

JAS CAMPBELL & CO
YOUR KEY TO PROPERTY
 Arran Office: Tel 01770 302027
 or visit our office at
 Unit 2, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8AJ
ARRAN'S ONLY SOLICITOR AND ESTATE AGENTS
 Property Marketing and
 Conveyancing under one roof.

JAS CAMPBELL & CO
ESTATE AGENTS

Find our properties at:

THE ARRAN BANNER

SILVERBURN WHITING BAY Find the home you deserve

Smarter about property

3 BEDROOM SEMI-DETACHED
OFFERS OVER £285,000

01770 302310 sales@arranestateagents.co.uk

Arran
ESTATE AGENTS

ARRAN'S ONLY LOCAL ESTATE AGENCY



Happy Easter

to all our readers and advertisers



We're ready to fight to save Fisherman's Walk

by Hugh Boag
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A major study into the future of the Fisherman's Walk in Brodick has found urgent action is needed or parts of the popular walk will be lost to the sea forever.

At high tide sections of the popular coastal walk are already underwater making it impassable – although several rat runs have been created further eroding the fragile banks.

Nearly 60 people joined an online meeting this week to hear details of the six-week study carried out by Glasgow-based environmental consultancy EnviroCentre Ltd.

It has been brought in by the Arran Access Trust, which has received funding from the NatureScot to investigate the long-term future of the path.

And some of the findings, which were revealed by Eleanor Morrison of EnviroCentre, made for sobering reading.

The study has confirmed that the path is subject to extreme sea levels with parts submerged during high tides. There are also significant wave movements, typically up to one metre, but which can be over two metres.

Historically the study found Brodick beach lowered by a metre between 2000 and 2010, and there has been a sediment drift towards the centre of the bay. And there was a further warning that sea levels, wave heights and river levels were all likely to increase as a result of climate change, with projected rates of erosion showing more than 600 metres of beach could recede by 20 metres by 2050 and the mean high water spring could be 100 metres inland from its current position by the same date.

Eleanor also admitted that the boardwalk at the Brodick end of the walk was only a temporary measure which would not last in the long term and that the path would have to be

rerouted around the wetland at the side of the golf course, but said there were Japanese knotweed problems there.

As a result of all this the study proposes an adaptive management strategy to try and save the popular path. This would involve focusing on short-term priorities including: flooding hotspots and protecting sections at most urgent risk, looking at high tide alternative routes, managing invasive species and installing vegetated buffers.

There would also be long-term aims to build resilience, adapt to climate change, look at realignment and improve access for all.

However, the study, which has proposed some alternative routes, accepts there are constraints to realigning the path due to the multiple landowners/stakeholders, including the adjacent Brodick Golf Club.

It was agreed at the meeting

Continued on page two.



A fond farewell to minister

The Rev Elizabeth Watson, right, pictured after her retiral presentation with reader Sharon Macleod, left, and long-serving Kirk Session member Gill Gregory at the door of Whiting Bay church. Full story on page three.

John Thomson Construction Ltd
 HOUSE BUILDING | CONSTRUCTION | HAULAGE | AGGREGATES | PLANT HIRE

Main Office: Mon - Fri 8am – 5pm

Building Materials & Petrol Station: Mon – Fri 8am – 4.30pm

Social distancing & face mask requirements apply.
 Card payments and orders accepted by phone.

www.thomsonconstruction.co.uk | 01770 600 242 |



We will be closed for our annual
 Easter holiday from 5pm on Friday
 2nd April, re-opening 8am on
 Monday 12th April.

Call us for a competitive quote for:
 Quarry Materials
 Ready Mix Concrete
 Haulage, Operated Plant Hire & Skip Hire
 Timber & Building Materials

Also available at JTC in Lamlash:
 Petrol & Diesel Station
 Building Materials & Timber Workshop
 Lamlash Motor Garage

Arran gets ready to welcome back visitors – but just not quite yet

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Tourism businesses on Arran are busy getting ready to welcome back visitors to the island ... but not just yet.

From today (Friday) 'stay local' replaces the 'stay at home' rule and more services will be able to open from Monday.

However, the Easter weekend is the traditional start of the summer season on Arran, but not this year as there are still more than three weeks until the island can open for visitors on April 26.

While Arran is now open to anyone in North Ayrshire under the 'stay local' rule, there had been concerns that the island may have been flooded with visitors this weekend from elsewhere, breaking the Covid rules.



However, light ferry bookings on the already restricted service would suggest that this is not likely to happen unless

there is a rush of last-minute bookings.

CalMac told the Banner that the ferries from Ardrossan

New posters going up at the reclad iCentre in Brodick.

01_B14tourist01

to Brodick over the weekend range from just five per cent booked with the busiest being the 7.30pm tonight (Friday), which was 49 per cent booked on Wednesday. Most other sailings are in the mid to low 'teen' per cent booked.

Restrictions on non-essential travel across local authority boundaries will remain in place. People must stay within their council area for non-essential shopping and should only travel to another area for essential shopping if there are no practical alternatives. People should also continue to work from home where they can to prevent unnecessary

contact that could risk transmission of the virus.

Hairdressers, garden centres, car showrooms and forecourts, homeware stores and non-essential click and collect services will be able to open from Monday, subject to enhanced safety measures including physical distancing, face coverings and pre-booking where appropriate. More college students will be able to return to on-campus learning and 12-17-year-olds will be able to resume outdoor contact sports from this date.

Meanwhile, there have been renewed complaints that second home owners visiting their properties on Arran are not sticking to the letter of the law.

Owners with holiday homes on the island are permitted to visit if it is necessary for

performing essential repairs. However, some residents believe this is being used as a 'loophole' to spend more time on Arran.

Arran sergeant Dougie Robertson confirmed they had received a non-compliance complaint recently in Brodick but he said that overall the police on Arran had received few serious complaints during the two lockdowns over the last year.

He said: 'In the last 12 months we have issued three fines under the Coronavirus Act for Covid travel breaches but most of the other cases have been very minor.'

Sergeant Robertson said that all Covid compliance complaints from the public were dealt with proactively, often with a visit to the house or location by the police.

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCE MARCH 2022 CLOSING DATE FOR AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP INCENTIVE

Arrange your home survey today to make sure you do not miss out

"My house is now always warm and cozy and my bills have halved"
"I no longer worry about the cost of heating my home in the winter"
"I have been delighted with the Service provided by T K Murray: from initial contact they were friendly, helpful and professional. The staff were all really great: no mess, tidy installation and they did the job in less than two days"

- Funding available from both the UK and Scottish Government
- Over 175 heat pumps installed on Arran alone.
- Full systems installed in less than two days

Air source heat pumps are set to become the most popular way to heat your home. Right now there are very generous Government incentives which cover most of the cost.

To find out how they work and how much you would get, contact us today.

T K Murray Electrical Ltd



Contact Norman Paterson on:
07912 346360

2 U.P. Road, Kilsyth, Glasgow, G65 0BH.
Telephone: (01236) 730 579
FAX: (01236) 730 579
E-mail: info@tkmurray.co.uk



No way through for walkers Nancy MacLeod and Eunice McNicol. 01_B14walk03; A rat run has been created to avoid the flooded path. 01_B14walk02



Fight to save Fisherman's Walk

Continued from page one.
that any realignment of the path using the golf course could lead to 'difficulties' between walkers and golfers.

Golfer Russell Duncan told the Banner afterwards. 'I thought the meeting was worthwhile. Eleanor Morrison's presentation was very professional. She had obviously done a lot of research.

'Some of the potential new routes will not work as there would be too much walking traffic on the golf course and I speak as someone with a foot in both camps.

'It is vital that any remedial action takes account of the violent storms from the east, as I mentioned at the meeting. Storms of this magnitude happen roughly once in 10 years. Prior to the sand extraction from the beach during the 1970s and '80s, the beach acted

as a natural barrier to such storms and although there was always some damage, it wasn't critical. The next time such a storm (low pressure, high tide, gale force winds from east or south east) hits, the damage to the land from the putting green to north of the Rosa Burn could be catastrophic.

'My personal view is that, in the long term, there will need to be some re-routing along the main road pavement.'

Those who attended the meeting have been asked to provide their feedback before April 7 after which a detail report will be published by the middle of the month.

Malcolm Wilkinson of the Arran Access Trust said afterwards: 'I was pleased to be joined by so many interested people to hear about EnviroCentre's work on the Fisherman's Walk.

'The combined forces of

sea-level rise, increased storm events, and coastal erosion are already affecting the footpath, the golf course, and several other key locations. The meeting was an opportunity to discuss those changes and to look at potential options to manage this dynamic coastline.

'I was heartened to hear many constructive ideas on how to tackle these problems and also for the call from several attendees for a collaborative effort to tackle this. I look forward to continuing the discussion and working with others on possible solutions.'

The project is supported by NatureScot, through the Better Places Green Recovery Fund. Anyone who would like a copy of the presentation or who would like to be kept up to date with the project should get in touch with Malcolm at: info@ArranGeopark.co.uk

Minister retires after lifetime of service on Arran

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Rev Elizabeth Watson to leave island

A minister who has given her entire service to the church on Arran has retired after 40 years.

And it was perhaps appropriate that the Rev Elizabeth Watson should say her farewells at the Palm Sunday service, the first service allowed at the church since reopening, as Easter holds a special place in her heart.

For Rev Watson her time on Arran has been one of firsts. She was the first female Church of Scotland minister on the island and the first woman moderator of Ardrrossan Presbytery.

Originally from Whitburn, West Lothian, Rev Watson arrived at the then linked parishes of Whiting Bay and Kildonan churches as her first sole charge and one she kept for the remainder of her career.

She had been working as assistant minister at Castlehill Church in Ayr for two years after completing her training in 1980 and was ordained on April 1, 1981 after which she applied for the Arran charge. She was inducted at the end of March 1982.

In 1990 she became the first female moderator of Ardrrossan Presbytery, serving

for a year. In 1993 the Stewart Memorial in Whiting Bay and St Donans in Kildonan united into the charge of Whiting Bay and Kildonan after Kildonan church closed.

When she left school, Rev Watson studied history for three years at Edinburgh University for a BA degree before studying for a divinity honours degree, specialising in Hebrew.

Easter has always been a very special time for the minister and every Easter Sunday she held a sunrise service at the Viking fort at Kingscross Point and later at Sandbraes beach, a tradition which continues to this day.

Although she now has mobility difficulties, during her career Rev Watson was always active – even running the Glasgow Marathon in 1985 with Barbara Thomson of Kingcross and walking the West Highland Way, both for charity.

And in a proud moment she said grace at the lunch held at Brodick Castle during the visit of HM The Queen to Arran in 1997. She was chairwoman of the Arran CVS from 1991 to



The Rev Elizabeth Watson receives a presentation from Gill Gregory at the end of the service in Whiting Bay church. 01_B14watson01

1994 and was made hospital chaplain at the Arran War Memorial Hospital in 1995.

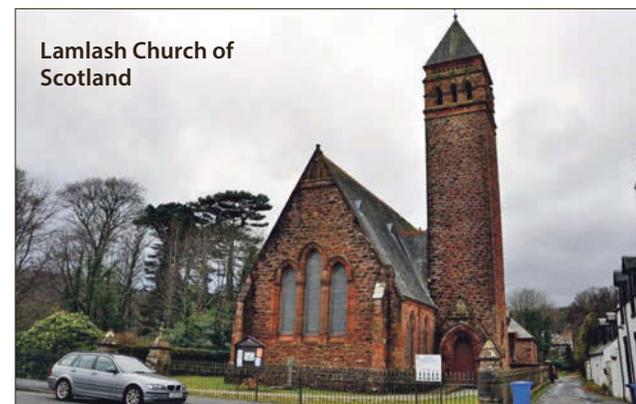
She was also a regular visitor to Whiting Bay primary school, regularly attending their Friday assembly and was, for a time, chairwoman of the parent teacher association.

Rev Watson is leaving the island to retire in Largs.

Writing in the church newsletter she said: 'I had thought my first charge would be for between eight and 10 years, but living and working here has been such an amazing privilege and pleasure that 39 years have simply flown by.'

'I have made such good friends and being minister here has been all that I could ever have hoped for.'

'That's not to say it hasn't been a bumpy journey at times, but together we have made it to the end of the road.'



Island left without full-time ministers

The retirement of Rev Elizabeth Watson leaves Arran without a full-time Church of Scotland minister just as churches are finally able to resume services as lockdown restrictions are eased.

With the Rev Angus Adamson having left Brodick and north Arran linkage churches, the Rev Lily McKinnon having left Lamlash, and parish assistant Jean Hunter also retired, it leaves church personnel extremely thin on the ground.

As a result, the Interim Moderator at Whiting Bay and Kildonan is Brian Murray, a church reader from Seamill. The Banner first highlighted the situation last September

and, in the intervening months, little seems to have moved forward to improve the situation.

A Church of Scotland spokesman said: 'The Presbytery of Ardrrossan has put in place provision for ministry on Arran.'

'Interim Moderators and caretaker ministers for the three charges have been appointed.'

'A locum minister has been appointed by the kirk sessions of the linked charge in the north of the island.'

'Concrete proposals for a new Ardrrossan Presbytery Plan, including Arran, will be presented to Presbytery for approval in due course.'



A young Elizabeth when she first arrived on Arran in 1982.



The Rev Watson when she celebrated 30 years of her ministry on Arran.

Arran's own "Cottage Guide"

For owners who want to manage their own bookings and those who don't.

- Own bookings or online bookings
- Own calendar & prices chart
- Established social media presence
- Competitive fees - No VAT
- Personal Service

#WeAreArran

#Arran Welcome



Want to find out more?
Email: info@cottagesonarran.co.uk
Web: www.cottagesonarran.co.uk



The landslide which has shut the main road at Eas Mor.

Kildonan road repair work out to tender

Plans to repair and reopen the C147 at the south end of Arran are moving up a gear.

The embankment supporting the road at Auchenhew Wood, near Kildonan, was badly damaged by flood water in September last year and the road had to be closed for safety reasons.

Following a comprehensive investigation and complex design process, a tender for the repair works is now under way.

It is hoped that work to address the landslip and carry out repairs can begin on site in mid-May with the aim of having the road reopened by the end of June, just before the school holiday period begins.

David Hammond, head of commercial services at North Ayrshire Council, said: 'We understand this closure is

inconvenient and has been ongoing since last year. However, it's important that repairs are carried out safely and that's why a comprehensive investigation had to be undertaken first.

'The proposed work will include improvements to the drainage locally as part of our efforts to prevent a recurrence of the damage.

'We are mindful of the ongoing pandemic and the restrictions that remain in place. The safety of those involved in reopening the roadworks, as well as those who live on the island, will be absolutely paramount.

'There will undoubtedly be a requirement for travel and access to the island and this will be factored into the construction programme.'

Launch of first dolphin conservation strategy

A consultation on the UK's first dolphin and porpoise conservation strategy has been launched.

Developed by the Scottish Government in collaboration with the UK government, the Welsh government and the Northern Ireland executive, the consultation sets out measures to protect nine of the most common dolphin, whale and porpoise species found in UK waters.

The strategy identifies a number of pressures where further research or additional management measures could help to improve the conservation of the marine mammals. It includes actions to:

- Improve our understanding of the impacts of pollutants, plastics and acoustic disturbance;

- Increase research on marine mammal entanglements and develop strategies to reduce the threat;

- Establish UK-wide approaches to managing wildlife tourism;

- Help us better understand the physical conditions of supporting habitats and prey.

Natural environment minister Ben Macpherson said: 'Sightings of these iconic and charismatic species are not only exciting experiences for those who witness them but they are also a good indication of the health of our marine en-



Scotland's waters are home to many unique species, including Minke whales.

vironment. This consultation is a milestone for marine protection and includes a range of measures that will help us to conserve dolphin, whale and porpoise populations in our waters, and allow us to better understand and address the pressures they face.

'Scotland's waters are home to many unique species and this proposed strategy builds on the work we are already doing to safeguard bottlenose dolphins, harbour porpoise, Minke whales and Risso's dolphins through our Marine Protected Area (MPA) network, which now covers in excess of 37 per cent of our sea area.'

UK government environment minister Rebecca Pow said: 'This consultation is an important step towards de-

veloping vital protections for dolphin, whale and porpoise populations in UK waters.

'We are committed to working with our counterparts in the devolved administrations to ensure we understand the pressures these species face from pollution and human activity so that they can thrive in our seas.'

Northern Ireland's agriculture, environment and rural affairs minister Edwin Poots said: 'This proposed strategy sets out important steps to protect the dolphins and porpoises that live in Northern Ireland's waters. Many of these animals will travel between our waters and that of the rest of the UK, and I welcome the collaboration there has been in developing this strategy and

the commitments to future conservation of these iconic marine mammals.'

Welsh government minister for environment, energy and rural affairs Lesley Griffiths said: 'We know public feeling is very strong when it comes to the conservation of key species, and I am sure there will be strong views on these measures, which will protect some of our most recognisable native species of whale, dolphin and porpoise.'

'As in every part of the UK, the sight of such animals off the coasts of Wales is always a welcome and impressive one; but we must also recognise that ecologies and habitats have no respect for borders, and as such, I am very pleased all four UK nations are involved in this consultation.'

Campbell Fuel Oils

Is your current supplier letting you down?
Why not contact Campbell Fuels for a reliable service

The most frequent service on the Isle of Arran supplying heating oil, tractor diesel, derv and a wide range of lubricants

Call us on 01563 521925
Hurford Road, Riccarton, Kilmarnock KA1 3LS
www.campbellfuels.co.uk

THE ARRAN EAR

If you are feeling isolated or anxious, call this FREE service to speak in complete confidence with Susan, Steve, Chris, Shona, Debbie, or Jan — your friendly, trained local listeners

01770 649 505

Call any day between 9am & 5pm

All it costs you is a local call

Supported by Foundation Scotland

SLIDDERY SUPPLIES

CLOSED
MONDAY 5th, TUESDAY 6th
and WEDNESDAY 7th

Fourteen years of digital archives

Available to Digital subscribers

THE ARRAN BANNER

New head at high school

Arran High School has a new head teacher.

Susan Foster, who has been covering the post of head teacher in an acting role since June 2020, has been promoted to the post, succeeding Barry Smith.

Mrs Foster's role as head of the Lamlash campus also puts her in charge of Lamlash primary school and early years class. She joined the high school in August 2018 as a depute head and has become a fully engaged member of the school and the community.

A spokeswoman at the school said: 'We all congratulate her on taking over this post on a permanent basis and look forward to working with her to bring together a happy and professional education team.'

Pupils are expected to resume full-time education after the two-week spring holidays which began yesterday (Thursday).



New Arran High School head teacher Susan Foster.

Youngsters win prize in online piping contest

Talented pupils from the Isle of Arran Music School Pipe Band have scooped one of the prizes in a national competition, writes Hugh Boag.

Pupils from Arran High School as well as from Brodick and Shiskine primary schools impressed the judges with their performance of Blinding Lexy – a fusion of Blinding Light by Coldplay and the tune Lexy McAskill.

The Scottish Schools Freestyle Championships moved online this year to help beat lockdown and keep youngsters focused on their music whilst learning from home.

Event chief executive Alex Duncan said that the response to the event had been outstanding with 16 bands and musicians from 46 schools taking part. Arran finished eighth, securing their first competition prize.

The competition invited

pupils to get together online and create music where the pipes and drums play along with other instruments.

Alex said: 'This was not just a musical challenge on the part of pupils, but a technical feat on the part of tutors: pupils had to practise solo and film their individual part, in time and in tune, in their own home, after which tutors had to combine all the pupils' films into one performance using technical mixing platforms.'

Red Hot Chilli Piper and judge Craig Munro said: 'Line-ups included keyboard, voice, guitar, violin or anything – so long as at least two bagpipes were at the heart of it.'

'We were blown away by the talent of the young people and it was hard to choose the winners.'

Fellow judges were Finlay MacDonald, director of piping at the National Piping Centre, along with composer, broad-

caster and musician Gary Innes.

The event was played out over three nights on Pipe Bands for Pupils Facebook attracting thousands of viewers, who also got a chance to vote for their favourite band. Prizes totalled £2,000.

The championships are run by the Scottish Schools Pipes and Drums Trust (SSPDT) which has supported piping and drumming in 24 education authority areas with thousands of pupils getting lessons each week.

The SSPDT helps to expand piping and drumming in Scotland's state school with cash grants for tuition. It also runs a free bagpipe and concert chanter lending service, and supports paid internships for aspiring tutors.

The results can be watched on Facebook, Piping For Pupils www.facebook.com/Piping4Pupils/



BECAUSE PEOPLE MATTER

North Ayrshire Prevention, Early intervention and Recovery Service

Private and confidential support for recovery from alcohol and other drugs.

For more information, please contact:

☎ 01294 447 407

✉ northayrshireinfo@turningpointscotland.com

Charity number: SCO28827

LETTERS

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

Finding a way to save the walk

Anyone who has been down at the Fisherman's Walk at high tide will know how urgently something has to be done or the popular route may be forever lost to the sea.

So it is good to see that its predicament is being taken seriously by the Arran Access Trust which has brought in environmental consultants who have spent six weeks closely examining the mile-long route. Its report makes for some grim reading but unless action is taken soon it will be too late to take any action at all.

It proposes an adaptive management strategy for the walk – which simply means acting on short-term crisis points while looking at a more long-term solution at the same time.

Those who attended the online meeting this week all agreed that 'collaboration and partnership' was key to finding a resolution to the problems given the number of landowners and stakeholders involved.

Some of the alternative routes looked at in the new study clearly would have a major impact on the adjacent golf course, but these cannot be dismissed out of hand without being given a wider consideration as to the benefits to all.

The Fisherman's Walk has been part and parcel of the attractions of Brodick for a generation and more.

Yes, there will have to be changes but for future access for all it must be retained.

Thought for the week

Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?' **John 11:25-26**

HAVE YOUR SAY
emaileditor@arranbanner.co.uk



A controversial fish farm proposal for the north-east coast of Arran was thrown out by councillors last week after a concerted effort by campaigners.

A good outcome

Sir,
What great news for many like-minded people: that Arran has successfully fought to keep their waters clean and free from the cruel scene of fish farms at Millstone Point. A Banner headline that brings a lot of cheer and joy to the people who fought so hard over these 18 months, plus all the people who were praying for a good outcome. Thank you all.

Unlike the 'thank you' made by Tavish Scott, the new CEO of the Scottish Salmon Producers Association, which made me squirm. He wants you to eat more salmon to give his lucrative job a boost. If he looks into a salmon pen, he could see unhealthy fish, imprisoned to a dreadful shortened life to put it mildly. The price we pay for a 'healthy' meal.

Supporting the wild salmon stock, which is vastly depleted, is more my style. I like to eat happy fish, thank you.

Well, I could write a page, but no need, Arran people know the score.

Yours,
Edward Jackson,
Glasgow.

Not a good advert

Sir,
Am I the only one who is fed up of seeing a First World War expanse of cut down trees with a few poking up on the road from Whiting Bay to Lamplash.

It may be acceptable far up on a hillside but near the road it is not. It has been like this for several years and it should be properly replanted with broad leaved trees because it is near the road. In its present state it is an eyesore and has been so for several years. Not a good advert.

Yours,
John Cruickshank,
Whiting Bay.

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.

Successful first year for The Coig provides routes to recovery for tourism

A major initiative to promote the Ayrshire and the Clyde islands as a tourism destination is celebrating a successful first year, reaching a potential audience of more than 25 million people despite the global pandemic.

The Coig – Gaelic for five – was launched as a not-for-profit industry led organisation at the start of 2020, promoting five routes which join up the region and market the whole of Ayrshire and the Clyde islands of Arran, Bute, and Cumbrae as a tourist destination for the very first time.

Campaigns have targeted potential leisure visitors from the UK and Ireland, encouraging them to visit Ayrshire and the Clyde Islands when travel restrictions allowed. Activity has been coordinated with a range of regional and national partners.

The success of the first year of the initiative has been highlighted by VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead, who chairs the Ayrshire Visitor Economy Strategy Group (AVESG). He said: 'The coronavirus pandemic has had a devastating impact on the tourism industry in Scotland and has changed the lives of people right 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 the passion of the industry is clear and, despite the incredible challenges, the first year of The Coig has been a major success and has helped to promote the wealth of fantastic experiences on offer across Ayrshire and the Clyde Islands, presenting it all together with a series of inter-connected routes for the first time.'

The Coig chief executive Daniel Steel said: 'It's been the most challenging first year imaginable, but with the support of industry and strong collaborations with regional and national partners, the reach of The Coig has grown quickly, showing the appetite for our routes around Ayrshire and the Clyde islands.'

'We have been totally focused on helping our businesses and communities throughout the past year, using our quickly growing channels to underline messaging about supporting local, travelling responsibly, and working together. These principles will continue to be core as we move forward, and out of lockdown.'

ARRAN DELIVERIES

We deliver the goods, not excuses

Daily collection throughout Ayrshire, Glasgow and surrounding districts

www.arrandeliveries.co.uk



Glasgow Depot

c/o Hebrides Haulage
149 Balmoral Street
Glasgow, G14 0HB
Call us on 01475 676255
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

We've been in our Glasgow depot for 25 years, our long time friends Hebrides Haulage operate it and provide a great service. We can accept all size of deliveries into Glasgow. Our trucks call in daily to collect all goods destined for Arran.

Anything in before 1pm is guaranteed next morning delivery on the Island. Let us know your requirements when you book in with our office, as well as our speedy parcel service, we offer 2 man delivery and Tailift Service throughout the island. Forklift at depot.

Ardrossan Depot

Arran Deliveries
Parcelpoint Ardrossan
Ayrshire, KA22 8BZ
Call us on 01475 676255
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

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

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

Arran councillor to stand for Alba party at election

Arran councillor Ellen McMaster has left the SNP to stand as a candidate in the forthcoming Scottish parliamentary elections for the Alba party.

The councillor, who was elected to the Arran and Ardrossan ward on North Ayrshire Council in 2017 on an SNP ticket, will stand for Alex Salmond's new party on the West Scotland regional list.

In her resignation letter, sent to the Banner and SNP members on Arran, she defends her action telling them: 'I joined the SNP to further the cause of independence and I have worked tirelessly towards this goal, as an activist and as the Arran and Ardrossan SNP councillor.'

'It has been a privilege to be a member of the Isle of Arran Branch and I thank you all



Councillor Ellen McMaster,
Photograph: Andy Surridge

for your tireless support and camaraderie, I could not have shouldered this responsibility without you. However, it is with deep regret and after much deliberation I have taken the difficult decision to resign my membership of the SNP. I can no longer support a party with which I have fundamental differences of opinion on important issues such as the safeguarding of women's sex-based rights and the recent, much criticised, Hate Crime Bill with its implications for the curbing of free speech.

'My focus on the main prize of independence remains unwavering and resolute. I appreciate that some of you will disagree with my decision

but I hope that we can all approach this election with positivity in order to further our unifying cause - Scottish independence.'

During the pandemic, as chairwoman of the Arran Locality Partnership, Councillor McMaster says she helped set up the Arran community support hub and volunteer network and has enabled island community organisations to access more than £200,000 of Covid emergency funding. She also says she was instrumental in obtaining the £350,000 North Ayrshire budget contribution which will help secure the future of the Arran Outdoor Activity Centre.

She says she will continue her work as a councillor for the remainder of her term of office. News of Councillor

McMaster's departure was first revealed in The National on Monday. She told the newspaper: 'Everything I do is about that vision of where we want to go as a nation. The SNP has made massive improvements to the lives of the people of Scotland. It feels like we have stalled. It's time to galvanise the movement. If the Alba Party can be that grist to the mill to help push - not against the SNP and mindful of what they have achieved with one hand tied behind their back - why shouldn't the Yes movement have more representation in Holyrood?'

'I am part of the Yes movement. I took on the role of SNP councillor to further the aims of that movement. For me now I feel that that journey with the party has come to the end of the road.'

S&S SERVICES

Scotland's No1 Subaru and Isuzu Dealer

Heathfield, Ayr KA8 9SX Tel: 01292 880080 or John: 07831 808702

ISUZU
THE PICK-UP
PROFESSIONALS



(BETTER where it MATTERS)



Regular deliveries to the Island

EASTER SALE EGGSTRAVAGANZA AT S&S

Bus services to run over Easter weekend

Bus services across Arran and North Ayrshire will continue to operate this Easter weekend for key workers and those travelling locally.

The timetables follow the Scottish Government's timetable for easing coronavirus restrictions.

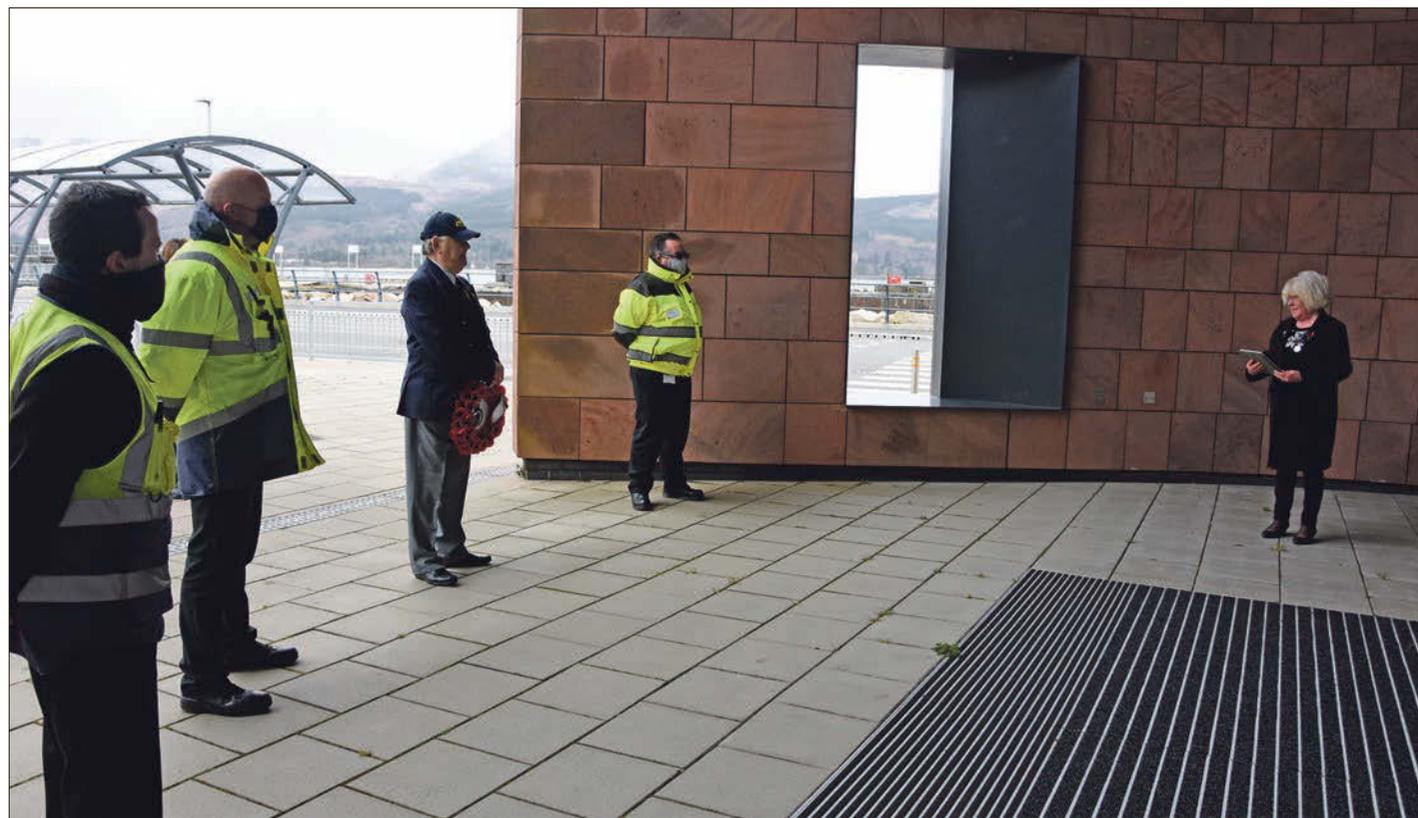
Fiona Doherty, managing director Stagecoach West Scotland said: 'Following the Scottish Government's timetable for easing coronavirus restrictions, we understand that from April 5 more retailers will begin to open and we want to make sure our timetables are meeting the needs of our customers who require to travel locally.'

'Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic buses have played a vital role in providing essential journeys. I'm very proud of our team in West Scotland for pulling together to ensure that we can continue to deliver our services over the Easter weekend.'

Stagecoach West Scotland is joining in on the Easter weekend celebrations by organising a huge Easter egg hunt for the whole family to take part in. Count how many eggs you can find, take a note of the services they're on and tweet @StagecoachWScot or email at westscotland.enquiries@stagecoachbus.com.

If you're not out and about, there's still plenty of Easter bus fun to take part in online, with a competition to design your very own spring bus and prize draw to win a Easter family hamper.

Visit www.stagecoachbus.com for more details.



Reader Liz Clarke conducts the short service at Brodick ferry terminal.

01_B14dasher01

Trio of Arran events sees HMS Dasher tragedy remembered

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The annual HMS Dasher remembrance memorial went ahead last weekend but, as a result of Covid restrictions, with three separate events.

The events remember the tragic loss of 379 lives when HMS Dasher sank in the Firth of Clyde following an explosion in March 1943.

On Saturday morning in Brodick Church of Scotland reader Liz Clarke led a short ceremony at the ferry terminal

attended by several members of the CalMac staff where Alan Milligan, the last chairman of the decommissioned branch of the Arran Royal British Legion, laid a wreath at the memorial plaque, followed by port manager Colin McCort, who laid a cross.

Shortly afterwards, the MV Caledonian Isles paused over the wreck site of HMS Dasher on her way to Ardrossan and laid a floral wreath in tribute to those lost, while words from the Kohima epitaph were recited. And at Ardrossan

Cemetery there was a short service led by Canon Matt McManus, which saw the laying of remembrance crosses for each of the 13 Dasher crew interred within the cemetery.

The final act of remembrance was at 11am on Sunday at the Dasher Memorial Gardens on Ardrossan seafront where a wreath will be laid on behalf of all those who could not make it to the commemoration due to current restrictions. There was a two-minute silence for reflection which concluded with a piper's lament.



Alan Milligan salutes after laying the wreath at the memorial plaque. 01_B14dasher02

Breast service moves to Irvine to reduce waiting times

NHS Ayrshire and Arran's symptomatic breast service unit has relocated from University Hospital Crosshouse to a newly refurbished area opposite South West of Scotland's breast screening service at Ayrshire Central Hospital (ACH) in Irvine.

The symptomatic breast service has continued to receive time critical cancer referrals from GPs for women with new breast symptoms such as lumps or other changes throughout the pandemic. These patients attend the rapid access clinics and this new location allows the service to continue to provide essential care, while minimising the risk to patients and staff.

Tracy Dalrymple, assistant general manager cancer services, said: 'We are excited to be able to welcome patients into the newly refurbished unit.'

'It's really important to be able to provide this essential cancer care to as many patients as possible during this time. With breast cancer referrals remaining high over the pandemic, reducing diagnostic delay is essential, as early detection can improve prognosis and enable early initiation of appropriate care.'

'Since the start of the pandemic, our staff have been looking at ways to continue providing essential patient care in the safest way possible. This move,

along with the purchase of our new mammogram machine and our newly recruited consultant, will continue to bring about a number of benefits to the service, allowing us to see and treat many more patients and reduce waiting times.'

Dr Kelly, consultant radiologist and director of South West Scotland breast screening service; Tracy Dalrymple, assistant general manager cancer services and John Burns, health board CEO.



Take time to talk as virtual tea party returns

Age Scotland is inviting people across the country to host or take part in a virtual tea party with family, friends and colleagues and raise funds to support older people.

The charity hopes the Time to Talk virtual tea party event, launched last year to help those most in need at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, will be even bigger when it returns from Friday April 23 to Monday April 26.

Even before the pandemic, Age Scotland research estimated that more than 200,000 older people went up to a week without speaking to a single person. Now, after a year of intermittent lockdowns, isolation is affecting an increasing number of older people who have been unable to see friends or family.

At a time when staying connected is more important than ever, the charity says this will be the perfect opportunity to reach out to people you might have fallen out of touch with, while also raising money to help support lifeline services.

Age Scotland's Chief Executive Brian Sloan said: 'This has been an extremely challenging year for tens of thousands of older people in Scotland who have been dealing with the ongoing impact of loneliness and isolation.'

'By hosting or taking part in a Time to Talk virtual tea party for Age Scotland this year, you'll be making a huge difference. All fundraising efforts will go towards our vital friendship line and just £5 will enable us to make one weekly call.'

'So why not reach out to friends, family and colleagues, set a date and show off those baking skills you perfected during lockdown? Then settle down with a cup of tea, have a chat and know that you are helping Age Scotland be there for older people in need.'

For more information and how to take part visit Age Scotland's website: www.age.scot/timefortea

SUBSCRIBE
www.arranbanner.co.uk/subscriptions

Final shout out for Lamlash medic Neil

First official ambulanceman on Arran retires after 38 years

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Neil Gillies of Lamlash ambulance station retires today (Friday) after a lengthy service of 38 years – 32 of which saw him serving the community of Arran, including a secondment with the Air Ambulance Service.

He joined the Scottish Ambulance Service in 1983 after leaving the British Army. He began his career in Kilbirnie working as an ambulanceman – the title of paramedic did not yet exist.

In 1988, he and his wife Anne made the decision to move to Arran for a better quality of life for their young family. At that time, the ambulance service had no employed personnel on the island and so Neil was the first official ambulanceman on Arran.

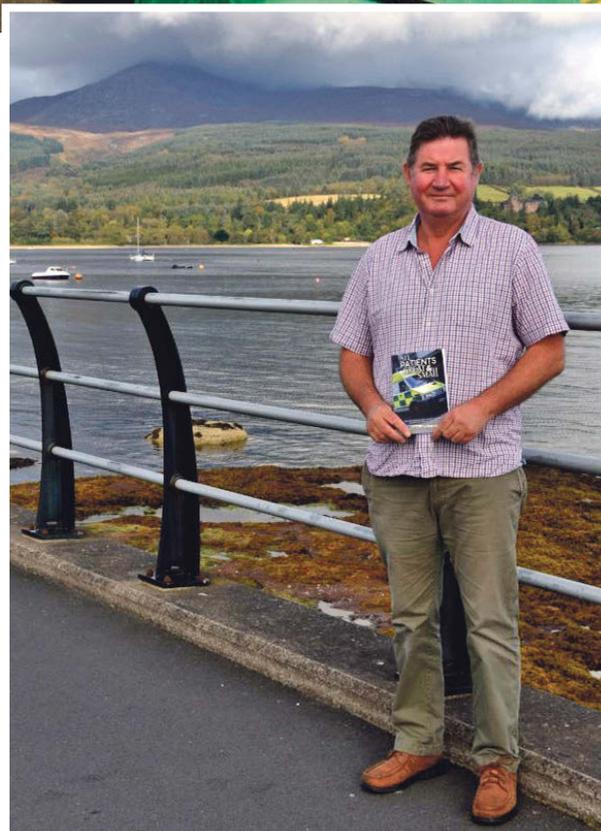
'He would reflect with you if you needed to talk over tough calls, he would help you put things in perspective.'

When the service introduced paramedics into the service, Neil put himself forward for the training and completed his paramedic course in 1992.

Shortly after, he joined the air ambulance team based in Prestwick where, for six years, he would split his time between working in Lamlash and his helicopter secondment which also served the community.

During his long tenure at the station, he has been involved in many community and multi-agency initiatives and even enjoyed a few years volunteering with the Arran Mountain Rescue Team.

The dad of four has faced many challenges and changes within the ambulance service over the years and can add working through a global pandemic to his list of career achievements. He is exceptionally proud that his daughter Kate has followed in his footsteps and is also a paramedic based at Lamlash. He has three young grandchildren – Robert, Orla and Emily – and he is



Above, Neil in his younger days when on secondment with the Air Ambulance Service. 01_B14ambulance02; and left, two years ago, when the Arran Banner photographed him after his book was launched. 01_B14ambulance01

respected. Neil just got on with it.

'He wouldn't moan if someone hadn't emptied the bins, done their dishes or not hoovered, he would simply do it for them. He would often surprise you with some classic one liners, but equally some questionable ones too. Always keen to share a daily random fact that he had read about and would just drop it into a completely unrelated conversation.'

'He always had a project on the go or a mountain of books to read, when we had our downtime waiting for a call. He used to wipe the floor with anyone brave enough to play chess with him. He absolutely lit up when talking about any of his four kids and later when his three grandchildren arrived.'

'You could also rely on Neil to be one of the first names on the "nights out" lists either at the hospital or on station, and he always made sure to keep

great ties with the hospital and medical staff on the island.

'As a colleague he would reflect with you if you needed to talk over tough calls. He would help you put things into perspective. He has always been pretty good for advice where work was concerned. If anyone needed a shift swap or a favour, he would always do his very best to accommodate, he would never see anyone stuck. Even if he was on a day off and you just needed an extra pair of hands at a difficult call, he would come out and help you. However, he didn't suffer fools gladly and would stand up for what he believed in but rarely raised his voice in the process.'

In 2019 Neil published his first book called *All Patients Great and Small*, a memoir of sorts, with many tales and confessionals based on ambulance incidents and events, many on Arran, over his long career.

looking forward to spending time during his retirement with them.

Long-time colleague Emma Campbell paid her own trib-

ute. She said: 'Neil has been part of the fabric of Lamlash ambulance station for many years. As a colleague, he was dependable, cheeky and well

CalMac shows support for Arran's community radio

One of the organisations to benefit from the CalMac Community Fund is arransound.com, which has been granted £1,950 to assist with its radio station interviews and recording while observing social distancing, which is likely to be in place for some considerable months to come.

Connectivity to eliminate isolation by inclusivity; fun and education is the aim of arransound.com. By using the airwaves it hopes to bring the island community together, as arransound.com aims to give everyone on the island or anyone who loves Arran, a voice to speak about or for themselves and those they support here at home.

Community radio volunteers are delighted to receive these funds as it will enable them to purchase a number of HAH 4 recorders which can



be used outside. The funds will also allow them to add a long boom pole, monitors and windshields to microphones making outside reporting of island events possible while remaining safely socially distanced. A spokesperson said: 'We are hoping that with the lifting of restrictions our young volunteers will be able to get out and about connecting with the community again and discovering what is

happening around the island. 'arransound.com has been very busy over the months since broadcasting began and now has a fully scheduled 24-hour programme. If you have not listened in yet, please do and check out what we have to offer. We have a range of musical offerings from Arran folk covering everything from classical to pop, Celtic to choirs and all points in between. Not forgetting our extensive play-

list from which listeners are invited to make up their own playlist from for a personalised evening broadcast, or request a particular song for a special person or event. You can follow local authors reading their books and telling you tales, fantastical and otherwise.

'Our regular programmes include Spotlight on Arran when we feature businesses, charities or community organisations around the island, giving them a voice to explain what and how they are serving their community of Arran. If you are a business or organisation and we have not approached you yet, but you would like to be featured, please get in touch by email or speak to one of the radio group and we will be very happy to visit you.

'One such organisation is Arran Wellbeing a new collaborative group which is

just beginning an important programme on the island but which has a long history of service to the particular members of our community on Arran, alongside the wider community. You can hear all about this new project on arransound.com this week and our new outdoor recording equipment will allow us to follow up their programme when we visit their weekly dementia friendly outdoor cafe featuring music, dancing, arts and crafts and so much more.

'Every day the station devotes a special hour to the older members of our community called Montrose House Hour. This time in the afternoon has music requested, stories told and if any relative or friend wishes to send out a message to a resident, we are always delighted to do that also. arransound has a particular

commitment to our young people on the island which has been severely disrupted due to Covid-19 restrictions and we are looking forward to the coming months when we can move on. However we have been able to give the island a glimpse into the fantastic work of the Arran Youth Foundation via the very entertaining and educational recorded podcasts that Graeme and the young people made for us.'

Chairwoman Mhairi Smeir said: 'The community grant has given arransound.com a further ability to include and involve all the members of our community in island life, combating isolation and bringing together the people we live alongside, and all the members of arransound.com say a big thank you to CalMac for their generosity.'

SCOTTISH FIELD

May



Clanlands
Receive a FREE
copy of the
book when you
subscribe

Sam Heughan...

My life in Scotland...

Stunning interiors... West Coast photography...

Bill Paterson's Credo... Kirkcudbright gardens...

Samuel Peploe's artwork... Gordon Setters...

Horse trekking... Brilliant baking recipes...



Funding boost for outdoor learning

Projects tackling social issues arising from Covid-19 in west coast communities have been awarded cash from the CalMac Community Fund (CCF).

Groups and charities working to help people experiencing mental health issues, social isolation, loneliness and or poverty have successfully applied to the community fund for awards between £500 and £2,000.

Brodick Early Years, with funding of £1,500 from the CCF, is adopting a strong focus on outdoor learning to promote good mental wellbeing among the young children engaging with its service.

The group's horticultural activities will engage with the children's families, and it is hoped to improve mood, reduce stress, encourage relaxation, develop confidence and self-esteem and improve and promote physical health.

Last year the CCF welcomed applications from non-profit organisations from across the CalMac network to tackle mental health, social isolation, loneliness and or poverty. Groups could apply for an award between £500 and £2,000. Half of the latest round of awards made will address social isolation, a third of awards will address mental health and the remainder will address social isolation, poverty, or a social issue relative to the respective community.

Recent research has forecasted that for every pound spent by CalMac, communities across the network benefit from a social return of £5.14. Previously, the fund supported 76 different projects that benefited the lives of children and young people living in west coast communities. It is expected to deliver £676,391 of value over three years.

Gordon McKillop, CalMac's corporate social responsibility manager, said: 'The CalMac Community Fund is much more than corporate giving. It was created to make a difference for our communities and customers, and we are beginning to see its impact and value. The last year has been turbulent for so many and the third sector has responded magnificently across our network. I hope the awards alleviate some of the social issues that arise consequently.'

Aileen Logan from Brodick Early Years added: 'The community funding will give Brodick Early Years the opportunity to develop our outdoor space. Through our outdoor environment, this will promote the wellbeing of children, exploring nature and learn about sustainability. We hope the community and families will be involved as we celebrate our growing days.'

Advertorial

Arran Dog Bakery is out to lick the opposition

There is a new bakery on Arran that is just a little bit different – because this bakery caters just for dogs. But the small, family-run Arran Dog Bakery is really going places.

Founded in 2017 by Stacey Smith and her beagle, Chica, Arran Dog Bakery was forged from a passion for creating high quality, natural dog treats for your four-pawed best friend.

An Arran girl born and raised and an avid dog lover, Stacey has a professional his-



What is better than a healthy treat?

tory in catering, and a passion for baking and all things dogs.

When her sister's Labrador at the time, Myrtle, regularly got upset stomachs, the family became extremely aware of all the additives and preservatives that go into a lot of big brand dog foods and treats.

Stacey decided to create her own handmade, healthy dog treats that Myrtle could enjoy, with just wholesome, natural ingredients and without all the 'unknowns' that you would usually find in the mass-produced treat!

Spurred on by how successful they were with Chica and Myrtle, Stacey started selling her biscuits in her Red Door giftshop in Brodick that she runs with her sister Ruth.

As the word spread, Stacey was quickly overwhelmed with the popularity of her biscuits, and because of this demand Stacey's niece Elaine and her



Some of the products of the Arran Dog Bakery.

partner Sam came on board to help Stacey keep up – it truly is a family affair. Elaine and Sam are just across the water in Stewarton where they live with their Labrador Wellesley, and where they enjoy daily walks round the woods looking over to the Arran hills.



Stacey and her beloved dog Chica at the top of Dun Fionn.

Since 2019, the Arran Dog Bakery team has worked tirelessly to build their small business, and reach more lucky pups across the globe.

As well as having a passion

to create natural, handmade, wholesome biscuits, they also strive to be an ethical and environmentally aware company, and support small charities wherever they can.

Where possible, their packaging is made from recyclable and sustainable materials, and they donate five pence of every bag of biscuits sold on the website to Scottish Dog Charities.

In 2019/20, donations were made to The Trusty Paws Clinic, Glasgow, and in 2021 their donations are going to Islay Dog Rescue.

They run weekly competitions on their social media channels where you have the chance to win one of their Giant Bones. Who doesn't love a competition?

They may be small, but they have big ambitions.

If you are looking for some scrummy, Scottish goodies for your best friend, then head over to www.arrandogbakery.co.uk and have a look at what Arran Dog Bakery has to offer.

Shipyard unable to find recruits for seven-day week working

The delivery of the new Arran ferry has been delayed again as the shipyard building them is struggling to recruit extra staff.

Ferguson Marine hoped to take on 120 extra workers to enable seven-day working but last weekend the new shift had only 29 staff in place to work on the MV Glen Sannox and her sister ship.

The Banner warned when the move was announced at the start of March that the yard may struggle to find the skilled workers they needed in Inverclyde – and that has proved to be the case.

The nationalised Port Glasgow yard has confirmed the delivery timetable has slipped by another seven weeks due to Covid-related issues, and the difficulties in recruiting skilled workers could lead to a further delay.

Ferguson turnaround director Tim Hair said it was not possible at this time to say with certainty when the ferries would be delivered.

The ferries were originally due to enter service on the Arran and Skye/Outer Hebrides



routes in 2018/19. Under a revised delivery schedule given last August, the first ferry – MV Glen Sannox – was to be completed between April and June 2022 and the second ship between December 2022 and February 2023.

But in a new update to a Holyrood committee, Mr Hair said recruitment uncertainty meant 'it is not therefore possible to provide a definitive schedule for completion of the vessels at this time'.

Despite the latest delays Mr Hair said the yard remained 'on track' to deliver the ferries within the 'remedial work' budget of between £110m and £114m.

Mr Hair said an unforeseen four-week shutdown in January was needed to adapt the yard's facilities to comply with revised Covid regulations.

The lockdowns have also led to a large amount of holiday time being accrued by the workforce, which will add another three weeks to the delivery plans.

In March the yard announced it was recruiting 120 extra staff to enable a move to seven-day working during the spring and summer.

While the weekend shift has now begun, the response has been 'limited' with only about a quarter of posts filled. Mr Hair revealed the weekday staffing is also 30 short of requirement.

He said: 'Skilled labour is proving very difficult to recruit locally and it seems that the pool of skilled workers available to Ferguson is unable to meet our resource requirements.'

The shipyard, which currently employs about 400 workers, is now looking to fill the vacancies through subcontractors but, if necessary, may have to look overseas.



NATURAL
HANDMADE
DOG BISCUITS



NATURAL INGREDIENTS



NO ADDITIVES OR PRESERVATIVES



SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING

"NATURAL GOODNESS UNLEASHED!"

AVAILABLE AT LOCAL STOCKISTS AND ONLINE

WWW.ARRANDOGBAKERY.CO.UK

FREE DELIVERY ON ORDERS OVER £15



Bird report is out in time for Easter

Despite challenges of Covid-19 restrictions, team effort gets report to outlets

With a great team effort, the Arran Natural History Society has again got the annual bird report into outlets throughout the island for the Easter holidays, writes Jim Cassels.

With a stunning photograph of a pair of white-tailed eagles by Brian Couper on the front cover, it is yet another eye-catching annual report.

The Arran Bird Report 2020 is a 'must' for anyone interested in the birds of Arran.

It includes information on all species seen on Arran, a month-by-month summary of what was around in 2020, information on ringed birds and reports on some of Arran's bird projects.

For the first time the report is in full colour and is beautifully illustrated with photographs from 26 photographers.

The uniqueness of Arran is reflected throughout the report, including the number of UK protected birds that share the island with people, as well

as the differences between here and the adjacent mainland.

This annual bird report was achieved in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, which arrived in the UK in late January last year. This had a profound impact on everyone's lives throughout the whole of 2020.

What was the impact on bird recording on Arran in 2020? Visitor numbers to the island were down. There was some interruption to the various regular bird surveys in line with government advice.

While some resident bird-watchers had more time to spend birdwatching on Arran, others were made redundant and left the island to find work.

Looking at the data received over the course of the year and comparing it broadly to the previous year, there were fewer contributors, 250 compared to 320, fewer records, 16,500 compared to 24,000 and fewer species 157 compared to 160.

Under the circumstances

it was a great team effort to produce the annual report for 2020 and the final publication showcases the fascinating birding year of 2020.

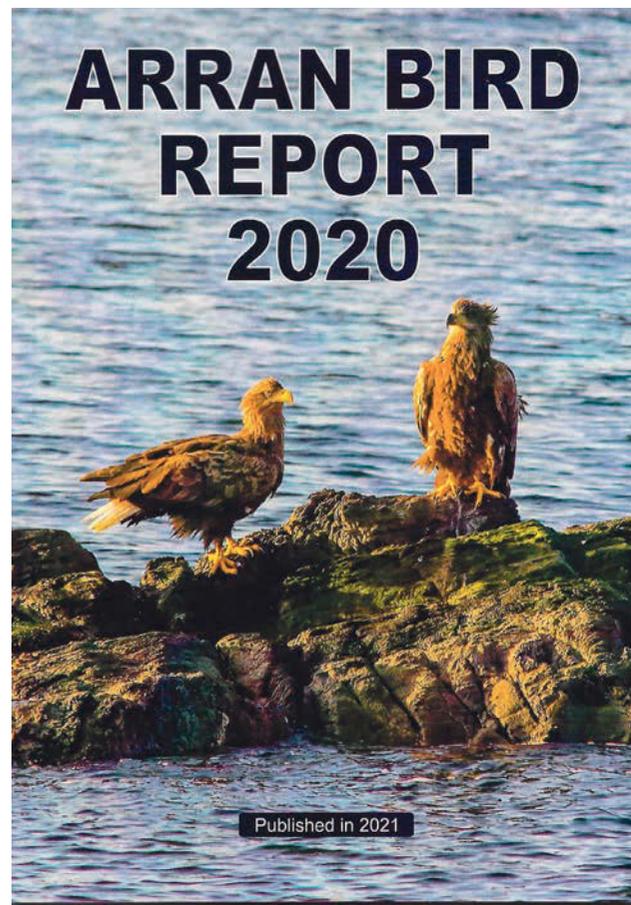
Here is a flavour of some of the highlights.

Arran's first ever surf scoter, reported at the end of 2019, lingered into January. In October, the first ever Lapland bunting was reported.

As well as these firsts, in May there was the second record of garganey and in September the second record of wood sandpiper.

In addition, several species were recorded after an absence of a number of years, hoopoe in April after 14 years: corn-crake in May after 12 years and curlew sandpiper in October after 14 years.

As well as these species, rose-coloured starling turned up for the fourth year in a row and there were increasing reports of these colonising species; little egret, nuthatch



The front cover of the Arran Bird Report 2020.

and white-tailed eagle.

The annual report is available from these outlets: Arran Active, Brodick tel. 302113, the Book and Card Centre, Brodick tel. 302288, the Harbour Shop, Blackwaterfoot tel. 860215 and Pirnmill Shop and Post Office tel. 850235. Priced £7.00.

It is also available directly from the distribution organisers for the Arran Natural History Society priced £7.00 plus £1.70 p&p at arrannaturalhistorysociety@gmail.com. Make sure you get your copy as only a limited number have been produced.

SUBSCRIBE

to Scottish Field
and receive a FREE
hardback copy of
Clanlands (RRP £20)

The perfect
gift for those
who love
all things
Scottish

Save 25% on the cover price only £10.69 per quarter delivered direct to your door each month

Call 01778 392014 and quote SFbook or go to scottishfield.co.uk/subscriptions

Brighten up those Spring days with a subscription to Scottish Field magazine. Bringing you the very best interiors, antiques, gardens, wildlife, motoring, field sports and country news alongside some of Scotland's most entertaining columnists and informative writing.

*Terms and conditions apply. In the UK for direct debit subscribers only. Minimum one year subscription to Scottish Field. Offer ends 31 May 2021. While stocks last. Limited stock available, first come, first served basis.

Arran Art Trail studios reopen with changes to organisers

Artists on the Arran Art Trail are busy preparing for re-opening their studios, and welcoming visitors once again.

The brochure from 2020/21 will remain in place until Easter 2022. It can be picked up from the VisitScotland office, on the ferry and at various venues around the island.

It is also available online at www.arranarttrail.com. The enrolment for 22/23 will be some time in the autumn.

The Arran Art Trail evolved from the success of the annual Arran Open Studios event in August when some 30 to 40 artists take part and the two have been mutually supportive.

Some of the artists expressed a desire to open their studios to the public all year round and so jeweller Ann Hume and painter Angela Elliott Walker launched the Arran Art Trail in 2017.

It has proved to be a popular attraction for islanders and visitors alike.

After five years, four years



Ann Hume and Angela Elliott Walker are to hand over the management of the Arran Art Trail.

running the trail and a year in planning, the time has now come for Angela and Ann to hand over the reins to some new managers.

Ann will continue to be on the committee for Arran Open Studios and both will remain participants in the Art Trail but relinquishing the Art Trail managing responsibilities will give them both more time to

focus on their own work.

The Art trail will now be managed by Heather MacLeod heathermacleod.arran@btinternet.com and Lynn Jones lynnnsartonarran@mail.com

Ann said: 'Heather and Lynn have some fantastic ideas to develop the trail. We are looking forward to seeing how it develops.'

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday March 31, 2001



This year's Arran Music Festival began on Wednesday afternoon with the Scottish country dancing in Whiting Bay hall. Here we see Pirnmill Primary School pupils taking to the floor.

01_B14tweY01



Above: Lamlash Dancers with their teacher Mrs Jean Marriot.

01_B14tweY03



Right: Shiskine Guides show the judges their Forth Bridge Jig.

01_B14tweY04



CONTACTUS
EMAIL US AT
email.us@editor@arranbanner.co.uk
TELEPHONE
01770 302142



Hannah Dobson shows off her winning decorated egg at the Arran Horticultural Society spring flower and bulb show last Saturday.

01_B14tweY05

Above: Scottish country dancing adjudicator Mrs McLean with representatives of the winning teams – Lamlash Primary School, Lamlash Dancers and Shiskine Guides.

01_B14tweY02



Arran Ladies' Darts League winners from the Catacol Bay Hotel with their trophies at the end-of-season prizegiving.

01_B14tweY06

CLASSIFIEDS

PAINTER AND DECORATOR



FULTON
decorators

LAMLASH

TEL/FAX 01770 600705

Est. 1985

- All paintwork undertaken
- Any job, large or small
- Paper hanging
- Floor sanding & sealing
- Phone Gavin Fulton for a free estimate

INSURANCE SERVICES

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Campbeltown. Call Chris Husthwaite
on 01586 552 428 for your
insurance needs



Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

SELF STORAGE

ARRAN SELF STORAGE



- small & large cabins
- climate controlled
- condensation free

CONTAINER STORAGE NOW AVAILABLE

Gavin Fulton 01770 600705
www.arranstorage.co.uk

Need something from our archives?

Digital subscribers get automatic access
to fourteen years of digital archives.

Subscribe now.



RECRUITMENT

THE DOUGLAS

Hotel • Bistro • Bar
www.thedouglashotel.co.uk
Tel: 01770 302968

We are looking to recruit the following positions:

**SOUS CHEF, CHEF DE PARTIE, KITCHEN PORTERS,
FOOD & BEVERAGE ASSISTANTS**

Great rates of pay and a happy team of people

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH!

Please reply to our Facebook page or email direct to
craig@thedouglashotel.co.uk



like us on
facebook

www.facebook.com/
arranbanner

Looking for Reliable Person/s From June 5th onwards

Required for Changeovers
Very Good rate offered
Large Traditional House in Lochranza

Tel : 07738011366
haggartykaren@hotmail.com

PRIVATE SALES

UNDER £50

Hy-line Point of Lay pullets
Tel Colin: 07968 259502

BANNER
CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER
CLASSIFIEDS

SCOTTISH FIELD

May



Clanlands
Receive a FREE
copy of the
book when you
subscribe

Sam Heughan...

My life in Scotland...

*Stunning interiors... West Coast photography...
Bill Paterson's Credo... Kirkcudbright gardens...
Samuel Peploe's artwork... Gordon Setters...
Horse trekking... Brilliant baking recipes...*



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/arranbanner

PERSONAL NOTICE

Thank You!

A sincere Thank You for all the lovely cards,
messages and gifts I received on my recent
retirement. Much appreciated. Jean Hunter

DRIVE TIMES

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE



1.5,
Sat Nav.
Long MOT
Good,
reliable car
**£1000
ono**

Tel: 01770 870207

PROPERTY

Family Home Wanted
We are looking to relocate to Arran from
North East England, all areas considered.

We require a long term let,
at least 4 bedrooms.

We have 4 Children
(aged between 2 and 10) and 2 dogs.

Contact Tracey 07505 985469 or
tracecally.leonard@gmail.com

BANNER BANNER
PROPERTY PROPERTY

CHURCH NOTICES

NORTH ARRAN LINKAGE CHURCH SERVICES

There is a booking system at Brodick & Shiskine churches as the numbers are still limited.

Liz Lawrie 302782
& John Kerr 860498

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

**Sunday 4th April
Easter 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.

Sunday 11th April

Lochranza & Pirnmill Churches:

Service at Lochranza Church 10:15am Morning worship
Shiskine Church 12 noon - Morning worship

Brodick Church 10.30am - Morning worship

Corrie Church 12noon - Morning worship

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (Charity number:SC014005)

**Easter Sunday
Sunday 4th April**

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

As our Sunday Worship 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.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

**Easter Sunday
Sunday 4th April**

Kilmory 10 am
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 EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay
Maundy Thursday 1st April
Holy Communion 6 p.m.

Revd Adrian Fallows
Good Friday 2nd April
Liturgy of the Passion 11 a.m.

Easter Sunday 4th April
Sung Eucharist 11 a.m.

Revd Adrian Fallows
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

Our Church is now open for public worship, subject to social distancing, wearing of face coverings and NHS Test and Protect requirements.

Easter Services are as follows:

Easter Saturday - 3rd April
Polish Service: 11am

Easter 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. Email peterdwilko@gmail.com or Tel 600595

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

LATONA - Clifford Ferguson Allen. Clifford passed away peacefully, at home, on the 26th March 2021, aged 52. Wonderful husband to Caroline, loving father to Amie & Lucy and much loved son, brother, uncle and friend. He will be sorely missed. Held in great affection by all that knew him.

**BANNER
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dobbies launches virtual spring gardening events

Dobbies, the UK's leading garden centre retailer, has announced a programme of exclusive virtual events this spring, helping gardeners of all ages and abilities in Ayrshire and Arran take their green spaces to the next level, writes Hugh Boag.

Running throughout spring, the expert sessions will be hosted by Dobbies' horticultural director, Marcus Eyles, live from his own garden. Marcus will provide viewers with engaging tips and tricks, tutorials and live demonstrations across a variety of topics, to help gardeners make the most of their outdoor spaces.

Future classes will cover topics including developing healthy soil and edible crops, cultivating garden wildlife and maintaining a lush lawn. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions directly and gain the expertise required to create an Instagrammable garden, no matter its size.

Marcus said: 'Over the past year, more of us than ever before have discovered a love of



Marcus Eyles, who hosts the virtual sessions.

gardening and experienced the ways that it enriches our lives and improves our wellbeing. Gardening is something we can all enjoy, no matter how large or small our outdoor spaces, and we are delighted to be launching this series of virtual events. We hope that they will inspire and help gardeners old and new to learn the skills and techniques they need to take

their gardens to the next level.' Dobbies' virtual events follow a successful programme of Facebook Live sessions in 2020 and provide a virtual alternative to the regular 'Grow How' events previously hosted in the Ayr store. Further events focused on adding colour to the garden and roses will be announced soon.

The sessions are free of charge

and exclusively available to Dobbies Club members. For those who aren't yet members of Dobbies Club, membership is free and signing up is quick and simple, giving access to a variety of benefits, special offers and exclusive events. To sign up visit dobbies.com

To sign up for the masterclasses, visit www.dobbies.com/content/events.html

Trust asks people to Bee the Change

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust is on a mission to help everyone Bee the Change in their area, with a new campaign asking people across the UK to take simple, quick micro-actions to make their postcode more bumblebee-friendly.

Bumblebees are familiar and much-loved insects that pollinate our crops and wildflowers. But bumblebees are in trouble and need our help. Over the past century our landscape has lost millions of the flowers they rely on to survive.

Through the campaign, people will pledge to Bee the Change and carry out quick and simple micro-actions like spotting nearby bumblebees, growing bee-friendly plants, creating wild bumblebee havens, and spreading the #BeeTheChange message with their friends, families and communities.

Throughout 2021, the Bumblebee Conservation Trust will supply downloadable free resources and how-to



Early bumblebee male. *Bombus pratorum*.

Photograph: Anna Hobbs

guides helping everyone to Bee the Change wherever they live.

Anyone can take part, whether they have a garden, a flowerpot or no outdoor space.

Chloe Headdon, Bee the Change project officer at the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, said: 'By taking simple actions for bumblebees, together we can get these pollinating superheroes buzzing again and make a big

combined change for nature. Everyone can help these amazing insects by pledging to Bee the Change.'

The campaign has been inspired by recent research for the Bumblebee Conservation Trust which showed that six in 10 UK adults think 'bees dying off' is a very serious issue - a similar number of people to those with concerns about climate change and deforestation.

The same survey revealed more than half of UK adults are aware and concerned about the consequences of biodiversity loss in their area, and would plant a variety of flowers to feed bumblebees. Just over a third indicated they would like to learn more about bumblebees online.

Gill Perkins, chief executive of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, said: 'We know that many people want to take small, easy action ideas to help bumblebees but perhaps don't know where to start or are worried they don't have enough time. We want

to make it easy for everyone to get involved. The Bee the Change resources on our website help anyone make the small changes that add up to a big difference to bumblebees. Together we can save the sound of summer, wherever we live.'

The project has been made possible by an award from the Postcode Green Trust, thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Will Humpington, climate change and environment advisor at People's Postcode Lottery, said: 'Safeguarding the future of bumblebees in our cities, towns and countryside is a really important mission, and we are delighted players of People's Postcode Lottery are supporting the Bee the Change campaign. We hope people across the UK will pledge to Bee the Change and help make their postcode more bumblebee-friendly.'

Everyone can make their Bee the Change pledge online at bumblebeeconservation.org/beethechange



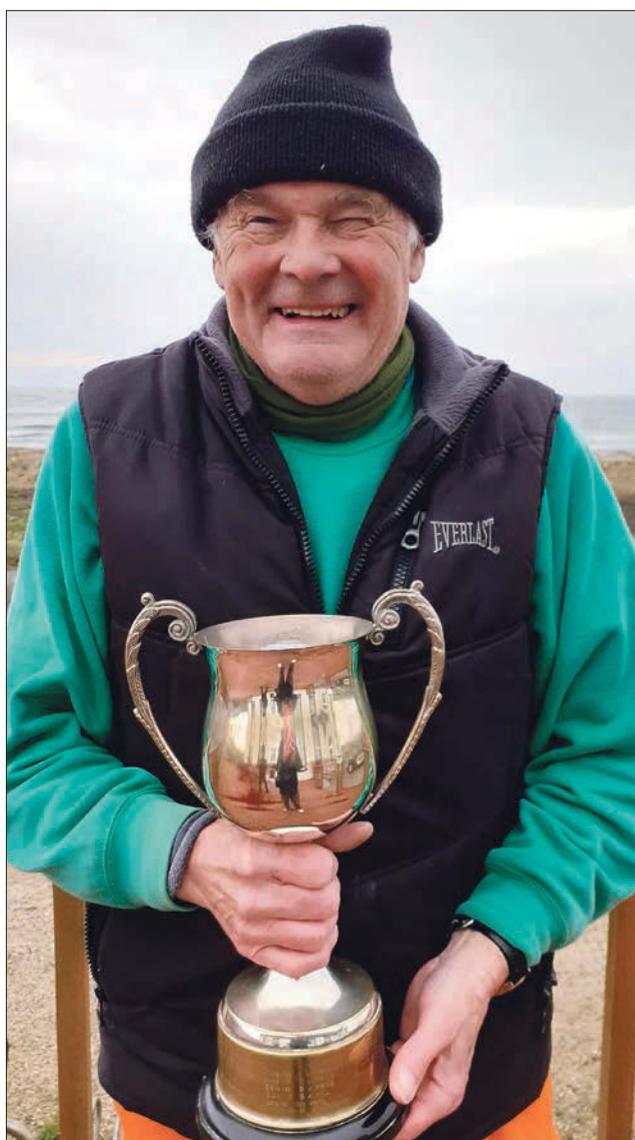
Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/arranbanner

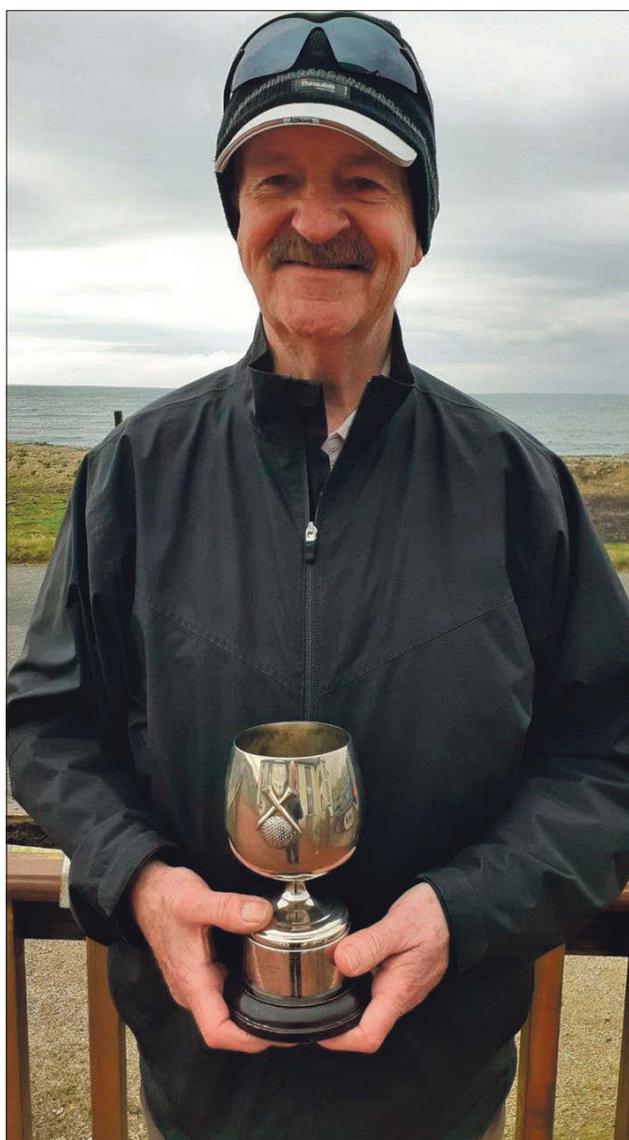
SUBSCRIBE
to Scottish Field and receive a FREE hardback copy of Clanlands (RRP £20)
Save 25% on the cover price only £10.69 per quarter delivered direct to
your door each month. Call 01778 392014 and quote SFbook or go to
scottishfield.co.uk/subscriptions
*Terms and conditions apply. In the UK for direct debit subscribers only. Minimum one year subscription to
Scottish Field. Offer ends 31 May 2021. While stocks last. Limited stock available. first come, first served basis.



Winter trophy winners celebrate at Machrie Bay



Brian Sherwood winner of the Lochranza Hotel Cup.



Alex Morrison-Cowan winner of the Winter Cup.

Golfers Brian Sherwood and Alex Morrison-Cowan picked up the two top winter trophies at Machrie Bay Golf Club during a disrupted winter season.

Brian was overall winner of the Lochranza Hotel Cup while Alex lifted the Winter Cup but without the usual presentations in the clubhouse.

Clubs around the island will be reopening for wider play in the coming weeks. Here are the latest results and fixtures from around the island:

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday March 30, final day of the Lochranza Hotel Cup, sweep. 1 Brian Sherwood 64, 2 Alex Morrison-Cowan 73, 3 Phil Betley 74. Overall winner Brian Sherwood.

Winner of Winter Cup, Alex Morrison-Cowan 388, runner-up John Pennycott 395.

Fixture: Tuesday April 6, start of Peter Sutton/Lady Mary tee-off 12.30pm and 5pm.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday March 25, Yellow medal: 1 Ian Bremner 69-8=61, 2 Colin Richardson 79-16=63. Magic twos Ian Bremner @17th, Graeme

Andrew @16th. Sunday March 28, Winter Stableford final round: 1 Scott Campbell 38pts, 2 Derek Harrison 35pts BIH over Alan Campbell. Magic twos Derek Harrison @16th, Hugh McLelland @5th and 16th.

Overall winner of Winter Stableford: Derek Harrison 150pts, runner-up Ian Bremner 139pts.

Fixtures: Saturday April 3, three -club competition, 10am start. Sunday April 4, mixed Texas Scramble, 11.30am for noon start. Thursday April 8, Summer Cup, make up own groups see starter for times.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday April 3, 18-hole medal. Wednesday April 7, 18-hole medal. For both competitions make up your own matches within the current Covid regulations.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday April 4, Brandon qualifier.



LAMLASH GARAGE

Open Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm | Park Terrace, Lamlash, KA27 8NB

All vehicle makes serviced & repaired. Car & Motorcycle MOT Testing.

*Strict social distancing & face mask requirements apply.
Appointment bookings & card payments accepted by phone.*

01770 600 328 | admin@lamlashgarage.co.uk | [f](https://www.facebook.com/lamlashgarage) Lamlash Garage



Please note that Lamlash Garage will be closed for our annual Easter holiday from 5pm on Friday 2nd April, re-opening 8am on Monday 12th April.