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# Community will have to fight to save Brodick Hall

by Hugh Boag  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The entire future of Brodick Hall has been plunged into doubt after North Ayrshire Council agreed this week to press ahead with plans for a Community Asset Transfer of the facility.

This will see the council wash its hands of responsibility for the hall leaving an existing or new community group to take on the lease and run and manage the hall – but no-one has expressed an interest.

As well as the wide range of community events held at the hall, it is also home to Brodick Nursery which has been seeking approval for plans to alter the hall to better suit its needs.

The move, taken at a full meeting of the council online on Wednesday, would also put the future of Arran library services, currently housed in Brodick Hall, in serious doubt.

The consultation into community facilities has been

one of the largest ever to be undertaken in North Ayrshire, involving thousands of residents whose views, the council says, have directly shaped the proposals.

Over the past three years, the council has carried out three different phases of engagement

**'The proposal is not to close the hall but to look at different management arrangements.'**

and consultation, with the most recent phase carried out between March and May this year.

Taking the proposed community centres and libraries out of the council's portfolio would save the council £1 million, according to estimates.

However, Arran Conservative Councillor Timothy Billings did receive an assurance that

the council would retain the services if no-one wanted to take them over.

Executive director Audrey Sutton said: 'Services will be retained on the island, however, we will work with interested parties should they come forward.'

There has been criticism that the consultation was not advertised widely enough, despite the best efforts of the Arran Banner to make the public aware of it, and the council has agreed to review the feedback.

During the consultation, the council received 70 comments against the Community Asset Transfer of Brodick Hall, with just 10 comments in favour, with real concerns expressed that the building will not reopen after the pandemic.

In mitigation the council says the proposal is not to close the hall but to look at different management arrangements in

Continued on page two.

## Captains sign-off on last day of school



Arran High School captains Erin Macpherson and Rory Currie with their t-shirts signed by classmates and a cake featuring all of the S6 pupils on their last day at school. For full story, turn to pages 4 and 5.



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# Students make waves with pre-summit climate protest

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran High School pupils joined with The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) to make their voices heard in a nationwide protest known as Make The Wave.

The pupils joined nearly 90 coastal communities across the UK to call for urgent action in the four days leading up to the G7 summit conference in Cornwall, which starts today (Friday).

Make The Wave is part of a wider set of G7-related actions which aims to send a signal to Prime Minister Boris Johnson and G7 summit delegates – who represent several billion citizens – that ordinary people demand greater, immediate action to tackle the climate and ecological emergency.

The action's focus is on the



resulting rise in sea level and Make The Wave is demanding action by governments across the world to tackle the problem of emissions, especially our continued dependence on fossil fuels.

The initiative uses the slogan: 'We are already drowning in promises, now we demand action.'

The Arran pupils spread their message in front of the COAST Discovery Centre, where pupils held banners up to show where, in 50 years' time, the sea level will reach if urgent action is not taken now.

Jenny Stark, COAST's outreach and communications manager said: 'We are living in a climate crisis.



Left: Arran High School pupils join more than 87 coastal communities to help Make The Wave and, above, students show where sea levels could reach in the next 50 years if climate change is not addressed.

'The livelihoods of our children and grandchildren are at stake.

'For too long we have been drowning in broken promises from governments and the G7 summit provides a timely opportunity – in advance of COP26 later this year – to demand urgent action against climate change. It is no longer a case of if our coastal towns

are threatened, but when. World leaders must take the lead and turn the tide on rising sea levels for the sake of coastal communities around the globe.'

The G7 (Group of seven) is made up of the world's seven largest economies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the UK and the United States. The group will meet at Carbis

Bay in Cornwall over the next three days holding meetings on global events, including climate change, trade and Covid recovery.

The UK is the host for this year's G7 event as well as COP26 which is the United Nations Climate Change Conference which is to take place in Glasgow at the start of November.

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## Community will have to fight to save Brodick Hall

Continued from page 1.

discussion with the Brodick Hall Committee and early years class.

A report to the council states: 'Early year provision on the island is required and additional space needed under the expansion of early years guidelines. The changes required to transform part of the building are significant enough to require a consultation so all services can be maintained with more flexible use of the space.'

'The Community Wealth Building Strategy and Community Asset Transfer process supports community ownership. The council is working with the committee and early years class to explore how the community can have control of their land and assets.'

'Specialists in Community Wealth Building, funding officer and community economic development officers and locality officers are in place to offer support. Although a Category B listed building, this would not preclude asset transfer, which carried further consultation requirements.'

'There is space within the building with more flexible sharing arrangements.

Discussions between the committee and early years class will be supported by council officers.'

The recommendation accepted by the council is to: 'Work together to progress the discussions regarding a lease or a Community Asset Transfer, taking into account the comments about existing lessees' needs.'

The council says the services provided by Arran Library will be 'a key stakeholder in any discussions around the transformation or ownership of the hall' as a community hub approach is adopted to reflect the learning from Covid.

However, during the consultation there were 65 comments in opposition to this, with just 16 in favour. There were concerns at the loss of amenities and facilities, in particular digital access, opening hours, reductions in the book budget and of the impact of integration of library services.

However, in the report the council states: 'Library services and digital services will be maintained from the existing building and mobile will continue to serve the rest of the island. The new model for

libraries will include similar opening hours for Call, Click and Collect, Browse and Borrow, digital access and targeted work with specific groups, such as Bookbug and class visits. This will be provided by a mix of library and Connected Communities staff.

'The sharing of space will be mitigated by flexible layouts, provision of laptops and moveable shelving. This enables multiple services, rather than multiple buildings, to be retained.'

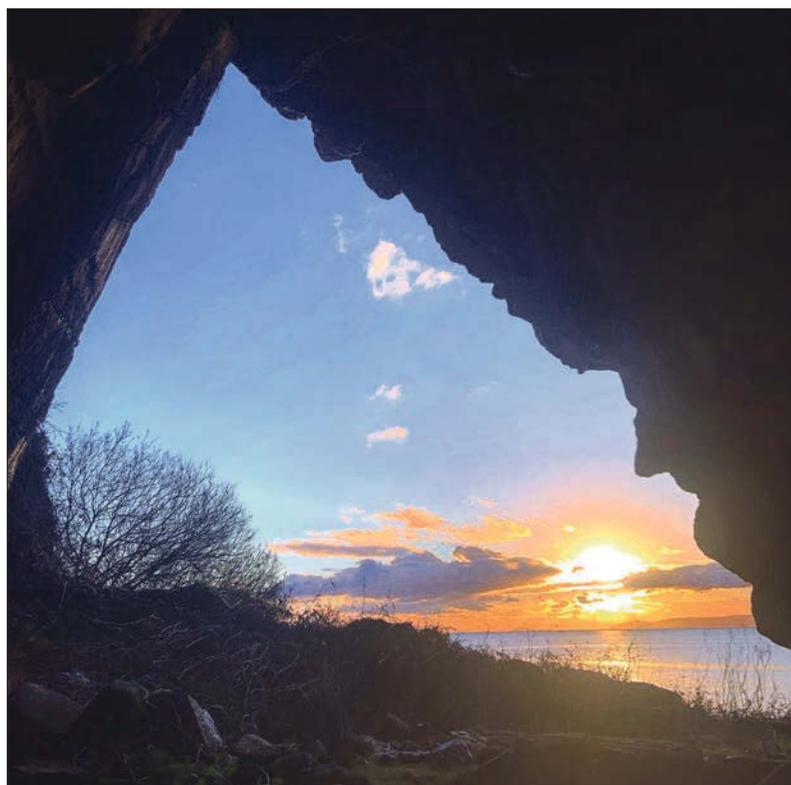
The recommendation accepted by the council is to: 'Work together to progress the proposals with others in the building and be flexible as to how the space is used.'

Under the proposals, the Arran Outdoor Education Centre in Lamlash would become a council locality hub – it has operated as such during the pandemic.

Labour council leader Joe Cullinane said it was the most important decision the council would make in this term and described the facilities as the 'social fabric that brings communities together'.

The council unanimously approved the report.

Preacher's Cave at Kilpatrick is one of 20 locations on the GeoTourist app. Photograph: Gemma McNicol.



# New app offers an immersive geotour of Arran

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Arran is featured in a unique and exciting new app which will allow visitors to take an immersive tour around Arran, complete with local imagery and audio.

The Arran Geotour, which has been compiled with the help of VisitArran and features contributions from Arran residents, is expected to go live soon on the Geotourist website and app.

Geotourism allows people to visit landmarks and places of interest with the help of audio commentary and images using the Geotourist app. Geotourist is designed to act as your own personalised digital tour guide which provides commentary and guidance as you make your way from one location to another.

The Arran Geotour features 20 points of interest, imagery of many local highlights and audio commentary and narration by Sheila Gilmore, Claire Johnston, Tommy Gilmore and 13-year-old Harry Gilmore, as well as Robert McLellan's Arran Burn, read in Lallans Scots.



On Arran, the Geotourist app will take visitors on an anticlockwise tour of the island, looking at some of the more unusual attractions, as well as some lesser known favourites - the stepping stones at Sannox; Preacher's Cave at Kilpatrick; the Arran Heritage Museum and the Doctor's Bath in Corrie among many others.

Sheila Gilmore, executive director of VisitArran said: 'This is a really exciting development for Arran. Through the Geotourist app, visitors can explore some of the less well-known attractions as well as one or two favourites.

'Our thanks go to the Geotourist team for their ongoing support, island residents who supported the project, both with imagery and audio, and to the McLellan family for allowing use of Robert's beautiful and descriptive words.'

Chief executive officer and Geotourist founder Shaon Talukder, who created the

Geotourist concept, said: 'We are thrilled and delighted to welcome the VisitArran tour on to the platform. As a global platform, Arran's tour will sit beside tours from the other side of the world and we know that this encourages people to explore remotely. It is this thirst for discovery that makes the world smaller and will drive international visitors to include Arran as a stopping point when they can travel again - and they will be well rewarded by the island as it is an awesome destination in the truest sense of the word and I hear the food is worth travelling for too.'

The Geotourist app is free to download and is available from the website at geotourist.com

It is available for Apple and Android, and users are able to record and publish their own tours and to search from thousands of locations to find other tours in the area.

## No-shows add to ferry woes

There has been a big increase in the number of passengers failing to turn up for ferries they have booked, writes Hugh Boag.

The summer timetable is finally in full swing with the return of the MV Isle of Arran last week. However, Arran Ferry Committee has found there were 176 no-shows last week in Brodick with 16 of these on Mondays 8.20am, one of the most sought after sailings. The previous week there were 171 no-shows from the Arran end of the route to

Ardrossan. The no-shows are a mixture of cars and foot passengers.

A committee spokeswoman said: 'This is frustrating to say the least.'

'It's very hard to campaign for improved service delivery when this is happening. I'm sure we all know islanders who could have travelled last week but were unable to do so because the sailings were full. Please, if you have a booking either use it or cancel.'

CalMac's area operations manager (Clyde) Tommy Gore

said: 'The number of people wishing to travel on ferries is increasing, but Covid restrictions mean that there are less spaces available. Anyone who has booked a journey and cannot make it should cancel as soon as possible. This will free up places for those who need to travel.'

The ferry committee has been pushing for clarification on the turn-up-and-go tickets which are presently eight per sailing on the MV Caledonian Isles and four on the MV Isle of Arran.

## NHS advises Arran to stick with it

People living in Arran and across Ayrshire are being reminded to 'stick with it' and continue to follow the guidelines to help stop the spread of Covid-19.

The plea comes after a rise in cases and several outbreaks at schools, businesses and hospitality venues on the mainland, but there have been no reports on Arran.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran director of public health Lynne

McNiven said: 'The past 16 months has been extremely difficult for everyone, and we are all desperate to get back to the things we love. However, while there is light at the end of the tunnel and restrictions are starting to ease, it is extremely important we stick with it and continue to follow the guidelines.'

Lynne McNiven added: 'As a result of the increased cases, Ayrshire will remain under

level two restrictions. Covid-19 has not gone away and, if we want to see restrictions ease further, it is important that we adhere to the current restriction rules and FACTS - Face Coverings, Avoid Crowds, Clean Hands, Two Metres and Self-isolate.

'But we need your help. We all have a role to play in protecting ourselves, our family and friends and our community.'

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# Bitter-sweet goodbyes to lockdown



Words and photos by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

S6 pupils at Arran High School, who have been dubbed the lockdown leavers, celebrated their final day of high school at an informal celebration last Friday.

For most of the 37 pupils it was a joyous occasion and a reason to celebrate, but for many it also meant sad goodbyes tinged with excitement and anticipation of forging new lives in further

education or employment. Departing pupils enjoyed an afternoon of activities which began with a friendly game of rounders on the sports field and culminated in them being joined by the entire school at the end of the day where everyone said goodbye to the senior pupils.

The memorable day, which will be ingrained in the memories of the pupils, also saw them taking part in the traditional activity of having their shirts signed by pupils and staff as a keepsake and a memento of their school days.

Pupils then enjoyed a barbecue with music before a balloon ceremony and the official



Far left: Students of all ages take part in an impromptu football game in the afternoon. 01\_B24AH504.

Top left: Head teacher Susan Foster addressed the pupils and wished them well in their future endeavours.

Right: Small groups gathered outside the school to wish their friends well. 01\_B24AH505; Departing pupils enjoy a game of rounders on the school field. 01\_B24AH502;

Left: The class of 2021 with their lockdown leaver sweatshirts.



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# Send down leavers at Arran High

leavers' photograph was taken.

Head teacher Susan Foster said: 'I speak for all the staff and pupils in Arran High School in wishing the class of 2021 the very best of luck as they move on to the next phase in their lives. I am very proud of them all; they have shown enormous resilience over two sessions of unprecedented disruption to their education. They are a credit to the school and our community and I will miss them.'

By early afternoon, once the school day was finished, everyone joined the class of 2021 to say goodbye before they departed school for the final time.



The class of 2021 at their final day of school at Arran High.

01\_B24AHS01



Students gather outside to say goodbye to their departing peers. 01\_B24AHS03



Final year pupils all received a balloon with their name and S6 Leaver 2021 printed on it.

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## LETTERS

Write to us: editor@arranbanner.co.uk  
or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Arran KA27 8AJ**Concern for future of hall**

The decision by North Ayrshire Council to press ahead with a Community Asset Transfer for Brodick Hall is a worrying one indeed. Not least because no one has expressed any interest in taking it over.

At the full committee meeting of the council, held virtually this week, it was at least accepted that there was a 'complex scenario' of discussions needed on how best to use the facilities were have in Brodick in the future.

The hall currently houses the library, Brodick early years and a wide range of community events. The nursery needs more space and that is largely accepted by everyone, but how this is done needs a careful reassessment of the needs of all the hall users.

To have the pressure, and pressure it is, at the prospect of a Community Asset Transfer thrust into the mix is not helpful at all. The council says it will provide resources to facilitate the talks – but we now know their agenda to get rid of it from their portfolio and save money. But it is, they insist, what the people want. But is it?

Communities on the mainland – including Beith and West Kilbride – have fought successfully to retain their existing library buildings and services, but will Arran be as fortunate now that decision on a Community Asset Transfer has been agreed?

At least Councillor Billings was able to extract a pledge from the council's top official that the council will retain services on the island, once they reopen, if no one comes forward to take them over – but for how long?

The weeks and months ahead look like being challenging if the community is to retain all the present facilities intact at Brodick Hall.

Councillor leader Joe Cullinane described such facilities this week 'as the fabric that brings communities together'. Let's hope the council remember that.

**Thought for the week**

'Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name, I will do it.'

John 14:13-14

**Hope common sense prevails**

Sir,  
I refer to Tommy Gilmore's letter of May 28 which I wholeheartedly endorse. I would like to add a few comments.

It is extremely disappointing that NAC councillors who voted against the fish farm application do not fully understand the implications of their actions. The objections from the public were a result of a well-orchestrated social media campaign by groups who encouraged people to sign a pro-forma objection letter that had been produced.

By all means object if you have a well researched and heartfelt argument, but not by jumping on a bandwagon. Whilst reading some of the letters of objection on the NAC planning website, it is clear many people have no knowledge of the fish farming industry or they had been misinformed by campaign groups. The consequences of the councillors decision are far reaching and don't bode well for the future. The NAC councillors are meant to represent the whole community, not only those who shout the loudest. I also support COAST and its original aims, although it now appears to have developed into an anti-fish farming group.

The fact the Scottish Salmon Company is foreign owned is irrelevant and a backward view. Bakka Frost, the new owner, has committed to invest £41 million in Scotland in each of the next four years. Bakka Frost has already shown commitment to local companies with the order of four new workboats during 2020/21 from Arran Workboats in Whiting Bay.

The boats have received great feedback and are plying their trade in the Faroe Islands. This was a substantial six-figure investment that helps sustain jobs in an Arran company and the associated supply chain as 100 per cent of the raw materials for the boats are purchased from Scottish companies and delivered to the island by local hauliers. The finished boat is then delivered to the site. It seems crazy when Arran and the wider area is trying to recover from the economic consequences of a pandemic that NAC councillors have rejected £4m of inward investment.

The Scottish Salmon Company has also supported many businesses on Arran and in North Ayrshire for years and, again, the NAC councillors have forgotten this important aspect. We should remember Lamlash Fish Farm has provided sustainable well-paid jobs/careers for 40 years and the fish farm staff do a great job in

all weathers and deserve more support from the island population rather than being demonised. The new jobs at the new fish farm and the supply chain would help young Arran families remain on the island as opposed to leaving for employment on the mainland. This, in turn, helps to sustain Arran businesses and school rolls.

The fish farm in Lamlash has not resulted in a loss of tourists over a 40 years; tourist numbers have increased over this time. This part of Arran is loved by tourists and many visit each year and walk in the surrounding area.

The wildlife in the surrounding area of the Lamlash farm is thriving with otters, porpoises and dolphins present and also seen in Whiting Bay. How many of the NAC councillors have walked round the area next to the Lamlash farm to see all the wildlife or even walked the route to the proposed new fish farm site? There is absolutely no evidence to support a reduction in tourism or wildlife due to this new fish farm being opened.

Fish farm companies across the world have carried out years and years of research to develop an efficient process on how to farm salmon and other fish in quantity. This research will be used to help feed an increasing world population in the future. It seems criminal not to use the natural resources that are available and fish farming has extremely limited impact on its surroundings compared to many other industries.

Let's hope common sense prevails with the appeal and jobs and investment are not lost on the island.

Yours,  
Iain S Monteith,  
Whiting Bay.

**Quantifying fish farm issues**

Sir,  
Tommy Gilmore's letter and subsequent correspondence covered a wide range of issues from aged incomers to foreign investment. All good stuff, but perhaps off the point.

Excretion and decomposition provide the raw material for everything that lives. All life consumes life. Questions and disagreements occur on the quality of life of the consumed and the concentration of the excretions.

There are methods of quantifying these issues, although quality of life will largely be subjective and the aesthetics of the process is fully subjective.

Fortunately Arran is in a unique position to provide insight. Tommy pointed out there has

been a fish farm in Lamlash Bay for 40 years with a wealth of information amassed. Andrew Binnie pointed out we have a world renowned organisation in COAST that has 13 years' experience of the No Take Zone and all the data that goes with this successful ongoing scientific experiment.

Through the pages of the Banner and directly, I ask the managing director of the Scottish Salmon Company to fund a research project in Lamlash Bay, in association with COAST, with mutually agreed, independently overseen, objectives, methods and metrics.

Objectives should include the impact on the volume and diversity of biomass at agreed distances from the farm compared to a 'control' area, which I assume COAST has established. Juvenile and mature mortality rates would be a basic measure of quality of life. I am sure there are others which can be agreed.

The salmon company could object on the basis the farm uses old technology. New technology and better dispersal would give better results. The research would establish 'better than what'. With this, we will have a real-life example, good and bad, on our doorstep, that will allow the undecided to form an opinion.

I will update you if I receive a response from The Scottish Salmon Company.

Yours  
Tom Tracey,  
Brodick.

**Balance required**

Sir,  
I agree whole-heartedly with the comments made by Tommy Gilmore in his letter of May 28 on the issue of the fish farm at Lochranza and the future of the Arran economy, particularly on the need for diversification.

He wrote with conviction and common sense about the prospects of proper development on the island, which can only proceed if there is a balance between tourism and other commercial interests.

My experience, as a former professional town and country planner and latterly as a senior investigator for the ombudsman, demonstrated that real progress – whether it is in the field of commerce or conservation – can only be achieved where a community is willing to compromise on the question of long-term sustainable growth, which ultimately will benefit everyone.

Yours,  
Graham Hill,  
Whiting Bay.



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# Support programme aims to grow young entrepreneurs

Young business leaders in the Highlands and Islands are encouraging others to apply to a year-long programme aimed at developing the next generation of entrepreneurs.

IMPACT30 is a fully-funded business growth programme, offering bespoke support from industry specialists.

The programme is open to people aged 35 and under, who are in decision-making roles in young, ambitious businesses. It forms part of the Northern Innovation Hub, a project led by

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). The hub is funded by £11m from the UK government as part of the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal and £1.7m awarded through the European Regional Development Fund Scotland Programme 2014-2020.

Seventy-six businesses have already benefitted from IMPACT30. Among them is Jordane Symington, owner of Islewear, a handcrafted designer Hebridean jewellery company based on the Isle of Lewis.

Jordane joined the IMPACT30 programme in January 2021 and is urging others to do likewise.

She said: 'Being on the IMPACT30 programme has given me access to specialist business support to help me think longer term about Islewear, considering projections and future plans.'

'It has encouraged me to challenge my ambitions, thinking bigger than I ever thought possible. Working with my business enabler has helped me to be accountable for my own progress and helped with areas I have lacked in previously.'

'Being a part of the friendly community has been great and I know this network will help my business grow in the future, so much so my first retail shop is opening this summer on the Isle of Lewis. For someone thinking about applying to IMPACT30, my advice would be to just do it.'

'Put yourself and your business forward and be your own advocate; taking the first step is always the hardest part.'

The deadline for the next round of applications is June 21.



The traffic island near the Douglas Hotel with its new signs.

## Traffic island woes

Sir,

I wish to share with your readers a motoring incident which happened to me on May 11.

As I passed the Douglas Hotel heading for Lamlash about 5.30pm that day, I saw a car swooping up from the pier access road, causing me to adjust slightly my course; only at the last moment noticing a small unmarked traffic island sprouting with weeds. I almost ran right over it but in fact only struck its kerb with my front right-hand tyre, causing it to burst.

I limped into the pier area and parked. The AA sent superman in the shape of Angus Lambie to my aid and the following day the car was restored to normal.

I was very annoyed indeed at this incident as there was no sign indicating the presence of the offending traffic island, and therefore wrote to North Ayrshire Council intimating a claim to recover my costs.

I returned to the island on June 8 and lo and behold, the traffic island was now adorned with two bright and highly visible 'keep left signs'. I'm glad I bothered to write.

Angus Lambie's words to me at the time were: 'It's happened before and it will happen again.' Not if I can help it!

Watch these columns to see if the council pay up!

Yours,  
Peter Morrison,  
Broddick.

## CONTACTUS

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## PRESSPOLICY

At The Arran Banner, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). However, we realise that mistakes happen from time to time. If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the chief reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter, by emailing: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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, Broddick, 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.

UK Government Scotland

NHS SCOTLAND

COVID-19

Meeting up again?  
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HANDS FACE SPACE

FRESH AIR

# Your future starts here

Learning today might feel a little different than it did before but you can rest assured that wherever you are on your learning journey, Argyll College UHI can help you achieve your goals. We've been pioneering the use of digital and online technologies for over 20 years, so you can be confident we know how to make it work for you.

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Take the first step for your future self and join us at our online open day on Thursday 17th June. Find out everything you need to know at our bookable sessions, which are free to attend, covering topics including what to expect from college life, information on our wide range of courses, and the funding and support available to you during your studies.

You'll also have the chance to hear from some of our current students as they share their experiences of college so far. Still want to know more? Book a one-to-one chat online, or over the phone with our friendly staff to discuss what your options are.

Because we use a combination of teaching technologies our students can study from almost anywhere, and with a full range of higher and further education courses, we have options to suit everyone.

Although college life might still be a little different when courses restart in September, we are looking forward to welcoming you back to our local centres. To us you're more than just a number.

For further details about our Open Day please visit our website: [www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk/opendays)



University of the  
Highlands and Islands  
Argyll College



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[www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.argyll.uhi.ac.uk)

## Dr Guthrie is a deputy lieutenant of Arran

Dr Liz Guthrie has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran.

The Arran GP and partner in the Arran Medical Group received her commission from the Lord Lieutenant Sheriff Iona McDonald OBE last week.

Arran has been without a Deputy Lieutenant since Dr Alastair Grassie retired more than a year ago as the pandemic delayed a new appointment.

Dr Guthrie, who has lived on Arran for 24 years, told the Banner: 'As Deputy Lieutenant, I look forward to assisting our Lord Lieutenant Iona McDonald on any of her official duties on Arran and hearing from anyone on the island who would like to nominate any individual or group who they think are deserving of an award or honour for an outstanding contribution to our community.'

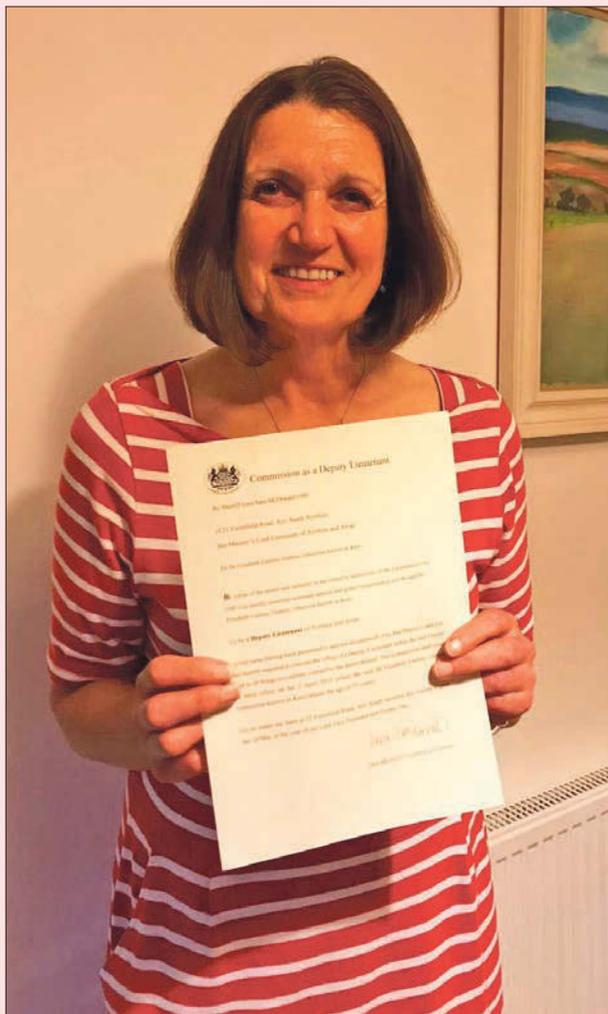
'Unfortunately female Deputy Lieutenants don't

get the special uniform like Alastair so this may be a disappointment to some!

'Unfortunately, even the 100th birthday card service is currently being done remotely by Zoom but hopefully normal service will be resumed shortly.'

Dr Guthrie, also known as Kerr, is one of 15 Deputy Lieutenants serving in Ayrshire and Arran to assist the largely ceremonial duties of the Lord Lieutenant and the Vice Lord Lieutenant, John Dalrymple Hamilton, in carrying out their work on behalf of the Queen.

Dr Liz Guthrie has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran.



## New name for ferries board

CalMac Community Board has a new name which reflects its independent position in representing the views of communities.

The organisation will now be known as the Ferries Community Board (Clyde and Hebrides) and members had a positive initial meeting with the new transport minister Graeme Dey.

The minister understands the frustration and anger that exists across the network and has committed to doing all he can to improve the immediate situation and work with stakeholders to plan a more resilient and sustainable service.

Chairman Angus Campbell said after the meeting: 'It was confirmed that proposals to hire in additional tonnage is at an advanced stage and other proposals for short to medium-term improvements would be considered.'

'The minister also recognised the important part the communities' voice can play in future

planning and the benefit of an inclusive approach to future developments.

'The minister also wishes to have a good working relationship with the Ferries Community Board and the island communities they serve. Our board looks forward to working effectively with the minister and other stakeholders to ensure that the unacceptable level of damage to the social and economic fabric of our islands across the network will not be repeated.'

'The board also had separate sessions with senior Transport Scotland officials, the chief executive of CMAL and the managing director of CalMac. Options were discussed around the condition and age of the fleet and particularly around any short-term alternatives.'

'Our board will follow up on the main points raised with the appropriate bodies and look forward to further meetings with the minister,' Mr Campbell added.

The board is looking for new members to become voices for people who live in the areas served by CalMac.

Applications need to be made before June 18. Visit <https://calmac.co.uk/community-board-recruitment>

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# AMAZING OFFERS ON NEW MODELS AT S&S

# More than 110 species noted in May's breeding season

After the very dry April, May was much wetter and in comparison to last May, it was not only wetter, with double the amount of rain, but colder.

The mean temperature was 1.5 degrees lower.

At the end of the month with the winds moving away from a northerly direction the temperature began to noticeable rise.

There was a feeling that while spring was arriving it was late.

Conditions were generally good for birds trying to get on with breeding, but swallow and house martin seemed to be delaying nesting perhaps because of the lack of flying insects.

Throughout the month the numbers of familiar summer visitors like swallow, house martin, sand martin, willow warbler, whitethroat, sedge warbler and cuckoo continued to build up.

Cuckoo seemed to be particularly widespread and noticeable this year with small groups being reported from some areas.

In addition to the 'firsts' reported in the April notes, here are some further 'firsts' with the 2020 arrival dates in brackets for comparison: a swift over Clachaig Farm on 4th (30th); a garden warbler in Clachlands on 7th (15th April); a wood warbler by Corrie Golf Course on 11th (9th); six arctic tern on Pladda on 12th (15th); and a spotted flycatcher in Leac Gharbh on 13th (8th).

## Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

MAY

In addition, there were reports of three scarce summer visitors; a common redstart by Fairhaven on 9th; a lesser whitethroat by Cleats Shore track on 18th; and a yellow wagtail on Silver Sands on 27th. To date there have been no reports this year of corn-crake, nightjar or common tern.

Species which breed further north continued to pass through including; 15 dunlin on Silver Sands on 1st; a merlin at Clachaig Farm on 4th; 17 whimbrel at Porta Buidhe on 5th; 12 white wagtail on Cleats Shore on 7th; 46 pink-footed geese flying north over Clachaig on 10th; six great northern diver and two sandwich tern in Machrie Bay on 12th; a male scaup on Fisherman's Walk on 14th; three common scoter in Catacol Bay on 21st; three turnstone at Blackwaterfoot on 25th; and four black-throated diver in Machrie Bay on 26th. In addition, there are now two single whooper swan not heading north but over summering on Arran: an adult in Lamlash Bay and a sub-adult on Slidery Shore.

In May, breeding was well



**Clockwise from top left:**  
Wood warbler, a summer visitor which winters south of the Sahara.

Photograph: John Forbes.

**Mute swan with a large brood.** Photograph: Marianne Burton.

**Cuckoos are synonymous with summer and there were numerous and widespread records of these birds during May.** Photograph: Dennis Morrison.

underway for many species.

Encouraging signs included reports of golden eagle, golden plover, hen harrier, red-throated diver and short-eared owl all holding breeding territories.

Activity was reported from all the monitored heronries on the island and four areas held small numbers of breeding lapwing.

A number of coastal cliffs held single figure numbers of nesting fulmar which seem to be in serious decline on Arran.

I would be interested to receive any reports of young

birds. None were reported in 2018, 2019 or 2020 from any colony. By contrast the black guillemot colonies seem to be thriving.

Other breeding records included: two skylark singing in hills above Lochranza on 1st; shelduck with two young at Porta Buidhe on 15th; two woodcock roaming over Machrie Moor on 19th; pair of mute swan with seven young in Lamlash Bay on 24th; over 60 pairs of nesting herring gull on Holy Isle on 28th; and a mallard with four young at Imachar on 29th.

In addition, towards the end of the month, there were many of reports of garden birds carrying food and feeding recently fledged young, but few reports of blue and great tit feeding young which seem to have had a poor breeding season.

In May over 110 species were recorded.

Here are some other highlights: a white-tailed eagle over Cleiteadh Buidhe on 6th; an

adult mediterranean gull on Cleats Shore on 7th; two puffin in Brodick Bay on 8th; a leucistic herring gull in in Shiskine on 11th (This 'white' herring gull was ringed on Arran in June 2018); pair of goosander in Catacol Bay on 12th; a kingfisher at Merkland Point on 13th; a dipper in Glen Cloy also on 13th and around 450 Manx shearwater in Whiting Bay on 20th.

With the long daylight hours, it is a great time of year to be birding. Most birds are getting on with the business of breeding.

Please take a moment to report any signs of breeding birds to me, but please also remember that under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage

or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is being built or used.

Do not hesitate to report any criminal activity to the local police. Particularly take care on our shores and please keep dogs on their leads at this time of year.

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 on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report 2020 and the Arran Bird Report, the first 40 years, or visit the website <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/index.html>



**Far left: An unusual white leucistic herring gull.**

Photograph: John Forbes; **left:**

**spotted flycatcher, another summer visitor spotted on Arran.** Photograph: John Forbes. **Right: Common scoter, one of many species moving through in May to breeding grounds further north.**

Photograph: Jim Dickson.



# Arran is part of best road trip in Scotland

## Book review

Arran has been named as part of the best road trip in Scotland, in a new Lonely Planet guidebook.

Glasgow and ferry hopping has been picked as among the top six great British road trips – and the best in Scotland – as a study finds that 58 per cent of UK residents plan to opt for a staycation due to continued uncertainty over international travel.

Nearly half of the UK population have never had a road trip staycation.

Lonely Planet has revealed its top six recommended

road trips for exploring Great Britain, published in its new guidebook – Great Britain's Best Trips.

The global travel authority has selected six (one for each region) out of the 36 routes listed, which best represent the rich and diverse natural, cultural and historic attractions available to Brits planning their staycations.

Out of the eight roadtrip routes recommended to explore Scotland, the ferry-hopping route from Glasgow to Tobermory has ranked as number one in the country, thanks to the combination of vibrant, cosmopolitan city life in Glasgow and laid-back

## Lonely Planet singles out 'stunningly scenic' island

island lifestyles. The book describes the route:

'Jumping around the enchanting islands of the west coast on the ferry network – celebrating laidback lifestyles, seafood and sipping whisky along the way, is one of Scotland's iconic pleasures.

'Starting in the intoxicating vibrant city of Glasgow, filled with excellent art, design, food and pubs, this tour takes in four of Scotland's most enticing islands and offers an

in-depth exploration of south-western Scotland.

'Incorporating the stunningly scenic Arran, Islay's welcoming distilleries, Oban's seafood scene, Mull's heart-lifting landscapes and the enchanting holy isle of Iona, and ending in the pretty town of Tobermory.

'The ferry trips themselves offer sensational coastal perspectives and wildlife-spotting opportunities – are part of the adventure.'

The other recommended

Scottish road trip routes are: The Borders, lower west coast (Aberfoyle – Campbeltown), upper west coast (Portree – Durness), Stirling and Fife coast, Royal Highlands and Cairngorms, Great Glens (Glen Coe - Inverness) and the whisky trail.

A recent Lonely Planet survey of more than 1,000 travellers, found that nearly half (41 per cent) had not taken a British road trip before and that the combination of concern about countries going on to the amber/red lists (48 per cent) alongside Britain having many beautiful places they would still like to explore (49 per cent) are influencing staycation choices.

## Four gold medals for Arran whisky

Arran whiskies won four gold medals at the recent Scotch Whisky Masters 2021 competition.

Run by The Spirits Business magazine, the blind-tasting competition was this year once again held remotely in keeping with Covid-19 measures. Four of the core range Arran whiskies from the Lochranza distillery were put forward and they all received a gold award.

They were Arran Barrel Reserve, single malt, Highlands and Islands, no age statement; Arran 10 years, single malt Highlands and Islands, aged up to 12 years; Arran Quarter Cask's The Bothy, single malt Highlands and Islands, cask strength; Arran Sherry Cask's The Bodega, single malt Highlands and Islands, cask strength.

**GET INVOLVED**  
emaileditor@arranbanner.co.uk

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# What's on



in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.co.uk](http://www.arranbrewery.co.uk)

TOURS AND TASTINGS BY APPOINTMENT

## Every Day

Trout Fly Fishing,  
Arran Heritage Museum  
Arran Brewery,

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
Rosaburn, Brodick, Open daily, 10.30am – 4.30pm  
Shop open – Monday to Saturday 10am – 4.30pm,  
Sunday, 12noon - 4pm  
Open daily, 10am – 5pm  
Open seven days, 10am - 5pm-ish, ALL weather  
Open daily, 10am -4pm  
Open All hours

Brodick Castle Gardens Brodick,  
Brodick Mini Golf,  
Lamlash Putting Green  
Lamlash Tennis Courts

## Saturday 12th June

Brodick Castle,  
RNLI Shop  
Rink Games,  
Rink Games,

Brodick, 11am – 4pm  
Open, Lamlash, 2pm - 4pm  
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm  
Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm

## Sunday 13th June

Brodick Castle,  
RNLI Shop

Brodick, 11am – 4pm  
Open, Lamlash, 2pm – 4pm

## Monday 14th June

Brodick Castle,  
Lamlash Bowling Club,  
Shiskine Tennis Club,  
JogScotlandArran@gmail.com,  
Brodick Bowling Club,

Brodick, 11am - 4pm  
Lamlash, 2pm  
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 4pm  
Whiting Bay, Venue varies, 5.30pm  
Brodick, 7pm

## Tuesday 15th June

Brodick Castle,  
Healthy Outdoor Team,  
Rink Games (Social distancing observed),  
Shiskine Tennis Club,  
Junior Hockey, P1 - S3 (age 5 to14 yrs),  
Brodick, 11am - 4pm  
Brodick Castle, 10am – 1pm  
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm  
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 11am  
Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 6pm – 7pm

## Wednesday 16th June

Kilmory Toddlers,  
Arran Pace Makers

Kilmory Hall, 10am -12noon  
please check Facebook @arranpacemakers,  
Venue varies, 5.30pm  
Brodick, 7pm  
Lamlash, 7pm

Brodick Bowling Club,  
Lamlash Bowling Club,

## Thursday 17th June

Geopark Guided Walk – Kildonan Geology & Wildlife Walk, 10am - 2pm approx  
Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 4pm  
Senior Hockey (12+), Ormidale Astro Pitch, 7pm – 8.30pm

## Friday 18th June

Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 11am

## Saturday 19th June

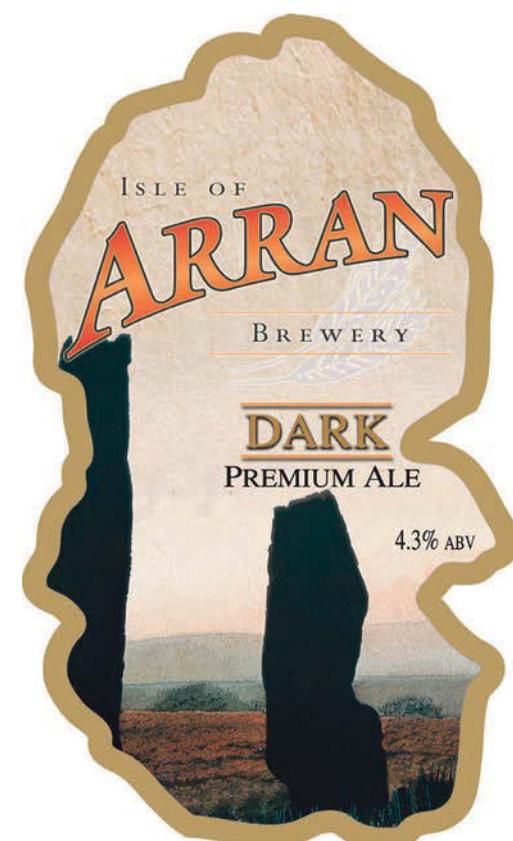
Brodick Castle,  
Rink Games (Social distancing observed),  
Brodick, 11am – 4pm  
Blackwaterfoot, Bowling Club, 2pm

## Arran Dark

The Isle of Arran Brewery's Dark Premium Beer is the brewery's second most awarded beer.

A malty brown beer in the style of a 'Scottish Heavy' with ripe fruit flavours and a deep finish.

The beer is available throughout the island in bottles, including at the brewery shop at Cladach, Brodick.



# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday June 9 2001



Left: Pirate's Cove is celebrating after winning a place in the prestigious guidebook The Taste of Scotland. Owners Godfrey and Sue Hall celebrated the achievement with chef Brian Gracie. 01\_B24ABTYA01



Lamlash Church hall has reopened after two-and-a-half years of painstaking refurbishment following a devastating flood. The congregation has already returned to their weekly coffee mornings. 01\_B24ABTYA04



The finale of Oklahoma, which has packed Brodick Hall for six nights, was another huge success for Arran Music and Drama Club. 01\_B24ABTYA03



Lindsay Wheeler of Corrie is heading to the western Himalayas next month where she will study its geomorphology. Fundraising continues apace, including a raffle with this cake top prize next week. 01\_B24ABTYA05



Left to right: Tom Pearson of Lochranza distillery, Gilbert McKinnon, scratch runner-up, Ross Duncan, scratch winner, Ian Small, handicap runner up and Lindsay Keir, club captain, after the Arran Open prizegiving at Brodick Golf Club. 01\_B24ABTYA06



Participants enjoy a tea break during a course in traditional building. The attendees only used tools and equipment available to barn builders of several centuries ago. The wood was from Glenshant. 01\_B24ABTYA02

## RECRUITMENT

We are a small licensed Hotel on the Island of Arran offering breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks and snacks throughout the day.

**We are looking for enthusiastic team members to join the ranks. We have 3 full time vacancies and are recruiting:**

- Experienced Chef
- Experienced Food & Beverage Assistant
- Waiting Staff

Attention to detail is vital. Hygiene, organisation and presentation are vital.

Competitive salary on offer depending on experience.

Apply to enquiries@arranhospitality.com

Arran Community and Voluntary Service



**Administrator**

Salary: £9.50 per hour

30 hours per week (9am to 3pm) - Lamlash

Exciting opportunity to join the enthusiastic team at Arran Community and Voluntary Service. Candidate should have good all round admin skills. Experience essential.

For a recruitment pack with full job description, contact Carol Norton on 01770 600611 or email carol.norton@arrancvs.org.uk

Closing date for applications

**Wednesday 23rd June 2021**

## CLASSIFIEDS

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Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

## PERSONAL NOTICES



### VIOLET'S 100th BIRTHDAY

Thank you very much to everyone for the balloons, cards, gifts, flowers, messages and music! You made my birthday such a happy day! It was very special and there are so many wonderful memories to treasure.

Violet



auchrannie resort



Auchrannie Resort is proud to be a Real Living Wage employer and Scotland's first Employee Owned Resort. In 2020 we were voted in the Times Best Companies Top 50 places to work in Scotland and we truly believe that our People are the key to our success.

**We are currently recruiting for a Deputy Estate Manager to join our Awesome Auchrannie team**

This is a brand new role offering the right candidate the unique opportunity to work alongside our existing Estate Manager with a view to progressing into the Estate Manager role in summer 2022.

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The right candidate will have management experience working in a similar role within estate management or the building industry.

Suitable trade and Health and Safety qualifications would be preferred.

We offer a competitive salary, excellent company benefits, a good work life balance and an Awesome working environment.

Full details of the role can be found at [www.auchrannie.co.uk/jobs](http://www.auchrannie.co.uk/jobs).

For more information or to apply please email [HR@auchrannie.co.uk](mailto:HR@auchrannie.co.uk).

BANNER BANNER  
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

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Web: [www.cottagesonarran.co.uk](http://www.cottagesonarran.co.uk)

## The Arran Chocolate Factory

**We are looking for a new member of staff to join us selling our wonderful chocolates at James' Chocolate shop in Brodick**

The position is permanent, ideally full time but part time may be possible. Some weekend work will be required.

**Please apply to James McChlery, The Arran Chocolate Factory Ltd, Brodick, KA27 8AJ**

**01770 302 873**

**James@jamesofarran.com**

## PUBLIC NOTICES

North Ayrshire Council  
Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973  
Unaudited Accounts - Year to 31st March 2021

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN under Regulation 9 (1) of the Local Authority Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2014 and Schedule 6 of the Coronavirus (Scotland) Act 2020 that:

(a) Copies of the unaudited accounts of North Ayrshire Council and applicable charities for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 will be available for public inspection from Thursday 1 July 2021 to Wednesday 21 July 2021 on the Council's website - [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/council/performance-and-spending/budgets-and-finance.aspx](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/council/performance-and-spending/budgets-and-finance.aspx).

(b) Any person interested may inspect a copy of the abstracts of the accounts to be audited and all books, deeds, contracts, bills, vouchers and receipts relating thereto. However, due to the current restrictions in relation to Covid-19, interested parties are requested to submit email requests for access to these documents to [annualaccounts@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:annualaccounts@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) no later than 31 July 2021. Where the current restrictions allow, we will endeavour to provide electronic copies of the requested documents before the approval of the audited accounts for signature, at a date to be determined;

(c) No charge will be made for the inspection of documents or for the provision of electronic copies;

(d) Any person interested may object to the accounts, or to any part of those accounts, no later than 31 July 2021 by:-

1. Sending their objection in writing, together with a statement of the grounds thereof, to the auditor Deloitte LLP, [pakenny@deloitte.co.uk](mailto:pakenny@deloitte.co.uk) and;
  2. Sending a copy of that objection and statement to the Chief Executive, North Ayrshire Council, [chief.executive@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:chief.executive@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)
- (e) The auditor shall, if requested by the person objecting, the authority or by any officer of the authority who may be concerned, afford to that person or authority or officer, as the case may be, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the auditor with respect to that objection; and any such person or officer may so appear and be heard either personally or by a representative.

Mark Boyd, Head of Finance, Cunninghame House, Irvine  
1 June 2021

Craig Hatton  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE



### BOUNDARIES SCOTLAND

#### 2019 REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

We submitted to Scottish Ministers, on 10 June 2021, our proposals for councillor numbers and wards in North Ayrshire Council area.

Our proposals can be inspected on our website [www.boundaries.scot](http://www.boundaries.scot), and copies of our report have been made available to the council for display at selected council offices or libraries.

It should be noted that under the provisions of section 17 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Scottish Ministers must as soon as practicable lay our reports before the Scottish Parliament along with a draft Scottish statutory instrument giving effect to our proposals, for Scottish Parliament approval.

**3rd July 2021 at 3pm**  
**AGM and Welcome Back Event**  
**at Kilmory Hall**

All are welcome to our Annual General Meeting (commencing at 5:00pm) and a day of fun for all the family:  
**BBQ, bar, craft stalls, music and more!**

## CHURCH NOTICES

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

There is a booking system at Brodict & 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 13th June 2021 Lochranza & Pirnmill Churches-

Service at Lochranza Church 10:15am Morning worship.  
Shiskine Church 12noon.  
Morning worship.  
Brodict Church 10.30am  
Morning worship.  
Corrie Church at 12noon.  
Morning worship.

The Food Bank continues from Brodict Church

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

Charity Number: SC014005  
Sunday 13th June

Worship will be conducted at 10.30am

As our capacity is greatly reduced due to the two metre social distancing, we have a booking system.

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 13th June

Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash Church Hall 11.30am

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 13th June

Second Sunday after Trinity  
Holy Communion at 11 am.  
Revd Canon Simon Mackenzie  
ALL WELCOME  
Coffee after service

We follow strict SEC guidelines

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH  
Minister - Rev. Vince Jennings  
Phone: 01770 600222

While we are still unable to meet due to social distancing, you are invited to pick up our mini service on our new website at

www.Arranbaptistchurch.org.uk

We would love you to join us.

### HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Attendance at Saturday Vigil  
Mass and Sunday Morning  
Mass

is by booking only and subject to social distancing, wearing of face coverings and NHS Test and Protect requirements.

*\*IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A  
REGULAR BOOKING PLEASE  
BE AWARE THAT SPACES  
MAY ONLY BE AVAILABLE  
FOR THE SATURDAY VIGIL  
MASS\**

Please email peterdwilko@gmail.com or telephone 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*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**WELFORD:** Roy James Sheila and all the Welford family would love to express their heartfelt thanks to the amazing doctors and the community nurses, Macmillan cancer support nurse, Kate Jenks for all the comfort and support over the last couple of months for Roy and Sheila. Thanks to everyone, our friends and families abroad and kudos to all Sheila's colleagues for all their support and prayers. For everyone who sent cards and flowers, thank you very much. Thank you for everyone who supported us at Lamlash cemetery and the chef at Lamlash golf club for a beautiful spread for the refreshments. To Fiona Borland who brightened the day and Clair and David Hendry funerals for their professionalism. You all are forever in our hearts.

## DEATH

**MACDOUGALL** - Elizabeth Highet. Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Sunday, 30th May 2021. Elizabeth, aged 87 years, beloved wife and companion of Archie. Elizabeth was laid to rest at Lamlash Cemetery on Wednesday, 9th June.

**SWINDALE** - Owen. Passed away peacefully at Montrose House on Saturday 5th June. Much missed by family and friends. Internment will be at Sannox Cemetery Friday 18th June at 11.30am

## PRIVATE SALES

### WANTED

VINYL RECORDS - Good and accurate prices paid for well looked after records. No classical or easy listening. All other genres considered. Contact Jamie on 07983624634 or 01770600969

# Spirits high at Lamlash Moonshine launch



Continued from page 16.

Rory has helped to build two other skiffs that are regularly used by the rowing club which successfully competes in Scottish regattas under the auspices of the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association.

Currently stored at Kildonan, Moonshine was joined by Iolair and Seabhag - Rory's two other vessels he helped to construct - at the launch on Saturday where members of Arran Coastal Rowing Club welcomed the new vessel to their fleet and celebrated the occasion.

Rory downplayed the achievement of building the impressive vessel, saying he would be crossing his fingers at the launch, but there really was never any doubt about the seaworthiness and capabilities of the boat.

Top left: Rowers test the vessel in choppy conditions at Lamlash Bay.

Left: Moonshine floats in the water for the first time.

Bottom: The attractive boat fared well on its maiden voyage and exceeded expectations, according to the rowers.



## ARRAN BANNER GOLF

### Lamlash Golf Club

Wednesday June 2, Fleet round three: 1 Kate McAdam 81-17=64; 2 June Richardson 92-25=67. Scratch Kate McAdam 81.

Thursday June 3, Summer Cup: 1 Dylan Smith 74-18=56; 2 Paul Jameson 73-10=63; 3 Paul Cowan 69-5=64; 4 John O'Sullivan 92-28=64. Best scratch Dougie Macfarlane 67. Magic twos Willie Currie @ 5th, Paul Cowan and Neil Young @16th, Iain Murchie @17th, hole four drawn - rollover.

Sunday June 6, Hamilton Bowl (Bogey): 1 Martin Wallbank +4; 2 Serge El Adm +2; 3 Paul Cowan +1. Best scratch Paul Cowan -3 to bogey.

Magic twos Serge El Adm, Ian Bremner and Graeme Andrew all @16th, Martin Wallbank @13th and 16th.

Hole 13 drawn so Martin Wallbank won. Fixtures: Sunday June 13, Fleet Cup R2, noon draw. Thursday June 17, Summer Cup, make up own groups - see starter for times. Wednesday July 21, Ladies' Open Day, 15-hole stroke play. Contact Alison Heron at: alison.heron8@btinternet.com for tee off times.

### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday June 1, Ladies' Club Championship: 1 Alice Anderson 89 BIH; 2 Jenni Turnbull 89; 3 Elizabeth Kelso 97.

Tuesday June 1, Peter Sutton: 1 Hamish Bannatyne 63 BIH; 2 John Pennycott 63; 3 Brian Sherwood 67.

Saturday June 5, Duncan Sillars and Gents' Club Championship second round: 1 Campbell Laing 66 BIH; 2

Brian Sherwood 66; 3 John Pennycott 67.

Fixtures: Monday June 14, Ladies', Gents' Championship and President's Cup semi-finals, from 5.30pm. Tuesday June 15, Peter Sutton/Lady Mary, tee off 12.30pm/5.30pm. Please let Brian know by Monday if you intend to play in the evening.

### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday June 2, Summer Cup, 38 played: 1 Neil Duncan 87-27=60; 2 David Hendry 77-16=61 acb, Tam McNab 73-12=61. Scratch Ewan McKinnon 64. Angus Raeburn had a hole in one at the 7th hole.

Sunday June 6, Sweep, 27 played: 1 Brian Smith 77-15=62; 2 Frazer Barr 73-8=65; 3 Matt Dobson 72-6=66 acb. Scratch Ewan McKinnon 71.

Fixture: Sunday June 13, Brandon qualifier.



### Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday June 2, Wednesday Medal. 1 A Girvan 82-25=57; 2 P Moran 81-22=59; 3 A Smith 77-15=60. Scratch R Logan 71

Saturday June 5, Saturday Medal. 1 M McDonald 73-17=56; 2 P McMillan 79-22=57; 3 A Smith 75-15=60. Scratch R Logan 73

Fixtures Saturday June 12, Saturday Medal, Wednesday June 16, Wednesday Medal. Competitors make up their own pairings and adhere to current Covid regulations.



# Spirits high at Moonshine skiff launch in Lamblash

by Colin Smeeton  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



## Exotic timbers add fine details

A traditionally-designed boat built by Arran boat builder Rory Cowan of Kildonan was launched last weekend after almost five years of planning and construction.

The wooden boat, officially named Moonshine and launched at Lamblash pier by Cecilia Paul, chairwoman of Arran Coastal Rowing Club, was started in June last year during lockdown, however, its genesis goes back much further.

Rory invested in a dieback larch tree from Brodick Castle

about five years ago with the idea of building a boat.

Knowing that larch would be ideal for his project and with the knowledge larch will become scarce owing to Phytophthora ramorum or larch disease, Rory milled the wood into planks and left it to season for five years.

The project remained in the planning stage while Rory collected exotic timbers from old furniture and other sources on Arran until last year, with the onset of lockdown, he finally began the construction of the vessel.

Using plans based on an 1875 Whitehall design - the Boston/Hudson River's answer to the Cornish pilot gig, though a little shorter - the beautiful craft was built in just under a year and features classic looks and innovative detailing.

David Ingham, Arran Coastal Rowing Club committee member, attended the launch.

He said: 'Despite the drab weather, the naming ceremony and launch went as planned and the sea trials exceeded all

**Continued on page 15 with more photographs.**



Coastal rowers and Rory Cowan walk Moonshine down to the water for her maiden voyage.



Cecilia Paul, chairwoman of Arran Coastal Rowing Club, names and launches Moonshine in the traditional manner, while boat builder Rory Cowan looks on.

Some of the intricate detailing of the rowing clamps and built-in grab rails.

All photographs by David Ingham.



The Arran Banner: 85p

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