity'.

Colin Mathieson, a spokesman for Advice Direct Scotland, which runs Scotland's national consumer advice service consumer-advice.scot, said: 'Sadly, this is not the first instance unscrupulous fraudsters have looked to exploit this public health crisis in an attempt to steal personal information and bank details.'

'We have seen this throughout the pandemic, with scams including the sale of fake PPE and targeting of the Test and Protect programme. What we are now sadly seeing is criminals targeting the crucial roll-out of the vaccination programme. The NHS will not require bank details in relation to vaccinations. We urge all Scots to remain scam aware, think very carefully before sharing your personal information and if you think a message or an email involving NHS initiatives doesn't look or seem right, then it probably isn't.'

Meanwhile, in other developments, a new Covid-19 drug screening



Colin Mathieson

and resistance hub will be established in Scotland, based at the MRC-University of Glasgow Centre for Virus Research (CVR).

The ground-breaking project, CRUSH (Covid-19 Drug-Screening and Resistance Hub), has received £2.5million from LifeArc to establish a national resource which will initially be dedicated to supporting and accelerating vital Covid-19 antiviral innovation drug translation.

The facility is funded by £2m from medical research charity LifeArc, with additional funding from the Medical Research Council. CVR CRUSH will be delivered by the University of Glasgow in collaboration with partners LifeArc and the University of Dundee Drug Discovery Unit.

Global control of the Covid-19 pandemic is dependent on the availability of effective medical treatments and vaccines. CVR CRUSH will help support the global scientific effort against the disease.

Covid-19 vaccine roll out in Arran later this month

But patients asked to wait for letter or call from practice

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Clinics giving residents the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine will start on Arran later this month.

Arran Medical Group says it is working hard with NHS Ayrshire and Arran to roll out the next phase of the vaccination programme with priority given to those over 80 years of age.

It is hoped these will start mid to late January depending on vaccine delivery and a spokesman said: 'We will be in touch with patients directly, by either phone or letter, to organise appointments. Following our successful flu sessions, we hope, again, to provide local clinics for these vaccinations.'

This is expected to include Arran High School.

'As we are still working with limited phone lines and staffing due to social distancing, please can we ask patients to wait for contact from our team,' the statement added.

The first vaccinations took place on Arran during the last days of 2020.

This involved delivering the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to care home residents in Montrose House and Corriedoon, health and



Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock is struggling to cope with the number of Covid patients.

social care staff and a small number of the most vulnerable patients.

It is still unclear what will now happen with the second jab for which a number of appointments have already been made, following the decision to delay these for 12 weeks to allow more people to get the vaccine.

The moves come as Arran joined the rest of mainland Scotland in its second national lockdown with people being told to 'stay at home' until at least the end of January and schools to stay shut.

And there are increasing

fears the lockdown could last longer, with many in the tourism trade on Arran predicting it will be Easter, at the earliest, before there will be a return of any meaningful trade.

However, even with the accelerated roll-out of the vaccine, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has given the 'cautious prediction' that it will be the start of May before everyone over 50 and younger people with underlying health conditions will have had the jab.

And while many businesses on the island are now closed, a number of shops and suppliers are offering goods and services

online and a number of cafes, restaurants and hotels are offering takeaways. Essential shops remain open. See page 10.

While the island remains relatively Covid-free, with just a handful of cases, the situation in mainland North Ayrshire remains among the worst in Scotland with hospitals in Ayrshire and Arran at 96 per cent of their Covid capacity.

Of the 1,174 people in hospital with coronavirus on New Year's Eve, NHS Ayrshire and Arran had 162 of their 169 coronavirus beds filled.

The first minister said this

Co-op deliveries now operated from mainland



Co-op driver Andy Airen reloads the delivery crates back onto the lorry. 01_B02coop02

Continued from page one.

finish, mainly on the Scottish islands, with the unions pressing for this change.

A Co-op spokeswoman said: 'As a community retailer, we are committed to serving our unique network of island stores in the most efficient manner to ensure customers have access to high quality groceries and essentials.'

'From January 1 2021, deliveries to all three stores on Arran will be made by the Co-op's own team of drivers, who are based out of our Newhouse distribution centre in Motherwell.'

Brodick Co-op manager Liz McLean said: 'I have always been delighted with the Arran Haulage drivers but this is a business decision which has been taken at national level.'



One of the new Co-op lorries delivers supplies to the Brodick Co-op this week. 01_B02coop01

Roll-out to start on 15th, says GP practice Practice staff and not to contact Arran Medical Group



A patient receiving the vaccine on the mainland.

week the situation with the sharp rise in cases of Covid-19 was 'very serious', with around half attributed to the new fast-spreading variant.

Ms Sturgeon said she feared the new strain was 'winning the race' against the roll-out of the vaccination programme.

'We must slow the virus down because it is spreading

faster. 'Tougher restrictions are necessary,' she said. There have been calls for restrictions to be eased on Arran because of the low number of cases, but this seems unlikely given the situation in the rest of North Ayrshire.

Bute, Skye and Gigha are the other islands with the toughest restrictions. Scottish business

groups have broadly welcomed newly-announced funding support aimed at helping firms stay afloat during the latest lockdown, which includes one-off grants of up to £9,000 for retail and hospitality businesses, depending on their size.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak revealed this week a £4.6bn

UK-wide funding package to help firms forced to close as a result of the new restrictions.

The Scottish government, however, insisted it was not new money.

Scotland was initially expected to get £375m under the scheme.

However, it said it later learned the funding was part of cash already guaranteed by the UK government to the devolved administrations under the Barnett Formula, which is expected to total £8.6bn for Scotland in this financial year.

Welcoming the additional business support for Arran, West Scotland MSP Jamie Greene said: 'The UK government has provided unprecedented support for Scotland and Arran to help us get through the pandemic and this announcement of additional funding is more than welcome.'

'Support has included the Job Retention Scheme, cuts to VAT, grants for the self-employed and the Eat Out to Help Out Scheme, which has helped workers and businesses across our community at a time of massive uncertainty.'

'At the start of the pandemic, when the chancellor said he was going to do all he could to support Scotland, he really meant it and he has delivered for the people of Scotland.'



Former Dux of Arran High School Andrew Proudfoot.

Arran man's input to vaccine development

A computer scientist from Arran played an important role in the development of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine.

Andrew Proudfoot worked for Sartorius Stedim Biotech, overseeing the research and development teams at the Royston and Guxhagen sites in England and Germany.

They created the bioreactor used in the production of the vaccine in Belgium and successfully delivered systems to not just Pfizer but also GSK, Merck, NovoNordisk and others.

Andrew, 57, also personally repaired the bioreactor when it failed to function properly.

The former Arran High School dux studied at Strathclyde University and has travelled the world as a senior manager/director within high-technology businesses leading international teams during his career but now lives in Hertfordshire. He is taking a break before returning to university in Nottingham to prepare to undertake research at the interface between science and religion.

Back to home-teaching as schools stay shut



Arran High School remains open for the children of key workers.

Schools on Arran, like the rest of Scotland, will remain closed for the rest of the month.

Teachers across North Ayrshire will deliver lessons using both online and traditional paper-based resources to ensure all pupils continue to receive support and learning throughout this difficult time as parents return to home teaching.

Arran High School remains open for the children of key workers and children and young people who require more support.

And all children who are eligible for free school meals will continue to receive them during this period.

A North Ayrshire Council spokeswoman said: 'Following the first minister's announcement, we can confirm that teaching and learning will be delivered remotely with a mix of online resources and more traditional resources (textbooks and worksheets) until at least Monday

February 1 2021. Councillor John Bell, cabinet member for education and youth employment, said: 'We understand this is an uncertain and challenging time for our school staff, parents/carers and young people.'

'We want to ensure our children and young people continue to learn, therefore, our teachers will be delivering online learning as well as using traditional resources to ensure everyone, regardless of whether they are in school or at home, can access education.'

Support

'Support will be available to ensure we are meeting the needs of all our children and young people.'

Keep up-to-date with the latest information by visiting www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk and for the latest advice from the Scottish Government visit: <https://www.gov.scot/news/schools-guidance/>

Last chance to have say on Arran ward shake-up

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Time is running out for people to have their say on the review of electoral arrangements in the North Ayrshire Council area.

A public consultation into a recommendation that Arran is turned into a single member stand-alone ward ends later this month.

The combined Ardrossan and Arran ward presently has three councillors, Conservative Timothy Billings and the SNP's Ellen McMaster and Tony Gurney, but it is only by coincidence two of them live on Arran.

While moving Arran to a single ward is seen as a positive development, there is an argument, not shared by everyone, that it would be better served by two councillors as considered in the shake-up.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland's public consultation on proposals for councillor numbers and ward boundaries in the North Ayrshire Council area closes in less than three weeks, on Tuesday January 26.

Ronnie Hinds, chairman of the commission, said: 'Since the consultation began on November 4, we have received a number of responses offering helpful suggestions.

Move to make the island one ward but should it have two councillors or one?

'As we enter the final three weeks, I'd encourage members of the public, community groups and other local bodies to look at the proposals and submit their views, whether they support or oppose our proposals, before the deadline.'

The commission conducted a consultation on its proposals with North Ayrshire Council from July to September last year and is now conducting a 12-week public consultation.

The proposals for public consultation in North Ayrshire recommend 33 councillors, across nine wards.

The commission wants members of the public and communities to give them their comments on the proposals so all views can be considered as the commission develops its final recommendations for



Scottish ministers. The Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 allows one or two-member wards, in addition to the existing three and four-member wards, where a ward includes an inhabited island.

The recently introduced Scottish Elections (Reform) Act 2020 has also allowed the consideration of mainland wards of between two and five members.

The recommendations are expected, if accepted, to be in place for the next local government elections in May 2022.

The proposals for North Ayrshire Council present an electoral arrangement for 33 councillors representing one single-member ward, three three-member wards, two four-member wards and three five-member wards, retaining the existing number of councillors but reducing the number of wards from 10 to nine.

The proposals also follow council's locality boundaries, which take account of

geography, local ties and communities.

Mr Hinds said: 'We have taken account of the Islands (Scotland) Act 2018 and present a single member Arran ward reflecting its island status. 'We considered the case for a two-member Arran ward but concluded that the special geographic circumstances of Arran did not justify a forecast variation from parity of -39 per cent.'

'An alternative would have been to retain the link between Arran and the mainland but this did not seem to us to recognise the importance of Arran's island communities in light of the Islands (Scotland) Act.'

'We have taken account of the Scottish Elections (Reform) Act that allow two-member and five-member wards to design three five-member wards that better reflect local ties in the Garnock Valley, North Coast and Three Towns. Ardrossan is placed within a single ward.'



Don't rescue swans 'stuck' in icy ponds

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) is asking animal lovers to think twice before attempting to rescue swans they fear may be stuck in ice, putting both themselves and the animals at risk.

During the recent cold snap, the society's animal helpline has received more than 70 calls from concerned members of the public regarding swans they mistakenly fear are stuck in ice on frozen lochs or ponds.

Despite the charity advising that in the vast majority of cases the birds are able to free themselves, members of the public have been attempting their own rescues or, in some cases, calling the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to attend.

Scottish SPCA chief superintendent Mike Flynn said: 'We understand that the public have good

intentions when it comes to these birds and are concerned that they are stuck or in distress. In reality, swans are incredibly powerful birds and more than capable of breaking any ice that forms around them.'

'Occasionally, if temperatures are unusually low and the water is very still, like that found in a pond, they may become stuck. However, this is very rare and normally the birds will simply break the ice themselves and fly off when they are ready to.'

'We would ask that callers follow the advice given by our helpline operators and animal rescue officers when it comes to this issue and don't attempt to take matters in to their own hands.'

Anyone who comes across an animal in distress can call the Scottish SPCA animal helpline on 03000 999 999.

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Brodick Improvements still game thanks to Co-op fund

The award to Brodick Improvements Committee (BIC) of just over £9,500 from the Co-op Community Fund has been gratefully received by the committee, writes chairman Harry Davidson.

We felt the award was particularly fortuitous at this time as our normal fundraising efforts have been thwarted by Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

Consequently we were unable, for instance, to hold our annual beach barbecue and run the weekly summer ceilidhs at Brodick Hall. Apart from the loss of enjoyment to local people and visitors, our anticipated funding disappeared.

Some of our costs, however, do not go away. For instance,

Progress on projects continues in the area thanks to community fund

we have taken on responsibility for the maintenance of the public toilets at the Low Green after they were closed by the council.

Thanks to BIC, the toilets remain open seven days a week from dawn to dusk.

We hope to improve these facilities very soon, particularly the ladies' toilets, using the money from the community fund.

We maintain large parts of Fisherman's Walk, one of the most popular footpaths on Arran. We try to protect Brodick beach where we can,

but like King Canute we are working again unstoppable nature. You will see, however, that the rock groyne we built has brought back the sand to the beach and it is almost like the old days.

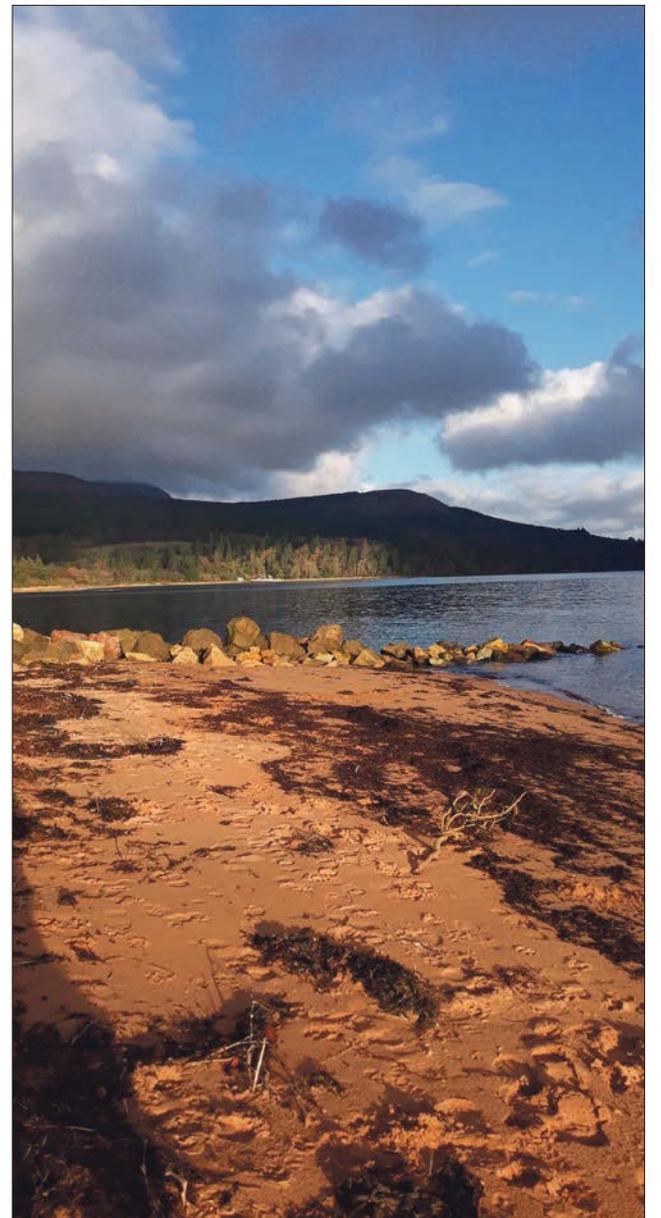
We maintain the boating slipway on the seafront used by visiting yachts throughout the summer. We also now plant the flowers on the seafront flowerbeds and they looked fantastic as usual this summer.

With the co-operation of Brodick Hall, the Ormidale Pavilion and the shops in Brodick, which have been il-

luminated, we helped brighten up the village by installing the illuminated Christmas trees at the old post office and the slipway car park.

Without the funding from the Co-op Community Fund we could not carry out many of the ambitious plans we have set ourselves. We are grateful to the Co-op, the manager Liz McLean, their wonderful staff and to the public who voted in support of our cause this year.

On behalf of Brodick Improvements Committee and the people of Brodick, thank you all.



Clockwise from left: Electrician Ian Small wires up the lights for the tree. 01_B02improve03; Harry Davidson outside the toilet block the committee reopened in 2017. 01_B32lo003; The rock groyne helping to keep the sand on Brodick beach. 01_B02iprove04; Brodick slipway was built and is looked after by the committee. 01_B02improve01; The committee puts up the Christmas trees on Brodick shorefront and at the old Post Office every year. 01_B02improve02



LETTERS

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

Arran shows its resilience

A second lockdown is not the start to 2021 any of us wanted.

However, if the scientific evidence shows it is the best way to curb the rapid spread of the new virulent strain of the Covid virus, it is in everyone's interests that we comply in full. It is being argued in some quarters that restrictions should be eased on Arran, given the low number of cases, to allow islanders to get on with their more normal daily lives. But given that mainland North Ayrshire just across the water has among the highest number of cases in Scotland, that would seem a risky strategy.

So for the time being, like Bute, Skye and Gigha, we will have to make the most of being under the toughest level 4 restrictions.

There may be little open as normal but again businesses on the island are showing their resilience by going online and offering takeaways and what other services they can to help people in this time of need. You will find many of these services listed in this week's Banner as we, again, try to help.

By mid to late January, the first people on Arran to get the second approved Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine should be getting their injections, with the over 80s the priority. But spare a thought for the beleaguered hospitality industry which had hoped that we may have turned a corner by Easter to allow much-needed trade to resume. However, even a cautious estimate from the First Minister suggests it will be May before there is significant progress with the vaccination programme.

So for now it looks like we will have to hunker down, hope that the second Covid wave will be controlled soon and look forward to summer.

Thought for the week

'Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.' 1 Chronicles 16:11-12

YOURSTORY

email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk
telephone 01770 302142

An absolute joy teaching at Corrie Primary School

Sir,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and friends for making my last day at Corrie Primary School such a special one.

I was absolutely overwhelmed with the sheer volume of cards, flowers, cakes, gifts and good wishes for which I am extremely grateful.

A beautiful painting of Corrie primary, painted by the very talented Yvonne Bailey, now has pride of place in my home. Special thanks go to Shirley and Jane for their unstinting support and advice over the years. Being piped out of school by Malcolm Wheeler was certainly the icing on the cake.

It has been a privilege to teach at Corrie primary and I shall always remember the special times I had there. Who would have known I could put on a Christmas extravaganza with the support of my talented colleagues Ann, Julie and Sarah?

I will also never forget the panto visit where we were nearly stranded on the mainland due to a faulty radar on the 'Cally Isles'. Rooms were booked and plan B was almost activated. From the summer fairs to the church services, they all hold a special place in my heart.

Throughout it all there has been one constant - the weans. The children are the real stars of the school. In my five years as their teacher I have laughed, sang, danced and shared their wee stories and triumphs. It has been an absolute joy and I will miss them dreadfully.

On a lighter note, it is with great pleasure that I hand over my chalk and duster to Miss Rachel Pearson. She will be a wonderful addition to Corrie primary and a breath of fresh air. I wish her all the very best in her new post.

Yours,
**Lindsay Todd,
Lamlash.**

Time for radical change on ferry procurement policy

Sir,
Having read the rural economy and connectivity committee report on the ferry fiasco, which castigates everyone concerned - CMAL in particular - it is disappointing to note there is no comment on the basic unsuitability of the craft as designed.

The sheer size of Glen Sannox will condemn the people of Arran to 25 further years of weather-related disruption.

Furthermore, the passenger capacity of the vessel intended for the Minch triangle is three times greater than required and, again, the sheer size means huge sums need to be spent on the piers used.

Doubtless CMAL will seek to justify the over-provision of passenger capacity on the need for interchangeability across routes but this argument does not wash given the requests of users to provide two smaller vessels which would have proved less expensive, with smaller crews, lower fuel consumption and which would have provided a more frequent, less disrupted service without the need to spend vast sums updating piers and harbours.

It is unfortunate CMAL continues to ignore the requests of islanders, many with seagoing experience and all having experience of generations of ferry use.

It is time to have a complete reappraisal of ferry procurement more attuned to the needs of islanders and more suited to the limitations of the harbours involved.

Scaling up continues to escalate weather-related disruption.

It is sobering to reflect that the combined cost of these ships, together with associated shore works, would have purchased 15 catamarans such as Alfred, which can take 98 cars, enough

to have replaced ALL large vessels in the fleet. The government cannot, again, kick this matter into the long grass. Perhaps our first minister should get on with governing and abandon the daily party political broadcast.

It was recently pointed out that, during the Falklands war, Margaret Thatcher, like her or not, appointed a spokesman to give the daily briefings while she got on with the business of government. Perhaps our FM should take a leaf out of her book, though, perhaps not too many.

It is time for the government to put an embargo on further design and procurement until a team, prepared to embrace modern practice, is installed. They could do worse than examine, in detail, the outstanding success of Western Ferries and Pentland Ferries which provide an excellent service to their respective communities totally without subsidy. Taxpayers' money is being squandered without any apparent accountability. It is time for radical change.

Yours,
**J Patrick Maclean,
Oban.**

Alternative strategies

Sir
Reverend John G Webster (Letters, January 1) regrets the absence of Church of Scotland services this Christmas Eve and Christmas Day on Arran.

Assembling together may raise the risk of spreading lethal coronavirus. Many of us steadfastly oppose abortion and euthanasia, often citing the bible's reverence for human life. Alternative mission strategies may be required for these strange times.

This Christmas saw churches in Belfast distribute tens of thousands of copies of John's Gospel produced by The Pocket Testament League.

Yours,
**Dr James Hardy,
Belfast.**

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We are open to accept all your deliveries large and small. A lot of companies won't deliver to Islands, why not use us as your mainland address and let us bring it to your home. We have all the national parcel companies and pallet networks calling in daily to our Parcelpoint. If you are ordering from a few different companies we can

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.

New ferry 'no comparison' to what Arran requested

Arran Ferry Committee pledges to work with all parties to achieve appropriate service and capacity for island's needs

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Island views for the design of the new Arran ferry, MV Glen Sannox, were completely ignored, Isle of Arran Ferry Committee has said.

It says the vessel which will finally be delivered four years late bears no comparison to what was requested for the Ardrossan to Brodick route.

The committee's comments come in its response to the rural economy and connectivity committee report published last month by convener Edward Mountain, which, as reported in the Banner, called the management process for the new Arran ferry and her sister ship at the now-nationalised Ferguson Marine shipyard a 'catastrophic failure'.

The response from chairman Iain Thomson states: 'Arran Ferry Committee welcomes the RECC report which gives justification to much of what the Arran Ferry Committee and the Arran community have been saying for quite some time - namely that

islanders' views 'have not been given weight in decision making' and must be given 'a much stronger role in providing input to the design of future new ferries' and that 'a better balance in decision making' should be in place.

'What is being delivered bares no comparison to what was requested for our route,' he added. 'When the final vessel designs were communicated, they were advised as

being designed for the routes when all aspects of the service were considered, which has subsequently been shown to be incorrect with a requirement for further investment in port infrastructure at Ardrossan now being necessary to accommodate the new vessel.

'It may be too late to influence any significant changes to current vessel design and we must hope that the indications for improved service levels

from the investments delivers the much-needed resilience which is required to aid the island's recovery and future sustainability.

Mr Thomson continues: 'AFC also notes the report 'supports a recommendation for a more standardised approach to the design and for the construction of smaller ferries as a means of improving network resilience, reducing costs and increasing frequency of services' and we are very willing to participate in any such discussions to en-

sure future designs and services provide value for money for the public purse and address the environmental challenges for the future.

'Questions of design, rate of fleet replacement and energy sources all need to be considered in a timely manner with a commitment from government to commit to a future policy statement which all island communities will rely on for their future sustainability.

'Arran Ferry Committee will continue to voice views



from the community and work with all parties to ensure that, from this calamitous episode, lessons are learned and we can finally receive the levels of service and capacity which we have not enjoyed for some time.'

See letters page.



Convener Edward Mountain taking evidence at the committee inquiry.

Look out for older neighbours as temperatures plummet

Age Scotland is urging everyone to take extra care and look out for their older friends, relatives and neighbours during the cold snap.

Icy weather conditions can be especially dangerous for older people who are at increased risk of falls and poor health.

With new lockdown measures in force, there is also the risk that more older people will feel isolated at home and cut off from their family and friends.

The charity is urging people to find safe ways to stay in touch and look out for vulnerable members of their community. It is also sharing top tips for staying warm and well during the winter months.

Michelle Supple, Age Scotland's director of charity

services, said: 'This winter is an especially harsh one for hundreds of thousands of older people in Scotland. While we understand why new restrictions are necessary, they are a bitter blow for those who are already struggling with loneliness and isolation.

'The icy weather conditions gripping much of Scotland are only making this worse. Going out for a stroll can be dangerous for those at risk of falls, while meeting family and friends outside in sub-zero temperatures is far from ideal.

'As we get older, it can take us longer to warm up, while cold temperatures can exacerbate respiratory problems, heart disease and other health conditions.

'However, there is plenty that

we all can do to help ourselves and those around us.

'It's more important than ever to check on your older relatives and neighbours. A friendly phone call or an offer to help with shopping could be a lifeline for someone who feels isolated at home. If you haven't seen a neighbour for a few days, why not pop a note through their door to check they're okay?

'We can also all take time to care for our own mental and physical health over the winter. After a long, difficult year, the prospect of more cold, dark months can easily get us down. But simple steps such as staying active safely at home, eating well and keeping in touch with loved ones can make a real difference.'

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Ne'erday dookers still take the



Tanya Guthrie takes the plunge. 01_B02dook02



From left: Darren Townsend, Sid Townsend, Eden Robertson and Jesse Townsend take the plunge from Lamlash pier. 01_B02dook12

There may have been no guests, but that did not stop staff and associates of the Douglas Hotel going ahead with a socially-distanced dook on New Year's Day. The usual throng of swimmers and spectators at the Brodick slipway were missing ahead of the

Words and photos
by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Douglas Dook at noon on January 1 but, before the new tougher restrictions, around a dozen hardy souls braved the

near-freezing waters of Brodick Bay on a bright, but cold day to welcome the new year. And they were not alone, with some brave dookers taking to the water in Blackwaterfoot and Lamlash and a sole dipper in Lochranza, where Lorna Logan took the plunge.



Mark Nelson leads the charge down the slipway heading for the water. 01_B02dook01



Another brave dooker makes a splash. 01_B02dook03



Tanya heads for a dry towel. 01_B02dook04



Mark and son Luke emerge from the water.

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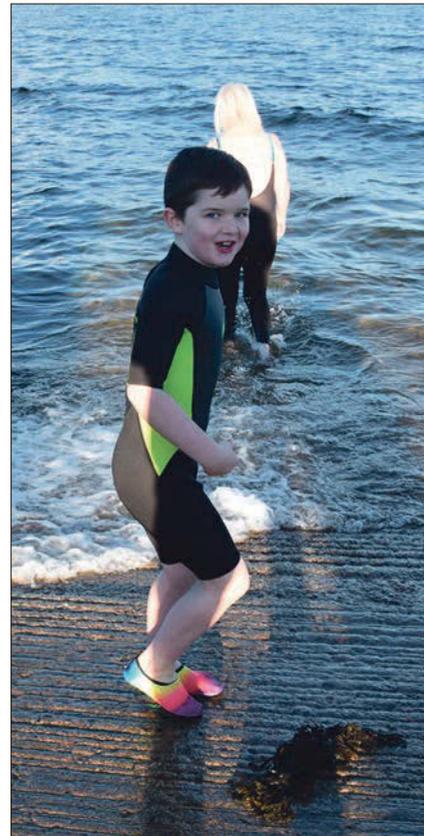
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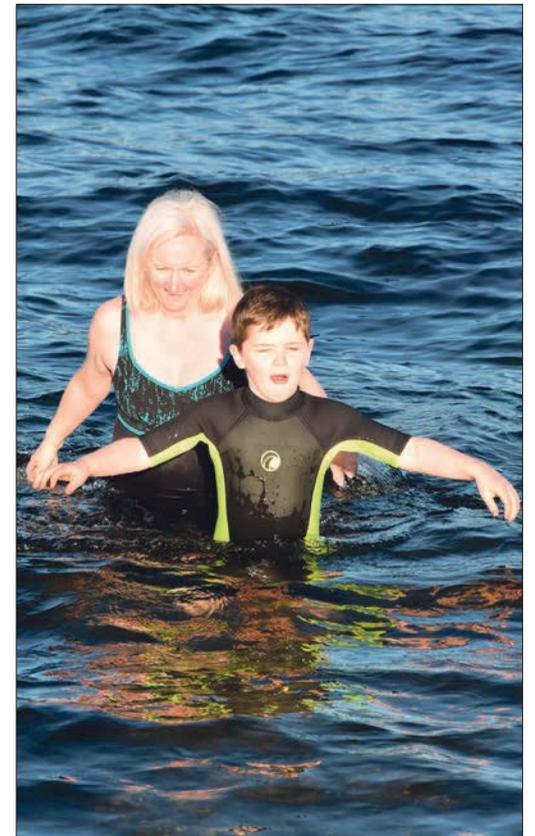
The traditional seaward plunge



Jim Reid is still smiling after his dook. 01_B02dook06



Young Owen Wylie is not too sure about going for a dip. 01_B02dook08 But he is eventually coaxed in by his mum. 01_B02dook09



Above: Kate Russell and Helen Nelson took a second plunge. 01_B02dook10

Left: Helen Nelson strides from the water. 01_B02dook07



ter. 01_B02dook05

A distanced hug for Kate and a welcome towel are on hand. 01_B02dook11

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THE DOUGLAS VEGGIE BURGER (vga) Sweet Potato, Butternut Squash & Onion Bhaji Burger with Lettuce, Tomato, Brioche Bun & Sea Salt Fries £10	SIDES
SCOTTISH BEER BATTERED HADDOCK (gfa) with Sea Salt Fries, Mushy Peas & Tartare Sauce £10	Sea Salt Fries (gf/v/vg) £3
SCAMPI with Sea Salt Fries, Mushy Peas & Tartare Sauce £10	Chilli & Parmesan Fries £3.50
INDONESIAN VEGETABLE CURRY (v, vg, df, gf) served with Basmati Rice £10 ADD Prawn £13	The Douglas Dirty Fries £4 Cheese & Peppercorn Sauce
THREE CHEESE PENNE PASTA Cheddar, Parmesan & Mozzarella Cheese £10	The Douglas Loaded Fries £7 Steak Strips, Cheese & Peppercorn Sauce
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WE ARE

A guide to available business services on Arran during lockdown

OPEN

A&C Cameron Shop & Post Office **Open**

8.30am – 5.30pm Monday – Saturday 12.30pm – 5pm Sunday

Armitage Groundworks **Open**

Open for business but there is no access to the yard or office for either business. Orders or enquiries can be placed over the phone 01770 303971 or through our website: armitagegroundworks.co.uk

Arran Active **Orders taken / Closed**

Shop closed but they may be contacted via Facebook or their website www.arranactive.co.uk

Arran Art Gallery **Online/Closed**

The gallery is closed under the Government restrictions but our website is fully open for online sales and enquiries. Www.arranartgallery.com/artwork

Arran Brewery Shop **Open**

Open during lockdown we will be running service at the door rather than allowing customers into the shop itself. Customers are also able to order direct from us at www.arranbrewery.co.uk.

Arran Butcher **Open**

The shop will remain open with all the correct guidelines in place. Open 8am -3pm except Tuesday and Sunday. Saturday open 9am -1pm. Delivery for anywhere on the island.

Arran Chocolate Shop **Online / Closed**

Online - www.jamesofarran.com or call the shop 01770 302873

Arran Estate Agents **Open**

Open for business from 9am – 5pm each weekday. Valuations and pre-sale meetings can be arranged to suit clients, with viewings available depending on the property being marketed

Arran Gift Box **Online / Closed**

Shop in Brodick is closed to customers until April when we open properly our doors again, but we are online and operating as normal. The Arran gift box website www.thearrangiftbox.com has every one of our products available and we can post out to anywhere in the UK with Royal Mail and Parcelforce tracked delivery.

Arran Graphics **Online/Closed**

They will maintain web sales and also wholesale of their souvenirs and stuff. Print and design work etc will continue as before. Email: graham@arrangraphics.com Tel: 01770 303698

Arran Haulage **Open**

Open for business but there is no access to the yard or office for either business. Orders or enquiries can be placed over the phone 01770 302777 or through our website: arranhaulage.co.uk

Arran Meals 2 Go **Open**

Takeaways available Friday and Saturday. Deliveries to Brodick, Lamlash (Fridays only) and Shiskine. Tel: 07470266309 or Facebook

Arran On A Roll **Open**

Open Monday – Friday 8.30am – 1.30pm

Arran Woodfuels **Open**

Will remain open during the lockdown, providing an ESSENTIAL SERVICE to supply Wood Heating Fuels to householders in lockdown. The delivery driver will maintain social distancing measures, so be prepared for orders to be delivered to door-step only. Orders for Wood Briquettes and Pellets will be taken by Tel: 07943 256248 E-mail: arranwoodfuels@outlook.com

Bay Kitchen and Stores **Open**

Open Monday – Saturday 8.30am -5pm, Sunday 11am – 2pm

Bay Wool and Crafts **Online etc / Closed**

Orders can be made by: Tel: Kat and Stevie Sparshott, 01770 600110 Facebook message through the shop page: Search Bay Wool & Crafts Email query through the shop website: www.baywoolcrafts.co.uk Direct email to the shop: shop@baywoolcrafts.co.uk Payment can be made through credit card (they will need to call you back from the shop), BACS transfer, or Paypal. They will even accept cash on delivery (though exact change is preferred)! They are happy to deliver for anywhere on the island.

Blackwaterfoot Garage **Open**

Open as normal for fuel 08:30-17:30 Monday – Friday, 09:00-17:00 Saturday and still providing MOT's and repairs.

Bogarie Pet Food Supplies **Delivery Service**

Will be offering FREE delivery of Dog, Cat and Wild Bird Food every Thursday as normal. Email bogariekennels@mail.com or call 870339 to place your order.

Book and Card Centre/Post office **Open**

Open 9am – 3pm – Monday to Friday. 9am – 12.30pm Saturday. Closed Sundays

Brodick Co-op **Open**

Open from 6am-10pm 7 days, also home delivery service via online and also click and collect via online. You can also do shopping instore and we will deliver.

Chameleon Ladies Boutique **Online / Closed**

Online shop open at www.chameleonarran.com/shop Shop in Lamlash closed except for 'click and collect' of online orders.

Cladach Sawmill **Orders via email/Closed**

Garden Centre and timber yard closed to the public but orders taken via email: cladachsawmill@btinternet.com. Garden buildings and contract fencing are unaffected.

Faye's Foot Clinic **Emergency only / Closed**

Available for emergency appointments only. Faye will be contacting everyone to reschedule appointments.

Gordon Bros. Lamlash **Open**

Open Monday – Saturday 8am – 5pm

Heather Lodge, Brodick **Zoom**

While many of the therapists are unable to work at the moment, some of us continue to offer a service via zoom. Services classed as medical may also proceed with the necessary precautions. Information to be found at www.heatherlodge.scot

Home and Gardens **Open**

Open 9am – 5pm Monday - Saturday

Hooked and Cooked **Open**

The chip shop will remain open Monday – Sunday 4pm - 8pm, as long as they can get stock over and will be doing deliveries from next week.

Island Cheese Company **Open**

Shop will be open 9 am until 2pm Monday to Saturday. We can deliver to those isolating – Brodick, Lamlash and Shiskine most days and the rest of the island once per week. We can also take orders on the phone for safe collection at the shop door any day. Shop number is 302788

Isle of Arran Distillers **Closed**

Lagg Distillery is closed and Lochranza Gift Shop will also be closed for the foreseeable future. They are still offering our mail order online service: W: arranwhisky.com W: laggwhisky.com

Jet the Dog **Open**

Graphic designer – will be operating as usual throughout this latest lockdown. She can have zoom meetings for anyone who needs a "face-to-face" meeting, and readily available via email or phone.

Kilmory Workshop **Online/Closed**

The workshop will have to be closed to the public, but we will be able to take telephone or email orders from previous customers or from those who have seen the website. Www.kilmoryworkshop.co.uk

Lamlash Co-op **Open**

Open 7am – 10pm everyday

Lamlash Garage **Open**

Re-opening (under COVID restrictions) on Monday 11th January

Mackenzie Logs **Open**

Delivering as normal. Tel: 01770 700348

MBS **Open**

Open Monday – Saturday 8am – 12noon

Old Byre Visitor Centre **Online / Closed**

Fully operational online: www.oldbyre.co.uk – worldwide shipping, collect from outside shop at an allocated time or local delivery can be arranged. Please phone: 01770 860227 e-mail: enquiries@oldbyre.co.uk or message any queries or requirements. They are not doing take away from the café.

Orca Krafts **Online / Closed**

Online - online art and craft supplies, art packs and bespoke gifts. www.orcakrafts.com

Royal Bank of Scotland **Open**

Open 10am – 2.30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Saltwater Studio **Online / Closed**

Senja will be working there and is happy to post out items or do Covid safe deliveries on the island. Many items can be viewed through the windows. For help with gifts or commissions, please call me on 07946537824 or 700 153 and she'll do what she can. Also online at www.senja-art.com

Sandy Kerr Tech **Open**

Working as normal

SKK Private Hire **Open**

Operating as normal with usual 24hr availability 7 days a week. The vehicle interior is cleaned before each hire and bookings can be made day or night on 07570 914342.

Sliderry Supplies **Open**

Open and also do deliveries - these will be island-wide (£1.20 anywhere). They can be contacted by email: sliderrysupplies@yahoo.com or tel:01770 870 225 or via Facebook page message tab.

The Burlington Takeaway **Open**

Re-opening 15th January, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 5pm – 9pm. Check out Facebook for menus.

The Douglas Hotel **Takeaway / Closed**

Takeaway available every Thursday – Sunday 5pm – 8pm 01770 302968. Free Delivery to Brodick/Lamlash

The French Fox **Takeaway**

Taking orders from next week onwards with reheated at home menu posted on a Tuesday (next menu posted January 12th) for doorstep deliveries island wide on a Saturday (next delivery 16th). Menus can be found on Facebook, Instagram and from next week also on our website www.thefrenchfox.co.uk. Orders can be placed by messaging Facebook/ Instagram @thefrenchfoxfood, telephone 01770 830374 and email: thefrenchfoxfood@gmail.com

The Harbour Shop **Open**

The shop will be open Monday to Saturday 10am to 2pm. Sundays 12 noon to 2.30pm. These hours will be until the end of January at the moment.

The Lighthouse **Takeaway / Closed**

Takeaway on a Friday every 2 weeks from this Friday, 5pm till 7pm until the summer Tel: 01770 850240

The Parlour **Takeaways**

Open Wednesday – Sunday 12-8pm for takeaways only. Times may change to 4pm – 8pm from next week so checkout their Facebook page.

Thomson Construction **Open**

Re-opening (under COVID restrictions) on Monday 11th Jan

The Brae Salon Blackwaterfoot 01770 860456 (diverts to mobile)

Due to current Scottish Government restrictions, the salon will be closed until further notice. Clients with pre booked appointments will be contacted in due course to reschedule. Thank you to all my clients for their continued support and patience during these difficult times. Stay safe.

Alice Anderson



Change your career, change your life



After a year full of uncertainty and change, it's time to take the reins and get your career back on the right track. Whether you're thinking about retraining, or changing your career path, you'll be able to get recognised qualifications with Argyll College UHI, all whilst studying right here in Argyll.

Starting late January, we have a range of part-time single unit courses available that can be completed before June from as little as £86. The courses are a great way to get a taster for one of our full-time courses, gain additional skills, or help you reskill in a new area. So, if you're ready for a pivot in 2021, this could be exactly what you need.

If the thought of returning to the office is enough to send you stir crazy, why not get outdoors and try one of our Horticulture units. A great way to gain new skills in the garden, these units are perfect for both beginners, and the green-fingered among us. Whether you're simply looking to get your garden in shape for Spring or want to turn your hobby into something more.

Computing is a rapidly growing sector of employment and now, more than ever, has become fundamental to the way we live,

work, and socialise. Gaining skills within this area can open up the world of technology and a vast array of exciting career opportunities. Our single unit courses cover topics such as Digital Forensics, Ethical Hacking and Computer Games Development and serve as a taster for our full-time HNC Computing course starting in September.

If you're new to the world of work, or returning after a break our Business, Admin and IT courses could be for you. Covering a range of topics from customer care, digital marketing, databases and personal enterprise skills, these courses will prepare you for the modern-day office environment and increase your employability.

For most people, it's only natural to change and what better time than now to try something new – especially as many of us have time to fill whilst remaining at home! So, if you love life in Argyll but think you have to move away to get the qualifications you need, think again. Find out how we can help you hit the ground running as the new year approaches.

Visit www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk
to find out more.

JANUARY SHORT COURSES

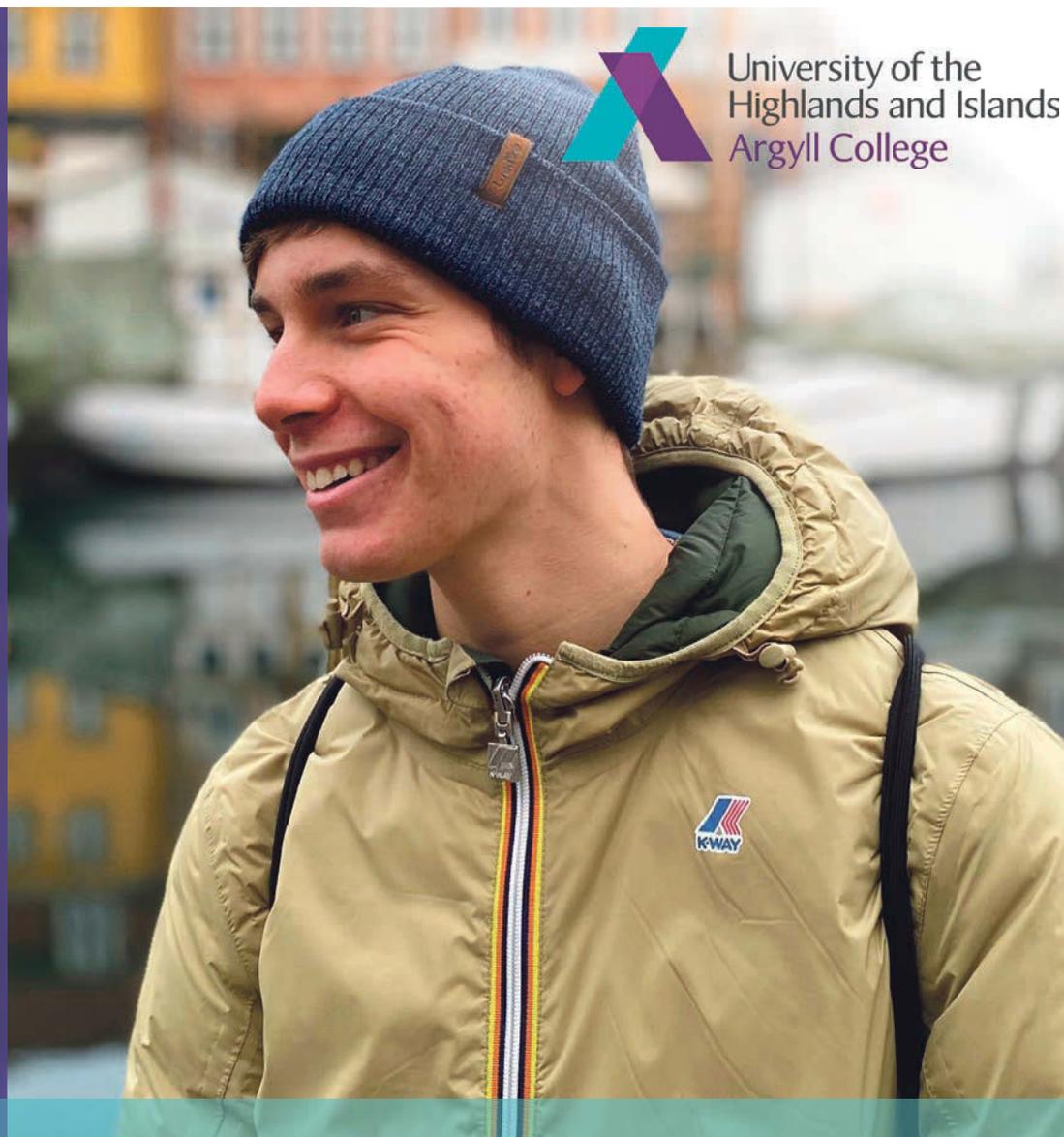
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- Plants & Habitats: Ecology & Conservation

... and **lots more** options on our website!

HEAD OVER TO ARGYLL.UHI.AC.UK



From a Mountain in Tibet – to finding peace on Holy Isle

Many Arran folk will have come across the charismatic Lama Yeshe, the managing director of Holy Isle, writes Alice Maxwell.

He is perhaps best known for his good humour and positivity and for his conviction that happiness only comes through serving others.

As he approached his 78th year, Lama Yeshe was persuaded to write his life story which is aptly described on the Amazon website: 'Written with erudition and humour, *From a Mountain in Tibet* shines a light on how the most desperate of situations can help us to uncover vital life lessons and attain lasting peace and contentment.'

The book can be enjoyed from many viewpoints. It is a historical narrative, covering Lama Yeshe's life before, during and after the Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1959 and describing the plight of Tibetan refugees.

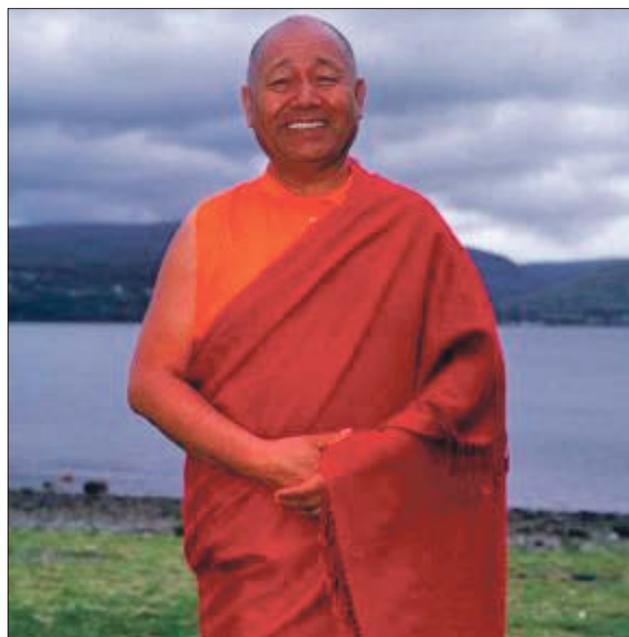
Book review - part one

It is a story of family disconnection and ultimate reconciliation. Lama Yeshe spent the first half of his life rebelling against his austere older brother, Akong Rinpoche. Akong visited Holy Isle many times and his life was featured in the film *A Remarkable Life*, shown in Lamlash school a few years ago. Akong showed remarkable patience and kindness towards his arrogant, wayward brother which at first Lama Yeshe completely took for granted. However, after many years Lama vowed to give up his selfish ways and make his brother proud.

Lama Yeshe's eventual personal transformation is dramatic and inspires readers to know that we all have the power to change our minds for the better should we wish. Up to the age of 39, he was a wild,

crazy character which makes amusing reading. He frequented gambling dens, sped about in fast cars and crashed a good many of them, drank copious quantities of whisky, though he never touched drugs, and was known by his fellow countrymen as the worst type of Tibetan. Gradually, through the example and blessing of his ever-patient brother Akong, he came to see that selfishness does not engender happiness and he finally ordained as a monk and vowed to devote the rest of his life to the service of others.

Interspersed with his extraordinary story are wonderful snippets of Buddhist teaching. These are certainly not designed to convert the reader to Buddhism, but are gems of wisdom offered to help the reader cope with the



Lama Yeshe, who had a 'wild' youth.

fragility of our fast-changing world. They inspire us to engage wholeheartedly with the fundamental goodness that lies within us.

The book begins: 'My earliest memory is of playing with my friends. Our game was killing birds.' This is a shocking start to an autobiography of a Tibetan Buddhist, since a fundamental Buddhist precept is not to kill.

Yet boys will be boys and their excitement was heightened by the thrill of disobeying their parents and transgressing the rules of their religion. This rebellious nature was certainly a hallmark of much of Lama Yeshe's younger life.

Lama Yeshe's childhood is a fascinating glimpse into a medieval world – cars and trains were unheard of, their only clock was the sun, nature sustained them and they respected nature in return.

It was a subsistence economy where they ate what they grew, used firewood as fuel and made their own clothes and blankets out of animal hairs and skins. Families were mutually dependent on each other and Buddhism was at the heart of their existence. Everyone had a role to play in society, which was built on simplicity and love.

The Buddha encouraged his disciples to contemplate impermanence – although the circumstances of our lives may appear stable and unchanging, they are not. If we do not mentally prepare ourselves for inevitable change we will

Akong's monastery where he had no choice but to undergo gruelling study. He resented his loss of freedom, he resented Akong and he revelled in self-pity. But this was nothing compared to what was to come.

The description of the nine-month escape from the Chinese communist invaders is both nail biting and heart breaking. From the warmth of our well-fed existences it is impossible to imagine a journey of such terrifying magnitude.

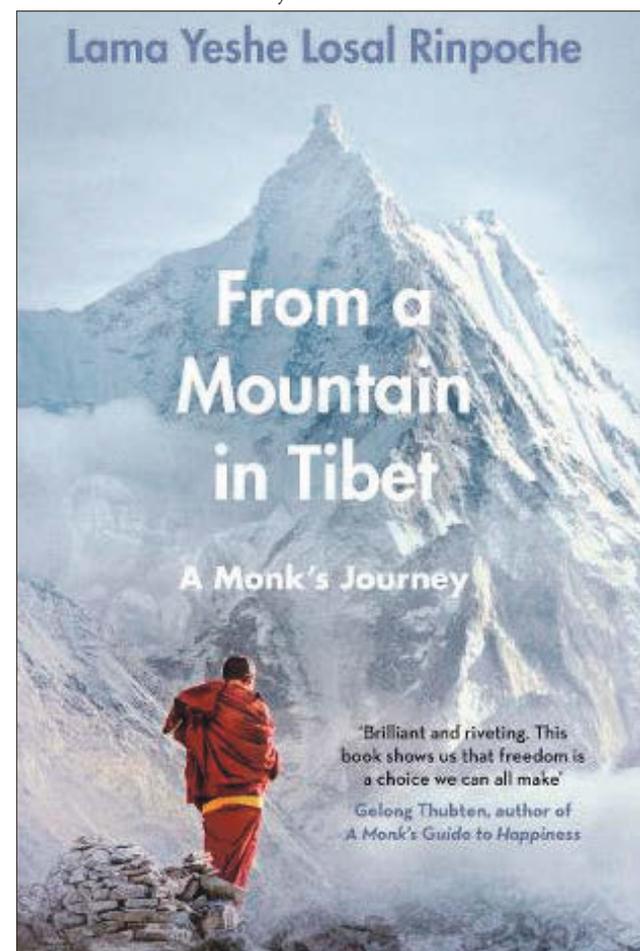
Tibetan refugees were flooding into India at the time, so Lama Yeshe's experience was shared with thousands of others. They feared being shot dead by Chinese soldiers or being captured and tortured.

Traumatised survivors watched helplessly as thousands died from starvation, cold and exhaustion. Lama Yeshe left Kham in Eastern Tibet with a group of 300 people.

Only 13 made it to the safety of India.

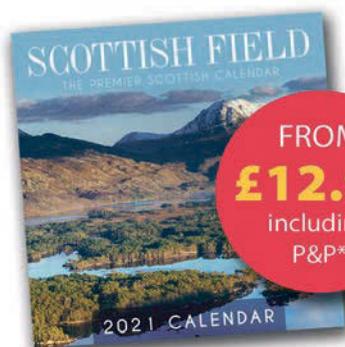
Part two will be published next week.

Published by Penguin, *From a Mountain in Tibet* is available at *The Book and Card Centre, Brodick.*



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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 6, 2001



Enjoying a post match drink are the football teams of the Cameronia Hotel, top, and the Shurig Bar, below. Started last year, this now annual football match takes place on January 2. The Cameronia team won 10-3.

01_B02tweY05 and 01_B02twe06



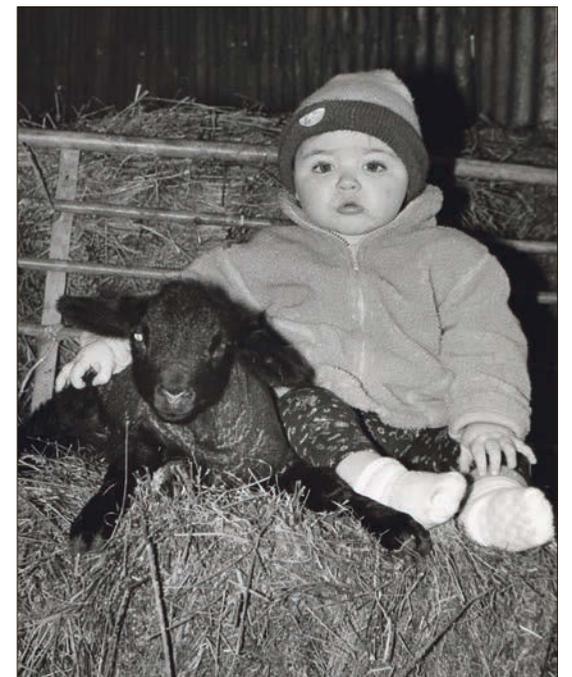
Above: Zang Bo from Guangzhou in China made this splendid Chinese dragon sculpture from snow in the front garden of the relatives he and wife Corrie McPherson were visiting in Alma Park, Brodick. 01_B02tweY04



Julie Murchie shows off her winning duck at the Shiskine hall duck derby. 01_B02tweY02



Charles Currie scoops up the winning duck at Blackwaterfoot harbour. 01_B02tweY03



One-year-old Zoe Clark with one of the first pure bred Suffolk lambs born at High Feorline, the farm of her grandparents Charles and Sheena Murchie, last week. 01_B02tweY01

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COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE
CHILDREN ENTITLED TO START P1 – SESSION 2021/2022

Children who attain the age of 5 years between 1 March 2021 and 28 February 2022 should be registered to start primary education from August 2021. Registration for August 2021 is an online process and will take place during the period Monday 11 January 2021 and Friday 29 January 2021. Information on how to register your child can be found on the Council's website: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk or by telephoning 01294 310000. You have the choice to submit a placing request to a primary school outwith your catchment area but you must first register with your catchment primary school. If you decide to make a placing request, then you should complete an online placing request application via the Council website: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk, before 15 March 2021. More information on placing request applications and how we process these can also be found on our website. Registration at your catchment area primary school does not guarantee entry to that school.

Andrew McClelland, Head of Service (Education)



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

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SCOTTISH FIELD

January issue



Exclusive
So that was
2020 feature

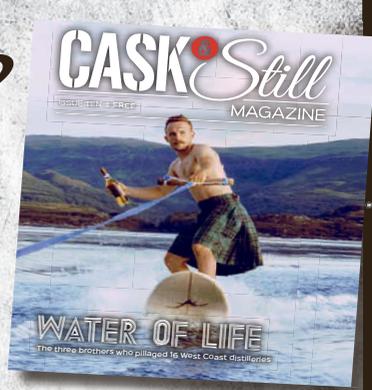
So that was 2020...

Interviews with top authors, actors & singers...
James Cosmo talks fishing & Father Christmas...
Stuart Hogg on horse riding... Father of fantasy
fiction.. Wonderful world of owls... SF Quiz of
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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine

Independent but working together
CHURCHES IN NORTH
ARRAN PARISHES WILL
BE CLOSED UNTIL END OF
JANUARY WHEN SITUATION
WILL BE REVIEWED. THERE
WILL STILL BE ON-LINES
SERVICES AND FOOD BANK
WILL STILL BE AVAILABLE.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland

Charity Number: SC014005
DUE TO THE NEW SCOTTISH
GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION
ON CORONAVIRUS, THE
CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED
FOR WORSHIP UNTIL THE
END OF JANUARY.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Kilmory linked with Lamslash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"
Scottish Charity SC015072
DUE TO THE NEW SCOTTISH
GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION
ON CORONAVIRUS, THE
CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED
FOR WORSHIP UNTIL AT
LEAST THE BEGINNING OF
FEBRUARY.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican
Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
ALL SERVICES ARE
CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE
Services from Christchurch,
Lochgilphhead will be available on
Facebook and ZOOM.
Please contact Richard Trewby
on 01770-600236 for further
information

DEATH

WHITE – Elise (Elsie)
Elsie of Brodick, died in Arran
War Memorial Hospital on
29th December 2020. Beloved
wife of the late Donald, Brodick
Pier Master, much loved Mum
to Dorothy and Angus, and
loving Granma to the late Keir,
Ellen, Ross, Elise and Louis.
Small private funeral 11.30am
on Monday, 11th January at
Brodick Old Cemetery. Cars
will leave from Fir Cottage at
11.20am should people wish to
pay their last respects.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

A reminder that our mini-
service is still available every
week on our website: [www.
arranbaptistchurch.btck.co.uk](http://www.arranbaptistchurch.btck.co.uk)
If you go to the homepage and
look below the map picture you
will find the link to pick up the
service. To access click on the first
letter of the link.
We would love you to join us.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
ANNOUNCEMENT OUR
CHURCH WILL BE CLOSED
FOR PUBLIC WORSHIP
AND MASS FROM FRIDAY
8TH JANUARY TO SUNDAY
31ST JANUARY INCLUSIVE.
REOPENING AFTER 31ST
JANUARY WILL BE SUBJECT
TO SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT
REVIEW.

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Celebrating female pioneers of golf

Women's golf is in good health on Arran, particularly in Shiskine, but the women's game has not always had an easy time of it in the sport.

Now a new documentary, produced for BBC Alba by award winning independent production company purpleTV, explores the extraordinary history of women's golf in Scotland and celebrates some of the little-known female pioneers.

Iron Women is the latest documentary created by filmmaker Margot McCuaig, whose slate includes Elena Baltacha, Tommy Burns, Rose Reilly and Jim Baxter.

Golf was traditionally regarded as a man's sport, a protected male environment that was out of bounds to the so-called 'weaker sex'.

From the early pioneers of the 18th century, to formidable role models who challenged the patriarchal constraints of male-dominated golfing arenas, this story celebrates the trailblazers who put Scottish women's golf firmly on the world map.

The battle for visibility and access on equal terms has been a long and difficult journey and the heroes integral to the growth and recognition of

the game in Scotland remain little-known.

The story begins in the 18th century in Musselburgh, with recorded evidence of fishwives playing golf and competing for the prize of a creel and silk handkerchiefs.

The game gathered momentum among the Victorian ladies of St Andrews from 1863, albeit under the watchful gaze of husbands and fathers, who controlled the spaces women frequented and how they used them.

Over the centuries, while some women were open about their love for golf, their space was often severely curtailed and distinctive male and female spheres came into play.

Transgressors such as Issette Pearson and Agnes Grainger developed strategies to create opportunities for women and thanks to their determination the Ladies Golf Union and the Scottish Ladies Golf Association were formed in 1893 and 1904, formalising the sport and creating competition and, fundamentally, a handicap system before men. Formidable golfers emerged, with several Scots leading the way at home and abroad.

Professional golfer Karyn Dallas gives an account of ar-

Professional golfer Karyn Dallas tells of her shocking experience in the documentary.



riving at a club to play a tournament and there was a sign that said 'No Dogs or Women Allowed'.

Men 'supervised' women to make sure they behaved appropriately when they played golf in the 19th century and land was gifted to the St Andrews Ladies Putting Club.

Dr Fiona Skillen said: 'It's interesting that the land the women are gifted to play on is straight beside the Royal and Ancient Clubhouse so there's an argument there that this is in order for the men to be able to keep a watchful eye on what the women are getting up to.'

'The men check to see if the women are behaving themselves in a circumspect manner. They are being encouraged to play but a very specific kind of golf, it's putting, it's not challenging.'

She also shares memories of being in a golf club as a child. She said: 'I remember my dad getting very antsy if I ever went near the painted line or if I tried to step over the painted line; it was hugely controversial, and I was very aware of the gendered behaviour and the difference.'

Dr Fiona Reid had a similar experience and recalls a white line in the golf club where her mum played. She said: 'Only the men could go over that line. There's a place that the men can go and a place that the women can go.'

Gillian Kirkwood also remembers being prohibited from walking past the window of the men's lounge at the golf club. She said: 'You weren't allowed to walk past the golf club window. You had to walk on a path that was quite far away from the window so that the men didn't see you and you can't look in at the window to see the men having their drinks and cigars. Some golf clubs really had to be dragged into the 21st century.'

Brogan Clark said: 'If you were in front of a group of guys at tee time you'd hear them huffing and saying 'we're at the back of these ladies and it's going to be a five or six-hour round'. That kind of gave you the satisfaction to go up to the first tee and hit the ball and see their jaw drop!'

Iron Women is available on the BBC iPlayer until the end of January.



An early golfing pioneer was Dorothy Campbell.

ARRAN BANNER GOLF

Continued from page 16.
Best Scratch Serge El Adm 81.
No magic twos recorded.
Fixtures: Sunday January 10, Sweep 9.30am and noon.
Thursday January 14, Yellow Medal, 11am draw.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday December 28,
Monday Cup. 1 A Napier
70-10=60.

Friday January 1, Ne'erday
Cup: 1 D Logan 33 points.

Monday January 4, Monday
Cup: 1 D McKinnie 75-11=64;
2 J McGovern 76-11=65. Magic
two A Smith.

Fixtures: Saturday January 9, 18-hole sweep. Arrange your own games and register in the usual fashion. Monday January 11, Monday Cup, noon shotgun start.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday December 29, Winter
Cup. 1 Alex Morrison-Cowan
72; 2 Brian Sherwood 74; 3
Willie McNally 76.

Saturday January 2,
Lochranza Hotel Cup: 1 Brian
Sherwood 31 points; 2 John
Milesi 27 points; 3 John

Pennycott 24 points. Fixture:
Tuesday January 12, Winter
Cup, tee off noon.

Brodick Golf Club

Friday January 1, Hirsell
Trophy and New Year bottle,
Stableford, 25 played: 1 John
Beattie 40 points; 2 Babbies
MacNeil 39 points; 3 Alastair
Dobson and Alistair Hume 35
points.

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THE ARRAN
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Winter league cancelled but golf courses remain open

The latest national lockdown has seen the cancellation of the next round of the Arran Golfers Association winter league fixtures, also known as the Duncan Trophy, this weekend.

A spokesman for the association said: 'The latest news sadly means we will be cancelling the third round of the Duncan Trophy on Sunday January 10 at Corrie. This round will not be rearranged and the result will be a draw for all three matches.'

'Let's remain hopeful we can play the next round at Lamlash Golf Club on Sunday February 7.' Golf is still permitted under the lockdown, however, and all the courses on Arran are expected to stay open.

Under the new protocol adopted by Scottish Golf, courses can remain open for play with a maximum of two players from up to two households playing at the same time.

Golfers must stay close to home, travel only for essential purposes and in line with the new legislation.

CONTACT US
EMAIL US AT
emailusateditor@arranbanner.co.uk
TELEPHONE
01770 302142



Latest results from around the Arran courses:

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday December 31, ladies Hogmanay game. Five hardy ladies braved the elements and Liz Kerr was the worthy winner.

Thursday December 31, gents Mahogany Trophy. 1st class: 1 and scratch R Traill 44-4=40 BIH; 2 R Crawford 49-7=42 BIH; 3 S Kerr 49-7=42. 2nd Class: 1 T Ellis 52-12=40; 2 D Davidge 52-11=41; 3 A Bannatyne 59-15=44. Magic twos: R Crawford, R Traill, Wm McNally, C Rutterford and J Faulkner. Congratulations Ross.

Friday January 1, ladies Alan Smith Plate. Silver: 1 Alice Anderson 57-12=45 BIH; 2 Liz Kerr 56-11=45. Bronze: 1 and scratch Jenni Turnbull 55-13=42; 2 Julia Salton 66-19=47; 3 Pat Adamson 65-15=50. Magic two: Jenni Turnbull. Congratulations Jenni.

Friday January 1, gents Colditz Quaich. 1st class: 1 and scratch Stewart Black 45-7=38; 2 Robbie Crawford 50-7=43 BIH; 3 Jimmy Morrison 48-5=43. 2nd Class: 1 Wm McNally 49-10=39; 2



Some of the golfers who played in the New Year's Day competition at Brodick.

G Martlew 52-12=40; 3 Tony Ellis 55-12=43. Magic twos: S Black x2, J Morrison, A Morrison-Cowan.

Saturday January 2, D S Bannatyne Shield: 1 M J Tod and D K Henderson 52-13=39; 2 C Stewart and R Crawford 52-11=41 BIH; 3 S Gray and J Salton 50-9=41.

Sunday January 3, gents Sunday Stableford: 1 T Ellis 29pts; 2 G Stewart 25pts; 3 Wm McNally 24pts. Magic two: T

Ellis.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday January 3 - Flog! A fair number of brave golfers turned up to play the course backwards and happily all returned safe and well, if emotionally scarred by the experience. Slippery underfoot conditions and wayward artillery are not features we usually have to contend with.

1 Jamie Macpherson 72 nett; 2 John Pennycott 75 acb; 3 Kevin Jackson 75; 4 Gus MacLeod 76.

Fixture: Sunday January 10, AGA Winter League at Corrie. As a result of recent lockdown restrictions, this fixture has been cancelled. All ties are declared draws.

Lamlash Golf Club

Saturday January 2, course backwards. 1 Paul Jameson 80-11=69; 2 Gavin Baird 90-18=72; 3 Euan Bone 89-14=75.

Best scratch Paul Jameson 80. Magic two Stuart Campbell @15th.

Sunday January 3, Sunday Sweep. 1 Alan Smith 84-14=70 BIH, 2 Serge El Adm 81-11=70.

Continued on page 15.



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