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Arran's Weekly Newspaper      SATURDAY, 12 APRIL 2014      No 1956    60p

# Ferry fares set to tumble as new prices are unveiled

Announcement will come as welcome news

Ferry fares are to be slashed giving a major boost to tourism on Arran as well as easing the travel costs of islanders.

The move will see the price of a single fare on the Ardrossan to Brodick route tumble to just £3.65 and a single car journey cut to £14.85. The fares will come into operation as a pilot scheme in October.

They are the result of the confirmation of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) fares for the winter 2014/15 timetable. Car fares will be more than 50 per cent less and passenger fares almost 30 per cent cheaper than over the same period this year.

The Lochranza to Claonaig/Tarbert route it will also benefit with fares reduced to £2.75 single for a passenger and £9.25 single for a car.

**Reviewed**  
The move, which represents a £2 million annual investment in Arran, will be reviewed ahead of the 2015 summer schedule.

Unveiling the cut-price fares Transport Minister Keith Brown said: 'We made a pledge to extend the RET pilot to Arran by October 2014 and this fares announcement

**REPORT**  
by **HUGH BOAG**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

will come as welcome news to islanders and visitors.

'The RET pilot has proved successful on other ferry routes, providing a real boost to local tourist trade and local economies.

**Plan ahead**  
'This fares announcement will allow hoteliers and other businesses on Arran to plan ahead for the introduction of the winter timetable in October.

'This substantial cut in fares will inevitably lead to an increase in demand, but we would expect this to be more significant during the summer timetable. We will therefore look to discuss ways of managing this demand with members of the local community.'

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson, who lobbied to ensure RET for Arran was included in the SNP's 2011 Manifesto said: 'I have no doubt RET will result in a significant increase in visitors, tourist spend and employment, securing an economic boost

that will help the island and its communities prosper in the years ahead.'

'I had asked my colleague Mr Brown, to confirm RET introduction and provide details of the pricing structure to allow hotels, guest houses and everyone involved in the tourist industry on Arran to plan ahead and prepare appropriate packages for customers. I am delighted he has provided such information six months ahead of RET's delivery.'

The news was welcomed at this week's Isle of Arran Ferry Committee but there is some concern there may be too many visitors trying to come to Arran particularly in July and August.

**Unmanageable**  
One source said: 'With the introduction of RET, this may become unmanageable, and effectively even discourage visitors. In short we need to try and optimise capacity on quieter sailings, such as mid-week and also develop the shoulder months.'

'Some of the hotels have offered incentives for midweek breaks and this has proved popular.'



**Harris McGuire, 5, from Glasgow and his family and friends were among the first visitors at the heritage museum this week. Also in the picture are: (l to r) Emma and Zoe Neale from Brisbane, Australia, Harris's mum Meg and John Neale.**  
20\_b15visit01

## Holiday season off to brisk start

The holiday season has got off to a flying start on Arran.

With Easter still a week away the island is already busy with visitors.

Even before the start of the school holidays last weekend there had been an encouraging start with families already on the island with some of the English schools being off.

Tourist attractions including Brodick Castle and the Arran Heritage Museum, which opened this week, have reported brisk trade.

Some shops are also reporting trade up,

after the dismal Easter last year.

Sheila Gilmore, executive director of Visit Arran said: 'The season seems to have got off to a good start. Many of the hotels stayed open all winter which was a good boost for the retail outlets and eateries too.'

'To get the whole Arran experience though, we need to encourage visitors to move around the villages on the coastal road, to really explore Arran and get a flavour of what our fabulous island has to offer.'

'We have started well, so let's hope we can keep that momentum going,' she added.

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## String Road restrictions are eased

Businesses on the west coast will breathe a sigh of relief after restrictions were eased at the roadworks on the String Road.

There has been confusion and uncertainty about the closure of B880 amid fears that the west coast is losing visitors at the start of the holiday season.

However, the evening convoy has now been extended by an hour and, as expected, the road will reopen over Easter. It will then remain open overnight under traffic light control with the convoys operating at other times.

A spokesman for North Ayrshire Council said: 'We have extended evening access across the String Road by a further hour which means it will now be open from 7pm until 9pm each day.'

'The road will also be open 24 hours a day over the Easter weekend and will operate under traffic lights from 5pm on Thursday 17 April until 8am on Tuesday 22 April.'

'We continue to monitor the situation and are pleased to advise that the road will remain open overnight, under traffic lights, from 7pm until 8am each day from Tuesday 22 April until Tuesday 6 May when the reconstruction work is expected to start. The lunchtime opening window of 12.30pm to 1pm will also remain in place.'

'Work is progressing well and we will continue to review the situation.'



Michael Matheson MSP and Kenneth Gibson MSP chat to architect David Watts and Montrose House Manager Naomi Watts on a visit to see the new Montrose House under construction.

# Health Minister visits the island

Public Health Minister Michael Matheson MSP visited the island last week.

He met with the manager of Montrose House Naomi Watts and architect David Watts to see how the new care home is progressing.

Despite atrocious weather in recent months, some 60 people have been working hard on site and this high qual-

ity state of the art £5.7 million facility is on budget and on schedule for completion by 19 September.

### Meet the staff

The minister also met with clinical services manager Alan Stout and Ailsa Weir, senior charge nurse, at Arran War Memorial Hospital.

Mr Matheson spent around 90 min-

utes at the hospital to meet the staff, hear about the Arran services review and development, clinical review, videoconferencing clinics, and recruitment for patient transfer. Mr Matheson also watched a presentation on the design and construction of Montrose House before visiting the site.

## Isle of Arran Homes to shut Brodick office

Nearly 300 tenants on Arran are to lose their local housing office.

Four jobs will also go when Isle of Arran Homes (IoAH) shut their Brodick office and transfer all administrative and clerical support functions to the mainland.

Part of Trust Housing Association, the organisation blames 'economic pressures' which has led to a review and the changes to the way their services are delivered.

The seven staff in the Arran office will be cut to three when it closes in the next four to six months.

IoAH was created by Trust housing Association to manage the transfer of former North Ayrshire Council housing stock on the island in 2001.

NAC, IoAH board members, IoAH tenants and staff have all been made aware of the situation this week.

Bob McDougall, Trust chief executive said: 'Let me assure all our tenants and stakeholders that we remain committed to delivering quality services to our tenants on Arran, however the way we deliver those services in future will change.'

'It's regrettable that we need to make these changes and this decision has not been taken lightly. However, we have to adapt our organisation to ensure our future survival. The level of service to our tenants will remain our key priority with the support of our housing and property officer, care and repair officer and clerical assistant.'

Isle of Arran Homes housing stock comprises of the transferred local authority stock from and the former Kirk Care Housing Association stock totalling approximately 290 properties.

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## A warm welcome awaits at Sannox Easter service

For the third year running Sannox Christian Centre will hold an Easter Sunday service for the communities on Arran.

'For the past two years we have been blessed by many coming to the service, filling the church both years. We are so blessed by the continuing support of the local communities and look forward to worshipping together at Easter this year,' a spokeswoman for the church said.

The service in Sannox Church begins at 2pm with the ringing of the church bell. Following the service, which will last about 45 minutes, tea, coffee and cake will be served in Dundarroch. Members of Sannox Christian Centre will be on hand to offer hospitality, explain what has been happening over the past year and talk about the coming year's activities. Visitors will be able to look around Dundarroch, the church, the gatehouse and the grounds.

Since last year two bedrooms in Dundarroch have been refurbished with en suite facilities added. A new kitchen, albeit temporary, has been constructed and we have also fitted a smoke alarm system throughout the building.

When finance becomes available, the next phase of our plans is the refurbishment

of the living room, the dining room area and two further en suite bedrooms. This will complete the building works for Dundarroch.

They have also submitted an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the church and manse. The application is for the restoration of the church and manse roof and the bell tower. They hope to hear from the HLF in the summer. The church roof and bell tower are badly leaking and need to be sealed as soon as possible. It also stops any works inside the church and manse, so it is vital this work is carried out as soon as possible.

They continue to develop links with descendants of Sannox in Canada. Fiona and George Hazel have just returned from Megantic County and New Brunswick, visiting the sites of the first emigrants in 1829/30 and meeting their descendants. Fiona and George will be present on Easter Sunday to talk about their latest trip and show some photos as well.

'All are warmly invited to join us on Easter Day. We look forward to welcoming you to Sannox Christian Centre on Easter Sunday to celebrate together our Lord's resurrection,' the spokeswoman added.

# Arran at War remembered in new museum displays

Two special displays on the theme of Arran at War and the First World War have been created at the Arran Heritage Museum.

The displays have been developed to recognise the commemoration being held this year on the centenary of the start of The Great War.

The Brodick museum opened last week and staff had a surprise with an early rush of visitors on the opening day last Wednesday.

More than 50 people, including families with young children, poured through the doors on the first day.

There are two displays on the First World War. One features some of the Arran people who served including Lt Guy Hamilton who was killed in action and Arran born Robert McMillan, who emigrated to Canada and served with the Canadian Infantry, who was also killed in action.

There is also the story of Sgt Norman Sillars who survived, but struggled to find work when he returned home.

As well as two of the Arran nurses who served at the front, Elizabeth Kerr and Bessie McNicol.

Then there is the tale of Flora Murchie who was one of the thousands of women who worked in a munitions factories, and who died from chronic nephritis in 1917 caused by chemicals at the plant in Greenock.

### Plaque

The other display has various rolls of honour of islanders who served in The Great War, including a plaque from the former Brodick Public School of ex-pupils who were killed.

There are also letters from the front, medals and memorabilia and a book of poetry written by Arran soldiers, alongside displays featuring



Manager Tom Macleod in front of the Arran at War display with wife Mhairi (right) and sister Helen Donaldson. 20\_b15war02

details and photographs of the Arran Auxiliary Hospital and the Arran War Memorial Hospital.

Museum manager Tom Macleod said: 'There has already been a lot of local interest in the war displays and 99 per cent of the material has been donated by island residents, as have the majority of items in the museum.'

'We are still considering whether to keep the displays for the duration of the war, as we have the material to update them every year.'

'We hope many locals will come and learn about Arran at War and that it will be of interest to visitors too.'

'We have been very encouraged by the number of visitors on our opening day which have included lots of kids, as some of the English schools are already on holiday.'

'We expect next week to be busier when the Scottish schools stop for the Easter holidays.'

The museum, which opened in 1979, is celebrating its 35th season.

As well as the war displays, visitors to the Rosaburn museum can learn about the island's social history, archaeology, the Arran Clearances, farming, geology and lots more.

There is a recreated 19th century cottage, a 1940's schoolroom and a blacksmith's forge.

A children's quiz available and there is a playhouse, a riverside picnic area, a gift shop and the Cafe Rosaburn.

On Wednesdays archive and genealogy researchers are welcome to delve into the museum artefacts with the help of museum volunteers.



Two of the Arran Rolls of Honour. 20\_b15war04

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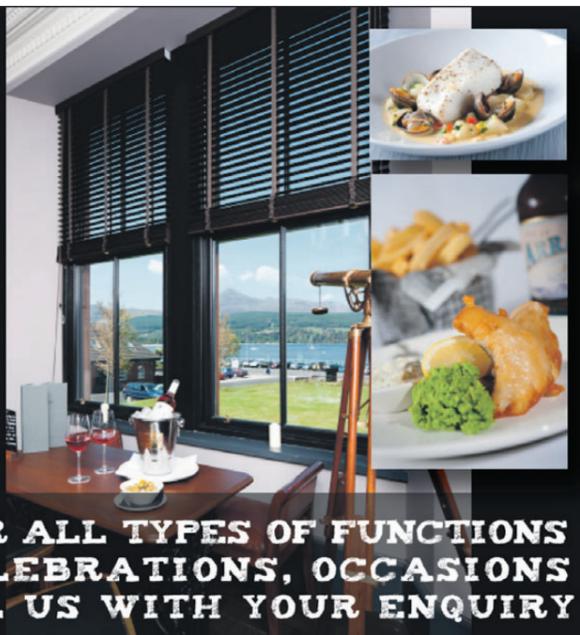
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## CalMac takes MV Isle of Arran out of service over sickness

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne has taken one of its vessels out of service after a suspected norovirus outbreak.

The MV Isle of Arran, which was built for the Ardrossan to Brodick route and still regularly sails to the island, was withdrawn from the Kennacraig to Islay route on Thursday after some staff fell ill.

CalMac said this was a precautionary measure and the vessel would undergo a 'deep clean' before returning to service on Saturday at the earliest. The route, which is usually served by two vessels, is currently running with the MV Finlaggan only.

## Cattle auction

United Auctions had forward 2186 store cattle, 161 cast cows and 7114 prime and store sheep in Stirling last week.

CharX Blks £1200 266p/kg Hawthorn; LimX Blks £1030 234p/kg Kilpatrick; LimX Stirks £845 256p/kg Balgowan; AAX blks £760 248p/kg Glenkiln; CharX hfrs £1070 230p/kg Hawthorn; LimX hfr stirks £700 225p/kg Balgowan; LimX Cast Cow £1110 148p/kg Kilpatrick; HOX Cast Cow £845 111p/kg Clauchlands; TexX Hgts £99 Moor; TexX Ewes £108.50 Moor.

## Church Spring Fayre draws in the crowds

The weather dried up on Saturday for the annual Brodick Church Spring Fayre which brought in the crowds in droves.

The church hall was packed with visitors from the doors opening and the ever popular baking stall of the St Bride's ladies group was an early target.

The stalls, including books,

plants and bric a brac, were busy and there was a steady stream at the competitions including the tombola and the £1 hamper raffle, which saw one lucky visitor take home a whole host of edible goodies.

### Roaring trade

The tearoom also did a roaring trade during the afternoon and thanks go to all who contributed on the day.



The church hall was packed for the Spring Fayre.

20\_b15fayre05



Margaret Bryce, Jean Robertson and Fiona Brown on the baking stall. 20\_b15fayre01

# Island cheques could take an extra day to clear

Customers of a major Scottish bank are being warned that cheque deposits made on Arran may take an extra day to clear.

The Bank of Scotland is changing their account terms from August in a way that may affect islanders who use the bank.

### Clearance time

In a notice to customers the bank has stated: 'Cheque deposits made in our Scottish island branches and ATMs may take an extra day to clear. The branch will display a notice if this additional clearance time applies.'

The warning has been taken up by Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson who met Brian Cooper, the Bank of Scotland

local director in Saltcoats last week.

He said: 'I find it astonishing that Bank of Scotland wishes to discriminate so blatantly against island residents who bank with them.'

'For many years islanders have been able to bank just like anyone else. There can be no justification for such action and I will take up this matter with the Bank of Scotland at the highest level.'

However bank bosses insist that the are only making customers aware of the existing situation.

A spokeswoman for the bank told The Banner: 'We apologise for any confusion. We have not changed cheque clearance timescales

for customers on the Scottish islands. What has changed is the wording in our terms and conditions so that it clarifies cheque clearance timescales for cheques deposited in these branches.'

But Mr Gibson still wants answers. He said: 'Should island cheques not clear at the same time as any other transaction, given systems are all computerised? And why should customers have to rely on a display in the branch, which many will not visit regularly?'

'It would be best, surely, if the bank simply makes it clear that all customer cheque deposits on islands will be treated the same as anywhere else.'

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## Neighbour scheme helps to fight doorstep crime

Police on Arran are urging potentially vulnerable people on the island to sign up to the Nominated Neighbour Scheme as part of a national campaign to tackle doorstep crime

This is the second such campaign for Police Scotland and partners, including Trading Standards, and will run throughout Scotland until 18 April.

To assist with this, Police Scotland has introduced the Nominated Neighbour Scheme. This encourage potentially vulnerable people to speak to friends, family and neighbours to ensure suspicious activity is reported to police. This means specific neighbours can be contacted to verify the identity of callers and be present during any business.

Arran Sergeant Allen Dodds said: 'If anyone requires further information regarding doorstep crime and the nominated neighbour scheme or know of someone who would benefit from the scheme please contact myself at the police office or telephone 101.'

## Club draw

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 club March draw were: 1st prize Anita Ford, 2nd prize Marion Gentleman.

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# The Old Byre is new island visitor centre

'There is a range of options at the Old Byre which will appeal to a wide age group, interests and budgets'

Arran has a brand new visitor centre on the west coast of the island.

The Old Byre Showroom at Auchencar near Machrie has won a four-star tourism award in recognition of the excellent quality of the visitor experience it offers.

The centre is run by Lorna and Hamza Gunaydi who say they 'delighted' to have received the recognition after their hard work in building up the business.

The couple says they have a lot on offer, shopping with quality knitwear and brands, handmade Simon Thorborn pottery and paint your own pots, a new eating experience, with its hand built wood burning oven, in Cafe Thyme, a large child's play area and fantastic views.

And inspectors from VisitScotland, who visited the Old Byre last month, certainly agreed.

They assessed a comprehensive range of aspects including the cleanliness of the facilities, the quality of products sold, and the warmth of welcome visitors received. The assessment report summarised that the business offered: 'An excellent standard of service; all visitors receive the same high level of service. Decor in each area is in excel-

lent order. Excellent standards of cleanliness were seen throughout. Grounds are tidy and well maintained. There is a good parking facility.'

The shop was found to stock: 'An excellent range of high quality products and knitwear with emphasis on Scottish, British and Irish brands. Cafe Thyme was described as 'an attraction in its own right, situated in the



The Visit Scotland award.

b15byre02

newly built premises with fantastic views over the Kilbrannan Sound. The food is of excellent quality.'

In addition the report noted: 'There is a range of options at the Old Byre which will appeal to a wide age group, interests and budgets. The paint your own pot activity and children's play area will

appeal to younger visitors and offers activities for good and wet weather.'

Annique Armstrong, VisitScotland's regional director, said: 'VisitScotland's Quality Assurance Scheme is a clear, trusted indication to visitors of the superb quality standards they can expect from a facility, so the owners and staff should be very proud of achieving our four-star award as an official endorsement of the excellence of the visitor experience they are offering.'

Mum of two Lorna said: 'We are delighted that The Old Byre Showroom has been awarded a four star rating from VisitScotland; it's a fantastic recognition of all our efforts to ensure we provide excellent products and great service. This award will really help us market what we offer visitors, both from Arran and further afield, and support the future success and growth of our business.'

The Old Byre Showroom was first established in 1967 by John and Iris Mansfield who settled on the island to farm 10 years earlier. The couple started selling sheepskin rugs from their home and moved the rapidly expanding business into their old byre, which was subsequently completely renovated.



Hamza and Lorna outside The Old Byre Showroom.

20\_b15byre01

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**ROUND THE RURALS**

**Lamlash SWRI**

The Lamlash SWRI held their agm at Lamlash Fire Station on Wednesday 2 April. After the various reports, the votes were counted and the names announced of those elected to the new committee.

Kathleen Sowden thanked various members and wished Gill Butcher farewell as she leaves Arran later this month.

Cath Turner won the in-house competition trophy for having gained the most marks in this event.

A wonderful buffet created by all present was enjoyed followed by a quiz and bingo.

Members of the Lamlash SWRI are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 19 April at Arran High School from 10am till 12noon in aid of funds towards a defibrillator for Lamlash.

**Corrie and Sannox SWRI**

The agm and monthly meet-

ing of Corrie and Sannox SWRI took place in the Village Hall. The president and the treasurer gave their reports and things are in a fairly good way as they come to the end of another session.

Arrangements are going forward for the celebration of our 90th birthday next year, which will be celebrated in October. The list for show stewarding and for orders of diaries and calendars was circulated, the final details of the trays have been worked out (no details here)!

The voting for the new committee went ahead and was counted by our two visitors, Betty and Louise Bunyan. The new committee will meet shortly and set things in motion for our September meeting. A successful bring and buy sale was held for institute funds and an enjoyable tea provided by Anne Pringle, Rachel Phillips and Mairi Turnbull brought the meeting to a close.

# Blooming flowers ush in spring

Organisers of the Spring Bulb Show held in Brodick last weekend welcomed a new generation of green fingered gardeners after a huge number of school children entered this year's show.

John Sillars, secretary of the Isle of Arran Horticultural Club said they were delighted to see so many entries this year from the island's schools and nurseries.

He said: 'The range of entries from the schools is very impressive and we are delighted to have so many entries.'

'I think it's safe to say that in recent years the number of children's entries had tapered off a little so it's great to see a resurgence.'

The village hall was brimming with beautiful spring

flowers on the day and John Sillars was surprised and delighted to be named best in show.

His beautiful 'Iced Follies' daffodils were particularly admired by the judges Colin Totty and Donald Wilson for their perfect colour and presentation.

Full results: Trophies. The Royal Bank of Scotland trophy for the best exhibit in the show, John Sillars. The R W McKelvie Cup, Laura Currie. The Neil McLean Cup school trophy, Brodick Nursery. Spring photography, Luke Nelson.

Bulbs class 1 daffodils/narcissi: A Cassels, class 2 crocus: S Harding, class 3 tulips J Sillars, class 4 hyacinths: Carol Vella-Boyle, class 6 amaryllis: L Currie; class 7



**Judges Colin Totty and Donald Wilson do the rounds.** 20\_b14daf04

minature daffodils: A Stefanuti.

Cut blooms class 9a trumpet daffodils/narcissi: J Sillars, class 9b large cup daffodils/narcissi: J Sillars, class 9c small cup daffodils/narcissi: B School, class 9d double daffodils/narcissi: L Currie, class 9e mutli-headed daffodils/narcissi: Mrs McHarg, class 10 any other flowering bulb: A Stefanuti, class 11 bloom of narcissi: A Cassels.

Miscellaneous class 14 garden in a tray: A Cassels, class 16 foliage pot plant: A Stefanuti, class 17 flowering pot plant: Carol Vella-Boyle, class 18 spring collection patio pot: A Cassels, class 19 patio pot: Shiskine Primary, class 20 cut flowering shrub: J Lammie.

Children class 21 garden in a tray: Brodick Nursery, class 22 painted decorated egg: Gemma Totty, class 23 bowl of bulbs: Primmill Primary, class 24 scarecrow: William Wallace (Shiskine), class 25 spring flowers picture: Lily Robson.



**Just one example of the many** 20\_b14daf02

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**Organisers were delighted by the large number of entries from the island's primary schools and nurseries this year.** 20\_b14daf03

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beautiful narcissi on display.



John Sillars of Brodick shows off his beautiful 'iced follies' which won him the best in show prize. 20\_b14daf01



Not an official entry, but this beautiful wheel barrow of flowers by the Gardeners Club received a special mention by judges. 20\_b14daf06

# First concerts planned by The Arran Singers

The newly formed all island choir have chosen to be called The Arran Singers.

Made up by an amalgamation of the Lochranza Choir and the Rowan Singers from Lamlash they will be giving their first concert in July.

Prior to that, the choir welcomes the Andante Chamber Choir who are coming from Melrose to Arran on a visit, hosted by the Arran Singers, to perform a concert. Formed in 2007, Andante is a group of singers who decided to focus on the ever-widening a-cappella repertoire and have a go at everything from plainsong and polyphony to pop.

### Busy programme

There are 30 singers, members, associates, guests and apprentices, helping local charities with a busy programme of fund-raising concerts, projects and weddings. Choir members hail from all corners of Berwickshire as well as further afield in the Scottish Borders and North Northumberland.

The Andante choir has a busy schedule planned for 2014

and Arran is very fortunate to be part of it. The concert will be in Corrie Church on Saturday 26 April at 7.30pm, at which the Andante choir will present a sacred music sequence and a sequence to celebrate Shakespeare in his birthday week.

For further information about the choir, please explore their website: [www.andantechamberchoir.webs.com](http://www.andantechamberchoir.webs.com).

The Arran Singers' first concerts will be performed in Lochranza on Friday 4 July and in the Community Theatre in Lamlash on Friday 18 July.

Spokeswoman Carol Burge said: 'You may, in the past, have supported the Lochranza Choir and the Rowan Singers and hopefully you will continue to support the newly formed choir.'

## Tyrannosaur at the Corrie Film Club

There is strong fare in store this month at Corrie Film Club where there will be a screening of the Danish film 'The Hunt' starring Mads Mikkelsen.

The Hunt tells the story of a man from a quiet Danish village who becomes the target for mass hysteria after being wrongly accused of sexually assaulting a child.

Anyone who has seen Vinterberg's film 'Festen' will know that his approach is unflinching. Lucas, the kindly nursery school assistant at the centre of the film, is a thoroughly sympathetic figure but a single apparently trivial incident sets off a train of events that engulfs him.

This is an intelligent and thought provoking film dealing with issues that affect us all.

The Hunt will be shown in Corrie Hall on Easter Sunday 20 April at 8pm (note the revised date). As always the evening is open to members and non-members alike.

There is no charge for entry but small donations towards the hall expenses are welcome. Feel free to bring a bottle to share and to dissect the film afterwards.

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Demand management is the key to successful RET

The ferry price cuts which will come as a result of the introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) fares in October will be overwhelmingly met with delight on the island.

However, it is only right that praise is given where praise is due for the fact that Transport Minister Keith Brown has given six months advance notice of the fares in order that those involved in tourism on the island can get prepared.

For what has already been made clear is that the move, while extremely welcome, could encourage too many visitors to come to the island.

And, paradoxically, put others off from coming.

It is a situation which will have to be closely monitored as RET is supposed to be a win, win situation for everyone.

And it has led to coining of a new phrase to deal with the situation - demand management - that is to try and fill the boats when there is plenty of capacity.

As it stands, weekend sailings, particularly in July and August, are almost filled to capacity, even with peak sailing surcharges. With the introduction of RET, this could become unmanageable.

In short tourism chiefs need to try and optimise capacity on quieter sailings, such as midweek, and also try to attract more visitors in the shoulder months.

Some hotels have offered incentives for midweek breaks and this has proved popular while data from CalMac indicates that shoulder month travel is also increasing, again probably due to some larger establishments offering accommodation deals.

It is something all accommodation providers should consider.

Even the transport minister accepts that the substantial reduction in fare levels will inevitably lead to an increase in demand but expects the issue to be more significant during the summer timetable period.

However he has offered to discuss with the local community whether there is a need to introduce some form of demand management, there's that phrase again.

Praise also has to go to Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson. Only his persistence got RET for Arran included in the SNP's 2011 manifesto and he also gave the minister a gentle prod to get the fares out in plenty of time for the tourism sector to respond.

With the summer season starting well and this further October boost it is an exciting time for tourism on the island.

Lets grab the chance to get Arran's tills ringing with success.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.' (Hebrews 4: 14)

### press policy

WE AT *The Arran Banner* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing a local newspaper.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner*, Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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### your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on e-mails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters Page, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran. E-mail editor@arranbanner.co.uk

## Letters to the Editor



*In a letters special S1 school pupils at Arran High School give their views on a variety of topical issues facing the island today.*

### Bus timetable needs review

Sir,  
Class S1A of Arran High School have asked friends and family members about what environmental issues they find to be a problem for them and what they think can be done about it. The issues mentioned were potholes, dog fouling, littering and bus times.

Potholes have been proved to be a large issue for the people of Arran. They face problems with how bumpy the roads are due to potholes. Issues such as motion sickness, some potholes can even do minor damage to a car.

Dog fouling is horribly common on Arran. People could step in it, it can get stuck on their shoes and be brought into their home, causing an unpleasant odour and it is horribly difficult to wash out of the carpet. I also have issues with dog fouling. When I go for the school bus in the morning I have to be very careful not to step in a dog poo. To have to do this every day can get very annoying after a while.

Littering is a big problem on Arran, especially in Brodick, Kildonan beach and Blackwaterfoot beach. Litter is found mainly on beaches, though inland places can be bad as well. Litter is a horrible thing, especially for animals. Birds can get caught in plastic can holders, animals can suffocate in plastic bags and pets can choke on something or eat something poisonous.

Bus times on Arran are a problem for many people. People don't think that buses don't come often enough. Sometimes there is only a short time, as little as 15 minutes between buses. But most buses are about an hour or more apart. Some are even two and three hours apart. This is a big problem for those who use a bus to get to work or to attend an event. Some-

times they may have to get a bus and then after getting off have to wait ages before their event starts because, if they had gotten the next bus, they would have been late. This can be a very big inconvenience for some people especially when it rains.

We hope people will take this information into account when they think about what Arran's local environment is like. Thank you for reading this.

Yours,  
**Alice Kinniburgh and Victoria Mowat**

### Sandbags woe at the beach

Sir,  
My class and I in social subjects with our teacher Mrs Campbell-Thomson are doing a project about issues which affect Arran. One of the main issues that keeps popping up is the sandbags which are scattered across Brodick beach.

These sandbags are a problem because when the tide rises, the sandbags don't allow the water to sink into them causing the sea level to rise by at least 10 per cent and by the quantity of the sandbags, the sea level could rise over the banks and onto land.

We know that when the sand gets low they can just pop one open to level it, but what are the needs of keeping them on the beach?

We don't think the local authority is doing enough to prevent all the issues like sandbags happening, so we think that if we raised enough money we would be able to take matters into our own hands.

Thank you for your appreciation from reading this letter.

Yours,  
**Joley Allison, Olivia Bunyan, Lauren McLean and Stuart Logan**

### Boat disruption hits learning

Sir,  
We are Ellie, Max, Rory and Hamish, and we are S1 pupils. We have been learning about local issues. We have recently conducted a survey and we were not surprised to

find that one of the biggest problems was the boat!

This is why we are writing to you because lots of people are having problems with the boat not sailing regularly. The boat used to sail through most weather conditions! But now even some small winds of up to 30mph are stopping the boat from sailing.

Some of our group, and I'm sure many more people, have gone away for the weekend and driven a long way to find that the boat will not sail till the Monday.

This is a big problem for children getting to school and adults getting back home or to work, because some children will miss out learning and adults will miss their work!

It is also a problem for tourists coming to the island because, without tourists, some businesses will lose money. If there are no regular boats then the Co-op van will not be able to bring some fresh food and necessities.

What we think the solution would be is to get the Isle of Arran to run instead, or as well as, the Caledonian Isles. We think this would make the problem smaller because the Isle of Arran seems to sail in higher winds better. We hope that this problem will be fixed in the near future and that we will not have to write another letter about the problem anytime soon!

Yours,  
**Ellie Ewing, Rory Morrison, Hamish Bunyan and Max Robson**

### Dog fouling menace

Sir,  
We have been learning about the environment in social subjects. It has come to our attention that there is an unfortunate problem which involves dog fouling. To take on a dog takes great responsibility and effort. In addition the owner must be aware of this responsibility and know what it takes to look after this loyal animal.

Our point is that some owners do not take responsibility by not picking up after the dog/dogs. This is somewhat of a problem for the local community on Arran; you

may be in a rush and walking on the pavement innocently and may step in dogs excrement.

We need more dog wardens to help the unemployed people to get a job and this solution will decrease the amount of dog excrement on the island.

Many of us have dogs and we all pick up our dog's excrement so we ask you why - why is it that some people in the community chose to do the wrong thing and leave their dog's waste on the ground.

Thank you for reading our concern.

Yours,  
**Eilidh Macpherson, Kirstie Kerr, Shannon Galbraith and Jack Burke**

### Fines for litter

Sir,  
We would like to address some local issues that we believe local people could do more to fix.

First of all dog fouling. We think dog fouling is an important issue because toddlers may pick it up and become blind by eating it or handling it too much, it is also a very disgusting sight. Dog poo bins are provided at most public places, so dog owners please use them. However, there is a slight shortage of them so we think the council should spend more money on providing more.

Now we will move on to littering. We believe that littering has become a big problem on Arran and people should use the bins provided by the council instead of being lazy and disrespectful.

One solution to minimise littering would be for people to be fined every time they litter. We ask you once more to please help us by doing what you can do to help keep the Isle of Arran the beautiful place that it is at the moment.

Yours,  
**Dylan Muir, Dan McAleer, Lucy Walsh and Sophie Andrew**

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## Easter services at St Margaret's

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay, will be celebrating Easter with a full range of services, beginning with a special Eucharist for Maundy Thursday at 6.30pm on 17 April and culminating in the Eucharist of Easter Sunday at 11am on 20 April.

Between these occasions, there will be a devotion at the foot of the cross at 10am on Good Friday 18 April, and St Margaret's will as usual take a full part in the ecumenical walk in Brodick on the afternoon of the same day.

On Saturday evening at 6.30pm, they will celebrate the ancient and deeply moving Easter vigil liturgy, with the service of light, renewal of baptismal vows and first Holy Communion of Easter.

The services will be led this year by Fr Michael Kitchen, a retired Episcopal priest living in Mid-Argyll who, by a happy coincidence, was once a tutor in the College of the Resurrection where Fr Simon MacKenzie, priest-in-charge of the Mid-Argyll and Arran charges, trained for ordination. He and his wife Christine are looking forward greatly to being on Arran for Easter.

## Flickering tales in the roundhouse

The Bronze Age roundhouse at Brodick Country Park will come alive with mythical characters on an evening of storytelling tonight Friday 11 April.

'I've always thought the roundhouse would be a perfect venue for storytelling, it's such an atmospheric place,' says Brodick Country Park ranger Corinna Goeckeritz. 'So when I met professional storyteller Jacqueline Harris, who really liked the idea of using the space for her art, plans were quickly made to organise what should be a magical evening.'

By the fire and dancing candlelight, Jacqueline will tell tales of shape shifting seals, devil lovers and haunted fiddlers.

'It is very easy to imagine folk gathered around the central hearth of a roundhouse in a similar way thousands of years ago, captivated by the skill of a great storyteller,' Corinna added.

Bookings are required for this event as numbers are limited. Please see Brodick Castle and Country Park advert for details.

# Artist to transform glade into a magical garden

A visual artist is creating a magical glade deep in the forest at Brodick Castle.

Artist in residence Karen Renn has come up with the latest concept which will be unveiled in May.

An earlier plan for an ice age sculpture of Arran had to be abandoned.

Instead Karen is going back



**Karen cuts the giant rhododendron leaves to make them look like rowan leaves.** 20\_b15art02

to nature to transform a neglected glade into a showpiece for her work.

Karen has come up with the amazing concept for a woodland artwork which will see giant rhododendron leaves re-shaped into forms similar to rowan leaves. Karen is reshaping the leaves by hand and will be installing other features in the glade setting on the Ryden Path to the south of the castle.

She has already been burning the stems of poisoned rhododendron to give them some aesthetic merit and turned another dead tree into an art feature.

Karen said: 'I'd returned from Arran last year with a bag of huge rhododendron magnificum leaves. Playing with them in the studio I realised their arrangement of veins lent themselves to becoming rowan leaf look-alikes.'

'Since the last glaciations on Arran there have been genetic transformations taking place

unique to the island, a comingling of whitebeam and rowan has produced at least two new trees: *S.arranensis* and *S.pseudophennica*.

'So I showed my 'changing' leaves to the country park rangers who suggested a beautiful and magical glade where the magnificum has self-seeded. It's the perfect location to create a 'new tree' out of a runaway from the gardens.

### Transfiguring

'As well as transfiguring these trees, I'm working with other elements of the glade, but each time bringing no new materials in, just working instinctively and modifying what is there,' Karen added.

Completing the project, and adding a new dimension, the author Sara Maitland will be writing a short story to accompany the artwork after visiting the project this week.

Sara's book 'Gossip from the Forest' inspired the title of the residency blog



**Karen Renn (right) explains her work to Goatfell seasonal ranger Sandra Baer.** 20\_b15art01

Nature of Change ([natureofchange.wordpress.com](http://natureofchange.wordpress.com)), where those interested can keep up to date with the project.

Staff at the castle or ranger

centre can give directions to the glade if you'd like to see the work in progress, the launch, complete with reading by Sara, will take place in May.

## Hat-trick of awards for Isle of Arran Distillery

Isle of Arran Distillers is celebrating after winning three prestigious awards in the recent China Wine and Spirits Best Value Awards 2014.

The competition is the biggest and most well-respected drinks awards in China. Designed to celebrate excellence in the drinks industry across the globe the awards act as a major springboard for wine and spirits entering China, and for brands already selling in the fastest growing market in the world.

One hundred judges, comprising of China and Hong Kong's most respected buyers, chose the winners after blind tasting the spirits.

Isle of Arran Distillers came away with two double gold awards for their 10 Year Old and 12 Year Old Cask Strength whiskies, whilst the 14 Year Old picked up a silver award.

Euan Mitchell, managing director, said: 'We are absolutely delighted with our re-

cent award wins.

'The Arran Malt is very popular in China so it's great to have this formally recognised. I expect and hope that these prestigious awards will help make more people aware of the Arran Malt as we continue to expand our export market to China and Asia.'

This is not the first time that Arran whisky has won an international award, recognising the increased interest in the malt overseas.

For the past two years, malts from the distillery have been recognised in the renowned San Francisco World Spirits competition.

Euan added: 'Our export sales have consistently performed significantly well, which is a trend we hope to continue.'

'It has been a great start to the year for us as we've also just launched our oldest whisky to date - the Arran Malt 17 Year Old - which is already in high demand.'

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# Easter fun for the

Easter is coming and that means the children are going to be on holiday for two weeks! But there's plenty going on this Easter on Arran to keep them from getting bored, and to give the whole family something to enjoy. This year Easter falls on the weekend of Friday 18, Saturday 19, Sunday 20 and Monday 21 April. And throughout the entire school break there is plenty to see and do on the island for families of all ages.

people to eggsplore Scotland's heritage and uncover all of Brodick's secrets. This is just the start of a packed programme of family events here and at Trust places all over the country, which will help turn Scotland into your playground in 2014.'

On Easter Saturday the island's premier sporting event will take place at the Ormidale Park in Brodick. The **Arran Rugby Sevens** is a great day out for all the family, not just fans of the game. With teams converging on the island from the mainland, there will be games taking place throughout the day culminating in the finals at around 4pm. There is a barbeque and licensed bar at the field and the fun and games continues in Brodick Hall at night with the much-loved Sevens Dance.

Also on Easter Saturday, a beach scavenger hunt is being held by the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (**COAST**) on Lamlash beach. Open to all ages the event on 19 April at 10am will give everyone the chance to learn more about the amazing marine life on the Arran shore. There will also be a chance for youngsters to discover hidden Easter Eggs.

A journey to our **Isle of Arran Distillery** in Lochranza is well worth the effort. It affords you the opportunity to learn about the art of whisky making from professional guides, you can also tour the distillery and witness the magic for yourself and at the

## Fun for the whole family

For the seventh year running, Cadbury are supporting a very special Easter egg trail in **Brodick Castle's** country park - a great day out for all the family!

On Sunday 20 April from 12-3.30pm let castle staff inspire your child's inner adventurer and transform them into an 'Eggsplorer'.

They'll receive a make-it-yourself helmet, a trail Journal containing all the clues they need to complete the hunt and an Eggsplorer Passport to be stamped along the way. On completing the trail they will be rewarded with a delicious Cadbury Egghead. There will also be some great prizes to win in competitions for the whole family. Property Manager at Brodick Castle, David Cameron said: 'We're delighted to be working with Cadbury again to bring Easter fun throughout Scotland. 'This year, we'll be encouraging young

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**ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM**

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Rosaburn, Brodick. Open daily 10.30am to 4.30pm.

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This year's special displays are on the theme of World War One and Arran at War.

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 at the Isle of Arran  
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 Centre, Lochranza

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 Tour Times: 10.15, 11.45, 13.15, 14.45, 16.15  
 Winter Opening: Nov - Mar: Mon - Sat 11am - 4.00pm  
 Tour Times: 11.45, 14.30 (13.15 Sat only)

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for information & bookings Tel: 01770 830264  
 visitorcentre@arranwhisky.com  
 Online shop: www.arranwhisky.com



## whole family

end of the tour enjoy a dram in the company of like-minded people.

As well as the educational side of your visit you can enjoy a meal in the Casks Cafe or simply a well-earned seat and a cup of coffee.

If you'd like something a little more invigorating to drink then naturally they have the largest and most comprehensive stock of Arran whisky in the world as well gifts, clothing and glassware for every occasion.

From now until 30 November it is open seven days a week from 10am-5.30pm and there are tours at 10.15am, 11.45am, 1.15pm, 2.45pm and 4.15pm, all led by fantastic tour guides who have become well known for giving some of the most entertaining and informative tours in the industry.

### Shopping

**Friday's Child** is not your average gift shop. Owners Duncan and Sheila know how difficult it can be to buy presents for those 'hard to shop for' people in life, because they are those people. On a mission to buy each other fun, quirky, quality gifts they found some wonderful things, some weird things, and lots to make you smile.

In their bright and funky shop at Home Farm, Brodick you are sure find something for everyone this Easter and they have just had a makeover. They have crammed in new goodies and gifts, brand new jewellery range and scarves, and new things to make and do to keep kids busy during the holidays. The friendly staff will do their best to help if you are struggling for inspiration, and there is a free gift wrapping service, to make your life a little easier. Come in for a nosey, Friday's Child is open seven days a week, 9.30am until 5.30pm.

Not far away from Home Farm is **Arran Active**, conveniently sited at the bottom of the Goatfell path at Cladach, the island's specialist outdoors shop which has become a Mecca for locals and visitors alike.

The weather at Easter can be notoriously changeable on Arran and Andrew and Juliette Walsh stock everything you need for tackling the beautiful island landscape.

Stocking all the top brand walking boots, waterproofs, camping gear, rucksacks and gadgets, there is no fear of not

being able to find what you are looking for.

If there is something specific that you need when you get here they will also be happy to reserve it for you to pick up when you arrive. And even if you don't need anything, why not pop in on your way past as the staff will be happy to provide helpful tips and information on the island's walks and wildlife.

Hidden above Lochranza at North Newton is **The Whins** where Reg Morgan has been creating his famous Arran 'stonemen' for nearly 40 years.

Why not stop off on your way around the Fairy Dell and pick up a unique souvenir of your Easter holiday on Arran.

### Eating

With unrivalled scenery and spectacular views, **The Kinloch Hotel** has long been renowned for the excellence of its food and in particular the fine cuisine provided in its award-winning restaurant.

Offering a warm welcome, this friendly, family owned hotel provides first-rate food and outstanding service. This Easter why not treat yourself to succulent Arran lamb, seafood fresh from the Kilbrannan sound, Wooleys oatcakes, island cheese, local ice cream or their very own homebaked scones, The Kinloch Hotel uses only the best local produce to make inventive and mouth-watering dishes. Offering everything from quick bites in the bar to gourmet meals in the dining room, all tastes and appetites are catered for so you can enjoy fabulous food in a fantastic setting.

At the Isle of Arran **Heritage Museum** in Brodick there is the perfect place to enjoy a spot of lunch or perhaps afternoon tea after wandering around the fascinating exhibits.

Holly and her team at **Cafe Rosaburn** have the most delicious menu that uses only the freshest and tastiest local ingredients.

From scrumptious homebaking, as well as imaginative salads and main meals to hot reviving soups and a fantastic array of speciality teas and coffees there is so much to choose from.

With its pretty garden blooming with flowers it is hard to find anywhere more pleasant for a spot of lunch in the spring sunshine.





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a place for everyone

## WHAT'S ON AT THE CASTLE

**FRIDAY 11th APRIL**  
FLICKERING TALES 7.30 – 9.15pm  
Storytelling in the Roundhouse  
Adults £8, u16 £5. Not Suitable for under 7s

**TUESDAY 15TH APRIL**  
TOTS TOUR 1.30 – 2.15pm  
Free with entry to the Castle. 3-6yrs (accompanied)

CHILDREN'S CASTLE SECRETS TOUR 2.00 – 3.30pm  
£2 + Castle Entry. 7 -11yrs (unaccompanied)

**WED 16th APRIL**  
VILE VICTORIANS 11.00am – 12.30pm  
£2 + Castle Entry. 7 -11yrs (unaccompanied)

BACK TO THE BRONZE AGE 2.00 – 4.00pm  
Adults £8 u16 £4 + Park Entry

BIRD BOX MAKING Drop in between 2 & 4pm  
£5/box + Park Entry. No need to book (Ranger Centre)

**FRIDAY 18th APRIL**  
CASTLE SECRETS TOUR 11.30am – 1.00pm  
£8 + Castle Entry. Adults ONLY

Booking Essential is for all Tours. Please contact the  
Castle 0844 4932152 or Ranger Service 0844 4932154

**ARRAN RUGBY CLUB SEVENS COMPETITION**  
SATURDAY 19 TH APRIL STARTS 12 NOON ,  
BARBEQUE, BEER TENT & ARRAN PIPE BAND



**FOLLOWED BY**  
ARRAN RUGBY 7'S DANCE IN BRODICK HALL  
9.30PM ,LICENSED BAR

**THE WHINS  
CRAFT  
WORKSHOP**  
North Newton, Lochranza  
Home of the Arran Stonemen  
Hand painted stone  
characters & animals  
trinket boxes, candles & more.  
Handmade on the premises  
Working craftsmen  
Open to the public  
7 days 10am - 6pm Walking only please  
Sign posted from Lochranza  
with scenic views  
Tel: 01770 830 650

**COAST Beach  
Scavenger Hunt**  
Sat 19th April  
Events start at 10am  
Lamlash beach, opposite the  
Lamlash Bay Hotel



COAST will be running a beach scavenger hunt on Easter Saturday in Lamlash Bay. Come along at 10am and learn more about the amazing marine life on our shores. Also a chance to discover hidden Easter Eggs!



**Café Rosaburn Tearoom**  
At the heritage Museum

Open 7 days – 10.30am – 4.30pm  
Brunch served from 10.30am  
Lunches served 12.00noon to 3.30pm  
Fresh, seasonal snacks and light meals  
All food freshly prepared to order  
Delicious home baking and Illy Coffee





The new Arran Medical Group sign at Brodick Health Centre. 20\_b15medical01

## Arran Medical Group news

# Home visits are still important

Following the successful merging of the island's GP surgeries to form Arran Medical Group (AMG), GPs are

sometimes asked 'do you still provide home visits?'

For some patients, particularly those who are frail, or those who are experiencing serious illness, a home visit is the only means of having contact with their GP. A typical week will see more than 20 home visits carried out across the island.

Dr Greg Hamill explains: 'GP services are provided in seven surgeries across the island, and it is normally preferable to see patients in this setting. In the time it takes to carry out a home visit, I can see four or more patients in the surgery, and there are more diagnostic facilities to hand. However, for patients who are unable to attend the surgery, home visits remain an important part of our service.'

Over the last year, AMG has opened up more than 100 extra phone appointments per week, on top of over 400 GP and 300 nurse appointments. We find that by using 'phone triage', GPs can sort over 80 per cent of patient queries over the phone, usually within

two hours of an appointment being requested.

AMG also use these phone appointments to speak to patients who request a home visit, in order that we can work out who, and when, is most appropriate to visit - and often to check some directions too!

### Resolve a query

Dr David Hogg comments: 'These phone appointments allow us to think about whether there are specific tests or information that we can bring to the patient's home. There may also be occasions when we can resolve a query over the phone, or provide helpful reassurance.' Arrangements are in place for patients who are unable to use the phone.

'AMG is committed to maintaining excellent access to GP services. Access to appointments on Arran is well above the national average, and this means we can be quick to respond to patients who are concerned or worried about their health. We are working with our Patient Participation Group to improve this access even further,' he added.

## Model trains on show

The Flying Scotsman and other model trains will make their first outing of 2014 in Lamlash next weekend.

Alan Thompson has been busy all winter creating a newly rebuilt layout which will be on display during the Open Garden event at 47 Murray Crescent.

### Charities

Alan established the impressive model railway 18 years ago and he and wife Ruth have opened their gardens

for various charities several times a year ever since.

Arran's renowned wood-carver Marvin Elliot will have some of his beautiful work on display in the back garden along with several water features.

Tea, coffee and cakes will be available and all proceeds will go to charity.

The gardens will be open on Saturday 19 April from 10am till 5pm and on Sunday 20 April from 2pm till 5pm.

## Post Office mortgage boost

Residents on Arran will now be able to access Post Office mortgages from the Brodick branch.

Until now the only Scottish island that had access to the Post Office Mortgage service was Skye. The Post Office had previously refused to extend the service to other Scottish islands but has now announced that it will be made available on several more islands including Arran.

North Ayrshire and Arran MP Katy Clark has welcomed the move. She said: 'I welcome this announcement as it is important that island communities are able to access alternative sources of finances other than the big banks. The Post Office can play a vital role in offering an alternative and I am sure that many of my constituents will be interested in a service which has been readily available on the mainland for some time.'

'There is undoubtedly a need to deliver parity over important services such as this; not only between island communities but also with what is on offer on the mainland.'

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Maureen.McKenna@uhi.ac.uk  
01770 600 152

ARGYLL COLLEGE UHI

# Giant Tam O'Shanter mural goes on show at distillery

A huge mural which depicts the famous Burns' tale Tam O'Shanter has gone on display at the Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza.

The painting 'Drouthy Cronies' is by Edinburgh-based artist and muralist Chris Rutterford who continued his pursuit of epic narrative art with this spectacular 2011 depiction of the Robert Burns' poem.

### Unholy coven

The mural is 20 metres long and two metres high and takes Tam thought a night in the pub, 'bousing at the nap-py'. Peeping in on the Alloway Kirk ceilidh at the lovely 'cutty sark'. Then fleeing for his life ahead of the unholy coven toward the key-stane of the Brig O'Doon.

The work was commissioned by Glasgow engineering businessman Harry Wylie

who has donated the mural on loan to the distillery until later this year.

Sections of the mural can be seen in the Casks cafe bar which tells the story in abridged form as the entire work is too big to fit in.

Mr Wylie said he chose the Arran Distillery firstly because they are the only Scottish distillery to produce a Robert Burns malt. Secondly, with the poet being an Ayrshire man, he considered Arran the perfect location. Mr Wylie, a whisky connoisseur, is also very impressed with the Lochranza visitor centre and distillery.

Mr Wylie also owns the Bristol Bar in Glasgow's east end and many of the bar regulars are featured as witches and warlocks in the mural. TV presenter Lorraine Kelly can also be found somewhere

in the giant painting pulling pints.

Artist Mr Rutterford said: 'I can't believe it, the visitor centre looks custom made for the painting. The architectural features in the Arran distillery blend in with the picture so perfectly.'

### Delighted

Visitor centre manager Faye Black said: 'We are delighted to have been given the loan of the mural. We hope to have it on display for most of the summer season.'

'We also hope to have the full mural on show during our Arran Malt and Music Festival in June.'

The painting was last shown on tour at the Robert Burns museum two years ago for a month and has had extensive television coverage but this is the first time it has been on an extended residency since.



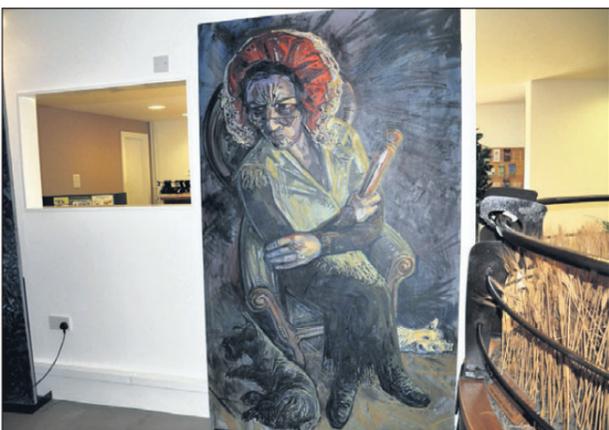
The huge Tam O'Shanter mural at the distillery visitor centre. In the foreground is Tam drinking with Souter Johnnie 20\_b15mural01



Tam flees for his life from the unholy coven led with Nannie to the fore. 20\_b15mural02



Visitor centre staff member Gareth Gregg shows the size of the mural. 20\_b15mural03



The last panel shows Tam's wife Kate 'nursing her wrath to keep it warm'. 20\_b15mural04

**ARRAN VISUAL ARTS**

**Art Exhibition**  
 Arran High School, Lamplash  
 Wed 16th - Mon 21st April  
 10.30am - 5pm (Closes 4pm Mon)  
 Family Art/Craft sessions Thurs & Fri 2-4pm  
 Children must be with an adult.  
 Refreshments.

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ISLE OF ARRAN MUSIC SOCIETY

**KARMANA**

*Simon Thacker (guitar) & Justyna Jablonska (cello)*  
 "Combining elements from classical, jazz and powerful music systems from around the world"

**FRIDAY 18TH APRIL, 7.30 PM**  
**IN WHITING BAY HALL**  
 TICKETS £10 INCL. REFRESHMENTS  
 (STUDENTS & CHILDREN FREE)  
 Tickets on door, or advance booking: Inspirations of Arran & [www.arranevents.com](http://www.arranevents.com)

**THE LIGHTHOUSE FOUNDATION**  
 ...because addiction doesn't just affect the addict...

The Lighthouse Foundation is an Ayrshire based charity whose main aim is to offer support to families and children who have a family member addicted to alcohol/drugs or imprisonment. We do not deal with the person with the addiction.

Do you have a family member addicted to alcohol/drugs or both? Are you affected by a family member's imprisonment? Are you looking after a family member's child or children because of their addiction or imprisonment issues?

If you are finding it difficult to cope and are looking for support, advice or advocacy, please contact us on 01563 521343, by email at [lighthousekillie@aol.com](mailto:lighthousekillie@aol.com) or on Facebook @ The Lighthouse Foundation, Kilmarnock.

The Charity is here to help and offers a free confidential service.

# First ever Arran osprey sighting in March



**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels  
MARCH

Osprey was the first March record ever for Arran.  
Photo Dennis Morrison

Unlike March 2013 when large parts of the island were covered with snow, this year spring seems to have arrived. March was much drier and milder than January and February and hopefully by now you will have seen your first migrants. It is an exciting time of year, awaiting the arrival of all of our summer visitors and seeing the last of our winter visitors leaving.

As always the weather impacted on the movement of the spring migrants. Here are some 'first' reported dates: chiffchaff singing Kingscross on 23rd, a pair of wheatear at Machrie Golf Course on 25th, a sand martin on the top of the String on 27th, two male

white wagtail on Kilpatrick Point on 30th and a house martin at South Feorline on 31st. These dates are up to a fortnight earlier than the corresponding dates in 2013 but even by the end of the month, perhaps because of the more easterly direction of the wind, the bulk of the migrants was still to arrive. They should continue to arrive in April. Other species to look out for include swallow, willow warbler, sandwich tern, common sandpiper and, who knows, perhaps even cuckoo – a sound of summer.

Signs of migration included: an Iceland gull in Brodick Bay on 5th; three Manx shearwater also in Brodick

Bay on 7th; whooper swans, 11 at Sandbraes, 21 at Rubha Salach, 22 at Kildonan all on 13th; a female merlin in All na Calman on 19th; a common scoter off Largybeg on 12th; eight black-throated diver off Cosyen on 13th; a Slavonian grebe in Whiting Bay on 22nd; around 30 meadow pipit and a similar number of pied wagtail in High Kildonan on 22nd; 11 great northern diver off Pirmill on 30th and an osprey over Sliderry also on 30th.

In March, winter visitors were still present including: a goldeneye at Claulchlands on 9th, 30 wigeon at Cosyden on 13th, a greenshank at Claulchlands on 14th, 300 greylag geese at Shiskine on 16th, 250 greylag geese at High Clachaig on 23rd, 100 fieldfare at Glenscorrodale on 19th, six twite at Kilpatrick Point on 30th and eight pink-footed geese at Shiskine on 31st.



Wheatear are among the earliest arrivals.  
Photo Carl Reavey

the adjacent mainland, but it is a vagrant on Arran. One turned up in Lamlash on 19th and moved to the Whiting Bay area where it remained until the end of the month. There were no records in 2013 and only one in 2012. Before 2008 there were only seven records in the previous 25 years.

Spring is a great time to be birding, as most birds are getting on with the business of breeding. The business of breeding involves attracting a mate by song, courtship display and ritual, defining a territory, nest building, and generally establishing relationships. In March the signs were there, including 30 eider displaying in Whiting Bay on 9th, lapwing displaying in Kilmory on 11th, two buzzard copulating in Levenecorach on 23rd, skylarks singing over Machrie Golf Course on 25th and yellowhammers singing in Sliderry on 31st.

Please continue to report any signs of breeding birds to me.

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e-mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the 'Arran Bird Report 2012' and visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk).



Chiffchaff are among first spring migrants this year.  
Photo Dennis Morrison

**Yellowhammer no confirmed breeding for several years but singing birds are an encouraging sign.** Photo Dennis Morrison

Among the greylag geese were two with collars. The information back from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) indicated that one had been ringed in Lough Swilly by Londonderry in February 2012 and the other had been ringed by Loch Eye, Easter Ross, in November 2004. This winter this bird had been reported from Norway and East Lothian before arriving in the Shiskine Valley.

While on ringed birds, in the February notes mention was made of the many dead razor-bills washed up on the shore. Again from information from the BTO, one was ringed at a nest site on the Treshnish Isles off the coast of Mull in 1996 and another was ringed at a nest site at Garbh Eilean on the Western Isles in 2011.

Finally the much maligned magpie may be common on

## Nominate an unsung hero to be gifted two tickets to a Commonwealth Games event



The Arran Banner is asking readers to nominate someone in their local community who deserves to experience the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games first hand.

The Scottish Government's Legacy Ticket scheme recognises the achievement and contribution of people across Scotland who are helping to create this legacy by offering them tickets to watch one of the 17 sports at the games.

The Commonwealth Games in Glasgow this summer is set to be the biggest sporting event in Scotland's history – and they promise to be a fantastic spectacle to enjoy. These games are a once-in-a-generation opportunity to secure a legacy for communities across Scotland.

Readers of The Arran Banner will know the unsung heroes who are already making a difference – whether it's a young person involved in sport, someone helping to make sport happen by volunteering or someone simply making your community a better place.

### HOW TO NOMINATE

If you know someone who deserves this once in a lifetime opportunity then fill in the nomination form provided below or online at [www.arranbanner.co.uk/legacy](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk/legacy) and let us know. Please see the nomination criteria in the right hand box. All nominations must be received by midnight, Tuesday 29th April, 2014. Nominations will be shortlisted by a Wyvex Media judging panel, including a Wyvex Media Director, and the winner chosen by an external panel of judges who will be announced in a future issue.

Nominee's name .....

Nominee's telephone number .....

Nominee's address & postcode .....

My nominee should win a Legacy Ticket because .....

(please submit up to 500 words on a separate sheet and attach this form. Please provide as much information as possible. The more details we have about your nominee the more the panel has to help aid their decision. The judges involved will not be able to research or get in touch for further information).

Your name .....

Your address .....

Daytime telephone number .....

Mobile number .....

Email address .....

Send to: The Arran Banner  
Wyvex Media, Legacy Ticket Nomination,  
PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.



**Nominate today! Do you know an unsung hero who fulfils one or more of the following criteria?**

1. Young person, including Team Scotland supporters, and those involved in sport at school, community or club level.
2. Those who make sport happen, including volunteers.
3. Those who make a contribution to their communities, through volunteering or other means.
4. People without the opportunity to experience the games, and those from disadvantaged groups or those with a disability.



Terms and conditions: Nominees must live on the Isle of Arran. The identified beneficiary of the Commonwealth Games ticket will be gifted a pair of tickets so that they may be accompanied by a loved one, friend or carer. Travel, accommodation and other associated expenses are not included in the prize package. Staff employed by Wyvex Media and relatives of staff are ineligible to be a recipient of a ticket. The names and addresses of the ticket recipient and their companion will be supplied to the Scottish Government and the Glasgow 2014 Organising Committee. Legacy Tickets are a gift and not for resale. It is illegal for tickets to the Commonwealth Games to be sold on. A Legacy Ticket needs to be used by the named ticket beneficiary and their companion. The following Glasgow 2014 terms & conditions set out the rights and obligations in relation to the use of tickets. Please familiarise yourself with these in advance of attending the sporting session/ceremony: <http://www.glasgow2014packages.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/Glasgow-2014-Ticketing-Terms-and-Conditions.pdf>. Nominations must be received by midnight, Tuesday 29th April. Nominations will be shortlisted by a Wyvex Media judging panel, including a Wyvex Media Director, and the winner chosen by an external panel.

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.com](http://www.arranbrewery.com)



## Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing  
Brodick Castle, Garden Open  
Arran Brewery  
Arran Brewery tour  
Arran Heritage Museum

Loch Garbad, Bank fishing  
Daily 9am-Dusk  
Open Mon, Tue, Fri & Sat 12.30-5pm,  
2pm  
Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm

Arran Brass Rehearsal  
Yogalates  
Aquafizz  
Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones  
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
RunArran mixed ability  
Running Coaching  
Yoga-Arran  
Drift Inn Quiz  
Multi sports day (P1-S1)  
Art Exhibition  
Arran Elderly Forum

Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am  
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm  
Auchrannie car Park, 5pm  
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
Lamlash, 9pm  
KA Leisure, Lamlash 11.00am-3pm  
Arran High School, 10.30am-5pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 10.30am-12.15pm

## Saturday 12th April

Army Cadets  
Over 21s Disco  
Karate  
Family Games  
Live Music from David Redfern

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm.  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Douglas Hotel Bar, 9pm

## Thursday 17th April

Art Exhibition  
Family Art and Craft Session (children must be accompanied by an adult)  
Senior Fitness  
General Knowledge Quiz  
Lochranza Craft Club  
Live music  
Weight Watchers  
Yoga  
Winter bowls  
Bridge Club  
QuiltArran  
Garden Club  
Open Music session  
Ladies Hockey  
Lunchbox  
Arran Bee Group AGM

Aran High School, 10.30am-5pm  
Arran High School, 2pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Lochranza Hall, 2pm  
Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-11.00pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm  
Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm  
Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm  
Fire Station, Lamlash, 2-4pm  
Brodick Ranger Centre, 7.30pm  
Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 12.30-2.30pm  
Rangers Centre, Brodick, 7pm

## Sunday 13th April

Family Games  
Fun in the pool  
Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs)  
AA Meeting  
Mackerel Lottery  
Open folk session  
BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm - 3.30pm  
Brodick church Hall, 4pm - 6pm  
Kinloch Bar, 5pm  
Eden Lodge, WBay, 2pm-5pm  
KA Leisure from 12noon - 5.30pm

## Monday 14th April

Quiz  
Over 50s Badminton  
Badminton  
Citizens Advice  
Senior Fitness  
Table Tennis  
Aerobics (low impact)  
Badminton  
Arran Junior Football Club  
Yoga  
Lunch club  
Yoga - Arran  
Bridge Club  
Jnr Badminton Tournament

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm  
Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
Shiskine Hall 6pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon  
Brodick sheltered Housing, 12.30  
Kinneil, Lamlash, 3-4.30pm  
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse 7pm  
KA Leisure, Lamlash, 11.00-3pm

## Friday 18th April

Art Exhibition  
Family Art and Craft Session (children must be accompanied by an adult)  
Aqua Fizz  
Yogalates  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Lochranza Kids Badminton  
Lochranza Adults Badminton  
Easter fun day & Disco

Arran High School, 10.30am-5pm  
Arran High School, 2pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
KA Leisure, Lamlash 11am - 3pm

## Tuesday 15th April

Pop Quiz  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Youth Club  
Rotary club  
Streetly Dance pre school  
Streetly Dancing minis P1-3  
Streetly Dancing Juniors P4-7  
Streetly Dancing Seniors  
Junior Hockey Club  
Healthy Outdoors  
Winter bowls  
Scottish Country Dancing

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm  
Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4-4.45pm  
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4.45-5.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym Hall, 5.30-6.15pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm  
10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre  
Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

## Saturday 19th April

Art Exhibition  
Open Garden at 47 Murray Crescent, Lamlash  
Model Trains, Marvin Elliot Sculptures, tea, coffee, cakes

Arran High School, 10.30am-5pm  
10am-5pm

## Sunday 20th April

Art Exhibition  
Open Garden at 47 Murray Crescent, Lamlash  
Model Trains, Marvin Elliot Sculptures, tea, coffee cakes

Arran High School, 10.30am-5pm  
2pm-5pm

## Monday 21st April

Art Exhibition

Arran High School, 10.30am-4pm

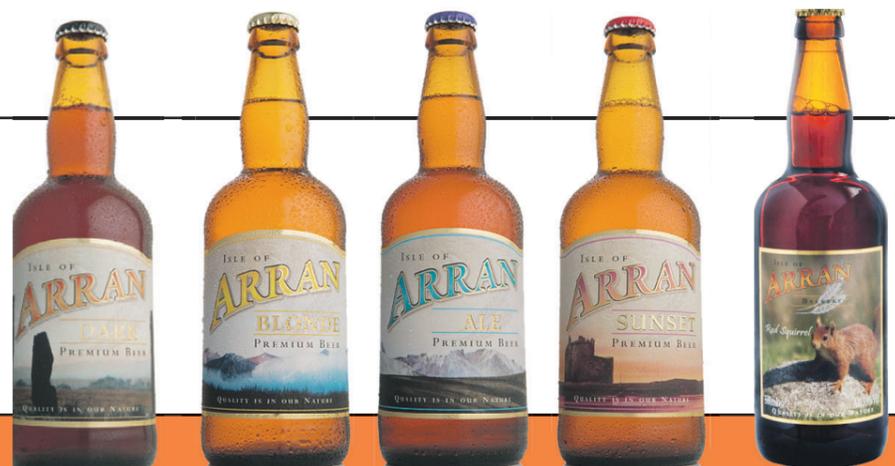
## Wednesday 16th April

Hockey  
Tae Kwondo  
Alcoholics Anonymous

Auchrannie Games Hall, 6.30-7.30pm  
Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm

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Hotpoint iced diamond fridge £25, Hotpoint iced diamond freezer £25 Tel: 302003

Granny Kit for little visitors, £20 the lot - Beech cot with bedding and clean mattress, IKEA high chair, changing mat Tel:01770 303912

2 x tickets fro Sophie Ellis-Bexter for the 19th April in Oran Mor, Glasgow £20 each Tel:600857

Electric heater in Scandinavian wood burning stove style £30 Tel: 600764

Solid teak tv/dvd unit, w86cm, d42cm, h55cm, £10 Tel: 700241

Aeroplane Monthly magazines, complete years eg. 1983 to 1994 (1986 & 1988 missing), £30 Tel: 01770 600238.

Wings magazines, Nos 1 to 165, £30 Tel: 01770 600238. Flymo Easimo, in perfect condition, £25 Tel: Lamlash 600217.

## OVER £30

Mahogany bureau desk, requires some tlc, £60 Tel: 700742

Kingsize pine bed frame, with free mattress, £60 ono. Useful pine table with turned legs, 3ft by 3ft 6in, £50 ono. Double bed headboard, padded, very attractive, Offers. Tel: 850553.

Good quality double bed frame, can be made in to four poster bed, all parts there. Can be sold with or without mattress, Offers. Tel: 600982.

Nikon D40X SLR camera, with two lenses, £240 Tel: 700666.

### FREE TO UPLIFT

Bagged Manure at Oakbank, Lamlash £1 per bag donation to Arran RDA Tel: 600752

### WANTED

Lawnmower, 21 inch cut or similar, in good condition. Tel: 302179.

### LOST & FOUND

One gold ring, found near the Masonic Lodge in Lamlash, any claimant must bring proof of ownership Tel: 700653.

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(in full communion with the Church of England)  
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 13th April**  
 (Palm Sunday)  
 Holy Communion, 11.00  
 Mrs Janis Gallagher.  
 Coffee after service.  
 Holy Week Services  
 (with Rev Canon Dr Michael Kitchener)

**Wednesday, 16th April**  
 3.00 pm Holy Communion  
**Maundy Thursday, 17th April**  
 6.30 pm Holy Communion  
**Good Friday, 18th April**  
 10.00 am Devotional hour  
**Easter Eve, 19th April**  
 6.30 pm Holy Communion  
**Easter Sunday, 20th April**  
 11.00 am Holy Communion  
 ALL WELCOME

**ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER**

**Good Friday Walk of Witness**  
**Friday 18th April**  
 Meet at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Brodick, at 2.00 pm.  
 Walk ends with service at Brodick Church of Scotland, 2.45 - 3.00 pm.  
 ALL WELCOME TO JOIN WHOLE OR ANY PART OF EVENT.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together  
 Minister:  
 Rev Angus Adamson,  
 Parish Assistant:  
 Mrs Jean Hunter:  
 Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.  
**Sunday 13th April**  
 Brodick Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship with praise led by local string group ARCO.  
 Corrie Church, 12noon, Morning Worship with praise led by local string group ARCO.  
 A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm  
 Lochranza Church. 9.30am Morning Worship.  
 Pirmill Church, 10.45am, Morning Worship.  
 Shiskine Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.  
**Wednesday 16th April**  
 Shiskine Church, 9am to 5pm, Easter Labyrinth.  
**Thursday 17th April**  
 Pirmill Church, 7pm, Maundy Thursday Service with Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.  
**Friday 18th April**  
 2pm Walk of Witness from Holy Cross Church to Brodick Church.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 13th April**  
 Kilmory 10am  
 Lamlash 11.30 am  
 Both Churches:  
 Mrs. Jean Hunter  
 All welcome, including families; children's area  
 Scottish Charity SC015072

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN**

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
 (Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 13th April**  
 Worship for Palm Sunday will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.  
 Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.  
 All most welcome.

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Sunday morning masses 11am

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 13th April**  
 11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick  
 Tea & Coffee after the service.  
 Wednesday at 7.30pm Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.  
 Contact phone no 600222

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
**Sunday 13th April**  
 Morning Service, 11am  
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
 Evening Service 6.30pm  
 5 Glen Road, Brodick  
 Prayer Meeting  
**Wednesday 16th April**  
 at 7pm  
 5 Glen Road,  
 All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Sunday 13th April**  
 Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
 Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)  
 Rev Ronnie Christie

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring - 830622, 820223

**SALVATION ARMY**

House Group/Bible Study. Mondays 2.30pm.  
 If you are interested in joining us please ring 810251 for more information.

# Last big push for Arran 10K training

Only two full weeks until the Arran 10K race day is here.

All the details you need will be in next weeks' Banner and until then it's time to give the last big push for training, get sponsorship sheets full, and make those final alterations to any fancy dress attire that may be adorned.

For those that have followed the training programme set out over the last 10 weeks in the Banner, if you weren't a runner before you certainly will be now. Running is great for the body and mind but what is special is the pleasure of being a runner on Arran. There are so many different route opportunities on your doorstep with a variety of terrains of varying difficulty and length, all of which have stunning scenery and wildlife no matter what part you live in.

Running the island really gives you an incredible chance to see some of the most beautiful, unspoiled

parts of it while still being close to home. Below are listed some achievable runs throughout the Island that can easily be adapted. If you have a route of your own that you would like to share then let other know using twitter #Arran10K.

Here are some route ideas:  
 Brodick 10K Glen Cloy and Fairy Glen: Head up Glen Cloy past the farm and follow signs for Glen Dubh. Take the forest track and at the top of the hill turn left back down the Fairy Glen and Old Lamlash Road to Brodick.

Brodick 6.5K Fishermans Walk and castle: From the Boathouse head along Fishermans Walk over the Rosa Burn to Cladach. Continue on the main road and then follow the castle drive back round past the primary school to the start.

Lamlash 4.5K: From the pier head south and take Benlister Road. Follow it round past Glen Kiln back to the

Ross then main road. Run down cuddy dook, over the burn and follow the beach back to start.

Whiting Bay 7K Knocken-kelly and Glenashdale Falls: From Sandbraes, head north on the main road to the nursery's and take the Knocken-kelly track. Follow round back to the village and head south, do the Glenashdale loop and back north to Sandbraes.

South End 11K Kilmory Water loop: From the creamery turn left and take the first right towards the wood and pottery workshop. Follow the path until the junction then take a right back down to start.

Shiskine/Blackwaterfoot, Claulchlands Glen and Loch Cnoc an Loch : Starting at the Kinloch, take the main road north to take the track just north of Bridgend Campsite and follow up past the cemetery and cottage, across the ford and turning right at the

signpost. At the gate turn right between the forest and fence to the loch. Go around the west side of it and meet the path at the south.

Alternatively, staying on the tarmac, the Round Shiskine Toad Race course, from the Kinloch to Shiskine, then along the Rodden to Torbeg and back to the Kinloch, is a good wee course.

North End 13K Cock of Arran: Starting from North Sannox Picnic Area, follow the coastal route round in to Lochranza.

**WEEK 10**

Run time is increased to 55 minutes on days 1 and 5.

With HIIT increasing energy levels, this week on day 3 insert 60 second sprints in between each of the five 10 minute jogs.

Rest as usual on days 2, 4, and 7, cross train on day 6.



**Brodick Golf Club**

Sunday 6 April, Brandon, 11 played. CSS reduction only. 1 R McCrae [6]69, 2 B Jenkins [7]71, Scratch R McCrae 75. 1st Class Brandon, R McCrae, 2nd Class Brandon, not awarded. There was only one magic two, G Hendry.

Fixtures: Sunday 13 April, British Legion 36 hole. Draw Saturday 12 April 12noon. Sunday 20 April British Cup [Stableford]. Draw Saturday 19 April 12noon.

**Shiskine Golf Club**

Sunday 6 April, 12 Hole Medal, CSS 41. 1 M Hesp 50-

12=38, 2 W McNally 57-16=41, 3 B Sherwood 50-6=44. Scratch, R Crawford 49.

Fixtures: Sunday 13 April, 18 Hole Medal(Gents). Thursday 3 April, Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 14 played, CSS 67. Silver 1 and Scratch Liz Kerr 84-16=68, 2 Elizabeth Kelso 89-19=70. Bronze 1 Fiona Scott 94-25=69, 2 Mary Tod 107-33=74. Congratulation Liz on winning the Medal.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Saturday 29 March, ladies section Medal Final, six played, CCS 64, SSS 65. 1 Rachel Wren 67(22), 2 Morag Gardner 68(17). Scratch Sheena Murchie 84.

Wednesday 2 April. Fleet 1, 12 played, CSS 64, SSS 65. 1 Ann MacVicar 61(16), 2 Jo Hastings 65(21) BIH, 3 Rachel Wren 65(22). Scratch Ann MacVicar 77.



**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Fixtures: Tuesday 15 April, Gents Arran Grouse Qualifier tee off 12.30pm and 5.30pm.

Due to the heavy rain the Roy Ure Tankard was postponed on Sunday 6 April and will now be played on Sunday 20 April - weather permitting!

Fixtures: Sunday 13, Tor Alvey Greensome. One draw for partners at 10am.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Fixtures: Saturday 12 April, Tuesday 1 April, Stabl-eford Sweep, 1 Brian Sherwood 37, 2 David Price 35, 3 Fiona Scott 32. Scratch Brian Sherwood 74.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Saturday 5 April, six played. 1 John McGovern net 69, non counting. There were five magic twos, B Rooney, J McConnachie, J McGovern and A MacDonald.

Fixtures: Saturday 12 April, course closed for work party. Saturday 19 April Grouse Trophy and Leatherby Cup tee off 8.30am and 1pm (pairs).

**BIRTHDAY**



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# Sport

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# Arran finish the season with a winning flourish

Arran 20 Cumnock 8

An Arran player is tackled going forward. 20\_b15rugby03

Arran rounded off a disappointing rugby season with a comfortable win over Cumnock who finished two places above them in the league.

It was another wet and waterlogged park after torrential rain on Saturday morning for the players at Ormidale Park.

Cumnock only arrived 40 minutes before the kick off and, without a warm up, the visitors had problems keeping control of the ball in the very wet grass and mud at the start of the game.

Arran had great kicking to get up the pitch and managed to get through a gap to score early and convert the try. Cumnock reacted from that early try and managed to do some pods for recycling the ball, plus the line-out was working well. Both teams kept pressing up and Arran scored another penalty to make it look a comfortable 10-0.

Cumnock got back up and slotted a penalty easily from 30 metres to close the gap. Just before half time Arran moved up again and scored another converted try.

The second half was a more evenly fought contest. Both teams had been warned by referee about being repeatedly offside and just after 60 minutes Arran had a man sin binned. Cumnock took advantage of this going close but were held up by stout Arran defending near the try line.

The Cumnock pressure continued after a pass which one of the forwards nearly took over the line, but when the ball went back it was bundled over for a Cumnock try.

Both teams tried to the end to gain more scores but it finished 20-8.

The result saw Arran finish fifth in the eight team league having won just four games, lost nine and drawn one in a season that has been dogged by postponed games.

The highlight was their first ever final in December in the RBS West Regional Bowl but were well beaten on the day by Uddingston.



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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.