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Lucky escape as cyclist is airlifted to hospital

Fiona has high praise for rescue help

A woman who was airlifted to hospital after a cycle crash this week was later able to joke that Arran was the best place in the country to have an accident.

Fiona Oakes had to be whisked to hospital by helicopter after a serious crash on her bike outside Lamlash last Wednesday.

She had come across to Arran with her brother Paul



Fiona back in Claonaig in her crutches.

REPORT
by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Oakes from her parents' home in Claonaig on the Lochranza ferry to cycle round the island.

The 39-year-old said: 'We'd got round as far as Lamlash having come round the south of the island, but I lost control of my bike on a downhill corner where the road surface was poor. I think the bike came over my head and I finished up lying in the bottom of a hedge with 'damage unknown' to both legs!'

The accident happened at the bottom of the hill coming from Whiting Bay.

Fiona said: 'Numerous people appeared on the scene and I received expert care immediately. I was airlifted by helicopter to Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock and Dr Littlewood was even kind enough to video my helicopter ascent.'

'In accident and emergency they quickly established I had done only soft tissue damage, albeit very deep lacerations

exposing bones in both legs, but my ligaments, tendons and bones all remained intact.

'I was operated on on Thursday afternoon to clean the wounds and close the one on my ankle and again on Saturday morning after establishing that the wound on my thigh was clean and free from infection. I was discharged on Sunday and came home via Arran and Lindsey's cheese shop for some medicinal cheddars.'

Fiona, a civil servant, who lives in Beverley, East Yorkshire, had nothing but praise for the assistance she received following the crash.

She said: 'From roadside to discharge at Crosshouse I received first class care and help. I am extremely lucky that I, quite literally, fell into the hands of such kind and professional people. I cannot speak highly enough of my roadside rescuers and of NHS Ayrshire and Arran. My heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in my rescue.'

'Some of the names I remember immediately assisting me are Neil, Katie and



Fiona gives the thumbs up as she is airlifted to hospital.

George and the paramedic crew of Martin and Claire and once again I extend my sincere gratitude to everyone.

'Sadly I was planning to run my first marathon in Manchester this weekend for Cancer Research UK, which I

have had to postpone. But fortunately my fitness and good health will ensure I can make a full recovery and therefore I will achieve my marathon and my fund raising aim, just a little later in the year.'

'If anyone intends to have

an accident I can recommend doing it on Arran! The accident and emergency care is first rate. But in the future I think I will stick to nice safe modes of transport that I am more experienced at, like running and riding horses.'



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One of our concrete pontoons is missing!

Many things get washed up on Kilmory beach over the year. But one of the most unusual must be the massive concrete pontoon which ended up abandoned on the beach last weekend.

The huge concrete structure measuring 20ms by 4ms (66ft by 13ft), was firmly lodged high up the beach when The Banner visited the site on Sunday afternoon.

'Lost'

It ended a mystery which began shortly after 9am when a tow-boat reported that it had 'lost' one of the two pontoons it was towing near Campbeltown Loch.

The Marine and Coastguard Agency immediately



The giant structure with its tow chains still attached sits on Kilmory beach. 20_b16pont01



The recovery vessel waits offshore for the tide. 20_b16pont02

put out a warning to shipping in the area and requesting any sightings to be reported.

Drifting

The concrete structure obviously made its way across the Kilbrannan Sound unaided and HM Coastguard on Arran was called out after reports it had been seen drifting near the south end of the island, before finally being washed ashore at Kilmory.

The MCA informed the owner who later mounted a salvage operation and re-floated the pontoon where it continued its passage to its unknown destination.

Bid to remove unused Brodick taxi rank

The row over an unused taxi rank in Brodick could be resolved next month.

A formal application has been made to revoke the taxi stance beside the putting green at Invercloy.

There was anger earlier this year when drivers parking in the three designated taxi spaces were cautioned by police.

The island has only one registered taxi operator, George Lammie, but the latest move will not affect the main taxi stance at the ferry terminal.

It is the view of Brodick improvements committee that the number of taxi stances in Brodick is in excess of what is required and that the rank at the small Co-op is 'surplus to requirements'.

But before a decision is taken all residents are being given the chance to have their say on what should happen to the stances after North Ayrshire council's licensing committee agreed to support a proposal to revoke them.

A formal consultation with Mr Lammie is now underway and residents are also being encouraged to share their thoughts on the proposals.

The licensing committee will then decide whether or not to revoke the stances at its

next meeting on 20 May. The move was first suggested by councillor John Bruce as far back as last October after he was approached by residents who said they had been effectively dormant for years.

Andrew Fraser, head of service for North Ayrshire Council's Democratic Services, said: 'The location of taxi stances on Arran is an important issue for many residents and it is therefore important that as many people as possible ensure they have their voices heard on the matter before the licensing committee makes its decision next month.'

Anyone wishing to comment on the proposal should write to Licensing Services, Legal Services, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE. All submissions must be received by May 18.

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It pays to advertise in the Banner

Banner for the blind readers sought

A service which brings the joy of The Banner to those with sight loss is urgently looking for help. The Arran Sound group, which has been going for around 17 years, is looking for new readers to dictate The Banner on to tape for the blind and partially sighted.

The tapes are sent to Montrose House, Cooriedoon and the Arran War Memorial Hospital as well as to individuals on the island and the mainland.

The charity is presently being run by chairwoman Jean Peacock and secretary Elinor Kinnard who have been involved for nearly eight years.

Elinor said: 'If we had a big enough group it would only involve someone reading The Banner to tape in their own home about once a month.'

The only work involved is getting the tape processed at the AVCS office in Lamlash. 'We are also looking for anyone with technical skills who could help us with the copying,' Jean added.

Anyone who can help should contact Elinor on 860310.

Rural design talk held

Alan Dickson of Skye-based Rural Design Architects will be the guest speaker at a meeting of Arran Civic Trust on Tuesday 21 April.

The talk and powerpoint presentation will be held in Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, at 7.30pm. The meeting is open to everyone and Mr Dickson's talk will focus on 'progressive but sensitive' design in a rural setting.

Arran gets grandstand view of massive military operation

Residents on Arran had a grandstand view of the massive military exercise underway in the Firth of Clyde at the weekend.

Exercise Joint Warrior, the bi-annual military exercise involving the Royal Navy, British Army and Royal Airforce, began on Saturday and is taking place across various UK locations.

Running until next Friday it features a total of 55 war ships and submarines, 70 aircraft and around 13,000 personnel from 13 participating countries.

There has already been significant naval and aerial activity off the west coast of Scotland, including amphibious landings and many ship manoeuvres have been watched through binoculars and telescopes from Arran.

The NATO exercise is designed to improve joint operations between the participating countries Armed Forces.

Ships, submarines, aircraft and ground troops from the US, Netherlands, France, Denmark, Norway, Spain, Germany, Lithuania, Belgium, Poland, Estonia and Latvia are taking part.

Joint Warrior provides a complex environment in

which UK, NATO and allied units can go through training together in tactics and skills for use in a combined joint task force.

The exercise runs through a range of scenarios, including crisis and conflict situations, that could be realistically encountered in operations - disputed territory, terrorist activity, piracy and more.

The massive multi-national exercise delivers specialist maritime training, bringing together the theatres of air, surface, underwater and amphibious forces.

'This exercise is a unique opportunity for us to work with our allied shipmates. For most US sailors, our training and qualifications are done with other US Navy ships. Multi-national exercises like this help our sailors learn how to co-operate and excel with other navies in a challenging and multidimensional environment,' said Lieutenant Commander Matthew Hamm, USS Vicksburg's operations officer.

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland has warned hikers there may be disruption to GPS and advises everyone carries a map and compass as well.



Easter exhibition

Arran Visual Arts held another successful Easter exhibition at Arran high school last week.

Nearly 400 visitors poured through the doors during the six days of the exhibition which featured paintings and

craft works of artists from across the island, as our picture shows.

Visitors are invited to vote for their favourite piece and this year's winner of the people's choice was Patsy Keen.

20_b16art01

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Lord McConnell gives his backing to Labour candidate

Labour parliamentary candidate Katy Clark was campaigning on Arran earlier this week with the help of former First Minister Jack McConnell, now Lord McConnell.

Along with a team of volunteers, they were knocking on doors and helping to publicise the public meeting on the Future of the Ferries, which will be held in Brodick Hall today (Saturday) from 2pm.

Speaking about the campaign Ms Clark said: 'Despite the rain we received a warm welcome on the doors in Arran. It was great to speak to local residents about the general election, which will be a clear choice between a Labour and Tory government. In what will be one of the closest elections in recent history it's more important than ever that people turn out and vote for a Labour government.'

Lord McConnell added: 'We received an excellent reaction from local residents as locals know Katy Clark has been a hard working and effective fighter for Arran and North Ayrshire.'

'We need MPs like Katy to stand up for local people, fighting for better wages, strong services and a Parliament that puts people first. Our country needs a change of government, and only by re-electing Katy Clark can we help bring about that change.'

On the campaign front Ms Clark has welcomed Labour's pledge to abolish the non-domicile rule that allows some wealthy UK residents to limit the tax paid on earnings outside the country.

Ms Clark said 'This is just the latest measure announced by the Labour Party that demonstrates that under the next Labour Government tax dodging will not be tolerated.'

'Measures such as the closing down of tax loopholes currently used by hedge funds to avoid stamp duty and preventing umbrella companies from exploiting tax relief demonstrate that Labour is committed to creating a climate in which tax dodging is seen as completely unacceptable in the UK.'

Small business and local jobs call from Conservatives

Karren Brady, of The Apprentice fame, has called on small business owners across the country, including North Ayrshire and Arran, to sign her 'small business letter' supporting the current Conservative government's moves to create jobs and make it easier for small businesses to do well.

Local Conservative candidate Jamie Greene welcomed the party's Small Business Ambassador in her move to highlight that a strong economy creates jobs.

Mr Greene said: 'I want to go further than that though.'

'Employment in this constituency is an important issue and whilst it's great to hear that unemployment has gone down across the constituency over the past five years, we do need to ensure that new jobs are being created for local people. That means making it easier for businesses to come here, open shop and take on staff. Unnecessary regulation, bureaucracy and crippling taxes will never encourage small businesses and companies to open up here.'

'The Scottish government needs to do much more with

the money it receives from central government to support re-development of our high streets and enterprises to attract new business to the area.'

Referring specifically to North Ayrshire and Arran he continued: 'In Largs and Arran, tourism plays a big part in job creation; in the Three Towns there needs to be real job opportunities from the private sector and growth in their local economies. As a candidate representing this area, one of my main priorities if elected is to ensure North Ayrshire and Arran gets its fair share of the new 1,000 jobs a day being created nationally by the Conservative government and I am not afraid to be a loud voice on this issue in Westminster but also will hold the Holyrood government to account.'

Mr Greene also issued a statement in response to the leaders' debates on Scottish television this past week when tensions ran high and the party leaders battled to put their points across.

He said: 'Anyone who watched the debates can see that we have a fine leader in

Ruth Davidson and that the Scottish Conservatives are the only party to represent centre-right thinking voters in this election. Labour are finished in Scotland and they don't have the gravitas to stand up to the SNP anymore.'

'I challenge the SNP to accept the voice of the majority in Scotland once and for all. Voters in North Ayrshire and Arran have an alternative to left wing politics by voting for the Scottish Conservatives and support Ruth and myself,' he added.

Five in fight for seat

Five candidates will be fighting it out for the North Ayrshire and Arran constituency at next month's general election, it has been officially announced.

They are: Katy Clark, Scottish Labour Party; Patricia Gibson, Scottish National Party; Jamie Greene, Scottish Conservative and Unionist; Ruby Kirkwood, Scottish Liberal Democrats and Sharon McGonigal, UK Independence Party.

Anyone who wants to vote by post or postal proxy, must apply by April 21 at 5pm. Applications to vote by proxy must be in by 5pm on April 28.

It is time to honour the 'vow' made to Scotland

Patricia Gibson, SNP candidate for North Ayrshire and Arran has reiterated the importance of Scotland having fiscal autonomy - control of decisions on taxation, welfare policies, employment and the minimum wage - powers Labour, the Tories and Lib Dems do not want Scotland to have.

Mrs Gibson said: 'These powers are nothing less than grown-up, responsible financial arrangements for Scotland. It is important to recall that these powers were promised to Scotland in the closing days of the referendum campaign by Gordon Brown in his 'vow': 'We're going to be, within a year or two, as close to a federal state as you can be... this is a promise we will keep.'

She said: 'Astonishingly with the UK deficit standing at more than £90 billion annually and accumulated national debt of more than £1.5 trillion, it is remarkable that Scots are being lectured on fiscal rectitude.'

'Fiscal autonomy would give Scotland the economic levers to grow our economy, boost growth and increase revenues. The Institute for Fiscal Studies pointed out on 11 March that such control would allow Scotland to undertake radical, politically challenging reforms to generate additional growth and deliver prosperity.'

Scaremongering

'I believe the people of Scotland are tired of scaremongering and being told what we are apparently incapable of by the Westminster parties and want an alternative to the dismal austerity consensus of Labour, the Tories and Lib Dems. People are listening to the alternative approach put forward by the SNP, about how our wealth can be better spent in investing in our communities, giving our children a better future and making different and better choices.'

'With a strong group of SNP MPs we can be a progressive force at Westminster.'

'We will challenge the cosy austerity consensus subscribed to by all UK parties, which is causing real pain and hardship to too many in our communities. A strong group of SNP MPs means that we can make Scotland's priorities Westminster's priorities,' Mrs Gibson added.

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Rowan Roscoe won the egg decorating competition.



Raffle winners Stuart Turner and Robbie Roscoe.

Festival ceilidh proves a success

The Arran Mountain Festival started its programme of activities with a successful annual Easter ceilidh last Saturday.

The evening saw a lively mix of locals and visitors dance the night away, with music from the hugely talented Arranach Ceilidh Band.

This year the egg decorating competition was won by Rowan Roscoe with her highly glittery creation, and the raffle was won by Robbie Roscoe and Stuart Turner, each winning an impressive chocolate egg kindly donated by James' Chocolate.

The organisers wish to say many thanks also to the distillery for the whisky contribution, and to the Co-op for donating the prizes to the lucky dip game.

The haggis, both meat and vegetarian, were a great hit, so a big thank you to Sherie Walker and her team of willing peelers and mashers. And thanks to everyone for setting up and a very swift clearing up session, and to the committee, and partners, for all their organising help.

Monies raised from the evening, held in Brodick Church Hall, will help fund

the Arran Mountain Festival which is managed and organised by a team of volunteers, and to which all the qualified and experienced walk leaders give their time and expertise for nothing.

The festival has steadily grown from year to year since its beginning in 2007, and has helped to put Arran firmly on the map as one of the best hillwalking destinations in the UK.

For all details about this year's Arran Mountain Festival, to be held from 15 to 18 May, please see: www.arran-mountainfestival.co.uk

Darlington poets to entertain in Brodick

The flourishing poetry scene on Arran

Three of the island's several resident poets have been forming links with other poets across the country and have been performing as far afield as Lancaster and London. Now David Underdown, Cicely Gill and Tim Pomeroy are organising a new reading on the island on Saturday 25 April to which poetry lovers across Arran are warmly invited to attend a show that will be both busy and varied.

Vane Women, 'a writing, performing and publishing collective', formed in 1991 and named after the late Dar-

lington Arts Centre in Vane Terrace, are sending six of their members to read. Lindsay Balderson, Diane Cockburn, Jackie Litherland, Marilyn Longstaff, Pat Maycroft and Annie Wright represent a very respected group of working and publishing poets in the north of England.

Their subjects flow from memory to polemic, through relationships, mysticism, life and death, (as one would expect) and further on through cricket, sense and sexuality.

There will be something for everyone.

The reading will be held in the Ormidale Glasshouse starting at 7.30pm, although organisers encourage early arrival to get drinks in and seats settled.

The local poets will read in the first half and Vivace, one of Arran's little known acapela singing ensembles, will round off the half with some songs. The second half will be totally devoted to the visiting poets.

Admission is free. For more information contact David on 810640 or visit: www.arran-poetry.co.uk



Some of the Vane Women collective members will be performing on Arran.

FeisArrain to return in July

FèisArainn will be back this summer from Tuesday to Friday, 28-31 July.

It will take place in Arran High School from 10am to 3.45pm each day, finishing as usual with the concert on Friday afternoon. There will be workshops in Gaelic singing, Gaelic drama and Celtic art as well as seven different traditional instruments - accordion, clarsach (harp), drums, fiddle, guitar, pipes (or chanter for beginners) and whistle.

Registration forms will be distributed through the schools after the Easter holiday but if anyone has any questions before that please call Aileen on 700209. As before, transport will be provided, as far as possible, to and from the high school for anyone living outwith Lamlash who requires it.

It is hoped many of last year's participants will attend as well as lots of newcomers (age 8 by July).

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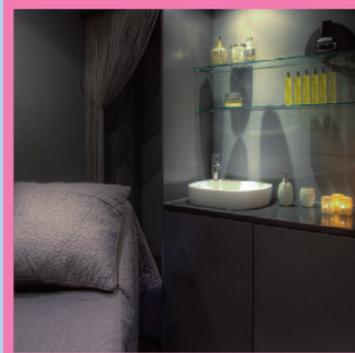
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Eco Savvy celebrates first birthday and looks forward to second successful year

It is hard to believe that it was just one year ago Eco Savvy made his first physical appearance on Arran. The Eco Savvy Community shop burst into life on Saturday 19 April and from that day the project has gone from strength to strength.

Volunteers are at the very heart of Eco Savvy, islanders will have met many in the shop on a daily basis but it may not be known that during the past 12 months they have

also found themselves playing major roles in Eco Savvy events.

Not all volunteers work in the community shop, many of have found themselves involved with activities like the grand auctions, skills sharing workshops, the highland games and even a pop up clothes shop. Who could forget the fantastic fashion show with all those brilliant models? It really has been an amazing year.

The community shop has rehomed thousands of all sorts

Planning the garden begins with Eco Savvy hosting a free two-day introduction to permaculture course with Lusi Alderslowe. She will help the community plan and design the many possibilities for the Eco Savvy field.

Permaculture offers ways of working with nature, respecting sustainability and the needs of all elements involved, human and natural.

To be held at and near the field on Thursday and Friday 23-24 April, from 9am to 4pm each day. The Whiting Bay Golf Course clubhouse, close by, will be visited for lunch and used in case of poor weather.

There are limited spaces so if anyone interested, should book as soon as possible, by emailing Sue Weaver at suemweaver@yahoo.co.uk or phoning her on 820615

Market report

United Auctions had forward 126 cast cows and bulls and 1950 store cattle at its recent Stirling sale. Hawthorne (Charx blk) £1050, 260p; Springfield (Charx blk) £1010, 274p; Hawthorn (LimX blk) £900; Balgowan (LimX) £830, 273p; Glenkiln (AA) £880, 226p; Hawthorne (CharX hfr) £870, 230p; Springfield (LimX) £730, 240p; Balgowan (Lim) £720, 235p. Balgowan (Cast Cow) £625, 110p.



Eco Savvy would like to thank you for your support and invite you to pop into the shop on Saturday and join Eco for non alcoholic bubbles and cake!

of donated items, sold hundreds of unwanted goods and most importantly goods made from items which could have ended up in land fill have been up-cycled and sold through the shop.

Community garden

Eco Savvy held several forum meetings and results from these move the project to its next new and exciting phase of developing a community garden at the community land initiative in Whiting Bay.

Happy Birthday Eco Savvy 1 TODAY

Wishing you a very happy and successful 2nd year with your new and exciting Community Garden

New book on Clyde steamers during the war

To mark the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, the Clyde River Steamer Club (CRSC) has produced a special, limited edition publication to commemorate the part played by the Clyde steamers in the 1939-1945 conflict.

For the first time, the story of this fascinating period is told in a single volume.

The paddle steamers which carried commuters and tourists to the islands, resorts and beauty spots of the Firth of Clyde in peacetime summers found themselves undertaking very different duties, far from home, under the White Ensign. Their turbine steamer consorts served as troopships and tenders, while some ships remained at home to maintain the essential ferry services to the islands.

The stories of these ships are told with the aid of eye-witness accounts from the men who served aboard and illustrated with 50 evocative photographs. The publication is produced in the 'bookazine' house style of the CRSC's respected annual Clyde Steamers.

An unusual aspect to this publication is that the author, Peter G Herriot, died many years ago. The story has been completed by his friends from



The cover of the new book.

his partially finished manuscript, draft notes, research material and correspondence.

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Volunteers sought to help look after coastal footpaths

The Arran Coastal Way project is undertaking some of the excellent path improvements around the island's coastline.

Now the Arran Access Trust and Coastal Way team are excited to start handing over some ownership of the paths to the local communities themselves.

To this end they are starting a series of volunteer days this spring and summer to help

teach people how they can look after footpaths in their area.

Project co-ordinator Rachel Sedman said: 'Whether you want to know what you can do to deal with that annoying muddy patch on your regular dog walk or the best way to beat the encroaching ferns and brambles, we hope to inspire people to get stuck in and make the best of their local footpaths.'

'Arran Access Trust has also arranged for SRUC (Scotland's Rural College) to come and deliver certificated training courses on Arran and are planning one for brushcutter operation in May.

'We can offer a limited amount of places on this course free of charge for volunteers willing to give up a couple of days a year to help clear overgrown paths, using

the equipment and brushcutter owned by the Access Trust.'

The first two volunteer days will take place in the Blackwaterfoot area on Thursday 23 April and Saturday 25 April.

For more details on getting involved, contact Rachel on 303926 or email: arran@coastalway.co.uk or find them on Facebook or Twitter (ArranCoastalWay).



The new path takes shape on the north end Fairy Dell walk.



Work underway at Fairy Dell.



Work goes on to clear the Brodick to Lamash coastal path.

All welcome at Faith Mission Week at Sannox Centre

The Sannox Christian Centre is welcoming the Faith Mission back to its roots later this month.

For Faith Mission Week the team will erect a marquee on the field opposite Sannox Church and various activities will be taking place from Sunday 26 April until Sunday 3 May.

There will be music through the week by the Sannox Worship Group and guest singers on the final Sunday will be Peter and Helen Stobart of Stobart Transport and Farming.

Since the founder of the Faith Mission, John George Govan, first felt the call of God whilst on holiday at Corrie on Arran, men and women of the Faith Mission have dedicated themselves to the service of folk all over Scotland carrying the gospel message into the villages and countryside of its native land.

The Sannox Church and marquee will be open to visitors from 3pm for tea and coffee. Evening meetings with the Faith Mission will be held on Sundays and Monday to Friday at 7.30pm.

Sannox open day will be held on Saturday 2 May from

11am and will include creative art, guided walks, massage, music and prayer. It will be followed by the Sannox open evening from 7.30pm with a traditional ceilidh: stories, songs, poems and music along with light refreshments.

There is free entry and car parking to all events.

Sannox Christian Centre began in 2012, based on the site of the former Congregational Church and with gifts from folk from far and wide, plus

the work of volunteers, is gradually being restored.

The centre works alongside the churches on Arran and is a Christ centered place of rest and restoration.



Guest singers Peter and Helen Stobart.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Kind and professional care

How gratifying it must be for the emergency services on the island to be given such high praise in this week's front page story.

Cyclist Fiona Oakes had nothing but positive things to say about all the help and care she received after a serious crash last week, which led to her being airlifted to hospital.

And not just the emergency services but also the people who rushed to her aid when she somersaulted off her bike outside Lamash.

In her praise she said she literally 'fell into the hands of such kind and professional people'.

And she went so far as to say, jokingly, that Arran was the best place in the country to have an accident.

All this is worthy of note because too often the emergency services and the care extended by our national health service is simply taken for granted.

The future of the health service is one of the central issues of the general election campaign and voters have to decide in whose hands they feel it is safest. That is a matter for them, but it is one which should be carefully considered.

The crash also brings into focus the fact that the cycle season is now underway on Arran.

The RET fares are bound to bring more cyclists - just as it is already bringing more cars and foot passengers.

But more cars mean busier roads, making cycling more hazardous.

Last year local police took action on cycling groups coming off the ferry by breaking them up into manageable numbers and we know plans are being prepared for new advice on cycling on the island.

That will be welcome, because for every grateful cyclist like Fiona, there are too many who come to the island and think they own the road.

But let's be positive. There is room on the island for everyone, it just takes a bit of courtesy and consideration, then everyone can enjoy the island we call home.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'There is nothing in a creation that can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8: 39)

press policy

WE AT the Arran Banner endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

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



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Letters to the Editor



Grand talk won't solve concerns

Sir,
I sit writing this letter on another day of ferry disruptions and missed hospital treatments.

I note in the Banner article of 28 March we are to become a world class island (whatever that means), starting with ferry terminal re-development. What I find really tragic about all of this grand talk is that CalMac can spend as many millions as it likes at this end of the route, but while the other end remains unchanged there will be no improvement in reliability whatsoever. For six months of the year travelling back and forth is, and will continue to be, a bit of a lottery.

Also, would a world class island consign foot passengers, complete with families, prams, pets, luggage etc. to having to use staircases and a lift in a terminal primarily designed for ease of vehicle movement? Quite apart from the inconvenience there is a real safety issue involved with large numbers of people descending stairs. Also there are those who do not care to be confined in lifts. Will there be a maintenance service immediately available should the lift break down?

While on the subject of the re-vamped terminal it seems to me that having all traffic enter the area by a new road to be built beside the old harbour will cause backups extending on to the main road, resulting in blocking vehicles going south or attempting to get into the new parking area.

Again, talking world class, are rail connections that arrive in Ardrossan more than one hour before ferry departure time really in that category?

I am sure an Arran Economic Group getting together to discuss all of this can be a positive step but only if they make an effort to find out what the travelling Arran residents expect and to provide just that. In their zeal to have vast numbers driving around Arran's inadequate roads this group should also realise that

the residents of Arran have rights too - such as being able to take vehicles off and on the island for business, emergencies, etc without having to book weeks in advance.

I do not suppose any of the above will move any mountains but at least I have said what I think about these matters which I feel are of real concern to Arran residents.

Yours,
Alistair Glen Brodick

Lack of facilities

Sir,
I am writing once more to complain at the shoddy way Arran is treating a new influx of visitors to the island.

The reduction of fares to bring more visitors to the island has shown a weakness in the lack of eateries around Brodick, never mind anywhere else on the island, to support the extra influx of new visitors.

After hours of journeying to get on Arran, for many a first time, they found they should have had a meal on the ferry as places in Brodick were closed such as Macs Bar and Bilslands leaving only the Douglas, Janie's Cafe, Fiddlers and the Ormidale which were bulging at the seams.

For the traveller not knowing the island, I'm sure most were expecting Brodick, the major town, to be able to support the extra demand. On my return on a very overcrowded boat and running over an hour late (mist), missing the train connection by three minutes at most, then having to walk to Ardrossan Town to meet the next train, many of the new and hungry and tired day trippers I spoke with said they would not be back, being very disappointed with the lack of facilities.

Why, I ask, was there no stalls set out along the front to welcome new and old visitors, promoting the produce of the island? Come on Arran - do you want a healthy island or not? If you do, you must work for it. You had the chance at Easter and you failed the public on a massive scale. If you want golf courses full and eateries full you

must try a little harder with providing an all-round better service. People have money to spend elsewhere, you are always patting yourselves on the back for promoting most things on the island please 'wake up and smell the coffee' and look after your new visitors.

Yours,
**Alex Kay
Graham Square
Glasgow**

More buses call

Sir,
I have just sat and watched (via AIS) our good old MV Isle of Arran berthing at Ardrossan, not on the Irish berth as one would expect with 20 days to go before her scheduled entry into service on the Arran run. So, what's happening?

Have the 'high heedyins' at CalMac seen the error of their ways after the debacle of the last two weekends with I expect near capacity sailings of both vehicle and passengers, and decided to bring her on early? As this is read, that question will have been answered.

Right well, switching from ferry to bus - by now everyone will be aware as to just how inadequate the super new buses are for this island.

I'll say no more on that subject after my last letter. What I ask now is, with RET and the ferry running at near capacity has SPT also seen the error of its ways and deemed it necessary to give the island a bus service to suit everyone, visitor and resident alike - a bus from all ends of the island to meet every sailing. Crowds of people getting off the boat, most unable to get on the buses because 50 per cent of the seating space is taken up with shopping and luggage are left to wander up and down, or should I say promenade, the Brodick sea front with a scatter of bored little ones.

Brodick and maybe Lamash and Whiting Bay too, are full to the gills, so let's share the visitors with the rest of the island.

I know Lochranza and Catacol have been nearly dead during the day. I can't com-

ment on the south end but I'll put money on the fact they're in the same state, and no, I haven't forgotten Corrie and Sannox, at least they're on the flat and can expect a few once-a-year cyclists to experience their facilities.

Oh dear, I nearly forgot Shiskine and Blackwaterfoot, at least you've got a better bus service than the north and south ends of the island.

Yours,
**John Lawson
Catacol**

Coffee at its best

Sir,
Due to a wee touch of throat surgery (caused by the ciggies if there are any high school pupils reading) I am unable to eat in the normal way: no solids etc and one of the few things I can get down my throat - apart from air - is the occasional cup of coffee.

With the heightened taste buds, due to the lack of fags, I feel I've become a bit of a connoisseur (expert, if the pupils are still with me). From Barcelona to Milan to Paris I've sipped the best.

I am in no way suggesting that there are not dozens of excellent coffees on Arran, and I certainly haven't tasted them all, but I recently did have occasion to visit Little Rock and by golly that is one of the best cups ever. Don't know where the beans are sourced but the taste is fandabdydosy.

While complimenting local businesses, can I mention that my wife gave me a massage for my birthday, fortunately she had paid someone else to do it. Whether it's relaxation or muscle repair Kay is pure dead brilliant. Can't remember her surname but it did remind me of the wizard in The Hobbit. Not asking a young lady her second name - old habits die hard.

Yours,
**Marc A Head
Whiting Bay**

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Double marathon challenge in memory of fiancée

An Arran man is taking on a double marathon challenge in memory of his late fiancée.

David Allsop will be running for charity and has chosen to do both the London marathon next Sunday followed by the Edinburgh marathon on 31 May.

This year he will be raising money for Cancer Support Scotland after his fiancée Deborah Hanlon died from breast cancer two and a half years ago.

David, told The Banner: 'This will be my third consecutive year running the marathon in memory of Deborah who lost her life to breast cancer in November 2012 at the age of 36. Debs was a unique girl with a glittery personality, full of fun and devoted to her beloved family. I was one of the lucky ones to have met her and for four years we gave it our all. So many fun times, so many treasured memories. She was my everything. I miss her terribly.'

'This year I have set myself to a new challenge of not just the Edinburgh but the London Marathon too. I have chosen Cancer Support Scotland as I have had my own personal experience of using their services since losing Debs. They have provid-



David with his late fiancée Deborah.

ed me with one to one counselling which has helped me with the grieving and learn to cope better.

'My Deborah was one of the unlucky ones, at 36 her life ended. One of the last things she told me was 'at least I will die with no wrinkles!'

'That was Debs in a nutshell. Not just brave, but her ability to smile and make a

laugh, even in her darkest hour. My beautiful girl may be gone from this life but when I'm out there running, she's with me every step of the way.'

David was born on Arran and grew up in Sannox. He went to Arran High School and lived on the island for 21 years. He still comes back quite frequently to visit his

mum Audrey and brother Gordon. He has also worked on Arran, most recently on the footpaths in the hills and some forestry work. Although he now lives in Kilsyth near Glasgow he is still a member of the Arran Runners and enters the Goat Fell and Arran half marathon most years.

He met Deborah, who was from Moodiesburn, in January 2009 and they got engaged in July 2012. Sadly Deborah passed away in November 2012 from secondary breast cancer.

David added: 'As like all charities, Cancer Support Scotland can only provide their services with the generosity of the public. I can guarantee your donation will go straight to the heart of what matters, and that is allowing Cancer Support Scotland to continue helping those people whose lives can be in turmoil through the effects of cancer.' Donations can be made online at www.justgiving.com/David-Allsop-for-Debs, or phone 07525 205739

Arran businesses get ready for Scotland's biggest trade event

Two Arran organisations who will be taking part in the VisitScotland expo – the country's biggest travel trade event – are gearing up to make the most of this major opportunity to promote their products and services both nationally and internationally.

VisitArran and Auchrannie Resort will join the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Team, Ayrshire Golf Scotland and others which will all be exhibiting at a shared stand at the prestigious industry event at Aberdeen's AECC next week. They will be joining tourism-related businesses from all over Scotland which will be showcasing the very best the country has to offer – including food and drink, accommodation, entertainment, culture, scenery and attractions at the show being held on Wednesday 22 April and Thursday 23 April.

More than 200 companies and organisations with a Scottish tourism product to promote will be taking part in expo and, compared to last year's event at the Glasgow SECC, there will be an increase in new exhibitors of at least 33 per cent.

The Scottish exhibitors will be marketing the country

to almost 380 international buyers and more than 200 hand-picked UK-based buyers, including tour operators, wholesalers, travel agents and travel media. The expo provides an invaluable opportunity for tourism-related businesses to meet face-to-face with tour operators from across the globe, make new contacts, negotiate new deals and learn new ways of doing business.

Last year's expo generated more than 6,700 buyers' appointments for exhibitors and more than £24 million worth of business is expected to be conducted over the two days of this year's event at the AECC.

Companies from all over Scotland are also hoping to capitalise on interest from tour operators and travel agents from new and emerging markets – such as Russia and India.

Anniqe Armstrong, regional director of VisitScotland, said: 'I am delighted that so many businesses from Ayrshire and Arran will be attending the VisitScotland expo this year to showcase just some of the exceptional visitor experiences that the area has to offer'.



David in training for the double in his Cancer Support Scotland vest.

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An invitation to consign

Our specialists will be travelling in your area the weeks commencing 27th April and 4th May offering free valuations with a view to selling in our forthcoming auctions. Items of interest include jewellery, silver, paintings, books, furniture, works of art, clocks, rugs, ceramics, glass, whisky, arms and armour and Asian and sporting art.

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The children in their school uniforms with the Isle of Arran school badge.

om built at is proving n in Gambia

here is now a waiting list



Teaching the youngsters the English alphabet in the new classroom.

when children are seven. They are all proud of their school badge which includes the Isle of Arran name and logo.

As well as the new classroom the children were delighted that Maurice brought with him a wide selection of clothes and shoes which were donated by Alison Bilsland when the Brodick store closed.

'I can't thank Alison enough for her generosity,' Maurice said.

He has been doing volunteer work in the Gambia for 10 years and six years ago he

started his own educational-programme, funding remedial building works in some smaller schools, which had missed out on government funding.

Original

At the inspiration school, Maurice firstly did up the roof, the windows and the floor of the original school building

He then bought a plot of land nearby to build the new school and after a lengthy planning process the site was secured, the foundations dug and work started on the first classroom last year.

He added: 'I purchased the land out of my own money, but all work to date, including labour and materials was raised by the charity jar at the Seal Shore campsite reception, along with the odd barbeque.'

The work, now in its second year will take at least another year and will cost approximately £8,000.

'Of course any donations would be gratefully received and, because I'm directly involved and hands-on, I can guarantee that every penny goes to the nursery school,' he added.



pils at the school.



Maurice seen earlier in the project building the compound walls.

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Scavenger hunt is not just for eggs but for education as well



Some of the families who took part in the scavenger hunt.

Chance to learn about marine life

Dozens of children took part in a beach scavenger hunt held by the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) in Lamlash on Easter Saturday.

The event was to give youngsters and their

families the chance to learn more about the amazing marine life on the Arran shore.

But as well as having to find all the items on a list, there were also some surprise Easter eggs hidden in the undergrowth.



Youngsters scour the beach in search of clues.

Editorial vacancy

**THE ARRAN
BANNER**

The Arran Banner has a rare opening for a part time editorial assistant to join our small team based in our Brodick office.

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are essential as well as an interest in the wider community of Arran.

An interest in journalism and photography would be preferred but the position may also suit an experienced administrator used to handling a wide range of competing demands against tight deadlines and willing to learn new skills.

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Imagine a service that brings books, films and music to your door, then collects and replaces them every two weeks - and all free.

Sound good? Well Arran is fortunate to have just such a service in the shape of the mobile library.

The North Ayrshire Council van tours the whole island on a two-week long rota, and is well stocked with a constant rotation of music CDs, DVDs and of course every kind of book: novels, crime fiction, classics, books for young adults, books for kids, picture books for even smaller kids, talking books, books in large print and non fiction on a myriad of subjects.

Like Roald Dahl says, books transport you into new worlds and introduce you to amazing people, and you can travel all over the world while sitting in your living room (or bedroom, or garden, but preferably not your bath).

The timetable corresponds

with the pattern of waste collection. In a blue bin collection week the mobile library journeys clockwise round the north end on a Monday, and anticlockwise round the south end on Thursday.

Collection

In black bin collection weeks the mobile is in Kings Cross and Whiting Bay on Monday and Shiskine and Blackwaterfoot on Thursday.

Fridays see the van in Lamlash. If anyone is not sure where and when their nearest stop is, call the Arran branch library on 302835 to find out.

Librarian Elanor McNamara said: 'The mobile library is there for everybody.'

'You can join on board, just bring something which shows your address on it.'

'We look forward to seeing you.'



The mobile library awaiting customers in Lamlash.

Voyage of discovery to fight sea pollution



The crew aboard the eXXpedition boat.

The meeting of the Arran Natural History Society on Thursday 2 April began with the Society's AGM. The main part of the evening then got underway with Sue Weaver from Kildonan showing a film of her recent trans-Atlantic sailing expedition investigating the effects of plastic and toxic pollution in the seas and on the natural world. Sue discussed the implications of the project, called eXXpedition because of its focus on women's health, and answered questions from the packed room. This exciting and important film, which had its first showing at the Royal Geographical Society in London last month, begins with the initial planning of the project and the testing of the blood samples from the 14 women who made up the crew of Sea Dragon, the 72ft ocean exploration sailing yacht. The highs and lows of the voyage are vividly portrayed, the storms, the torn sails, the seasickness, the bonding of the

crew and the glorious sunsets. All the while the crew were sampling the ocean waters and analyzing the results for levels of plastic pollution. Sue described how the aim was to collect data on plastic and chemical pollution in the Atlantic with the ultimate goal of sharing this information to create awareness and knowledge. She told the audience: 'We're hoping to inspire change in the treatment of the seas. We also wanted to highlight how what is happening in our environment is having an impact on human health - particularly women's health and society. The motto of the trip 'making the seen unseen' couldn't be more appropriate considering the nature of many of the contaminants polluting the world's water systems.

'As well as large plastic litter and debris, estimates suggest that there are around 200,000-300,000 tonnes of microplastics (particles under

5 mm), in our seas, which can include the tiny plastic beads you can find in face washes to microscopic particles.

'Toxic chemicals find their way into waterways through land run-off, waste disposal and atmospheric deposition.

'Many chemicals have been linked to causing various life-threatening diseases in humans, including cancer, endocrine-disruption and infertility and remain persistent in the environment despite being banned in many countries.

'One of the reasons the crew on Sea Dragon were all female is that many female specific forms of cancer have been linked to over-exposure to such chemicals. Another reason was to create a platform specifically for female scientists, engineers, adventurers and campaigners to be seen and heard and especially to be seen as role-models for younger women,' she added.

At the end of the evening there was an enthusiastic debate about what everyone can do to reduce the amount of plastic entering the seas, and to reduce plastic's associated toxins from entering the body. Some of the suggestions were to avoid the use of plastic as much as possible, especially with plastic that comes into contact with food, to refuse plastic packaging as much as possible (inevitably so much of it ends up in the sea - even recycled stuff), and where possible to buy organic produce to reduce exposure to harmful pesticides and herbicides. Everyone can reduce their impact on what goes into the sea by using bio-degradable detergents and household cleaning products.

Those present agreed that it had been a most exciting and informative evening. AB



One of the beautiful sunsets seen during the voyage.



The craft in full sail on its trans-Atlantic crossing

WIN! WIN! WIN!

A meal for two at the Mishnish

To celebrate the Mull Music Festival, The Mishnish Hotel in Tobermory has teamed up with Wyvex Media to offer readers the chance to win a delicious three course meal for two people.

The Mishnish Hotel are delighted to be one of the festival venues hosting bands and sessions throughout the weekend, including performances from The Mad Ferret Band, amongst others. The Mad Ferrets are a Scottish duo from Perth, Scotland, known on the folk scene for their hard hitting blend of traditional and contemporary folk music. Their lively, energetic performances are packed with fast Mandolin solos, tight harmonies, driving Cajon beats and earth-moving Guitar sounds. The influence from both Scottish and Irish folk music has helped shape their unique sound.

01688 302500 www.themishnish.co.uk info@themishnish.co.uk

To enter the competition, simply answer the following question, complete the coupon and post it to: Mishnish Hotel Competition, Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Thursday 30th April 2015.

QUESTION: Which band will be performing at the Mishnish Hotel during Mull Music Festival?
A: Crazy Badger Band B: Mad Ferret Band C: Nutty Squirrel Band

Answer.....
 Name.....
 Address.....
 Tel.....Email.....



Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. The prize can be redeemed 7 days a week for lunch or dinner but must be pre-booked. Drinks are not included. The prize is valid throughout 2015. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. Winners with the correct answer will be chosen at random. Winners must be willing to take part in publicity and their name may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website.



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Largest group of wintering sea duck seen this century

March 2014 was a little colder and little windier than March 2013 with similar rainfall. It came in like the proverbial lion followed by a settled spell in the middle of the month but went out like a lion with no ferry sailings on the last day. 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.

The small numbers of returning gannet and lesser black-backed gull which had been reported in February built up during March with 70 gannet in Whiting Bay on 21st and 40 lesser black-backed gull at Kingscross on 27th.

As always the weather impacted on the arrival of the spring migrants. The settled spell towards the middle of the month saw the arrival of wheatear and chiffchaff. The first wheatear was reported at Drumadoon on 17th, eight days earlier than 2014 and only four days later than the earliest date recorded in 2005. The first chiffchaff was reported in Whiting Bay on 19th, four days earlier than 2014 and only two days later than the earliest date recorded in 2005. But there were only two records of wheatear and five of chiffchaff before the weather closed down. By the end of the month the bulk of our migrants was still anticipated. April should see the arrival of sand martin, white wagtail, swallow, willow warbler, sandwich tern, common sandpiper and cuckoo – all signs of the approaching summer. Look out for them.

In March our winter visitors were still to the fore including: 30 fieldfare in



Wheatear.....the first summer visitor. Photo: Carl Reavey



Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

MARCH

Scaup.....wintering sea duck largest Arran group seen this century.

Shiskine on 1st, a Green-shank at Clauchlands on 5th, 40 redwing in Glenree on 8th and four Rook in Kilpatrick on 30th. Wintering wild-fowl included: 16 wigeon at Machriewaterfoot on 10th, a brent goose at Feorline on 17th, 300 greylag geese in the Shiskine Valley on 27th and 19 white-fronted geese in the same area on 31st. Wintering sea duck included a long-tailed duck off Pirmill on 17th, five common scoter in Machrie Bay on 20th and seven scaup in Whiting Bay on 21st is the largest group reported this century.

In March there were many signs of the ongoing migration including increasing numbers of diver round the coast, for example, six great northern diver and four black-throated diver off Cosyden on 10th, 20 meadow pipit at Port na Lochan on 20th, a flock of 150 starling feeding on the kelp on Kilpatrick shore on 22nd and on 24th 15 pied wagtail in a garden in Kingscross. Other signs of migration in gardens were widespread reports of siskin sometimes accompanied by lesser redpoll and five yellowhammer in Shiskine on 21st. In addition a bar-tailed godwit, an uncommon passage migrant for Arran, was reported at Machriewaterfoot on 25th.



Bar-tailed Godwit....uncommon passage migrant.

Photo: Brian Couper

Other interesting records this month included: seven woodcock sitting on the Machrie Moor road in the evening of 4th, a puffin off the Craw on 7th, a coot and a jack snipe at Sliderry on 18th (the last record of coot on Arran was in June 2013), a kingfisher on Fisherman's Walk on 19th and two moorhen in Strabane on 27th. 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, with widespread reports of singing birds establishing breeding territories, golden eagle displaying over Lochranza on 1st, 62 courting eider off Machriewaterfoot on 10th, a pair of stonechat in Glen Rosa on 14th, 29 black guillemot in breeding plumage off the King's Cave on 17th, eight pairs of fulmar on the cliffs at Drumadoon on 20th, a pair of raven nesting by Brown Head on 23rd and common crossbill singing in High Kildonan on 24th.

I am interested in all records of arriving summer migrants and any signs of breeding birds, so please keep in touch. 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 jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you.

For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2014 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

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Fit and fab for summer

Shirley and Sarah are back for a 6 week blast before summer!

WHEN - Mondays at 7pm starting 20th April
WHERE - Arran High School dance studio
HOW MUCH - £20 for the 6 week session

Look forward to seeing you all!
Any queries please contact either
07710 530142 or 07795 567836

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 22 April, 1995

Hotel site discussed

The Whitehouse woods in Lamlash have been derelict for so long that villagers have largely given up hope that the area might ever be improved.

However the site of the former Whitehouse Hotel was discussed at a public seminar held this week in Brodick Library.

Closed as a hotel around 1979, it was sold by Finlay Henderson in January 1982 to Gio Benedetti, a wealthy businessman from West Kilbride, who had plans to re-open the hotel, build timeshares and then create a leisure centre, but his plans came to naught.

When it became badly vandalised he had it demolished and a visit to the site this week revealed the access road is muddy and overgrown and the pile of rubble that was the fine building is now overgrown with grass.

The meeting heard that since selling his business Mr Benedetti seldom visited Arran and spends much of his time at his house in France.

Councillor Tom Knox said: 'What we are trying to do is to bring public opinion to bear on him. We're not prepared to let him sit there and leave it as a dump.'

New moorings

Five blue moorings were put down in Brodick Bay on Tuesday and a similar number in Lochranza.

The moorings which were first proposed three years ago cost around £1,500 each.

They will be public moorings to which any visiting sailors can attach their boat free of charge, but they are not for long term mooring.

Maintained by the local authority, they will also appear in yachting brochures, unlike the majority of moorings in Lamlash Bay over

which still hangs the question of whether the owners may have to pay a rent to the Crown commissioners.

Beachgrove visit

Bill Torrance and the Beachgrove Garden team will visit Arran next week.

Contacted initially by Audrey Allsop of Sannox, the television programme sent over a production crew last week to look around.

Next week they will film at Brodick Castle on Tuesday, while on Wednesday they will visit two private gardens, that of Gwen Parkin of Rock Cottage in Corrie and Jenny Martin's Sannox garden at Glen Cottage.

We understand the programme will look at, and admire, these small gardens and that it is not the Hit Squad whose task it is to sort gardens out.

Family affair

When Jodi Keen appears on Brodick Hall stage at the end of May playing the leading lady role of Ensign Nellie Forbush in South Pacific, she will be joined by her real life son, Ian.

Only this week he stepped into the part of Emile de Becque's Polynesian child Jerome alongside Rachel Fieldhouse from Whiting Bay who plays N'gana. Originally the part of Jerome was to be taken by Robin Fisher, who is now unable to carry out the role.

However, unlike dark-haired Robin or Rachael, Ian will need his blonde hair tinted for authenticity but is undaunted by the prospect, being a real wee trooper, despite his tender years.

Keen, by both name and nature, Ian's a festival prizewinner who enjoys not only football but also tap-dancing and is off this weekend to Edinburgh to see the musical Soft Shoe Shuffle.



Owner Finlay Henderson in front of the Whitehouse Hotel in 1982. b16twe03



The Arran A team who contested the 1995 rugby sevens against 10 other teams and which was won by the Irish Crowbars. b16twe01



Jodi Keen and son Ian who are to perform together in South Pacific. b16twe05



Bonnets on show at the annual Easter Bonnet Parade at Brodick Castle. b16twe04

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Brewery
 Arran Brewery tour
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green
 Arran Heritage Museum

Saturday 18th April

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music
 Brodick Market
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Live Music with Scott MacDonald

Sunday 19th April

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 AA Meeting
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome

Monday 20th April

Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Yoga
 Circuit Training
 10/10 Total Body workout
 Citizens advice
 Lamlash Aerobix
 Sannox Cricket Club AGM
 Lunch club

Tuesday 21st April

Pop Quiz
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Garden Walk
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 RunArran
 Bridge for beginners
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Metafit
 Arran Civic Trust AGM
 Lamlash Moorings Association
 Alan Dickson of Rural Design Architects

Loch Garbad, bank & boat fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Monday - Sunday, 12.30 - 5pm
 2pm (limited spaces call for availability)
 Open all day
 Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am to 4.30pm

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 The Douglas Hotel, 9pm

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
 Arran High School Dance Studio, 7pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 7.30pm
 Brodick sheltered housing, 12.30pm

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Auchrannie 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
 NTS Ranger Centre, 2pm - 3pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm
 All Stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Arran high School, Lamlash, 6pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm
 Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash, 8pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30pm

Wednesday 22nd April

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 RunArran
 Yoga-Arran
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey
 Dog classes
 Knitting & Crochet drop in group
 Whiting Bay Music & Drama AGM
 Coffee Morning

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9am-10am
 Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 10.15 - 11.15am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
 Brodick Library, 4pm - 6pm
 Lesser Hall, Whiting Bay, 7.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 10.30am - 12noon

Thursday 23rd April

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Folky, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends
 Yoga
 Bridge Club
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Beginners
 Cardiac Rehab
 Body & Mind
 Country Park Volunteer Day
 QuiltArran
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Weighing in for Marys Meals
 Weighing in for Marys Meals
 Arran Bee Group AGM

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
 Auchrannie Car Park, Brodick, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6-7pm
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
 Auchrannie, 7pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 4pm - 4.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5.15pm - 5.45pm
 Rangers Centre, Brodick, 7pm

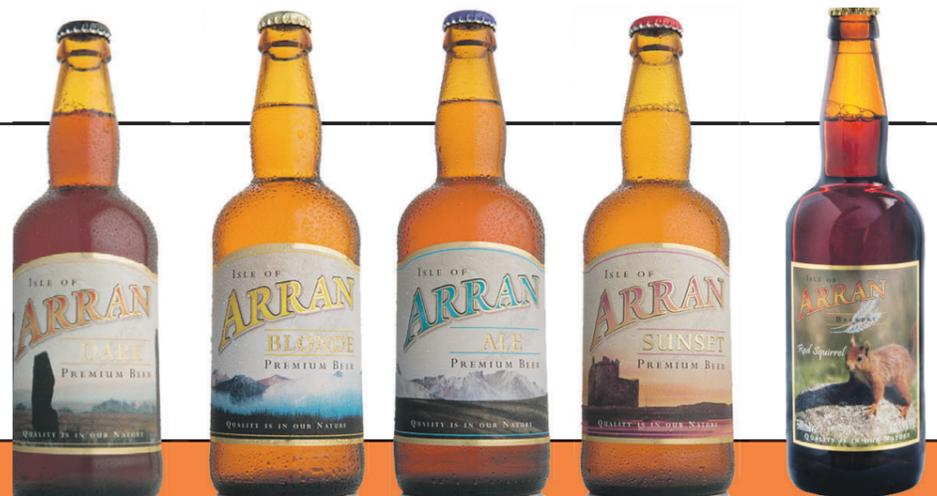
Friday 24th April

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Live music
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Family fun night
 Brodick Market
 AA Meeting
 Live music
 Tae Kwondo
 Arran Youth Foundations AGM
 Coffee Morning

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9am - 10am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 10.15 - 11.15am
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Golf Club 4.45pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm
 Arran high School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm -8.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 4.30pm
 Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 10.30am



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Email applications to Ljameson@paterson-arran.com or, apply in writing, including current salary details, to:

Lesley Jameson, Administration Manager,
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Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AR

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The Arran Bee Group AGM

is on the 23rd April at 7PM
at the Rangers Centre Brodick

BANNER BANNER
PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Notices

Whiting Bay Club of Music & Drama

The AGM of the above club will take place on Wednesday 22nd April at 7.30pm in Whiting Bay Lesser Hall.

The meeting is open to everyone, so please come along and help to keep the club going.

Arran Youth Foundations

AGM

in Brodick Church Hall

Friday 24th April 2015 at 4.30pm

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 9am - 4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk *and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 08.05.15. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)

15/00186/PP; Site To The West Of The Glades, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Section 42 application to amend wording of condition 2 of planning permission N/13/00710/PP.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

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The island GP surgeries will be
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Thursday 23rd April

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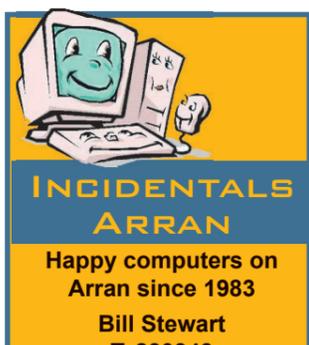
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UNDER £30

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- 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
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- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 19th April
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mrs Janis Gallagher.
Coffee after service.
Wednesday, 22nd April
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
ALL WELCOME.

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 19th April
Lochranza Church, 9.30am Morning Worship.
Pirmill Church, 10.45am Morning Worship.
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting
12noon Morning Worship.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 19th April
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Rev. Lily McKinnon
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 19th April
Morning Service, 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 22nd April
at 7pm
5 Glen Road
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 19th April
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Rev Charles Douglas

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number SC014005)
Sunday 19th April
Worship will be conducted by the minister
Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.
All welcome.
Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service and everyone is invited to stay and enjoy more fellowship afterwards.
There will be a range of Traidcraft goods available for sale..

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7.30pm
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 19th April
11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea and Coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30pm
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no 600222
Everyone warmly invited

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

BIRTH



FITZPATRICK

To Ross Fitzpatrick & Elaine Brown
a son Euan, Harry on 22nd March.
First Grandchild for John & Jean, Slidery & Seventh Great Grandchild for Margaret (G.G), Kilmory. All doing well.

DEATH

ADAMSON - Robert Cooper. Peacefully at Cooriedoon Nursing Home on Tuesday, 7th April 2015, Robert, aged 95 years, beloved husband of the late Joyce, father of Ian and Sandra and grandfather to the family. Funeral service in Kilmory Church on Friday, 24th April at 12 noon followed by interment to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited.



Golf

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 2 April, Summer Cup. 1 Scott Campbell 80-17=63 BIH, 2 Paul Jameson 74-11=63, 3 Norrie MacIntyre 72-8=64. Scratch Dougie MacFarlane 67. Magic two Dougie Macfarlane at the 17th Saturday 4 April, Glenisle Mixed Fours.
1 David and Shoina Nicol 76-14.5=61.5, 2 Graeme and Lesley Handley 77-11.5=65.5, 3 Alistair Crawford and Irma Brown 90-19.5=70.5. Magic twos Alan Smith and Sherie Walker at the 16th, Jim Brown and Val Crawford at the 16th.

Sunday 5 April, Texas Scramble. 1 June Richardson, Iain Murchie, Matt Harvey and Billy O'Connor 57-7.5=49.5, 2 Lesley, Graeme, SamHandley and Alastair Chalmers 56-6=50, 3 Mark and Rachel Wren, Ian Bremner and Alastair Crawford 56-5.7=50.3.

Thursday 9 April, Summer Cup. 1 Iain Murchie 66-4=62, 2 Dougie MacFarlane 64-0=64, 3 Alan Short 76-11=65 BIH. Scratch Dougie Macfarlane 64. Magic twos Iain Murchie, Todd Jameson, Graeme Handley, Iain Parker, Jim Young and Alan Colquhoun.

Sunday 12 April, Carpenter Rosebowl. 1 Ian Bremner 73-6=67, 2 Iain Murchie 73-4=69. Scratch Ian Bremner 73 BIH. Magic twos Ian Bremner at the 12th, IainMurchie at the 5th. Congratulations to Ian Bremner on the first trophy of the season.
Ladies section: Wednesday 8 April, medal, 13 played, CSS 65. 1 Yvonne Brothers

DEATH

PARKIN - Allan. Much-loved husband of the late Gwen, father of David and Ian, former dental surgeon for the Isle of Arran and long-term resident of Corrie, died peacefully at Brechin Angus Weds 8 April .Funeral at Friockheim Mon 13 April and ashes to be interred at Sannox at a later date.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

We will be celebrating the life of **Betty Green**, better known as "**Moth**", at Brodick Cemetery at 11:30 on Wednesday 22nd April, followed by a wee party at Belvedere. All who knew her will be welcome at either. Please wear bright colours!

Chris & Jan Atkins thank all the wonderful staff at Arran War Memorial Hospital for their compassionate care for Moth and our family.

77(18)59, 2 Rachel Wren 86(21)65, 3 Sheena Murchie 84(14)70. Scratch Yvonne Brothers 77.

Fixtures: Sunday 19 April, Hugh Hutchinson Greensome, draw at 11am, tee off 11.30am. Please note only one tee time.

Shiskine Golf Club

Wednesday 8 April, Daniel Ferguson Trophy, 18 played, CSS 41. 1st Class: 1 G Andrew 49-6=43 BIH, 2 B Sherwood 49-6=43 BIH, 3 D Tod 46-3=43.

Scratch: D Tod 46. 2nd Class: 1 W McNally 51-13=38, 2 B Brooks 48-8=40 BIH, 3 J Salton 48-8=40. Magic twos: D Tod, W McNally, W Kelso and J Salton x 2. Well done to Willie McNally for winning Daniel Ferguson Trophy.

Thursday 9 April, ladies 12-hole medal, 14 played, CSS 45. Silver: 1 Rion Culpnan 58-10=48 BIH, 2 Jenni Turnbull 56-8=48. Scratch: Jenni Turnbull 56. Bronze: 1 Lesley Murray 61-15=46, 2 Piet Johnson 62-14=48. Well done Lesley.

Sunday 12 April, gents 18 hole medal, nine played. 1 Willie McNally 83-20=63, 2 Jack McNally 81-16=65 BIH, 3 and scratch: Tom Gowan 72-7=65. Magic two from Tom Gowan at the 7th.

Fixtures: Sunday 19 April, gents, AGA Arran Grouse Foursomes qualifier, 1pm tee off.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 8 April, Summer Cup, 41 played, CSS 65. 1 A Raeburn 74(13)61,

2 I Pittman 77(13)64 BIH, 3 B Smith 76(12)64. Scratch E McKinnon 70. Magic twos from Jim Reid, Douglas Robertson and Stan Brothers.

Sunday 12 April, British Legion 36-hole Medal, nine played, CSS 67 (both rounds).

The only 36-hole competition at the club to be played in the one day was played through wildly varying weather, from heavy rain in the morning to hail showers and bright sunshine later in the day. Congratulations to all the competitors, who refused to surrender, and completed the 36 holes. Winner Gordon Hendry (6)134, runner up : Brian Smith (11) 137.



Willie McNally slips on the coveted green jacket by winning the Daniel Ferguson Trophy at Shiskine.

Fixtures: Sunday 19 April, British Legion Cup (18 holes Stableford), draw will be made 12noon on Saturday 18. Sunday 26 April, Belhaven Medal. Don't forget the annual match versus Shiskine, to held at Brodick this year on Friday 24 April, teeing off from 5pm onwards. Names on the sheet in the clubhouse please.

Ladies: Coronation Foursomes, 1 Susan Butchard and Isobel MacDonald, 35pts, 2 Yvonne Brothers and Heather Raeside, 29pts
Fixture: Tuesday 21 April, Stableford and nine hole Medal.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Congratulations to Jean Davidson who is Winter Goler of the year following her stellar performances in the 2014 -2015 Winter Sweep. A winner on no less than three separate occasions, twice with 41 points, Jean's winter handicap plummeted by three strokes over the cold wet season. Well done Jean.

Wednesday 8 April, 20 played in the first round of this year's Summer Trophy.

The CSS rose to 64 and continuing their fine run of form, weekend winner Ronnie Mann and runner up Stan Rainey swapped places as Stan cruised to a winning score of 61. Ronnie came in second on 63 with Wolfi Kroner in third place on 64. Danny Head, with a fourth

placed 65, had the best gross score of 71.

The only magic two of the day came from Stan Rainey on the 7th.

Fixtures: Sunday 19 April, Tor Alvey Greensome, postponed from 12 April. One draw at 10am for partners. Wednesday 22 April, Summer Trophy, played throughout the day with an evening draw at 5.30pm. Sunday 26 April, Wolfi and Gege Stableford, rolling starts from 10am.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday 8 April, Wednesday medal, sweep. 1 M McDonald 77-20=57, 2 J McGovern 72-11=61, 3 P Motlek 90-27=63. Best scratch J McGovern 72. Magic two pot not won.

Saturday 11 April, sweep, eight played, non-counter for handicap. 1 M McDonald 43+39=82-18=64, 2 E McKinnon 32+33=65+2=67. Best scratch E McKinnon. Magic twos A McDonald at the 10th, J McGovern at the 17th, E McKinnon at the 9th.

Fixtures: Saturday 18 April, Grouse qualifier and Leatherby (pairs). 8.30am and 1pm start times.

Machrie Golf Club

Tuesday 7 April, first round Peter Sutton/Lady Mary, 15 played. 1 Phil Betley 78-16=62, 2 David Price 79-13=66, 3 Campbell Laing BIH 87-19= 68.

Runners are ready for relay

Arran runners will be joining the The Stocksfield Striders on their now annual Round Arran Relay on Saturday 25 April. The Striders from Northumberland are a running group like RunArran with mixed abilities. Everyone runs at their own pace, no one is left behind and participants can run as long or as short a distance as they like.

Give them a toot

The start is at the Corrie Hotel at 8am and they will first head north as they run round the island finishing about 6pm. So if you see them give them a toot.

Drinks and food will be enjoyed at the Corrie Hotel by those taking part in the evening.

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Jack Barbour on the attack.
20_b16rugby02



Arran 35 Bishopton 0

On a beautiful crisp spring day and on a pitch just made for running rugby, Arran took full advantage to play as well as they have all season, writes *Bill McLaughlin*.

They scored five tries all converted by Lachie Jones, to run up a final score of 35-0. Lachie, on this form, manages to turn place kicking into an art form. He is, of course, an outrageously talented player but very rarely achieves his full potential due, mainly, to a tendency to forget the basic tactics of the game. How often this season have we seen him use his mighty

kicking from hand to give possession away to teams who were unable to secure it for themselves?

This all changed on Saturday. His kicking from hand with the wind was immaculate, frequently bouncing in the field of play, only a yard from touch before skipping joyfully over the line for a gain of 40 to 50 yards.

Against the wind he altered his system, lowering the trajectory and frequently the angle to gain as much yardage as possible for the team.

But, enough of the tactics. Arran hadn't a failure. Scott Currie at scrum half was

getting the ball away instantly, fast and accurately.

The centres, Kyle and Jack Barbour were a constant threat with Jack, plainly revelling in the firm under foot conditions, treating the crowd to an exhibition of his mastery of the sidestep. The wings, unfortunately, saw little of the ball.

Another notable performance was from Frazer Barr at full back. His fielding was perfect, kicking accurate and he chose the right occasions to utilise his speed to regenerate attacks.

The forwards supplied both themselves and the backs well with Iain Bayne

displaying yet again his mastery of the art of remaining steady in the air at the lineout and giving his scrum half good ball. Jamie Picken was, well, just Jamie Picken, an object lesson in loose forward play.

The other forwards played to their best form with all of them showing their usual appetite for tackling especially in midfield so that, in the second half even with the wind behind them, Bishopton rarely crossed the halfway line.

And what of the tries? Lachie scored the first after only four minutes and Jack Barbour added one so that half time arrived with the score Arran 14 Bishopton 0.

After the interval, Kyle Barbour, not to be outdone by his sibling, popped one down and that try scoring machine, Stuart McMaster, twice used his party piece - going over for a try with three or four of the opposition hanging on to him. Happy days indeed.

The result of all this is that Arran remain second in the league, occupying one of the two promotion spots but

the gap between them and leaders Cumnock has been narrowed from nine to five points as Cumnock lost their midweek fixture and as the five tries scored gained the team a bonus point with Arran having a game in hand.

If Arran's top players continue to make themselves available and further bonus points are gained, winning the league is not beyond the bounds of possibility.

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