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# GUS IS STILL DIVING AT 80

● FULL STORY PAGE 2

Eighty-year-old Gus Robson of Brodick on the surface after his first dive of the year in Lamlash Bay. Photograph: Jenny Stark.

### Tourist trade badly hit by second ferry disruption

Arran stands to lose more than £500,000 of business as a result of the island not having a second ferry for the start of the summer tourist season, writes Hugh Boag.

The Ardrossan to Brodick route has been operating with a single ferry from the start of the summer timetable at the end of April as the MV Isle of Arran is deployed elsewhere.

The problem is compounded as the MV Caledonian Isles is still operating at a reduced capacity, although an additional ferry has been put on the Claonaig to Lochranza route.

Auchrannie Resort in Brodick has estimated the disruption will cost it £83,000 in lost bookings, while Robbie Crawford, of the Kinloch Hotel, said his business had lost out on about £30,000 due to cancelled bookings.

The Arran Recovery

● Turn to page 2 for more

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# Island tourist trade badly hit by second ferry delay

Continued from page 1.

Group has estimated that if this is increased pro rata for accommodation providers, it would amount to approximately a £500,000 loss of business. Total losses from day trippers and support services would make this significantly higher.

The setback could not have come at a worse time as the island finally opens up to visitors again after months of lockdown, but the start of the season has been fairly slow.

Co-founder and managing director at Auchrannie Resort in Brodick Linda Johnston told the Banner: 'We are lucky that we have high demand for accommodation both at Auchrannie and on the island, and we are fairly busy, however, we are unable to fulfil demand due to lack of ferry capacity. We are tracking



The MV Isle of Arran will not be back at Brodick until the middle of May.

01\_B30boat01

our occupancy and income daily against the business we expected from April 26 to May 17 and currently the shortfall in income is expected to be around £83,000 and occupancy is approximately 10 per cent below expected levels.

'With very limited availabili-

ty on the ferry from Ardrossan and visitors naturally reluctant to add three hours on to their journey by travelling to Claonaig, particularly when this service cannot be booked, it is difficult to see how we can fill empty rooms.

'The problem extends be-

yond May 17 when, even with two boats back on service, weekend availability remains very limited from Ardrossan, although there is pressure on CalMac to reduce the present 80/20 capacity to 90/10.'

Linda, who is also chairperson and director of The Coig

touring routes, said: 'It is disappointing that Arran is without adequate ferry capacity at the very time when we are able to welcome visitors back to the island and many businesses have their first opportunity to trade viably for 5 ½ months.'

'Of course, this impacts the whole of Arran's community and economy and not just businesses directly related to tourism and the worry is that this happens again due to the lack of resilience in the ferry and port infrastructure.'

'We urgently need contingency short-, medium- and long-term plans to be put in place to provide the islands with the adequate and reliable ferry services needed to make sure that life and business remains sustainable now and in the future.'

The present redeployment of the MV Isle of Arran to

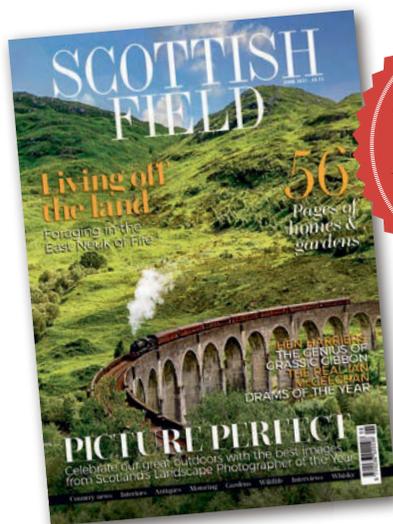
service freight on the Ullapool to Stornoway route is due to repairs required to the MV Loch Seaforth but CalMac says these are progressing to plan.

Robbie Drummond, managing director of CalMac, told the Banner: 'We are aware that there is an impact of removing the second vessel from Arran's summer service to cover for disruptions elsewhere in the network and we would like to apologise for this.'

'We are working closely with local businesses to make sure that demand for travel is accommodated as much as possible, including putting on extra sailings via Lochranza. This is a temporary disruption and we still expect to have the second ferry back on the route for May 17. I am most grateful to our customers for their support, patience and understanding at this time.'

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## Gus still making splash at 80

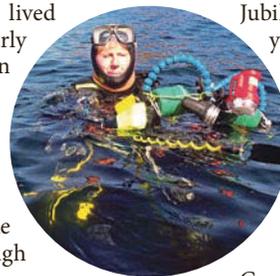
Gus Robson has lived on Arran for nearly 50 years and in that time he has been fortunate to have scaled the heights and dived the depths of this remarkable island, writes Hugh Boag.

Now 80-year-old Gus, who lives in Brodick, is still diving and has just completed his first dive of the year in Lamlash Bay, celebrating 20 years of an active and enjoyable retirement.

Gus first learned of Arran in late 1969 on returning to the UK from working in Portugal for a year. Friends who had camped in Glen Sannox spoke highly of its mountainous terrain and as a keen rock climber and hillwalker, the seed was sown.

Gus takes up the story: 'My wife Jean and I came up for good four years later having secured work with a local company and managed to purchase our house in Alma Park, Brodick, where we continue to live to this day.'

'I was in the Arran Mountain Rescue Team for a decade or so and also assisted the late Billy Dickie BEM, a true gentleman, when he formed the Arran Junior Mountain Rescue Club, a Queen's Silver



Jubilee project 'to help young people help others'. Working with Billy and the JMRC were some of the most rewarding years of my life on Arran.

'A holiday in Cyprus when I was 50

included a dive course which qualified me to dive to 30 metres and this was the beginning to my lifelong passion for scuba diving. Many memorable experiences followed, starting with diving among sting rays in Grand Cayman, also at Rottneest Island off Fremantle, Australia. Magnificent manta in the Maldives and bull sharks in Cuba. Cave diving in Menorca and a beautiful cave dive at Anse Chastanet in St Lucia.

'A trip to the Red Sea took me into underwater photography and that is still my enduring interest today.'

'Over the years I have fond memories of past dive buddies - the indomitable John (Hooks) Graham, who was adept at raising sunken vessels; speedboat in Lamlash Bay and a large yacht in Lochranza successfully brought to the surface and returned to its relieved owner.'

'Always cool, calm and me-

thodical the late John Ferris, together with his sons Sean and Martin, were all stalwarts of the Arran diving scene.'

'Locally, I have dived all around the island, including the challenging venture up to Coire Fhionn Lochan, aided by a strong support team of older JMRC members. We dived to around six metres deep, and although there were no signs of life (we did have a camera just in case) it was still an interesting experience.'

'We first dived Roraima reef off Pladda on July 31, 1994, which has still proved to be the best site on Arran. Truly, I have seen more life here than a dive in Ningaloo reef, Coral Bay, Australia. It's not for the faint hearted - very tidal and 30 metres to the seabed - but it is so rewarding in the proliferation, variety and abundance of sea life seen nowhere else around Arran to date.'

'Lamlash Bay No Take Zone has its own vibrancy with recovering areas of sea bed inhabitants. Proof indeed that this type of project is such a successful story.'

'So, in the 48 years I've lived here and been fortunate to have scaled the heights and dived the depths of this remarkable island, I will happily end my days in this special place,' Gus added.

## String road closed for four days

The String road, from Bridgend to Shiskine, will be closed for repairs over four days starting next week.

The carriageway improvement works will take place on Thursday and Friday May 13 and 14, and on Monday and Tuesday the following week from 8.30am to 6.30pm.

The 6.30pm completion time is to allow some additional time for new surface material to cool, any breakdowns of plant that may occur and adverse weather. There will be no work over the weekend.

A spokesman for North Ayrshire Council commercial services said: 'A temporary Traffic Regulation Order has been promoted on the above area of Arran by reason of carriageway improvement works which is to be carried out on or near the public highway.'

'Due to the nature of these works and existing road widths, legislation requires that in the interest of safety to both the road users and the work force, a restriction of use must be put in place for the duration of the works.'

'A signed diversion route will be put in place.'

# Lord and the Spirit of the May welcome fresh beginnings

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Suitably attired as May Day characters, Mick and Julia Bovee visited two new businesses on Arran to provide them with a Beltane blessing, celebrating an ancient pagan ritual at the start of May and to celebrate fresh new beginnings for them.

While not strictly a new business but rather a well established one that will be operating from a new location, Chrissy's Cabin has moved from Auchrannie Road and is now located in the centre of Brodick at The Boat House, previously operated by Tracy Gibson, of Island Porcelain, as a toy shop.

Mick and Julia provided a Beltane blessing and officially opened the shop which offers a dry cleaning and mending service, and hopes to expand to offer more haberdashery supplies and services. It will also continue to run the putting green and serve freshly-made ice cream.

Another business officially opened on Saturday was the Isle of Arran Coffee Company at Duchess Court at Cladach.



Owners Alix Hitching and Sofia Pantizadiou welcomed Mick and Julia, who sampled some the fresh coffee that is roasted on site and provided their blessings.

Visitors are welcome to drop by and enjoy free samples or get advice on the tastiest way to brew at home or more information can be found online on their website at [www.arrancoffee.com](http://www.arrancoffee.com)

Mick and Julia also visited other establishments, including the Douglas Hotel, which has reopened for visitors, to wish them a merry May.

May 1/Beltane is a traditional Celtic festival representing the peak of spring and the beginning of summer. It celebrates abundance, fertility, new beginnings and a union between earth and sky.

The word Beltane originates from the Celtic God Bel, meaning 'the bright one' and the Gaelic word 'teine' meaning fire. 'Bright Fire' bonfires were traditionally lit to honour the sun and to encourage the support of the God and the sun's light to nurture the summer harvest and to provide a bountiful crop.



Top left, first customers at the Arran Coffee Company, Charlie Adamson and Pauline Reid-Adamson, welcome the Lord and the Spirit of the May with business owners, Alix Hitching and Sofia Pantizadiou; above, Mick and Julia join Chrissy Duncan and Tracy Gibson for the official opening of Chrissy's Cabin; and left, Mick and Julia visit the Douglas Hotel which has reopened.

## Arran's economic recovery hampered by ferry service

The Arran Recovery Group says the island's recovery is being impacted by a continuing deterioration in the level of service provided by the ferry.

It says the problem is that

CalMac/CMAL does not have the capital or labour to provide its contracted service. In addition and by design, there is a lack a commercial problem-solving and customer service ethos, with no meas-

urements of the impact on the communities it services.

The ARG report states: 'Arran's recovery is impacted by a continuing deterioration in the level of service. This is manifest in lost revenue, reduced quality of life, increased cost, depopulation and inability to attract new residents. Redeployment of existing ferry capacity has meant this

year is worse than last year.'

The ARG says the issue must be immediately highlighted to senior levels of government and says this has started, with approaches to Marc Crothall and Frances Pacitti, HIE and governmental organisations.

The group also says it needs support from North Ayrshire Council to keep the Fraser of Allander Institute

economic impact study alive and provide analytical data on non-economic issues. That report found that the failure to deliver the MV Glen Sannox in time was having a £170,000-a-day economic impact on the island. In addition, the ARG says, progress has to be made on a feasibility study into providing additional passenger capacity. In the medi-

um term it is also demanding a ministerial review of the current situation and the creation of a resilience plan, that is in the public domain and shows how to resolve/mitigate these issues.

A spokesman said: 'ARG will seek an urgent meeting with the transport minister as soon as he/she is appointed after the election.'

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# Arran RNLI launches Mayday Mile challenge

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The RNLI has launched its annual Mayday campaign with the Mayday Mile challenge.

This helps to raise money for the rescue organisation which depends entirely on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service.

The Mayday Mile challenge calls on volunteers, supporters and fundraisers to set themselves a walking challenge during the month of May and to invite sponsors to donate to the challenge fundraiser.

All successful participants who raise more than £55 will receive a special Mayday Mile medal.

With the busiest time of the year about to begin as summer approaches, the RNLI volunteers are prepared to,



Arran RNLI crew take part in a demonstration aboard the Rachel Hedderwick lifeboat.

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had their fair share of 'pager moments'.

Trainee helm Sam Bourne was just about to get his daughter's fourth birthday party under way when the pager sounded for his very first shout.

It's turned into a bit of a theme in his household as the pager went again just as the candles were lit on his own birthday cake this year.

Then there was the time helm Mark Johnson was giving some Arran school children

once again, drop everything to answer the call.

Abandoning haircuts mid-appointment, house moves, weddings and birthday parties, RNLI lifeboat crews accept the fact that some of life's major milestones can be

missed if the pager goes off.

But the volunteers are always there – and sometimes that 'pager moment' brings a little comedy to the serious task of getting to the lifeboat station.

And volunteers with the Arran RNLI have certainly

a tour of the lifeboat station when he had to spring into action for real. How many future crew members were inspired that day?

And then, of course, who could forget the time the crew had been participating in some team building at a laser quest event when the pagers sounded. It must have been quite a sight for any passersby to see the crew arriving at the station and rushing into the station kitted out in green overalls and camouflage paint.

If anyone wishes to take on the challenge or wants to know how to help the RNLI and 'answer the call' then head to [rnli.org/mayday](http://rnli.org/mayday) and find out how to make a donation or even to hold a socially-distanced sponsored event, by visiting [themaydaymile.rnli.org/](http://themaydaymile.rnli.org/) to donate directly.

## Motorhomes parking approved at Auchrannie

An area for motorhome parking at the rear of the Auchrannie Spa resort building in Brodick has been approved.

North Ayrshire Council has given planning permission to utilise the existing car park for overnight parking for up to eight motorhomes.

In a supporting statement David Johnston, director of Auchrannie Leisure Ltd, told planners: 'Having seen the number of motorhomes visiting Arran in recent years, and the very limited facilities for parking and disposal of waste on the island, we feel there is an opportunity to use an under-utilised parking area.'

'We propose to use an existing car park to allow parking for up to eight motorhomes overnight. We will provide access to power and waste disposal facilities, including foul water, on site.'

'With the facilities and services on offer within the resort, we can allow visitors an option to benefit from use of our restaurants, leisure facilities, spa and existing toilets and showers. We would charge an overnight fee with options for add-on services.'

One of the conditions is that Auchrannie will have to have screening to the west site boundary, which is overlooked by a neighbouring garden.

## Arran Brewery puts Loch Earn hotel up for sale

Arran Brewery has put its Loch Earn brewery hotel and visitor centre on the market.

The site on the banks of Loch Earn features 10 moorings, three piers, fishing, a brewery with the potential to brew 3,500 litres per day, a cider shack producing batches of 1,000 litres of cider, as well as a hotel with three bars, three

restaurant areas, a coffee shop and 39 bedrooms.

Managing director Gerald Michaluk said: 'It is with a heavy heart we are having to put the property on the market.'

'We have not recovered from a small fire, following which the insurance company has still not settled our claim

in full. This has led to a lack of funds while the property needs around £600,000 spent on it to bring it up to spec.'

'Unfortunately we simply don't have that kind of money, given the current downturn in the brewing industry, to put into the building. As such we have put the site on the market for offers over £775,000,

but a new owner would need to have around £1.5 million to acquire the site and to realise its full potential.'

The brewery acquired the site in 2013 and purchased and installed a secondary brewery in the outbuildings which is currently in need of commissioning. Plans are to build a further three build-

ings and open both a whisky shop and a local produce shop.

The brewery reports having tried to form a joint venture with several parties on the site but in the end none of these proposals have come to fruition. The property is being marketed by Christie's as the sole agent.



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# Largest military exercise in Europe staged in the Clyde

Arran will get a birds-eye view of a major UK-led multi-national military exercise when Exercise Strike Warrior gets under way in the Firth of Clyde tomorrow (Saturday), writes Hugh Boag.

One of the largest military exercises of its kind in Europe, Strike Warrior 21, which incorporates Exercise Joint Warrior 21-1, will run from May 8 to May 20 with some of the participating vessels departing from ports on the west coast of Scotland.

For this exercise, port visits will be kept to a minimum, however, vessels have been arriving this week at HMNB Clyde, King George V Docks, Hunterston and Fairlie before joining the exercise.

Joint Warrior 21-1 is integrated with Exercise Strike Warrior 21 as part of the final preparations for the first deployment of the UK's Carrier Strike Group (CSG) next month.

HMS Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Navy's Fleet Flagship, sits at the centre of the CSG which will deploy shortly after the completion of Strike Warrior.

Ten nations - nine NATO and one non-NATO - will take part, bringing 31 warships, three submarines, 150 aircraft and approximately 13,400 military personnel including 1,500 ground troops to mili-

tary ranges across the country and to maritime exercise areas off the north and west coasts of Scotland.

The participating NATO nations will be the UK, USA, Denmark, France, Germany, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway and Poland. Australia is the non-NATO participant.

Joint Warrior, which takes place twice a year, in the spring and autumn, and Strike Warrior are designed, planned and delivered by the Joint Tactical Exercise Planning Staff based at Northwood in London, some of which will deploy to HM Naval Base Clyde to co-ordinate events during the exercise.

## Activity

Exercise activity will include 34 naval units from Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the UK and the USA participating around the Scottish coast and mine counter measures operations in areas around Campbeltown and Loch Ewe.

A total of 150 aircraft will take part in the exercise with some of them operating from Prestwick Airport, previously HMS Gannet.

There will also be GPS denial operations off the east coast of Scotland. The operations will be conducted at limited periods each day and the relevant authorities, especially



HMS Queen Elizabeth during her recent visit to Glen Mallan.

maritime and aviation, have been involved in the planning process and relevant safeguards have been put in place.

Exercise Joint Warrior, or Strike Warrior as it is known for this time only, is linked directly with the NATO Military Training Exercise Programme and brings together all three UK armed forces - the Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force - along with the other participating countries, to provide high quality training opportunities and improve joint operations between the UK and its allies.

Participants will practise a wide range of capabilities across land, sea and air in co-ordinated joint operations with other allied nations, with the Carrier Strike Group being a key element on this occasion prior to the deployment of the HMS Queen Elizabeth Task Group.

The scenario of the exercise will mirror a broad range of crisis and conflict situations which could realistically be experienced in real-world operations.

Over the fortnight, partic-

ipants will be faced with a period of increasing political and military tension, along with a huge range of realistic

military tasks including intelligence gathering and reconnaissance; anti-smuggling and counter-terrorism operations;

humanitarian assistance and evacuation operations. All units involved in the exercise will observe Covid-19 control measures, including a requirement for 14-day quarantine periods before personnel can embark in the ships of the UK Carrier Strike Group.

In addition, there will be limited port visits by UK and allied units for operational and logistical reasons only.

Further information on Exercise Strike Warrior, including notices to mariners and impact statements, can be found by visiting Queen's Harbour Master Clyde's page on the Royal Navy website: Joint Warriors and other exercises | Royal Navy (mod.uk)



Vessels and aircraft during a previous Joint Warrior.

## Enterprise chief executive announces resignation

The chief executive of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has resigned from her post due to personal reasons.

Charlotte Wright, who has led the development agency for five years, announced she will step down in the summer and that she made the decision after a great deal of careful thought.

Ms Wright said: 'I have been with HIE since 1997 and in that time have enjoyed a variety of exciting and demanding roles. It has been

an enormous honour and privilege to have led this organisation, initially on an interim basis, since 2016.

'HIE has been a really significant part of my life, giving me the opportunity to live and work in the Highlands and Islands. I have also worked with so many talented, committed and passionate colleagues and friends who really care about what we do every day to make a positive difference to our region and its people.'

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## LETTERS

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

## Putting Arran art on map

The new Arran Arts Heritage Trail, which was launched this week, really is a splendid piece of work.

Arran has long been known as a haven for artists of all kinds, but to see their work together in one place for the first time really brings home the influence the island has had on painters, photographers, authors and a whole host of other talented people.

The idea for the trail was first mooted around three years ago by the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust, and for many months the team brought in to create it have gone quietly about the business of gathering information, undertaking research and talking to people on the island to come up with the trail.

Each artist has been identified with a place on the island which has been marked by a stone, which itself is made from Arran sandstone. Some of them, such as George Edwards Hering – whose works adorn Brodick Castle – William McTaggart and, more recently, Joan Eardley, are well known, others lesser so. But the trail may help change that.

The fact that the trail can be followed on the island or from afar on the excellent art trail website is to be commended. And the trail is very much the start, rather than a completed work. A publication, with details of all the artists and locations, is nearing approval and the database of artists is ever-expanding.

As the project manager Ruth Impey says: 'I think we've just scratched the surface. Every time we put a full stop on the database, we find another artist influenced by Arran. It's an ongoing job.'

We wish the project well.

## Thought for the week

'I cried to you for help, O Lord my God, and you healed me; you kept me from the grave.' Psalm 30:2

**HAVE YOUR SAY**  
[emaileditor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:emaileditor@arranbanner.co.uk)

## Brodick Hall is an island asset that we must not lose, says submission

Sir,  
This is a joint submission from Brodick Hall Community Association and Brodick Improvements Committee and is our contribution to the consultation which North Ayrshire Council has requested from all interested parties regarding the future role of libraries, halls, community centres and nurseries within North Ayrshire. Being secretary of BHCA and chairperson of BIC, I believe I am writing with the support of all the members.

Very briefly regarding its history, Brodick Public Hall was created on behalf of the Duke of Hamilton in 1896, gifted to the village and by 1925 was being managed by Brodick Public Hall and Recreation Company Ltd. Due to financial problems and a shortage of volunteers the hall was sold in 1977 to Cunninghame District Council for £3,000.

The sale included the hall and surrounding recreational grounds. The hall was more recently taken into the control of North Ayrshire Council, which added to the premises the excellent purpose-built Brodick Library which serves all of the Isle of Arran. These premises are widely recognised as more than a village hall but an island asset.

Brodick Hall Community Association was formed in February 2008 at the direct request of North Ayrshire Council which sought volunteers to run a local booking system for hall users, which has enabled the hall to be booked locally by users rather than the cumbersome system formerly operated from North Ayrshire HQ on the mainland.

Until the start of the pandemic, users have been able to book via the locally-based booking secretary at short notice and, also, been able to cancel at short notice with no penalty. The hall committee frequently finances improvements to the fabric and equipment of the hall from the committee's own funds.

It is important to note that Brodick Hall has a full-time salaried hall-keeper employed by North Ayrshire Council. North Ayrshire Libraries employs the librarians and there is the mobile library serving the whole of the island. We perceive there is worry throughout the island that the council may consider closing the library for economic reasons. This would be a disastrous blow to all the residents

of Arran. It is the hub of Arran with the bus service operating to serve the ferry and schools from the whole of the island as there are bus stops adjacent to Brodick Hall.

The Early Years Learning Nursery has been a tenant of the hall for many years, using the hall during school term mornings. During the 13 months of the pandemic there have been no users of the hall other than the nursery. Now, with government funding, children between the ages of 3-5 are able to attend the nursery until 3pm.

To enable other lets to use the hall in non-pandemic times, the nursery had been planning, with the co-operation of the council and the hall committee, to occupy approximately 50 per cent of the library, which would entail building works, adaptations for toilets, a dining area and separate entrance from the public and access to a play area. This plan would enable the hall to be free for use by other lets throughout morning, afternoon and evening, thereby increasing the use of the hall and adding to the sustainable aspect of the facilities.

We believe Brodick Public Hall is integral to the fabric of island life, and can be used for concerts, craft fairs, charity sales, yoga classes, adult education, church services, school concerts, traditional summer ceilidhs for visitors to the island, etc.

The uses of the hall are too numerous to elaborate, and is likely to increase in future if the nursery can acquire its own premises.

We remind you that the hall has been used as a refuge for stranded visitors, flooded out campers and as a feeding station at the time of power cuts. We know the council and BHCA would gladly grant permission to cope with these emergencies, but if the hall was run by a privately funded organisation would this be easily and quickly sanctioned?

For those who live in Brodick we cannot envisage life in the village without our village hall. It is the centre for so many activities.

If the unimaginable happened that the council decided to close the hall altogether for economic reasons, we can only see this as the heart of the village being removed.

We sincerely hope that this will not happen. Economies may have to be made and Brodick Hall Community Association would co-operate with the council to consider steps which could be taken on this.

We, like everyone else in North Ayrshire, have to wait anxiously to hear the results of

the deliberations by the elected members at their meeting in June. It is an anxious and worrying time.

Yours,  
**Harry Davidson, chairman,  
Brodick Improvements Committee.  
John Sillars, chairman,  
Brodick Hall Community Association.**

*Editor's note: A decision on the future of Brodick Hall and library is expected in early June.*

## Mrs Ruth Devlin – AsCaS send condolences

Sir,  
It is with great sadness that we have to announce the passing of Mrs Ruth Devlin after a short illness. Ruth was very instrumental in the running of ArCaS in earlier years and we owe a great debt to her for her service. Ruth put tremendous energy and enthusiasm into our shop and for that we are forever grateful. Ruth was greatly admired and respected and we extend our condolences to her family and friends.

Yours,  
**David Penn,  
ArCaS Secretary.**

## Retirement thanks

Sir,  
I would like to express my profound thanks and appreciation for all the cards, gifts and good wishes I received on my retirement as the Church of Scotland minister for the parishes of Whiting Bay and Kildonan. It has been such a privilege to have lived and worked on Arran and I have been quite overwhelmed by the kind and generous response.

With my very best wishes to everyone on the beautiful Isle of Arran.

Yours,  
**Elizabeth R L Watson,  
Largs.**

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# Lucy the lucky Lab finally on the mend

An injured Labrador has been saved from having its front leg amputated after generous contributors donated nearly £6,000 towards vet bills which will pay for surgery on the leg and hip of the young dog.

The story of Lucy, who was on her way to her new home on Arran, made headlines in the papers and across social media channels this week after she became spooked by a train at Paisley Gilmour Street station and leapt over the train tracks and over a wall.

Unfortunately Lucy seriously injured her front leg and hip when she landed as the wall dropped approximately 20 feet on the other side. After an initial search Lucy could not be found as she had crawled away and found a place to hide.

Luckily train staff later heard her barking and her location was discovered, but this was more than 24 hours after the incident.

Lucy was seriously injured and unable to move, so she was rushed to the nearest veterinary clinic where it was suggested that amputation might be the best option.

A gofundme page was set up by Lee Herron to see if funds could be raised to assist Lucy and her adoptive family to help pay for the costs of the operations that Lucy required. Without



Lucy, the fox red Labrador, captured the hearts of animal lovers who donated funds so that she could have emergency surgery.

taking into account any aftercare costs it was estimated that the operations on Lucy's leg and hip would cost in the region of £4,500.

Within one day of the plea, and with the help of all of the media attention, the gofundme page attracted 386 donors, who all helped to raise £864 more than the fundraising goal of

£5,000, a total of £5,846 which will all go towards medical treatment for Lucy, who is lucky to be alive.

Lucy was admitted to the veterinary clinic at the start of the week and on Tuesday they operated on both her front leg and hip with initial indications that the operation has gone well.

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# Brodick pupils show they



Older pupils gather with their bikes. 01\_B18bike02



Younger children gather with their scooters and bikes. 01\_B18bike03

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



Brodick Primary School took part in the Sustrans Big Pedal event for the first time last week.

Schools across the country have been competing in the UK's largest inter-school active travel competition. More than 2,100 schools registered to take part, representing more than 700,000 pupils.

There are various events held during the 12-day Big Pedal

and Brodick chose to take part in the 'one day small school event'.

All pupils able to attend school on Tuesday took part by either cycling, scooting or walking to school. All members of staff also took part. The achievement saw the school ranked joint tenth in the league table on the Sustrans website.

The pupils gathered at the school start time at Ormidale Park to make the short cycle to school watched by parents and grandparents as well as

Arran police officers, who had been drafted in to manage the traffic.

Principal teacher Jenny Duncan and Claire Mooney led the cyclists. Pauline Robertson and Morag Donaldson cycled with a group of children and the remaining staff walked and manned road ends to ensure children were using the road safely.

Organiser Miss Mooney said: 'We would like to thank parents for their support and the police officers who accompanied us.'



The children line up ready for the off. 01\_B18bike04



Youngsters on their scooters follow the bikes. 01\_B18bike13



Pauline Robertson prepares to take part in the event. 01\_B18bike17

Left: A teacher keeps a close eye on the younger pupils on their bikes. 01\_B18bike12

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# are big on pedal power



Teachers Claire Mooney and Jenny Duncan lead the cyclists to school.  
01\_B18bike01



The first cyclists make their way past Brodick Golf Club.  
01\_B18bike06



Thumbs up from one pupil enjoying the ride to school.  
01\_B18bike09



Walking pupils bring up the rear of the procession to school.  
01\_B18bike16



The riders keep on coming.  
01\_B18bike11



More young pupils on their scooters.  
01\_B18bike14



Left: Pupils head away from Ormidale Park.  
01\_B18bike07



A youngster goes it alone.  
01\_B18bike15



A young rider smiles for the camera.  
01\_B18bike10



The last of the cyclists join the procession.  
01\_B18bike05



The pupils disappear into the distance as they make their way to school.  
01\_B18bike08

# Kirsty Wark launches the Arran Arts Heritage Trail

The Arran Arts Heritage Trail launched last Thursday with a fascinating online symposium.

The symposium was chaired by broadcaster and writer Kirsty Wark who told those attending: 'I am delighted to welcome you to the Arran Arts Heritage Trail. The trail explores Arran's landscapes through the eyes of some of Scotland's most iconic artists and, as a lover of art with a lifelong connection to Arran, it is a real pleasure to introduce you to this heritage trail.'

The schedule provided a rare treat, with contributions from the National Galleries of Scotland, the Hunterian Museum & Art Gallery, the University of Glasgow, Glasgow School of Art, the Alasdair Gray Archive and the irrepresible Richard Demarco in conversation with BBC



Kirsty Wark chairing the symposium.



An image of the original Arran to the Shore painting.

arts correspondent Pauline McLean. Ruth Impey, project manager, said: 'The line up for the symposium was incredible and it was wonderful to have such amazing contributors discussing artists who have been inspired by Arran's landscapes. We couldn't think of a

more inspirational way to mark the launch of the Arran Arts Heritage Trail and celebrate Arran's longstanding and rich artistic heritage.

'We wanted to ensure that in spite of lockdown restrictions the trail received the attention it deserved and the symposium

allowed us to invite the local and wider community to enjoy and learn about this new trail in a Covid-19 safe way. Indeed participants logged in from across the UK, France and Norway.'

The Arran Arts Heritage Trail represents a varied array of artists who have been inspired by the landscapes of Arran dating back over 200 years. In collaboration with members of the community, through a heritage research group, 20 locations with featured artists have been identified to establish this island-wide trail, which aims to celebrate this rich cultural heritage for current and future generations.

Hand-carved placemarkers, made of reclaimed red Arran sandstone, mark the physical trail across the island and the trail can also be explored virtually through the newly launched website [www.arranartsheritagetrail.com](http://www.arranartsheritagetrail.com). By clicking on trail map locations, playing short films, listening to revived Arran dialect Gaelic location names and discovering further artworks and artists held in an extensive database, the website allows you to immerse yourself in the landscapes, even if from afar.

Ahead of the launch, images of some of the artists' work was projected on to Brodick Castle on the night of the children's art competition covered last month in the Banner.

Arran Trust chairman Kenneth Bone said: 'The Arran Trust was delighted to be involved in supporting the Arran Arts Heritage Trail. This is an informative cultural experience to be enjoyed by residents and visitors. We will all be surprised at the influence Arran has had over so many famous

## Missing placemaker stone

The Catacol placemaker for the Arran Arts Heritage Trail has gone missing. The placemaker was left in the Glen Catacol car park ready for installation. However, last Wednesday, April 28, the marker was missing when Scott Murdoch went to install it.

Despite an extensive search, it has not been found. The marker, made of red Arran sandstone, has the number 11 and Wingate carved into it referencing the work of Sir James Wingate, his wife Katherine and their daughter Helen who all painted on the west coast of Arran. Any information would be gratefully



The missing Wingate marker was last seen in Catacol.

received. Please contact Ruth Impey [arranartsheritagemanager@gmail.com](mailto:arranartsheritagemanager@gmail.com)

artists.' The symposium began with a session dedicated to Joan Eardley, which also launched the Eardley100 celebrations, to mark her centenary year.'

'Galleries across the UK will be marking Eardley's life and work in the coming months and it was a real honour to kick off the celebrations through the symposium,' said Ruth.

Kirsty Wark chaired a discussion on Eardley's formative years on Arran, which included Anne Morrison Hudson, Eardley's niece, and journalist Jan Patience, both founders of Eardley100, who are co-ordinating celebrations. A short film especially commissioned by the trail and directed by Simon Sloan, the trail's appointed young filmmaker, also received its public debut as part of the Eardley discussion.

The film, *Tabernacle*, nar-

rated by Kirsty Wark, focuses on the cottage come studio in Corrie where Eardley and her lifelong friend Margot Sandeman spent summers painting whilst students at Glasgow School of Art. Eardley and Sandeman share a placemaker on the trail, near the shore in Corrie, to mark their time spent painting there.

Further highlights of the symposium included a talk on fairies and Hannah Frank, Jessie M King's bringing Paris to Arran, a rare glimpse into the sketchbooks of Duncan Shanks and Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and a whistle stop tour of some of the 72 Arran works held in the National Galleries of Scotland.

Tim Keyworth, the National Trust for Scotland's manager at Brodick Castle, gardens and country park, said: 'We're really looking forward to the launch of the island-wide trail and are thrilled to have a placemaker for the trail in the castle grounds.'

'We're sure the trail will introduce more people to the beauty of Arran's landscapes and the inspiration they've provided to so many artists over the years.'

For those who missed it or want to hear more about the incredible influence of Arran on so many iconic artists, all of the presentations were recorded and will be available to view on the Arran Arts Heritage Trail website in the coming week.



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Joan Eardley's Arran to the Shore is shown on Brodick Castle.

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# Rough-legged buzzard: first Arran record in 47 years

The highly variable plumage of the familiar common buzzard on Arran makes the identification of rough-legged buzzard a challenge.

Pale common buzzards occur on Arran and can perform incredible rough-legged, buzzard look-alike acts.

That said, a classic juvenile rough-legged buzzard is a striking bird. Features include a bright white tail contrasting with the black terminal band, white head and breast contrasting with the very dark belly and the solid black carpal patches on the underwing.

All features were well captured by Rachel Dobson in these amazing photographs taken on Sunday April 25 by the Ross Road near Glenree. The Clyde Rarities Committee had no hesitation in confirming this was a juvenile rough-legged buzzard.

## Bird notes by Jim Cassels

With a complete circumpolar distribution, rough-legged buzzards breed across the tundra and taiga of North America and Eurasia, migrate south for the winter. Generally speaking, rough-legged buzzard is a rare winter visitor and passage migrant to Britain with records mainly occurring in the east of the country.

The last Arran record was in the winter of 1974. That year there was a very large influx of birds to the UK with up to 250 reports. That was exceptional. In contrast, between 2012 and



The rare rough-legged buzzard in flight.

Photographs  
Rachel Dobson

2017 there was fewer than 30 UK records. When there is a good lemming and vole year in Fennoscandia, this triggers a bumper breeding season, resulting in large numbers of dispersing juveniles.

That Sunday afternoon in April, Rachel Dobson and Chris Southall, bird ringers, noticed a buzzard being mobbed by two raven. Chris commented on the unusual white tail. Meanwhile Rachel is trying to get her camera out

of her bag. The bird is moving away. Almost incredibly Rachel managed to photograph the bird.

Rachel's own words give a measure of the excitement. 'Trying to snap photos of the bird before it flew away, I have never been more stressed trying to focus my camera than I was today!

'Examining these photos in closer detail on the back of the camera, the distinctive plumage screamed out to us that

this was indeed a very special sighting, and a first for both of us. After checking the Arran Bird Report, we were excited to learn that this was the first one recorded on Arran for almost 47 years!

'What an incredible record. Chris and I were so lucky to be in the right place at the right time. I am glad that he was there to identify it as something special to photograph.

'It was a never-to-be-forgotten day,' she added.

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@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information, buy the Arran Bird Report 2020 and the Arran Bird Report, the first 40 years. Plus visit the website <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/index.html>

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## Arran Banner

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## Zoom talks held at mountain festival

The Arran Mountain Festival 2021 is good to go, albeit very much adapted to be compliant with government Covid requirements.

This is all despite restrictions still affecting events on Arran and in spite of new ferry disruptions and reduced capacities.

Booking lines for the walks programme, to be held over the weekend of May 14 to May 17, are nearly sold out already.

Another walk has been added and the coached mountain running sessions have been confirmed. Three levels are on offer depending on previous experience.

So whether people are seasoned hill runners or just want to try it out under professional guidance, there is a course to suit.

The social gatherings, so much a part of previous mountain festivals, are not yet possible, of course, but in their place there are three Zoom events: on Friday evening Kate Sampson of NTS Arran Ranger Service will present 'The Glen Rosa Project, rewilding Arran's uplands'; and on Saturday and Sunday evenings there will be selections of short films from the BMC Women in Adventure film competition, followed by discussions, and feedback from each day's walks.

All the festival participants will be invited but these virtual events are open to everyone who is interested. See the website for how to be sent a link.

New to this year's festival are guided mountain bike rides partnered by Ride Arran



Arran Mountain Festival Covid-19 approval certificate.

(<https://www.facebook.com/RideArran/>). Morning or afternoon sessions of a couple of hours through Arran's wonderful landscapes are available, catering for novices, intermediate riders, or advanced riders. Check out <http://www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk/> for details of all these walks, rides, runs and events.

The Arran Mountain Festival organising group has been encouraged by the enthusiastic response to the 2021 programme, and grateful again for the continuing support given by volunteers, local organisations and walk leaders who have come together to ensure Arran does not lose another year of the Festival to Covid.

Please note the Scottish Government guidelines for visitors to the islands which recommend two lateral flow tests before travel.

Robin Barnden.

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday May 5, 2001



Michael Marx wowed a packed PHT last Friday night with his amazing Elvis Presley impersonation. With his sequinned white suit, bell bottoms, brylcreem and sideburns he looked the part. 01\_B18tweYAx06



Marion Gentleman of Lochranza retired last week after almost 10 years as a district nurse. Celebrating with her are, left to right, Nancy Cannon, Moira Miller, Carol Ribbeck, Cathie McNee, Marion (seated), Janet Campbell, Charlotte Weir, Vera Ransome, Julie Graham, Jan McGregor, Philomena Campbell, Alison Dick, Isobel MacDonald, Liz McGinnes and Alastair Grassie. 01\_B18tweYAx02



Above: Opening day at Brodick Bowling Club where the president's wife, Margaret Griffin, bowled the first wood of the season in glorious sunshine. 01\_B18tweYAx03



Left: Isa Wilson and Bob Bell receive honorary membership certificates for their long service to Brodick Bowling Club which were presented by club president David Griffin. 01\_B18tweYAx04



New gabion walls are being installed as sea defences in Whiting Bay. This JCB was preparing the area below the road at the bottom of Arnhall Drive. 01\_B18tweYAx01



Euan Rogerson takes to the air to win a line-out ball for Arran in last Saturday's rugby match against Greenock at Ormidale Park. 01\_B18tweYAx05

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## RECRUITMENT



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Please enquire for details to [coorie.doon@outlook.com](mailto:coorie.doon@outlook.com) or phone Jackie on 01770700247



### The Arran Team is looking for a Part Time Maintenance Assistant

This will be working 21hrs across a 7 day week and covering call outs at weekends as required, hours to be organised with Maintenance Manager. Carrying out general maintenance repairs, liaising with contractor on larger repairs and maintenance work and helping customers and guests as required.

This is a Temporary role between April and September 2021, the rate of pay is £9.75/hr for 21 hrs per week, paid monthly. Immediate start is available for this position.

If you would like to be considered for this role,  
Please send a CV to  
[david@thearranteam.co.uk](mailto:david@thearranteam.co.uk)



### PERMANENT JOB VACANCY SUPERVISOR

Are you hard-working, customer-focused & looking to join a small, happy cafe team?

**This could be the role for you!**

Experience preferred, however full training can be given. 3 fixed shifts per week.

Availability on a Sunday required.

To apply email Charlotte at [theshorearran@gmail.com](mailto:theshorearran@gmail.com)

Closing date Monday 17th May

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THE ARRAN BANNER

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## CHURCH NOTICES

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine Independent but working together

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

Liz Lawrie 302782  
& John Kerr 860 498

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

**Sunday 9th May 2021**

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.

The Food Bank continues from  
Brodick Church

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland

Charity Number: SC014005

**Sunday 9th May**

Worship will be conducted  
at 10.30am

As our capacity is greatly  
reduced due to the two metre  
social distancing, you are asked,  
please, to phone Mrs Janet  
Redfearn on 700244 by the  
Friday lunchtime if you wish to  
attend Sunday worship.

### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Kilmory linked with Lamlash

*"A faith to proclaim ~ a  
fellowship to share"*

Scottish Charity SC015072

**Sunday 9th May**

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 Margaret McArthur at  
600363 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.

**Sunday 9th May**

6th Sunday of Easter

Holy Communion at 11 am.  
Revd Canon Simon Mackenzie  
*EVERYONE IS WELCOME*  
We follow strict SEC guidelines  
Revd Barry Roberts will be on  
Arran during May as assistant  
priest. He can be contacted on  
07949-427791.

### ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

### HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

**Saturday 8th May**

Vigil Mass at 5pm

**Sunday 9th May**

Morning Mass at 11am  
Capacity in church is  
strictly limited.

Attendance at all the above  
services is by booking only. Tel  
600595 or email [peterdwilko@  
gmail.com](mailto: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

**CRAIG** - John Alister. Peacefully,  
at Arran War Memorial Hospital  
on Saturday 1st May 2021, John  
Alister of Hazelwood, Imachar,  
aged 74 years. Much loved hus-  
band, father and grandfather. Due  
to current restrictions, the funeral  
on Friday 14th May is private.  
The cortege will pass through  
Lochranza at 11.30am, towards  
Pirnmill and then Shiskine  
Cemetery, via the Roden. Family  
flowers only. Donations, if desired,  
to ArCaS or the Arran Hospital  
Supporters League.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**ALLAN** - Colin. Audrey and fam-  
ily wish to send huge thanks to all  
carers who have looked after Colin  
for over 15 years. Special thanks  
to the 'long service' ones, Gary,  
Maggie and Alistair. We could not  
have asked for better care from all.  
Thanks to Drs., district nurses,  
staff at Shiskine Surgery, Eleanor  
for the lovely flowers and Clair  
Hendry and staff for professional  
and respectful funeral care.

## ARRAN BANNER GOLF



Brian Sherwood presents John Pennycott with the Hugh Steel Cup which took place at Machrie Bay Golf Club; ALGU winners with their trophies, from left, Ann May, winner of the Drumadoon Tray, Island Champion, Isabel McDonald, winner of the Cir Mhor competition, Sheena Murchie, runner up Island Championship, Jerry Arthur, Flockhart competition winner, and Madeleine McLaren, best inner half in the Flockhart competition.



Left, Ann May, winner of the ALGU Island Championship at Corrie; centre, Clare Buchanan and Alice Anderson, Shiskine Golf Club winners of the Ladies' Rock Plate; right, Sheena Murchie was the runner up in ALGU Island Championship at Corrie.

## Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday April 28: 1 D  
Logan 72-11=61, 2 P Moran  
84-21=63, 3 G Andrew 72-  
9=63. A substantial Magic  
twos pot was won by Graham  
Andrew. Saturday May 1: 1  
A Girvan 81-22=59 BIH, 2 A  
Smith 74-15=59, 3 D Logan  
72-11=61, scratch.

Fixtures: Saturday May 8,  
18-hole Medal. Wednesday  
May 12, 18-hole Medal. Please  
arrange your own pairings  
and adhere to current Covid  
regulations.

## Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday April 27, Peter Sutton:  
1 Brian Sherwood 61, 2  
Hamish Bannatyne 65, BIH, 3  
Reuben Betley 65. Magic twos,  
Hamish Bannatyne. Saturday  
May 1, Hugh Steel Cup. 1  
John Pennycott 30, 2 Quinten  
Oliver 30.5, 3 Ron Woods 32.

Fixtures: Tuesday May 11,  
Peter Sutton/Lady Mary,  
tee-off 12.30pm and 5.30pm.  
Anyone playing in the evening  
is asked to contact Brian before  
Monday.

## Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday April 28, The  
Richard Parfitt Memorial  
Stableford. A total of 26 played  
in this popular early season  
Stableford. Conditions were  
fine if chilly and scoring was  
decent with the top 16 cards  
returned scoring 30 points or  
better. John Pennycott bet-  
tered that figure by 10 points to



Jerry Arthur with her  
trophy from the Flockhart  
Competition at Shiskine.

successfully defend the trophy  
he won last year and beat Dave  
Hackett, himself on a decent  
run of form just now, by two  
points. 1 John Pennycott 14,  
40pts, 2 Dave Hackett 13, 38.  
3 Graeme Crichton 14, 37,  
ACB, 4 Nicol Auld 4, 37, ACB.  
Magic twos David Blair at 7th,  
Neil McKechnie at 14th, Stan  
Rainey at 16th, and David  
Blair, Graeme Crichton and  
Stan Rainey at 17th.

At the AGA Spring  
Handicap, see back page, once  
again a Whiting Bay member  
came out on top. Following  
Kevin Macaleny's winning  
score of 57 at Whiting Bay in  
2019, David Morrison won at  
Brodick with an equally (at  
least) impressive net 60 against  
a par of 65 to win by one shot  
in a field of 52 island golfers.

All present agreed the course  
was in superb condition and  
thanks go to Brodick Golf

Club and its greenkeeping staff  
for that, to the clubhouse and  
staff for the warm welcome  
and catering and finally to  
the AGA for organising this  
popular event with its usual  
efficiency.

Fixtures: Sunday May 9,  
The Eric Wood Stableford.  
Wednesday May 12, Summer  
Trophy. Friday May 14, AGA  
Seniors Bowl, WBGC 4.30pm.  
Until further notice there will  
be no draws for partners and  
players should arrange their  
own groupings.

## Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday April 29, Ladies' Rock  
Plate: 1 Alice Anderson and  
Clare Buchanan 30+30=60pts,  
2 Carole Stewart and Isobel  
McDonald 27+27=54pts, 3  
Jenni Turnbull and Elizabeth  
Kelso 26+25=51pts. Magic  
twos, Shona Weir. Gents'  
Rock Plate: 1 B Sherwood  
and P King 28+27=55pts, 2  
H Bannatyne and B Paton  
27+26=53pts, 3 John Salton  
and T Ellis 26+25=51pts.  
Magic twos, Roy Weir, Hamish  
Bannatyne, Brian Sherwood,  
Tony Ellis. Sunday May 2,  
Gents' Sunday Stableford: 1 W  
McNally 28pts, 2 S Kerr 27pts,  
3 D Tod 26pts.

## Lamlash Golf Club

Ladies' section: Wednesday  
April 28, Stroke 1: 1 Kate  
MaAdam 81-17=64 BIH, 2  
Elizabeth Sinclair 86-22=64  
BIH, 3 June Richardson  
90-26=64. Scratch Sheena  
Murchie 80.

Thursday April 29, Summer  
Cup: 1 Norrie MacIntyre  
72-10=62, 2 Scott Campbell

81-16=65, 3 Stuart Campbell  
72-5=67, 4 Paul Jameson  
77-10=67, BIH. Best scratch,  
Dougie Macfarlane 69. Magic  
twos, Norrie MacIntyre at 4th,  
Jack McNally at 5th,

Stuart Campbell at 16th,  
Willie Currie at 13th. Hole 13  
drawn, winner, Willie Currie.

Fixtures: Sunday May 9,  
Hamilton Bowl (Bogey),  
noon draw. Thursday May 13,  
Summer Cup. Make up own  
groups and see starter for  
times.

## Arran Ladies Golf Union

Sunday April 25, ALGU Island  
Championship at Corrie Golf  
Club. The final of the Island  
Championship was played  
between Ann May and Sheena  
Murchie. The weather was  
glorious sunshine with quite a  
stiff breeze. Corrie golf course  
was very well presented and  
the greens fast. The first two  
holes were drawn, but Ann  
gradually began to find her  
form and win more holes.  
Sheena fought back, but Ann  
May won 5 and 4.

Saturday May 1, Flockhart  
Competition at Shiskine Golf  
Club. A total of 24 ladies par-  
ticipated in this competition  
and while there was quite a  
stiff wind, thankfully the rain  
stayed north of Brodick side to  
everyone's relief. The winner  
was Jerry Arthur with a score  
of 61, 25. BIH from Madeleine  
McLaren and scratch by Ann  
May 75. The course was in  
excellent condition and the  
greens especially fast for this  
time of year.

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Scottish Field. Offer ends 31 May 2021. While stocks last. Limited stock available. first come, first served basis.



# David takes the honours in AGA Spring Handicap

Whiting Bay golfer David Morrison won the fiercely but amicably contested Arran Golfers Association (AGA) Spring Handicap which got under way over the weekend after last year's cancellation.

The competition saw 52 golfers battling it out in fair weather at Brodick Golf Club on Sunday May 2, in what is one of Arran's most popular events in the golfing calendar.

The other two big winners on the day were John Beattie of Brodick who won the JC Reid (Seniors) Trophy with Ewan McKinnon, who is currently in great form, the scratch winner.

Top results: Division 1: David Morrison (Whiting Bay) 71-11=60; Ewan McKinnon (Brodick) 64+1=65, ACB; Ross Traill (Shiskine) 72-7=65. Division 2: John Beattie (Brodick) 85-24=61; Jim Reid (Brodick) 80-18=62; George Hamilton (Brodick) 80-16=64.

Thomson Cup Matchplay draw: Alistair Hume v Jimmy Armit; Jim Reid v Babbies MacNeil; Ross Traill v Bob McCrae and George Hamilton v David Morrison. Matches to be played by Sunday June 6.

An AGA spokesman said: 'The AGA thanks Whiting Bay Golf Club and Brodick Golf



**John Beattie, winner of the JC Reid (Seniors) Trophy at the AGA Spring Handicap.**

Club for the fantastic help over the weekend in hosting competitions. Greenkeepers, committee members, catering staff, volunteers and helpers, you know who you are. And, of course, to all the other clubs for their help.

AGA fixtures: Friday May 7, Seniors Bowl semis, 5pm sharp. Friday May 14, Seniors Bowl final, both at Whiting Bay Golf Club.

Saturday June 19, Hope Cup at Lamash Golf Club first round. Saturday June 26, Hope Cup semi-final and final. Draw: Shiskine v Machrie, winners play Lamash. Whiting Bay v Corrie, Brodick v Lochranza. Champion of Champions at Shiskine Golf Club, Corrie v Whiting Bay, Lochranza v Shiskine, Brodick v champion, Machrie v Lamash. Tuesday May 18, AGA Junior Strokeplay at 5pm at Brodick Golf Club.

'Machrie Bay is handing on the baton to Lochranza and we wish them every success in their two-year term. If all the clubs treat an AGA fixture as one of their own, this will help the smooth running of the AGA, no matter who is running it.'

Friday April 30, Seniors Bowl at Whiting Bay. Shiskine beat Lamash in the first match.

The other two matches were



**Tam McNab, middle, and Christopher MacNeil, right, join Brodick's head greenkeeper Graeme Crichton on the superbly manicured green.**



**Above: Nicol Hume watches John Pennycott tee off at the 7th hole.**

**Left: Nicol Auld, Terry Raeside and Ross Traill compete in the AGA Spring Handicap.**

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