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Cancer support charity's plea to improve lifeline ferry

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The chairman of the Arran cancer support charity, ArCaS, has written to government ministers urging them to take action to secure a reliable ferry service for patients who need it to attend vital hospital appointments on the mainland.

The plea follows a period of recent service interruptions owing to a number of weather-related cancellations, issues with vessels, and further issues with the linkspan and walkway in Ardrossan.

Figures from ArCaS reveal that last year patients were unable to attend important mainland hospital appointments on 29 occasions owing to service disruptions. Within the first three weeks of this year there has already been four cancellations, two owing to issues with the ferry and two due to weather.

In an email composed by ArCaS chairman, Douglas Johnston, Mr Johnston quot-

ed a statement from Keith Cheshire, the ArCaS transport trustee who is responsible for conveying Arran cancer patients to the ferry terminal in Broddick and further afield, from Ardrossan to hospitals in Glasgow, Crosshouse or Ayr for diagnostic and treatment appointments.

'The situation in respect of the ferry... is now critical.'

Mr Cheshire said: 'The situation in respect of the ferry service serving the Isle of Arran is now critical. In our view it should be regarded as an essential lifeline and, as such, be given emergency status for the permanent provision of a viable and reliable service.'

'For far too long now, the current service has been adversely affected by unreliable vessels (another one is broken today), problems with the linkspans at Ardrossan, the access

walkway now permanently unserviceable plus the inevitable vagaries of the weather. This has been the result of progressive failures in forward planning and corrective action of which there has been a disgraceful lack. At one time, the ferry was totally reliable and coped with really bad weather events but not now. If the wind gusts at anywhere near 30mph people on the island brace themselves for the inevitable announcement. This situation affects travel, trade and, most importantly, the ability of patients - some of whom are very seriously ill - to get to hospital appointments.

'Consequently, we are requesting your urgent assistance in the development of an effective lifeline service to this island. No doubt some of the other islands have a similar problem. There is absolutely no point in trying to motivate CalMac since they seem to be completely inured to the

Continued on page two.

Snow much fun!



Arran enjoyed a generous covering of snow over the weekend and children took full advantage of this by taking their sleds to local snow-covered areas for their daily exercise. But climbing up snow covered hills can be hard work as Brodie Hunter, Jensen Roberts and Claudia Hunter discovered last Sunday. The children are pictured enjoying a quick snack break in the thick snow that coated the Ross Road.



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Cancer charity calls on Government to improve lifeline ferry service for patients

Continued from page one.

reality of the situation after years of managerial ineffectiveness. What we suggest is desperately required and in need of urgent government input and direct involvement by an accountable body.'

The Arran Banner followed up with recipients of the email and the parties involved, and requested a response from Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac), Kenneth Gibson, MSP, and Jamie Greene, MSP.

Kenneth Gibson, Arran MSP, said: 'I completely understand the concerns of Mr Cheshire, Mr Johnston and the majority of Arran residents regarding the ferry service.'

'Technical vessels faults cannot usually be anticipated and CalMac will always aim to minimise the impact of technical issues by utilising



vessels across all of their routes, ensuring that lifeline connectivity is maintained for all islands across the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service network. CalMac will, whenever possible, advise the travelling public in advance of any potentially cancelled sailings or amended timetables as soon as they can via website, by text and social and local media.

'Of course, the ageing of the fleet does not help and, whilst the seemingly endless wait for the Glen Sannox continues, an additional £7.5 million has been allocated to improve the reliability and availability of vessels.'

'Climate Change is also impacting lifeline ferry ser-

vices, with severe and at times prolonged weather impacts. Conditions can change very quickly and Ships' Masters make decisions, solely on safety grounds, whether to sail or not based on prevailing conditions at the time and weather forecasts.'

'It is vital that Arran residents can access NHS services and CalMac has an Urgent Medical Appointments Protocol. Within this protocol, CalMac will assist passengers to travel to the mainland (and return) for an urgent medical reason (not requiring emergency services) to attend a confirmed appointment.'

Jamie Greene, MSP for West Scotland, who also received a copy of the correspondence, said: 'News that cancer patients are struggling to get to the mainland for appointments because of issues with the ferry is nothing short of a

scandal in my view. This ferry service is a vital lifeline for everyone on Arran, especially those reliant on it for access to health services.'

'The Scottish Government, CalMac, our local council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran must urgently come together to ensure no one is left without access to treatment or support. I will do what I can to support Arran residents and invite them to reach out to me.'

CMAL, who provide and own the vessels that CalMac operate, said: 'Delivery of MV Glen Sannox, which will serve the Brodick-Ardrossan route, has been significantly delayed due to contractor failure, and we fully understand the negative impact this is having on island communities. The vessels (MV Glen Sannox and Hull 802) are being completed by Ferguson Marine, which is now owned by the Scottish

Government, and we are optimistic that good progress is being made.'

'We are grateful to communities for their continued patience, and wish to assure them that we are also exploring all viable solutions in the secondhand ferry market. We considered more than 100 ferries throughout 2020, however none of these have been assessed as suitable for the Scottish island routes.'

A spokesperson for CalMac said: 'CalMac provides an excellent service given the constraints they work under. However, the design of vessels, age of the fleet and the state of port facilities are not within CalMac's control as we have to operate with the vessels provided by Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, while the poor state of Ardrossan has been caused by 10 years of underinvestment

by its owners, Peel Ports.' The managing director of CalMac, Robbie Drummond, told the Arran Banner: 'We engage regularly with local communities and appreciate how vital these lifeline services are to island residents. We continue to undertake a range of preventative measures to maintain the resilience of our fleet, the supply of which are a matter for CMAL and Transport Scotland. The fitness of Ardrossan Harbour is a matter for Peel Ports.'

ArCaS is a voluntary organisation that was founded in 1989 and offers counselling, wellbeing support and a cancer support nurse, whose assistance has been described as 'invaluable' to cancer patients. And, of course, volunteers offer return transport from a patient's house, or the ferry terminal, to their hospital appointment.

Gearbox problem delays the return of Caledonian Isles

MV Caledonian Isles which was meant to return to service after her annual maintenance on Wednesday will now be delayed owing to problems with its gearbox which will require parts to be sourced from Norway, writes Colin Smeeton.

This additional work, over and above the usual annual maintenance programme, will now see the vessel's return to service being delayed by a week, to Wednesday February 3. The repair to the sewage system, which was identified previously, has only been partially completed and further work will be required, although this will be scheduled for a later date.

Last month saw critical repairs also needing to be undertaken on the 28-year-old vessel when the cylinder head had to be replaced just before Christmas.

MV Hebridean Isles will continue to serve the route until Caledonian Isles returns and no major issues are anticipated with accommodating demand during the period.

Meanwhile delayed work on installing the linkspan at Gourock is under way and it



The 50-year-old linkspan at Gourock which has now been repaired.

is expected to be usable again after a couple of weeks, once the hydraulics and electrics have been completed and the system certified.

Two large craneships, Oscar and Lara1, installed the linkspan during a late night operation on Monday and commissioning works have been continuing all through the week.

The 50-year old linkspan has a new steel deck, associated mechanical and electrical equipment, and new fenders, all of which has cost in the region of £2.5 million to install and return to service.

Commenting on the instal-

lation of the linkspan, Paul Colenso, senior civil engineer at CMAL, said: 'The night-time install operation went smoothly. It's best to move large structures like this during non-operational times, but night-time working does bring extra planning considerations. I'm glad to say everything went according to plan, and I'm sure the local community will join us in welcoming the new linkspan going into place.'

'All going well, and if we don't experience any harsh winter weather or storms, the new linkspan will be up and running and available for CalMac to use in a few weeks.'



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Affordable housing plan for Lamlash given green light

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A £3million affordable housing development in Lamlash has been given the go ahead for 18 affordable rental homes at Rowarden, Lamlash.

The approved application by Arran Development Trust (ADT) is the first of three development projects that the trust is currently working on and which are aimed at alleviating the island's affordable housing problem.

Work is expected to get under way in March, with a combination of one, two and three bedroom houses being constructed. The homes will be built with an exterior finish of sinusoidal metal, or pre-stained pine, or render for the walls, with sinusoidal metal or standing seam metal for the roofs. The proposed mate-



rials were selected to reflect a 'rural Scottish aesthetic with a contemporary feel'.

The design of the development, situated on Benlister Road on the western edge of Lamlash but still within the 'general urban area' as identified within the North Ayrshire Local Plan, places

great importance on having areas of public amenity. Provision has been made for rear gardens and three other distinct areas; a community trail with woodland planting on the eastern side; a shared amenity space in the centre of the site; and a community garden. All these green spaces

A schematic diagram of the development by architectural design agency Denham Benn.

will be linked via a network of paths.

The layout of the houses, and even the street which services them, has all been designed with the occupants in mind to provide an attractive and functional living environment. The design also reflects Housing for Varying Needs guidelines, which places an emphasis on long-term living in the same home and establishing a sustainable community in the area.

Sheena Borthwick-Toomey, operations director, Arran Development Trust, said: 'The ADT board is absolutely delighted planning permission has been granted for the very first site at Rowarden,

Lamlash. To get to this point and over the last two years, ADT held 14 community engagement events with the membership, residents and other community groups to ensure all their opinions and comments were taken into account. This resulted in contemporary house designs which are well insulated and energy efficient being presented to the NAC planning department - they liked it too.

'All house designs were conceived by Denham Benn, based in Ayr, and construction works/programming by Quantum Solutions, based in Kilmarnock. The works will be carried out using a selection of both Arran and mainland-based trades and the ADT board was delighted so many Arran businesses took part in the tender process. The site at Rowarden is just the

start for the ADT and we hope to announce further details of the second site within the next few months.'

The provision of 18 houses becoming available on the Arran housing and rental market will be welcomed by many who continue to struggle to find affordable accommodation on the island. This will add to other developments that are taking place on Arran, such as a 15-house development in Kildonan and a 34-house development at Brathwick Terrace, the first by private developer and the latter by North Ayrshire Council.

YOURSTORY

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Top-up tap approved for Arran

Arran is set to receive a top-up tap on the Brodick promenade after planning chiefs approved an application to install a bottle refilling station in the area, writes Colin Smeeton.

The application was submitted by Scottish Water as part of their 'Your Water, Your Life' campaign, which has committed to install outdoor water bottle filling stations across Scotland to encourage and promote the use of refillable bottles.

Scottish Water confirmed that they hope to have the Arran water station operational in late spring when it will be installed opposite the Brodick Co-op parking lot, along the beachfront.

The standardised blue dispenser will join 32 other top-up taps already installed at locations from Dumfries to Lerwick and in 'iconic locations', such as outside the Scottish Parliament and at either end of the West Highland Way in Milngavie and Fort William.

Each council in Scotland has reacted positively to the proposal and the campaign has received widespread support, including from Roseanna Cunningham, MSP Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, who said: 'This is a



Arran will soon be receiving a Scottish Water top-up tap like this one pictured in Glasgow.

fantastic campaign which fits in with our work to reduce Scotland's dependence on single-use plastic and is raising awareness of the health benefits of drinking more tap water, which is excellent in quality and value.

'We would encourage people to make the switch to reusable bottles if they can as it will help protect the environment and can save money. This campaign also builds on our commitments to tackle our throwaway culture as we are the first part of the UK to commit to a deposit return scheme.'

Planning officials gave the application the go ahead and

in a report of handling said: 'Towns and Villages Objective identifies that proposals which support the social and economic functions of town centres will be supported, subject to placemaking being embedded into decision making.

'This proposal would serve a social function by encouraging outdoor activity and active travel and would have some benefit to the tourism economy by offering a facility to visitors to the island as well as residents. It would be sited on a grass verge but would not adversely affect the overall provision or use of public Open Space given the scale.'

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Forestation plan to include Arran

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Council chiefs have confirmed that Arran will be included in plans to plant 108,000 trees across North Ayrshire as part of their Tree Planting Strategy and their commitment to be 'net-zero' by 2030 in response to the climate change emergency.

The tree planting programme will create a new woodland resource in North Ayrshire by 2030, and the planting will be funded in part by a £500,000 allocation from the Council's Investment Fund.

A North Ayrshire Council spokesperson, said: "The strategy covers all of North Ayrshire, and it is envisaged that we will undertake some planting in all localities. The strategy also outlines that we will explore the potential for planting on private land with major landowners, which was specifically to take account of Arran given the limited council landholdings on the island".

The local authority will work with community partners to support delivery of the planting programme which will see trees planted on around 40 hectares of land across North Ayrshire.

According to council figures, in the last five years alone, carbon emissions have reduced by more than 28 per cent within



Councillor Jim Montgomerie highlighted the importance of working with local communities and schools to help deliver the programme.

combat climate change as trees absorb substantial amounts of carbon from the atmosphere. However, it is important to recognise the wider reaching and longer-term benefits of trees and woodlands which align with the council plan.

"There are multiple benefits to this initiative but the biggest one is the community involvement. It's key that we work in partnership with our local communities and schools to help deliver this programme. We hope to introduce a pilot programme with community groups later this year – depending on where we are in the current Covid-19 pandemic."

The council's ambition is to start planting later this year and complete all the tree planting activities by the 2025/26 growing season to ensure that saplings are well on their way to maturity by the 2030 target.

the council's estate following the implementation of a wide range of carbon reduction projects. However, it is recognised that carbon absorption is also an important tool in tackling climate change.

As well as absorbing carbon from the atmosphere, the new trees will provide a wealth of other benefits, including: Employment and training opportunities through the planting work for local people and potential co-operatively owned commercial forestry opportunities; health, well-being and physical activity opportunities, improved habitat creation, enhanced biodiversity and creation of new green corridors which

allowing animals to travel from one patch of native forest to another.

Other benefits include regeneration – by undertaking planting on vacant and derelict land; community food growing by planting fruit trees in some locations, reducing flood risk by using trees to improve the drainage properties of land and improving air quality.

Councillor Jim Montgomerie, North Ayrshire Council cabinet member for Green New Deal and Sustainability, said: "I welcome the plans to deliver an ambitious tree planting programme, which will help North Ayrshire achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. "The increase in trees will help

Penalties waived for late self-assessment tax returns

HMRC have announced that self-assessment customers who cannot file their online tax return by the Sunday January 31 deadline, will not receive a late filing penalty as long as they file it online by Sunday February 28.

While HMRC is still encouraging people to file their return by the end of this month, as 8.9 million customers have already done, it is extending the deadline for those that will be unable to, owing to 'unprecedented times'.

HMRC's chief executive, Jim Harra, said: "We want to encourage as many people as possible to file their return on time, so we can calculate their tax bill and help them if they can't pay it straight away. But we recognise the immense pressure that many people are facing in these unprecedented times and it has become increasingly clear that some people will not be able to file their return by Sunday January 31.

"Not charging late filing penalties for late online tax returns submitted in February will give customers the breathing space they need to complete and file their returns, without worrying about receiving a penalty. We can reasonably assume most of these people will have a valid reason for filing late, caused by the pandemic."

Normally, late filing penalties are applied to all returns filed after the January 31 deadline. Those penalties are cancelled if the customer has a reasonable excuse for filing late. However, this year HMRC is not issuing late filing penalties for a month

to help taxpayers and agents who are unable to meet the deadline.

HMRC said it was keeping the situation closely under review as it has become increasingly clear from the filing rate that some taxpayers and agents cannot file on time.

Support for customers who may need help with their tax liabilities has also been increased. Once customers have completed their 2019-20 tax return, they can set up an online payment plan to spread self assessment bills of up to £30,000 across 12 monthly instalments or less depending on what is required. Customers can apply for self-serve Time to Pay via GOV.UK. Interest will be applied to any outstanding balance from Monday February 1, 2021.

Customers with bills over £30,000, or who need longer than 12 months to pay their bill, can call HMRC on 0300 200 3822 to discuss time to pay.

Customers who wish to contact HMRC in the run up to the deadline can do so via webchat, Twitter or the Self Assessment phone helpline on 0300 200 3310. Further information and contact details can also be found on the free HMRC app.

Club draw winner

The winner of the Brodick Improvement's 200 Club for January is Patricia Green from Brodick.

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Over-70s start to receive vaccination as Arran rolls out Covid programme

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Health services on Arran began their mass vaccination programme at the High School last weekend with hundreds of people aged over 70 receiving their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine.

The programme appears to have been a success, with many people reporting a well organised operation from start to finish, although there was some disappointment on Monday when some people had to be turned away. (See letters on page six.)

The larger vaccination programme follows an initial small-scale programme in late 2020 when care home residents, health and social care staff and Arran's most vulnerable were given the vaccine.

More than 950 people were vaccinated in this latest round, with those aged 70 and above or who are housebound or in a priority group and who have still not been vaccinated, continuing to receive vaccinations through this week as more vaccines arrive.

Ruth Betley, senior manager of Arran Services for North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, explained: 'This mass vaccination has meant that we have been able to vaccinate as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.'

'With more vaccines due to be delivered this week, we will continue to focus on those aged over 70 who are housebound, as well as any staff or care home residents who weren't able to be vaccinated in the first round. This will mean that more than 1,500 of those in the priority groups will have received their vaccine by early February.'

I would like to thank all those on Arran who have



Far left, senior charge nurse at Arran War Memorial Hospital, Ailsa Weir, prepares to administer the first Arran vaccination last month: and left, Siobhan McGinlay receives the vaccine from Ailsa Weir.

helped to ensure the vaccine programme runs smoothly. In particular, I would like to thank our colleagues in North Ayrshire Council, for allowing us to use Arran High School for the vaccination programme.'

While vaccination efforts have been applauded on Arran, nationally there has been concerns that Scotland has vaccinated fewer people per 100 than England, Wales and Northern Ireland. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has also admitted there has been wastage of the vaccine in Scotland following the rollout.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran Chief Executive John Burns said: 'Our teams have been working round the clock to pull together all the elements of this programme which is the biggest vaccination effort the country has ever seen. The vaccine offers protection against Covid-19 and I would encourage everyone to take the

opportunity to be vaccinated when offered.

'Remember though we must still continue following the FACTS guidance to help protect our communities from the spread of the virus - even after vaccination. I want to thank everyone for their continued support and patience as we do our best to protect those most vulnerable from the negative impact of coronavirus.'

The mass vaccination programme will continue throughout the spring and further into 2021. Those given their first dose will be invited to have their second dose within the 12 week schedule set out nationally.

Delivery of the Covid vaccination across Ayrshire and Arran is aligned to the prioritisation schedule outlined by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), and communicated by the Scottish Government.



The vaccination hall at Arran High School prior to any patients arriving.

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Canary in the coal mine

The earnest plea from the highly regarded and well respected ArCaS provides a damning picture of the state that island residents find themselves in.

When Arran's most vulnerable and seriously ill cancer patients are unable to attend life-saving appointments because of ferry infrastructure and equipment failures - and with no solutions on the horizon - the outlook for islanders remains bleak.

Both politicians and the organisations responsible share the concerns of ArCaS and some admit that the situation is untenable, but there appears to be a lack of impetus to remedy the situation or to find long-term solutions. Frustration among Arran's population is once again building up, as it tends to do over winter, but this latest reality check is a wake up call for everyone who lives on Arran.

It has to be said that island living will inevitably have drawbacks, with ferry transport being subject to the vagaries of the weather. We accept this, as we wholeheartedly accept that blaming ticket sellers or the port assistants at the pier as futile and misguided, but do we have to accept aging vessels that frequently break down? Do we have to accept that poor port infrastructure on both sides of the water can mean travel cancellations?

It has become commonplace to accept these 'inconveniences', but how would your opinion change when this 'inconvenience' could mean the difference between adding or reducing years to your life? Sobering thoughts, and a situation that we can only hope now receives the attention that it deserves.

Thought for the week

'Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.'

Hebrews 2: 18

Vaccination disappointment

Sir,
Having blood cancer, I was pleased to be offered a vaccine appointment at 9.23am on Monday this week.

I turned up at 9.20am only to be told that NHS Ayrshire and Arran hadn't 'put the vaccines on the ferry,' so my jag was cancelled and I was instead told that 'we may contact you again, in the next few weeks'.

To put it politely, I am bitterly disappointed and I should add, others were also told the same bad news.

Last week, our First Minister promised that vaccine volumes were being rapidly increased, yet the daily numbers from last Wednesday to Saturday tell a very different tale: Wednesday 25,327, Thursday 24,962, Friday 23,583 and Saturday 22,213. Perhaps we should make far more use of the Army?

Yours,
Ian Clinton, Shiskine.

Vaccination praise

Sir,
As a recipient of the recent Covid-19 jab here on Arran, I along with many of my friends would like to thank the entire Arran Medical Team and local hospital staff for all their efforts in procuring and delivering the vaccine.

The organisation was excellent, from making your appointment to the actual injection at Arran High School. They all obviously worked outwith normal working hours, giving up their spare time at the weekend to carry out the vaccination programme and serve the community.

The whole process was so smooth, very efficient and totally painless - I didn't feel the jab. Everyone was so friendly, caring and professional. It was a great example of teamwork to help enhance the health of this community.

CONTACTUS

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So a big thank you to everyone involved in any way in making this possible and for helping us fight the virus. It is greatly appreciated.

Yours,
Fiona Henderson, Lochranza.

Fitting tribute

Sir,
As the Lamlash Burns Club enters its centenary year I thought the poem about a gathering held by some of the members is a fitting tribute to those who are no longer with us.

Yours,
Archie Nicol, Largiebeg.

Ormidale Burns Club 26th February 1994

*In the bield O' Tommy Gilmore
On an evenin' in the spring
Met a core O' gangrel bodies
Keen tae mak' the rafters ring.*

*George Boal the gifted chairman
Tellt me he would set the pace
Said he's just the chiel tae dae it
Wi' his dignity an' grace.*

*The same grace gi'ed Willie Crawford
Kindly Corrie man is he
Beg Kilmarnock first editions
An he'll find ye wan for free.*

*Haggis piped in by Stewart Lambie
Then McKelvie praised it fair
Heids an' airms an' legs he threatened
As his blade sheared through his hair.*

*Ben the hoose cam oor big Henry
Steeped in Burns is he ower years
E'en for laughs, or sentimental,
He can hae us a' in tears.*

PRESSPOLICY

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

*Efter sober Andrew Raeburn
Willie Innes cam along
Saying 'Keep the drams a-flowing an ah'll
sing ye a' a sang'.*

*There were Anderson an' Nicols
baith the auld man an' the boy
Each determined in his ain wey
This great evening tae enjoy.*

*Then that handsome chiel ca'ed Duncan
Cam wi Sandy the McLaren
Saying they'd dance a drunken Hornpipe
Never seen afore in Arran.*

*Ower the String tae join the frolic
Weaved DS an' Colin C.
For a chorus Alcoholic
Each man says 'There's nane like me'.*

*Then atomic Ken frae Harwell
Holy Willie pit tae prayer
Said 'Ah think ah'm getting typecast
As bigot-that's no fair'.*

*That smart young man McKellar
Praised the Ladies by an by
Lindsay Keir near had us hairless
wi' this delicate reply.*

*Young Jake Kerr did recitation
Nicol Hume addressed us too
Russell Dobson said he loved it
But was clearly mair than fu'.*

*Mr Keir an' Mr Bilsland
Cam wi' Mr Robert Brass
Gave the do a touch of culture
Each a Bearsden Gent of Class.*

*That skianach ca'ed Nicholson
A Burns disciple he
Said 'Ach tae hell ah've done enough'
An' had the evening free.*

*Last, along cam Ernest Ribbeck
Sober quite beyond belief
Got a job lined up next winter
Tourist Guide in Tenerife.*

*Th' immortal toast gave Willie C
Loved hearing a' these turns
He hoped that they that still could stand
Would rise an' drink tae Burns.*

William Currie, Surrey.

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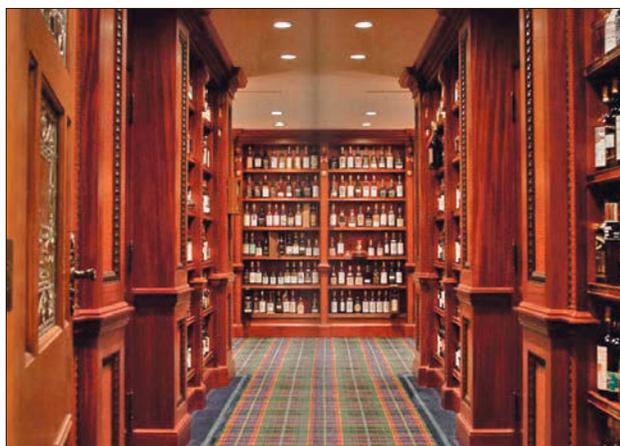
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World's most expensive whisky set to go on sale

Part two of a whisky collection, with the first part already fetching over £3.2 million, is due to go on sale next month by online whisky auction specialists, Whisky Auctioneer, writes Colin Smeeton.

The second part of the collection, known as the 'Perfect Collection', contains more than 1,900 bottles of the rarest, most coveted and expensive single malts in existence, including many from Scotland's long lost distilleries.

One particularly rare bottle, which is known as the world's most expensive bottle of whisky, is the Macallan 1926 Fine and Rare 60 Year Old. Drawn from Cask #263, containing liquid distilled nearly



Above left, The rare and collectible bottles are part of a collection by the late American businessman, Richard Gooding, who regularly visited Scotland to increase his collection, pictured here; and right, The Macallan 1926 Fine and Rare 60 Year Old which is estimated to sell for between £1million and £1.2 when it goes under the hammer next month.

a century ago in the height of America's prohibition, this

is one of no more than 14 in the world and bears the

iconic Fine and Rare label. Considered the most coveted

bottle of whisky in existence and the pinnacle in rare whisky collecting, the headline bottling is expected to fetch a hammer price of more than £1million.

Other collector's items available in the auction include The Balvenie 1937 50 Year Old and other icons of the whisky world hailing from Bowmore's legendary 1964 vintage. Elusive whiskies from a bygone era in Scotland's distilling landscape also appear, including a 1921 private cask bottling of Dallas Dhu which has not been seen on the market for over 25 years.

Other historic artefacts in the sale include a 1924 Royal Brackla 60 Year Old, of which only 62 were ever bottled,

1922 vintage Highland Malt from Berry Brothers and Rudd, and a 1930s example of Old Vatted Glenlivet from Andrew Usher & Co, the industry fathers of whisky blending.

The collection was amassed by late American businessman and philanthropist, Richard Gooding, who dedicated more than two decades to collecting whiskies from almost every Scottish distillery. His collection is one of the largest and most significant whisky collections ever to go to public auction.

Whisky aficionados and those looking to invest in rare whisky can register with the Perth-based online auction house by visiting www.whiskyauctioneer.com

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We would like to introduce you to Scott Weir – our new delivery driver for Arran. We welcomed Scott to our friendly Ayrshire team at the end of 2020. Many of you will know Scott, who recently retired from the Arran police force. He is very much looking forward to being able to deliver great customer service to all our Arran customers. We hope you get the opportunity to meet him soon if you have not already!

Wiltshire Farm Foods offer you maximum convenience - there's no contract, you can simply order what you like, when you like. They're not trying to replace your usual shopping and cooking routines, they just understand that sometimes it isn't always convenient to get out to the shops or cook a big meal.

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Eco Savvy forges ahead with Arran rECHARGE network

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

While the nationwide lockdown has brought many businesses to an almost complete standstill, one environmental group on Arran has been pushing ahead with plans and new developments to help create a more sustainable island life.

As reported in last week's Banner, Eco Savvy invested in four new ebikes and has also partnered with Wally Wallace of Wally's Wheels Cycle Repairs who will become its new e-bike coordinator.

Andrew Binnie, who was the previous ebike coordinator, since July 2019 – who helped to grow the fleet from six ebikes to 15 – is returning to his previous position as COAST director for the rest of the year due to the Covid crisis.



Left, Ebike coordinator, Wally Wallace, with the new ebikes which have been added to the Eco Savvy fleet; and below, the new logo for the Arran rECHARGE network.



Andrew said: 'I've really enjoyed managing and maintaining our ebikes and working with the Eco Savvy team. It's been astounding how popular the bikes have been and how many riders have gone on to buy their own ebikes.'

'I'm delighted Wally has agreed to support the delivery of the programme at short notice, the ebikes will be in good hands.'

Arran's ebike riders have clocked up nearly 16,000 miles over the last 18 months and have made a real dent in their

carbon footprint. To register interest in using an ebike you can visit arranecosavvy.org.uk or via email at ecosavvy.info@gmail.com

Another exciting development announced by the group is the development of the Arran rECHARGE network. It is a register of organisations that are part of an ebike charging network across the island. Participating businesses would agree to allow ebikers to recharge their batteries within their premises in return for either a donation or an in-store purchase, or simply to support the island's movement to greener and more sustainable travel.

Savvy Travel Coordinator Emma Tracey said: 'Everyone on Arran understands the challenges of cycling our beautiful yet demanding terrain. With the advent of ebikes the world of cycling has opened up to so many people who before wouldn't have dreamed of traveling around Arran by bike. With this comes great opportunities for local businesses and organisations to embrace this new healthy and environmentally friendly way to get around. When joining the Arran rECHARGE Network you are supporting a whole new and growing market whilst also promoting a greener, happier, ebike friendly future.'

If you would like to get involved with the Arran rECHARGE project Emma can be contacted by email at emma.ecosavvy@gmail.com

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Help at hand for consumers confused by Brexit rules

A new service has been launched for Scottish consumers offering free, impartial and practical advice on some of the changes they may face since Brexit.

The brexitadvice.scot website from Advice Direct Scotland includes information on transport and travel, household expenditure, banking, and roaming charges.

Examples include the additional documentation needed if driving abroad, limits on alcohol that can be brought back to the UK, and steps to take if travelling with a pet.

The site emphasises the importance of having health insurance and outlines holidaymakers' consumer rights. There is also advice on how to avoid scammers trying to take advantage of any confusion following Brexit, and how to deal with unfair terms in any consumer contracts.

While the service is aimed directly at consumers, there is also useful advice for some businesses as well, such as changes on buying goods from the EU.

The site is operated by the Glasgow-based charity Advice Direct Scotland, which runs



Scotland's national advice service – advice.scot.

brexitadvice.scot includes a freephone number for advice - 0808 800 9060 and live webchat options.

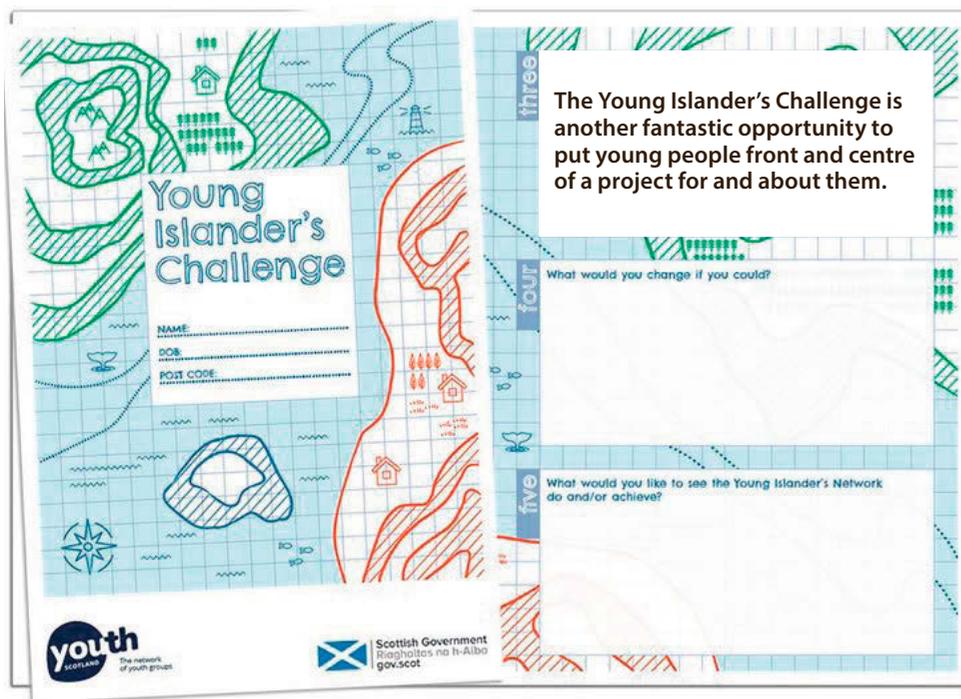
Andrew Bartlett, chief executive of Advice Direct Scotland, said: 'While people are advised against all but essential travel at the moment, the UK's departure from the EU will have a lasting impact on holidaymakers and consumers when life returns to normality – as well as those

who buy goods from the EU.

'We've launched brexitadvice.scot to help consumers understand the practical changes caused by Brexit, with impartial information on its impact and free advice.

'This is particularly important when it comes to issues such as travel insurance, travelling with pets, and driving abroad.

'As always, the experts at advice.scot are available to provide free advice to anyone in Scotland.'



New project gives young people a say

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Children and young people from all 96 of Scotland's inhabited islands – including Arran – will be able to have their say and make their voice heard on issues in their communities through a new forum dedicated to youth interests.

The new Young Islanders Network will enable children and young people to help shape the delivery of the National Islands Plan, ensuring that their interests and priorities are properly considered.

The network will also give those involved an opportunity to build their confidence, develop key skills such as leadership and organisation and to develop new relationships and friendships with others.

The network will explore issues such as the depopulation of islands and, crucially, will provide an opportunity for our young islanders to raise the issues that matter to them most and make their views known.

Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse, said: 'I am pleased that the Scottish Government is able to now establish this new and exciting network. The Network creates a great opportunity for children and young people on our

islands to get involved in having their say and making their views known on key islands' issues and to help shape the future of their communities.

'Our extensive National Islands Plan consultation made it clear that a network of this nature would be hugely beneficial, and that it will help to provide us with a better understanding of the experiences and views of children and young people and, through that, ultimately help us to create a better, more diverse living experience for all our islanders of all ages.

Network

'The network will also be hugely beneficial to those involved, as they will have the chance to be part of an exciting project, gaining valuable insights and developing themselves at the same time. I encourage all children and young people living on our islands to get involved, if they can – and I say to them: if you take the time to make your voice heard, the government and I will take the time to listen to you.'

Youth Scotland is setting up the new forum. Youth Scotland's Chief Executive Ian McLaughlan, said: 'Youth Scotland believes in better outcomes for all young peo-

ple – whether that's in our urban cities and towns, rural communities or Scotland's island communities. We are proud of our reach, membership and participation within the island communities. The Young Islander's Challenge is another fantastic opportunity to not only be inclusive of young people living there, but to put them front and centre of a project for and about them.

'Thanks to our partnership with the Scottish Government and our island communities, we can work together to deliver both short-term and lasting impact. I would urge any young person or group in our island communities to jump in, have your say and be part of something bigger!'

Groups involved in the network will be from Arran, Shetland, Orkney, Lewis and Harris, Uist and Barra, Skye, Mull and Islay.

The project will also include delivery of a five week online mental health awareness programme through Mental Health partners Place2Be for those working with young islanders.

The Young Islanders Challenge can be found at youthscotland.org.uk/programmes/young-islanders-challenge

Time running out to nominate island's young unsung heroes

The countdown is on for Arran to nominate the young heroes for the Young Scot Awards 2021 which recognises extraordinary young people who are making a real difference in the lives of others, writes Colin Smeeton.

Young Scot is calling on people to shine a light on the outstanding contributions made by 11-26-year-olds in Arran across categories, including volunteering, sport, enterprise, entertainment, equality and diversity, young hero and many more. Nominations are open on youngscotawards.com and will close on Sunday February 14.

Previous winners of the Young Scot Award include Sir Andy Murray, Olympian Laura Muir, and top vlogger Jamie Genevieve. Recent winners include actor Ncuti Gatwa from Netflix's Sex Education and the team behind the Scottish Youth Climate Strikes.

2020 winner Hannah Weir took home the Community Award in recognition of her



charity spirit, having donated £120 to help her mum set up the Moray School Bank when she was just 10 years old, providing essential school uniforms and winter clothing to young people across the region.

Hannah said: 'I was overwhelmed to have been given an award for the things I've done. It was amazing to be able to help other kids in the

Moray community who may not be as fortunate as me.' Louise Macdonald OBE, Chief Executive of Young Scot, said: 'If you know a young person in Arran who impresses you, or someone who's gone above and beyond to help others, then we want to hear about them. Make your nomination today!'

To nominate a young person please visit youngscotawards.com

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for the facts drinkaware.co.uk

New wildlife liaison officer sets out future priorities

Tackling raptor persecution, poaching and hare coursing will be the top priorities for a new wildlife crime specialist covering all of Scotland, appointed late last year.

As the Investigative Support Officer for Scotland for the National Wildlife Crime Unit (NWCU), PC Gavin Ross will be a source of expertise in wildlife crime at both the local and national level.

He will work with individual police wildlife liaison officers, NGOs, the Scottish Government, NatureScot, RSPB, the SSPCA and Scottish Land and Estates. The position is funded by NatureScot - previously Scottish Natural Heritage.

PC Ross was the community police officer for Dunbar, and has 21 years of police service and an extensive background in wildlife crime issues, community policing, problem solving and educational work.

Minister for Rural Affairs Ben Macpherson said: 'Wildlife crime is despicable and tackling it has been a long-standing priority for the Scottish Government. We work closely with a number of agencies to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.'

'The Animals and Wildlife Act, which recently became

law, increases the maximum penalties for the most serious wildlife crimes and extends the time available to Police Scotland to investigate.

'The work of the National Wildlife Crime Unit is hugely valued by communities across Scotland and we are committed to supporting it. I look forward to working with PC Ross in the future and congratulate him on his new role.'

'I've been a part-time wildlife crime officer throughout my whole service'

PC Ross said: 'When I was in Edinburgh, very early in my service, I became involved in investigating wildlife crime because of my interest and experience in this area.'

'I've been a part-time wildlife crime officer throughout my whole service and the new job is the pinnacle of my career.'

'I worked very hard preparing for my interview and was very keen to secure the job, which is a dream post.'

'I am looking forward to settling into the role and working with all the different partner agencies which are so important in the fight against wildlife crime. In the six weeks



PC Gavin Ross has years of experience tackling wildlife crime.

I've been in post I've concentrated on meeting many of the partner agencies we work with in wildlife crime.

'Unfortunately most of the meetings have had to be done virtually, but I feel they have all been really positive and I look forward to building on these initial foundations, especially when we can meet face to face.'

The head of the NWCU,

Chief Inspector Lou Hubble added: 'I was extremely pleased when PC Ross was successfully appointed as our new Scottish ISO and I am sure he is going to be a valuable asset to policing wildlife crime.'

Andy Turner, NatureScot wildlife crime officer, said: 'Eliminating wildlife crime is huge priority for us, which is why we've provided funding

for this post since 2014.

'Wildlife crime doesn't just cause irreparable damage to Scotland's nature: it also affects tourism, which in turn impacts on the economy.'

'We are committed to working with NWCU, Police Scotland and other members of the Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime (PAW Scotland) to tackle

this challenging issue. We worked closely with Gavin's predecessor Charlie Everitt to prevent wildlife crime and raise awareness.

'I look forward to continuing to this important work with Gavin and the NWCU in the future.'

NWCU's main role is to assist in the prevention and detection of wildlife crime by obtaining and distributing information from a wide range of organisations and by helping police forces investigate wildlife crimes. NWCU also produce analysis which highlights local or national threats.

The appointment of PC Ross comes after the retirement of PC Charlie Everitt, who had spent the last 11 years developing the role of Scottish ISO within the National Wildlife Crime Unit.

PC Everitt furthered countless operations, provided expert advice to police wildlife liaison officers and acted as the key central point of contact between the police and a range of agencies.

He was well known throughout the Scottish wildlife crime arena and his professional knowledge, enthusiasm, and willingness to assist were beyond question. PC Ross recognised he had 'big shoes to fill'.

White-tailed eagle make a welcome return

White-tailed eagle were persecuted to extinction in the UK in the 19th century but have been part of a successful re-introduction programme based on releasing birds from



The sight of white-tailed eagles on Arran may become more frequent as the birds continue to visit the island. Photograph: Brian Couper.

Scandinavia.

Numbers of this species were released under license on Rum between 1975 and 1985 and further releases were made in Wester Ross between 1993 and 1998. The first successful breeding was on Mull in 1985.

On November 3, 1992, after an absence of over 100 years, the first White-tailed Eagle was seen at close range in the Clachland Hills. This juvenile bird was later seen over Holy Isle and Lamlash Bay.

Its appearance made the front page of the Arran Banner on Saturday November 21, 1992. The following is an extract from the original front page story.

'The eagle has landed. The white-tailed eagle is even bigger than the golden eagle but, being persecuted last century,

Bird notes
by Jim Cassels

has ceased to be seen in Scotland until recently. And last week a white-tailed eagle was seen off Clachlands Point.

'It was seen flying around by Tony and Irmgard Church from Lochranza. Both bird lovers, they thought it was a sea eagle but were not sure so drove down to Kilmory to tell birdman John Rhead who dropped what he was doing and came to look.

'An hour later it was still there and it was a sea eagle, a

white-tailed eagle.'

The next white-tailed eagle record on Arran was in 2004 on February 23 at Catacol. It was a 'tagged' juvenile bird that had been tagged in Mull in 2003.

In the following years there were small numbers of records 2006 one, 2008 two, 2009 two, 2010 three, 2011 two, 2012 two, 2014 three, 2016 one and in 2017 there were two records and for the first time, one of the records was of two juvenile birds together. In 2019 there were four records.

In 2020 there have been over 20 reports. Two white-tailed eagles were seen in Machrie Bay on November 22.

Later that day they were photographed north of Dougarie and for the rest of November and the whole of



White-tailed eagles may be looking to establish a territory on Arran. Photograph: Helen Logan

December there were records of these majestic birds from that stretch of coast. The last record was on December 30.

Whether or not this is a pair looking to establish a territory remains to be seen. This is by far the longest continuous spell of white-tailed eagle on Arran for over 100 years.

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 e mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report, The First 40 Years which includes the annual report for 2019 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 27, 2001



Family and friends of Jim Stead of Whiting Bay helped him celebrate his 100th birthday. Lady Jean Fforde presented him with a card from the Queen. 01_B05tweYA04

Children from the Brodick Youth Club were introduced to the joys of haggis and neeps last week when 19 of them took part in a Burns supper at Brodick Hall. 01_B05tweYA03

Work to refurbish two tennis courts at the Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club has been completed and the area is now an astroturf pitch. The sand still needs to be bedded down so five-a-side football matches have been taking place there until tennis season begins and it can return to its original purpose. 01_B05tweYA05



The Boys' Brigade, Arran's new lifeboat has been put through her paces this week. The name The Boys' Brigade reflects that all of the money raised for the lifeboat was raised by the Boys' Brigade in a national appeal. 01_B05tweYA01



Cinema lovers on Arran were treated to their first Screen Machine visit last week. Iain McColl was the one man band who ran the show, setting it up in a car park at the Ormidale Pavillion. If the mobile cinema is well supported it may well return as a regular stop in its itinerary of visiting rural areas in Scotland. 01_B05tweYA02

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Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)
21/00022/PP; Broombrae, Blackwaterfoot, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Renewal of unexpired planning permission 18/00019/PP to replace existing attached barn with one and a half storey dwellinghouse.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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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 Lamlash

"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
CANCELED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE
Services from Christchurch,
Lochgilphed will be available on
Facebook and ZOOM.
Please contact Richard Trewby
on 01770-600236 for further
information

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

A reminder that our mini-
service is still available every
week on our website: 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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ST ROCH PATRON OF THE
SICK PRAY FOR US
OUR LADY OF THE ISLES
PRAY FOR US
ST COLUMBA PRAY FOR US

Scotland's bike schemes are growing but still gaps in access

A nationwide study commissioned by Scotland's cycling organisation has found a big rise in the range and number of bike schemes since 2018, but it also found there are still gaps in access to these, writes Colin Smeeton.

The 'Access to Bike Schemes in Scotland' report, commissioned by Cycling Scotland and undertaken by sustainable transport expert Transform Consulting, identified more than 200 projects in Scotland that make it easier for people to access or own a bike. These include schemes providing bikes to: key workers, refugees, people with disabilities and those recovering from ill-health.

Kath Brough, head of behaviour change at Cycling Scotland, said: 'This report shows that access to bikes has increased since 2018. It's really positive to see such a broad range of organisations getting involved in supporting cycling for everyone, and its key role in improving health and combating climate change. And the depth and breadth of current schemes shows there's demand for further increasing access to bikes.'

'But more action is needed at a national and local level to ensure cycling is accessible and affordable for everyone,

'The depth and breadth of current schemes shows there's demand for increasing access to bikes.'

helping us to create a fairer, healthier, and more environmentally sustainable Scotland.'

The report makes four recommendations:

- Provide multi-year funding to give access-to-bike scheme organisations financial security and help long-term planning

- Increase access to bikes for adults who are self-employed, low paid or not working

- Set clear objectives for access-to-bike schemes, in line with the Scottish Government's Active Travel Framework

- Consider collecting national data on bike recycling and re-use in Scotland for the first time.

Satinder Panesar is a healthcare professional from Glasgow who contacted access-to-bike scheme Bike for Good in June last year. Under its Keyworker Bike Loan Scheme, she was able to borrow a bike to ride to work.

Satinder said: 'I knew Bike



Satinder Panesar, a key worker in Glasgow, has made use of a bicycle from a bike loan scheme and has discovered many of the positive benefits of cycling.

for Good from when I had cycling confidence lessons, and they were amazing; I always felt uplifted. Learning how to ride a bike on the road gave me a sense of freedom and being able to use one during the pandemic has really helped my mental health.

'My confidence has improved, my fitness has improved - I never thought I would be able to cycle the seven miles I do just now! I can't thank Bike for Good enough

for not only helping me learn a new skill but also helping me get to work and back home again during Covid.'

Cycling Scotland works in partnership with other organisations, and with funding from Transport Scotland, it helps create an environment for everyone in Scotland to cycle easily and safely.

Its vision is of a sustainable, inclusive and healthy Scotland where anyone, anywhere can enjoy all the benefits of cycling.

ARRAN BANNER GOLF

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday January 21, Yellow Medal. 1. Graeme Andrew 73-10=63, 2. Ian Bremner 72-8=64. Best scratch, Ian Bremner 72. Sunday January 24, Glenburn Cup. 1. Andy Smith 81-17=64, 2. Graeme Andrew 77-10=67, BIH over Derek Harrison. Magic twos,

Martin Wallbank at 16th, Billy Skinner at 14th. Best scratch, G Andrew 77. Fixtures: Sunday January 31, Winter Stableford, 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday February 4, Yellow Medal, 11am draw.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday January 30, 18-hole sweep. Monday



February 1, Monday Cup, noon shotgun start, two balls only as per current Covid guidelines.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Fixtures: Tuesday February 2, Winter Cup, tee-off

noon. Saturday February 6, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off noon.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday January 21, Ladies 12-hole medal. 1. Julia Salton 67-21=46, BIH, 2. Alice Anderson 56-10=46. Scratch, Alice 56.

DEATH

GRAHAM - James of Paisley and latterly Whiting Bay. Peacefully at Croftfield Care Home in Cumbria on the 21st January 2021. Much loved husband of Margaret and father of Douglas, Sandra and Gregor and loving grandfather of James, Douglas and Keivan. Due to restrictions, a commemoration will be held at a future date.

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Boys' Brigade's unbroken record spans six decades

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The 205th Glasgow Company of the Boys' Brigade based in Eaglesham has continued its unbroken record of visiting

Arran and camping at King's Cross for a record-breaking 65-years at the same campsite.

Owing to lockdown restriction, the 2020 camp had to be cancelled but a few Boys' Brigade company members

were able to stay overnight to ensure that their record remains intact. Having visited the King's Cross site since 1955, many company members and previous members continue to be regular visitors – and are now Arran property and business owners – while others are now bringing their own families to Arran.

The annual visits started when the company leader at the time approached Mr and Mrs Haddow (Bob Haddow's parents) at Pointhouse, King's Cross, seeking a campsite for the Glasgow Fair holiday.

The company was given permission to camp at King's Cross and this generosity from the Haddow family has allowed the tradition to continue to this day.

James Laird, a surviving member of the first camp, recalls the early days of collecting coal from Whiting Bay pier for the camp boiler and digging the tatties from the Patersons' farm at King Cross.

Although modern methods and activities have evolved, the basic format of an outdoor canvas camp on the scenic location by the sea has continued largely unchanged.

Members enjoy a variety of excursions and activities while on Arran, not least a parade every Glasgow Fair Sunday to Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church where the members enjoy a service by the company's 'honorary' chaplain, Rev Elizabeth Watson.

Over the years the company has developed a long association with many organisations on Arran including the Arran Butcher, Arran Dairies, Arran Haulage, Arran Banner, Bay Kitchen and Stores, Brodick Golf Club, Cooriedoon Care Home, Auchrannie Spa and many others.

205th Glasgow Company captain Martin Fraser said: 'Thank you to everyone on Arran who has contributed to make this unique camping venture such a success over all these years.

'We look forward to continuing our long association with Arran and we also look forward to seeing many of our old friends and acquaintances when we are able to return.'



Members of the 205th Glasgow Company of the Boys' Brigade pictured at one of their visits to King's Cross.



The campsite, with canvas tents, which the company has been visiting since 1955.



The Boys' Brigade pictured during a previous visit to Cooriedoon Care Home.



A historic photograph of the camp showing the company's old uniforms.



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