

No. 2225 Arran's Weekly Newspaper

Friday 26 March 2021

www.arranbanner.co.uk

85p



Controversial fish farm proposal is thrown out

'Any economic value is not considered significant to overcome the adverse effect'

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A controversial fish farm proposal for the north-east coast of Arran has been thrown out by councillors.

Opponents to the development are delighted by the decision to halt the proposal which has been hanging over the island for 18 months and sparked fierce debate.

At a virtual planning committee on Wednesday afternoon, North Ayrshire councillors unanimously rejected the proposals by the Scottish Salmon Company to create an Atlantic salmon fish farm at Millstone Point.

The company had planned the installation and operation of 12 x 120m fish pens and accompanying feed barge in an area of 12.8 hectares around

80m off the coast of the island. When the application was first made in August 2019, the original application sought to have 20 pens. This was later reduced in a bid to secure planning permission. The creation of 10 direct jobs was also reduced to six. The application attracted widespread opposition with 436 objections received by the planning department, with just 19 support comments.

A demonstration against the plan, organised by Friends of Millstone Point at the proposed site, was supported by 200 people.

Along with widespread concern over general fish farming practices and the welfare of the fish, one of the main objections on the Arran project was the negative impact on tourism the fish farm would have. A report to the planning committee



More than 200 people joined a number of kayakers, paddle boarders and boats to voice their opposition to a fish farm development at Millstone Point in 2019.

stated: 'This impact will discourage visitors through visual impacts, loss of wild animals and loss of sense of place. The site is near popular walking, kayaking and sailing routes. The site is on the North Arran geological walk and would harm the Arran Geopark. The site is adjacent to part of the

Arran Coastal Way. The coastal way is an important amenity for residents and visitors. Guesthouses in the area rely on holiday makers using the path. Tourism is the main industry on Arran. Arran has a global reputation for marine conservation, including the Marine Protection Area and no-take

zone and this would make a mockery of the reputation. The sense of remoteness of the place and the image of the island is the main tourist draw. Arran and North Ayrshire should not market itself as a destination for green tourism.' The summary of the

Continued on page 2.

Arran set for 'staycation' summer

Arran will not be left behind when the travel restrictions are lifted next month and Scotland reopens for business, writes Hugh Boag.

April 26 is the date most businesses on the island are aiming to reopen, the first day the island is expected to be able to welcome visitors back from across Scotland.

Already shops, restaurants, hotels, B&Bs and self-catering accommodation across the island are making preparations to reopen with many advertising for staff.

The summer ferry timetable starts the same day, although restrictions will remain on passenger numbers.

Arran expects a bumper summer with bookings already pouring in for 'staycation' holidaymakers unable and unwilling to go abroad, and despite most places missing out on Easter trade one of the first attractions to open will be the Isle by Wild playpark at Brodick Castle, which opens next Friday.

It is expected all parts of Scotland currently in level four, including Arran, would move down to a 'modified'

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Arran all set for a bumper 'staycation' summer season

Continued from page one.

level three on that date, moving to level two by mid-June with all restrictions lifted by the end of June.

However, there was concern that Arran could be left behind as the rest of Scotland opened up for business.

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson this week took these concerns to the Scottish parliament where he asked First Minister Nicola Sturgeon: 'I have been contacted by Arran businesses that are keen, for community and economic reasons, for the island to stay within mainland Scotland's rules and guidelines. Can the first minister confirm that, from April 2, non-essential travel within local authorities will apply to Arran, that Caledonian MacBrayne will be informed there are no travel restrictions within North Ayrshire and that, from



April 26, all conditions related to mainland Scotland will apply to Arran? The tourism economy depends on it.'

Ms Sturgeon replied: 'We certainly take that issue very seriously. We have given a commitment to have discussions with our island communities about how best we ensure that the restrictions keep them safe from the virus and allow maxi-

mum benefit as we open up the economy.'

'I absolutely appreciate the point that has been made about making sure that Arran is on the same level of restrictions, so that there can be that freedom of movement and travel. If that is the view of communities such as Arran, that is certainly the view we will take as we come out of lockdown.'

Head ranger Kate Sampson and collections manager Pippa Downing. 01_B13castle01

Executive director of VisitArran Sheila Gilmore said: 'Getting some clarity on opening up is absolutely fundamental, both for the economy – and for the Arran community. Everyone's morale needs a boost. Since October, Arran's community and businesses have been impacted by Scottish mainland restrictions, and when these are lifted, it's only fair for socioeconomic reasons, that this is done in the same way on Arran.'

'It's a balance – everything that impacts on the economy has an impact on our island community and vice versa.'

'It's become very obvious how much the national economy is dependant on tourism – both primary and secondary, and

this is the same for Arran. Our supply chain plays a vital role, and many of the facilities islanders enjoy might not be available were it not for visitors supporting these businesses.'

'When businesses opened for three months last year, the community was reassured by the lack of Covid-19 due largely to the high safety and hygiene standards set by our businesses and island residents. This will be equally important as we open up, employing staff and building on that local confidence.'

Mr Gibson added: 'The first minister seemed pretty relaxed about the situation, making it clear that if that...This will dispel any rumours that Arran will remain closed as the rest of Scotland reopens.'

Meanwhile, Arran's biggest hotel complex Auchrannie also plans to reopen all accommo-

dation, restaurants, all leisure facilities and the Aspa from April 26.

Co-founder and managing director Linda Johnston said: 'The whole team are very excited about getting back to work and looking forward to welcoming visitors and islanders back to the resort. The return of visitors should allow businesses to reopen and I'm sure Arran will have a busy season and successful relaunch, although visitor numbers will be limited until physical distancing restrictions are relaxed for ferry travel.'

Brodick Castle and Country Park's The Isle be Wild play park, tuck shop and toilet facilities will reopen on April 2, with the castle, shop and café reopening at the end of month. Arran Heritage Museum is scheduled to reopen on Wednesday April 28.

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Controversial fish farm proposal is thrown out

Continued from page one. objections went on: 'The economic benefits for Scotland would be slight as the applicant is foreign owned. Any economic benefit would be negligible compared to the potential harm to the environment and tourist economy which has a greater contribution to the local and national economies. There is no guarantee that locals would benefit from any jobs created. The farm could be serviced from elsewhere and this appears likely given its location.'

There was also criticism of the consultation process, particularly prior to the submission of the application, which was said to be insufficient.

'The public events were tightly controlled and there was little scope for the public to make meaningful contributions. It is considered the level of public objection to the proposal has been downplayed by the applicant. The pre-application events were akin to lobbying with public concerns dismissed. The information



Some of the demonstrators who came to voice their opposition to a fish farm proposal in 2019.

the applicant has provided in the PAC Report is disputed. Claims of community engagement with the Holy Isle and other community groups are misleading,' the report said.

There was also concern that the development would be highly visible from the adjacent Arran Coastal Path. This could discourage use of this part of the path, although it is noted it would only be visible from a small part of the path.

As a result the planners report recommended refusal of the application stating:

'The visual impact of the development would adversely affect the visual amenity of the area, the landscape quality of the water environment and the special qualities of the National Scenic Area. The proposal does not align with Scotland's National Marine Plan or the emerging Clyde Marine Plan. Any economic value is not considered significant to overcome the adverse effect.'

The Scottish Salmon Company have been approached for comment.

Green award shortlist spot for Arran Brewery

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Isle of Arran Brewery has been shortlisted for the highly prestigious Society of Independent Brewers' award for green business.

SIBA is the UK's foremost brewery trade body representing more than 600 independent craft breweries. Each year it gives an award in the green brewery category to the brewer with the most innovative green credentials or projects.

Arran has been shortlisted for the green business award as a direct result of its project in collaboration with the islands green recovery programme instigated by Zero Waste Scotland.

The project aims to reduce the use of packaging materials in two main areas:

A reduction in shrink wrap and cardboard, usually only used once before being discarded, by investing in a large fleet of bottle crates, which will be used for on island deliveries to distributors

A reduction in glass usage by the introduction of a growler filler station offering up to

six beers to go into growlers (larger, resealable, reusable beer containers) which will be made available to either buy or rent to both island residents and tourists.

The team at Arran Brewery has always been proactive in trying to make the business of brewing as green as possible; from recycling company waste products to composting spent hops to providing spent grain to local farmers as feed for livestock.

'I am proud that our hard work has been recognised by our peers in the brewing industry'

This year the final three breweries happen to represent the three UK nations: Well Drawn Brewing being based in Wales; Hobson's Brewery based in England; and Arran Brewery. Arran therefore finds itself representing Scotland in a very tough and competitive green award.

Head Brewer Craig Laurie



The Isle of Arran Brewery at Cladach.

said: 'I have always looked for ways to improve our green credentials, from increasing ingredient utilisation – getting more great quality beer for the same input of raw materials, to reducing waste in bottling, bringing it down from over five per cent to around 0.5 per cent, and I am proud that our hard work has been recognised by our peers in the brewing industry.'

Chris Bowen, quality manager and co-owner Veronica Michaluk were behind this particular initiative and they

are working hard to ensure a much greener Arran.

Veronica said: 'I am very pleased by the way the new team has embraced the need to go that step further in improving our green credentials, which were already well established.'

Chris added: 'Our company slogan, which can be found on most of our labels, reads Quality is in our nature. My aim is to ensure both quality and nature are continually cared for and improved at the brewery and I am very happy to see our work recognised by our trade body.'

The Isle of Arran Brewery said it was grateful for the support of the islands green recovery programme, Zero Waste Scotland and the Scottish government which had made the initiative possible.

Coastal walk findings to be unveiled

The findings of a major study into the future of the Fisherman's Walk will be made public next week.

A six-week study into coastal erosion and the rise in the sea-level has been carried out by Glasgow-based environmental consultancy Envirocentre at the popular mile-long Brodick path.

They were brought in by the Arran Access Trust, which received funding from NatureScot to study the long-term future of the path.

While much work has been done over the years to stabilise the coastline, including the recent works on the banks of the Cloy Burn, this study is an opportunity to consider its future. The study has provided maps forecasting the likely changes to the coastline over 10, 50 and 200-year periods which will be used to design potential intervention opportunities.

An extensive report has been compiled which the consultants will discuss on a Zoom meeting on Monday March 29 at 7pm. See advert for details.

Patricia and Eilidh will keep walking for dementia charity

A Brodick woman is going to keep on walking for charity after completing a month-long sponsored dog walk for Dementia UK.

Patricia Templeton got in touch with the Banner after reading about the efforts being made to make Arran a dementia-friendly island.

Patricia said: 'I have been doing the walk with my young rescue, Eilidh and we are often seen around Brodick getting the miles in. We are just about to finish our March walk 100k challenge so thought we'd finish off walking in March and continue into April.'

'We raised a whopping £390 in our first challenge and we are so grateful to everyone for supporting us.'

I'm raising money for Dementia UK and your contribution will make an impact, whether you donate £5



Fundraiser Patricia Templeton and her dog Eilidh.

or £500. Every little bit helps. Thank you for your support.

Dementia UK is a national charity, committed to improving the quality of life for all people affected by dementia. We provide mental health nurses specialising in dementia care, called Admiral Nurses.

'We did this walk to hon-

our all our friends, volunteers, staff and members at The Corstorphine Dementia Project.'

Patricia has created a fundraiser for Dementia UK which can be accessed through her Facebook page. Facebook pays all the processing fees so 100 per cent of any donation goes directly to the charity.



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Arran benefits from £1.3m lottery support

Support for Scotland's natural and built heritage from players of the People's Postcode Lottery has exceeded £1.3 million, according to the National Trust for Scotland (NTS).

The news came at the lottery's 2021 annual gala, where it announced another £425,000 to help the NTS protect Scotland's treasures and continue its vital conservation work, despite the challenges created by the coronavirus pandemic.

Cumulatively, since 2014, the total support received from players of People's Postcode Lottery is £1,398,695.

In that time, the funding has been put to good use at NTS properties across the country including in Glen Rosa on Arran, where support has meant 40,000 trees have been planted to reforest the area.

At Culzean Castle in Ayrshire, it has enabled the creation of the estate's popular play areas – Adventure Cove and Wild Woodland – and at the Hill House, Helensburgh, the funding made it possible to repair stained glass windows at the historic house.

There is also a new gallery space at Drum Castle, Aberdeenshire, and at Inverewe in the north west, the funding meant the charity could purchase machinery that helped to catalogue all

the thousands of plants that thrive there.

In 2020, support from players of the People's Postcode Lottery went to the trust's Project Wipeout, an ambitious task aimed at eradicating non-native invasive plants from a number of trust places across the country.

Since August last year, Project Wipeout has cleared more than 40 hectares of the most destructive plants including Rhododendron ponticum, Japanese knotweed and American skunk cabbage at eight sites across Scotland, including Brodick Castle and Gardens.

Commitment

National Trust for Scotland chief executive Philip Long OBE said: 'We cannot thank the players of People's Postcode Lottery enough for their longstanding commitment to and support of our charity's conservation work.'

'Over the past seven years, so many important projects have only been possible because of these funds.'

'With this help, work like Wipeout, which is making a real difference to Scotland's environment, has been able to continue over the past year. Thank you for helping to protect Scotland's heritage, now and for future generations.'

Will Humpington, climate change and environment

Players have helped National Trust for Scotland properties and places

Right: Project Wipeout has been at work in Brodick Castle gardens.
01_B13trees02

Below: Tree planting in Glen Rosa.
01_B13trees01



advisor at People's Postcode Lottery, said: 'We are delighted players of People's Postcode Lottery are continuing to support Project Wipeout and helping to eradicate non-native invasive species which are so damaging to Scotland's wildlife.'

'It's great to celebrate the support of players for National Trust for Scotland projects over the past seven years and their positive impact for Scotland's heritage.'

Easter reminder of repeat prescriptions

NHS 24 is reminding people who take regular medication to make sure their repeat prescriptions are ordered in plenty of time for the Easter weekend.

The reminder is part of the ongoing health campaign 'Show you care. Prepare' which encourages people to take care of themselves, their loved ones and the NHS by being prepared for minor ailments.

The Easter weekend impacts on many GP and pharmacy opening times, so it's important people check their prescription, order only what they need and in plenty of time.

NHS 24's head of pharmacy John McAnaw said: 'This can be a really busy time of the year but it's important we all take time to think about our health, do what we can to stay well and be prepared for illness. That way, we'll also be doing our bit to support the NHS through the busy Easter period.'

'Things like paracetamol, ibuprofen and indigestion remedies are useful to have and you can ask your pharmacist for advice about helpful medicines for your household.'

'It's also a good idea to keep a few child friendly remedies if you have any wee ones.'

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Harbour interchange funds

Cash for a new Ardrossan harbour interchange has been allocated in the new capital programme for this year, announced by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT).

The interchange will include a new station at Ardrossan harbour, which will be nearer the new ferry terminal.

Wider proposals include an integrated transport hub involving a bus terminal and a drop-off area for cars as part of the harbour redevelopment expected to start next year.



Passengers want to see the station far closer to the maritime hub, as shown in this artist's impression.

Pledge over concession ferry fares for the young

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Scottish government has pledged to look at extending a free bus travel scheme on to ferries for young travellers.

The move has come in response to a call by CalMac Community Board, as highlighted in the Banner two weeks ago.

It was announced in the Scottish budget earlier this month that a free bus travel scheme is to be introduced for all those under the age of 22, expected later this year.

That led to calls from community board chairman Angus Campbell to extend the scheme to ferries to Arran and the other Scottish islands, where youngsters used the ferries as 'buses' for travel to the mainland.

The national transport agency of the Scottish government has now pledged to look not only at extending the bus scheme to ferries but also at wider concession fares for the young.

A Transport Scotland spokesman said: 'Transport Scotland will carry out an Island Communities Impact

SPT has allocated £350,000 for the new station, part of an investment of £22 million to cover projects across the 12 local authorities in Strathclyde. Arran is to get £40,000 of investment for the Brodick to Corrie cycle path.

Support

SPT chairman councillor Dr Martin Bartos said: 'Despite the many challenges faced this year, the capital programme approved at partnership continues to support the 12 local authorities in a range of projects designed to improve

infrastructure and encourage more active travel across the region.

'Careful consideration has been given to what projects can be delivered and those which most benefit the travelling public.'

'Projects which aim to reduce journey times and improve infrastructure for all transport users are a priority as they play a key role in transforming public transport in the west of Scotland.'

'We have encouraged all our

local authority colleagues to be aspirational in their projects so we can continue to make strides in improving all transport options however challenging that may be in the current climate.'

All the projects identified

for funding must meet SPT's Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) strategic outcomes specifically that the projects offer or improve attractive, seamless, reliable travel, improved connectivity, access for all and reduced emissions.'

If you regularly care for family or friends who need extra support, it's time to roll up your sleeve.



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If that sounds like you, find out if you're eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine by visiting

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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

Finally, a way out for everyone from restrictions

At long last there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel as we find our way out of the year-long nightmare of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was an emotional time for many this week as we all remembered the anniversary of the announcement of the first UK lockdown with quiet reflection during the minute silence, as well as the lights in the evening signifying a 'beacon of remembrance'.

With the National Day of Reflection over it is perhaps time to look forward rather than back and already businesses across the island are doing just that.

There is already a rush to get staff, with job adverts all over the place, of places hiring ahead of welcoming back visitors and local customers in just over four weeks time.

Of course a lot of work is going to have to be done before then and as we all know the easing of lockdown is being taken one steady pace at a time. So even when visitors return nothing will be back to normal.

However, it is everyone's interest to see the island reopening and looking a bit like its old self again. And we are pleased that even the First Minister has recognised that the needs of Arran cannot be forgotten as the country emerges from lockdown.

It is a balancing act but businesses need some clarity about the easing of restrictions which will hopefully help everyone get a taste of freedom they have longed for.

Thought for the week

They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, 'Hosanna!', 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!', 'Blessed is the king of Israel! John 12:13

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Brodick Hall services need to be retained

Sir,

Your readers will now be well aware North Ayrshire Council has re-activated the North Ayrshire wide community consultation on the future roles of halls, centres and libraries.

The current arrangement with Brodick Hall Community Association whereby we handle all the bookings and share the letting charges with the council, enables us to subsidise local lets, including the nursery and primary school.

It also means that while the hall committee has paid for additional services within the hall, the council is responsible for its general upkeep.

As a committee we are working closely with the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations in negotiations with the council, which for us means the services currently delivered relating to Brodick hall, library and mobile library, serving the island community, be upheld.

All of which echoes the consensus of those who attended the packed public meeting in Brodick hall on May 8 2019.

May I ask for a strong response from Arran towards these ends.

Yours,

John Sillars, chairman,
Brodick Hall Community Association.

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

Working together to reopen tourism in Ayrshire and Arran

With lockdown restrictions due to be eased next month, VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead talks about the recovery of tourism in Ayrshire and Arran and the establishment of a new tourism strategic group in the region.

'As we look forward to the reopening of tourism in Scotland once again, following the announcement of indicative dates last week, it is with renewed optimism in Ayrshire and Arran.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on the tourism and events industry in Scotland and has changed the lives of people across the country. We won't just be able to push a button and tourism will recover. We have had a year of very little investment, job losses and business closures and it will take time and significant support to get us back to a thriving industry.

But what we do know is that with the right support, tourism can lead the economic recovery and boost inward investment where it is needed most.

In Ayrshire and Arran, tourism is worth more than £600million and its importance to the economic recovery of the region has been recognised with the formation of a new industry group to drive forward recovery.

For the last nine months, I have had the opportunity as chairman of the Ayrshire Visitor Economy Strategy Group, a sub-group of the Ayrshire Economic Partnership, to bring together representatives from the tourism industry in Ayrshire and Arran to work together to support the recovery of this vital part of Scotland's economy.

The group – which includes tourism industry



Malcolm Roughead, chief executive of VisitScotland.

representation as well as representatives from North, South and East Ayrshire Councils, Scottish Enterprise, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce, The Coig, VisitArran and the Scottish Tourism Alliance – was established with the aim of providing new focus for the tourism industry in the region.

We have met several times in recent months to set out and develop a programme of tourism destination developments to champion all that Ayrshire and Arran has to offer and tackle regional recovery.

It is an important step for tourism across the region. Led by the industry, for the industry, the group aims to bring a fresh approach to creating a successful, collaborative and thriving environment to drive forward success.

By coming together, tourism businesses can play their part in ensuring the future of tourism across the region. We know we have a long road ahead of us but working in collaboration will make the journey stronger and more effective.

As we start to prepare for the reopening of tourism once again, the group will continue to progress work across the key themes of digital development, marketing, product development and destination management. We will continue to keep tourism businesses informed of these developments to help spread the word and encourage engagement.

Tourism businesses are being encouraged to sign up to VisitScotland's closed industry Facebook group to keep up-to-date with developments from the group and find out how to get involved, as well as finding out the latest regional tourism news and opportunities.'

PRESS POLICY

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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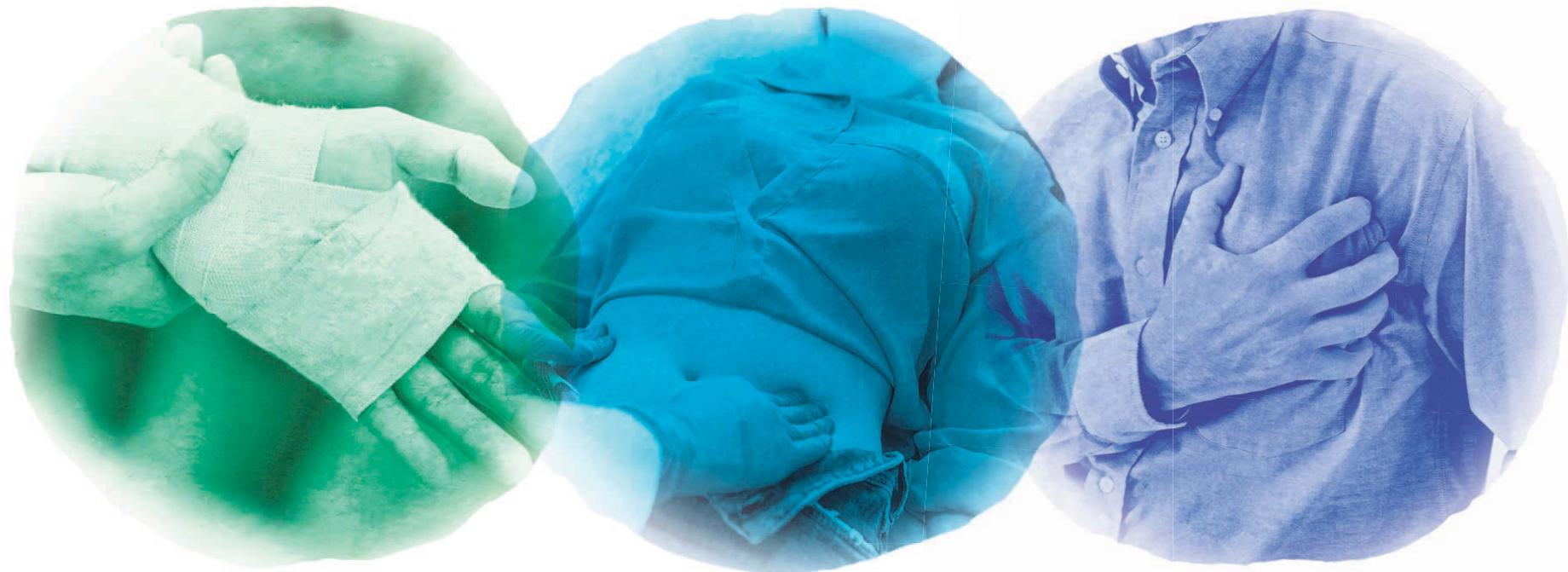
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Voices of young people at the heart of new strategy

'Step up, Step out' will set out active roles across schools and communities

A new strategy aims to ensure the voices of young people on Arran and across North Ayrshire are heard in the months and years ahead.

North Ayrshire Council's connected communities team worked closely with young people, youth workers and stakeholders on the key themes affecting young people to develop this sector-leading strategy.

The Youth Participation and Citizenship Strategy, known as 'Step Up, Speak Out' sets out how young people across North Ayrshire can play an active role in their schools and communities.

The strategy, for four years until 2025, has been refreshed this year to reflect the learning from 2018's Year of Young

'This ambitious new strategy provides a clear understanding of the needs and issues that our young people face'

People (YoYP), the experiences of young people during the Covid-19 pandemic and the growing confidence of young people to speak up about their needs in a changing world.

Rhona Arthur, interim head of service for connected communities, said: 'The pandemic has highlighted the need for increased support for young people's mental health and improved digital access for

home schooling. This ambitious new strategy provides a clear understanding of the needs and the issues that our young people face and we are committed to ensuring that these will shape future council policies and priorities.'

'North Ayrshire's young people are our future and while we're so proud of what has already been achieved, it is crucial we continue to listen to and learn from young people to build on the solid foundations already created.'

Since the first strategy launched in 2015, North Ayrshire has been leading the way, ensuring that young people have a voice and are provided with opportunities to co-produce and co-deliver on vital pieces of work that

benefit young people in the community. Some of the key highlights include:

- The North Ayrshire youth services team awarded the COSLA gold award;

- North Ayrshire became a child centred council in 2019;

- Development of the youth participatory budgeting process to ensure young people are involved in distributing and applying for funding, shortlisting applicants and voting on bids that benefit young people in their community;

- Young people were involved in a working group to discuss the cost of the school day which helped to develop the council's child poverty plan;

- North Ayrshire became the first local authority in Scotland to provide free sanitary provision in schools and council buildings in response to discussions with young people at joint cabinet;

- Worked with young people to secure funding, design and

create a mental health toolkit with resources, distractions and information about help available – which has since been made available in all schools and community centres to support staff and volunteers in discussing mental health with young people;

- Hosted a full year of large events, opportunities and activities for young people during the Year of Young People in 2018.

In order to continue this great work, a number of pledges have been made by various partners including North Ayrshire Council's education service, Police Scotland, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, North Ayrshire Council children's services and many others.

These are commitments to involve young people in planning and decision-making so that no decision about them is made without them. The strategy also includes a pledge from young people themselves, to commit to their representative

role and provide an equal voice for future change.

To ensure that 'nothing about us without us' becomes a reality in North Ayrshire, everyone is encouraged to make their own pledge, whether personal or on behalf of an organisation, on how they will ensure young people's voices are represented, valued and actioned in all planning, decisions, consultation and projects that are being planned and delivered.

Anyone can share their pledge on social media using the hashtags #NAStepUpSpeakOut and #NothingAboutUsWithoutUs.

The new strategy complements the Children's Service Plan 2020-2023 and the Children's Rights Report 2020-23 and the annual Child Poverty Action Plan.

These set out the vision for all children and young people to have the best start in life and for North Ayrshire to be the best place in Scotland to grow up.

Investment restores golden age to hotel used by islanders

The iconic Grand Central Hotel in the heart of Glasgow has completed a multi-million-pound refurbishment to become one of Scotland's first voco[®] hotels, as part of the IHG Hotels and Resorts group.

The hotel is widely used by Arran residents in more normal times due to its proximity to Glasgow Central station and its train links to Ardrossan.

The hotel is welcoming guests who need to travel – in line with Scottish Government's exceptions and guidelines – as voco Grand Central, Glasgow, from this week, a whole year after the hotel closed due to Covid-19, forcing them to delay their 2020 rebrand plans.

The expansive refurbishment updating 230 bedrooms, meeting rooms and reception areas has enhanced the historic charm and existing grandeur of the Grand Central Hotel with bold branding and a distinctive new identity.



A contemporary fresh look, drawing on a palette of rich golds and royal blues complements the original Victorian architecture throughout the 19th century great British railway hotel and preserves memories of the hotel's golden age, the stories of which are much loved by visitors to the hotel and Glaswegians.

Artworks

A new gallery wall featuring artworks created by the Scottish public which remembers many of its celebrity guests including John F Kennedy and Frank Sinatra will open

for the public to enjoy for the first time. Paul Bray, UK area manager for IHG Hotels and Resorts North, said: 'We are very proud to be reopening our doors as Scotland's first voco[®] hotel.'

'The rich history of this iconic building and the stories within its walls mean so much to many Glaswegians and guests who have visited the hotel, so we are delighted to be able to continue that legacy as a voco[®]'.

A hotel spokeswoman added: 'We know readers of The Arran Banner in normal times are regular visitors to Grand Central Hotel, so we hope this positive news is of interest for your readers.'

There are currently six voco[®] hotels open in the UK, 18 globally, with a further 29 voco[®] hotels in the pipeline to open in the next few years, including voco Edinburgh – Haymarket which is due to open later this month.

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As we approach one full year of living and farming under Covid restrictions, we wanted to say, to the many who have supported and helped us through this incredibly difficult year – thank you.

These last 12 months have been hard. Businesses have suffered, health and care workers have been under extraordinary pressure and families everywhere have lost loved ones.

Yet, through it all, Scotland's island and Highland communities have shown remarkable resilience. As you have cared for the most vulnerable amongst us, you have extended that same hand of support to our sector.

Scotland's salmon farmers have spent the last year faced with tough new work patterns, the shutdown of the hotel and restaurant trade, and the collapse of international markets.

Throughout, our teams have worked hard to keep our fish well cared for and our processing facilities running smoothly.

But we couldn't have done it without the many ferry workers, bus drivers, hauliers and critical suppliers who kept essential services running.

Nor could we have done it without the understanding of regulators who allowed our farmers to delay harvests and keep fish in the water for longer - a special dispensation used sparingly by a small number of fish farms.

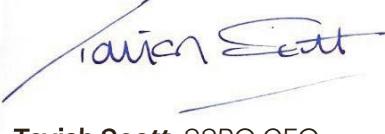
The results of this collective effort are clear: good fish health and great rates of growing fish through to market size and harvest.

Our farmers produced more than 800 million fresh, nutritious and healthy meals in the last year, helping Scottish salmon remain the UK shoppers' fish of choice.

It is with this last key point in mind that there remains one more all-important thank you and that is to you – the people of the communities in which we live and work, the rural and island areas, the villages and towns of Scotland from Unst to Kintyre.

Quite simply, we couldn't do it without you.

With your continued support, we can all look forward to better times ahead.


Tavish Scott. SSPO CEO.

Pupils share a happy dream



Pupils back in class at Whiting Bay Primary School.



Buddy Bear with the poem around his neck.

Buddy Bear proved an instant hit with youngsters who were given the teddy on their return to school last week.

As reported in last week's Banner, children at six island primary schools had little bears waiting for them when all primary children returned to classes.

Some were so attached they took them to bed – with one lucky bear even having his own bed made for him.

Buddy Bear is wearing the school values t-shirt and has a friendly poem attached which reads: 'I'm Buddy Bear, come and share your favourite happy dream, squeeze me tight with all your might, we make a winning team!'

Here are a selection of photographs from around the island of the welcome sight of children back at school, although the schools close for their Easter holidays next Thursday.



Above: A wee Buddy takes a nap in his own sleeping bag, made by a primary two pupil.



Left: The children at Whiting Bay with their Buddy Bears.



A 'Welcome Back' sign at Shiskine Primary School.



Shiskine pupils in class with their Buddy Bears.

Back with their Buddy Bears



Above: Whiting Bay pupils in the playground with their Buddy Bears.



Left: The Buddy Bears wait for their new owners.

Right: Corrie Primary School pupils pose with their Buddy Bears.



Shiskine Primary School pupils display their 'Welcome Back to School' banner.



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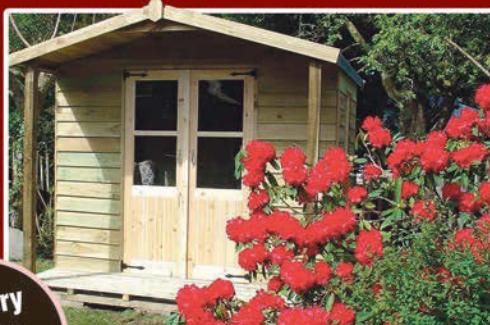
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For more about the law change and your choices, visit organdonationscotland.org or call 0300 303 2094.



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U3A community arboretum project given cash donation

The Isle of Arran U3A has received a kind donation of £250 from Brodick Co-op towards its community arboretum project, a botanical garden devoted to trees, writes Hugh Boag.

Members of the third age university came up with the idea of an arboretum last year during lockdown when everyone was discussing the desire to recognise the selflessness and commitment of NHS staff, particularly the island's own medical group, during this long and difficult year.

Chairwoman Mhairi-Aileen Smeir explained: 'Many of our members are over 55 and have been in the shielding and vulnerable categories and they were so grateful for the very many people within the community who helped them, and continue to help, with everyday necessities such as

shopping and medicines. They wanted to show their appreciation in a tangible and long lasting way.'

'Some members were close to those in our community who suffered from and died through Covid-19 and, of course, we were all affected by the loss of life on our small island.'

'Many felt this suffering and loss should be commemorated in a physical way too.'

'All our members believe the arboretum should be a place for everyone in the community to use and enjoy for contemplation, remembrance and appreciation of how lucky we are to live in a place whose community spirit has shown itself in so many incredible ways and keeps on doing so with no signs of stopping anytime soon.'

'That is why we feel the arbo-

retum, hopefully made up of many varied trees chosen for their individual meanings and special Arran connections, such as the Arran Whitebeam, would be a fitting and living memorial.'

'A special place with hard and soft landscaping, easily accessible to all, set within a beautiful and serene landscape and at its heart a memorial stone set above a time capsule contributed by the community.'

'We live surrounded by trees on Arran, but this planting can hold such special meaning for our community, collectively designed and planted, nurtured by emotion and sentiment, a living growing focus for remembrance and peace.'

'The U3A members are working with other groups on the island to identify the best possible site. We have been generously offered land.'



A tree-lined avenue could feature in Arran's arboretum.

Unfortunately it is not as accessible or large enough for parking and we are continuing to search for that special site.

'We are inviting all members of the island community and those who love Arran to become involved with this project. Everyone is welcome to contribute in some way.'

'Sponsoring specific trees; contributing to landscaping; helping with ground preparation or planting; making tea and sandwiches for those working on the land; any and all kinds of advice with hard landscaping; there are limitless ways and means to become a part of this community memorial.'

'If you have any ideas or suggestions please get in touch or if you can offer some time

or labour, we would really like to hear from you. Any involvement, large or small, will be greatly appreciated and you will be part of a wonderful Arran adventure.'

'Although we are not yet free from this dreadful pandemic, we now have some hope of light at the end of this dark year with vaccinations under way and restrictions slowly lifting. We had hoped to start work on the arboretum last year, however, Covid-19 restrictions and the difficulties arising from them has meant postponement until this year.'

'This delay has allowed us to investigate more fully what people feel should be included and what form the final design should take and armed with this knowledge we are looking

forward to autumn planting.'

'A big thank you to Liz and Carol at our great Brodick Co-op for all their support and this fantastic boost to our arboretum funding.'

'We are delighted with this wonderful surprise and know this £250 will be well used as we move forward with our plans for a community remembrance garden.'

'Our U3A was formed in January last year and only had one proper face-to-face meeting before 14 months of virtual and email contact, yet our members have mastered many new skills, made and renewed friendships and continue to enjoy their group activities, renewing their memberships and continuing to support their U3A.'

Youngsters asked for their visions of a future planet

An art competition for young people across the UK has been launched, with the winners having their artwork displayed at the COP26 Climate Change conference in Glasgow this year.

The Creative Earth competition is part of a UK government initiative, Together for our Planet, and was launched in collaboration with the WWF to encourage young people to use the power of art to capture their hopes and dreams for the planet in the future.

Cel Spellman, star of Netflix's White Lines and BBC Radio 1, who is a WWF

ambassador, said: 'The Creative Earth art competition is such a unique and exciting opportunity for children from across the UK to have their voices heard and show world leaders exactly the kind of world they want to live in, inherit and pass on to future generations.'

I'm asking as many under-16s as possible to please get involved and be part of something special as we aim to create a better, greener, sustainable future and call on world leaders to commit to making that a reality and bring about the change we so desperately

need to see, reminding them it's young people who will live with the consequences of our actions now.'

Creative Earth artwork entries will be judged by a celebrity panel and COP26 president Alok Sharma this spring.

Special prizes will be awarded for the best artwork in each age group. Judges will also select the best pieces to be displayed at the COP26 summit in November this year.

Find out more about the competition and enter now on the Together for our Planet website.

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Signs of spring on the way with 100+ species recorded

Bird notes by Jim Cassels FEBRUARY

February started with a very wet spell with most of the month's rain falling in the first few days.

This was followed by a prolonged very cold spell lasting until the middle of the month.

Thereafter it was mild with a pleasant few days to end the month. While at times the weather was not conducive to being out of doors, nevertheless almost 100 species were reported - 10 more than last year.

The hard weather had an impact on bird behaviour as birds struggled to survive. Grey herons frozen out of their normal haunts were reported hunting birds at garden feeders in Glenloig on 8th and in Sannox on 10th.

Woodcock seeking soft ground to probe for food appeared in gardens in Kiscadale on 11th and Dippin on 13th.

Species moving from the snow bound mainland and continent included lapwing.

Unusually there were more than 20 widespread reports of lapwing on Arran from Lochranza in the north to Kildonan in the south with 38 reported in Kilpatrick on 8th and 50 in Corrie on 9th.

Other movements were reflected in the report of colour ringed birds with two common gulls, colour ringed as chicks in 2012 in Aberdeenshire, reported in Shiskine Valley and a Knot colour ringed on a Dutch island in September 2017 was photographed in Kildonan on 17th. Knot is an Arctic breeding species that winters as far south as West Africa.

Other wintering visitors included: six purple sandpiper on Holy Isle on 2nd, 50 fieldfare in Corrie on 8th, 14 redwing in Strathwillan on 15th, a sanderling on Silver Sands also on 15th and a rook on Clachaig Farm on 19th.

In addition, there was a

report of a chiffchaff, more familiar as a summer visitor, in Glenkiln on 10th and a number of reports of blackcap including two in Corrie on 21st.

Wintering wildfowl continued to be present including: 38 teal at Carlo on 2nd, three Goldeneye on Mossend Pond on 3rd, 112 Pink-footed Geese in Sliddery on 9th, six white-fronted geese among 358 Greylag Geese in the Shiskine Valley on 16th and 16 Wigeon at Machrie on 26th. In addition, there were reports throughout the month of two single whooper swans, one in Lamlash Bay and one in Feorline.

Flocks

Other wintering flocks included: 100 jackdaw at Machriewaterfoot on 16th, 15 mistle thrush in Catacol also on 16th, 90 skylark by Lagg Distillery on 18th, six dunlin on Holy Isle also on 18th, eight long-tailed tit in Corrie on 21st, 70 curlew on Sliddery Shore on 22nd, 10 greenfinch in Pirnmill also on 22nd, 18 bullfinch on Holy Isle on 24th, 340 starling and nine yellowhammer in Sliddery on 25th, 45 golden plover and 50 turnstone in Machrie on 26th, 250 herring gull on Pladda also on 26th and 50 woodpigeon by Mossend Pond also on 26th.

Other interesting sightings included: two moorhen at Port na Lochan on 7th, two little grebe by Fisherman's Walk on 14th, two goosander in Cordon on 15th, a magpie

in Clauchlands also on 15th, three black-throated diver in Whiting Bay on 26th, 13 great northern diver in Machrie Bay on 27th and three dipper in Glenashdale also on 27th.

In addition, there was a Mediterranean gull along with around 100 common gull by Lagg Distillery on 18th. The last record of Mediterranean gull on Arran was in November 2018.

Throughout February, reports of the long staying colonising species little egret, nuthatch and white-tailed eagle continued. Little egret was first reported on 20 October 2020, the nuthatch was first reported on 1 October 2020 and the pair of white-tailed eagle was first reported on 22 November 2020.

In February, reports of the little egret were mainly from Brodick Bay and Lamlash Bay, the nuthatch reports were from Pirnmill and the pair of white-tailed eagles mainly from the west coast of the island.

Gannet seemed slow to return this year with only one February record in Whiting Bay on 28th. There were six records of returning lesser black-backed gull. The first of these was two by Lagg Distillery on 18th.

Other signs of approaching spring included: grey heron nest building in Stronach Wood on 9th, pair of fulmar exploring nest sites in Catacol on 12th, great spotted woodpecker drumming in Brodick Castle gardens on 17th, 25 eider displaying in Brodick Bay on 24th and song thrush singing in Blackwaterfoot on 28th. By the end of the month there were signs that spring was on its way.

Siskin reports in February were in short supply but numbers are expected to build up in March as the birds



Chiffchaff, a familiar summer visitor, rarely overwinters this far north. Photograph: Arthur Duncan.



Right: grey heron hunting birds at bird feeders while normal haunts were frozen. Photograph: Elizabeth Ross

move north. March could also see the arrival of some of our summer visitors like wheatear, chiffchaff, willow warbler, sand martin, even swallow and house martin, but their arrival will be dependent

on the weather. Enjoy your birding and keep safe. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbird-ing.co.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you. For more information buy the Arran Bird Report, the first 40 years, which includes the 2019 annual report and visit www.arranbird-ing.co.uk.

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White-fronted goose, an occasional winter visitor. Photo Alex Penn



Knot with coloured rings a much travelled winter visitor. Photo Nick Giles

Folk-pop duo record Arran homage on debut album

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Glasgow folk-pop duo Braw have included a homage to Arran on their new album.

Singer-songwriter Iain Mundy first recorded the track 'The Tide' on his solo EP in 2018, which was featured in the Banner.

Since then Iain and his brother Andrew have teamed up to form the folk-pop duo Braw and, after releasing a number of singles, have just released their debut album, 'A Few Miles More'.

The album includes the version of 'The Tide' which was re-recorded in Glasgow earlier this year.

Iain explained: 'The Tide' was written about our grandpa Tom Mundy, who was a well-known resident of Cordon Bay with

his wife Margaret. She passed in 2009 and him in 2014.

'As a family, we still love Arran and will be visiting once restrictions allow. Braw did a mini tour in 2019 playing at the PHT in Lamlash and Crofters in Brodick. We'll definitely organise to come back and play both venues when we can.'

'A Few Miles More' is an album about life in your early 20s, as you try to get a grip of where and how you should spend it.

'It reflects on the people you've lost and life's long journey to achieving your dreams.'

'We hope this is just the start of Braw's journey, as we love writing and performing together.'

Based in Glasgow's south side and specialising in close harmony vocals, their unique vocal blend allows them to create innovative and original



Folk-pop duo Braw, Andrew and Iain Mundy, with a whisky in their hand and, right, grandparents Tom and Margaret Mundy, who lived on Arran.

harmonies. Iain said: 'We've put a lot of hours into this and are excited to finally get it out there. As we've been feeling our way into the music industry, we've released four of the

songs as singles: 'Swing Door', 'Piece By Piece', 'Home From Home' and 'Whisky in Hand'.

'Although we haven't been able to play live since lockdown, we've gained a decent wee



online following, managing to get 'Whisky In Hand' into the Scottish Singles Chart - before this was axed - and the main iTunes singles chart.'

The album can be bought

in CD form directly from brawofficial.com and it can be streamed and downloaded in all the usual places - Spotify, Apple Music, iTunes and Amazon.

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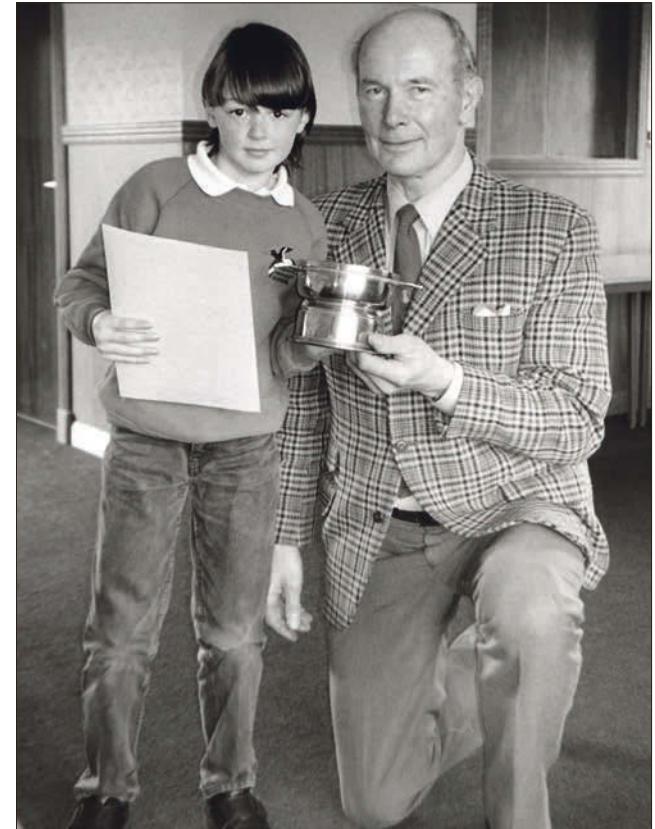
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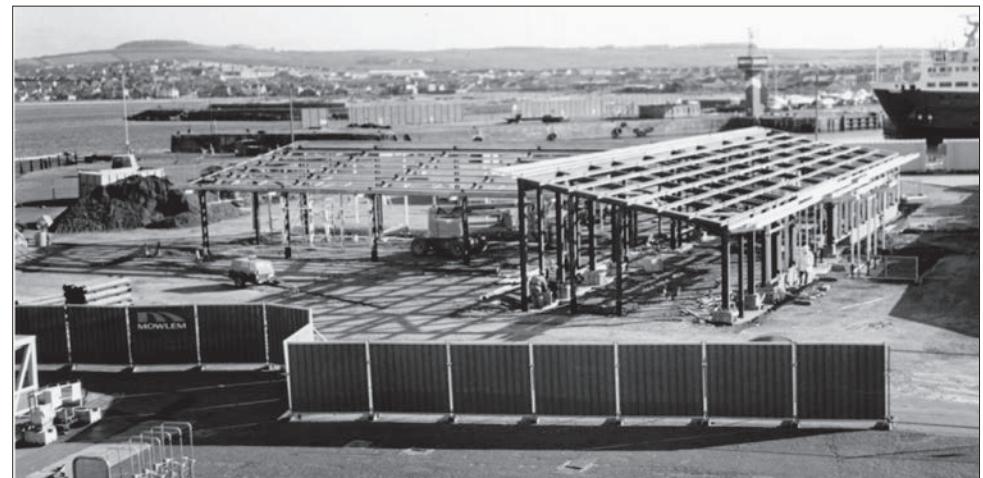
Left: Arran primary school children took part in the annual Burns verse speaking competition last week. The winners are seen here with Councillor John Sillars.
01_B13tweY01



Right: Burns poetry judge Stewart Lambie presents P3-P4 boys winner Keith Anderson with his trophy.
01_B13tweY02



Below: Work is finally under way on the new terminal building at Ardrossan which it is hoped will be completed by mid-June. 01_B13tweY03



Cheesecake was back on the menu at the Cameronia last Saturday night as the band made their first appearance of the year with new guitarist Andy McCallum. They are, from left to right, Jimmi the Barber, Duncan Russell, Ian Winters and Andy. 01_B13tweY04



All the pool prize winners at the Drift Inn last Thursday night. Left to right: Dennis Smith, Melanie Battershill, Arthur Duncan, Ewan Lataona, Gordon Davidson and Eddie Picken. 01_B13tweY05



Bus driver Willie Duff got into the spirit of Red Nose Day last Friday and gave his passengers something to smile about. 01_B13tweY03

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Arran Civic Trust

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CHURCH NOTICES

NORTH ARRAN LINKAGE CHURCH Service Sunday 28th March 2021

Church reopening

There will be a booking system at Brodick & Shiskine churches

Brodick: Liz Lawrie 302782.

Shiskine: John Kerr 860498

There will be a streamed service weekly, this can be found on the three Church websites.

Sunday 28th March
Palm Sunday

Lochranza & Pirnmill Churches-
Service at Lochranza Church
10:15am Morning worship
Shiskine Church 12noon.

Morning worship.

Brodick Church 10.30am

Morning worship.

Corrie Church at 12noon.

Morning worship.

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(charity number sco14005)

Sunday 28th March

Worship will be conducted by Mrs Sharon Macleod, reader of the Church of Scotland, at 10.30am.

As our capacity is greatly reduced due to the two metre social distancing, we have introduced a booking system. You are asked please to phone Mrs Janet Redfearn 700 244 by the Friday lunchtime if you wish to attend.

Sunday Worship.

On Friday 2nd April, a short service of reflection for Good Friday will be held at 7pm.

If you wish to attend, please phone Mrs Janet Redfearn 700 244.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND LAMLASH Palm Sunday

Sunday 28 th March

Lamlash Church Hall 11.30 am Due to our reduced capacity, if you wish to attend Sunday Worship in Lamlash, please phone Mrs Vivienne Haigh on 600092 by midday on Friday.

All welcome

We will be observing all socially distancing procedures Scottish Charity SC015072

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide

Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay
We will open the church on

28th March: Palm Sunday
11am: Holy Communion
Following strict SG guidelines
All welcome

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

The Scottish Government have announced that churches can reopen for public worship from 26th March, subject to social distancing, wearing of face coverings and NHS test and protect requirements. It is therefore proposed that services will recommence as follows:

27th March

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5pm

Palm Sunday – 28th March

Sunday Mass: 11am

Holy Thursday - 1st April

Mass: 7pm

Good Friday - 2nd April

Liturgy: 3pm

Easter Saturday - 3rd April

Polish Service: 11am

Vigil Mass: 9pm

Easter Sunday - 4th April

Morning Mass: 11am

Capacity in Church is strictly limited.

Attendance at all the above services is by booking only.

Tel 600595 or email peterdwilko@gmail.com to check availability and confirm your place

*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*

DEATH NOTICE

MACLURE – John Lennox. In loving memory of John Maclure who passed away peacefully at home on 17th March 2021, surrounded by his family. A loving husband to Janie, devoted Dad to Doogi, Steven, Barbara, Laura and Andy and much loved "Grumps" to Cara, Bobby, Euan, Adam, Emma and Edan. As per Covid restrictions a private family funeral will be held on 29th March 2021. Family Flowers only. All donations if desired to go to ArCaS.

From Palm Sunday to Easter

**A message for Easter by
Helen Kerr, chairwoman of
Arran Churches Together.**

This season leading to Jesus' death then the joy of Easter is the greatest event celebrated in the Christian calendar.

On this journey our Lord 'sets his face towards Jerusalem'. The time had come to confront both the religious authorities and the secular society.

Riding on a donkey, the sign of coming in peace, and to the cheers of the crowds, hopeful of a confrontation against the political oppression of the Roman Empire, Jesus had a heavy heart knowing great suffering lay ahead. The shouts of 'Hosanna' would not last long. Like many crowds, they would become fickle when it became expedient.

The Gospel tells us he made straight for the temple in Jerusalem. Corruption and profiteering was taking place there and it more than

scunned Jesus. It made him extremely angry. 'You make my Father's house a den of thieves.' Of course, this turned people against him, upsetting 'our way of life and lucrative gain' as he chased out animals and money changers.

Midweek he withdrew to the home of friends, rested and continued to inform and teach his close circle of disciples of the reality of his coming passion, trying to comfort them. They were fearful.

Thursday gives the account of the memorable Last Supper with his friends, the washing of the disciples' feet – a visual instruction of our call to serve others - and the revelation that one of their number would betray him.

The short journey to the quiet Garden of Gethsemane found close friends unable to keep Jesus company in prayer and in his agony as he bowed to the will of God his Father. Now Jesus stands alone. Judas

the disciple betrays him for a mere 30 pieces of silver. All his disciples desert him.

Following a trumped up trial late at night, and because they want the death penalty, he is handed over to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate who endeavours to get Jesus 'off the hook' with a flogging. But no, the religious leaders determined to have Jesus put to death whip up the mob to demanding crucifixion. In 2021 what would we have been shouting?

Good Friday. Why 'Good'? The day when one man, sorely tempted but sinless, was obedient unto death by the cruellest means – crucifixion – because God his Father who loves all humankind, sent his divine Son to live and die as a man, for each one of us so that whoever believes in him will have life everlasting. Jesus' last words on the cross: 'It is finished.' But then, on the third day, women followers bowed

with grief, wanted to go to the tomb with spices to treat Jesus' body.

We are told Mary Magdalene finds the tomb empty and meets a man she thinks is the gardener. In her tears she asks, 'If you know where they have taken my Lord's body please tell me...'

He simply says: 'Mary,' and she recognises Jesus. She rushes and tells the frightened disciples. They don't believe her. Two go to see for themselves. An empty tomb but no Jesus.

Jesus' close followers, afraid of the authorities, huddle together behind locked doors and Jesus appears to them as he did on several occasions over a few weeks. Sorrow turns to joy, fear turns to courage. He is alive! This is the hope, the joy and the challenge of Easter. To finish with an old quote from scripture. 'Choose you this day whom you will serve!'

A Blessed and Happy Easter to everyone.

ARRAN BANNER GOLF

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday March 18, Yellow Medal: 1 Martin Wallbank 70-12=58; 2 Colin Richardson 76-16=60 BIH; 3 Ian Bremner 68-8=60 BIH over Andy Smith. Magic twos M Wallbank @2nd, C Richardson @2nd and 16th, W O'Connor @4th and 16th.

Sunday March 21, Glenburn Cup: 1 Derek Harrison 78-21=57; 2 Gavin Baird 77-18=59; 3 Stuart Campbell 68-6=62 BIH; 4 Colin Richardson 78-16=62. Best scratch Stuart Campbell 68. Magic twos D Harrison

@4th, Stuart Campbell @5th, Andy Smith @5th, Ian Bremner @16th

Overall winner of winter Glenburn Cup – Derek Harrison, total 243. Runner-up Ian Bremner, total 251.

Fixture: Sunday March 28, final round of Winter Stableford, draw at noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday March 23, Winter Cup: 1 Phil Betley 66; 2 Brian Sherwood 68; 3 John Pennycott 70. Magic two Alex Morrison-Cowan.

Fixture: Tuesday March 30, final day of the Winter Cup. Tee off noon.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday March 18, ladies' 12-hole medal: Silver: 1 Jenni Turnbull 56-11=45; 2 Sheila Gray 56-10=46. Bronze: 1 Julia Salton 53-21=42; 2 Elizabeth Kelso 57-13=46. Scratch Ann May 51.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday March 22, Monday Cup: 1 Graeme Andrew 62-7 = 55; 2 John McGovern 73-12=61.

Best scratch G Andrew 62.

Magic two G Andrew@ 4th. Fixtures: Saturday March 27, 18-hole medal. Arrange your own games as per current Covid regulations.

Monday March 29, Monday Cup, draw at noon.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday March 21, Winter Cup Stableford, 30 played: 1 Bob McCrae (10) 41pts; 2 John May (20) 40pts; 3 Terry Raeside (13) 39pts acb.

Fixtures: Sunday March 28, Winter Cup Stableford (final round).

Wednesday March 31, Summer Cup (first round).

OBITUARY - ANNE CROSSLEY

Anne Crossley (later Hemingway) from Kilmory, died March 8 2021, aged 79 years. Born with a twin brother in 1942, who sadly died in a snowstorm at only six weeks old. Much-loved mum to Kirsten and Simone Hemingway, beloved niece to Davie Crossley and auntie to John Allen. Annie attended Kilmory school and then Arran High School in Lamlash where she made friends with Sandra Hamilton, Rosemary Voice, Colin Hutton, Margaret McFarlane, George Lammie and many others who were to remain her friends for life. She left Arran as a young woman and travelled the world both with her husband on her own. Her sense of fun and her wicked laugh were legendary, and we will miss her.

She wrote this for her twin

brother, and we feel that it is appropriate to share now:

Born together a few minutes apart, Tiny twins two beating hearts...

Born together a few minutes apart, Tiny twins two beating hearts...

Only to catch Pneumonia and both had to fight...

No chance we'll make it through the night...

Three weeks together was all that we had...

I lost you my little brother and today I am sad...

I know that you're with me in all that I do...

And just wanted to say I so love you too...25/02/1942

If anyone wishes to get in touch with the family or share their memories of Anne, please feel free to email writer@kirstenhemingway.co.uk'



Pioneer project volunteers plant three small orchards

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran Pioneer Project Community Interest Company planted fruit and nut trees and fruit bushes around Arran last weekend.

Volunteers of all ages were given a demonstration of how to plant apple, pear, plum, cherry, walnut and damson trees, along with gooseberry, raspberry, elderberry and blackcurrant bushes.

The planting took place in Lochranza, Lamlash and Kilpatrick.

Types of tree likely to do well on Arran, not only bearing

fruit but resisting wet and windy weather here, were selected.

Development of these small orchards are part of the social enterprise's long term vision to turn unused land on Arran over to food production.

Since starting in March 2020, volunteers from the project have worked on sites in five separate villages and there are plans to develop additional spaces in the coming year.

Director Simon Ross-Gill said: 'We all enjoyed a terrific weekend planting trees. It was personally very rewarding to see so many people involved from different age groups.'

'We believe Arran can grow much more of its own fruit, and we hope to plant plenty more fruit trees and bushes around the island in the future.'

The trees were bought using funding from the National Lottery Communities Fund, Lamlash Co-op and from a GofundMe crowdfunder.

A further 16 apple trees, donated by Arran Distillers Ltd, will be planted later in March.

If anyone would like to find out more about the project and how to get involved, please visit pioneerproject.scot and check out their crowdfunder on <https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-arran-pioneer-project-cic>



Ed O'Donnell planting a walnut tree in Lochranza.



Sammy Soffa admires his pear tree in Lochranza.



Volunteers prepare the ground to plant fruit trees at Cordon, Lamlash.



Above: Rachel and Emily planting a plum tree in Cordon, Lamlash.
Left: Poppy and Flora Murdoch planting an apple tree in Lochranza.



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