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Heartbreak for couple as ferry stress forces move



by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Isobel Thomson in her garden in happier times.
01_B32leaving02

An elderly couple have taken the heartbreaking decision to move off the island they always thought they would call home.

They say a lack of a proper system to allow islanders to get to the mainland for vital hospital appointments and to visit relatives in hospital has been the final straw.

As a result of repeated stress and anxiety in recent months, Isobel and Hugh Thomson have put their beloved house in Whiting Bay on the market and are moving to Largs.

Isobel, 79, says they are not the only islanders to leave because of the inability to get to the mainland for vital hospital appointments.

Added to this, her husband has been in hospital for seven weeks after being helicoptered off the island. She has not seen him for two weeks and does not know when she will.

After months of deliberation, Mingulay, their home of 18 years, went on the market this week.

'We just have no choice but to move to the mainland. Hugh, who is 83, may need dialysis three times a week and we just can't take the chance he won't get across.'

'I know of three other older couples who have already left the island for the same reason.'

One couple went to Prestwick, one to Dunoon, interestingly, and the other down south.

'I never thought for a moment we would ever leave Arran. We made it our home and we love it, but we have simply been left with no choice because of the situation with the ferries.'

Isobel admits the problems have been exacerbated by the pandemic and the loss of the MV Isle of Arran at the start of the summer sailings.

But when Hugh was admitted to Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock, where he remains, Isobel found herself living in her son's home in Wemyss Bay and with friends in Houston so she could visit him every day. The trip to the hospital was a 72-mile round trip from Houston but it had to be done, Isobel said, 'as I knew I couldn't come home'.

But her concerns at being able to get on the ferries for hospital appointments started before Hugh was in hospital

Continued on page 2.

Super car's the star at Brodick

Two young boys inspect the bright yellow Lamborghini Huracan Evo parked on Brodick shorefront last weekend which naturally attracted a lot of attention as What's Happening on Arran! broadcast its weekly show live beside it. For full story, turn to page 3. 01_B32lamborghini01

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M.O.T. TESTING STATION



Heartbreak for couple as ferry stress forces move

Continued from page one.

when she almost missed an urgent appointment at the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank because CalMac were 'not taking any bookings'.

'I am not blaming the staff at either Brodick or Gourrock, or on the boat, as they do a wonderful job and could not be more helpful when they can. But there is a something wrong with the system if CalMac cannot find a way to give priority bookings to islanders with urgent medical appointments.'

CalMac recently introduced a special policy for medical appointments where patients are guaranteed a space on the ferry and if CalMac can't fit their vehicle onto the ferry too then it provides a taxi to and from hospital.

But, as Isobel says, that is not any use when trying to visit her sick husband.

Isobel has already had interest in her house, but she is concerned potential buyers might themselves not be able to get booked on the ferry to come and view it.

'It is with a heavy heart we are leaving the island, but there is no doubt the ferry situation is impacting on the lives of the people who live here and I don't know how people on the island with cancer possibly cope.'

And Isobel is not alone. The Arran cancer charity ArCaS help cancer patients get to the mainland where they arrange transport to hospital appointments.

Chairman Douglas Johnston told the Banner: 'Over these



The for sale sign at the Thomson's house in Whiting Bay.

01_B32leaving01

past many months there have been so many instances of our ArCaS patients being unable to secure passage on the ferry. This has a hugely negative impact on not only the patients but on their families.

'At a very difficult point in their lives, our patients need to be able to depend on their care - which is often critical

- and to face travel challenges is simply not helpful. In fact some of the situations we have seen have been shameful.

'It is very hard to know where the problems with ferry bookings lie as I have found on a number of occasions the staff in Brodick have been very helpful.

'Not everyone, however,

can present themselves at the ticket office. Additional to the limited passenger capacity on the ferry has been the matter of service reliability - about which we know so much.

'Even on Saturday, as I waited to board the 16.40 sailing, the rear ramp had issues and it took some time for the engineers to resolve the problem.

Yet another sign of aged and infirmity of the ferries.

'We are going to be facing the issues of reliability for quite some time.'

Robert Morrison, operations director for CalMac said: 'We work closely with the NHS on Arran to ensure that we can meet the needs of those travelling for medical reasons as best we can.'

'Following the Scottish Government announcement on Tuesday, we will retain turn up and go capacity on our routes and our capacities will return to pre-Covid amounts.'

'This will significantly increase our ability to carry additional foot passengers on most services.'

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Rush for bookings as ferry capacity rises

Capacity on Arran's ferries will return to normal on Monday, CalMac has confirmed.

There has been a rush of bookings since reservations for additional capacity opened up on Wednesday as Scottish families tried to book the last full week of the school summer holidays.

It means the MV Caledonian Isles can return to carrying up to 1,000 passengers and 110 cars, while the MV Isle of Arran can accommodate 448 passengers and 76 cars. Numbers will also be back to normal on the MV Catriona from Lochranza to Claonaig.

CalMac has confirmed changes to capacities on its ferries following the First Minister's announcement this week. Ferries have been operating at around 30 per cent of normal capacity.

While this will improve capacity for foot passengers, vehicle ticket availability is likely to remain limited on some services, as capacity on car decks is already being reached during periods of high demand, CalMac say.

Passengers are being advised



The MV Caledonian Isles will be back to full capacity next week.

01_B26caley01

to plan ahead as much as they can as their preferred choice of sailing may not always be available. The ferry summer timetables remain as published. To reduce the risk of new Covid-19 strains spreading, some mitigations will remain in place. Face coverings will continue to be mandatory inside ferries and ports unless exempt and increased vessel turnaround times will continue to allow for enhanced cleaning. Perspex screens will be retained in ports and on vessels for the protection of staff and passengers.

CalMac operations director Robert Morrison said: 'It is good news we are finally able to open up our ferries to their full capacities following the

relaxation of Covid regulations. I know this has been a source of great frustration for communities, businesses and travellers during an extremely busy summer period. With many people focusing on holidaying at home and a period of sustained good weather, it has placed extra pressure on the system.

'It is vital to note, however, that we still recommend booking ahead as many of the car deck spaces are already reaching capacity. The majority of the capacity being freed up is for passenger space on deck.'

'We are really looking forward to welcoming more passengers on board and providing that world class service we are renowned for.'

All Arran adults fully vaccinated but appeal for caution remains

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



All residents on Arran, aged 18 or over, have had both doses of the Covid jab, making the island one of the first places in Scotland to have the adult population fully vaccinated.

The latest vaccination day at Arran High School last weekend saw the last two cohorts in the youngest age groups receive their injections, and while final figures will not be

available until the end of the week, uptake was said to be high.

Full figures will be in the Banner next week.

However, while the island population may be fully vaccinated caution is still being urged as all visitors may not be, although they are being encouraged to take two tests before visiting the island.

The breakthrough came just days before First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced

that almost all of Scotland's remaining Covid-19 restrictions are to end from Monday August 9.

Social distancing will be dropped in most settings, meaning more capacity in pubs and restaurants and larger crowds at sporting events and concerts.

Face coverings

And close contacts of those who test positive for Covid will no longer have to self-isolate – as long as they are fully

vaccinated and test negative. However, the wearing of face coverings in some public spaces will continue.

Testing

This will include secondary schools, where staff will need to maintain one metre physical distancing for the first six weeks of term and twice-weekly testing will be required.

UK experts are also expected to recommend in the coming days that all 16- and 17-year-olds should be offered a Covid

vaccine. Commenting on Arran's vaccination success, Lynne McNiven, director of public health said: 'NHS Ayrshire & Arran has seen an incredible response to our mass vaccination programme and are continuing to vaccinate according to the JCVI prioritisation as set out nationally.'

'Residents on the island, aged 18 or over, will now have been offered a vaccination appointment and invited to attend

vaccination clinics for both first and second doses. Uptake has been high among all the groups invited for vaccination so far.'

Ms McNiven added: 'The vaccine offers the best level of protection against the virus and we encourage everyone to take the opportunity when it's their turn.'

Vaccinations are not mandatory, however, we strongly recommend people come forward when they are invited.'

What's Happening on Arran! presenters Graham Chappell and Heather Macleod, with the 2021 Lamborghini Huracan Evo.

01_B32WHA01



Live show gets people talking

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



What's Happening on Arran! a weekly talk show hosted by Arran Media, attracted a huge amount of interest last week when the show was aired live from the Brodick shorefront.

Helping to attract an inordinate amount of interest, other than the popular talk show presenters Graham Chappell and Heather Macleod, was a £245,000 Lamborghini Huracan Evo.

The sports car which can reach a top speed of 202mph, and which can do zero to 60mph in just 2.9 second, is on loan to Graham, the Arran Graphics owner, who undertakes work for the Sytner Group which run Lamborghini and Ferrari dealerships in Scotland.

The car attracted many admiring glances and people were keen to learn more about it. The top speed was one of the more popular questions, with others wanting to know

about the engine size, the horsepower produced and what the fuel consumption was like.

Graham said: 'This 2021 Lamborghini Huracan Evo has a V10, 5.2 litre naturally aspirated engine. It has 631bhp and a seven speed automatic transmission with manual F1 style paddles. It is all wheel drive with four-wheel steering. The base price for this model is £206,000, although this particular one has a number of options which brings the price up to £245,000. Fuel economy is roughly 20mpg but it is probably closer to 15mpg on Arran.'

When asked if the car can be enjoyed on Arran, Graham replied, 'Of course, but carefully! You don't need to drive fast to enjoy having this beautiful car on the island. The lovely engine noise and the appreciation from many people who don't get to see cars like this very often is well worth the trip.'

Graham regularly brings

exotic Lamborghini's to Arran and is always happy to show them off to people who may never have seen, or been up-close to, a super car. This will be the sixth Lamborghini that he has brought over to Arran, among them other Lamborghini variants such as the Huracan LP580-2, Huracan LP610-4 Spider and the Aventador S, which has the large V12 engine.

What's Happening on Arran! is broadcast live every Sunday at 4pm on Facebook. It features local news, events, and happenings on the island and often features studio guests. The show is presented in an informal and relaxed style which attracts a wide audience of regular viewers who interact by telephone or through comments which are often read out during the show.

Anyone wishing to see the weekly show, or find updates on discussed stories, can 'tune in' by searching for @arranlive on Facebook.



What's Happening on Arran! is broadcast live from the Brodick shorefront. 01_B32WHA02

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Results helpline supports Arran pupils

School pupils across Arran face an anxious wait until they have their exam results confirmed at the start of next week, writes Colin Smeeton.

Around 145,000 pupils across the country will have their National 5s, Highers and Advanced Highers confirmed after receiving their provisional results earlier this summer.

But if all does not go to plan young people on Arran, and



throughout Ayrshire, can make use of a dedicated results helpline. Hosted by Skills Development Scotland (SDS),

the free helpline opens at 8am on Tuesday August 10 and will offer advice, information and guidance for young people and their parents and carers when calling 0808 100 8000.

Education secretary Shirley-Anne Somerville said: 'The free helpline offers young people an excellent source of advice and guidance and I'd appeal to learners who have questions about their next steps to use this

valuable resource. Whether it's practical advice about options, or reassurance following SQA results, the advisers are ready to help.'

SDS's careers advisers can discuss options and next steps, including vacancies at UK universities and colleges, clearing, modern, foundation and graduate apprenticeships, jobs and volunteering.

SDS's head of career infor-

mation, advice and guidance operations Sharon McIntyre said: 'We know that receiving results has been a very different experience for young people and their families this year.'

'It's important to reassure them that whatever their confirmed results are, our advisers are there to provide support and expert advice on their options.'

The results helpline will

be open from 8am-8pm on Tuesday and Wednesday August 10 and 11; 9am-5pm on Thursday and Friday August 12 and 13 and 9am-5pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday August 16, 17 and 18.

Advisers will also be available on social media, by direct message to My World of Work on Facebook or via Instagram at [instagram.com/mywowscotland](https://www.instagram.com/mywowscotland)

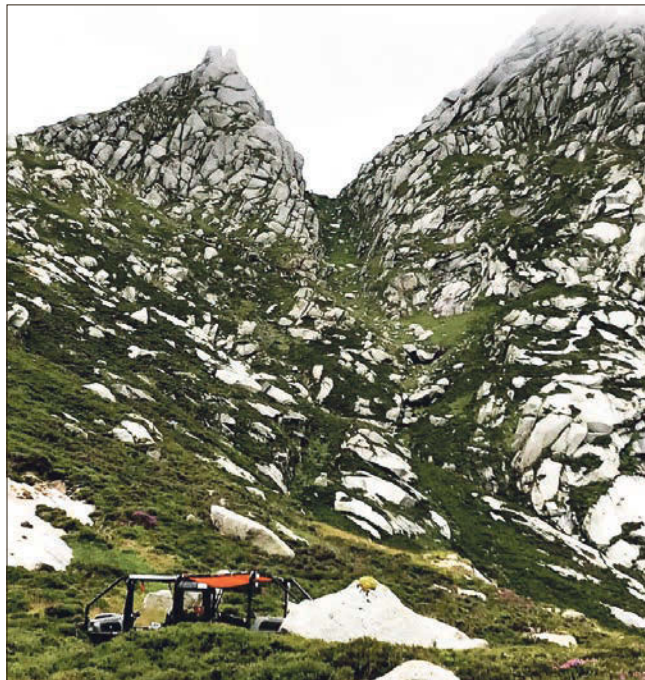
Woman rescued after falling 65 feet at the Witches Step

A woman had to be rescued after she fell 65 feet (20m) down a gully on the Sannox side of the Witches Step, writes Colin Smeeton.

Members of Arran Mountain Rescue Team were called out just after 4.15pm last Thursday and made their way up to the area in Argo cats from North Glen Sannox.

After finding the casualty, who was thankfully uninjured, she was warmed up and a rope system was set up to recover her.

This brings the total callouts for last month to six, with two separate incidents taking place in quick succession of each other last week.



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THE ARRAN BANNER

Local produce to be sold at Brodick vending container

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A plan to sell farm produce from a converted shipping container in Brodick has been approved by planners.

The vending machine project, by social enterprise Woodside Arran CIC, will be self service, selling Arran produce. It is hoped it will be open by September.

It will be situated on the disused piece of land adjacent to the Arran Bike Hire shed at The Shore House. Some unprotected conifer trees will be removed and the area levelled to accommodate the 40ft shipping container.

The container is currently being reconditioned, internally and externally, by a conversion company in Glasgow and will be placed to allow pedestrian access to the vending machine. Signs will be erected to instruct that no vehicular access is available, as there is ample public parking within walking distance of the site.

The container will be clad in local timber, milled from Brodick Castle, to ensure the temporary building - which has been given permission to remain for two years - will be visually attractive and in keeping with surrounding buildings.

Last month the Banner told how owners Jenny and Andy



The site of the produce vending machine in Brodick.

Macdonald, of Woodside Farm in Kildonan, had received funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise which allowed them to press ahead with the vending machine proposal.

They said this week they were 'thrilled' it had been given permission to go ahead.

In a statement supporting the planning application they stated: 'There is significant public support for more local produce to be available and the aim of the vending machine project is to meet this need in a convenient and sustainable way supporting residents and visitors to the island to have access to the local, affordable, environmentally friendly

produce they want.' There has been a huge expansion of locally-grown produce in recent times. Woodside and established producers such as Robin Gray in Whiting Bay and Clachaig Farm at the south end, have been joined by community farms around the island producing local crops under the umbrella of the Arran Pioneer Project, which is hoping to, one day, make the island self-sufficient in fruit and vegetables.

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Bid to turn former cafe into home

A planning application has been made to convert the former Coast cafe in Whiting Bay into a house.

The building is sandwiched in the centre of the village between the main road and the beach, over which it has extensive views from the rear.

A statement given in support of the application states: 'Whilst the property operated as a restaurant and cafe for many years, it had been vacant for some time. The building does not lend itself to a modern hospitality business. It is small with low ceilings and has very limited space for the

provision of modern facilities. The applicant purchased the property late in 2020 having made some initial enquiries to NAC planning department in respect of the possibility of creating a dwelling on the site. The advice received was that residential development is supported in principle as the site is within the settlement boundary.'

The proposal is to replace the existing building with a new, one and a half storey dwelling, set back from the street to give privacy but open to the views at the rear, over the beach, above which it is raised, giving

a further degree of privacy from that direction than is provided by the rough nature of the shingle beach itself at this location.'

Meanwhile, a planning application to build a three storey office building near the ferry terminal in Brodick has been withdrawn.

As previously reported in the Banner, plans had been submitted to the North Ayrshire Council planning department for an office building on the site of the existing Pier House and iCentre - despite the applicant not owning the tourist information centre.



The land at St Elmos House has been turned into two plots.

Flats plan granted for St Elmos House site

St Elmos House in Brodick is to be converted into eight private apartments.

An application in the name of Mr and Mrs Kim and Salah Sahiri has been approved by North Ayrshire Council planning officials.

The former hotel was, for a number of years, used as residential accommodation

for staff employed at Auchrannie Resort, until it was sold last year.

Site

In the sale, Auchrannie retained the adjacent site and demolished the single storey section of the building, where they have planning permission to build five new-build flats.

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LETTERS

Write to us: editor@arranbanner.co.uk
or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Arran KA27 8AJ**Systemic problem needs urgently addressed**

The fact that an elderly couple have taken the decision to leave the island because of the vagaries of the ferry service is worrying indeed – and they are not the only ones.

It has been a frustrating time for everyone during the pandemic due to limited ferry capacity – and subsequently limited booking space – to get to and from the island.

But this sounds like a more systemic problem and needs a serious review by the management of CalMac. For too long they have been papering over a few cracks.

Not being able to get a booking, or being pushed from pillar to post, is upsetting for everyone, but must hit the elderly and the infirm, as well as those with loved ones in hospital, the hardest as they are the ones who need priority bookings, which to all intents and purposes are simply not available.

Three other elderly couples have also recently left the island because of their medical needs and while this obviously cannot be all blamed on CalMac, there clearly is a serious issue that must be tackled head on.

The island may have a ageing population but it needs all the residents it has. Who is to say if the situation does not improve that other, younger, residents may also feel the need to leave.

That would be dire indeed.

Thought for the week

'You also must be ready; for the Son of Man will come at an hour when you are not expecting him.' **Luke 12:40**

Get behind VisitArran and everyone will reap the benefits in future

VisitArran works tirelessly to promote Arran across the UK and to the wider world. But like all tourism organisations, its work has been severely curtailed during the pandemic. Here, chief executive Sheila Gilmore explains the work of VisitArran and looks forward to a brighter future.

We're enjoying a much-needed busy summer season on Arran. But this is a season like no other. Excitement over welcoming people back to our lovely island has been plagued with ferry issues, uncertainty over reopening, concerns about Covid and ever-changing regulations and recommendations for everyone.

It's also not about bringing lots of people to Arran.

It's about bringing people who really want to see and appreciate our beautiful island. Value over volume, if you like.

VisitArran is Arran's destination management organisation. People often get us muddled with VisitScotland, the national tourism agency, which operates from the iCentre at Brodick Pier.

VisitArran is a separate organisation, funded by more than 250 local businesses. We work with these businesses to develop our tourism offering, feed back to stakeholders and promote Arran as a great destination.

Since March 2020, VisitArran staff have been working from home and this is likely to continue.

We provide information to businesses on all manner of things – regulations, funding, marketing opportunities, upcoming webinars



Chief executive of VisitArran Sheila Gilmore.



and queries from visitors. Living on an island, it's even more important to work together, so VisitArran encourages collaboration between businesses. This also makes press trips much easier for VisitArran to co-ordinate.

Tourism on Arran affects the community in many ways. For me, as an islander, community is key and it underpins everything I do, in and out of my working environment. If something is good for the community, it's good for the resident, so it will be good for the visitor.

It's a balance. I realise not everyone may see the immediate positives, but the reality is, we can all reap the benefits.

For example, without income from visitors, Arran may not have such fabulous amenities such as indoor swimming pools and leisure centres, attractions to visit, island events or tearooms or coffee shops in which to meet and have a blether. Tourism brings employment for many, not just in hospitality, but in shops, attractions and in the supply chain.

It's also vital to remember all visitors and residents must respect our fabulous natural environment.

We have a responsibility as stewards of Arran to leave our island just as beautiful for the next generation.

So leave only footprints. Keep dogs on leads around wildlife and livestock. Drive with care. Set examples to others who perhaps aren't just as respectful. And most of all #BeKind.

To find out more about VisitArran, contact info@visitarran.com or phone 01770 302043.

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Centenary celebrations with vintage trip to Arran

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A company celebrating 100 years in business by undertaking a road trip in their vintage cattle float visited Arran last weekend, driving round the island and raising money for the Scottish Air Ambulance.

Well-known livestock hauliers F Davidson of Irongray is now run by the fourth generation, Bobby Davidson, and is based at Lochfoot, Dumfries.

The founder of the company, Fred Davidson, was originally from Kirkland, Irongray – hence the name.

They chose the Air Ambulance as Bobby's grandson had an accident in which he lost his leg and it was only due to being airlifted by the air ambulance that he survived.

Arran farmers showed their support by giving him sheep/lambs to put in the float and take back to be auctioned at Dumfries Market with the proceeds going to the charity.

They had a great day and were overwhelmed by all the support - they even picked up a few cash donations en route. They picked up livestock from The Hendersons' at Kilpatrick, The Curries' at the Bridge, McMasters' at Springfield, John Murchie at Brandon and Stuart Lambie at Burnbank.

Unfortunately both distilleries were closed but they got them two bottles of



The Davidsons with some of the Arran farmers they met on their visit, above, and, left, the famous F Davidson livery on the classic cattle float.

01_B32van01
01_B32van02

Arran whisky, donated by the McKelvies' and John Murchie. The total raised will be known after the sale at Dumfries Mart.

MP calls for end to pension injustice

Arran's MP Patricia Gibson has urged the UK government to redress the pensions injustice inflicted on women born in the 1950s after a detailed investigation by the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) found serious failings in the way changes to the state pension age were handled.

The UK government, which accelerated the process of equalisation of pension ages for men and women, and its subsequent increase to 68 years old, were found to have 'failed to act quickly enough once it knew a significant proportion of women were not aware of changes to their state pension age. Many women born in the 1950s who expected to retire at 60 have lost thousands of pounds in pension payments without having sufficient time to plan for the changes.

Mrs Gibson, who has spoken in every House of Commons debate on this issue since she was elected in 2015 in support of the WASPI campaign, said: 'In view of this ruling, which completely vindicates the WASPI campaign, I have written to the secretary of state for work and pensions, Therese Coffey MP, urging the UK Government to finally do right by these women.

'There was a complete failure of communication by successive UK governments. With the 1995 Act implementing

changes from 2010, UK ministers only began writing to women affected from 2009 onwards – an appalling abdication of responsibility which showed no concern regarding the women adversely impacted by these changes.

'In my own constituency alone, 6,900 women have been adversely affected by the changes, including many living on Arran. Expecting to retire at 60, instead many have been forced into poverty and onto benefits to survive.

'These women worked hard, often raising families and looking after relatives. They are our mothers, sisters, grannies and they have been abandoned as the UK Government's handling of these changes amounted to little better than theft.

'The entire state pension system has been undermined by this travesty, and the only correct and just course of action now is for the UK Government to fully and finally compensate these women for their lost pensions and apologise for the unnecessary hardship these changes inflicted.'

More than 3.8 million women were affected by the decision to alter the state pension age for women with little notice, including a number of women on Arran, who have campaigned with local and national WASPI groups.

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Ultra Tour will go ahead this year

Rat Race Adventure Sports, organisers of the Arran Ultra Tour, a two-day running event held annually on Arran, have confirmed this year's event will go ahead.

Last year's race was cancelled owing to safety concerns for island residents and participants during the Covid pandemic.

The Rat Race team, who are based in Yorkshire and who operate a number of events throughout the world, are guaranteeing participants that if this, or any other of their events, is postponed or impacted by Covid restrictions, they will move bookings to a new date or provide you with credit towards any other Rat Race event. The same applies if you test positive for Covid and cannot attend the event.

The Arran Ultra Tour is an incredibly popular international event with more than 500 entrants from Denmark, Netherlands, Dubai, Germany, France, USA, Canada and Belgium and the UK taking part every year, but that could be restricted in 2021.



More than 500 runners set off from Brodick beach on the first day of the Rat Race Ultra Tour in 2019.

Ultra. It is a four-day camping race covering 120 miles on the west coast of Scotland and costs £15,499 per person to enter.

For that eye-watering sum, the 40 participants, in the event to be held in April 2022, can expect Michelin-star chefs, hydrotherapy pools, speed boats and butlers. It is described as the most luxurious race on earth and it is the most expensive too.

Further information on how to book a place on the Arran Ultra Tour for the comparatively reasonable price of just over £250 can be found on the organisers' webpage at <https://ultratourofarran.co.uk/>

running 27.6 miles towards Kildonan and back while day two will see participants taking in the north of the island by running the 29.6 miles to Lochranza and back.

Both races start and end at Brodick.

While gruelling and only aimed at experienced runners, the Ultra Tour of Arran is described by organisers as being 'designed to be physically and mentally tough but also achievable and not a sufferfest'.

The race contrasts sharply with another ultra event which is due to finish on Arran, known as the Highland Kings

The first Arran Ultra Tour took place in 2018 with the event proving so popular that Rat Race founder Jim Mee decided to turn it into an annual event.

Past events on Arran have received high praise for using island companies and services

and for respecting the island environment and residents.

Their ethos of 'the destination is as important as the challenge itself' shone through in 2018 when the base camp - where participants camped over the weekend - at Ormidale Park was meticulously cleaned

up after the event and that all music and noise was kept to an absolute minimum as it is located next to a residential area.

The Ultra Tour of Arran will take place over two days on the weekend of October 2 and 3. Day one will see participants

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80th anniversary of worst wartime Arran plane crash

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



This week marks the 80th anniversary of the worst wartime plane crash on Arran.

On August 10, 1941, the Consolidated Liberator aircraft of the BOAC Return Ferry Service crashed on the southern slopes of Am Binnein, about 1,300 yards north of Goatfell, killing all 22 passengers and crew on board.

The 18 passengers were British and Commonwealth servicemen from the UK, Canada, the US and one Australian who were flying on one of the first regular transatlantic services operating during the Second World War.

The prime purpose of the service was to return air crews, who had ferried American manufactured aircraft to the UK, back to Canada and the US. In addition to returning aircrews, mail, freight and senior VIPs were also flown.

Indeed, had it not been for a last minute change of flight, the crashed plane would have been carrying newspaper magnate Lord Beaverbrook who, on that day, switched to a second flight from Ayr on his way to attend the final day of the Atlantic Charter meeting between British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and US President Franklin D Roosevelt.

Flight AM261 with Captain White at the controls took off from RAF Healthfield, Ayr, for Gander in Newfoundland, at 20.15 BST. The cloud base was



The headstones of all the victims who died in the crash, except one, in Lamlash cemetery.

01_B32crash03
Inset: A Consolidated Liberator aircraft similar to the one which crashed.

1,200 feet, visibility four miles and wind WSW 19 knots. On Arran there was heavy rain, with mist at sea level.

The plane climbed to 800 feet and began a wide left hand circuit of the airfield. It then departed on a westerly course, though witnesses felt it was more northerly than usual.

Ten minutes and 25 miles later, it crashed at 20.35 BST high up on the southern slopes of Am Binnein.

Funerals were held on Friday August 15. Three lorries covered in black served as hearses for the coffins, which were draped in national flags, while other lorries carried wreaths and flowers. The cortege was

led by the police, naval ratings and the Arran Home Guard and behind a slow march by islanders.

All but one are buried in Old Kilbride Cemetery in Lamlash. Radio Officer Green was disinterred in March 1947 at the request of his widow and reburied at Brookwood Military Cemetery, Surrey.

The crash was investigated by the RAF Accident Investigation Branch whose inspector concluded the accident was due to navigational errors, but said it was impossible to deduce the factors for these errors.

Find out more about the crash at Arran Heritage Museum, Rosaburn, Brodick.

Appeal to support Arran Open Studios

A last call has been made for visitors to support this year's Arran Open Studios event which opens a week today.

Thirty-four studios will be throwing their doors open between Friday August 13 and Monday August 16, offering visitors a look at how and where Arran's artists create their work.

Posters, flyers and brochures are available all over the island and familiar signs indicating a participating studio will appear at road ends. These are an invitation to go in and take a closer look. Painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking, stained glass, jewellery, illus-



tration, textiles, fine furniture making and wood turning of the highest quality are all represented.

Two or three studios have had to cancel due to unforeseen health or travel circumstances

but more than 30 will be taking part and organisers have thrown down the gauntlet to see how many visitors can be drawn in over the weekend.

An Arran Open Studios spokesperson said: 'We know visitors come over from the mainland and make a weekend of it and we hope locals might try and enjoy the same.'

'Pick up a brochure, visit the excellent Arran Open Studios website at www.arranopenstudios.com or our Facebook page by searching for @Arran12.'

'Arran artists are ready to welcome and impress you with a wealth and diversity of artistic talent.'

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Players pitch in to host child



Corey Bunyan with his sportsmanship award.



Ruby MacArthur with her sportsmanship award.

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



The future of youth hockey on Arran looks promising after more than 70 children attended a three-day hockey camp.

Organised by Arran Ladies Hockey Club and Arran Junior Hockey Club, they provided experienced coaches and players to tutor the children.

The three-day event took place at the Ormidale astroturf where two training sessions were held each day, one for children aged between five and seven years old and the other for eight to 12-year-olds.

Players from Arran Ladies Hockey Club coached the children on ball and foot control, agility, passing and attacking, as well as a number of activities aimed at making the children feel more comfortable with the stick.

Throughout the event, Arran hockey players volunteered their time and visited the camp to teach the small groups of children the various rules, skills and tips and tricks required to play hockey well.

Among the coaches were youth leaders 10-year-old Kellen Craig, who organised a fun game of hockey golf and 11-year-old Kayla

Hewie, who provided coaching aimed at improving the children's ball and stick control skills.

The youth developmental camp provided the youngsters with a fun outdoor activity during the school holidays. It will also help promote hockey on Arran which has gained a huge amount of publicity owing to the success of the Arran Ladies Hockey Club which competes in the West District Women's Hockey League.

On the final day of hockey camp, prizegivings were held after the morning and afternoon sessions where everyone involved was given a medal and a certificate.

Several special prizes were also handed out. In the five to seven years group, the sportsmanship award went to Fiona Dick. Most improved player awards went to Emily Bourne, Penny Ferguson and Robert Dick.

In the eight to 12 year group, the sportsmanship award was presented to Corey Bunyan, Ruby MacArthur and Finn Popplewell. Most improved players were Nadia Filipkowska, Peter Mochan, Noah Scott, Eva McCrae and Harris McCormack.

The summer hockey camp was sponsored by Duncan Heenan of Duncan's at the Burlington in Whiting Bay and the Co-op in Brodick supplied water and treats for the children.



Anne Watts teaches a young girl how to



Most improved under-seven Emily Bourne. 01_B31hockey14



Most improved under-seven Penny Ferguson. 01_B31hockey15



Most improved under-seven player Robert Dick. 01_B31hockey13



The under-sevens' sportsmanship award went to Fiona Dick. 01_B31hockey16



Most improved eight to 12 player Harris McCormack.



Finn Popplewell with his sportsmanship award.



Most improved eight to 12 player Peter Mochan. 01_B31hockeycamp20



Most improved eight to 12 player Eva McCrae. 01_B31hockey21



Most improved eight to 12 player Nadia Filipkowska. 01_B31hockeycamp18



Most improved 01_B31hockeycamp19



A young hockey player has a go at blasting the ball towards the goal. 01_B31hockeycamp11

Children's summer hockey camp



lift and flick the ball. 01_B31hockeycamp08



All the participants who took part in the eight to 12-years hockey camp.



Eight to 12 player Noah Scott.



Lorraine Hewie teaches the younger children about ball control. 01_B31hockeycamp01



Young girls get to grips with their hockey sticks. 01_B31hockeycamp04



Coach Marie-Louise Craig joins the children for a fun agility activity. 01_B31hockeycamp10



Children practise their agility and foot control techniques under the watchful eye of Marie-Louise Craig. 01_B31hockeycamp02



Two young girls practise their goal scoring and defending skills. 01_B31hockeycamp09



Alison Page with the Arran Library summer club children. 01_B32Westie01 Inset: Children have a laugh hurling haggis balls into a basket. 01_B32Westie02

Author hosts Westie Fest at library summer club

Alison Page, author of the Corrie's Capers series of books, was the star attraction at Arran Library's summer club last week.

A limited number of 20 lucky children, most of whom are familiar with the story books

which tell the story of an Arran-based West Highland Terrier called Corrie, enjoyed an afternoon of fun games with Alison in the garden outside the library in Brodick.

Librarian Rhona Fulton and Alison entertained the

children with the events which elicited peals of laughter and friendly competition between the children aged from three to 12 years old.

The games were all themed on the activities in the books, The Westie Fest, The Tattoo Toorie

and the latest instalment, Corrie's Curling Capers, which is illustrated by the highly-regarded Tony van Breugel, who also lives on Arran.

The Corrie's Capers series is a non-profit endeavour which raises money for the charity

Mary's Meals, for which Alison is the Arran community ambassador.

The books are popular on Arran and far beyond and have raised more than £11,000 for Mary's Meals.

The Westie Fest afternoon

is the second last event of the summer club's activities.

These have so far included a scavenger hunt, a sports event and informative bee and crafts events. The remaining activity, which is yet to be finalised, will be loosely based on farming.

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Ceramic artist's exhibition at Lagg

Lagg Distillery is hosting a month-long exhibition in August featuring the work of ceramic artist Rob Stevens who has made a number of works using clay from the site.

Rob, who has a studio in Pirnmill called Gobhlach Art Studio, retrieved some of the clay during the development of the distillery between 2018 and 2019 and, despite the challenges of working with boulder clay rather than potters clay, has used it to make attractive pieces.

Bookings

If you wish to see the exhibition, Lagg Distillery is open from Tuesday to Saturday, from 10am to 5.30pm. The gift shop, Kilmory cafe and The Shielling bistro are open for sit-in and takeaway options. Pre-bookings only for sit-in dining.

Tours and tastings are also available but you must book in advance by contacting bookings@laggwhisky.com or telephoning 01770 870565.



Rob Stevens working at his studio in Pirnmill.



The exhibition features work made from clay taken from Lagg Distillery during its construction.

A remarkable summer for cuckoo

This has been a remarkable summer for cuckoo. There have been endless widespread records not just of birds calling but, in some instances, groups of three and four birds displaying and courting. While numbers of cuckoo in the UK are in decline, that is certainly not the case on Arran.

The first cuckoos are usually heard in mid-April. This year on Arran it was April 14. The earliest record on the island was April 8 in 2017. Peak migration takes place in late April/early May.

Few people are unfamiliar with the song of the cuckoo and I am delighted when peo-

Bird notes by Jim Cassels

ple take the time to contact me when they first hear the call, but beware collared doves can sound similar.

Hearing a cuckoo is one thing, getting a good view is another.

At first glance, a cuckoo in flight might be mistaken for a bird of prey as they are long-

tailed and long-winged and have a fast flight.

If you are lucky enough to get a view of one perched, you will see a grey bird about the size of a collared dove with a blue grey head, chest and upper parts.

The under parts are white with dark bars and it has characteristic long, drooping wings.

The females have a slight brown tinge across the breast. More rarely, females occur in a rufous phase. The young are brown barred like these females, but with a white spot on the nape.

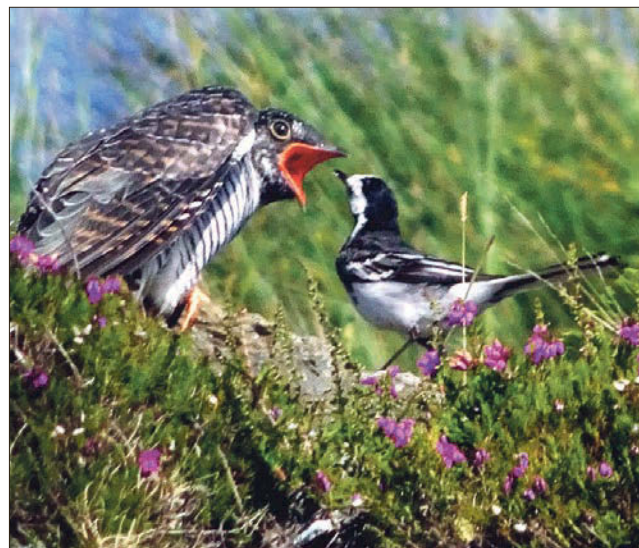
The well-known feature of cuckoos is that they lay their eggs in the nests of other species. On Arran, they usually target meadow pipits and dunlocks but more than 50 species of host have been recorded in Britain. The young cuckoo is brought up entirely by foster parents. The cuckoo parents take no part.

It is an astonishing piece of evolutionary behaviour but, perhaps even more mind boggling, is that once raised, the young cuckoos make their own way to their ancestral wintering grounds in the tropics. No adult guides them. The adults have left weeks before.

Not only that, the following spring these young from the previous summer return to northern Europe and recognise and seek out a mate among their own kind. Reflect on that



This photograph of an adult cuckoo captures the bird well. Photograph: Dennis Morrison.



A young cuckoo being fed by a pied wagtail. Photograph: Alastair Forsyth.

as you listen to the unmistakable sound of the cuckoo.

Later in the summer, look out for young cuckoo with their 'adopted' parents. The begging response is so strong that often any birds close by will feed it. Please let me know when you last see a cuckoo this summer.

Our knowledge and understanding of cuckoo migration has been enhanced in the last 10 years by the excellent project run by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). Since 2011, the BTO has been satellite tracking cuckoos.

The different routes to and from their wintering grounds in Africa as well as the movement within Africa between the Congo rain forest and West Africa are being revealed.

It has also begun to shed light on the decline of the cuckoo population in the UK which has reduced by half in the last 20 years. There is much more information on this outstanding project on the BTO website <https://www.bto.org/our-science/projects/cuckoo-tracking-project/about-project>

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 buy the Arran Bird Report 2020 and the Arran Bird Report, The First 40 Years and visit <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/index.html>

Whiting Bay gets ready for a night of nonsense

After months of inactivity, Whiting Bay Music and Drama Club will be performing A Night of Nonsense, a series of short plays, every Tuesday night in August at Whiting Bay Hall.

The collection of short, quirky little plays has been written by members Chris and Jan Attkins and, as the name suggests, they are light-hearted, humorous and bound to entertain and raise good laughs.

The opening sketch, entitled Fond Memories, is a nostalgic reflection with an interesting twist. Following that is What are the Chances?, a tale of a housebreaking gone wrong. The Readthrough involves audience participation and Family Secrets is a light-hearted family drama. The evening concludes with The Masterpiece, featuring a painting of a young couple in the nude – well almost!

The cast consists of seasoned



The cast of A Night of Nonsense: back row, Stacey Gordon, Allan Nicol, Shannon Galbraith and Beverley Scott. Front: David Simpkin and Patrick Scott.

was always the chance of an enforced cancellation of more events, but the general feeling was it was worth trying – at least the rehearsals would be fun.'

The opening night is Tuesday August 10 and the show will run in Whiting Bay Hall every Tuesday evening until the end of August. Doors open at 7pm with curtain-up 7.30pm prompt. Tickets, £5, available at the door.

The audience will be seated at tables and people are being encouraged to bring drinks and snacks to add to the enjoyment and to celebrate a return to some form of normality.

actors and familiar faces on the Arran acting scene: Allan Nicol, David Simpkin, Patrick and Beverley Scott, Stacey Gordon and Shannon Galbraith.

A club spokesman said: 'After many dreary months of cancelled events and endless restrictions, the club has decided to live up to the

credo that the show must go on. When we held our annual general meeting earlier this year, the idea of putting on summer plays was raised and it was decided that since the six members who were available to participate were all vaccinated, there would be no better time than the present to get back on stage. Everyone realised there

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on Tuesday 10th, 17th, 24th
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Owen Swindale – January 26, 1927 to June 5, 2021



Long-time Arran resident Owen Swindale has died at the age of 94.

Owen was a man with many and varied gifts. He was first and foremost a musician. He taught harmony and counterpoint for more than a decade at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow and wrote a textbook on music, Polyphonic Composition. He

played piano, recorder, horn and violin, and composed music for these instruments.

But the majority of his life was spent working as a craftsman, living on Arran designing and making jewellery with gold and silver and semi-precious stones. This was sold, first at his workshop in Whiting Bay, then at the Jewellery Workshop – now the Red Door – in Brodick. He also painted and wrote poetry, much of it about Arran and the imagined lives of its previous inhabitants.

He was born into a working-class family in the East End of London. By 1941, both his parents had died and he was looked after by his aunt. He stayed in London during the blitz, studying the piano and earning a living odd-jobbing as a horn player.

Shortly after the war he met Tessa, the love of his life. They married in 1947 when Tessa was 18 and Owen was 20. They moved to Edinburgh where Owen became a student at the university. While there, he conducted the student

orchestra and worked as a music critic for the Scotsman newspaper. Not long after graduating, he was recruited to teach at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, now the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, which he did from 1956 until 1970.

The connection with Arran began at this time, first with hostelling and camping holidays with his young family, then when the birth of a fourth child made camping too impractical, continuing with the purchase of a semi-derelect cottage in Pirnmill. The family visited at every opportunity and Owen rebuilt the ruined half of the building and restored the interior.

In 1970, Owen gave up teaching to begin a new career as a jeweller. The cottage was sold and he and Tessa moved to Malvern, Worcestershire. But the connection with the island proved impossible to break and by 1980 they were back, living at Shawfield, Whiting Bay. Tessa worked

as the island chiropodist and, in his spare time, Owen became involved with musical groups, putting on chamber concerts in the 1990s in Corrie, Brodick and Whiting Bay. He also painted, resumed composing and published music during this time.

He and Tessa had many friends on and off the island who valued Owen for his friendship and his many and varied intellectual gifts. Among his legacies are his musical teaching, compositions and performances, while his jewellery must have given satisfaction and pleasure to countless customers. There will be many who still wear and treasure his engagement and wedding rings and other pieces.

In Owen's final years he was looked after by members of the island care at home team. The family expresses its deep gratitude to all of them for their love and care. He is survived by his four children, Nicholas, Ian, Amelia and Mark, and grandson Thomas.

Nicholas Swindale.

Owen Swindale, a man with many and varied gifts.

Seasonal recipe of the month Courgette cake

Ingredients:

- 200 g soft light brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 200 ml sunflower oil
- 200 g plain flour
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- ½ tsp baking powder
- zest 1 lime
- 200 g grated courgette
- 1 handful chopped pistachios

For the icing

- 50 g unsalted butter
- 100 g full fat cream cheese
- zest 1 lime
- juice ½ lime
- 250 g icing sugar

Method: Preheat the oven to 60°C Fan, line a 2lb loaf tin with baking paper. Add sugar, eggs, oil to large mixing bowl and beat until incorporated. Slowly add the flour, bicarbonate of soda, baking powder and beat. Add the lime zest and grated courgette and fold into the mixture by hand until it's evenly mixed. Pour the mixture into loaf tin. Bake in the centre of the preheated oven for 50 minutes or until a skewer inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. Remove from the oven and leave to cool.

Icing: Add the butter and cream cheese to a bowl, use a handheld electric whisk and beat for 2-3 minutes until smooth and creamy. Add ⅓ of the icing sugar. Whisk on low speed until the icing sugar has incorporated then add another ⅓ of icing sugar and repeat. When the icing sugar has been added, turn the speed up to high and whisk for 2-3 minutes. Add the lime zest and juice and beat until fully incorporated. When the loaf cake has cooled, spoon the icing on top and decorate with a sprinkle of the pistachios and lime zest.



#Wearearranfood

Your monthly round up from Arran Eco Savvy of what's happening in local food- July edition



Eating seasonally is a great way to reduce the climate impact of your diet. Here's some food that's in season in August:

Beetroot, Broad Beans, Broccoli, Cabbage, Cauliflower, Celery, Chillies, Courgettes, Cucumber, Leeks, Lettuce, Onions, Peas (shell and sugar snap), Radish, Runner Beans, Summer Squash, Swiss Chard, Turnips

Apples, Blackcurrants, Blueberries, Gooseberries, Pears, Plums, Raspberries, Redcurrants, Strawberries, Tayberries, Tomatoes

OVER
£200,000 worth of
food has been
saved from
landfill.

This is the
equivalent of feeding
a family of 4 on Arran
for 36 years or a
whopping 55,556
meals worth!



We encourage all Arran residents to use the food share to help Scotland reach targets to reduce food waste by 33% by 2025

To date the Arran community has diverted over £200,000 worth of food through the foodshare scheme. This reduces greenhouse gas emissions as the food is kept out of landfill. The foodshare is open to all and runs daily at 8.15pm at the Big Co and Lamdash coop.

The **Pioneer Project** have been busy through the dry weather in July! Water access has presented a challenge on all sites and they are raising money to establish mains water connections. More details on the following link: www.gofundme.com/f/the-arran-pioneer-project-cic In August following the success of July open days there will be a **Market day in Lochranza on 14/08 from 1-3pm and a harvest day at the Cordon site from 11am on 09/08**

Summer dining on Arran



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CASKS Café, Open daily 10am – 4pm

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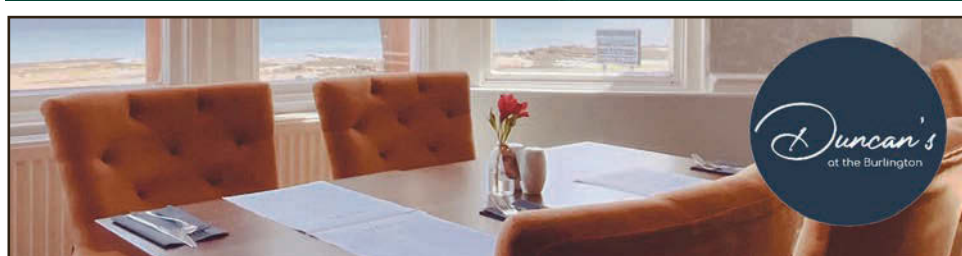
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our many whiskies and let your eyes drink in the magnificent views across the Forth of Clyde to Ailsa Craig and beyond.

Enjoy a selection of tapas style small plates designed to compliment our whisky, indulge yourself with a freshly made cocktail or find your perfect Arran dram from our extensive range of distillery exclusives, single cask bottlings and offerings from our sister distillery in Lochranza.

We will also be bringing a Friday institution to the South End of the island, with our Fish and Chip Fridays. Enjoy fish, chips and mushy

peas or a full fish tea every week across both restaurant spaces and get your weekend off to an amazing start.

We respectfully ask that you continue to make bookings for all tables at the Visitor Centre. We follow all current guidelines and regulations regarding Covid compliance and promise you a safe space to enjoy two great value menus and a range of special events throughout the year. We really are very excited to welcome you through our doors again and can't wait to return to being a legend in the making!

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We have made a commitment to quality and value and all dishes in both restaurants are under £10.

Enjoy family friendly Kilmory Cafe and the relaxed atmosphere upstairs in The Shieling Bistro and Whisky Bar.

Open Tues – Sat
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Booking is required.
01770 870 565
bookings@laggwhisky.com

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bookings@laggwhisky.com

Lagg Distillery

We would like to welcome you to Lagg Distillery, the home of whisky in the south end of Arran.

We are open 5 days a week, Tuesday to Saturday from 10am until 5.30pm. When you visit us, not only will you be able to enjoy our fantastic tastings and tours, but we also have a beautiful gift shop and two unique dining venues where you can get a true taste of our island hospitality.

Tours and Tastings are available every day that we are open and we are taking bookings over the telephone and e-mail. Contact us on 01770 870 565 or bookings@laggwhisky.com

Tastings take place Tuesday - Saturday at 11.30am, 1.30pm and 3pm. The cost is £15.00 per adult and we politely request that you pre-book your place in advance of your visit.

Tours take place Tuesday - Saturday at 10am, 11.30am and 4pm. The cost is £10 per adult and once again pre-bookings are required. Unfortunately, no children under the age of 8 are permitted to join a tour.

Once you have joined our team for a tour and a taste of the “water of life” why not treat yourself to some food at one of our two unique restaurant spaces. No matter where you choose, we can guarantee you quality and value having committed to ensure all



dishes on our regular menus are now below ten pounds.

Downstairs in the Kilmory Café, join us for fast, family friendly food with a wide range of snacks, incredible sandwiches and the best hotdogs on the island. Enjoy a delicious coffee with our fresh scones and other sweet treats, or if you are in a hurry, we are happy to provide takeaway services too.

Making a comeback this year will be our ever-popular Friday night takeaways. Favourites like our Lagg Fried Chicken night and our Chinese night will return to the distillery on a fortnightly basis along with some new additions to whet your appetites.

Upstairs in the Sheiling Bistro and Whisky Bar, things move at a slightly slower pace. Sink into one of our couches, savour one of

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.co.uk

TOURS AND TASTINGS BY APPOINTMENT



Every Day

Arran Heritage Museum Rosaburn, Brodick, Open daily, 10.30am – 4.30pm
Arran Brewery, Shop Open – Monday to Saturday 10am – 4.30pm, Sunday, 12noon - 4pm
Brodick Castle Gardens Brodick, Open daily, 10am – 5pm
Brodick Mini Golf, Open 7 days, 10am - 5pm-ish, ALL weather
COAST Discovery Centre, Lamlash, Open 7 days a week, 10am – 4pm
Lamlash Putting Green, Open daily, 10am -4pm
Lamlash Tennis Courts, Open All hours
Trout Fly Fishing, Loch Garbad, bank fishing
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, Open to book call 01770 700636

Saturday 7th August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Brodick Castle, Brodick, 11am – 4pm
RNLI Shop Open, Lamlash, 2pm - 4pm
Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm

Sunday 8th August

Brodick Castle, Brodick, 11am – 4pm
RNLI Shop, Open, Lamlash, 2pm – 4pm
What's Happening On Arran, <http://www.arranmedia.co.uk>, 4pm

Monday 9th August

Brodick Castle, Brodick, 11am - 4pm
Lamlash Bowling Club, Lamlash, 2pm
Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 4pm
JogScotlandArran@gmail.com, Whiting Bay, Venue varies, 5.30pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 10pm
Brodick Bowling Club, Brodick, 7pm

Tuesday 10th August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Healthy Outdoor Team, Brodick Castle, 10am – 1pm
Arran Chess Club – new members welcome, Crofters', Brodick, 10.30am
Brodick Castle Open Day, Brodick, 10.30am – 5pm (last entry 4.30pm)
Rink Games (Social distancing observed), Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 11am
Junior Hockey, P1 - S3 (age 5 to 14 yrs), Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 6pm – 7pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm
Whiting Bay Club presents "A Night of Nonsense", Whiting Bay Hall, Doors open - 7pm

Pop Music Quiz, suits all ages, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Wednesday 11th August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 1.30pm
Arran Well-Being Cafe, Lamlash Church Hall, Lamlash, 2pm- 4pm
Arran Skinnymalinks Walk & Weigh-in, COAST, Lamlash, Walk, 4pm, Weigh-in, 4.30pm
Arran Pace Makers please check Facebook @arranpace-makers, Venue varies, 5.30pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 10pm
Brodick Bowling Club, Brodick, 7pm
Lamlash Bowling Club, Lamlash, 7pm
Rock and Pop Bingo, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 12th August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Arran Chess Club – new members welcome, Crofters', Brodick, 10.30am
Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm
Spinning and Weaving demonstrations, Arran Heritage Museum, 11am -3pm
Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 11am
Arran Skinnymalinks Weigh-in, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 6pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 10pm
Senior Hockey (12+), Ormidale Astro Pitch, 7pm – 8.30pm
Quiz – General Knowledge, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 13th August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm
Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 4pm
Fish Frydays, Lochranza Centre CIC, order before 5pm for collection 6pm – 7.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting, Whiting Bay Hall, Whiting Bay, 7.30pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 10pm

Saturday 14th August

Rob Stevens Ceramic Artist Exhibition, Lagg Distillery, 10am – 5.30pm
Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm
Brodick Castle, Brodick, 11am – 4pm
RNLI Shop Open, Lamlash, 2pm - 4pm
Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm

First health walk and eBike open day

Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick played host to the first in a series of ebike drop in events held by Arran Eco Savvy on Tuesday.

There was a range of electric bikes, including an eTrike and eCargo bike, available to ride on a specially designed fun course laid out on the playing fields for people to try out the handling of the bikes.

Active travel hub officer Gerard Tattersfield said: 'It was a great event, with an estimated 70+ people dropping in throughout the day. Everyone seemed thrilled to be able to experience ebikes within a relaxed and fun environment and come away with a much clearer understanding of the benefits that the different styles of eBikes have to offer.'

eBikes are proving very popular and in an Eco Savvy poll of people who had taken part in an ebike trial, 100 per cent of participants said they would recommend eBikes to other users on Arran.

Eco Savvy offer longer ebike loans and have plans for more eBike drop in sessions, cycle training and led eBike rides. Visit www.arranecosavvy.org.

uk to register your interest in a month-long free trial of an eBike.

The first of a new programme of health walks run by NAC's Trinity Active Travel Hub also took place on the same day.

Walk leader Diana Turbett said: 'The first Stroll with it Arran! event enjoyed a gentle walk along the first part of the Fisherman's Walk and up around Douglas Row before a cuppa back at Ormidale Pavilion. Fantastic views across Brodick Bay, time to enjoy the beautiful gardens and history of Douglas Row and lovely company made this first walk a great success. We are looking forward to continued regular walks and exploring more of the island.'

The next health walk will take place on Tuesday August 17 in Lamlash, with more walks planned for Brodick and Blackwaterfoot. Contact diana.ecosavvy@gmail.com for more information or to book a place. Walks last 1 to 1.5 hours, are free, go at a gentle pace, are risk assessed and fit in with bus times.

Note: 20 Years Ago will be back next week.



Participants in the the first Stroll with It Arran health walk this week.



Wilma Stark trying out the eTrike.

Arran Sunset

The Isle of Arran Brewery's Sunset Ale is one of the brewery's most popular beers.

A light and fruity beer, with balancing hoppy flavours and pleasant, dry finish.

The beer is available on hand pull at selected pubs on the island throughout the island in bottles, including at the brewery shop at Cladach, Brodick.



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Our Maintenance team are responsible for ensuring that all areas of Auchrannie Estate are maintained to an excellent standard and that any work is completed with minimal disruption to the business. The ideal candidate should have all round maintenance skills and willingness to learn new skills on the job. Applicants should have experience working in a similar role, and trade qualifications would be preferred. You would be working to a rolling rota including weekends and on call support. We offer a competitive salary package up to £31,270, family leisure membership and many more benefits. To apply or for more information please email: HR@auchrannie.co.uk

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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 8th August 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 8th August
Worship will be conducted at 10.30am

We are now able to socially distance at one metre. Booking still required. You are asked, please, to phone Mrs Janet Redfearn 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 8th August
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash Church 11.30am
To comply with 'Trace and Protect' regulations, name and contact details will be asked for, on entering.
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 8th August
10th 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 Tel: 01770 600222 www.arranbaptistchurch.org.uk

Sunday 8th August
Services will be held in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick at 11 am.
All welcome but current Covid restrictions are in place so numbers are limited.
Please phone by Friday to check availability and to reserve a place.
Sermons will be on our webpage following the Sunday.

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

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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

MCARTHUR - Peter. Isabel, Graham and Kirsteen would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their support, for flowers, letters, cards and telephone calls. Thank you to all who attended Peter's funeral.

Another great w



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Monday July 26, The WBGC Junior Open. As with the 'big open' we weren't able to stage the junior version last year, but for 2021 it was back with a bang. Another warm sunny day meant the youngsters who played had a great day of golfing fun with a free feed and juice at the end of it all. We had a good entry of boys and girls, and a good spread of ages, from five to 16, to enjoy the specially-tailored course layouts and the various prizes allocated to each age group.

As usual, the Adair and Foggo families came up with a generous array of prizes cleverly arranged so that everyone went away with something to remind them of the day. It was heart-warming to see so many excited faces as the prizes were awarded in front of a large and supportive contingent of mums, dads and other 'oldies'.

There were too many prizes to detail them all here but Grace Crichton took the prize for the best girl's score and the overall winner was Ross Baillie who can proudly call himself Whiting Bay Junior Open Champion of 2021.

The junior open is a good indicator of the health of the game on the island and it was heartening to see so many taking a keen interest. There was an especially encouraging contingent of locally-based youngsters in or approaching their early teens and hopefully their interest in the game will continue into adulthood. Like all golf clubs, we rely on attracting new players coming through and the signs at the moment are very positive.

Our thanks go to everyone who participated and to the adults who acted as guides, caddies and referees. Without their input this would be a very difficult day to stage. Thanks also to the course and clubhouse staff and to the Adair and Foggo families, plus Flora Jean Mack for their generous contribution of time, refreshments and prizes. We are once again indebted to

A hearty crowd attended the Whiting Bay Golf Club Junior Open competition.



them for staging this popular and important event. See you all next year.

Wednesday July 28, The Jim Pirie Quaich. Following the excitement and rigours of our open weekend, it was back to Stableford scoring for the Jim Pirie. Light overnight rain had taken some of the fire out of the course, but not much.

A total of 34 played and still found the odd wayward bounce, but safe to say conditions were a little easier than the hard-baked course of recent weeks. Gordon MacLachlan took full advantage to win on 38 points, thus securing his first trophy at Whiting Bay.

Result: 1 Gordon MacLachlan 21, 38pts; 2 Finlay Ahearne 25, 36 acb; 3 Murray Foggo 5, 36; 4 David Blair 12, 35. Magic twos Nicol Auld @4th, David Brookens @7th, David Blair @11th, Scott Murray @15th, Stewart Neil @16th, Cameron Hill and Ronnie Mann, both @17th.

Sunday August 1, Nestor's Jug. A total of 40 played in the 2021 edition of Nestor's Jug played this year from the yellow tees. Scoring was good with the top four players scoring 40 points or more. The winner was Scott Adair whose five birdie round netted him 42 points, the last two birdies on 17 and 18 proving crucial. 1 Scott Adair 4, 42 acb; 2 John Rankin 7, 42; 3 Markus Kroner 5, 40 acb; 4 Ronnie Mann 14, 40. Magic twos, Scott Adair, Doreen Mains, Craig Simpson and Jamie Stewart @4th, Alan Foggo @9th, Scott Adair, Alan Foggo and Gus Macleod @11th, Markus Kroner @14th, Scott Adair and Andy Martin @17th

and Jamie Macpherson @18th. Saturday July 31, The Whiting Bay Golf Club Ladies Open. A total of 37 played and enjoyed a fine day's golf with only the very early starters experiencing light rain showers. They soon dried out and as with the gents and the juniors in their opens, the ladies returned some very impressive scoring with WBGC member Gillian Lockhart prevailing with a fine score of 40 points. 1 Gillian Lockhart 15, 40; 2 Elizabeth Paterson 26, 38; 3 Elizabeth Rankin 29, 37; 4 June Richardson 36, 35. There were a host of sponsored hole prizes. Organiser Lesley Wood welcomed competitors, saying: 'First of all a huge thank you to everyone who generously donated hole prizes and raffle prizes. Thank you to our secret sponsor who supports us year after year. Thank you also to Doreen Mains for kindly donating her delicious tablet and lemon drizzle cake.'

'I'm sure you will agree that the course is in fantastic condition, especially given the unusually challenging conditions of lack of rain. This is down to the exceptionally hard work and skill of our greenkeeper, Stuart, ably assisted by Jack Simmons.

'We very much appreciate the work and support of John, Nancy and Jenni behind the bar who have helped in so many ways. Nothing is ever too much trouble, so thank you all very much.

'Thank you to Brian Adair and Nicol Auld for the pro-secco and thank you to David who painted the markers for the course, which were kindly laid out by Lynda and

Fraser. Thanks to my husband, Howard, for growing enough plants to decorate the clubhouse, and to the Shiskine Ladies and all the ladies in the ladies section, especially Lynda, Doreen, Flora Jean and Tricia. Today was a team effort with everyone chipping in, if you excuse the pun. However a special thanks goes to Jenni, who is unable to play at the moment, but who manned the starters box to ensure players received a very warm welcome.

'Finally thank you all for participating and buying raffle tickets. Without you this event couldn't happen. We are so fortunate to have such generous and loyal members and friends who support us so generously every year.'

Fixtures: Sunday August 8, Lifeboat Stableford (Open). Monday August 9, AGA Champion of Champions. Wednesday August 11, The Betty Black.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday July 29, Ladies Open Greensomes competition, 72 played. It was a cool day compared to recent weeks but stayed dry for the main. The raffle raised £445 for ArCaS. The 12 holes were sponsored by various ladies. The committee thanked them for their generosity. Two mother and daughter teams were among the prize winners and it was a delight to have them with them with us. Some really great scores were returned.

Result: 1 Esther Henderson and Isobel McDonald nett 37.5; 2 Ruth Hardy and Gay MacKay nett 40 BIH; 3 Shona Weir and Zara Weir nett 40;

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Week of golf on Arran



Top left: Whiting Bay Junior Open Champion Ross Bailey with tournament hosts Scott Adair and Alan Foggo.

Above: Shiskine Ladies Open Greensomes winners, front, Esther Henderson and Isobel McDonald, along with scratch winners, Susan Butchard, left, and Jennifer Maxwell, right.

Far left: Prizewinners at the Shiskine Ladies Open Greensomes.

Left: Winner of the Whiting Bay Ladies Open, Gill Lockart, with runners up Elizabeth Paterson and Elizabeth Rankin.

4 Marlene Waudby and Mary Tod nett 40; 5 Susan Docherty and Ann Ferrier 40.5. Scratch, Jennifer Maxwell and Susan Butchard with a score of 46, nett 39. Least number of putts was also Jennifer Maxwell and Susan Butchard. Well done to all the winners and everyone who took part. We had a very convivial evening in the clubhouse restaurant after the prize giving with a delicious meal.

Sunday August 1, McCutcheon Trophy. 1st class: 1 and scratch, D Calder 39-1=38 BIH; 2 A Calder 41-3=38; 3 D Aitken 40-1=39. 2nd class: 1 and winner, C Rutterford 51-15=36; 2 W McNally 48-10=38; 3 A Gray 48-9=39. Magic twos A Calder, D Calder x2, R Traill, C Rutterford, Q Oliver, W McNally, G Campbell, I McLean x2.

Lamlash Golf Club

Saturday July 17, Club Championship Final. This

was between last year's champion Iain Murchie and Todd Jameson, returning after taking a year out from golf. The final was played over 36 holes on what was the hottest day of the year. The course was still in excellent condition despite the weather, however, the dry conditions made the approach and greens very tricky.

In the afternoon the first three holes were halved, Iain going one up at 4th but he was pegged back after losing a ball at 5th – all square. By the 9th Iain was one up. Between good golf and tricky greens Todd fought back and by the 18th was three up at the end of the first session. At the end of the second session Todd won the match at the 14th hole being five up with four to play.

A worthy champion for Lamlash, Todd declared at the presentation: 'I am back!' Thursday July 29, Summer Stableford. 1 Lee Dutton

40pts BIH; 2 Derek Harrison 40pts; 3 Norrie MacIntyre 37 pts BIH; 4 Paul Cowan 37pts. Best scratch, Dougie Macfarlane 34pts. Magic twos, Paul Cowan @16th, Martin Wallbank @17th. Hole two drawn, rollover.

Sunday August 1, Hamilton Bowl Final. 1 Robbie McGunnigle +2; 2 Andy Smith level to bogey BIH; 3 Graeme Andrew level to bogey. Best scratch, Iain Murchie -6 to bogey. Magic twos, Graeme Andrew @2nd and 16th, Stuart McLaren @4th. Overall winner of Hamilton Bowl, Hugh McLelland +3 & +2 = +5 to bogey, runner up, Robbie McGunnigle +2 and +2 = +4 to bogey. Fixtures: Friday August 6, Dan Crawford Salver and Open practice day. Make up own groups and see starter for times. Saturday August 7, Lamlash Open round one.

Sunday August 8, Lamlash Open round two. There are

still a few places available for the Open. To register phone 600196 or 600296. Thursday August 12, Summer Cup and Jim Young Memorial Cup, make up own groups and see starter for times. Ladies section: Wednesday July 28, Medal 6. 1 Sheena Murchie 76-14=62; 2 Elizabeth Sinclair 89-22=67. Scratch, Sheena Murchie 76.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday July 28, 18-hole medal, 1 J McGovern 73-13=60 BIH; 2 A Smith 75-15=60. Scratch G McKelvie 70. Saturday July 31, 18-hole medal, 1 A McDonald 76-16=60; 2 A Smith 77-14=63; 3 D Logan 79-12=67. Scoring was a bit higher than normal on Saturday due mostly to some challenging pin positions.

Fixtures: Saturday August 7, 18-hole medal, Wednesday August 11, 18-hole medal. Competitors arrange their own

matches and remember to abide to the latest Covid guidelines.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday July 28, Summer Cup, 39 played. 1 Matt Dobson 64-5=59 acb; 2 John Beattie 80-21=59; 3 Sam Tattersfield 76-16=60 acb. Scratch Matt Dobson 64.

Sunday August 1, Brandon Qualifier, 32 played. 1 Iain MacDonald 71-10=61; 2 Greg McCrae 68-5=63; 3 Douglas Robertson 83-19=64 acb. Scratch Ewan McKinnon 64.

Fixture: Sunday August 8, Centenary Quaich.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday July 27, Peter Sutton. 1 Reuben Betley 66; 2 Brian Sherwood 69; 3 Alex Morrison-Cowan 70. Fixture: Tuesday August 10, Peter Sutton/Lady, tee-off 12.30pm.

Arran Golfing Association

Fixtures: Monday August 9, Champion of Champions first round at 5.30pm. Friday August 13, Champion of Champions semi-finals at 5.30pm. Monday August 16, Champion of Champions final at 5.30pm.

The first round draw is Corrie (W Paton) v Whiting Bay (Jamie Macpherson), Lochranza (unknown) v Shiskine (Jack McNally), Brodick (Bruce Jenkins) v Champion (Ewan McKinnon), Machrie Bay (Phil Betley) v Lamlash (Todd Jameson).

There will be a further random draw for the semis after Monday's golf. Could all golfers arrive in good time as we don't want to run out of daylight – especially if the last couple of games go to extra holes.



Arran Coastal Rowing Club wins Largs regatta honours



Arran's winning team at the Largs regatta.

Arran Coastal Rowing Club headed to Largs on Saturday to compete in its first away competitive regatta in almost two years.

Five other Clyde clubs – Prestwick, Troon, Renegade, Cumbrae and Royal West – joined them at Largs Marina for an exciting day of competition at the Firth of Clyde Coastal Rowing Club's annual regatta. Five of the six races were over a 1.2km course with port turns. There was one longer race of 4.5km.

Arran were unexpectedly down to a team of nine from the start but they managed to field strong capable crews in all the races they entered.

Sea conditions for the shorter

First away competitive event in almost two years

races were favourable, with only a slight chop when going across the run of the tide. Conditions for the longer race, which took the skiffs over to Cumbrae, were a bit harder.

The increased distance and challenging conditions suited Arran and Troon as they left the pack well behind. Arran rowed hard, chasing Troon all the way, finishing only a boat length behind them for what was thought to be a second place finish. But Arran were demoted to third place as a result of a rule technicality.

Arran were unable to field a crew for the novice race as they had no eligible rowers so missed out on points.

Despite this setback for Arran, final results confirmed how close the racing was, with Firth of Clyde, Troon and Arran all finishing with the same number of points. Arran were declared overall winners as they had two first positions, two seconds and a third. If anyone would like to try rowing, contact any club member.

Report and photographs by Dave Ingham.



An Arran crew head off to the start line.

Bay bowlers make a welcome return

Whiting Bay bowlers made a welcome return to the green for an enjoyable afternoon of bowling.

It was their first game since the pandemic began. After finally getting to meet up again,

players ended the session with a spider game which was won by Janet Rawlin. The booby prize went to Karen Costa who was bowling for the first time.



Winner Janet Rawlin and first time player, Karen Costa, share a laugh about their prizes at the first game of the season at Whiting Bay Bowling Club.



The Arran Banner: 85p

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