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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 25 APRIL 2015 No 2009 60p

Howard takes gold as first Scot to win top US prize

Global recognition for all Arran's marine volunteers

REPORT
by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

An Arran diver, who has won one of the world's most prestigious environmental awards, has vowed to plough the prize money back into his pioneering work in safeguarding marine life.

The success of Howard Wood has been all over the TV, radio and national newspapers since he was named Scotland's first ever recipient of a Goldman Environmental Prize in the United States.

The award is in recognition of his work, campaigning to set up the country's first no

take zone and spearheading the drive that established the first community developed Marine Protected Area in Scotland, giving citizens a voice in a debate that has been dominated by the commercial fishing industry.

The 60-year-old chairman and co-founder of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) has spent 20 years working to reverse the effects dredging is having on the seabed, and allowing it to recover.

The award comes with a substantial \$175,000 (£118,000) in prize money, the largest for grassroots environmentalists, and is only the second time it



Howard, far left, with the other worldwide winners of this year's awards. Photos: Goldman Environmental Prize

has been awarded to someone in the UK since it began in 1990.

Howard received the award at a ceremony attended by more than 3,500 people at the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House on Monday

It was followed by a second ceremony in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington DC on Wednesday where Howard had the chance to meet US Congressmen.

Howard had been sworn to secrecy ahead of the ceremony but spoke to The Banner before flying to the states.

He said: 'I'm delighted. This is global recognition for everything marine volunteers on Arran have been working for.'

And he vowed the prize

money would be ploughed back into the vital on-going work of COAST and said the award would open doors to other funding which, he hoped, could double the

amount. The Goldman Prize recognises fearless grassroots activists working against all odds to protect the environment and their communities.

Another of the winners, Jean Wiener from Haiti, also received the award for establishing the nation's first marine protected area.

*Full story pages 4 and 5



Howard receives his Ouroboros statuette.

Arran 10k road raced cancelled

The Isle of Arran 10K road race has been cancelled because of safety concerns.

Organisers said a number of factors had combined to force them to cancel the event due to be held tomorrow (Sunday).

The news is a big disappointment to the dozens of runners on Arran who were expecting to take part. The race also attracts a number of participants from the mainland, many of whom return every year.

There had been high hopes that this year's race would beat the entry of 69 runners last year.

Previously known as the Ormidale 10K, it is organised by Arran Runners and has

been run for nearly 30 years.

Paul Emsley of Arran Runners said: 'We are extremely disappointed but the principal problem is a shortage of manpower to conduct the event safely, and we just can't take the risk with runners on the main road.'

He said the stewarding along the route would have been adequate but they just didn't have the resources to cover the turnaround at Merkland Point.

However, he vowed that the race would be back next year but said the runners' main focus this year was to successfully hold the Goatfell Hill Race next month.



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At the hustings . . . At the hustings . . . At the hustings . . .



Candidate tells Prime Minister that the centre-right voice will be heard

Jamie Greene, Conservative candidate for North Ayrshire and Arran, met Prime Minister David Cameron and Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson at the launch of the Scottish Conservatives' manifesto.

The event, held at the Emirates Stadium in Glasgow's east end, was packed full of

party activists and journalists.

Announcing a pledge to create 10 thousand more apprenticeships and to introduce 1,000 more nurses in Scotland, the overarching message was simple - the Conservatives will never do a deal with a party which wants to break up Britain. The collapse of Labour in Scotland means that Ed Miliband will need SNP support to get into Number 10.

Mr Cameron said: 'You have a weak Labour Party, who want more spending, more borrowing, more debt and more taxes and the people who will prop them up, the SNP - who want even more spending, more borrowing, more debt and more taxes. Together, they pose a clear threat to the future of our United Kingdom. A coalition of chaos.'

Ruth Davidson added: 'We're a party on the up. We're a party that's serious about Scotland with a plan

that's onside with the quiet majority. Our opponents better be looking over their shoulders, because we are coming for the SNP and for Labour. The only wasted vote - is a vote you don't believe in.'

Jamie was pictured alongside the Prime Minister as they discussed the election in North Ayrshire and Arran. Mr Greene told the Prime Minister: 'It used to be a two-horse race in my constituency but in a recent by-election the Labour vote halved and there was a swing from the SNP to the Conservatives. I assure you that the voice of the centre-right will be heard and I am very honoured to ensure those voters are heard.'



Voting SNP will benefit Scotland's older people

SNP candidate for North Ayrshire and Arran Patricia Gibson has highlighted the benefits of voting SNP to older people. The SNP has published a

downloadable Pensioner's Pack which contains information highlighting the plan to deliver a better deal, including:

*Retention of the triple lock to ensure that the state pension increases every year either by inflation, average earnings or 2.5% - whichever is higher.

*A single tier pension rate of at least £160 to lift pensioners out of means tested benefits.

*A guarantee that there should be no further increase in the state pension age in Scotland whilst life expectancy still lags behind the rest of the UK and Europe.

*A pledge that the SNP will oppose any attempts to end the Winter Fuel Allowance which so many pensioners rely on.

Patricia said: 'With the general election just over two weeks away, more and more older people are putting their trust in the SNP to make Scotland's voice heard at Westminster and deliver for our pensioners.'

'SNP MPs will push Westminster to retain the triple lock on pensions - meaning our older people benefit from real increases at a time when so many are struggling with the cost of living. We will also continue to make the case for a single tier pension rate of at least £160 a week to ensure pensioners are no longer subjected to the scourge of means-tested benefits.'

'The Tory/Lib Dem government's plan to further increase the state pension age is a worry to people across the UK and the failure to take Scotland's specific circumstances into account is particularly unfair.'

'Our comparatively low life expectancy is an issue we are working to change. In the meantime it is completely unacceptable for people in Scotland who have paid in to a state pension all of their lives to lose out. That is why SNP MPs will reject plans for a further increase in the state pension age.'

'Our pensioners have contributed hugely to society and in return are entitled to a fair deal in their retirement.'

'A strong team of SNP MPs at Westminster will fight for Scotland's older people'



Katy is 'the kind of radical we need' says Tom Watson on campaign visit

Labour candidate for North Ayrshire and Arran Katy Clark was this week joined on the campaign trail by Tom Watson, MP for West Bromwich East.

A senior figure in the UK Labour party, Mr Watson has often spoken out about corruption and dodgy practices at Westminster.

Mr Watson said: 'Katy has a radical record of standing up to anyone to secure the interests of people in her constituency and across the country.'

'From exposing tax avoiders at the top of society, to fighting the Coalition's welfare cuts that have made life a misery for many vulnerable people, Katy represents a tradition in Labour that is more important than ever.'

'We need people like Katy in parliament and I hope voters back Katy regardless of their view of the Labour leadership.'

Ms Clark said: 'I was delighted to be joined by Tom Watson, and I hope people in North Ayrshire will give me their support so I can continue to stand with him and others in Parliament to fight for a radical Labour agenda to achieve social justice.'

Tom was visiting North Ayrshire ahead of a visit from Len McCluskey, general secretary of the UK's largest union Unite later in the week.

Katy has secured the support of a large number of trade unions including Unite, Unison and GMB who are affiliated to the Labour Party, as well as unions that are not affiliated to the Labour party, such as the Yes-supporting rail-workers' union, RMT, and the Fire Brigades Union.

General Election
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Charity finds loving home for elderly Bruce

An elderly dog will see out the rest of its years with an retired lady on Arran.

A new charity has been set up with the aim of finding new homes for older dogs whose owners can no longer keep them.

And for the first time a home has been found for one of the dogs on Arran.

Now golden retriever Bruce is settling into his new life on the island.

He had been with his dad since he was a pup but, as dad got older, dementia started to creep in. His previous owner then had a bad fall and landed in hospital and it didn't look

like he was going to get home again.

All this was bad news for 12 year old Bruce. He ended up in kennels and the extended family approached the 'Give a Dog a Bone... and an animal a home' charity to ask if they could find Bruce a new future.

The perfect match was found within 48 hours, in Eleanor Hamilton, a sprightly 70-year-old who lives in the Glen Estate in Brodick.

Perfect match

Charity founder Louise Russell said: 'Eleanor was the perfect match in many ways. Bruce was used to being the sole animal companion for an older person and, being an older dog, Bruce needed someone who would be happy to go at his pace. Also, most dogs would dream of retiring on the Isle of Arran.'

'Eleanor has spent a life time helping dogs in need and, prior to finding Bruce, she was feeling a bit low. In the weeks that they've been together since, Eleanor has a new found spring in her step and it's like Eleanor and Bruce were meant to be.'

Eleanor said: 'I am delighted to have been able to give Bruce a home and the two of us continue to delight each

other. He swims every day and is enjoying this good weather - such a friendly dog to everyone. He continues to go to old folks homes and they love him. Weight slowly dropping down. The walks are good for him. He is an utter blessing and I look forward to us seeing out our old age together.'

'Give a Dog a Bone... and an animal a home' is a 17-month-old charity based in East Renfrewshire. It was set up by working mum of two Louise Russell with the specific aims of tackling loneliness in old age, and the rising number of animals in shelter, by bringing the two groups together.

Since November 2013, the charity has supported more than 50 rescue cats and dogs in various ways. If you are over 60, and finance is a genuine barrier to adopting a rescue pet companion, the charity can pay the rehoming fee and continue support on a monthly basis with the cost of pet food.

'Give a Dog a Bone... and an animal a home' exists to help the most vulnerable in life. If you want to find our more or think you can help visit their website www.giveadogabone.net



Bruce with new owner Eleanor and charity founder Louise. 20_b16dog01

... and new homes sought for cats

Homes are urgently being sought for two female cats.

Owners are being sought for the cats by the Isle of Arran branch of Cat Protection. They are one and two years old and the branch will vaccinate, microchip and neuter them. No adoption fee is payable. Anyone interested should telephone 820611.



One of the two cats looking for a home.

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Timber talks at Brodick meeting

The next meeting of Arran Community Council will take place on Tuesday 28 April at 6pm at Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.

The main item will be the rescheduled presentation from the Forestry Commission providing an update on their activities and options related to the extraction of timber from the west coast forests.

This includes the proposed timber transfer station at Machrie and a number of residents from the village are expected to attend the meeting.

We will also receive updates covering the ferries, the proposed road works scheduled for the coming year and other topics of interest to the island.

The meeting is open to the public and any interested residents are welcome to attend.

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How modest Howard an international environmental champion for his town

'This award is an honour for Arran'

Devotion dating more than 20 years to helping the marine environment has led to worldwide recognition for a modest Arran man.

Diver Howard Wood, who is the chairman of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) has received the Goldman Environmental Prize for Europe for his work promoting the sustainable management of the seas around Arran

This is the first time Scotland has received an award and only the second time it has come to the UK.

The top US award comes with a prize of \$175,000 dollars (£118,000) which will be ploughed back in to the vital ongoing work of COAST.

Campaigned

The group campaigned successfully to establish a no-take zone in Lamash Bay in 2008 and last year convinced the Scottish government to set up a Marine Protected Area, MPA, in the South Arran sea.

Sixty-year-old Howard said the award had left him gobsmacked. It came in a phone call from the San Francisco offices of the Goldman Foundation, although unbeknown

to Howard they had been secretly vetting him for months.

'It came completely out of the blue, I thought it was a hoax and it took a while to realise what was actually happening.'

Howard was chosen as the recipient out of 30 candidates across Europe.

He said: 'The prize is huge in America, but it is not so well known over here.'

TV companies in the States covered the award ceremony held in the San Francisco Opera House on Monday night where Howard accepted his award in front of a crowd of 3,500.

In an interview with The Banner, before he left, Howard admitted he was a 'little nervous' at the prospect of speaking to such a large crowd.

'I am more used to speaking to a hall of 20 people rather than 3,500 and a TV audience as well.'

He said he had only been slightly aware of the prize as in the early days the co-founder of COAST Don MacNeish had developed relations Dr Bill Ballantine in New Zealand, who set up the first ever no take zone, and who came

to Arran on two occasions. He was a previous winner of the prize.

Howard also said the foundation prize also opened doors to other funding and he hoped to double the prizemoney which will all be used on COAST projects.

He said: 'I see the prize as being an opportunity not only to promote COAST on an international stage but Arran in a wider sense as well in term of tourism and the economy.'

A US film crew spent a week on Arran ahead of the awards and the resulting film has been narrated than none other than Robert Redford.

While the prizemoney will not be used for a single project Howard said he hoped it may go some way towards COAST's long term aim of creating a small marine interpretation centre to attract visitors and also be used by university researchers studying marine life.

'That,' he admitted, 'may be some way away but if you don't have plans for the future nothing ever gets done.'

He said when COAST began it was made up of divers and sea anglers.

'Now we have a wide volunteer base and the great thing about COAST is that it has always been community led. This is a strength we have when we are speaking to government and policy makers.'

'Having the backing of local people, that is our strength and without it we would have long been ignored.'

Honour

'This award, while it has been given to me, is an honour for Arran and for the all the people who have backed COAST in the last 20 years.'

Howard is working with other coastal communities in Scotland to develop proposals similar to that of Arran and promote sustainable marine management policies that will allow fishing communities to keep their culture and livelihoods for generations to come.

'Across Britain COAST is looked at as the exemplar and community groups from places like the Fair Isle, Wester Ross and the Morven Peninsula have all come to us for help in setting up no-take zones. But we don't want to tell them what to do, just inspire them,' he said.

However, Howard is a re-



Howard with COAST co-founder Don MacNeish with the No Take Zone behind them.



The staff and volunteers

Howard became environmental fireless work

- Howard Wood

alist and admitted: 'I know there are plenty of battles still ahead.'

He said the present management proposals by the Scottish government for the South Arran MPA were at present 'completely unacceptable' as 70 per cent of the MPA still allowed scallop dredging which has led COAST to back the 'Don't take the P out of the MPA' campaign.

He said there had to be 'effective and adequate' fisheries management which would encourage sea anglers and marine tourism.

'We have to get the level of exploitation down and stop the damage being done to the fishing habitats, or there will be no future for fishing for the generations coming after us.'

Howard was a teenager when his family moved back to the Isle of Arran, where his father spent much of his youth. He eventually took over the family plant nursery and built a garden centre. However during his free time he would go diving in the local waters, marvelling at the sea life below. Through the course of hundreds of dives a year, he witnessed firsthand the de-

struction of marine wildlife brought on by irresponsible fishing practices.

In 1989, his good friend and diving buddy, Don MacNeish came back from New Zealand enthused about the marine protected areas he had seen there. He and Howard determined that they would try and get similar areas of marine conservation established around Arran.

In 1995, with no funding, other than out of their own pockets, they established COAST, a citizen group of volunteer activists committed to protecting the local marine environment.

While he had no formal training as an environmental activist he understood his responsibility as a member of the tight-knit community in Arran to protect and attempt to restore a resource that had been a source of cultural identity - and economic sustainability - for the people on the island.

Howard set out to champion sustainable management of marine resources for the benefit of all, but faced an uphill fight against a deeply entrenched history of poor

marine management with de-facto control belonging to just one sector of the commercial fishing industry.

It is a fight he continues to this day and which has now been recognised by this distinguished award.

About the prize

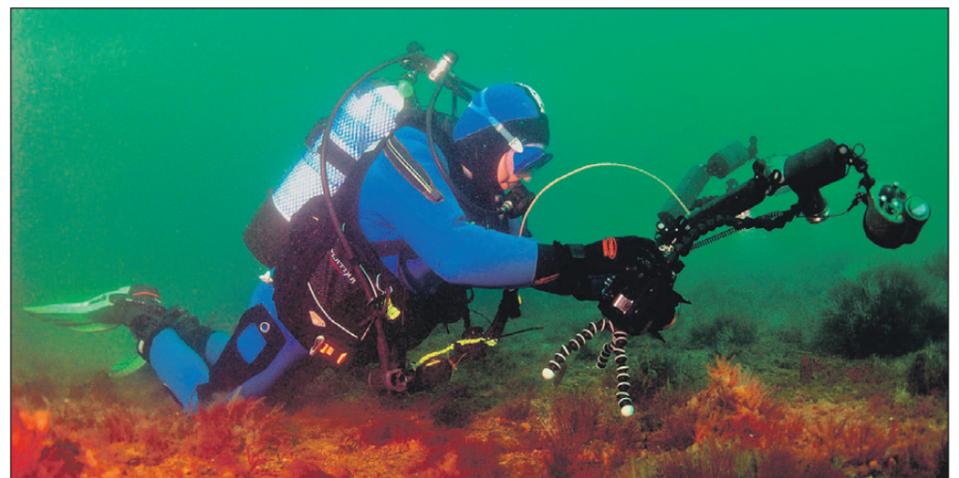
The Goldman Environmental Prize honours and recognizes individuals struggling to win environmental victories against the odds and inspires ordinary people to take extraordinary actions to protect the world's natural resources.

The prize was created in 1989 by civic leaders and philanthropists Richard N Goldman and his wife, Rhoda H Goldman.

Winners are selected by an international jury from confidential nominations submitted by a worldwide network of environmental organizations and individuals. Prize winners participate in a 10-day tour of San Francisco and Washington DC for an awards ceremony and presentation, news conferences, media briefings, and meetings with political, public policy and environmental leaders. Learn more at www.goldman-prize.org.



Howard at the No Take Zone in Lamlash. 20_b17coast01



Howard diving in the waters off Arran. Photo: Angus Robson



Members of COAST.



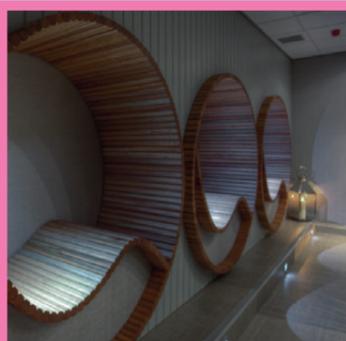
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Summer sports are back

Aspiring Andy Murrays and Alex Marshalls can once again brush up skills on the tennis court or bowling green.

Yes, summer is officially here, and from Monday 27 April Brodick Bowling Green and Tennis Courts are back in action.

Open from 10.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Saturday, these facilities in the centre of Brodick are open to the public. Racquets and balls, or bowls, are available for all ages, the only requirement is flat shoes or trainers. Charges are very reasonable.

If you would like to try out bowling, Brodick Bowling Club invite you to any of their rink games – Mondays and Wednesdays at 6.45pm or Saturdays at 2pm - when members will be very willing to explain the basics of the game and encourage you to learn how to enjoy this sport.

The club has its opening day today (Saturday) at 2pm and would be delighted to see any former bowlers coming along to join them.

St Brides' Church to hold classical guitar concert

St Brides' Church on the Knowe Road in Brodick has played host to a number of musical events of late. Most recently, last June, the Edinburgh University String Orchestra asked if they could perform a programme in the church, which was very well attended.

Masterly exposition

In February of this year four student saxophonists from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland sought out the church as a venue for a masterly exposition of their art, which brought a large and appreciative audience.

Now two other students from the Royal Conservatoire, Nestor Beveridge and Jamie Torrance, have added

Brodick Church to their five venue tour – St Mary's Cathedral Edinburgh, The Steeple Church Dundee, St Matthew's Church Perth and St Mary's Cathedral Aberdeen being the others – for a classical guitar concert.

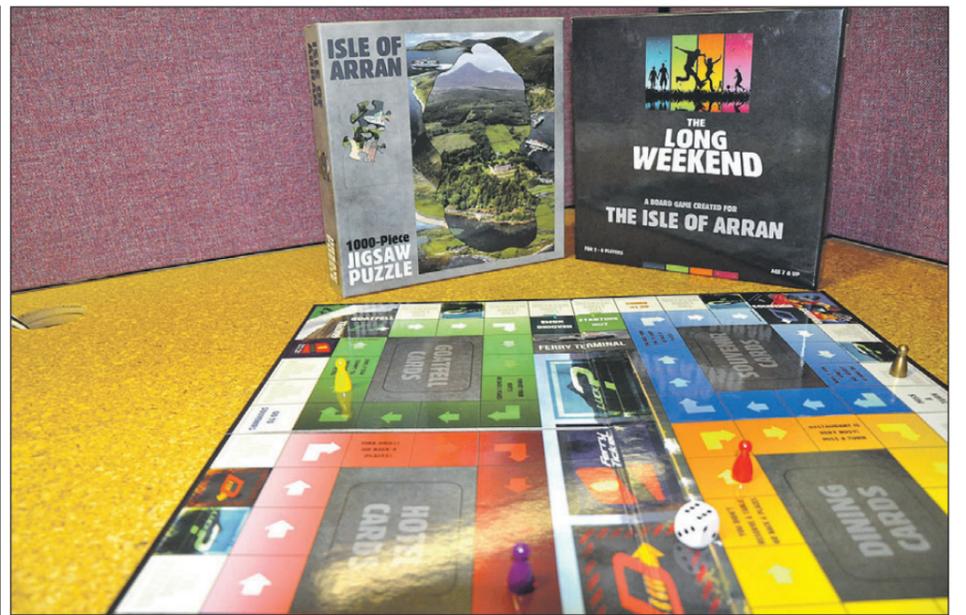
The talented duo, Nestor is 18 and Jamie is 19, have been playing with the National Youth Guitar Ensemble for a number of years.

The hour and a half programme (including interval) will have wide appeal including works by Bach, Giuliani, Villa Lobos and Torroba.

The concert will take place on Tuesday 28 April at 7.30pm. Tickets are on sale at the Book and Card Centre in Brodick, or £5 at the door.



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The new Arran jigsaw and The Long Weekend board game. 20_b17games01

New Arran themed games are not just child's play

Looking to keep the kids amused on those rare days when it rains? Well, two new games with an Arran theme have just been launched on the island.

They are an Arran jigsaw puzzle and a board game going by the name of The Long Weekend.

They are the latest products of Arran Graphics, makers

of the hugely popular Arran Monopoly, which sadly is no longer available.

Created

The Arran jigsaw puzzle has been created from a montage of Arran images, mostly aerial, with one central photo of showing Brodick Castle and Goatfell within an Arran shaped-outline. It also includes a poster.

With 1,000 green-looking pieces, the puzzle will certainly prove a challenge. It retails for £15.

The Long Weekend board game, like the jigsaw, has been produced to a high standard and quality in China, as owner Graham Chappell says he just couldn't get the same quality of product for the price in this country.

The concept for the game is that players must collect what is necessary for a long weekend on Arran. This includes meals, hotel stays, a walk up Goatfell and collecting souvenirs. Once they have all these, and a ferry ticket, they rush to the ferry to win the game.

Devious ways

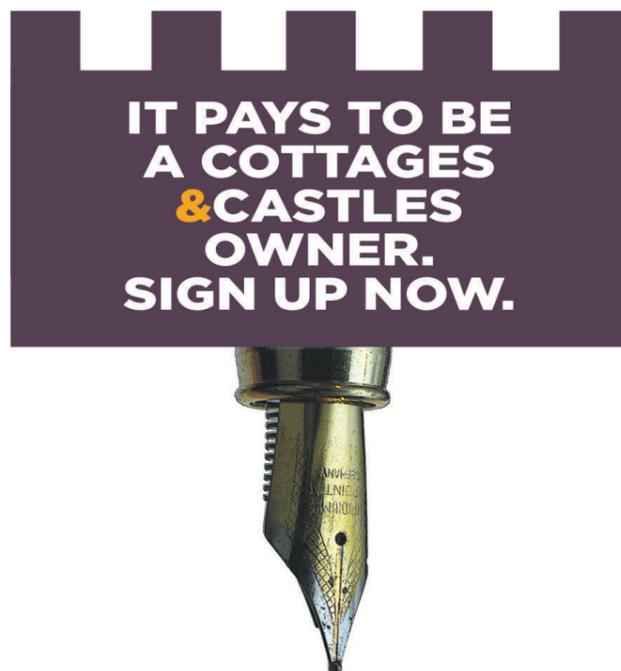
It can be played by two to six players and there are devious ways to delay your opponents by forcing them to go on a 'diversion' and whilst aimed ideally at children aged from seven to 16, the gameplay means that adults should enjoy playing it too. It retails for £20.

Graham said: 'We think both games should prove popular and our long term hope is to tempt other islands to have their own versions of both these new products.'

Both games are now available only at the Arran Graphics shop at Brodick Pier or from the website: www.arrangraphicsonline.com

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It pays to advertise in the Arran Banner

Eddi Reader joins jazz orchestra in Lamlash

This summer, the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra (SNJO) celebrates its 20th anniversary in style with their special guest Eddi Reader.

They will be touring together with their newly arranged song-suite *Alba: Songs of Scotland to Scotland's island communities*.

The show is an intriguing collaboration of Eddi's inimitable voice with the wonderful depth of big band sound from Scotland's National

Jazz Orchestra led by director Tommy Smith and will be performed in Lamlash on Thursday 11 June.

The music and song of *Alba* naturally stirs strong and mixed emotions informed by history, identity and political ideas. It seems timely and fitting that they should now be explored by two of Scotland's most passionate and eminent musical ambassadors.

For two decades, Tommy Smith has led the SNJO

through many challenges, and his efforts have placed Scotland on the world map of jazz. Eddi is, of course, one of the nation's best loved singers, but she's also enthralled audiences worldwide and carried with her the spirit of modern Scotland.

Together, they've chosen for *Alba: Songs of Scotland* a wonderful selection of popular airs, ballads and original music designed to fire the Scottish musical imagination. Many tell the story of love in its many forms: from the devotional and the poetic to the mystical and the fierce. It's evoked strongly in the Gaelic of *An Ataireachd Ard* (the high surge of the sea), reflectively in a *Glen of Tranquility* and affectingly in the lilting *Loch Tay Boat Song*.

Alba would be incomplete without reference to Robert Burns. He was indisputably a love poet with few peers, and Eddi is an admired interpreter of his work. Her performances with the SNJO are certain to capture the intensity of Burns' lyrical ardour



Eddi Reader to perform in Lamlash.

in famous pieces such as *Ae Fond Kiss* and *John Anderson My Jo*.

Eddi Reader tends to sing truthfully and from the heart, with strong emotions tempered by understanding and self-knowledge. This fascinating partnership with the SNJO is a compelling

journey through Scotland's collective memory with the promise of vivid, vibrant and inspiring music. *Alba: Songs of Scotland* is at the Arran Community Theatre, Lamlash on Thursday 11 June at 8pm. Tickets online at www.snjo.co.uk or from the Book and Card Centre, Brodick.



Members of the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra.

RNLI to hold coffee morning

The local branch of the RNLI is holding a coffee morning at Ormidale pavilion, Brodick, on Saturday 2 May from 10.15am until 12noon. There will be the traditional tea and coffee with home-baking, a raffle and tombola.

Contributions to the raffle and tombola would be appreciated and can be delivered to the local convenor, Mrs Elbe Lang, at 4 Alma Terrace, Brodick, or may be brought on the day.

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea and relies entirely on funding from local communities such as ours. Please go along and support the group.

Alex Lawrie.
Meanwhile, Friends of Montrose House Association is holding its AGM in The Sillars Suite at the new Montrose House on Monday 27 April at 2.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Putting Arran on the map

If anyone before this week hadn't heard of the Isle of Arran then, boy, do they know about us now.

You couldn't turn on the TV, radio, pick up the papers or go online without finding the island being given a name check.

And not just in this country.

The fantastic environmental award won by Howard Wood for his marine conservation work saw the name of Arran resonate not just across America but around the world.

For Howard and his work at the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) to receive the Goldman Environmental Prize for Europe is absolutely tremendous but well deserved.

And the £118,000 in prize money will go a long way into beefing up the coffers of the organisation - although Howard, typically, wants more.

Back home the Auchrannie Resort was cleaning up at not one but two award ceremonies in Glasgow: lifting the top prize at the Scottish Hotel Awards - a remarkable feat indeed given the competition.

Then when you thought the accolades were over. Arran was named the top Scots island by TripAdvisor and fourth in the whole of the UK and Channel Islands.

All of which is very good news in promoting Arran on many different fronts.

An island which wins prestigious worldwide environmental awards must be an attraction to the growing number of eco tourists around the world.

While anyone looking to come to a Scottish island - thanks to a popular travel site - may chose to come to Arran rather than another Scottish island.

And what better way to get people here but to show the island has award winning hotels including one which has been named the best in the country.

So there is good reason to sit back today and just feel a little proud of what has been achieved by the island - but the work goes on.

Only in the last few days the Auchrannie has been up in Aberdeen with VisitArran selling the island at the VisitScotland expo, Scotland's biggest trade event.

With all the coverage Arran has been getting lets hope they have been getting plenty of visitor enquiries.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said: 'Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and other things will be given to you as well.' (Matthew 6:33)

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

Letters to the Editor



Equitation equality

Sir,
It is indeed a small matter, however I suggest that your recent correspondent, Dr Avison, should really seek a second opinion before straying too far from the bridle-path of political correctness.

The title of 'horseperson' is clearly reserved for anyone named Centaur. Other titles are not only sexist but demeaning to the status of our equine neighbours, which might be rectified by recruiting their would-be riders as 'horse assistants'. Only the completion of a period of intensive training - to include health and safety issues, risk assessment, hair cutting and styling, grooming and pedicure - would allow the trainee to attain the top grade of 'horse partner'.

Yours,
Iain Auld
Kinneil Park
Lamlash

Claptrappery

Sir,
Like Dr Avison I have been enjoying the fresh, clean air of Arran for many years as a visitor. The only thing that has ever besmirched my enjoyment has been Dr Avison's pointless claptrappery. May I respectfully suggest, that Dr Avison takes 'horsepersonship' to another island in future?

Yours,
Dr Tom James
Cheyne Walk
London

Cleared up

Sir,
I must take issue with your correspondent Dr G Avison (letters 28 March).

The word 'horsepersonship' he prefers is still sexist, since it takes no account of mares and fillies. The correct, gender-inclusive term he requires is 'equiepersonship'. I hope this clears the matter up.

Yours,
John Gibson
Glenside
Kilmory

Bad press

Sir,
Political correctness has had

a bad press in Banner letters lately, and it does have its silly moments. But its origin lies in an attempt to overcome centuries of abuse and discrimination. If PC means treating people and speaking of people with dignity and respect, I'm all for it.

Yours,
Steve Fenton
Editor's Note: This correspondence is now closed.

Joined up thinking

Sir,
I read with interest your recent correspondents' views about RET, the ferry and other matters.

I am fully in agreement with Alastair Glen when he criticises the new Brodick ferry terminal as likely to be far less convenient for foot passengers. We tried repeatedly to point this out to CalMac, CMAL, Kenneth Gibson last year to no avail. There has been no movement at all as far as I can discern on the matter of improvements to Ardrossan, nor to the need for an accessible and practical port of refuge. There will therefore be no net improvement to services at times of bad weather and the £18 million (and counting) will have been spent on a very large white elephant.

RET has brought a large increase in visitors to the island, many more cars, and no improvements to the island infrastructure: roads, cycleways and bus services. The existing facilities for eating are already overstretched, as another correspondent has pointed out, and there has been no imaginative response from the hospitality sector in the way of extra and different eateries. VisitArran has been all too successful in talking up the island.

What are required are the rapid completion of the Brodick to Corrie cycle track, especially along the road between Cladach and the front castle drive, the development of an around-island cycle way, rebuilding of the A841 road between Sannox and Whiting Bay and completion of works to the String. Since NAC has no money, we need

to investigate ways of getting improvements done commercially, possibly by charging all these extra visitors a premium to be put into a road fund. Along our scenic and beautiful road routes, new viewing points are required, some with cafes attached.

One major new idea might be looked at too: the hiring by a ferry operator of a small, passenger-only ferry to sail between, say, Lamlash or Lochranza and Fairlie or Glasgow. This would relieve CalMac of the less profitable foot passenger trade. Another idea would be to add a commercial vehicle-only ferry, since increased visitor numbers require more goods and stores of all kinds to be brought over.

Joined-up thinking, linking all these ideas and more, is desperately required and in very short supply throughout the country, not just on Arran.

Yours,
Ian Ferguson
Northbeck Cottage
High Corrie

Arran poem

*The Island of Arran Jewel of the Firth of Clyde
Reached by ferry from Ardrossan
Approaching Brodick, Goatfell dominates the scene
Just fails to achieve Munro status, but mountain shaped
And just out of view: dark corries, great crags and
screes
The ferry berths and from the stern doors emerge masses of cyclists
Clad in garish Lycra to circuit the Island on their expensive machines
Most take the Devil's anti-clockwise route which offers a level start
Past the Castle with its rhododendrons along the shore
past the aromatics
Past the huge fallen boulder which has nearly blocked the road to Corrie
With its neat wee harbour, tiny school and very sharp bends
To Sannox and the cruel climb to the northern summit
Eagles often soar and red deer herds gather in Glen Chalmerdale*

Down and down - avoiding potholes, taking care in the very sharp bends

At last the distillery is in sight and on to Lochranza Castle

And the gleaming Sound of Bute and the ferry to Claonaig

But now they begin to turn south along the Kilbrannan Sound

For many miles the sea is extremely close with the smell of wrack

Past Catacol, Pirmill, Whitefarland with its brief but steep climb

Past Dougrie, Machrie, and Torbeg to Blackwaterfoot

Then climb again to Corrie-craivie with views towards Campbeltown, Ailsa Craig and the Antrim Coast

Sharply down to Lagg and then a taxing climb

To the southern summit high above Bennan Head

Then its curves and down through Dippen to Whiting Bay

At long last Goatfell comes into view

The penultimate climb towards Lamlash, alongside Holy Island

Home to Buddhist monks; a sign to King's Cross for the Northern Line?

On past the Academy a sign to the Island's Hospital; not this time?

Then the final steep exit towards Brodick: lowest gear engaged

And the fast and furious free-wheel to the ferry

Stern doors closed

Poem submitted by:

**Kevin Jones,
West Runton,
Cromer**

Coach trip

Sir,
The Arran Horticultural Society has organised a coach to the Gardening Scotland Show at Inglinton on Friday the 29 May. The coach will meet the 8.20am ferry and return for the 6pm. Tickets are available at the Book and Card shop.

Plans for the summer show are also under way, and it is hoped it will be as successful as the Spring Show.

Yours,
John Sillars

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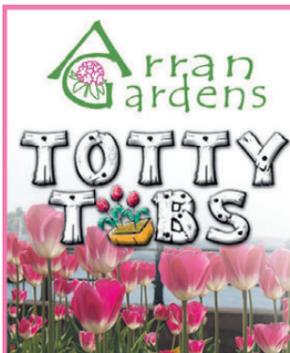
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home + garden Spring maintenance

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Garden makeover



There are also lots of garden supplies both in Brodick and around the island or just a short trip away to the popular Sunnyside Nursery in Kilwinning.

Back indoors, whether you've got designs on an extra bedroom or a bigger kitchen, the most common type of home improvement is a rear or side extension and it can be completed relatively easily in just a few weeks.

For those looking for something a little less radical, a fresh coat of paint on the interior walls can transform a tired room into something new and spectacular.

The warmer months are a great time to give

your home a breezy new look and you don't have to spend a fortune for a quick summer makeover.

On a very small budget you can give your home an instant style update by adding new soft furnishings or updating curtains and blinds.

By dusting off the chequebook for a tradesman or a couple of accessories, you can transform your interiors and your life.

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Roadshow aims to help get more Arran residents online

'There are so many great benefits to being online'

A nationwide roadshow to help people across Scotland get online is coming to Arran.

However, the Scottish Government's Let's Get On team may get more than it bargained for when it visits Brodick, as visitors may wish to discuss connectivity problems, slow broadband and the other internet gripes on the island.

The aim of the roadshow, however, is to offer free, informal, drop-in sessions on how to get online and the benefits the internet can bring.

The team will help people experience the benefits of being online first hand by demonstrating a variety of online activities such as how to set up an email address, tips for safe internet shopping

and banking and how to video call friends and family.

The free, informal, drop-in session will take place on Saturday 2 May from 10am to 4pm at Brodick Golf Club.

Cabinet secretary for infrastructure, investment and cities Keith Brown said: 'We want everyone in Scotland to enjoy the benefits of being online.'

'The Let's Get On roadshow will get into the very heart of communities across Scotland, offering people the opportunity to take the first step in getting online and highlighting the many benefits. The internet can bring huge advantages to people's lives, whether it's finding a job or keeping in touch with friends and family and get-

ting connected can save people time and money.'

Singer and newspaper columnist Michelle McManus, who is an avid fan of the internet, said: 'I couldn't live without the internet as I use it regularly to keep in touch with my family. There are so many great benefits to being online.'

'It makes my life easier and saves time with banking and shopping. I would recommend anyone who isn't online or needs help getting online to head along to your local Let's Get On session.'

Those online who know friends or family that would benefit from information about how to get online, should visit www.letsgeton.scot and find out how to help.



Michelle McManus, who is backing the campaign, with minister Keith Brown and Sarah Bates, Let's Get On team member.

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STV weatherman takes on cycling challenge

Weatherman Sean Batty will visit Arran during a four-day fundraising trip in June to raise money for the STV Appeal.

The Sean Batty Coast to Coast Cycle Challenge will see the STV weatherman undertaking another gruelling cycle challenge, cycling more than 250km from Tarbert in Argyll to Dunbar, coast to coast across Scotland.

In each place he passes through, Sean will be meeting STV Appeal fundraisers in the local community and getting as many supporters involved in helping to raise as much money as possible for

children affected by poverty in Scotland. STV's cameras will be there to capture all the activity for an STV Appeal programme later in the year.

Leaving Tarbert on Wednesday 10 June he will arrive on Arran the following day on the Lochranza ferry and cycle down to Brodick where he will leave on the Ardrosan ferry later the same day.

His ride will then take him across Scotland arriving in Dunbar on Sunday 14 June.

Sean has been a long-time supporter and fundraising hero for the STV Appeal.

In the past he has cycled across the Western Isles,

Northern Isles, competed in Highland games, sporting events, baking contests, taken part in community challenges and climbed Ben Nevis, all in aid of the STV Appeal.

Sean said: 'This is year five of the STV Appeal and I'm looking forward to yet another challenge, and this year I'm back in the saddle. In previous challenges I've cycled the Western Isles, Northern Isles and from Glasgow to Edinburgh three times, clocking up over 400 miles.'

There is a unique opportunity for any group across the route to get fundraising and support Sean Batty's Coast to Coast Cycle Challenge plus appear as part of the programming that will air on the STV Appeal live show later in the year.

STV will be filming the visits and if anyone or any group would like to fundraise for the STV Appeal and invite Sean to collect your donation, you can be involved.

To support Sean's fundraising challenge and make a donation to the STV Appeal, visit Sean's JustGiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/seanbatty2015/>



Sean Batty to get on his bike again for charity.

School news from Arran . . . School news from Arran . . . School news from Arran . . .

Kids enjoy a day on the farm

Just before the Easter holidays pupils from Lamlash Primary School had a day down on the farm.

Primary 3/4/5 pupils went to Cluachlands Farm in Lamlash for a visit in connection with their project about food and farming.

To start the visit off Stuart Reid the owner of the farm showed them a bull. Stu-

art then showed them what milk can be made into such as butter, yoghurt and ice cream.

They then went to the milking parlour and they saw all of the machines that are used to milk the cows.

They also had the chance to go into a tractor which was one of the highlights for the children.

To finish the trip they were able to see all of the calves on the farm.

The pupils really enjoyed the experience.

The weeks before the holidays were very busy for the school.

They had many visitors and many outings.

Explosions

Primary 6 and 7 went to the Glasgow Science Centre for a show about water.

The pupils also had the chance to look around and try out some of the experiments in the building.

They loved the explosions in the show and all of the exciting experiments.

Primary 4-7 pupils went to Brodick Castle to do some orienteering.

The pupils had the chance to practise their map skills and were shown how to locate places by their surroundings.

The pupils were put in to



The youngsters are shown the cow feed.

Corrie children learn how to save a life

Children at Corrie Primary School recently learned how to save a life at CPR/defibrillator sessions.

Fiona Laing and Emma Campbell visited the school and brought with them the new hi-tech CPR dummies for the children to practise on.

During this term the pupils have developed their 'skills for life' while being taught CPR and various other responses to emergency situations. Annie CPR dummies offered good practise and all pupils from P1-7 learned what to do in an emergency situation.

A school spokeswoman said: 'We are very grateful to Fiona and Emma for their visit and all the support and assistance given to the children. They helped to fine tune the pupils' skills with their expertise and state



One pupil tries her CPR technique as Emma Campbell supervises.

of the art equipment. They had two dummies with bluetooth information to the laptop, linked to the school smart board, which gives the first aider/pupil instant feedback on their CPR ie good speed/depth etc.

'This was a really enjoyable and valuable exercise for the children as they were able to immediately see the effectiveness of the CPR which they were performing.

The children also got first hand experience of using a training defibrillator on the dummies.'

All children, from P1 up to P7 were successful in this team event.

Fiona said that the children were in a privileged position as no other children in Scotland had used the dummies/equipment yet.



Another pupil is put through his paces with the hi-tech dummy.

Woollen woods appeal

The Arran Woollen Woods project is now in full swing with contributions arriving and expected from not only many island participants, but also as far afield as Chicago and Australia.

They have an exciting programme of events over the next month or so, involving all of the project's key partners on the island. Everyone is invited to come along and join one of the workshops or skills days which will be taking place in Whiting Bay Hall, the Roots of Arran community garden and at Brodick Castle.

Organiser Sue Mills said: 'We would also like to make an appeal for the following: knitted squares - between 28 and 39cm square please - to yarn bomb our bridges and railings; pom-poms to make flowers for our flower meadow and long lengths of bobbin knit or finger knit string to link up parts of the trail.'

'We are still eager to receive any contributions at all for Woollen Woods and our patterns pack is still available. Our launch date is 15 May.'

'We are also looking for volunteers to help install the woolly works between the 8 and 14 May.'

If anyone can help with any of the above, please contact Sue on 302202 or email smills@nts.org.uk. Details are also on the Arran Rangers Facebook page.



The milking machines are demonstrated to the children.

pairs and were set off to find locations.

In May all of the primary

schools will be taking part in an island orienteering competition and some of the

pupils will be chosen to take part in a competition on the mainland.

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.

All candidates must be computer literate and be willing to work flexible hours to meet the demands of a weekly newspaper.

**Apply with C.V. and covering letter to
ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk**

The first Arran men to fall in the great war

The Battle of St Julien - 24 April to 4 May 1915

One hundred years ago the First World War had already been raging for more than seven months and almost 60,000 Allied soldiers had already lost their lives in the fighting, writes *Fiona Laing*.

The year of 1914 had seen large numbers of Arran men, both at home and abroad, join the forces but it wasn't until 1915 that they began to find themselves on the front line.

The war had by then settled into the deadlock of the Western Front, which stretched for about 450 miles from the Suisse border to the Belgian coast.

Everyone is familiar with the names of battles synonymous with the Western Front - Ypres and the Somme being perhaps the most infamous.

These set piece offensives were usually made up of a series of much smaller battles, each with its own objective.

The Battle of St Julien was one such battle set within the second Battle of Ypres (21 April to 25 May 1915).

St Julien is a small village about 4 ½ miles north west of Ypres, which in April 1915 was held by the Allies as part of the Ypres salient. On 21 April 1915 the German armies launched an offensive designed to capture this salient. It began with the Germans releasing 168 tonnes of chlorine gas towards the Allied lines, the first occasion when gas was used on the Western Front.

The French forces defending the section of the line

were devastated, with more than 6,000 dying, and the Germans advanced through the gap left in the line. The Battle of St Julien began on 24 April as the Germans attempted to push home their advantage by taking the village - more gas was released - this time the men of the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF) bore the brunt of it. Fierce fighting ensued over the next two days as the Canadians successfully repelled the German advance. A high price was paid by the Canadian battalions with 2,000 men killed.

As far as can be ascertained, it is within these losses that the names of the first Arran-born men to lose their lives in the First World War

can be found. Cpl Robert John Murray Stuart Poole of the 13 Battalion Canadian Infantry - The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment) of Canada. Robert was born on the island in 1880, the son of Mrs C Poole of Lyndow, Whiting Bay. It is thought he left for Canada in 1911 and enlisted on 23 September 1914.

He was killed on the first day of the Battle of St. Julien on 14 April the following year and is commemorated on the Menin Gate in Ypres.

The second Arran-born man to make the ultimate sacrifice Pte Duncan Robertson 8th Battalion Canadian Infantry - The Royal Winnipeg Rifles. Duncan was the son of Duncan and Mary Robertson of Fernlea, Pirnmill.

He emigrated to Canada in 1911 where he was a carpenter in the town of Kenora, Ontario. He enlisted on 27 August 1914 and was killed on 25 April 1915 when he was shelled whilst operating a machine gun atop Hill 60 in the Battle for St. Julien. He is commemorated on the Menin Gate.

Although the Canadians successfully held the village, the British High Command were eventually persuaded that it would be easier to defend a shorter front line. On 1 May 1915 the allies began a planned withdrawal and St. Julien fell into German hands where it remained until 31 July 1917 during the third Battle of Ypres. Robert and Duncan were the first of more than 100 Arran men to lose



Duncan Robertson before he left Canada for the front.

their lives during the First World War. It would seem only right to take just a few moments to remember them on the 100th anniversary of their deaths this weekend.

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Scots language opera for Arran

The first opera to be translated into the Scots language, Actéon meets Tam o' Shanter, is to be performed on Arran.

It will be followed on the day by Burns to Bernstein, a medley of songs and arias and combined together, these two performances will make for an unforgettable day's entertainment on 30 May.

Actéon Meets Tam o' Shanter is a reworking of the chamber opera Actéon by one of the most important French composers of his generation, Marc-Antoine Charpentier.

This ground-breaking piece merges Scots Language with

French Baroque Opera and Greek mythology, retelling the story of a young hunter, who like Tam o' Shanter stumbles across an illicit vision.

Burns to Bernstein is a mixture of opera, musical theatre and Burns. The programme will include works by Monteverdi, Handel, Bizet, Bernstein, Noel Coward and Irving Berlin, showcasing some of Scotland's rising opera stars. Performers include two Ayrshire-born singers, soprano Aimee Toshney (English National Opera), and David Douglas (Les

Arts Florrisants), as well as renowned West End Vocal Coach Siobhan McAuley.

The tour has been put together by Ayrshire Opera Experience and the National Trust for Scotland's Robert Burns Birthplace Museum.

Three performances are to be staged in the west at Greenock and Ayr with the final performance at the Lam-lash Community Theatre on Saturday 30 May at 2.30pm

Tickets priced £12.50, £10.50 (conc) are available at: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ayrshireoperaexperience or call 07736 931731.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 29 April, 1995

Making itself heard

Arran Community Council is to use the change in local government to seize the moment to make itself a voice to be reckoned with.

Concerned that for many years little interest has been taken in its activities by the Arran public and with little encouragement from Cunninghame District Council, members feel that the change to a unitary authority creates an opportune moment to set itself up on a new footing.

To this end they have appointed some of its members to consider how to achieve this and at Tuesday's meeting in Lamlash a strategy paper was presented.

While complaints about lack of money have become repetitive, it is the case that the council has virtually no funds. At the last meeting some 90 pence was reported as being in its bank account. Yet the opportunity of greater funds from the new authority is good, especially since the government has given its backing to community councils having a bigger role to play.

As for responsibility, much of this springs from the recent heightened public awareness, particularly in the last year, that certain planning, development and demolition matters have been going through with no, or negligible, attempts at public consultation.

In the paper it is suggested the community council powers might go beyond planning matters to consider roads, housing and even licensing.

Conservation help

Liz Garner who has just been appointed as the Ayrshire and Arran advisor of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), visited a number of farms on the island this week to see the conservation work being carried out.

Among them was Glenkiln Farm in Lamlash where she met owner Kenny Bone. Liz heard of his plans to improve the area around a dried up pond which was once a holding tank for a mill wheel and she was able to offer advice and assistance.

Firstly the pond will be recreated, another will be made and they will be surrounded by Scots pine, alder and willow trees. He may even put some fish in the ponds.

Extending this little copse at the back of the farm will take nothing away from the agricultural potential of the farm, but it will create an attractive wooded area which will be home to a wide variety of plants, birds and creeping creatures.

Kenny said: 'It makes a difference to get such advice, but farmers have always been conservationists.'

Beechgrove visit

Bill Torrance of The Beechgrove Garden came to Arran this week, hired a bicycle and peddled round three gardens for the TV series.

A well-known face he was greeted frequently along the way and Bill was happy to stop and chat to all who wanted to.

It was last summer that Audrey Allsop of Sannox contacted the programme but had heard nothing definite until a researcher came over a month ago and visited Brodick Castle and two gardens suggested by Audrey.

The filming took place this week at Brodick Castle on Tuesday and Wednesday, a beautiful sunny day, was split between the Rock Cottage garden of Gwen and Alan Parkin in Corrie and Jenny Martin's Sannox garden.

Gwen said, after the cameras had left: 'I haven't gardened so hard for a long time as this last week.'

Dental change

From 1 May the dental practice at The Douglas Centre in Brodick, currently operated by the health board, will be taken over by Dr David Sutherland as a business operating as a general dental practice.

Dr Sutherland has contracted with the health board to provide a full range of NHS dental services. Arrangements have been made for patients formerly registered with Miss Nelson to be transferred automatically to Dr Sutherland for their continuing dental care.

To facilitate the changeover the practice will be closed from 1 to 5 May.



Bill Torrance with Gwen and Alan Parkin at Rock Cottage in Corrie. b17twe01



Jolly hockey sticks were the order of the day last Sunday at Sandbraes as the hospital supporters league prepared for their annual fundraising free-for-all. b17twe02



Kenny Bone and farming adviser Liz Garner discuss improvements. b17twe04



Last Saturday's Licensed Trade charity golf day was won by Ronald McDowall and Eddie Cannon playing for the Aldersyde Hotel team. They were presented with the new trophy, created by sculptor Marvin Elliot by president Brian Boal. b17twe03

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, Rosaburn,

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

Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
RunArran
Bridge for beginners
Scottish Country Dancing
Metafit
Save the children coffee morning

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
Whiting Bay Hall, 10.30am - 12.15pm

Saturday 25th April

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Live music
Brodick Bowling Club Rink game
Brodick Market
Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
Sannox Christian Centre AGM
Live music - North Country Winters
Live music from Alan Frew
Partial House Clearance

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm
Brodick bowling club, 2pm
Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
Sannox Christian Centre, 11.15am
Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm
The Douglas Hotel, 9pm
1 Park Terrace, Lamlash, 11.30 - 3.30pm

Wednesday 29th 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
Brodick Bowling Club Rink game
Knitting & Crochet drop in group
General Election Hustings Meeting
Save the children 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 bowling club, 6.45pm
Brodick Library, 4pm - 6pm
Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon

Sunday 26th April

Family Games
Fun in the pool
AA Meeting
Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome
Lamlash improvements Beach Clean
Woollen Woods open workshop

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Brodick Church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
Front Green, 2pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 10am - 4pm

Thursday 30th 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
Ricardo Curbelo

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
Brodick Hall, 7.30pm

Monday 27th April

Over 50s Badminton
Badminton
Morning Fitness
Table Tennis
Badminton
Arran Junior Football Club
Yoga
Circuit Training
Brodick Bowling Club Rink game
10/10 Total Body workout
Citizens advice
Lamlash Aerobix
Save the children soup/sandwich lunch
Lunch Club
Friends of Montrose House AGM

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
Brodick bowling club, 6.45pm
Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
Arran High School Dance Studio, 7pm
Brodick Church Hall, 12noon - 2pm
Brodick Sheltered Housing, 12.30pm
The Sillars Suite, Montrose House, 2.30pm

Friday 1st May

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

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
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 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

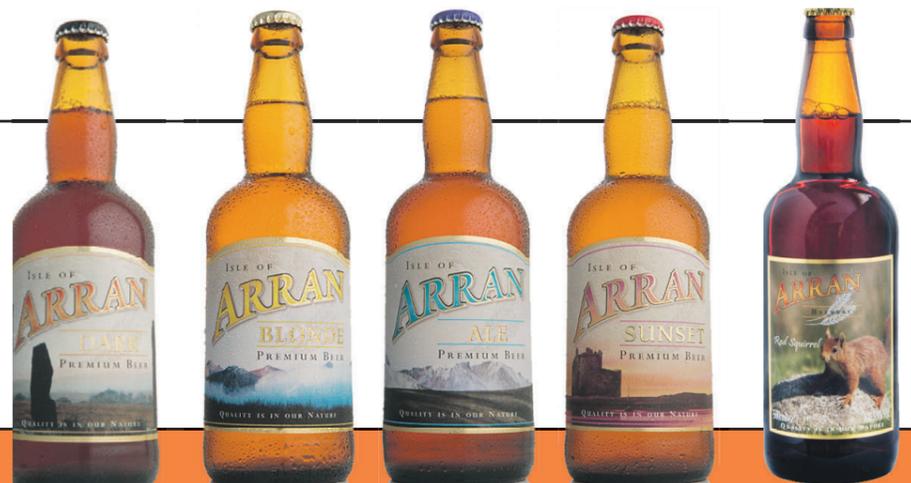
Tuesday 28th April

Pop Quiz
Auchrannie Winter Bowls
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Rotary club
Healthy Outdoors
Garden Walk

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



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Membership of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme is a condition of this post and the successful applicant(s) will require to join the scheme prior to appointment. Further information on scheme membership is included within the application pack, and can also be found at www.disclosurescotland.co.uk.

An application for this post can be completed online at www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk

Alternatively, to request an application form please contact the Department of O&HRD, University Hospital Crosshouse, Tel 01563 825725 or e-mail Kelly.Walker2@apact.scot.nhs.uk

Please quote reference number on enquiry.

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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 15.05.15. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

15/00208/PP; Bluebird Cottage, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8BY; Amendment to planning permission N/05/00248/PP for change of use from holiday letting cottage to permanent dwelling house at Bluebird Cottage, in respect of condition 7 of planning permission N/05/00248/PP.

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

Applications for development within a Conservation Area. Written comments to be made within 21 days.

15/00211/PP; Pierhead Tavern, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Formation of roof terrace at first floor level with external access to replace existing flat and part pitched roof with minor internal alterations.

Elma Murray
 Chief Executive
 Cunninghame House
 IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
 Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

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CHURCH NOTICES

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 26th 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.

Thursday 30th April

Shiskine Church, 12noon, Service of Prayers for Health and Healing.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 26th 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 26th April

Morning Service, 11am
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 29th April
at 7pm
5 Glen Road
All welcome

WHILING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number SC014005)
Sunday 26th April 2015
Worship will be conducted by the minister,
Rev Elizabeth Watson,
at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service and everyone is invited to stay and enjoy more fellowship afterwards.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7.30pm
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 26th 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

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 26th April

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

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday, 26th April

Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.

Wednesday 29th April

Pop-up Church with Rev Simon MacKenzie 12 noon at Arran Distillery, Lochranza (No service in St Margaret's Church)
All welcome at all events

DEATHS

DALGLEISH - Kathleen Graham and family would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy. Sincere thanks to ArCas, Arran War Memorial and Crosshouse Hospitals, Arran Medical Group and the community nurses for their exceptional care. Also to Jean Hunter, Hendry Funeral Services and Brodick Golf Club for their services.

KNOX - Jack (Sannox) Jack (RSA), on Sunday, 12th April 2015, in Ninewells Hospital, beloved husband of Margaret, loving father of Kyle and Emily, father-in-law to Mhairi and Roderick and adoring grandpa of Duncan and Sandy. Funeral took place at Dundee crematorium, on Monday 20th April. A Collection was made for Alzheimer's Research.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday 15 April, 20 played in the second round of this year's Summer Trophy.

Again the conditions were tricky and the CSS rose to 64. First place went to Gordon Provan on 63, Sandy Pringle and Stan Rainey both carded 64s with Sandy edging second place on a countback. Fourth placed was Pete Smith on 66. The lowest gross was Gordon Provan's 72 and magic twos were had by Gordon at the 4th and Jamie Stewart at the 13th

Sunday 19 April, the Tor Alvey Greensome, postponed from last week, saw 12 players compete on a bright, breezy morning. 1 Jamie MacPherson and David Brookens on 59.6, 2 Bob Hastings and Kevin McAleney on 62.2, 3 John Dick and Pete Smith on 63.2. Lowest scratch was won by Jamie and David with a fine 68.

Fixtures: Sunday 26 April, Wolfi and Gege Stableford, rolling starts from 10am.

Wednesday 29 April, Summer Trophy played throughout the day with an evening draw at 5.30pm. Friday 1 May, AGA Seniors Bowl at Lamlash at 5.30pm.

Sunday 3 May, AGA Spring Handicap at Corrie, 8.30am and 12.30pm. Ladies three clubs and putter competition at 11am.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 15 April, Summer Cup, 42 played CSS 66. Lovely day for golf, with a breeze from the north making

the last eight holes a lot easier than they were last week. Great score from Chris, showing that practice pays off. 1 Chris Pattenden (12) 61, 2 Kenny McMillan (13) 63, 3 Russell Duncan (13) 66 acb. Scratch Ewan McKinnon 66. There were seven magic twos from W Armit, G Hendry, N Hume, K McMillan, C Pattenden, D Robertson and B Walker.

Sunday 19 April, British Legion Cup (Stableford), 22 played, CSS 64 (37 points).

On yet another beautiful day for golf, Gordon completed the 'British Legion' double by adding the BL Cup to his 36 holes victory last Sunday. 1 Gordon Hendry (6)37pts 2 Ewan McKinnon (+1)36pts acb, 3 Russell Duncan (13)36 pts.

There were only three magic twos from J Reid, J Armit and A Hume.

Fixtures: Friday 24 April, match v Shiskine @ Brodick from 5pm. Really need a good turnout for this match against our friends from over the hill! You are encouraged to add your names to the clubhouse list, meal to follow.

Sunday 26 April, Belhaven Medal, draw at 12 noon Saturday 25 April.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 16 April Summer Cup, 20 played. 1 John O'Sullivan 90-23=67 BIH, 2 Scott Macfarlane 84-17=67 BIH, 3 Ian Bremner 73-6=67.

Scratch Ian Bremner 73. Magic two Dougie MacFarlane@16th. Senior Medal, Yellow Tees, six played. 1 JimGibson 76-12=64, 2 AllanMartin 83-15=68. Magic twos Allan Martin@16th, Jimmy Cameron@16th.

Sunday 19 April, Hugh Hutchinson Greensome. 1



Graeme Andrew who won the Shiskine Grand Shoot at Shiskine Golf Club.

Mark Wren and Allan Winship 75-10.2=64.8, 2 Alan Smith & Alistair Crawford 77-10.8=66.2. No magic twos recorded. Fixtures: Thurs 23 April, Summer Cup, make up own groups and contact starter. Sunday 26 April, Drift Inn Quaich (Stabeford), tee times 9.30am and 12.30pm.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday 15 April, sweep, 21 played, CSS 62. 1 R Burke 70-11=59, 2 A McDonald 70-9=61, 3 J McGovern 72-10=62, 4 M Elliot 77-14=63. Magic twos pot not won.

Saturday 18 April, Grouse and Lorimer pairs. 1 M Elliot and S Beardsley 37+36=73-10.5=62.5, 2 A and M McDonald 42+36=78-13.5=64.5. Magic twos A and M McDonald @10th.

Both pairs represent Corrie in Arran Grouse final at Machrie on Saturday 12 September.

Fixtures: Saturday 25 April, medal round, 8.30am and 1pm. Sunday 3 May, AGA gents Guy Spiers at Corrie, morning and afternoon starts.

Machrie Golf Club

Tuesday 21 April, Peter Sutton/Lady Mary, second round, 12 played. 1 Campbell Laing 80-19=61, 2 Phil Bet-

ley 78-16=62, 3 Brian Sherwood 77-11=66.

Arran Golfers Association

The AGM of the Arran Golfers Association will be held at Lamlash Golf clubhouse on Wednesday April 29 at 8.30pm.

Seniors Bowl 1st round at Lamlash Golf Club on Friday 1 May, first game off at 5pm with other games following.

Draw: Whiting Bay v Lochranza (winners play Lamlash), Machrie v Shiskine, Brodick v Corrie. Semi finals on Friday 8 May at 5pm.

Spring Handicap/Guy Spiers at Corrie Golf Club, Sunday 3 May, sheets on notice boards, draw will take place at the AGM.

Junior handicap at Corrie Golf Club Monday 4 May at 4pm.

Arran Bridge Club results

The results of the summer bridge meeting held on Monday 20 April were as follows: 1 Endy McNiven and John Baraclough, 2 Douglas Chase and Jennifer Wales, 3 Linda Trickett and Elizabeth McKellar.

WEDDING



Dani Whalley & Toby O'Neill

married in Kelso on Friday 10th April.
Congratulations from all the family

Sannox Cricket Club fixtures

Sannox Cricket Club has arranged the following fixtures to date:

Sunday 31 May, Carradale away; Saturday 4 July, Torrance home;

Sunday 12 July, Accies home (Sannox-Carradale select); Saturday 25 July, Gargunnoch home, Sunday 16 August, Carradale home.

Fixtures to be arranged, all at home: Kilmacolm and Silly Mid Offers. These will be July or August.

New players always welcome.

THANK YOU

A SINCERE THANK YOU

To all those who cared for Marie over recent months.

For all the help and support shown to us both by so many kind people, each in their own way.

Eternally grateful.

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Arran battle to victory in a tough duel in the sun

Arran 24 Birkmyre 19
Arran won a titanic struggle against a tough Birkmyre side at Ormidale Park last Saturday, but they missed out on a vital bonus point which they need for their promotion push, writes *Bill McLaughlin*.

The first event of note in this game was the referee deciding that the strips were too similar so, Arran as the home team changed by reversing their tops and playing in white with no numbers which, at times, made player recognition difficult.

There was no comparison



Lachie Jones keeps up his perfect kicking record.

with last week's game when Arran had played Barbarian style rugby against a team powerless to prevent it.

Birkmyre were big, strong, well-coached and had two wingers who made the proverbial scalded cats look slow.

They gave the impression of being able to score from any point on the park.

The sides scored three tries each and the winning margin of five points was made up of one conversion and one penalty goal demonstrating yet again the advantage of having a good goal kicker with Lachie Jones continuing his perfect record from last week.

The scoring began, as have followers come to expect, with Lachie scoring a try wide out which he also converted to make the score 7-0.

Birkmyre replied immediately to make it 7-7. The second Arran try was as near perfect with a catch and drive from a line-out which the pack turned into a driving maul.

It travelled at least 20 yards

and Kyle Barbour dotted down to give Lachie an easy conversion for 14-7. Once again Birkmyre replied within minutes to tie 14-14 at half time.

The second half was one of attrition and mighty effort by both sides. A Lachie penalty goal made the score 17-14 and then came a moment of drama. A loose ball was booted through along the ground by Arran and finished over the Birkmyre line. Both sides made desperate efforts to reach it first and two Arran players looked favourite until the leading one was brought down illegally and the referee awarded the inevitable penalty try bring the score line to 24-14.

Once again Birkmyre replied with a splendid try scored by their right winger, who outpaced the home defence to score in the corner. but the conversion failed.

The last 15 minutes of the game were spent by Arran attempting to get a fourth try to gain the all-important bonus point and Birkmyre striving



Arran hang on to the ball despite pressure from Birkmyre. 20_b17rugby01

equally hard to get the score which would win the game.

Arran eschewed several chances to score from penalty kicks in favour of running the ball.

Had they kicked just one penalty and made the score 27-19 - and so put it beyond reach for Birkmyre - they could have run everything else with impunity and prevented several near heart attacks on the touchline.

The problem facing the captain was when he got an opportunity for a penalty goal, he didn't know if he was going to get any more.

The result made little difference to Arran's league standing, as the team is still in second spot six points behind Cumnock with 14 games played by each.

The big danger to their promotion hopes is that Millbrae are only five points behind

them but with two games in hand which, if they win both, would put them one point ahead.

Fortunately one of these is on Arran so the team's fate is very much in their own hands.

Unfortunately the provisional date is the Sunday after the club's annual dinner. When they have a fixed date they will publicise to encourage the support the team needs to boost morale.

Kids flock to football camp at Arran High School

KA Leisure, in partnership with the Scottish FA, held the annual Easter football camp at Arran High School during the holidays.

A record total of 54 kids participated over the four days and were involved in fun games, small sided games and learned new skills.

A great time was had by all. The football camp will take place again during the first week of the summer holidays.



The kids who enjoyed the football camp with coaches Graham Muir and Paul Todman with volunteer David Copperwheat. 20_b17footy01

Ladies play hockey friendly

The Arran Ladies Hockey Club have a friendly today (Saturday) against Glasgow Accies at Ormidale Park in Brodick with a pass back 1pm for any supporters interested in going along. The club are also looking for anyone who would want to help out umpiring next season. All travel and test certificate costs would be paid for by the club.

Anyone interested should contact captain Victoria McNicol by email: victoriacallister@hotmail.com or find them on Facebook.

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