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Arran makers take to digital high street

by Hugh Boag
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Website showcases talent in one place

A new website is being launched tomorrow (Saturday) to showcase the fantastic range of independent crafters, makers and artists producing work for sale across the island.

Called arranmakers.com, the easy to use site is described as a digital high street where nearly 50 makers have their own web page/shop front to show their produce, which will link to other Facebook, Etsy, isle20 or other shopping sites makers might already use to bring them all together in one place for the first time.

It has been funded by a £4,500 grant from Scotland Loves Local and money from Lamlash Events, whose volunteer directors Karen Bell and Michael Gettins came up

with the idea. They worked closely with web designers Tom and Shiona McGarrigle of Eyespace Digital to ensure the website met the timetable deadline of the end of March, used allocated budgets and responded effectively as restrictions continued.

Although unable to deliver the planned training and support in person, Eyespace has produced helpful guidance within tutorial videos and examples on the site and on YouTube to give makers all the help they need to create their unique shop front.

With the agreement of Scotland Loves Local, it was

possible to buy tablets to assist makers currently without appropriate digital technology to ensure they can capture high quality images and create the additional written content for their webpage/shop front.

So far, 48 makers have created their own shop front ready for tomorrow's launch. Some makers have ventured in to the world of the digital marketplace for the first time with help and support to achieve this major milestone.

It is hoped other makers will see the benefits involved in raising their profile and join

Continued on page two



Well, hello Buddy Bear!

Pupils from six Arran primary schools and early years classes were welcomed by a new buddy when they went back to school this week. Buddy Bear, wearing the school values t-shirt with a friendly poem attached, was waiting on the youngsters' desks on their return. Pirmill Primary School pupils are pictured above with their new buddies. See full story page three.

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Summer saved as tourism sees light at end of tunnel

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Summer has been saved on Arran with the great news that tourism can start up next month and will be back in full swing by end of June.

The disappointment of losing the Easter trade can be tempered by the fact it will now be all systems go to get businesses resumed ahead of the summer season.

Marc Crothall, chief executive of the Scottish Tourism Alliance, said the timeline for the phased reopening of the tourism and hospitality sector was 'massively welcomed', adding: 'It is the most positive news we have received in a long time.'

The first date of hope is April 26 and, on the day the summer timetable starts on the

Summer ferry timetable coincides with tourist accommodation opening

ferries, travel across Scotland will be permitted and tourist accommodation can reopen, although self-catering will be restricted in line with the rules on indoor gathering.

Outdoor hospitality will be allowed to open till 10pm with alcohol permitted. Indoor hospitality will be permitted, but without alcohol and closing at 8pm.

Hospitality

May 17 should see, given the progress of the vaccination programme and what has been learned about its impact on reducing transmission of the virus, a further reopening of hospitality: bars, pubs, restaurants and cafes will be able to stay open until 10.30pm indoors with alcohol permitted but with two-hour time-limited slots for customers.

The Scottish government's timetable for easing restrictions states: 'We know that the coronavirus is unpredictable and is adept at mutating in order to survive.'

'It is also vital that we allow enough time between different

'The hospitality sector will begin to reopen from April 26'

sets of easings to assess what effect they have had on the R number and other virus indicators.

'For that reason, it is too early now to give specific dates beyond May.'

'However, we understand the need for people and businesses to plan and so, to give a broad sense of likely timings, from

the start of June, we would aim for Scotland to move back to level one.

'This will allow further relaxation across all areas of the economy and society, while still applying physical distancing and other non-pharmaceutical interventions and the FACTS guidance.'

'From the end of June, we hope that we will be able to move to level zero.'

Ahead of all this residents, on Arran can look forward to the reopening of hairdressers and barbers from April 5 along with the reopening of non-essential 'click and collect' retail, garden centres, homework shops, not already open, with all shops opening three weeks later.

Addressing the Scottish parliament, First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirmed: 'The hospitality sector will begin to reopen from April 26.'

'From that date, cafés, restaurants and bars will be able

to serve people outdoors – in groups of up to six from three households – until 10pm. Alcohol will be permitted and there will be no requirement for food to be served.'

'We expect that libraries, museums and galleries will also reopen from April 26. We also expect all remaining retail premises to re-open.'

'All tourist accommodation will be able to re-open from that date too, subject to any wider restrictions that remain in place, for example, on hospitality.'

International

She confirmed that the Scottish Government 'intends to discuss with the aviation sector later this week how and when non-essential travel to some international destinations may be possible again'.

On travel restrictions, the First Minister said: 'We hope that restrictions on journeys between Scotland and other parts of the UK and the wider

common travel area can also be lifted, if not on April 26, then as soon as possible thereafter.'

Mr Crothall said: 'The STA has been in discussion with the Scottish government on almost a daily basis over the past few weeks to highlight the need for a clearer route out of lockdown to be given to tourism businesses and our supply chain, not only to allow for the necessary timeframe to plan for reopening, but to protect the many thousands of jobs which are at risk.'

'The announcement will offer some much-needed light at the end of what has been the darkest tunnel for our industry.'

'It's absolutely critical that continued tailored financial support, by way of grants, is made available to those who won't be in a position to open and trade viably until we move into the much lower levels. The up-front restart grants will be very welcomed to assist with that outlay.'

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Arran Makers take to the digital high street

Continued from page one.

Arran's digital high street to secure extra sales and, more importantly, extra income in these difficult times.

As the funding deadline was fixed at the end of March, the idea to progress outdoor markets has been pushed back until the current restrictions are relaxed.

Lamlash Events still hopes to secure additional support, funding and agreement to develop this idea as another way to support local makers showcase their skills and talents as well as offer free stalls to island charities and social enterprises to assist with their fundraising.

It is hoped that once all makers have created their shop front, the tablets can be used in pick-up-point (PUP) shops, halls and centres as a small rolling advertising board to increase awareness

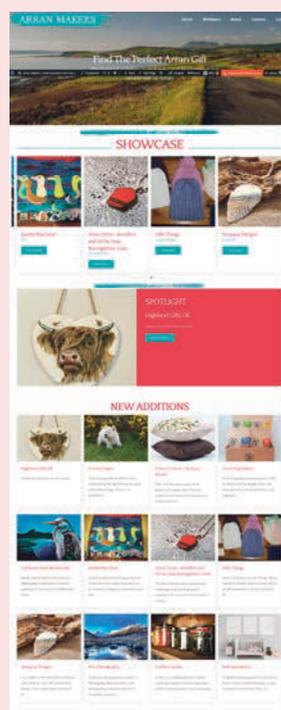
of Arran Makers to locals and visitors.

Makers and the takers can even reduce travel and postage costs and deliver purchased items to a local PUP to further underpin the Shop Local, Make Local, Stay Local message and stay within current restrictions.

Footfall

Although a small fee may be required, the real benefit to a PUP will be the additional footfall from the anticipated many more makers and takers and the promotion on the tablets.

More information can be obtained by emailing lamlashevents@outlook.com or contact Karen or Michael about joining the website, becoming a PUP or about how they can continue to develop the website, outdoor market place or other similar ideas they can assist with.



The new Arran Makers website.

Relief as all classes go back to school across the island

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Pupils on Arran joined children across Scotland in returning to school this week.

All primary and early years classes are back full time with part-time face-to-face teaching for pupils at Arran High School.



Buddy Bear was waiting to welcome youngsters back to school.

Children at six of the primary schools and early years classes on the island were welcomed with a new friend called Buddy Bear - a little teddy wearing the school values t-shirt with a friendly poem attached, which brought a smile to everyone and much cuddling.

Head teacher of the Arran primary schools, with the exception of Lamlash, Shirley MacLachlan said: 'I am delighted to have welcomed all the primary children back to school on Monday after being in lockdown since Christmas.'

Laughter

'P4 - 7 returned, following the early years and P1-3 children who returned in February. The schools all sound like their old selves again, with footsteps, chatter and, most importantly, laughter.'

'Parents and carers have done an amazing job of following the home learning activities both online, through our Seesaw learning platform, through our home learning packs as well as lots of creative activities, inside and outdoors, so thank you one and all.'

'Our focus continues to be health and wellbeing and looking at routines and relationships as everyone

'adjusts' to being back in the swing of daily school life. In the curriculum, picking up on numeracy and literacy is also a main focus.'

'However, there still are some restrictions we have to follow as part of government guidelines, including outdoor PE only and not been able to sing inside. We continue to learn Makaton songs, so singing... but not as we know it.'

'We are following guidance with lots of hand washing, ventilation, wearing masks on transport, adults wearing masks in communal areas and distancing when applicable, as well as getting great support from parents and carers at the school gates who are also following the guidelines.'

Friends

Mrs MacLachlan asked some children what was the best part of being back at school and some of their replies were: 'Seeing my friends'; 'Eating altogether in the lunch hall'; 'Seeing my teachers'; 'Getting to do new work, including science'; 'Seeing everyone'; 'Playing in the playground with my friends'; 'Not having to do home learning'; and 'Wearing my school uniform - but it is a little shorter than



Pupils returning to Kilmory gather outside the school.

before'. 'With less than two weeks till the Easter break, there is a lot to get through and all teachers and staff will be working hard to ensure that learning continues for everyone,' Mrs MacLachlan added.

All secondary school pupils on the island will be back in

class at some point before the Easter holidays.

Half of the pupils were back this week with the other half next week.

They will then have two days each before the school closes for their spring holiday on Thursday April 1.

Draw winners

Winner of the Brodick Improvements Committee 200 Club draw for February is Shona Hume of Brodick.

Winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club February draw are: 1 Maggie Beaton; 2 Alan Mitchell.

Vaccination success as Arran Covid cases stay low

Arran has seen less than five positive Covid-19 cases since January, health chiefs on the island have confirmed.

And the vaccination programme has been a success so far.

Arran High School gym has regularly been converted into a make-shift health centre to accommodate the administering of the jabs.

Arran clinical lead Dr Greg Hamill, of North Ayrshire health and social care partnership, told the Banner: 'We have now offered vaccines to those aged over 50 years, those identified in the higher risk groups aged between 16-50 years old and health and social care staff.'

'Planning continues for the delivery of the second doses of vaccine and to prepare for the next phases of vaccination

in younger age groups. It is important Arran residents continue to make use of the testing facilities available to them and to continue to follow the FACTS guidance to help protect our communities from the spread of the virus - even after vaccination. Thank you to everyone involved across the health and social care partnership and community and to everyone who has taken up the offer of a vaccine.'

Health secretary Jeane Freeman said in a statement this week: 'We have always said delivery of the vaccination programme is subject to supply and on that basis I am confident we remain on target to offer a first vaccination to all those in the phase one priority groups by the middle of April and the remainder of the adult population by the end of July.'

The roll-out continues to deliver at pace, which is down to the enormous efforts of our vaccination teams. I would like to thank everyone who is working tirelessly to make this a success. When you are offered the vaccine please take up the invitation. The vaccination programme is one of three key ways we are working to beat this virus, along with our expanded testing programme to identify cases and break chains of transmission and the important lockdown restrictions everyone in Scotland must follow. All these measures work to greatest effect when they work together.'

Anyone aged 65 or over who has not yet been invited for their vaccine should visit nhsinform.scot for further advice or call the national helpline on 08000 308013.

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The Wee Shop open for business for those in need

The Wee Shop venture to support households during this time of financial hardship is open for business.

Customers who shopped on the opening day last Friday were delighted with the choice of items available and the subsidised prices.

Arran Churches Together is subsidising the shop which is now open every Friday at

The sign for The Wee Shop at the rear of the church hall. 01_B12shop02

Brodick church hall. Four volunteers - Susan Dobson, Catriona Smith, Ann Hart and Ann Mackay - are running the shop.

If you would like to use the Wee Shop, it is being run via an appointment system which allows you to shop in peace and to ensure social distancing. Please contact The Wee Shop to make an appointment on the Arran Churches Together Facebook; the_wee_shop@yahoo.com or text/call 07731 562352. Opening times are Fridays, 10am to 3pm.



Volunteers Catriona and Susan in the shop. 01_B12shop01

Libraries and halls consultation resumes

Consultation on how community facilities operate in future across North Ayrshire is to resume.

This will mark the third stage of the comprehensive consultation, ensuring residents have a real voice in how libraries, community centres and halls deliver their services.

The proposals include the future use of Brodick Hall and Arran Library and the provision of early years classes by Brodick Nursery.

The consultation states: 'North Ayrshire Council will progress discussions regarding a lease or a community asset transfer, building opportunities around future redesign of services and nursery provision.'

The idea is to ensure these vital services continue to be delivered in communities across North Ayrshire and people are now being invited to view and comment on the plans.

A major element of this con-

sultation will be how to best deliver library, community centres and halls in a post-Covid world.

Due to current lockdown restrictions, face-to-face consultation will not be possible, however, everyone will get the chance to take part. Until May 5, anyone can view and comment on the proposals at <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/yourvoicemyview>

Those who cannot access the online consultation can e mail communityfacilities@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or call the council on 01294 310000 and hold 'for all other enquiries' and a time will be set up to call the person back and go through the consultation.

The phone line will be open Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm, between April 6 and May 6.

Details of the consultation will also be issued alongside Council Tax letters to ensure no-one misses out.

Covid shutdowns add £4.3m to ferry costs

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Shutdowns of the Ferguson shipyard during the Covid pandemic have added an extra £4.3m to the cost of two over-budget and delayed CalMac ferries, including the new Arran ferry.

The Port Glasgow shipyard had to suspend working for four months during the first lockdown and was closed for another four weeks earlier this year.

Despite the latest shutdown, the yard still hopes to deliver the first ship, MV Glen Sannox, between April and June next year and was today (Friday) expected to move to seven-day working on the ferry, as reported earlier this month in the Banner. The

two ferries, one for Arran and other for the Skye/Outer Hebrides routes, were originally expected to enter service in 2018/19.

They have been subject to repeated delays and will cost the public purse more than twice the original £97m fixed price contract.

The shipyard went into administration in 2019 with the ferries still far from completion. The yard was later taken over by the Scottish government.

A programme of remedial work to complete the ships, drawn up by the shipyard's new management, will add an extra £110m-£114m to the overall cost.

Tim Hair, turnaround director appointed by ministers, said the Covid shutdowns



The Glen Sannox in November 2020. Photograph: David Millar.

reconfigure amenities under new Covid guidance. The shutdowns cost £3.3m and £1m respectively.

Mr Hair said that 80 per cent of design work was now signed-off by regulators and that the latest delivery schedule of April to June 2022 for Glen Sannox and December 2022 to February 2023 for the second ship was still achievable.

Much now depends on the successful recruitment of 120 extra skilled workers to allow the yard to move to seven-day working, taking the total workforce to more than 500.

The aim is to recruit UK-based workers, but if that fails, Ferguson Marine will have to consider foreign workers and any delays could affect the delivery schedule.

were being treated as 'exceptional costs' in addition to this figure, but the remedial work itself remained within budget.

He told a committee of MSPs last week that in addition to a four-month shutdown last year, the shipyard had to close for four weeks in January to

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Dementia - it's everyone's business to do something

Dementia is one of the greatest health challenges of our time.

It reaches beyond the realms of health and social care and everyone within the community can do something to help those living with dementia and their carers feel supported.

As a business owner you may be questioning what could you do to help? Or why would it affect your business?

In the UK there are an estimated 42,000 people under the age of 65 living with dementia and that number is set to rise in the coming years.

Two thirds of people living with dementia are in the community, supported by family and friends.

This means dementia could, in some way, affect your business now or in the future.

This week Alzheimer's Scotland is rolling out free online training for Arran businesses via Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS).

Leading the way are The Douglas Hotel, Auchrannie Resort, hairdresser Pricilla Helie, golf promoter Jacki Vaught, Arran Vets, Balmichael Glamping and professional tiler Rudi Hunter, with many others lined up to take part in future sessions.

'Our island businesses are integral to Arran being as dementia inclusive as possible.

'Our business community has earned much praise for excellent customer service and their support in dementia awareness has been wonderful,' said Jill Hunter, development officer at Arran CVS.

'Communities across the country, including Arran,



Right: Golf promoter Jacki Vaught and Douglas Hotel manager Kate Russell outside the hotel with purple balloons in support of dementia awareness and, above, an example of bespoke handmade jewellery to be available in Pricilla Helie's new hair salon, formerly the Deli. A special range will dedicated to Dementia Action Week, May 17 to 23.



are setting out on a journey to transform the experiences of people with dementia and their carers.

'Many people with the condition are able to continue to work in the early stages and would choose to do so.

Flexibility

'It could also be that someone working for you is caring for a family member living with the condition and a little understanding and flexibility can make all the difference to that person's ability to work and care.

'Arran CVS can help you decide what actions your business can take and how they will meet the needs of people affected by dementia.

They can also help you access awareness training and the resources you may need, such as the online training with Alzheimer's Scotland,' Jill added.

Businesses can find out more about helping Arran work towards being a dementia friendly community by contacting Jill Hunter, jill.hunter@arrancvs.org.uk or 01770 600116.

Members of the community who wish to share their experiences regarding living with dementia or caring for someone are invited to get in touch.

Community focus groups will be made available in due course.

Islands story gathering workshop

A series of online workshops has been taking place throughout March as part of the story gathering phase of the Coast that Shaped the World project (Coast).

'Coast' is a community-led story gathering project, looking to build a bank of stories, covering the west coast of Scotland from Arran and Kintyre in the south to Wester Ross and Lewis in the north.

These stories will be narrated through a website, interactive app and innovative exhibition

material to encourage locals and visitors to explore the roads less travelled across the islands, peninsulas and coastline of the west coast.

Twelve workshops have been running covering the six regions of the project and six themes.

The workshop for Clyde coast and islands will be held on Monday March 22 between 2pm and 4pm on Zoom. Anyone with an interest in Arran stories is welcome. The workshops are free.

The Coast that Shaped

the World project is part of a new £5 million Scottish programme of projects to invest in the Highlands and islands to provide more and better-quality opportunities for visitors to enjoy natural and cultural heritage assets.

Further information on the project can be found at www.coast.scot and the workshops can be booked at bit.ly/3boy9Es

Further updates can be found on the project social media channels @coastscot

What to put in a time capsule

A time capsule is to be buried in Brodick with memorabilia from the last year spent in lockdown.

And Brodick Improvements Committee wants suggestions of what to put in it from villagers. Chairman Harry Davidson said: 'I was approached by Carol Harwood of the Big Co-op recently to ask if BIC would consider burying a time capsule in one of the big stone flower beds across from the store with memorabilia of the past year of the pandemic within Brodick and Arran.

'Just think, in 100 years from now it may be dug up and an inhabitant of Brodick might discover the sort of life we lived in lockdown and the worry and effects of loneliness on some of us.'

Memorabilia of the pandemic would include a facemask - in a sealed packet, of course, a copy of the Arran Banner, an empty vaccine bottle, a Co-op membership card - all things of this time. Any more suggestions of small items relevant to this last year can be sent by email to bic.contactus@bitinternet.com

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LETTERS

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

Window to the world

The coming together of makers from all across the island on a new website is welcome news.

For the first time, people will be able to find the work of nearly 50 independent crafters, makers and artists in one place – not just on Arran, but across the world.

At a time when it has been just as tough – if not tougher – for sole traders, it is great they have such a positive outlet for people to see their work.

It is impressive, too, how the directors of Lamlash Events, in particular Karen Bell and Michael Gettins, have put this together so quickly after securing funding from Scotland Loves Local.

Visitors love what is produced on Arran and the fact they can now easily browse it in the comfort of their own home can only help to boost the sales of those involved.

Those who have not signed up would be well advised to get involved or they may find themselves left behind.

It is, after all, as the website is being promoted, a shop front on a digital high street. We wish the venture well.

Summer is saved

The fact summer has been saved by the Scottish government timescale, which sees all lockdown restrictions lifted gradually by the middle of June, is great news for the tourism and hospitality industry on Arran.

Tourism bosses say it is the best news they have had in a long time.

There is no doubt the sector has had a tough year, tougher than many, and it is great businesses can now plan and look forward to future trade.

We have no doubt there will be challenges ahead but we join everyone in wishing them all their best summer yet. Cheers.

Thought for the week

Then Jesus declared: 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' John 6:35

GET INVOLVED
emaileditor@arranbanner.co.uk

Road to nowhere

Sir,
As a responsible citizen, I thought I would report a few road defects to North Ayrshire via their website, as requested in last week's Banner.

I went from Kilmory to Whiting Bay and back this morning. I took my time, pen and a notebook and have returned with a list. I went to the North Ayrshire site and followed links to report road faults. Road C147 Kildonan. Strange no results. Please go to map and click, North Ayrshire it said.

It appears the Southend of Arran does not exist. The map stops at Kilpatrick and Whiting Bay. Totally cut off. One way to solve the road problem - incensed but not surprised.

**Yours,
Phyllis Picken,
Kilmory.**

Borrowed grate

Sir,
Could I please through your pages ask for the return of a grate cover which was stolen - sorry borrowed - from the castle drive three or four days ago.

Although it is probably more than 100 years old, it is worthless to anyone apart from people who appreciate its significance.

There is a second cover, but maybe this person is waiting for it to be painted before also borrowing it.

**Yours,
Phil Hall,
Brodick.**

National Day of Reflection

Sir,
March is usually a month in our calendar that is hopeful of the spring and summer to come. But this year March holds a different significance,

HMS Dasher remembered

The Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth has visited western Scotland for the first time and last week was seen undergoing sea trials around the waters of Arran.

HMS Queen Elizabeth is the largest and most powerful vessel ever constructed for the Royal Navy and is capable of carrying up to 40 aircraft.

Before leaving the Firth of Clyde on Sunday, the aircraft carrier paused to pay its respect to the 379 seamen who died on board the HMS Dasher on March 27 1943.

As the ship stopped over the wreck, the entire crew fell silent and remembered.

The fleet flagship arrived at the new Northern Ammunition Jetty at Glen



The crew pay their respects to the lost seamen of HMS Dasher on Sunday.

Mallan, in Loch Long, on Monday as part of final preparations before her first operational deployment.

The £3bn vessel, assembled at Rosyth in Fife, has spent the last two weeks at sea testing and trialling her latest equipment.

She is the first of the Royal

Navy's fleet to visit the new £64m jetty, built at Glen Mallan by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation. The carrier is due to sail for Portsmouth at the end of the month and will deploy to the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean and East Asia later this year.

marking the anniversary of when the UK first went into a nationwide lockdown.

The last 12 months have been challenging for so many and as a charity dedicated to caring for people at the end of their life and supporting bereaved people, Marie Curie has witnessed the impact of the pandemic first-hand. While we can start to see glimmers of hope and lockdown easing, millions of people have been bereaved, many unable to properly say goodbye to loved ones or grieve with the support of friends

and family. That's why Marie Curie and more than 100 organisations are leading a National Day of Reflection on Tuesday March 23, one year since the first lockdown, to remember those who have died during the pandemic, from any cause, and to show support for anyone who has been bereaved. On this day, we would like to invite your readers to join a minute's silence at noon. We also hope readers will also take a moment to reach out to someone they know who is grieving and at 8pm to take candles and lights out on to their street for a minute's remembrance.

As relentless as this crisis has been, it has also shone a light on the courage, resilience and solidarity of the nation. People have put their normal lives on hold for the good of the many. We trust an annual day of reflection will continue to support those who need it most.

To find out more about the National Day of Reflection visit <https://www.mariecurie.org.uk/get-involved/day-of-reflection>

**Yours,
Andrew Reeves,
Principal social worker and bereavement support lead,
Marie Curie Scotland.**

CONTACTUS

Arran Banner, Brodick, Arran, KA27 8AJ. Phone: 01770 302142

News editor: Hugh Boag:
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Reporter: Colin Smeeton:
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Advertising: Cecilia Paul:
adverts@arranbanner.co.uk

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.

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**FACE
COVERINGS**



**AVOID
CROWDS**



**CLEAN
HANDS**



**TWO
METRES**



**SELF-
ISOLATE**

Following **FACTS** is an essential part of life right now to help stop the spread of the virus.

FACE COVERINGS

Face coverings can provide extra protection to you and those around you. They're mandatory in shops, workplaces and on public transport.

They must securely cover your nose and mouth.

Avoid touching your face when wearing a face covering and clean hands before and after use.

Wash reusable ones after each use and bin disposable ones responsibly.

TWO METRES DISTANCE

Keep at least 2m distance (6 feet) away from others, both indoors and outdoors, even when wearing a face covering.

The virus can spread through droplets when you cough, sneeze, speak or breathe. Staying 2m apart reduces the risk of catching it and passing it on to others.

AVOID CROWDS

Close proximity to others seriously risks spreading the virus, even outdoors.

Avoiding crowds reduces your risk of catching the virus and spreading it to loved ones.

SELF-ISOLATE

Self-isolate and book a test immediately if you have coronavirus symptoms - a continuous dry cough, a raised temperature, or a change in your sense of taste or smell.

Don't go for one last shop and don't wait for your test result to start isolating. Only leave your home to get tested.

Book a test at [NHSinform.scot](https://nhs.uk/inform) or by calling 0800 028 2816

CLEAN HANDS

Clean hands and surfaces regularly. Wash hands with soap and water for 20+ seconds.

When out, avoid touching hard surfaces and sanitise hands frequently, to reduce your risk of catching the virus from contaminated objects or surfaces.

#WeAreScotland
gov.scot/coronavirus

Katharine has thriving acting



An advertising poster for The Head.



Katharine performing in her final school play in 2013, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, on stage with Iona Flewitt.

‘Being in a small community that really valued theatre means I was actually really lucky’



by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



An actress has told how her blossoming career was honed during her childhood on Arran.

Katharine O'Donnally spent her formative years at primary school on the island then at Arran High School.

She caught the acting bug, aged just eight, when she performed in a primary school Nativity play.

At high school, she was ‘in everything’ from *We Will Rock You*, *Oklahoma*, *The Wizard of Oz* and finally, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, before heading to drama school in 2013.

Katharine has no doubt the strong artistic roots of Arran played an important part in her career development and she singles out former English teacher Heather Gough for

special mention as she says she was ‘very much my mentor’.

Living on an island may have had its challenges with gruelling weekend trips to the mainland for drama classes, but Katharine does not believe that being ‘cut off’ was any disadvantage.

‘Being in a small community that really valued theatre means that actually I was really lucky. I had so many benefits, a good grounding, coaching help to get into drama school and with fewer people involved in smaller productions you get all the parts. I was only ever met with support and was regularly asked when I was home how I was getting on at drama school.’

Part of her ‘grounding’ was in performances at McLellan Festival plays and even when at drama school she brought students over to perform on Arran from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where she studied

for three years. Straight out of drama school, she got her first job in the 2018 film *Mary Queen of Scots* with stars including Saoirse Ronan and Margot Robbie.

Katharine says the month she spent filming at Pinewood Studios was ‘marvellous’ and she learned lots from the set that just can’t be learned at drama school.

Katharine, who lives in Glasgow, says she was lucky enough to spend the first lockdown on Arran where her parents still live.

And now, as things are slowly opening up again, Katharine has a new agency handling her affairs in the US and is about to become more well known with a starring role in a new TV series *The Head*, which has been streaming in 60 countries across the world and is now available to viewers in the UK.

Described as ‘a claustrophobic thriller with a central



Left: A strong and determined looking Maggie in *The Head*.

©Jacques Mezger – The Mediapro Studio.

Left: A young Katharine meets Santa in Pirnmill in an early starring role in the Arran Banner, which featured in our 20 years ago page last Christmas.



Right: A bruised and battered Katharine in *The Head*.

©Jacques Mezger – The Mediapro Studio.

career but heart lies on Arran

Chance viewing led to Katharine's most recent role in thriller *The Head*

mystery', *The Head* is set in an isolated and inaccessible Antarctic research station.

It is a survival thriller where, during six 50-minute episodes, a plot of suspense unfolds, marked by long, dark Antarctic months of cold, wind and vast expanses of ice.

Produced by The Mediapro Studio, in collaboration with Hulu Japan and HBO Asia, *The Head* has received widespread acclaim from audiences in all the territories where it has premiered. It is now available on Starzplay in the UK.

It was filmed in Tenerife, in the Canary Islands, where a set of the *Polaris VI* research station was reproduced to real scale, with exteriors shot in Iceland.

Katharine told the Banner: 'There were nine nationalities involved with *The Head* and filming in Tenerife and Iceland was like being in the play as all the cast were so close and got on really well.'

On the emergence of streaming series over conventional films Katharine said: 'When you spend six hours you can get the emphasis on the human narrative rather than just a shock factor. A limited series means you get more time to spend with the characters.'

For Katharine it may be the role that fast-tracks her career but it may not have happened

but for chance. She was only spotted by the wife of the director Jorge Dorado on the IMDB website in a BBC3 series *Clique*, set in Edinburgh, in which the young Katharine had a small part. Her casting as 'Maggie' propelled her into her first leading role – the youngest and least experienced of the international cast.

But Katharine is keeping her feet firmly on the ground. She has no plans to head to the

'I enjoy acting but I also enjoy being in nature so it is trying to strike a balance'

bright lights of London.

She said: 'I think things will stay online for a while and I know lots of actors are leaving London which I think has lost some of its pull. Scotland has up-and-coming film studios and Glasgow and Edinburgh are really vibrant just now.'

Katharine says: 'I enjoy acting but I also enjoy being in nature so it is trying to strike a balance. I'd like to consider looking to be somewhere like Arran to live when I am not working.'

She also has one eye on the theatre and has already performed in *Rapunzel* at Christmas in Glasgow but

would like to do more.

'I think it is easier to go from the screen to the theatre than the other way round but there is real uncertainty about when theatre will be working again,' she said.

'One of the hardest parts about lockdown and the pandemic has been watching theatres and cinemas struggling with some having to shutdown and the uncertainty of when the industry will be able to re-open, not just for the actors, but for everyone involved behind the scenes.'

Katharine is not alone on Arran in making a career in show business.

Chris Jenks, currently starring in *Sex Education*, is one of her closest friends and she also knows actor Paul Tinto, although he is a bit older.

And when will she back on Arran? 'The second I am allowed.'



Arran actress Katharine O'Donnelly. Photograph: Faye Thomas.



A worried looking Maggie in a scene from *The Head*
©Jacques Meizer - The Mediapro Studio



Spring into action in the garden!

Thank goodness it is Spring. Has there ever been a year when we have all looked forward to the season so much? After being cooped up all winter within Covid restrictions we have all been grateful for our gardens and once restrictions are lifted we cannot wait to share them again with family and friends who were not fortunate enough to have gardens of their own.

Our gardens always take a bit of a battering during the winters and perhaps more so this year as we have been using them more during the cold months. Kids and pets playing in frosty and damp gardens can wreak havoc with lawns, borders, shrubs and fences so there might be more work this spring to repair winter damage. The ways in which you have

used your garden during the 12 months of Covid might inspire you to adapt it to suit this new role. Now is the time to be changing your 'hard' landscaping - perhaps a new patio, or decking, or replacing and extending the old. Is your garden calling out for a new fence or the digging out, or filling in, of a pond? Once you have the 'hard' work sorted it is time to

consider planting for the coming season - we are ready for some wonderful splashes of colour to cheer us up and annuals, hanging baskets and pots are a great idea. Is this the year you are going to start a vegetable plot? Even a wee one to keep you supplied with salad can save you a fortune and lettuce, radishes and spring onions straight from the garden taste fantastic



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The law around organ and tissue donation is changing in Scotland

From March 26th this year, the law around organ and tissue donation is changing in Scotland.

If you're aged 16 or over, you will be considered as a possible donor after you die, unless you opt out. Whatever you decide, please let family and friends know your decision, so they can honour it.

For more about the law change and your choices, visit organdonationscotland.org or call 0300 303 2094.



**Healthier
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Scottish
Government

Book showcases people's kindness during Covid

Inspired by Shakespeare's 'and so shines a good deed in a weary world', an author has donated her time to produce a commemorative book celebrating the hard work and kindness seen across the UK during the Covid pandemic.

Anna James spent more than six months interviewing key workers, everyday heroes, familiar faces, charities and organisations before collating the stories and photographs of their 'good deeds'.

She has self-published the 350-plus-page coffee table-style book to celebrate their efforts and to raise money for the NHS and other good causes.

Among many others, the book includes contributions from NHS workers; refuse collection men; cleaners; farmers; home-schooling families; isolating couples; Covid survivors; Her Majesty the Queen; Captain Tom



Moore; Ian Broudie; Banksy; Charlie Mackesy; Fareshare; Samaritans; NSPCC; Age UK; M&S; The Royal Mint; Chester Zoo and a loo roll manufacturer.

Arran also features in the book with a page dedicated to the island's Co-op pandemic hero Liz Mclean, manager of Brodick Co-op, who is listed with her new British Empire Medal and the Banner photograph of Liz.

The book also features hun-



LIZ MCLEAN BEM
Co-op Store Manager / Isle of Arran

On the cover of the book is a photograph of Liz Mclean, Co-op Store Manager of Isle of Arran, sitting on a bench outdoors. The book is a celebration of hard work, adaptability and kindness. It is a collection of stories and photographs of people who have made a difference during the Covid pandemic. The book is available to order at <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Covid-Kindness-UK.../dp/1527275825> to help remember and reflect on the past 12 months.

dreds of photographs of some of the things everyone has been seeing and experiencing over the past 12 months.

Anna, who lives in Somerset, said: 'I desperately wanted to do something to help but didn't know how to be useful. I'm a bit squeamish with anything medical and always get lost, even with satnav, so I'd have been no good at volunteering to help people or deliver things. 'After a few sleepless nights, I decided to stick with what I'm

good at and to create a special compilation of this most unusual moment in our history. I would make one of my commemorative books as my small gift to the national effort.

'Last year was an unprecedented year with monumental challenges and heart-breaking sadnesses but, amongst that, there was also exceptional hard work, adaptability and kindness.

'Our humanity and community spirit shone in the

The cover, far left, of the Covid Kindness book and the page featuring Arran's own Liz Mclean.

darkness and I thought it was important to celebrate that so we've got something to look back on and be proud of.

'I am humbled to have become the caretaker of this most amazing collection of stories from all these everyday heroes who share what they did to help the country and each other. The stories are heart-warming and heart-wrenching in equal measures.'

Covid Kindness: UK 2020 is available to order at <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Covid-Kindness-UK.../dp/1527275825> to help remember and reflect on the past 12 months.

All profits will go to NHS Charities Together and other good causes.

Screen Machine - only smaller

A new video on-demand streaming service called Small Screen Machine has been launched.

In a 'normal' year, Screen Machine aims to visit Brodick four times. It typically stays for four days and screens between five and seven different films each visit - a decent selection, it is hoped, but screenings often sell out and it doesn't show all films in all locations.

With Small Screen Machine, people will be able to enjoy a bit of Screen Machine magic more frequently, whenever it suits them. They'll be able to choose from a wide range of films which have been selected by the same team behind the Screen Machine programme and every month more films will be added. People will be able to rent films to view on their own device and a portion of the fee will go to Regional Screen Scotland which owns and operates the Screen Machine.

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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday March 17, 2001



Clockwise from top:
A massive organisational exercise took place at Arran High School on Monday as a group photograph was taken of all 700 school pupils on the island and some of the youngest pupils take their seats at the front. 01_B12tweY02 and 01_B12tweY01

All lorries and cars going on to the ferry at Ardrossan are now having their wheels sprayed with disinfectant as a result of the ongoing foot and mouth epidemic. 01_B12tweY06

Sheila Rees and Mungo Paul enjoyed some 'Dubbles' chocolate at the stand promoting Fairtrade products in the Co-op last Saturday. 01_B12tweY04

Older pupils at Arran High School chill out during a stress awareness and relaxation class held as part of the health awareness day. 01_B12tweY04

Pupils from Arran High School took part in the Youthspeak competition at the Rotary Club meeting held on Tuesday at the Auchrannie. The winning team was Fraser Davidson, with the trophy, Ruth Taylor and Gabrielle Hannah. 01_B12tweY03



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PUBLIC NOTICES

Jamie Greene – MSP for West Scotland region

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To arrange a virtual appointment please contact
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Or call and leave a message on: 0131 348 6137



The costs of this publication have been
met from parliamentary resources

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be
examined online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 09.04.21.
Any representations received will be open to public view.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT
PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 Regulation 20(1)**
21/00194/PP; Site To North Of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Ayrshire;
Amendment of planning permission 19/00300/PP to amend design of 1 and 1/2 storey
dwelling house on Plot 6.
21/00141/PP; Crofters, Knox House, Brodick, Ayrshire; Erection of open sided marquee
to rear of licensed premises for customer use for a temporary period of two years.
21/00215/PP; Post Office Cottage, Shannochie, Brodick, Ayrshire;
Demolition of existing house & outbuildings and erection
of new house.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 COUNCIL TAX

As required by paragraph 96(1) of the above Act, North Ayrshire Council give notice of, in
terms of paragraphs 70 (1) and 93 (1) of the same Act, the amounts of Council Tax payable
in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band for year 2021/22.

Valuation Band	Full Council Tax (£)	Council Tax discounted by 25% (£)
A	895.12	671.34
B	1,044.31	783.23
C	1,193.49	895.11
D	1,342.69	1,007.01
E	1,764.14	1,323.10
F	2,181.86	1,636.39
G	2,629.42	1,972.06
H	3,289.58	2,467.18

The above figures exclude water and wastewater charges. Scottish Water is responsible
for setting its own charges for household water and wastewater services, which are
subject to scrutiny by the Water Industry Commission for Scotland. North Ayrshire
Council is required by law to include water and wastewater charges on its Council Tax
bills and to collect the sums due on behalf of Scottish Water.

The level of discount on unoccupied properties for up to 12 months is 10% and 200% levy
for greater than 12 months unless actively marketed for sale or let for up to 24 months;
second homes no longer receive a discount in accordance with the Council Tax (Variation
for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016.

The 2021/22 annual Council Tax Notices will be issued in March 2021.

M Boyd, Head of Finance

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

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PERSONAL NOTICE



We would like to thank all family and friends for
all the lovely cards and gifts we received for our
Dimond Wedding Anniversary.

Pat & John Turner



Jennifer Williams would like to thank Dr Hamill, the
Night Duty nurses and the paramedics at Arran War
Memorial Hospital for their wonderful attention and
treatment in the early hours of 3rd/4th March.

Also thanks to the wonderful helicopter crew and the
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CHURCH NOTICES

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

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Churches in north Arran parishes will be closed until further notice. There will still be on-line services and food bank will still be available

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Church re-opening.

It is hoped to re-open the
Church for worship on Sunday
28th March

As our capacity is greatly
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Due to current Scottish
Government legislation on
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currently closed. Further
information will follow shortly.

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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
guidelines our church is
currently closed for public
worship and mass. The Rt Rev
Brian Mcgee, Bishop of Argyll
and the Isles will celebrate
mass from his oratory in Oban
at 10am daily. Livestream
access is available at [www.
rcdai.org.uk](http://www.rcdai.org.uk)

A weekly parish bulletin is
available by email. Please
email peterdwilko@gmail.com
if you wish to receive
a regular bulletin

*BLESS O LORD THIS
ISLE OF ARRAN
ST ROCH PATRON OF THE
SICK PRAY FOR US
OUR LADY OF THE ISLES
PRAY FOR US
ST COLUMBA PRAY FOR US*

BANNER
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Walk on the wild side on Arran

The end of lockdown is almost
in sight, just as the first green
shoots of spring start to
emerge.

And with the changing of
seasons, a whole new world
will come to life on Goatfell on
Arran.

To mark UN World Wildlife
Day 2021, the National Trust
for Scotland has published
a series of spotter's guides
for visitors to its nationwide
network of properties and wild
spaces.

The conservation charity
protects Scotland's natural
and national treasures, in-
cluding the rugged mountain
landscape of Goatfell.

One guide focusses on
Arran's highest point. At 874m,
Goatfell boasts magnificent
views for all visitors to enjoy
and walkers are encouraged to
keep an eye open for some of
Scotland's most iconic species
as they reach the mountain's
summit.



Golden eagle and adders can be found on Goatfell

The guides are published as
the charity runs a fundraising
appeal in support of its work,
which costs millions each
year. Supporters are being
asked to donate to help nature
now and in the future. Find
out more at: [www.nts.org.uk/
help-nature](http://www.nts.org.uk/help-nature).

The golden eagle

At the highest peak on Arran,
visitors should look out for the
golden eagle, one of Scotland's
big five. The beautiful bird of



prey is the king of the skies
and can be admired as they
hunt for rabbits, hares and
grouse. The golden eagle has
a huge wing span, with some
adults reaching well over two
metres. Golden eagles are one
of Scotland's few remaining
natural predators.

Ptarmigan mountain bird

The ptarmigan mountain bird
is exclusive to the Scottish
Highlands and has adapted
to the cold climate by having
feathery feet and growing a
white plumage in winter as
camouflage against snow. In
the past, ptarmigan regularly
bred on Arran, but their range
has shrunk and now they are
only occasional visitors.

Hen harrier

Walkers can spot the hen
harrier, another bird of prey
with a strikingly owl-like face,
flying low across the heather
moorland. The male is an
unusual slate grey colour with
black wing tips. The female is

dull brown in colour with a
distinctive white rump. Unlike
other areas where hen harriers
have been threatened to the
point of extinction due to
persecution, the Isle of Arran
has a significant number of
breeding pairs. Hen harriers
are ground nesting birds so
their success on Arran is partly
due to fewer ground predators,
with no foxes, stoats or weasels
present on the island.

Whinchat

Early May and the click, click
sound of two stones knocking
together alerts walkers to the
return of the whinchat to their
breeding grounds in Glen
Rosa. Whinchats have shown
a dramatic decline in numbers
in many parts of Britain. The
National Trust for Scotland
is monitoring their numbers
in Glen Rosa and ensuring
that their breeding grounds
are maintained in a good
condition.

The adder

Although many people feel
anxious about encountering
an adder whilst out in the
countryside, they're quite
timid reptiles. Adders have
a distinctive zigzag pattern
along their back and will give
a loud warning hiss if you get
too close as they don't want to
be stepped on.

These reptiles roam around
woodland areas, moorland or
can even be seen sunbathing
on rocks. Goatfell has a strong
adder population, including
black adders.

Mountain bike trails project

Continued from page 16.

Arran it would be of significant
benefit if Arran could diversify
and tap into the mountain
biking tourism market in a
similar way to the 7Stanes pro-
ject saving many rural farming
economies suffering from the
foot and mouth outbreak.

'Estimates from the Arran
Recovery Group show tourism
income on Arran is down £35
million. It cites working to
retain the balance between
community, environment and
the economy, all the things that
make Arran a special
place, as the key to recovery.

'The design of the Dyemill
trails provides opportunities
for people to participate in
more than one cycling disci-
pline in one place.

'The facility is designed to
cater for many niches within
cycling including balance bike,
XC, enduro, gravel, DH, BMX
and trials. Each discipline will
have features or specific trails
to practise and be coached on.

'With the combination of the
facility being linked with the
core path network, at the start
of an existing off-road forest



The Dyemill forest where
the trails are planned.

cycling route, having a mul-
ti-use pump track, trials area
and a variety of feature-rich,
small repeatable loops, the
facility offers something for
everyone.'

Mr McNeice concluded:
'Over the last six years, moun-
tain biking on Arran has made
considerable progress. It has
been shown that through a
unique island approach the
mountain bike club can work
in effective partnerships that
deliver practical projects of
significant social impact to our
wider island community.'

ARRAN BANNER GOLF

Corrie Golf Club

Monday March 15, Monday
Cup. 1 Robert McLean 69-
13=56; 2 Raymond Burke 66-
9= 57 and scratch. Magic twos
R McLean @4th and 14th, R
Burke @10th, A Smith @13th,
A MacDonald @2nd and A
Napier@4th.

Fixtures: Saturday March
20, 18-hole medal. Make up
your own matches in line with
current Covid regulations.
Monday March 22, Monday
Cup, draw at noon.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday March 14, Brandon
qualifier, 21 played. 1 Alastair
Dobson 69- 10=59; 2 Brian
Allison 85-24=61; 3 George
Hamilton 77-15=62. Scratch
Alastair Dobson 69.

Fixture: Sunday March 21,
Winter Cup Stableford.

Lamlash Golf Club

Fixtures: Sunday March 21,
Glenburn Cup, final round,
noon draw. Arrange own
times on the day. Thursday
March 25, Yellow Medal, draw
at 11am.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday March 16, Lochranza
Hotel Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood
35; 2 Alex Morrison-Cowan 34;
3 John Pennycott 33. Winner
of the Lochranza Hotel Cup
was Brian Sherwood with 177.
The runner up was Phil Betley
with 175.

Fixture: Tuesday March 23,
Winter Cup, tee off noon.

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BANNER

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Mountain bike trails project steps up a gear

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



An ambitious project to create a series of mountain bike trails in the forests of Arran has been unveiled.

A considerable amount of preparatory work has already gone into the proposed Dyemill skills trails project which is the brainchild of Arran High School's Mountain Bike Club.

The area at Dyemill, to the west of Lamlash, is said to lend itself to short, fun and repeatable trails.

Emphasis has been put on learning and progression of bike handling skills for a wide range of users.

The area will have three descending trails catering for varying biker abilities on an all-weather surface.

The site will be professionally designed and built to the required standards and regulations, with appropriate signs and detailing of trail types and grading.

One of the tracks will be a hard standing trail route complete with a shelter and a bike and trail maintenance area and a well-maintained fleet of bikes and helmets.

The club, which is now a charity, is in negotiation with Forestry Scotland to buy the land which it would fund through a community asset transfer. That could be

'Enthusiastic partners' sought to help raise funds

completed by 2022 with trails created over the next two years.

The total cost for the project is currently estimated at around £400,000 and the club admits it is too big to take on itself. That is why it is looking for 'enthusiastic partners' to join it in raising the necessary funds.

Bike club treasurer Steve Garroway said: "There will be a meeting later in the month at which it will be proposed we change our constitution to allow other interested parties to join the club."

Support

"We already have considerable support from North Ayrshire Council and other bodies and groups we have approached and we now want to open up the project to the whole community."

In the 47-page business plan for the project, drawn up by club chairman Robert McNeice, he says: "The Dyemill trails project aims are a natural evolution of what our



Above: A pre Covid-19 meeting of Arran High School's Mountain Bike Club. Right: Trails like these are being planned for Arran.

club already achieves.

"We will continue our club's historical approach of recognising the significant wider community benefit found in cycling in general and mountain biking in particular."

"We intend to create an accessible, inclusive and safe all-weather environment to

grow and develop our island's cycling community, inspiring Arran to cycle.

"The trails will encourage residents and visitors to engage in cycling in many forms, regardless of their background, gender, age, ethnicity or ability."

"With this new facility, our island's cycling community will benefit from being able to grow and develop local competition and event opportunities in addition to providing a safe and accessible area for coaching and skills development."

"To ensure the recreational area is used by as many of our community as possible, the trails will be sympathetically designed and built around existing walking paths."

"We wish to create an area that allows for outdoor learning and development of the sites' biodiversity and history. Our forest management plan will look to actively improve and preserve the diversity of the habitat and wildlife."

In the report, Mr McNeice states: "With the devastating financial impact of Covid-19 on the tourism industry on

Continued on page 15.





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