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No. 2250 Arran's Weekly Newspaper

Friday 17 September 2021

www.arranbanner.co.uk

85p



Arran GPs stretched but mainland help not needed

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

GPs on Arran have pledged they will not rely on a new central call handling centre which has been expanded to help doctors' surgeries throughout NHS Ayrshire and Arran.

Known as the Ayrshire Urgent Care Service, the central call handling service is said to be in response to a 'significant increase' in demand and to allow 'GP practices to focus on caring for those patients most in need'.

Health officials this week confirmed that the Arran Medical Group was included in the new service which operates out of the Lister Centre at University Hospital Crosshouse.

However, Dr Greg Hamill of the Arran Medical Group insisted: 'It has not been necessary to use central call handling for the GP practice on Arran and it would only be in an extreme staffing crisis that this assistance would be

required. In these uncertain times it is difficult to state that it would not ever be needed here but at present it appears highly unlikely.'

Positive Covid cases on Arran remain relatively low, with the latest figures showing seven cases, however there is going to be further pressure

'It has been and remains a very difficult period for so many on Arran,' Dr Greg Hamill

on the health service with the roll-out of booster jabs for the over 50s and vaccinations for 12- to 15-year-olds.

That is in addition to the regular work of the North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership on Arran which goes on.

Dr Hamill said: 'Like many areas of the country health and social care services on Arran are under considerable strain.

Demand in the GP practice is higher than pre-pandemic levels but access remains very good in comparison to other areas. This has been possible through changes to how care is delivered in the practice and includes greater use of telephone consultations and triage to help people get an appointment with the best healthcare professional for them.

As has been the case throughout the pandemic, GPs and nursing staff see many patients face to face daily - in the GP practice, at home and at Arran War Memorial Hospital. New services such as the introduction of online consultations, the direct availability of GP practice-based physiotherapy and mental health worker appointments have worked really well.

'It has been and remains a very difficult period for so many on Arran. Many people continue to deal with serious illness and life-changing

Continued on page two.

Brodick chef Timur is an inspiration



Head chef at The Brodick Bar, Timur Jay Unal, shows off the inspirational award he received after being given first place in a NFU Mutual competition. Full story, page 3.



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Arran celebrates two young winners in inspirational awards

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The 19-year-old head chef at Brodick Bar and Brasserie, Timur Jay Ünal, has been awarded first place in NFU Mutual's Inspirational Young Person Awards.

Another islander, Wallace Currie, owner of Rural2Kitchen, received highly commended recognition.

The awards, which are in their third year, were launched by the commercial insurer in partnership with industry body Scotland Food and Drink, seeking to uncover inspirational examples of talented 16- to 26-year-olds who own, work or study in the food and drink sector. The award aims to highlight not only the enormous contribution that young people make to Scotland's food and drink businesses, but also the importance of the sector to the wider economy.

Having originally intended to select a top three, the judges found the quality of this year's applications too hard to separate, and ultimately decided to recognise first, second and four highly commended winners. Timur will receive a trophy and a £500 cash prize in recognition of his first-place award, while Wallace will take home a trophy and £200 for his highly commended entry.

When he was 16, Timur came to work in the family business as a waiter for the summer. He showed amazing rapport with the diners and had an instinctive skill for waiting. He stayed and very quickly became head waiter, organising and training front of house staff, hosting and welcoming diners to the 100 covers' restaurant.

After heading to Glasgow to train as a chef, Timur became head chef aged just 18, on the



Cameron Bruce, Scotland Food and Drink, award winner Timur Jay Ünal and Chris Husthwaite, NFU Mutual agent in Oban, Islay and Campbeltown.

recommendation of the acting head chef. He now heads up the kitchen team of five chefs and several kitchen porters, and his responsibilities include setting menus, costing, teaching kitchen staff how to prepare, cook and plate the dishes, as well as running the pass and cooking.

Described as imaginative, creative and passionate by his nominee, Timur is respected by the other chefs for running a calm kitchen which produces great food.

Wallace of Bridge Farm, Shiskine, is the mastermind behind Rural2Kitchen (R2K), an educational Facebook page sharing information around the process from field to fork. He has also launched and hosts a podcast, R2Kast, featuring different people from within the industry on each episode.

Wanting to show the whole process from farm to fork, Wallace kept sharing information: grass information, lambing data, recipes, polytunnel content – things he felt reflected the realities of farming. Noticing that people valued the content, Wallace developed

podcast R2Kast, with nine episodes now live – available on Spotify, YouTube, Google Podcasts, Apple Podcasts and many others – and a further eight upcoming in the series.

Having raised his profile in the industry, R2K also led to Wallace being offered his dream job as a Scottish Rural College lecturer in Agriculture at the Barony campus.

Timur said: 'It was a lovely award to win. Hospitality during coronavirus has been almost impossible, but we have always strived to keep our high standards and aiming for rosettes and winning this award was fantastic not only for me but my family and the business.'

Wallace added: 'When I was originally contacted about the award I misunderstood and tried to think of people that deserved nominations, before I re-read the message and realised I was being nominated! Fast forward four months and finding out I have been highly commended in a world of phenomenally inspirational young people in this industry – I couldn't be more elated.'

Wallace Currie, award winner, and Amy Lenanen NFU Mutual sales development manager.



Mutual regional manager, said: 'Selecting a winner and two runners-up from a record-breaking number of entries this year was too difficult, which is why we decided on an additional three awards. I am delighted to be congratulating Timur and Wallace. All of our award winners have not only done themselves proud, but they are also wonderful ambassadors for our world-famous food and drink industry.'

James Withers, chief executive at Scotland Food and Drink, said: 'A particular congratulations goes to Timur who is an incredibly worthy winner of this award. To be given the role of head chef at such a young age is a tremendous example of his talent, dedication and hard work. I have no doubt he will go on to have a very successful career in the future.'

Your community council needs you

It is almost time for Arran Community Council elections, and completed nomination papers need to be with North Ayrshire Council Committee and Member Services by noon on September 27.

Page 22 of The Banner of August 27 gives details, which can also be found on the NAC website. Nominees must be island residents aged over 16 and serve in a voluntary capacity and it is hoped the elections will attract some younger members.

Several members of the community council are understood to be standing down and a total of 12 nominations are being sought from across the island. It is vital the community council continues to function to provide local democracy and community empowerment.

Long-time resident Sally Campbell said: 'Arran needs a vibrant, engaged community council with active councillors willing to be heard in the corridors of power, representing the residents of Arran, many of whom feel now that their voices remain unheard.'

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Buddies return to clean up Blackwaterfoot beach

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Arran Beach Buddies made a return to their monthly beach cleaning activities with an organised clean of Blackwaterfoot beach.

The group of litter picking volunteers returned after a hiatus of 20 months due to Covid and their self-imposed moratorium during the months of April to August so as to not disturb breeding seabirds.

Taking part in the first clean-up were 12 adults, including two mentor Beach Buddies from the Isle of Man, two toddlers and one collie.

The group removed a substantial amount of rubbish,



including a gallon of old oil in its container, face masks, t-shirts, a plastic dinosaur, countless cotton bud tips and

an old lobster pot.

Beach Buddies Arran will now resume their monthly beach cleaning activities

Above, The beach clean up pictured from a drone. Image by Lenny Hartley; and left, Blackwaterfoot beach was scoured for any litter by the team of Beach Buddies.

until next April, with the next one taking place at Pirnmill beach in the last two weeks of October, weather and tide permitting.

The Beach Buddies thanked their sponsor, The Parlour, Brodick, for making this beach clean-up possible and issued an open invitation to anyone interested in joining the group to have a look at their Facebook page to keep up to date with all of their planned activities.

Help at hand to guide you on climb of Goatfell

Arran Mountain Festival (AMF) guides will be leading a walk up Goatfell aimed at first-timers and those that have never managed to ascend Arran's highest peak, writes Colin Smeeton.

After years of welcoming walkers from Arran and around the world to the annual AMF every May, the guides often hear from locals who have never managed to climb Goatfell for various reasons.

A spokesperson from AMF said: 'One thing that we hear often is how many people there are on Arran who would love to climb Goatfell but haven't got round to it yet.'

'You might worry that you'll get lost, or you might just lack the confidence to head out there on your own. There are a whole load of reasons why you might not have ventured up yet, but we're here to help.'

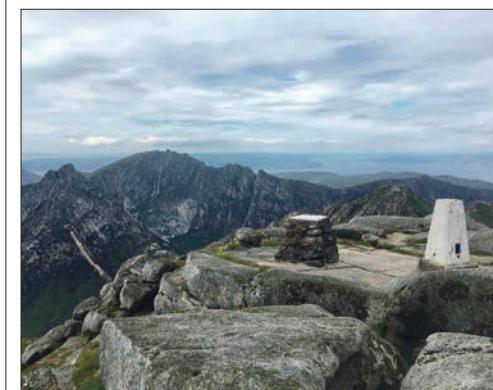
All of us here at the AMF team are passionate about the landscape we live in, and we want as many people as possible to experience the feeling we get and take in the views we see when we walk

in our amazing mountains.' To help people accomplish their dreams, organisers will be offering a guided walk up Arran's highest peak on Saturday September 25. Aimed at Goatfell first-timers, this will be a leisurely walk with plenty of opportunities to stop and take in the beautiful scenery all around you.

Their experienced walk leaders have a wealth of experience and knowledge and will tailor the experience to ensure that everyone enjoys their day on Goatfell, with the ultimate aim of reaching the summit and taking in the epic views from the top.

All that is required to join the expedition will be a reasonable level of fitness, sturdy walking boots, water, a packed lunch and snacks, and the guides will provide all the encouragement and motivation that you need to succeed.

Bookings can be made by visiting the Arran Mountain Festival Facebook page and an alternative date of Friday October 2 has been set in case the weather is unfavourable.



Participants will be able to enjoy views from the summit of Goatfell which is 874 metres above sea level. Photograph: Arran Mountain Festival.

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**The Peace Tree,
Whiting Bay**

Ahead of COP26 in Glasgow, there will be an Arran gathering at the Peace Tree on the 26th of September at 2pm.

This is in solidarity with protests at the Faslane Trident base, against the decision by the UK Government to invest in a bigger stockpile of Weapons of Mass Destruction here on the Clyde when humanity is facing a climate catastrophe.

All welcome.

**Sunday, 26th September
at 2pm.**

Ormidale September Weekender

24th & 25th September
@The Ormidale Hotel, Brodick
Admission Free

Friday 24th September
Live Music with
The Pavillionaires
9pm – 11pm approx
(last orders 12:15)

Saturday 25th September
Disco with Damo
10pm -12.30am
(last orders 12:15am)

Air support called in to help with trio of island rescues

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A hillwalker had to be airlifted to hospital on Monday after he fell while walking along the coast of north Arran.

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT) were called out at 12.50pm to assist a male walker who had taken a fall at Millstone Point and sustained a face injury and a possible broken arm. He was treated by the team doctor and paramedic, given pain relief and packaged in a stretcher for onward transportation to hospital by the HM Coastguard Rescue 199 helicopter.

It was the third call out for the team in less than a week after two incidents last Wednesday which also required rapid medical evacuations by helicopter.

On Wednesday September 8,



Left, A casualty with facial injuries and a suspected broken arm is helicoptered to hospital by Rescue 199.

AMRT members were called out at 3.30pm to locate and treat an injured mountain biker in the Clauchland hills area. Team members located the casualty quickly and due to the seriousness of his injuries, Rescue 199 was tasked to uplift him to hospital.

As this job was nearing completion, the team was then alerted to another incident

on Goatfell where a male hill walker had sustained a hip injury. Team members made their way back to base then on to Goatfell where the casualty was treated and then airlifted to hospital by air ambulance.

A spokesperson from AMRT said: 'Many thanks to Rescue 199, Air Ambulance and our local coastguard team for their assistance.'



Coastguard Rescue 199 comes in for a medical evacuation at Millstone Point.



A young boy is delighted with his Blythswood Care shoebox.

Share some love and cheer this Christmas

Blythswood Care have launched their 2021 Christmas shoebox appeal and once again St Bride's Church, Brodick, will be acting as the collection and checking point for the island, writes Hugh Boag.

The filled shoeboxes will be sent off to countries in Eastern Europe where they are distributed to people

for whom things that we take for granted, such as toothpaste, soap, or a warm scarf, are considered luxury items. The arrival of these gifts at Christmas brings a huge amount of joy to men, women and children who have so little.

If you would like to support this very worthwhile charity, leaflets and some

empty shoeboxes are available in the vestibule of the church. The leaflet gives you suggestions of essential items the charity would like you to include, as well as ideas for other items which can be included.

The filled boxes should be handed in at Brodick Church no later than Sunday October 24.

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LETTERS

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or The Editor, Arran Banner, Brodick, Arran KA27 8AJ

Things can only get better

As the old Labour Party anthem once triumphed: 'Things can only get better.'

And that, if anything, can only be true for the Arran ferry service. The pandemic, the ageing ferries breaking down, the ports and the weather have all contrived to make the current service the worst in living memory.

At least the CalMac managing director has been on Arran to say sorry. And, most importantly, he has promised improvements and change.

More staff and resources for the customer support centre in Gourock and a return to normal working for all departments next month is to be welcomed but, as the ferry committee argues, more also needs to be done to help customers in Brodick.

Requests were repeated at the meeting to CalMac bosses for improvements in the handling of backlogged traffic and poor communications during incidents and information was provided to support recent examples of customers' frustrations at cancellations and rescheduled sailings.

What is needed now is action and more pressure must be applied today when the Scottish transport minister Graeme Dey visits Arran for the first time to see the scale of the problems for himself. But for now the emphasis must be to get the service back up and running to an acceptable standard or we are in for a long winter.

Thought for the week

'Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.' John 15:13

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NHS is failing people of Arran

Sir,

The NHS is failing the people of Arran very badly.

You recently highlighted the fact that Brodick residents have had to travel the three miles or so to Lamlash for surgery visits because the Brodick surgery is being used for other things, and may later be closed.

You also mentioned in passing that Lochranza surgery has been closed for well over a year, so that we of the North End have to travel 17 miles to surgeries in Lamlash or Shiskine.

Indeed, one lady in less than excellent health was recently told to report to Whiting Bay, 22 miles away, for a blood test.

Another lady, in her 90s, was offered a face-to-face consultation with a doctor – also in Whiting Bay. Likewise a gentleman in his mid-80s.

You did not report that even before the pandemic it was commonplace for a doctor to attend the Lochranza surgery for a few hours once per month only.

Arran Medical Group (AMG) wants to close the Lochranza surgery permanently, just as it has already closed Corrie. Four buses to see a doctor? At Arran frequencies?

You also published an article suggesting that passengers, by not wearing face masks, were responsible for the recent repeated ferry cancellations.

There are other possible explanations – and the scientific evidence that face masks prevent the spread of the virus is very thin.

For example, Arran no longer has fracture clinics – despite what the AMG website says.

People with broken limbs therefore have to struggle to Crosshouse, after initial attention at Lamlash, for treatment/examination, brav-

ing the infection risks not only of buses and the ferry, but of course of Crosshouse itself. There is no better, or at least more probable, place to catch a disease than a hospital.

All this is supposed to be monitored by the Patient Participation Group.

Our North End representatives on this group have recently resigned – in at least one case because of what is seen as a failure by AMG to communicate with the group.

AMG lists 10 doctors on its website. What are they all doing which is so much more important than giving patients the service they need?

Yours,
Richard S Henderson,
Lochranza.

Alcohol limits

Sir,

I travelled as a foot passenger on the 8.30pm Ardrossan to Brodick on Friday September 10.

My partner and I found seats in the bar area which had around 50 patrons drinking various quantities of alcohol. Some visited the bar two or three times during the crossing.

To my amazement when disembarking at Brodick there were only around 12 foot passengers; small families and teenagers.

On leaving the boat I wondered how many vehicles were arriving on the island with the driver under the influence of drink, as there were at least 50 cars on board the crossing.

I would like to think CalMac have a responsibility for drivers and passengers and should have signs advising passengers of the different levels of alcohol legally allowed in Scotland compared to the rest of the UK.

This is not the first time I have witnessed this, as I use the 8.30pm most Fridays.

Yours,
Alex Kay,
Glasgow.



Bulbous bow

Sir,

Re our much-delayed new ferry; I was wondering how the bulbous bow of the new ship will fit into the ramps of our existing linkspans when berthing? As you can see from the photo, the bulbous section protrudes for several metres beyond the keel line at the bow compared to the Caley Isles. Perhaps there are extending ramps from the ship's car decks? I'm sure this will have been thought about given the level of expense and expertise involved.

Do any Banner readers know the answer?

Yours,
Martin MacGuire,
D McGhee & Sons Ltd,
Glasgow.

Editor's note: In the summer of 2020 the original bulbous bow seen above was removed and replaced while in dry dock in Greenock.

Food questionnaire

Sir,

I am a MSc student at the University of Stirling.

I am currently collaborating with Woodside Arran CIC in Kildonan on a research project investigating the impact of local authorities engaging with small farms for public food procurement with the aim to drive further small farm involvement in public food across Scotland.

I have opened a questionnaire aimed at Arran and North Ayrshire residents to gain an understanding of the local community's attitudes towards local food. The questionnaire can be accessed via: stirling.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/arranlocalfoodattitudes

Yours,
Bethany Hitchen,
University of Stirling.

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

Charity champion completes 11,000-mile coastal challenge

Long-distance charity walker Karen Penny is set to complete her 11,000-mile coastal walk around the UK and Ireland on World Alzheimer's Day, Tuesday September 21, in the Shetland Islands.

Walking to raise funds for Alzheimer's Research UK, Karen will be a familiar face to many on Arran, having visited the island in September 2019 when she scaled Arran's highest peak, Goatfell.

She also joined more than 200 protesters on a seven-kilometre walk in opposition to a proposed fish farm.

The indomitable Karen has been walking since January 2019, starting from her home in the Gower, South Wales, with the intention of raising funds for Alzheimer's Research UK after both of her in-laws were affected by different forms of dementia.

Upon reaching the small island of Muckle Flugga in the Shetlands (one of 110 islands that she has walked around as part of her journey), Karen had to return home during the Covid lockdown.

She planted a flag where she stopped and vowed to return.

Now returning to complete her challenge, Karen said: 'I can't believe that my walk is coming to an end. I was



Pet tickets dropped for winter sailings

Tickets for pets will no longer be required on CalMac ferries from next month, but only for the winter months.

At present all pets require pre-booked tickets on the Ardrossan to Brodick route, which are free of charge.

But a CalMac spokeswoman explained: 'We will be taking advantage of this quieter time to pause bookings and strengthen our processes and procedures for pet ticket requests and reservations. We aim to have our updated pet ticket reservations back in place for our Summer 2022; bookings opening in November 2021.'

CalMac customers who have submitted a pet request ticket for the period October 18, 2021 to March 24, 2022, or already have a pet booking for the period will no longer require to request a pet ticket for travel. Their pet(s) will still be able to travel without a pet reservation.

They do not need to call to cancel their pet booking – it will be done automatically and no refunds will be due since all pet tickets have a zero-value.

'We're still taking pet bookings for the current period, up until October 17, 2021,' the spokeswoman added.

CalMac serves up coffee and cake

The team at CalMac is hosting a public Macmillan coffee morning on Friday September 24 at Brodick ferry terminal.

Like so many, a few of the staff and their families have been affected by cancer in various forms and they wanted to do something tangible to thank Macmillan for the essential work it does offering support, research, and advice.

The team have been busy baking away at home, to bring in tasty cakes.

There will be fresh Arran Coffee, from their bean-to-cup machine, using lovely fresh Arran Milk.

Tea will also be on offer, and juice for the wee ones, thanks to the Big Co, along with a fabulous raffle.

So why not round up your friends and head over to the Brodick ferry terminal, take in the stunning view of Brodick Bay and enjoy a cuppa, a piece of home baking and support Macmillan Cancer Support.

Every pound donated, will go directly to the charity. The event starts at 10am until the cakes run out.

Two years after setting out, Karen will finish her walk on World Alzheimer's Day

so sad to have to leave the beautiful Shetland Islands last March because of Covid-19 restrictions, and I am now really excited to be returning to Muckle Flugga.

'I wonder if my Alzheimer's Research UK flag is still where I left it?

'The last two and a half years have been wonderful. Although it has sometimes been hard going, I have met so many great people, and heard so many heart-rending stories of the impact of Alzheimer's

disease and the other diseases that cause dementia on families.

'It has made me all the more determined to do whatever I can to raise awareness and raise money for Alzheimer's Research UK, so that in future families can be spared the fear, harm and heartbreak that so many are currently experiencing.'

Through her JustGiving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/thepennyrollson Karen has raised £100,729 from generous donations by supporters and people that she has met over the years while circumnavigating the UK and Irish coastlines.

Hilary Evans, chief executive

of Alzheimer's Research UK, said: 'We are so grateful to Karen for the amazing fund-raising and awareness-raising that she has done, with such commitment, since the beginning of 2019.'

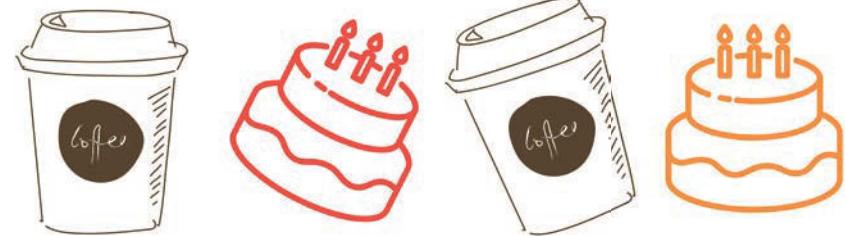
For further information about Alzheimer's Research UK call 0300 111 5555 or visit www.alzheimersresearchuk.org

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COFFEE, CAKE AND COMPANY

The Calmac Brodick staff invite you to their Macmillan Coffee Morning. Lots of homemade goodies, along with Arran Coffee (using Arran Milk), Tea & Juice



When: Friday 24th September, from 10.00am, until the cakes run out.

Where: Calmac Brodick Ferry Terminal

Public consultation on mountain bike trails

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A public consultation on an ambitious mountain bike amenity which is being proposed by Arran High School Mountain Bike Club at Dyemill is open for comments and suggestions online.

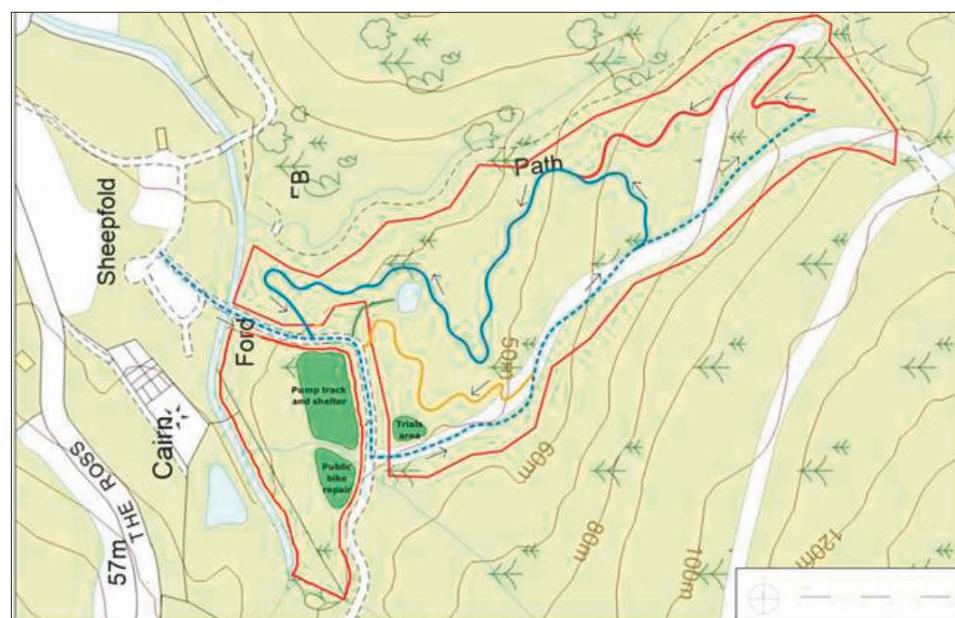
The extensive project, which will see the creation of a number of mountain bike tracks and various ancillary components and services, is currently estimated to cost around £400,000 and will offer the Arran community a free-to-use cycling amenity.

As reported in the Banner in March this year, extensive preparatory work has already been undertaken and a 47-page business plan has been drawn up for the project.

These plans have been compiled with input from Forestry Scotland, North Ayrshire Council and a number of other bodies and groups.

Speaking at the time, club chairman Robert McNeice said: 'We intend to create an accessible, inclusive and safe all-weather environment to grow and develop our island's cycling community, inspiring Arran to cycle.'

Arran High School Mountain Bike Club has already produced a 47-page business plan



Areas highlighted in green show the location of the proposed site of the Dyemill skills trail.

trials area, youth build-your-own-trail area, a group shelter and outdoor furniture, a bike wash, bike repair station, ebike charger and spares vending machine, outdoor gym equipment, a bike library of free-to-use bikes, skateboards and scooters, free-to-use community bike workshop, free-to-use trailer of trail tools and equipment and improved access to the pond for outdoor learning.

Access to the proposed site will be via the existing off-road core path at Glenkiln Farm with parking and amenities at the school and in Lamlash village centre.

Views, comments and suggestions on the proposal can be made at //forms.office.com/r/mazytdBljB or through the link which can be found on the club's Facebook page @ ahsmbc.

'With this new facility, our island's cycling community will benefit from being able to grow and develop local competition and event opportunities in addition to providing a safe and accessible area for coaching and skills development.'

'To ensure the recreational

area is utilised by as many of our community as possible, the trails will be sympathetically designed and built around existing local walking paths.'

'Our forest management plan will look to actively improve and preserve the diversity of the habitat and wildlife.'

The proposal includes an extensive amount of facilities; a free to use accessible mountain bike skills trails, floodlit asphalt pump track and bike

Festival of Fire to return

The Northend Festival of Fire will be back with a bang on Saturday November 6 in Lochranza.

The evening will kick off from 7pm and, while the final details are still to be made, there will be an appearance by the Arran Pipe Band and a traditional bonfire on the village green and fireworks around the castle.

There will also be a bar and barbecue, with music from the Arran Mobile Disco.

The castle will be floodlight with projections and you can dance the night away in Lochranza Village Hall to the fantastic sound of the Sound Cradle from 8.30pm until 10.30pm.

Club draw winners

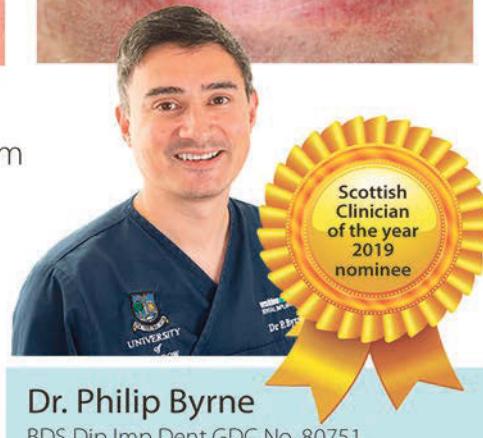
The winner of the £50 prize in the Brodick Improvements Association 200 club draw for August was Tony Scratchard of Brodick.

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall 200 club August draw were: first prize Robin Finlayson, second prize Kate Hartley.

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Time to migrate as breeding season comes to an end

August was a little cooler and much wetter than the very dry July.

The mean temperature was one degree lower, and the rainfall was five times as much, all at the beginning of the month.

In comparison to last August while temperature and rainfall were similar, the winds were lighter. Last August there were two 'named' storms. This August the light winds of May, June and July continued.

Towards the end of the month there was just a hint of the approach of autumn.

Having said that, summer visitors were still to the fore including: a chiffchaff in Lochranza on 3rd; 40 willow warbler in Corrieavie on 5t; three common sandpiper on Sliddery Shore on 9th; six whitethroat on Cleats Shore on 14th; 15 sedge warbler, a whinchat and six tree pipit by Corrieavie Ponds on 15th; 11 lesser black-backed gull in Sannox on 19th; five spotted flycatcher in Glen Rosa on 23rd and a late swift over Sliddery on 26th.

The largest group of each hirundine reported was 30 sand martin in Glen Catacol on 2nd, 75 swallow in Shannochie on 22nd and 100 house martin in Sliddery on 26th.

Please try to give me your last record for swallow and house martin this year. Last year there were October records for both species.

The last record I have so far of cuckoo, is a young bird photographed in West Bennan on 2nd.

Some other signs of suc-

Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
AUGUST

cessful breeding this month included: young black guillemot in Catacol Bay on 2nd; five young shelduck at Kilpatrick Point on 5th; a single young fulmar at Catacol on 12th; a family of five kestrel at Glenscorrodale on 16th; a family of four little grebe on Mossend Pond on 19th; a pair of mute swan with seven large young in Lamlash Bay on 24th and a family of great spotted woodpecker in Lagg on 28th.

As well as this, there were widespread reports of young birds at garden feeders.

Of these the species that seems to have had the most successful breeding season has been house sparrow, with widespread reports of many groups with more than 50 birds. House sparrow may be in decline in the UK but not on Arran.

In August, breeding is coming to an end, and after breeding a number of species begin to flock together, some in preparation for migration.

These included: 60 curlew in Corrieavie on 5th; 70 goldfinch in Sliddery on 7th; 25 red-breasted merganser in Machrie Bay on 19th; 20 chaffinch in Shannochie on 22nd; 78 linnet in Kilpatrick also on 22nd 30 redshank



Young cuckoo showing its distinctive white spot on the back of the head. Photograph: Arthur Duncan

in Lochranza on 26th; 50 kittiwake in Machrie Bay on 28th and 100 golden plover with 150 ringed plover at Machriewaterfoot also on 28th.

All around the island, but particularly on the coast, there were signs of birds on migration, including: six sandwich tern including two young on Silver Sands on 8th; three whimbrel on Sliddery Shore on 9th; a knot by Fisherman's Walk on 14th; 34 turnstone in Machrie Bay on 19th; six dunlin in Blackwaterfoot on 24th; a black-tailed godwit in Blackwaterfoot on 26th;

a wigeon on Sliddery Shore on 30th; five sanderling at Blackwaterfoot also on 30th and five wheatear at Porta Buidhe on 31st.

In addition, there was a passage of skuas, uncommon passage migrants.

A great skua at Drumadoon Point on 23rd was followed by reports of Arctic skua off Blackwaterfoot on 24th and 25th, off Sannox on 26th and two in Whiting Bay on 27th.

The last Arran report of great skua was 2018 and the last report of Arctic skua was 2019.

Among the 100 plus species reported in August there



Young great spotted woodpecker. Photograph: Brian Couper

were a number of other noteworthy ones including: a dipper in Lochranza on 5th; a water rail in Corrieavie on 15th; a moorhen and a coot on Mossend Pond on 19th; three red-throated diver over Shiskeine Golf Course on 19th; three great northern diver in Machrie Bay also on 19th; a male merlin on Burrian Hill on 20th; eight black-throated diver off Cosyden on 28th and two white-tailed eagle over Kildonan on 30th.

September sees the start of the peak migration season when many birds are on the move.

It is the time to expect the unexpected. I look forward to hearing from you.

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 e mail 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. Plus visit the website <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/index.html>



House sparrow had a very successful breeding season.

Photograph: Angela Cassels



Great skua, uncommon passage migrant. Last Arran record 2018. Photograph: Jim Mackenzie



Little grebe feeding young. Photograph: Nick Giles



Dipper, one of more than 100 species seen in August.

Photograph: Brian Couper

Settling in well as 'Covid gen'

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



Twenty-eight primary one pupils have started their education at schools across Arran.

And all of them are adapting well to their new surroundings and coping admirably with the changes brought about by the Covid pandemic.

The many changes introduced to protect pupils – including no singing and other social restrictions – might be noticed by those returning to school, and last year's P1s, but for all of the new pupils, they have accepted it gladly in the way that young children do.

Numbers for new P1 admissions might be fewer than previous years – there were 44 last year – but the pattern of uptake remains reasonably consistent, with schools in more populated areas having larger numbers while smaller, more rural schools, have had fewer.

All schools, with the exception of Kilmory Primary, which did not have any new P1s this year, welcomed at least one new P1 pupil, with Whiting Bay and Brodick primaries welcoming the most with nine new pupils each.

The Arran Banner visited all seven primary schools on the island, and while not permit-

ted inside the schools, we were able to photograph all of the bright-eyed P1 pupils outside and in accordance with government guidelines.

Unfortunately last year, owing to restrictions, we were unable to take the customary photographs – enjoyed by parents and the children themselves – so we have also photographed last year's P1s who have now moved on to P2.

The Arran Banner thanks all of the schools and teachers for their assistance and for making these memorable and customary photographs possible for the children and their families.



Brodick Primary welcomed nine P1s. 01_B38schools01



Above: A bumper crop of nine new P1s started at Whiting Bay Primary.
01_B38schools06



Pirnmill Primary's P2s. 01_B38schools10



P1 teacher Rachel Pearson with her new pupil at Corrie Primary. 01_B38schools03



Brodick Primary's P2s. 01_B38schools02



P2 pupils at Shiskine Primary. 01_B38schools12



Mrs Dunn with her P1 pupil at Shiskine Primary. 01_B38schools11

'Generation' start primary school



Teachers Lucy Marriott and Aldona Kabala with P2 pupils at Lamlash Primary. 01_B38schools05



Lamlash Primary P1 pupils with Mrs Lucy Marriott.
01_B38schools04



Above: Kilmory Primary's P2s with Mrs Vik Steel.
01_B38schools08



Whiting Bay Primary's P2s. 01_B38schools07

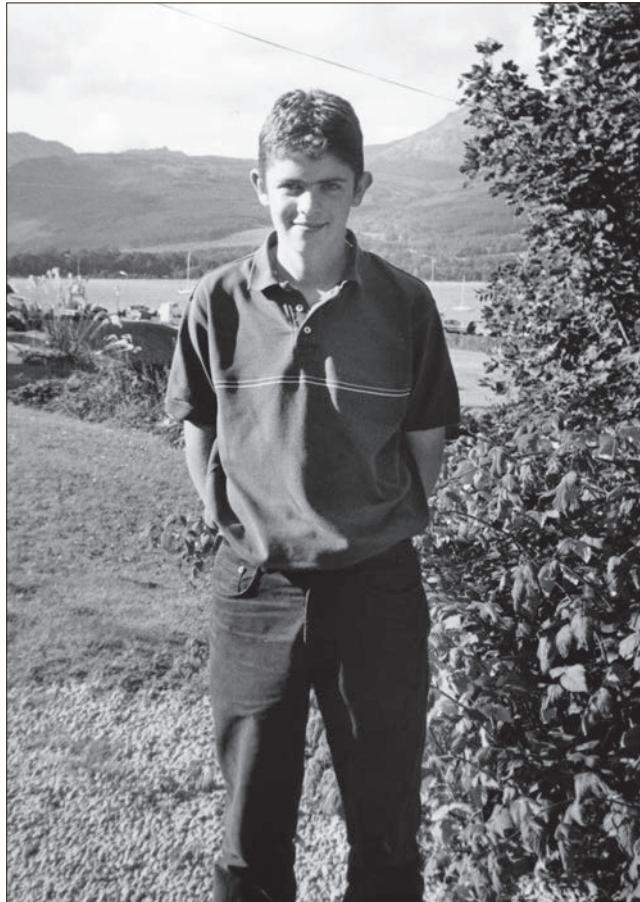


Pirnmill Primary's newest p1 pupil. 01_B38schools09

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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday September 15, 2001



Ross Duncan of Brodick has been selected to play golf for Scotland. Ross will join the Scottish under-16 team to play two matches, one in Carlisle and another at Drumoig, St Andrews.

01_B38ABTYA01

Brodick Primary pupils celebrated the start of Science Year with a giant jump. Around 5,000 schools in the UK took part to see if their combined jumping could trigger a small earthquake. The earth may not have moved but the pupils all had fun trying.

01_B38ABTYA04



The old Lochranza Hall finally came down this week. Having been stripped the previous week the bulldozers moved in, leaving an open space behind the new hall which was opened last Easter.

01_B38ABTYA02



Lamlash Improvements Association volunteers apply a coat of cream masonry paint to the wall between the Aldersyde and the Co-op after becoming fed-up with the tatty paintwork.

01_B38ABTYA06



Arran's jazz band, A little bit of Jazz, said goodbye to their drummer Andy Keeney recently. Andy is off to St Andrews University to study maths and theoretical physics. Andy is pictured with Stef Holmer, Alison Prince and Jim Donaldson.

01_B38ABTYA05

Two Model T Fords visited Arran recently in search of a route for a Model T rally next year. The two cars, one a 1915 model and the other 1916, are two of approximately 1,000 Model Ts in the UK.

01_B38ABTYA03



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 (last entry 4.30pm)

Brodick Mini Golf, Open seven 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 18th September

Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm
British Empire Medal Award to Liz McLean, Big Co, Brodick, 11am – 4pm
Arran Climate Fringe, Ormidale pavilion, Brodick 12noon - 3pm
Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm

Sunday 19th September

Gaelic Landscape Walk - Glenashdale Falls, Start, 10am
What's Happening On Arran, <http://www.arranmedia.co.uk>, 4pm

Monday 20th September

Macmillan Coffee Morning, Pirnmill Community Centre, 10am
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
Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, Brodick, 6.30pm

Tuesday 21st September

Healthy Outdoor Team, Brodick Castle, 10am – 1pm
Arran Chess Club – new members welcome, Crofters', Brodick, 10.30am
Shiskine Tennis Club, Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, Blackwaterfoot, 11am
Rink Games (socially distanced), Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
Arran Fiddle Club, High School Classes
Junior Hockey, P1 - S3 (age 5 to 14 yrs), Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 6pm – 7pm
K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm
Bible Meetings, Shiskine Village Hall, 7.30pm
Pop Music Quiz, suits all ages, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

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



Wednesday 22nd September

Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 1.30pm
Arran Heritage Museum Archives and Genealogy services, Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Arran Pace Makers please check Facebook @arranpacemakers, Venue varies, 5.30pm

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 10pm

Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, Brodick, 6.30pm

Lamlash Bowling Club, Lamlash, 7pm

Rock and Pop Bingo, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 23rd September

Arran Chess Club – new members welcome, Crofters', Brodick, 10.30am

Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm

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

Arran Cancer Support Group, Banner Lodge (left of Heather Lodge), Brodick, 2pm

K.A. Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm – 10pm

Arran Skinnymalinks Weigh-in, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 6pm

Lamlash SWI, Lamlash Church Hall, 7pm

Senior Hockey (12+), Ormidale Astro Pitch, 7pm – 8.30pm

Quiz – General Knowledge, Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 24th September

Macmillan Coffee Morning, CalMac Office,

Macmillan Coffee Morning, The Shore, Whiting Bay, 10am - 12noon

Macmillan Coffee Morning, Kilmory Hall,

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

Live Music with Hugh Smith, Crofters' Bar and Bistro, from 9pm

Live Music with The Pavilionaires, Ormidale Hotel, 9pm -11pm approx

Saturday 25th September

Eco Savvy Community Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30am – 4.30pm

RNLI Shop Open, Lamlash, 2pm – 4pm

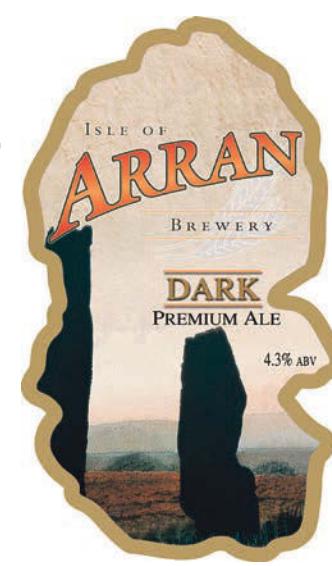
Rink Games, Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm

Rink Games, Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm

Open Session, Crofters' Bar and Bistro, 3pm- 5pm

Live Music, Crofters' Bar and Bistro, from 9pm

Disco with Damo, Ormidale Hotel, 10pm -12.30am



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To get an application pack email ronna.park@arrancvs.org.uk or call 01770 600611. Interviews will be held on 30th September.

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Closing date Tuesday 28th September



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PUBLIC NOTICES



2021 AGM Brodick Hall

Wednesday 22nd September at 4pm

Due to current COVID restrictions, we are limited to an attendance of 50 so please confirm your intention to attend in advance by emailing David Penn on arcassecretary@gmail.com.

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for continuing to support your local newspaper

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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
Shiskine church -
John Kerr 860 498

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

Sunday 19th September
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 19th September
Worship will be conducted at 10.30am

As we are now able to socially distance at one metre, booking is not required.

Contact details will, however, be requested.

All welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Scottish Charity SC015072
Sunday 19th September

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 19th September

16th Sunday after Trinity

Holy Communion at 11 am.

Rev Barry Roberts
ALL WELCOME

Coffee after service

We follow strict SEC guidelines
Rev Barry Roberts is on Arran as assistant priest.

He can be contacted on 09749 427791

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister - Rev. Vince Jennings

Tel: 01770 600222

www.arranbaptistchurch.org.uk

Sunday 19th September

Services will be held in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick at 11 am.

All welcome but current Covid restrictions are in place.

Sermons will be on our webpage following the Sunday.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass: Saturday Vigil at 5pm

Sunday Morning at 11am

Booking for mass is essential.

Please email peterdwilko@gmail.com or telephone 600595 to check

availability and confirm your place.

Please be aware we are still maintaining social distancing and capacity remains restricted.

In accordance with Scottish Government requirements face coverings must be worn in church and NHS test and protect details will be kept.

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

BIBLE MEETINGS
Tuesday 21st September
Shiskine Village Hall at 7.30pm
Conducted by W Craigie and R Hughes
Contact 07756836670.
All are welcome to attend.

DEATHS

BAILLIE – Ena. At Caledonia Care Home, Saltcoats, on 9th September 2021, Ena, nee Dansken, aged 88 years. Beloved wife of the late Kerr Baillie. Dear aunt of Fiona, Kirstin and Morven. Sadly missed by John and Greg. For funeral arrangements contact AW Blair & Sons, Funeral Directors. Tel: 01294 468238.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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THE ARRAN BANNER

John helps golf team to runner-up spot

Arran golfer John Pennycott helped his team secure the runners-up spot in the team game at the Sidey British Open 2021 has just concluded at Strathmore Golf Centre, Alyth.

The event, which was completed almost entirely in glorious sunshine, comprises of 54-holes of golf played over three days for people

with disabilities. More than 70 golfers teed off on day one of the Open Championship. Players from across Scotland, its islands, and throughout the UK and Ireland took part, including SDGC members with all types of disabilities – cerebral palsy, amputees of all descriptions, blind and vision impaired, MS, wheelchair users and

many other with varied conditions.

The main objective for all our disabled golf competitions is to get everyone out there on the course and enjoying their golf. We all know the game can be tricky if you are so called able bodied, but our members are out there proving that a disability is not a barrier to playing the

game.' One element of the first day consisted of a team game with the Strathmore members and this was won by Team 9: Jim Gales, Jim Thomson and Martin Lowe, averaging 43 points and in second place was Team 2, made up of John Pennycott, Paul Higgins, Iain Butchart and Dawn Butchart, who averaged 39 team points.

ARRAN BANNER GOLF



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday September 8, The Bannatyne Cup. A total of 16 played in The Bannatyne, one of the last medal play events of the season and always played on a Wednesday.

Scoring was impressive but Sandy Pringle, opening with four 3s in the first six holes, set a high standard and went on to win by three shots from Jamie Macpherson. Results: 1 Sandy Pringle 13, 56, 2 Jamie Macpherson 4, 59 and lowest gross, 3 Mark West 12, 62, 4 Duncan Heenan 12, 64. Magic twos Duncan and Jamie @17th.

Sunday September 12, Aitken Rosebowl. Donated to the club in 1909, The Aitken is one of the club's oldest trophies and one of the few played as foursomes, a demanding format which requires both playing partners to contribute to the team score.

A total of 12 played, allow-

ing a draw for six pairings. Tellingly no twos were recorded while a three at the 8th and a 12 at the 4th also testify to the demands of the format. Results: 1 Neil Lucas and John Pennycott 14, 63, 2 Gavin Maids and David Brookens 9, 65 acb, 3 Duncan Heenan and Bruce Cameron 21, 65.

Fixtures: Sunday September 19, Taylor Trophy Greensomes, draw for partners at 10am. Wednesday September 22, Stableford (yellow tees).

Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday September 12, Medal Shield. 1 Martin Wallbank 72-12=69, 2 Iain Anderson 69-7=62, 3 Andy Smith 84-21=63 BIH. Best scratch, Dougie Macfarlane 66. Magic twos, Andy Smith @14th, Iain Anderson, Colin Richardson and Martin Wallbank @16th. Hole 17 drawn so rollover continues. Overall winner of Medal Shield, Martin Wallbank 120, runner up, Ian Bremner 124.

Thursday September 16, Summer Cup. 1 Robbie McGunnigle 72-13 =59, 2 Lee Dutton 84-24=60, 3 Jack McNally 67-6=61. Best scratch, Jack McNally 67 BIH over Paul Cowan. Magic twos, Robbie McGunnigle @16th, Serge El Adm @14th, Rob Niven@2nd. Hole 12

drawn, rollover continues. Fixtures: Saturday September 18, Eddie Cannon Memorial Trophy Charity Day, fourball. Make up own groups and see starter for times. Sunday September 19, Scratch Cup final round, noon draw. Thursday September 23, Summer Cup, make up own groups and see starter for times.

Arran Golfers Association

Saturday September 11, AGA Senior Handicap at Brodick Golf Club. 1 John Milesi 96-36=60 acb, 2 Douglas Robertson 78-18=60, 3 Jimmy Armit 78-15=63. Scratch Terry Raeside 77.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday September 8, Summer Cup, 28 played. 1 Brian Allison 83-26=57, 2 Gordon Hendry 66-7=59, 3 Finlay Sillars 74-10=64 acb. Scratch Gordon Hendry 66. Summer Cup final placings, best five rounds aggregate. Handicap: Neil Duncan 301, Angus Raeburn 302, Gordon Hendry and Finlay Sillars 304.

Scratch Ewan McKinnon 310, Gordon Hendry 338, Greg McCrae 339. Jinty (number of twos), Ewan McKinnon 16, Iain MacDonald 11, Jimmy Armit, Gordon Hendry and Bruce Jenkins 10.

Sunday September 12, Brandon qualifier, 25 played. 1 Jim Cashwell 90-29=61 acb, 2 Sid Sillars 80-19=61, 3 Bob McCrae 71-8=63. Scratch Bob McCrae 71.

Fixture: Sunday September 19, John Gemmell Shield (3 club).

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday September 8, Medal. 1 G McKelvie 67-9=58 scratch, 2 G Decaeesterker 84-22=62, 3 R McLean 77-15=62.

Saturday September 11, Medal. 1 D Logan 71-12=59, 2 W Paton 70-9-61 scratch, 3 A McDonald 76-14=62.

Fixtures: Saturday September 18, Captains Prize. Saturday September 25, Corrie Open. Would all golfers intending to compete in the Corrie Open kindly arrange their own pairings and start times.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday September 9, Ladies' 18 Hole Medal. 1 Jenni Turnbull 82-18=64, 2 Alice Anderson 90-18=72, 3 Fiona Miller 83-10=73. Scratch, Ann May 75. Magic twos Jerry Arthur.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Fixture: Tuesday September 21, Captain's Day, tee-off noon.



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Super strike sinks Troon

Arran reduced to 10 men after injury

Arran AFC	5
Troon Town AFC	2
Ayrshire Sunday League	
Division one	

Arran AFC stepped up another rung on the division one table of the Ayrshire Sunday League to secure a third place position after their win against Troon Town last weekend.

The match, sponsored by Dougie Macfarlane, took place

at the Ardeer Juniors Stadium at Stevenston on Sunday with Kieran Rae securing the man of the match award by scoring a hat-trick, including a spectacular overhead kick.

Helping to bring the tally up to five was Ryan Armstrong and Gavin Gilbert who each added a goal for the Arran side.

Unfortunately, Arran player Aiden Hessey sustained an injury to his knee ligament which saw him rushed to the

hospital by Arran AFC treasurer Doreen McNulty.

This left the Arran side with only 10 men for the remaining 30 minutes of the match. Aiden will be unable to play for a few months.

Arran play their first game in Brodick since before the pandemic when they take on Drumchapel at Ormidale Park in the West of Scotland Cup. Check the Arran AFC facebook page for kick-off time.

These great pictures capture Kieran's super overhead strike which finished in the back of the net.

All photographs by Tam Borland



Man of the match Kieran Rae scored a hat-trick against Troon Town.



The Arran Banner: 85p

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Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran. Tel: 01770 302142 and printed by Newsquest, Glasgow Print Centre, 125 Fullarton Drive, Cambuslang, Glasgow. Registered at the Post office as a newspaper.