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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 16 MAY 2015 No 2012 60p

Radical new plan to put sand on Brodick Beach



Red alert at emergency exercise

A 'casualty' is stretchered off the ferry, but there is no need to worry. It was all part of a major emergency exercise held in Brodick on Tuesday night. Full report and pictures pages 4 and 5.

'We regret progress appears to be very slow,' says Brodick Improvements Committee

REPORT
 by HUGH BOAG
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

At last some action is being taken to improve Brodick Beach.

The unsightly poles and fencing have been removed along with one of the ill-conceived wooden ramps which had been installed. The other is to be repaired.

Repairs have also been promised for the goetextile bags which lie burst and unsightly, and the holes where the poles were removed will also be filled in. When that is complete it is proposed to 'top dress' the area with local sand in a bid to make it more attractive to locals and visitors alike.

These are the latest moves in a long fight for improvements to the beach which 14 months ago was branded a 'disgrace'.

The fencing was originally erected to help establish the marram grass which was expected to protect the new beach five years ago, but the plan failed to work.

Brodick Improvements Committee said it was continuing to work with North Ayrshire Council and Arran Estates in an effort to protect and improve both Brodick Beach and the nearby Fisherman's Walk.

But chairman Harry Davidson admitted progress was slow.

A statement from the committee said: 'We have had regular discussions with all associated groups and regret that progress appears to be very slow. Unfortunately at every stage we discover we need to have licences and permissions from various environmental and marine responsible bodies. Several short term measures have been discussed but although initially considered as minor works they still require a long and costly approval process.'

'NAC have been supporting our efforts but they are also restricted within regulations on the scope of work which can be carried out without appropriate licences.'

'Currently, in conjunction with NAC and the land owner, we are preparing plans for Fisherman's Walk and the protection of the footbridge foundations which will allow the required licence applications to be submitted once the designs have been agreed but this will not be complete for around six weeks and then the formal approvals process will

Continued on page 2



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Goatfell runners ready for gruelling mountain challenge

Scottish Islands Peaks race also to be staged this weekend

Arran is ready to welcome runners today (Saturday) for the annual Goatfell Hill Race. A total of 200 pre-entered runners have signed up and as a result there will be no entries on the day. The race starts at 12noon

After the disappointment of the cancelled 10K event last month, organisers Arran Runners say everything is in place for a terrific day.

And it is hoped the weather is better than last year when runners had to brave heavy rain and treacherous conditions.

A total of 136 entrants took part in the gruelling eight mile hill race last year.

The event was won for a second year in a row by Finlay Wild of Lochaber Athletic Club in a time of 1 hour, 16

minutes and seven seconds and it is hoped he may be back to defend his title.

The course record holders are: for men Andy Peace in a time of 1:13:40 in 1994, and for women Angela Mudge in a time of 1:26:21 in 2001.

Meanwhile, the Arran leg of the 31st annual Scottish Islands Peaks Race will also take place this weekend.

Entered

A total of 38 teams have entered the race which started yesterday (Friday) in Oban with the sailors and runners arriving on Arran today until Monday.

The boats will land at Lam-lash and the runners will go from there up and over Goat-fell.

The race goes 24 hours a day until it is complete, so it means

there will be runners on the road overnight. It also means there will be spectating to be had for anyone who may be interested in cheering them on.

The Peaks Race is an adventure race along the west coast

of Scotland.

It started in Oban with a short hill run, then a sail to Salen on Mull, a run over Ben More, a sail to Craighouse on Jura, a run over the Paps, a sail to Arran, a run up Goat

Fell then a sail to Troon. The race takes three to four days and caters for multihulls, racers and cruisers.

Each team consists of five - usually two runners and three sailors. There is also an all-

rounders class for sailors that can run and a class for young people, with the assistance of a few adults.

More information can be found at www.scottishisland-speaksrace.com

New plan to put sand on Brodick Beach



The beach as it looks now with the fencing removed. 20_b20beach01



The burst geotextiles bags will be repaired. 20_b20beach02

Continued from page 1

take an average 12 weeks before the work can be carried out if funding is available.

Brodick Improvements says it will use this time to develop fundraising ideas and explore other funding options as it is clear the majority of the funding will need to be generated by the committee rather than from local authority or Scottish Government funds.

'So far the Arran Trust has made a donation to the repairs at Fisherman's

Walk which was very welcome and other business have indicated some material support.

Popular

'We welcome any suggestions for fund raising events and donations from residents, visitors and all parties who share our wish to preserve what is a very popular area of the village and all contributions are much appreciated,' the statement concluded.

A spokesman for North Ayrshire council said: 'We are continuing to

work closely with local community groups to address their concerns and assist them in their desire to improve Brodick Beach and Fisherman's Walk.

'Discussions with the relevant stakeholders about the potential development options available are ongoing and will continue over the coming weeks.

'We will also support the local community to identify and engage with potential funding sources to support these proposed improvements.'

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Husband and wife team up to fight Arran's corner

SNP sweep 10,000 Labour majority aside

Newly elected MP Patricia Gibson joined her dozens of new SNP colleagues in London this week following the nationalist tsunami which swept Scotland last week.

Repeating the pattern across Scotland Mrs Gibson wiped out nearly a 10,000 majority to claim the seat from sitting MP Katie Clark. She won North Ayrshire and Arran seat with a majority of 13,573 - a 53 per cent share of the vote.

And it means that Arran now has a husband and wife team fighting their corner in

both Holyrood and Westminster.

This week as Mrs Gibson joined her 55 fellow parliamentarians she told The Banner: 'I thank the voters of Arran for the solid support the gave me on 7 May and I look forward to working hard for all the people and every community on Arran in the weeks, months and years ahead.'

Earlier at the count held in St Matthews Academy in Saltcoats she had thanked her campaign team and her MSP husband Kenneth.

Mrs Gibson said: 'I pledge to be a visible and hard working MP for all the people of North Ayrshire and Arran and I will represent them to the very best of my ability. I will ensure that the voice and the priorities of the people of this constituency, and indeed of all the people of Scotland, are heard in Westminster through me.'

'SNP MPs will be a beacon of progressive politics for the benefit of all the people of Scotland and indeed the UK as a whole. Together, I and other SNP MPs, will seek to work with others to oppose the austerity agenda which is causing so much pain in our communities. We will seek to use our influence to build a more equal and a more fair society.'

'The people of North Ayrshire and Arran and the peo-

ple across Scotland have spoken tonight and it's time their voices were heard in Westminster. As part of a strong group of Westminster SNP MPs I will be your voice.'

Outgoing MP Katy Clark said: 'It's been a huge privilege to represent the people of North Ayrshire and Arran over the last 10 years. I've carried out that role to the best of my ability and I've been absolutely clear and honest about the kind of politics I believe in.'

'I'm socialist and I believe that radical redistributive measures are necessary in all parts of the UK to redistribute power and wealth. I've done everything I can as a Member of Parliament to argue for the kind of vision of the world that I believe is necessary. I will continue to do that now I'm not an MP.'

'I stood as deputy leader of Scottish Labour last year because I believe Scottish Labour needs to change, and I will continue to argue that we need to go back to our radical socialist roots. I've always



The newly elected MP Patricia Gibson.

stood for Labour values, and I believe the people of North Ayrshire and Arran still believe in Labour values.'

'Unfortunately, the party that has been before them has not lived up to that image.'

'I will continue to fight for a Labour Party that puts the interests of ordinary working people first, a party that delivers for the working class, and a party that's true to our radical and Socialist roots.'

The SNP also won all the other Ayrshire seats - Central

Ayrshire, Kilmarnock and Loudoun and Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock.

*See letters page

The result in North Ayrshire and Arran was:

- Patricia Gibson (SNP) 28,641 (+27.2)
- Katy Clark (Scottish Labour) 15,068 (-19.4)
- Jamie Greene (Scottish Conservative) 7,968 (-0.8)
- Sharon McGonigal (UKIP) 1,296 (+2.4)
- Ruby Kirkwood (Liberal Democrat) 896 (- 8.4)

The turnout of 71.1 per cent was down from the independence referendum at 86.1 per cent but up on 2010 turnout of 61.5 per cent. A total of 53,995 votes were cast.

Labour needs a radical overhaul

Former Scottish Labour leader Jack McConnell has described the Smith Commission as a 'shambles'.

Lord McConnell of Glescorrodale, who was first minister from 2001 to 2007, said the plan for further devolution should now be scrapped and replaced by a constitutional convention.

He also gave qualified support to Jim Murphy, saying he should remain leader of the Scottish Labour party 'for now'.

But he added that a radical policy overhaul was needed.

Speaking to the BBC's Sunday Politics Scotland programme, Lord McConnell, who was brought up on Arran and has strong family connections on the island, urged Prime Minister David Cam-

eron to lead a 'proper debate' on the UK's constitutional future.

He said: 'The Smith Commission proposals are a shambles. The idea that the response to what happened last Thursday is to plough ahead with what will become a shambles cannot be the solution.'

Pause

'The prime minister needs to take a pause rather than ploughing ahead and appointing a Scottish secretary, going ahead with Smith Commission proposals that will fall apart in due course and stop talking about 'one nation' as if everybody is the same.'

The Labour peer said the UK now needed a constitutional convention that would tackle the 'disillusionment

with the way the country is governed', adding that feelings ran 'deeper than just what happened in Scotland'.

Elsewhere, the peer said Mr Murphy should stay in charge of the Scottish Labour party 'for the moment' to allow for a 'proper discussion of the way ahead'.

But he severely criticised the party and its campaign strategy, saying it did not 'express a modern vision of Scotland', adding that Scottish Labour now needed 'a whole new set of policies'.

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Another casualty is stretchered to safety. 20_b20ferry13

Major exercise s services tackling

It is a scenario no one would ever want to see. But the emergency services have to be ready for anything.

And if the snowstorms of two years ago taught the island something it was that it has to be prepared.

That is why a multi-agency, major incident exercise took place at Brodick Pier on Tuesday night.

Codenamed Exercise Bouyant, the scenario involved a fire

breaking out in the switchgear of the passenger gangplank as the MV Isle of Arran docked in port, leaving passengers trapped on the ferry.

In the exercise there were people injured in the initial incident and others hurt in the crush as people panicked trying to get off the ferry. Shore staff were also injured.

More than 60 volunteers played the casualties - from simulated fatalities to the seri-

ous spinal injuries to the walking wounded. A school party were among those involved.

The exercise started at 8.45pm after the ferry services had finished for the day and ran for nearly three hours.

It began with smoke coming from beside the ferry but the strong winds meant it wasn't particularly obvious and a 999 call being made as the exercise was carried out in real time.

First to arrive was a police



The lifeboats stands by as the rescue goes on. 20_b20ferry15



Another casualty is helped off the ferry. 20_b20ferry10



Paramedic reinforcements arrive.

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Smoke can be seen rising from near the ferry as the exercise g

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Tests emergency blaze at ferry

car closely followed by the fire brigade and an ambulance with the other emergency services and Arran Resilience volunteers on their way.

Arran police sergeant Allen Dodds and CalMac port manager Colin McCort were the exercise directors.

It was carried out under the umbrella of the Ayrshire Civil Contingencies Group and the objective of the exercise was to test the Arran Resilience Plan.

Sgt Dodds said: 'I think it was a worthwhile exercise to bring all the different agencies together to test not only the resilience plan but the CalMac port plan.'

'Some of the 'casualties' also said they had enjoyed watching the emergency services in action in a real time scenario.'

The exercise had been expected to also involve the Search and Rescue helicopter from HMS Gannet, but there

was no sign of it on the night.

The organisations involved were: Caledonian MacBrayne, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, HM Coastguard, Royal National Lifeboat Institution, North Ayrshire Council and First Responder volunteers.

Words and pictures by
HUGH BOAG



The police are first on the scene. 20_b20ferry02



Two casualties are assisted by fire crew. 20_b20ferry05



A fireman puts on full breathing apparatus. 20_b20ferry11



Tests underway. 20_b20ferry01

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Dental Clinic to close over cleaning changes

The Brodick dental clinic is to be closed with patients being transferred to the new treatment centre in Lamlash.

The clinic, which currently provides dental treatment to around 60 patients, is being shut due to changes which mean that the cleaning and sterilising of instruments must be carried out with a local decontamination unit.

Dental bosses at NHS Ayrshire and Arran say the dental clinic in the Douglas Centre is leased and it is not possible to have a fully compliant decontamination unit so they must make the best use of other available accommodation.

As a result, and in order to continue to provide long-term high quality, safe and effective dental care the health board is closing the Douglas Centre clinic and transferring all registered patients to the Lamlash dental clinic.

Last year a new dental clinic opened at the Arran War Memorial Hospital in Lamlash providing two new surgeries and a fully compliant local decontamination unit.

The transfer is expected to be completed by July.

Nicola Taylor, dental service

manager, said: 'Previously, dental instruments could be cleaned and sterilised within the dental surgery. However, the changes in regulations require all dental practices to have a separate room where the dental instruments are cleaned and sterilised.'

'All patients are free to choose their dental practice and do not need to provide notice of their intention to register with another dentist.'

Register

'The Bruce Jenkins dental practice in Glenard House, Brodick, has agreed to register any patients who are unable or who do not wish to move to the Lamlash Dental Clinic.'

The dental team which works from the Douglas Centre clinic will continue to treat patients transferred to the Lamlash Dental Clinic.

Ms Taylor added: 'Closure of the clinic will be phased.'

'This means that on some of the normal clinic opening days there will be no appointments scheduled.'

'We expect that current patients of the Brodick clinic will be transferred to their new clinic in Lamlash by summer 2015.'



The balloon-filled truck outside the school.

Balloon contest goes with a bang

How many balloons can you get in a cab of an Armitage truck?

That's what the pupils of Whiting Bay Primary School are asking people of guess.

The school's parent council has filled the cab full of balloons, and it is now sitting outside the school, to raise funds for new sports equipment and travel expenses for school events.

The star prize is dinner for two at the Douglas Hotel with complimentary taxi to and from home with SSK Private Hire.

Also a bottle of 10-year-old Arran Malt Whisky is up for grabs, a voucher for £20 to

spend in the Coffee Pot and a box of James Chocolates.

Entries can be made at many local shops including Fridays Child, The Drift Inn and Bay Stores and the Village Shop in Whiting Bay. The winners will be announced at the 'Bingo and bake off' summer party in the Whiting Bay Village Hall on Saturday 13 June which will be a fun filled BYOB evening for everyone with music and games. There are more than £1,000 of prizes to be won and a lucky golden ticket with a whole month's supply of Arran Dairy ice cream for the winner.

Koffee at Corrie for Kalimpong

The magnificent sum of £757 was raised, last Saturday, at the 'koffee' morning in Corrie Hall, in aid of Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong.

'It was great to welcome familiar faces and passing visitors who enjoyed wonderful homebaking, coffee and an interesting raffle amusingly conducted by Rev John Webster,' one of the organisers said.

'Thank you to all dedicated helpers and loyal supporters whose continuing interest helps provide education and care to the children of Dr Graham's Homes,' she added.

Contest winners

The winner of a recent competition to win a £100 Caledonian MacBrayne voucher in the Oban Times, Arran Banner, Argyllshire Advertiser and the Campbeltown Courier was Andrew Swan of Lochgilphead.

Two Arran readers won runner-up prizes of a pair of tickets to the Ideal Home Show Scotland in Glasgow later this month.

They were Elizabeth Kelso and Bill Roberts. The other winners were: Iain Henderson, Ibrox; Ellinor McKay, Bridge-of-Allan; Peter McCreath, Port Appin; Ross Douglas, Arisaig; H A White, Fort William; Mrs Anne Muir, Campbeltown; Jean Miller, Campbeltown; Eila Durnan, Carradale; Mrs E Kelly, Alexandria; Richard McCallum, Campbeltown; Mrs E. MacLachlan, Ardrishaig; Mrs Isabel A. Sinclair, Ardrishaig; Mr J McCuaig, Lochgilphead; Catriona Ross, Cairnbaan; Elizabeth McLean, Lochgilphead; Neil Leach, Wishaw; Nicola Jane Donnelly, Dumbarton and Mrs Z E MacDougall, Tarbert.

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Last chance to take part in popular walking festival

Even if climbing a mountain does not appeal, there are still places on special interest walks exploring Arran's amazing geology and wildlife

Now in its ninth year, Arran's annual walking festival is more popular than ever with most high level walks fully booked and long waiting lists for some.

The Arran Mountain Festival is being held across the island from today (Friday) until Monday.

However, even if climbing a mountain does not appeal, there are still places available on special interest walks exploring Arran's amazing geology and wildlife.

Exploring

One of them, on Sunday, entitled 'take the high road', will be exploring the little frequented higher ground above the Lochranza to Sannox coastal walk.

Chairwoman Corinna Goeckeritz said: 'There's plenty of interest along this

new route, from the cleared old townships of North Glen Sannox and Laggantuin, a ruined Iron Age fort, fantastic views of the northern Arran hills and a good chance of spotting wildlife from red deer to birds of prey. The walk will be led by National Trust for Scotland rangers, perfect guides to explore the area's cultural and natural history with.'

Spaces are also still available on Monday's geology walk, led by NTS senior ranger Kate Sampson and Lochranza Field Studies Centre tutor Mike Daniels. Heading into lower Glen Sannox and North Glen Sannox, Kate and Mike will take participants on an enthralling journey through the millennia, exploring Arran's famously diverse rock formations.

If that is still too energetic, on Saturday evening people can listen to other folk's mountain adventures in the comfort of the Lamash Outdoor Education Centre, with a lasagne supper thrown in.

John Murray will speak about how Gaelic place names can reveal a plethora of interesting stories in the landscape, whilst Alan Rowan's talk is about his unusual pastime of scaling the munros by moonlight. Both speakers have published books on their subjects.

More information and tickets for the remaining walk spaces and the evening talk are available online on www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk.

Tickets for the talk can also be obtained at Arran Active and the Book and Card Shop in Brodick.



Participants enjoy the permaculture course. Photo Keith Robertson

Groups combine to create community garden

Eco Savvy entered his second year on Arran by hosting a two-day introduction to permaculture course on land belonging to the Arran Community Land Initiative above Whiting Bay.

Twelve committed volunteers from both community groups met on one of the fields to begin planning a community garden.

With the help of permaculture teacher Lusi Alderslowe they began the slow process of design, balancing human needs and wishes with the potential of the beautiful

south-east sloping field. They spent as much time as possible outdoors, absorbing permaculture wisdom, design principles, zones and sectors from Lusi, while visualising what the land might become.

Hosted

Whiting Bay Golf Club generously hosted lunches, teas and coffees and a break from the cold as the weather changed yet again.

The designing process will continue with input from Eco Savvy and ACLI volunteers, led by a small joint working group.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Time for a lasting solution

So sand is finally to be returned to Brodick Beach. That's a novel idea - but how will it be retained this time when it has been washed away before?

The sorry tale of the geotextile bags has been well documented and, at last, we have seen an end to the failed experiment of the marram grass which was supposed to help retain the sand.

Instead the bags lie exposed and ugly on what was once one of Arran's favourite beaches.

It is good to see the folly of a wooden structure - who would have thought it rotted in the sea - which was supposed to give access to the beach over the bags, has been removed.

A lot of work needs to be done though, if the remaining structure at the Boathouse is to be retained.

Now there is a pledge to repair the many damaged bags and 'top dress' the area with local sand. All very welcome but this is where we came in.

The council has spent thousands - it would be interesting to find out just how much - on various consultants to come up with a solution to the beach, but where are their reports now?

Brodick Improvements Committee has also admitted that progress is 'very slow' as even the most minor works get bogged down in bureaucracy.

They also now accept that funding for any major improvement works will need to be generated by the committee as it is unlikely to come from the local authority or Scottish Government funds. Perhaps our new MP can see if she can find any spare cash at Westminster.

One of the problems is that the beach is not public but the private land of Arran Estates and it surely has an important role to play as we look forward rather than back.

Brodick Improvements Committee raised the money and built the splendid promenade in the village admired by so many.

It is time for everyone to rally again and get behind new proposals to make Brodick a beach the island can be proud of.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.' (Colossians 3:17)

press policy

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your letters

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Letters to the Editor



Hunt for Jambo

Sir,
We are regular visitors to Arran and on Saturday 2 May my two-year-old son Joel lost his most favourite toy - his treasured gorilla named Jambo.

Jambo is about 30cms tall with dark brown fur with a grey face and hands and feet.

We think we could have lost him in one of a few places - the Auchrannie Hotel up in bar Cruize, on the ferry from Brodick to Ardrrossan or in accident and emergency at Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock, where my son ended up after an accident on the ferry.

That night was most traumatic as my son sustained a fairly serious head injury which required stitches and in the chaos of it all Jambo also went missing.

Staff and passengers on board were excellent and rallied round as we tried to deal with the injury on board with around 20 minutes to port.

We would like to thank the first aider and the nurses who helped to control the bleeding and offer comfort and advice before reaching the hospital.

We are not ruling out the possibility that Jambo could have made it to Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock, however, we are struggling to recollect the exact events of the evening given the difficult circumstances.

The gorilla is not merely a toy but has great sentimental value to the family as this had been my brother's toy when he was born and has been in our family for 28 years.

He has travelled all over the world and has been to Arran numerous times since Joel was born in 2012.

Joel's head is healing well and he has had his stitches out.

Now all he needs is his best friend back.

We are all desperate to be reunited with Jambo, so if anyone has found him please, please get in touch.

Many thanks
Liza Livingstone
07738669522
or lizahoffman@yahoo.co.uk

Appeal to Shiskine

Sir,
When Arran Coastal Way Working Group (CWG) comes to the end of its present contract in a year's time from now, Arran should have a route around the island comparable with some of Scotland's great trails. The work of the CWG has been well reported in the Banner.

One of the most publicised recent sections is the new route around the Doon (Drumadon) at Blackwaterfoot which is a truly impressive piece of path design using and shaping the configuration of the natural stone on site. Other recent work includes the Fairy Dell path at Lochranza (with some help from Lochranza people) and the Postman's Path to Catacol.

Ultimately, however, it will become the responsibility of village volunteers around the island to maintain and, if necessary, repair their local paths by cutting back undergrowth seasonally or mending drains and stiles. To this end the CWG is offering to train volunteers.

Two training days were advertised and provided recently in Blackwaterfoot but the response from the area was very disappointing with the exception of the four ladies who did turn up and who, I am sure, would say their time was well spent.

The CWG is kindly offering to come back during the week beginning 17 May at a time to be arranged.

Please would any willing and reasonably abled-bodied person young or a bit older who could spare a little time and who has their local environment at heart contact either Robert Waine at the Kinloch Hotel or myself at 860525 to record their interest and arrange a course time. Members of Shiskine Improvements Committee please note.

Without the co-operation of village volunteers, the Arran Coastal Way would soon become overgrown again. The instruction from the path experts is invaluable to those

who recognise the importance of looking after their own district for the benefit of walkers and tourists of all fitnesses.

Yours,
Margie Currie
Member of the
CW Steering Group
A big thank you

Sir,
With the UK General Election over, I would be grateful if you could publish this message to all voters across your distribution area.

I would like to thank your publication for fair and comprehensive coverage of my campaign since my selection as Conservative and Unionist candidate in February 2015.

I would like to thank Katy Clark for dedicating 10 years of her life to North Ayrshire and Arran in Westminster and serving the people. I would like to congratulate Patricia Gibson on her election as the new MP for this seat. I ask Patricia to represent all people of all political persuasions, always in the interests of this constituency's needs and occasionally, as Katy did, not be afraid to challenge the party whip or status quo when the needs of local people require it.

My biggest thank you is to the 7,968 people who voted for me on 7 May. Despite a much larger turnout we grew our vote by 10 per cent in this area and more or less held our share despite the extra-ordinary national swing to the SNP. Every vote counted and no vote was wasted. For those who voted Conservative - we have a majority Conservative government in Westminster and you played a part in that. More people in Scotland voted Conservative than did so in 2010. We came second in more seats than 2010 and we are grateful and proud of that.

I was equally proud to represent the centre-right vote in North Ayrshire and Arran. I met so many people, businesses, farmers, shop owners, families, tourists and small businesses in every part of this constituency and it was an honour to do so. Many told me they had never been con-

tacted or visited by a candidate before. It is truly a beautiful part of the world and there will always be a special place in my heart for it. We are a party for all people of all backgrounds and I hope my campaign demonstrated how a modern Scottish Conservative Party sees the world around us.

Next year we have an election in Holyrood and with a different electoral system every single Conservative vote will help elect more Conservative MSPs in Scotland. The Scottish Conservatives will, in return, fight for you locally and nationally to ensure Scotland does not become a one party state. I hope we can count on your continued support.

Yours,
Jamie Greene
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party
candidate for North
Ayrshire and Arran in
the 2015 General Election

Wallet reward

Sir,
On Tuesday 3 May I had the misfortune to lose my wallet in Brodick. I am an octogenarian and needless to say it caused me some panic and worry. I retraced my steps and went to the last store where I had used my credit card, but with no success.

I had realised my wallet was missing when I made a purchase in Woolies. I had given up hope of seeing my wallet again when I met a couple of friends in Brodick who said: 'This is Arran it will be handed in.' I am ashamed to say being from Glasgow I thought 'aye right', although, to be fair, there are many honest Glasgow folk.

My son called at Woolies on the off chance and was told that someone, who they didn't know, had handed my wallet into the shop.

I would like to reward the kind stranger who found it and thank him or her for doing so.

My faith in human nature has been restored.

Yours,
Colin M Guthrie
Glasgow

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All creatures great and small are a woolly surprise down in the woods

If you go down to the woods this week you are in for a big surprise.

For flowers, insects, birds and animals have all been created for an enchanting outdoor exhibition - and they are all made of wool.

Individuals, arts and crafts groups, community groups, organisations and schools - from Arran and further afield - have been crafting away to

produce a host of woodland-themed creations for display in the grounds of Brodick Castle.

And they are being displayed at the Arran Woollen Woods exhibition which had its official opening today. (Friday)

Sue Mills, head education guide at Brodick Castle, is the Woollen Woods co-ordinator for Arran. She said: 'We

have had the most amazing collection of crafted wildlife, plants, insects and birds that will be on show over the summer season. We've had contributions come from as far away as Illinois.'

The woolly wildlife will also be on display at the Roots of Arran Community Woodland - a project working to regenerate a large clear-fell site known as Fairy Glen or Lag a Bheith, for locals and visitors to enjoy and to increase the island's biodiversity.

The exhibition is part of Voluntary Arts Week, an annual celebration of cultural creativity across the UK and Ireland.

It aims to shine a national spotlight on the wide range of creative groups and dedicated volunteers that make up the vibrant voluntary arts sector - encouraging more people to connect with activity in their community and discover the joy of 'taking part'.

Cassandra Barron, development officer Voluntary Arts Scotland, said: 'The Woollen Woods project has really captured the public's imagination and in the true spirit of Voluntary Arts Week, has enthused people across the country to



A crafted red squirrel.

Communities to be given more say on spending

North Ayrshire council is to explore a scheme aimed at empowering local communities by giving them a say over how money is spent in their area.

The council now plans to meet with key Pan Ayrshire partners to discuss the potential opportunities surrounding participatory budgeting.

A training event is also planned to raise awareness of the scheme and explore the prospects which may exist to take it forward on a local level.

Participatory budgeting is an internationally recognised tool which allows residents to have a direct say in how and where public funds can be used to address local requirements.

It was first introduced in Brazil during the 1980s but

has now been implemented in more than 1,500 locations throughout the world.

The initiative is also supported by the Scottish Government and is considered to be an innovative tool which gives local communities a say in the decisions which concern them.

Although there are currently no specific plans regarding its implementation, initial discussions have already taken place and a number of emerging themes for its development in North Ayrshire have been identified.

This could include funding coming directly to communities, local authority grants, and community benefit through procurement.

Dr Audrey Sutton, head of service for connected communities, said: 'We want

to learn as much as we can about participatory budgeting as we can in order to be properly informed about the potential benefits it may have. The future training we have planned will help develop awareness and understanding of participatory budgeting with a wider audience and allow us to explore all the options which are available for working in partnership with our communities at a neighbourhood level.

'The Pan Ayrshire training covers rural, island and urban settings. In each local authority area there are a number of emerging themes in which participatory budgeting could be developed, building on our changing relationships with communities, development of local planning and decision making.'



A knitted hedgehog. Inset: knitted trilobites

get creative. The project has seen people from all walks of life sharing wool-craft skills, learning new ones along the way and, most importantly,

having fun in the process. The Arran Woollen Woods is a fantastic example of what can be achieved when community groups, organisations and

venues work together. Huge congratulations to everyone involved.'

The displays will run until Sunday 24 May.

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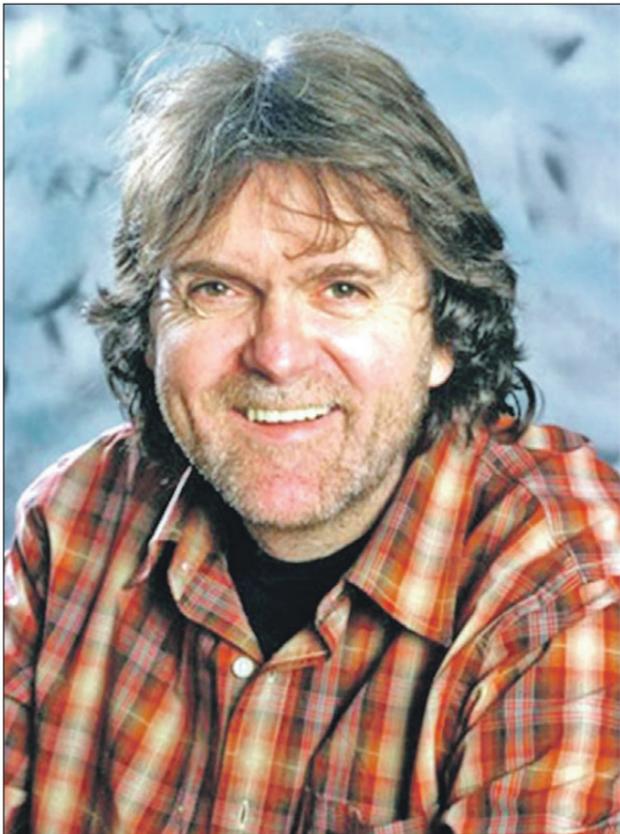
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Phil makes a welcome return to the Douglas



Phil Differ.

A top Scots comic is making a welcome return to Arran.

Phil Differ, a regular visitor to the island, will be performing his stand-up routine at 'A Pint & A Laugh' at the Douglas Hotel in Brodick on Saturday 22 August at 9pm.

The new show, to be held in the Douglas bar, is being billed as stand-up comedy and showbiz tales and is being held in association with Arran Events.

Phil, who was recently described by Rory Bremner as 'the quiet genius of Scottish comedy', has performed at the last two Arran Comedy Festivals in Whiting Bay and two years ago performed with Fred MacAulay at a sell-out show at the Douglas.

Although he began writing comedy in the early '80s, it was not until 2005 that he turned to stand-up but is now a regular on the Scottish circuit.

Phil started out in 1980 as a writer for shows such as

Naked Radio, Kick Up the Eighties, Spitting Image and Not the Nine O'clock News.

Phil joined BBC Scotland in 1983 and in the 14 years spent there, amongst other things, he co-produced Naked Video, produced Scotch and Wry, The Ferguson Theory, Pulp Video and created the long running football comedy show Only an Excuse?

After leaving the BBC, Phil joined The Comedy Unit, Scotland's top independent

production company responsible for shows like Still Game and The Karen Dunbar Show. Phil worked on various projects including producing Radio Scotland's longest running comedy show, Watson's Wind Up, before making the move from behind the scenes into the full glare of stand-up comedy.

*Tickets for his Brodick show are on sale now and cost £15, which includes a drink at the bar.

Fundraising for Nepal

Fundraising events during Save the Children Week at the end of April raised £1,716 on the island.

Once again the island's Save the Children committee decided to depart from the customary house-to-house collecting. Instead, each village organised its own fundraising event ranging from a soup and sandwich lunch, a brunch and coffee mornings.

The committee wish to thank everyone who attended these events or supported them by giving donations.

The proceeds will go towards helping to alleviate the suffering of the children who are victims of the earthquake in Nepal.

David reaches half way in marathon challenge

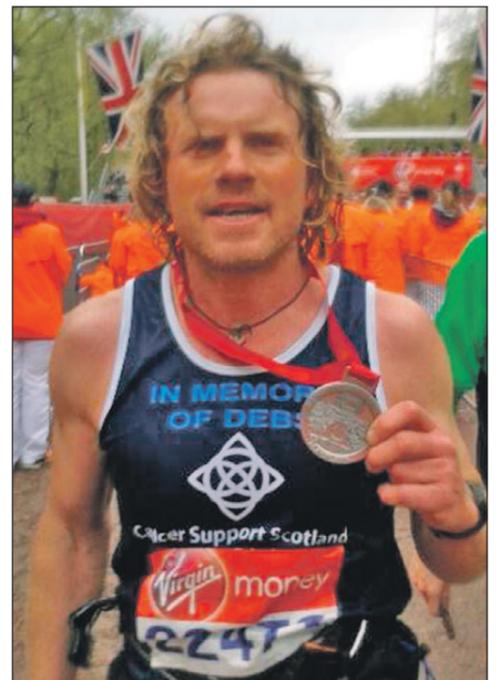
An Arran man has completed the first part of a double marathon challenge in memory of his late fiancée Deborah Hanlon.

David Allsop completed the Virgin Money London Marathon last month in 3 hrs 1 mins 2 secs.

So far he has raised more than £800 for Cancer Support Scotland and now looking forward to Edinburgh Marathon on 31 May to complete his double header.

David, who grew up in Sannox, told the Banner: 'London was a great spectacle, an amazing atmosphere.'

'I can still hear the thousands of people cheering the runners on through the streets of London past the Cutty Sark, over Tower Bridge, past Big Ben and to the finish line near Buckingham Palace and along the Mall. I'd definitely do it again.'



Right: David at the finish line with his medal.

Last chance to nominate favourite

Time is running out for people to nominate their favourite Ayrshire and Arran businesses for this year's Scottish Thistle Awards, the 'Oscars' of the country's tourism industry.

The Auchrannie currently holds the creative ambition award handed out earlier this year when at the same time the Glenisle Hotel was given a special commendation.

Held annually, the awards celebrate success, excellence and quality among hotels, restaurants, B&Bs and visitor attractions, and the tourism industry is urging members of the public to get their nominations in by the deadline Monday 18 May.

Categories include

most hospitable hotel and friendliest pub or bar, as well as new awards, best sporting event, hospitality hero and tourism – everyone's business.

Whether its admiration for their favourite visitor attraction, celebrating service with a smile or honouring first-class hospitality, members of the public can have their say in recognising tourism businesses or suppliers they feel have gone the extra mile to offer an unforgettable experience.

Each category has been aligned with the Scottish Tourism Strategy 2020, reinforcing links between the industry and the prestigious awards programme.

Shortlisted businesses from Ayrshire and Arran will take part in regional finals in November, with the winners in each category going on to the glittering national awards ceremony in 2016. The gala event will once again form a key part of Scottish Tourism Week.

For more information or to make a nomination please visit: www.scottishthistleawards.co.uk

Lochranza and Catacol draw

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 club April draw were as follows: 1 Lorna Hallyburton, 2 Lilian Brown.

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Taste of Arran produce features on new menus



'We have developed a great relationship with the team at Sodexo Prestige, supplying them with a variety of products such as ice cream, cheese and oatcakes'

An award winning contract caterer has been praised for its commitment to local suppliers after launching innovative new menus packed with world class Scottish produce.

The exclusive menus, which have been created by Sodexo Prestige Venues and Events - catering and hospitality bosses to 50 top class venues throughout the UK, including Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Hamilton Park Racecourse - are bursting at the seams with more locally-sourced Scottish produce than ever.

As a result, the leading caterer has seen praise from industry bodies, suppliers and venue clients, all impressed with their efforts to celebrate Scotland's natural larder, especially throughout the 2015 Year of Food and Drink - an initiative that looks to pro-

mote Scotland as the Land of Food and Drink.

Keen to put suppliers on the map, the leading caterer has drawn up an exclusive chart which proudly maps out 33 of its local suppliers from across Scotland, giving partner venues and clients the opportunity to locate first hand where Sodexo Prestige source their fabulous produce from.

These include products from Taste of Arran which has enjoyed a fruitful partnership with Sodexo Prestige for seven years, supplying oatcakes from Wooleys of Arran, cheese from the Bellevue Creamery, chutneys and preserves from Paterson Arran and ice cream from Arran Dairies.

Alastair Dobson from Taste of Arran, said: 'A number of years ago the chefs from Sodexo Prestige asked to visit

us to find out more about our products and it was then that we knew we were dealing with a passionate company.

'This happens more now, but back then it was relatively unheard of for chefs to venture from their kitchens.

'Since then we have developed a great relationship with the team at Sodexo Prestige, supplying them with a variety of products such as ice cream, cheese and oatcakes.

'We are proud to work with Sodexo Prestige and look forward to developing more business with them as ambassadors for Scotland's Year of Food and Drink 2015.'

Flagship places Hampden Park, Dundas Castle, Blair Castle, the National Museum of Scotland and Perth Racecourse are just a few of the venues set to see the arrival of the exclusive new menus

which will be used for restaurants, football matches and prestigious events.

Stephen Frost, executive chef at Sodexo Prestige, said: 'Our commitment to using fresh, local and seasonal ingredients in our dishes is the driving force behind everything we do at Sodexo Prestige as we know how important quality is when it comes to food.

'It has been a real privilege to work alongside all of our suppliers as each of them have a unique and top quality product and so to put new dishes and menus together using their ingredients is a real thrill and what we are all about at Sodexo Prestige.'



A chef prepares a dish from the new menu.



Dawn and David McKinnon take delivery of their award. 20_b20butcher01

Butcher award now takes pride of place in shop

Dawn and David McKinnon at The Arran Butcher have finally got their hands on an award they won last month.

The award for the best rural butcher in the country is now on Arran and has pride of place in their Blackwaterfoot shop.

The latest award for the company came at the inaugural Scottish Rural Awards gala dinner held at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, as previously reported in The Banner.

The new awards are the first major event of a five-year partnership between the Banner's sister publication, Scottish Field magazine and the Scottish Countryside Alliance to celebrate the entrepreneurship of rural businesses.

The Arran Butcher beat Macbeth's into second place with the Castletown butchers highly commended.

On the night Fiona Bennett of Wyvex Media, the Arran Banner's parent company, received the award on behalf of The Arran Butcher.

Islanders take centre stage in CalMac advert

Islanders from across the west of Scotland all proudly take centre stage in Caledonian MacBrayne's 2015 promotional campaign CalMac and Friends, which started on TV this week.

The campaign gives real islanders the opportunity to reach out a welcoming hand to their fellow Scots and visi-

tors from further afield. Unlike many promotional campaigns, there was no need to use actors - the islanders themselves were eager to step forward and threw themselves into it with passion and enthusiasm. Their message is loud, clear and sincere: 'We love these islands, and so will you.'

'We have literally put this year's campaign in the hands of the communities we serve,' said CalMac's head of marketing, Peter Griffiths.

'We are really proud to have worked with such a great, hospitable and fantastically spirited 'cast' during our time on the islands.'



WIN TICKETS TO GARDENING SCOTLAND 2015

Celebrate this summer by winning tickets to Gardening Scotland 2015 an unmissable day out. Gardening Scotland have teamed up with the Arran Banner to offer ten pairs of tickets for this year's show. It is the national gardening and outdoor living show and this year it will take place from Friday, 29 to Sunday 31 May at The Royal Highland Centre Edinburgh and kids go FREE! There are inspirational Show

Gardens, workshops and demonstrations on all kinds of growing and gardening as well as 400 exhibitors selling home and garden accessories. The Albert Bartlett Cookery Theatre, Food Fayre, giant Craft Marquee and The Big Back Garden which is dedicated to family entertainment, also provide great ideas for fun in the garden. Book your tickets online at www.gardeningscotland.com.

For your chance to win one of ten pairs of tickets, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, Gardening Scotland Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Thursday 21 May 2015.

QUESTION: What vegetable are the cookery theatre sponsors Albert Bartlett famous for?
a) Carrots b) Onions c) Potatoes

Answer.....
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Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Winners will be notified by Friday 22nd May 2015.



Searching for the truth about the origin of the village of Pirnmill

A recent letter in The Banner has prompted renewed interest in the history of the Millhouse in Pirnmill. Historian Alison Kilpatrick tells of its intriguing past

Many books have been written about the history of Arran. All agree that Pirnmill was named after the local

mill which made the pirns for Clarks' thread mill in Paisley from trees growing nearby, that the mill operated be-

tween 1780 and 1840 and it ceased to manufacture when the wood ran out.

But is this really true? My initial researches from secondary sources left me dissatisfied. Original, contemporary sources for the common assumptions about the mill were lacking. However, I discovered that John Burrel, tasked to increase income from the Arran estates of the Duke of Hamilton, had written a detailed journal during his lengthy stays on Arran between 1766 and 1782.

The Isle of Arran Heritage Museum had copies, but nowhere could I find any mention of a pirn mill. Moreover, maps made in 1812 of every



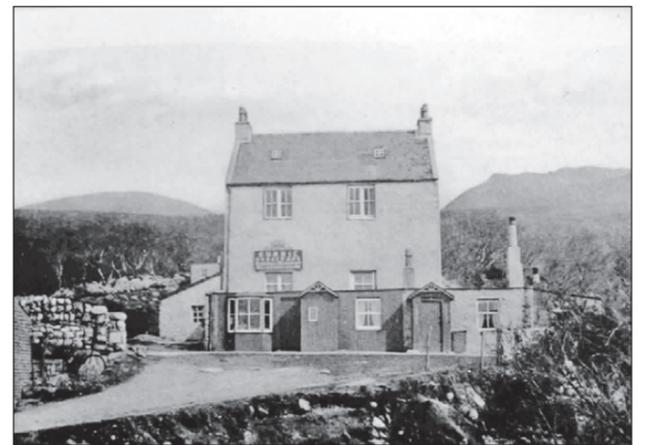
Different types of pirns. Photo courtesy of Paisley Thread Mill.



The Millhouse as it looks today.

part of the Duke's Arran estates detailing every structure in every clachan, show no building where The Millhouse now stands. Similarly, John Paterson, the Duke's factor, makes no mention of it in his comprehensive report about the island in 1834, although he describes corn, carding and flax mills elsewhere. Furthermore, in 1820 this part of north-west Arran was given to the 8th Duke's natural daughter, Anne Douglas, on her marriage to Henry Westenra; Westenra had a map made of this land prior to his attempt to sell it in 1838, but this also shows no sign of the mill.

What of the destination of the pirns, the Clarks' thread mill? Conventional wisdom has it opening in or around 1780. In fact, production only started there in 1817. Previously, thread had been made from silk, but after Napoleon blockaded the transportation of silk from the east in 1806, the Clark brothers experimented with making thread from cotton. They succeeded in making a good, strong thread which became very popular. The Clarks pros-



Edwardian postcard of the mill. Photo courtesy of Colin Cowley.

pered, and bought a large piece of land to build a mill in 1812. Economic downturns got in the way and so the mill only opened some years later.

I discovered that in 1780, a cotton mill had been built in Bute (only the second in Scotland). Perhaps here was a market for 'our' pirns? Disappointingly, the archivist there could find no reference at all to pirns.

What about the pirns themselves? According to local sources, they were long and thin, however, I found out that this kind of pirn is not used in thread-making, only in weaving. Therefore, it is probable that the pirns made here looked like those in the Paisley Thread Mill photograph.

So – the mill is unlikely to have produced pirns of any kind until after 1817, and it probably closed down in 1840 (although again, I can find no record of that). What proof is there even of its existence? The earliest refer-

ence I can find to the mill is in the Name Book (1855-64) produced by the Ordnance Survey. The surveyors wanted to find out the correct local names for features they wished to include in the map they were making. They refer to Old Mill (bobbin) with its description: 'An erection built and used for some time as a manufactory of bobbins. When the wood adapted for that purpose was wrought out it was not afterwards used as a mill. It is now occupied by families. It is well known (sic) in the district as The Pirn Mill.' Later on, a postcard was made of the mill, describing it as Clark's Bobbin Mill. To summarise, my investigations have undermined many assumptions, and most of my questions about the mill remain unanswered.

Acknowledgement: I am immensely grateful to all the archivists of the Isle of Arran Heritage Museum for their enthusiastic assistance in accessing resources.



A pirn like this was only used for weaving.

Photo courtesy of Valerie Reilly.

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BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 20 May, 1995

Brodick crash

While driving it is best to keep your vehicle on the road. If it must leave the road it is hardly the wisest thing to drive it into a policeman's house.

This, however, is what a driver of Middleton's coal lorry did - inadvertently, of course.

Had it been a few years ago it would not just have been a policeman's house but the Brodick police station itself. Constable David Higgins, who lives in the house, said: 'And he's not even my coalman.'

However, nobody was hurt and an understanding seemed to have been arrived at by the householder and the driver, when Mrs Higgins drove up from the shops.

Initially her jaw dropped in disbelief as she saw her home and new bedding plants, but the good humour on her husband's face relieved her and told her nothing too awful had happened.

Roads improved

Arran's roads, the subject of much complaint in recent months, have improved recently.

However, residents are puzzled as to why some of the new stretches are smooth and

others have horrible chips which threaten to smash a windscreen.

Roads engineer Geoff Norris explained that the 'chippy bits' are surface dressing while the smooth bits have been properly resurfaced to a depth of three inches.

He agreed that it would be nice to do them all properly, but said the cost was prohibitive at £15 per square metre, making it £100,000 per road mile.

The two very short stretches on the Lamlash hill cost £25,000 while the short stretch on the String cost £38,000.

Later ferries call

The Arran Ferry Committee met on Wednesday and set up a sub-committee to look at the ferry timetable.

The feeling of the meeting was that Arran should be accessible from the mainland for a longer part of the day - up to 8pm instead of 6pm. They also felt that an earlier ferry from Brodick each day was a must.

Another question asked was: 'Do we run our ferry exclusively for tourists?'

'I don't think that we do,' said chairman Charles Currie, 'and the ferry committee don't think that we should.'



Connie Hyndman of Brodick Primary learns a little about playing the viola from BT Scottish Ensemble viola player Gillianne Haddow at one of the Ensemble's school visits during this week's Arran Festival of Music which was held on the island. b20twe01



John Hollingworth conducts the Arran chorus in Handel's Messiah with the BT Scottish Ensemble. b20twe02



The crash scene involving the Middleton's coal lorry. b20twe04



Southend show off their new Redhouse Pharmacy strip before their match against Auld Arran at Sandbraes which they won 8-2. Sponsor David Thompson is on the right. b20twe03



Kids cheer on their respective teams at the annual Arran Primary School Swimming Gala at the Kinloch Pool this week. b20twe05

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
 Mon - Sat: 10am - 5pm, Sun: 12.30 - 5pm
 2pm (limited spaces call for availability)
 Open all day
 Brodick, 10.30am to 4.30pm

Saturday 16th May

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
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 Live Music - Station Road
 Arran Mountain Festival Festival
 Arran Outdoor Education Centre, Lamlash

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
 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
 Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm
 Corrie Hotel, Corrie, 8pm
 15-18 May
 Mountain talks and supper 7pm

Sunday 17th May

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

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
 15-18 May

Monday 18th May

Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Yoga
 Circuit Training
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink game
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 10/10 Total Body workout
 Citizens advice
 Lamlash Aerobix
 Lunch Club
 Arran Mountain Festival Festival
 Monday's RunArran

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
 Lamlash Bowling club, 7pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
 Arran High School Dance Studio, 7pm
 Brodick Sheltered Housing, 12.30pm
 15-18 May
 Whiting Bay 17:30pm

Tuesday 19th May

Pop Quiz
 Auchrannie Bowls
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Garden Walk
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 RunArran
 Bridge for beginners
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Metafit
 Tuesday's RunArran

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
 Lamlash 17:30pm

Wednesday 20th May

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
 Roundhouse Open
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 Coffee Morning
 Arran Elderly Forum
 Eco Savvy AGM
 Weds RunArran

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 Castle, 11am - 3pm
 Lamlash Bowling club, 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 10.30 - 12noon
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 11am
 Whiting Bay Lesser Hall, 8pm
 Brodick 17:30pm

Thursday 21st May

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Folky, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends
 Yoga
 Bridge Club
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Beginners
 Paintings Tour
 Cardiac Rehab
 Body & Mind
 QuiltArran
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 RunArran
 RunArran
 Spin off AGM: Bring & share lunch

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
 Brodick Castle, 2pm - 3.30pm
 Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6-7pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
 Auchrannie, 7pm
 Brodick 18:00pm
 Blackwaterfoot 19:30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am - 3.30pm

Friday 22nd May

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Live music
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Quiz
 Family fun night
 Brodick Market
 AA Meeting
 Live music
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm
 Tae Kwondo
 Eleanore McEvoy at Altachovie
 Dougarie Sheep Dog Trials

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
 Arran High School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Altachorvie, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Glenloig, String Road, 9am



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Public Notices

ARRAN MEDICAL GROUP

May Bank Holiday

The island GP surgeries will be closed on

Monday 25th May

If you need medical advice when the surgeries are closed you should phone

NHS 24

On

111

In an emergency please phone 999

If you use the prescription collection service on Wednesday please order in plenty of time to take account of the Bank Holiday

Comb and Curl Hairdressers

Tigh Niar, Lamlash

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Arran Eco Savvy

AGM

Wednesday 20th May

8 pm Whiting Bay Lesser Hall



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MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 SLIPWAY/LANDING FACILITY CONSTRUCTION, DOUGARIE, ISLE OF ARRAN

Notice is hereby given that the Forestry Commission Scotland has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of construction of a slipway/landing facility, Dougarie, Isle of Arran:

Cost **£150,000**

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Dougarie, Isle of Arran	55° 33.758' N	005° 20.844' W
	55° 33.763' N	005° 20.868' W
	55° 33.763' N	005° 20.876' W
	55° 33.758' N	005° 20.926' W
	55° 33.768' N	005° 20.928' W
	55° 33.769' N	005° 20.878' W
	55° 33.771' N	005° 20.864' W
	55° 33.765' N	005° 20.861' W
	55° 33.762' N	005° 20.845' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Brodick Library, Main Street Brodick, KA27 8DL

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference:

05517

Forestry Commission Scotland

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

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

15/00233/PP; Site To East Of, Grianan, Kildonan Road, Kildonan; Erection of dwelling house.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

Katy Clark

As I am no longer an MP I am required to destroy any records I hold relating to constituency casework.

If you would like copies of any paperwork I have on file relating to any matter I took up on your behalf please call **01505 684 127** or write to the below address **by 5th June.**



If I do not hear from you before this date I will have to securely shred any paperwork to comply with Data Protection legislation.

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Please contact Emma or Mark on
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Happy Snack Chicco Highchair £15, Wooden drop side cot £10 Tel: 830388

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Hammock with frame, as new £15, Outboard motor fuel tank 12 ltr £5, Tel 850236

Two Gardman Bird Feeding Stations, complete with dark green weighted patio/decking stands and all feeding attachments including water bowl. Cost £47.00 each. Will sell for £12.00 each, O.N.O. Tel: 700405.

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Bugaboo Cameleon sand/hot pink pram £375, Mamas & Papas white cot bed and cot top changer £75, Maxi Cosi family-fix isofix base £50, Maxi Cosi Pearl car seat - Jet Black £60, Maxi Cosi Pearl car seat - pink. £60 Tel: 830388

Arran Paintings - Unique opportunity to acquire four, original and signed Paintings by wonderfully talented local artist Pat McDonald. All four paintings are of Arran views, namely: Lochranza (including the castle), High Corrie, Bannan Head and one titled Red Roof. Tel: 700405

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Wedding dresses £75, Bridesmaid Dress £50, Kids dresses £35/£40, Skirts with bodices £50 Tel Footprints: 465022

Boots - Asolo size 8 worn once to small for me as new £60 cost £85 quality buy Tel: 830650

Tile Cutter - New £80, Smartphone - New £50, House Safe plus two keys £90 Tel: 07980671267 Whiting Bay

Conservatory Suite with coffee table V.G.C £45 Tel: 600837

Honey Pine Extending Dining Room Table 4 chairs, 2 carvers also matching Welsh Dresser. Almost as new. Offers Tel: 700667

WANTED

2 pub bar stools Tel: 830650
Golf buggy for use on Arran Tel: 01475 720228

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01294 461554



CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Sunday 17th May
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.

Wednesday 20th May
'Council of the Isles' meeting with other congregations of Mid-Argyll,
Seafood Shack, Skipness,
12.00 noon.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran
Brodict, Corrie, Lochranza,
Pirnmill 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 17th May
Lochranza Church, 9.30am Morning Worship.
Pirnmill Church, 10.45am Morning Worship.
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodict 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 17th May
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 17th May
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate, Brodict
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodict
Wednesday 20th May
Prayer Meeting, 7pm
5 Glen Road
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number SC014005)
Sunday 17th May
Worship will be conducted by Mrs Sharon MacLeod, Reader of the Church of Scotland, at 10.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.
All very welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7.30pm
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 17th May
11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodict
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 17th May
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodict 7pm (Church behind post office)
Rev Malcolm Peters

DEATHS

BLAIR - At Reedsdale Court, Tynemouth on Wednesday 6th May 2015, John Blair, most beloved brother of Marjorie Brown, and a loving Uncle and great-uncle to Glen, Colin and their families. Funeral at Tynemouth Crematorium at 12.15pm on Monday 18th May, where all will be welcome. John, whose delight in life and in the love of friends infected all who knew him, will be sadly missed.
A celebration of John's life will be held on Arran at a later date.

HAMILTON - Anthony (Tony). Peacefully at Cooriedoon Nursing Home on Sunday, 10 May 2015. Tony, aged 98 years, much loved husband of Catherine, father of Robert and James and proud grandfather of Jennifer and Sarah. Funeral service in Kilmory Church on Monday, 18 May at 12 noon, to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired, to Arran Hospital Supporters League.



Golf

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday 6 May, 11 played on a wet course in the fourth round of the Summer Trophy.

The evening players got by far the better conditions after torrential rain the previous day. The CSS remained at 63 and the results were: 1 Gordon Provan (9)63 acb, 2 Jamie Stewart (5)63 acb (and lowest gross), 3 Jamie MacPherson (6)63, 4 Andrew Martin (12)65. Magic two Jamie MacPherson at the fourth.

Sunday 10 May, Eric Wood Stableford. On a poor weather morning, with worse to come in the afternoon, the competition was postponed. The date is likely to be in June but is yet to be confirmed. Keep an eye on the website for further details.

Fixtures: Sunday 17 May, McKelvie Cup, round 1. Wednesday 20 May, Summer Trophy, round 6. Saturday 23 May, Bill Lockie Clinic, full day's coaching by former national coach and British Seniors Champion Bill Lockie. See website for full details.

Brodict Golf Club

Wednesday 6 May, Summer Cup, 36 played, CSS 65. Winter Cup winner, Sid, continues his good streak with an excellent score.

The course was amazingly dry following Tuesday's deluge and the greens have benefited greatly from a good soaking. 1 Iain Sillars (15)63, Lindsay Keir (14)64 acb, 3 Greg McCrae (6)64 acb Scratch Ewan McKinnon 69.

Sunday 10 May, Brandon, 11 played, CSS 67. 1 I MacDonal (7)62, 2 G Hendry (5)68. Scratch I MacDonald 69. First Class Brandon winner I MacDonald. No Second Class Brandon winner, as scores not good enough. There was only one magic two from Douglas Robertson
Fixtures : Sunday 17 May, McCarfrae Trophy round 1, Club Championship qualifying, draw 12noon Sat 16 May. Thursday 21 May, McCarfrae

Trophy round 2. Sunday 24 May, McCarfrae Trophy round 3.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 7 May, Summer Cup, CSS 66. 1 Todd Jameson 66-5=61, 2 Willie Currie 75-10=65, 3 Ian Bremner 72-6=66 BIH, 4 John O'Sullivan 87-21=66. Scratch Todd Jameson 66. Magic twos Todd Jameson at the 14th and 17th. Friday 8 May, Seniors Bowl, Lamlash beat Lochranza Castle 10 up. Machrie Bay beat Brodict 2 up. Congratulations to Lamlash and Machrie Bay on reaching the final fixtures: Sunday 17 May, Hamilton Bowl (Bogey), tee off 9.30am and 12.30pm.

Ladies' Section: Wednesday 6 May, Fleet, seven played, CSS 67, par 65. 1 Yvonne Brothers 87(16) 71, 2 Catherine McAdam 91(19)72. Scratch Sheena Murchie 87.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday 6 May, Evening Cup, 15 played, CSS 64. 1 R Burke 70-10=60, 2 A Burke 77-11=66, 3 M Elliot 81-14=67 BIH over J McConnachie. Best scratch R Burke 70. Magic twos' pot not won.

Saturday 9 May, Summer Cup second round, 24 played, CSS 61. 1 S Beardsley 34+34=68-7=61, 2 J McGovern 40+34=74-11=63 BIH. 3, A Smith 41+33=74-11=63 BIH over D K Henderson. Magics twos M Elliot at the eighth, J McGovern at the 14th, J Adams at the fifth and A Smith at the 10th. Congratulations to B Lewis on his hole in one at the 10th at Corrie on Sunday.

Fixtures: Saturday 16 May, Jubilee, tee offs 8.30am and 1pm.

Machrie Golf Club

Tuesday 12 May, Peter Sutton/Lady Mary, 15 played. 1 Brian Sherwood 78-12=66, 2 Pietre Johnston 91-24=67, 3 Sally Brookes BIH 88-19=69.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 7 May, Ladies Club Championship, qualifying round 1, 19 played, CSS 67. Silver 1 Kema Genda 77-11=66, 2 and scratch Mairi Pollock 75-8=67. Bronze 1 Lesley Murray 98-26=72 BIH, 2 Piet Johnston 96-24=72.

Arran Golfers Association

The Seniors Bowl semi-finals



Bowling club opens for the season

The first bowl is thrown at the opening of Whiting Bay Bowling Club earlier this month. The club is open on Monday and Wednesday from 6.30pm and on Saturday from 2.30pm and non members are welcome.

were played on Friday 8 May at Lamlash Golf Club. First up were Lamlash against a strong Lochranza team, superb play from the home team though saw Lamlash going through 10 up, second match was Brodict against Machrie, a closer tie this time saw one game end two up to Machrie and the other tied so Machrie went through to Friday's final two up. Final Friday 15 May at 5pm, Lamlash v Machrie.

Spring Handicap/Guy Spiers Trophy. The spring meeting was played at the second attempt over a dry course in the morning although the afternoon boys got by far the worst of the weather as the heavens opened and the greens flooded very quickly to make the course virtually unplayable. Thanks to Corrie for hosting and to Eddie for starting everyone and gathering the scores, also to Clare in the tearoom for much-needed warming soup and rolls.

Before the prizegiving new president Dougie Macfarlane thanked outgoing president Donald Logan for all his hard work over the years and presented him with a bottle of malt on behalf of all Arran golfers.

Results: CSS 61. First class 1 A Pattison 69-10=59, 2 D McKinnie 69-9=60 BIH, 3 I Bremner 66-6=60. 2nd class 1 S Macfarlane 76-14=62, 2 Nicol Hume 77-14=63, 3 L Hartley 84-17=67. Best scratch D Macfarlane 63. JC Reid award for over 55's Donald McKinnie.

Fixtures: Thomson Match-play draw: N Hume v B Smith, D Macfarlane v A Pattison.

I Bremner v D Jeffrey, J McPherson v W McNally, D McKinnie v S Macfarlane, L

Hartley v D Robertson, D Logan v T Raeside and B Lewis v G Andrews.

First round by Sunday 17 May, second round by Sunday 31 May with the semi and finals day on Saturday 13 June 1pm and 6pm. Games can be played at neutral venue if agreed by the two players, semi and finals day will be at Corrie Golf Club.

NB: As a week was lost due to the cancellation last week, the dates are slightly flexible for the first two rounds but try and get them played sooner rather than later please, anyone unable or struggling to make contact with their opponent phone Dougie.

Junior Matchplay semi finals to be played at an agreed course by 17 May; final will be played on 24 May at 5pm.



Liz Kerr won the ladies Rock Plate at Shiskine along with Katrina McKinlay, who was pictured last week.

THANK YOU

THANKYOU

I should like to thank Paramedics, Doctors, Nurses and Staff of Arran War Memorial Hospital for care and attention given to me recently - 'I am doing well'.

Helicopter Doctors Roy and Jimmi for kindness and cheerfulness. Family, friends and neighbours for phone calls, cards and best wishes. Louise for being so kind and thoughtful 're - cup of tea'.

Last but not least all my wonderful friends at Whiting Bay Golf Club for all cards, calls and enquiries, you all have been so kind.

Like the song goes 'I'm on the top of the world'

Mary Andrew, Whiting Bay.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Laura Dunkel and Andrew Pearson on your wedding today.

Arran holds a special place in our hearts and we wish you both much love and happiness.

From, Mum, Dad, Murray and Erin xxx



The teams who took part in the Kiscadale Tray competition.

Lamlash emerge victorious in Kiscadale Tray contest

Final putt on 18th green sees Lamlash win both games to clinch the title for the first time in five years

The Arran Ladies Golf Union Kiscadale Tray 2015 competition was held at Lamlash Golf Club from 20 to 25 April and was blessed with beautiful weather.

As Whiting Bay were unable to field a team this year, it remained to Brodick, Lamlash, Machrie and Shiskine to compete for the coveted trophy.

On the first evening Shiskine won both their games against Brodick and Machrie and Lamlash won one game each.

On the second night Lamlash and Brodick won one game each, and in the Shiskine vs Machrie match Shiskine won one game and the other was halved.

Coming into the final day,

Shiskine were three points ahead of Lamlash and they had to play each other.

Machrie and Brodick halved both their games and in a nail biting finish, with the final putt on the 18th green, Lamlash won both games to clinch the title for the first time in five years.

Congratulations to the Lamlash team and non-playing captain Ann MacVicar and team members Sheena Murchie, Jo Hastings, Yvonne Brothers, Morag Gardiner, Liz Sinclair and Kate McAdam.

All the matches were played in the most sporting and friendly manner and were enjoyed by all.

Thanks to the green staff for

the superb condition of the course and to the catering and bar staff for their excellent service.

The annual prizegiving then took place and the winners were as follows: 2014 island champion, Susan Butchard, runner-up Viv Parks; 2014 Flockhart Trophy, Jenny Turnbull; 2014 Cir Mhor Trophy, Sheila Gray; 2015 Drumadoon Tray, Sally Brookes; 2015 Kiscadale Tray, Lamlash.

The individual winners of the Drumadoon competitions also received their prizes. Thanks to all who played, spectated and helped in any way. The agm will be held at Lamlash Golf Club on Monday 18 May at 7.30pm.



The Lamlash trophy winners of the Kiscadale Tray for 2014-15 season. They are, from left: Kate MacAdam, Elizabeth Sinclair, Sheena Murchie, Anne MacVicar (non playing captain), Jo Hastings, Yvonne Brothers and Morag Gardner.



The ALGU prizewinners with their trophies.

Piet has Flockhart Trophy success

The 2015 Flockhart Trophy was held by the Arran Ladies Golf Union at Machrie Bay Golf Club on Saturday 9 May. The weather was superb and the 21 ladies who competed enjoyed the day.

The course was in excellent condition and thanks go to David Jeffrey the greenkeeper. Thanks also to Claire in the tearoom for the tea and coffee and fabulous selection of cakes, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The winner was Piet Johnston 92-24=68 with the runner up Liz Sinclair 86-17=69. Scratch Liz Sinclair 86.



Left is Carole Stewart from the ALGU presenting the trophy to Piet Johnston.

Awards handed out at first Arran Ladies hockey night

'Here's to a brilliant first season and hopefully many more to come'

The Arran Ladies Hockey Club held their first ever awards evening in the Douglas Hotel last Friday night attended by more than 30 members.

Everyone agreed it had been a lovely evening and to kick off proceedings Captain Victoria McNicol gave what was described as 'a great speech which included everyone' before members and friends enjoyed a gorgeous buffet provided by sponsors the Douglas Hotel.

Pauline Reid won captain's award chosen by Victoria, due to her assistance in stepping into umpires shoes or goalie pads when needed. She was described as a fun player and led a great sing song on the bus and a key player, well deserved.

Coach award by Phil Adams

went to Susie Murchie for her continuous hard work and 100 per cent effort at training and on matches.

Players player was a vote by all the players and when Cat Galbraith won this, she actually smiled.

Victoria said: 'Well done ladies, all well deserved. Here's to a brilliant first season and hopefully many more to come.'

It was a truly happy singing star night for everyone with new members joining too.

The club will be playing mixed hockey in a different league over the summer and continue training every Thursday night from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. They will be starting additional training with RunArran's Laura Aitchison every Tuesday night from August.



The gang's all here at the hockey club awards dinner. 20_b20hockey03



Coach's player Susie Murchie, captain's player Pauline Reid and player's player Cat Galbraith. 20_b20hockey05



A thank you for the coaches and captains. 20_b20hockey02



Archie McNicol slides the ball past the keeper to open his account for the season. 20_b20footy02

HOLDERS Brodick ease their way into cup final

Lamlash 3 Brodick 4
Brodick will meet Southend in the Arran Haulage Cup final today (Saturday) in a repeat of last year.

Holders Brodick overcame a close game with Lamlash by edging them four goals to three. Jamie Sillars opened the scoring for Lamlash but the lead didn't last long as last year's golden boot winner, Archie McNicol, opened his account for the season.

Player of the year Babbies MacNeil then made it 2-1 to the visitors. After a poor clearance from the Brodick defence, Jamie scored his

second with a well struck half-volley from the edge of the box to level the score at 2-2. Euan 'Smithy' Smith put Brodick back in front soon after through a mistake from Lamlash keeper Martin Ross.

Archie got his second of the match to make it 4-2 before ex-Shiskine player Joe Fawcett pulled one back for Lamlash to make it a nervy finish.

In the dying seconds Sam Tattersfield almost forced extra time with a good strike but Gregor Small, who is on loan from Margaret River FC in Australia, clawed the ball away to put Brodick into the

final. Referee Iain McDonald gave the man of the match to Jamie Sillars.

Southend 10 Shiskine 0

It was a more one-sided encounter in the other semi final.

Southend beat a depleted Shiskine team 10 goals to 0. With the Murchie brothers missing amongst others, Shiskine called up Stevie 'Trevor' Crawford for their goalkeeper.

Despite the scoreline Trevor pulled off some cracking saves and the score could have been a lot worse without him between the sticks.

Referee Andy MacNamara gave the man of the match to Donnie Park for the second game running after another dominating performance in the midfield and scoring four of Southends goals. Lewis Kennedy bagged a brace, one of them being a bullet header.

The other scorers were Corey Allan, Frazer 'Baldy' Barr, Dave Morrison and Danny 'Heider' Head.

The cup final will be played at Lamlash today (Saturday) with a 3pm kick-off. A big crowd would be good to see for the first cup final of the season.



Jamie Sillars opens the scoring for Lamlash. 20_b20footy01

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Arran clinch second spot with hurricane home performance

Arran 57 Millbrae 7
Arran secured a promotion place with a devastating display against a useful Millbrae side from Ayr in Brodick on Saturday.

They finished second in the BT West Division 3 with 12 wins out of a possible 16 and ending the season with 53 points, seven behind league champions Cumnock.

Ormidale Park was bathed in sunshine with a slight breeze and firm underfoot conditions which made for special rugby which is exactly what Arran provided, writes *Bill McLaughlin*.

They could have been excused for some nervousness, however slight, given the importance of the game but not a bit of it. As soon as the referee blew his whistle to start the game they flew into battle like the dogs of war and their pace never slackened throughout a vastly entertaining first half.

By the time the whistle

went for the interval they had scored five tries with one each from Todd Jamieson, Iain Keen, Jack Barbour, Lachie Jones and Ally Walker with Lachie converting three of them without reply. This was strange, coming from a Millbrae side which played in their parent club's famous tops of pink and black hoops thus adding to the vivid colour of the day.

Half time score: Arran 31 Millbrae 0.

When a home side supporter was heard to remark to a Millbrae fan that their team had looked somewhat lethargic he received the reply: 'Are you kidding? What do you do in the face of a hurricane?'

The second half began with a much more spirited and energised Millbrae but Arran still scored four more tries through Jamie Picken, Martin Ross, and with Lachie Jones and Jack Barbour each helping himself to a second touchdown. Lachie converted

three and Millbrae scored a converted try making the second half score 26 - 7 and the final tally 57 - 7.

Given the plethora of tries, it would be impossible to describe them all, however two of them provided marvellous viewing for the spectators.

The first was the first try of the game scored by Todd Jamieson, who collected the ball on halfway and fearlessly sticking close to the touchline scorched his way to the corner flag.

The second and, perhaps the try of the game, was scored in the second half by Lachie Jones, who knifed through the middle of the Millbrae defence just on halfway and left his support trailing. He was left with the full back waiting for him 20 yards away and instead of trying to beat him he went on a scalding, arcing run round him and blazed into the right corner for a truly spectacular try. What a try, what a game, what a day.



Arran touch down another try. 20_b20rugby03



Above: Millbrae try to stop another Arran attack. 20_b20rugby02

Left: The victorious Arran team who have clinched second spot in the league. 20_b20rugby01



Tough decision faced by club

Arran RFC have a tough choice to make in the next few days over whether to accept promotion.

By finishing second in the BT West Division 3 they find themselves with an automatic promotion place into the West Division 2.

However, the management and players must decide if they are to take it or to stay in Division 3.

With a full squad it is thought they could complete in Division 2 but with some of the players already at university on the mainland and others uncertain they will be able to give their full commitment, it is a tricky decision.

A players' meeting will be held in the coming days and the subject will be top of the agenda at the club's agm at the Ormidale Pavilion on Wednesday 20 May at 7pm.

Manager Chris Marriott said: 'Saturday was a terrific end to a very long season and the players thoroughly deserve to be in the promotion position.'

'A players' meeting will be held in the next few days to decide if the club takes promotion given the travelling and commitment required to move up a league.'

'Whatever decision is made will receive the full backing of the club, and everyone involved this season should be very proud of their achievement,' he added.

Division 2 would see Arran face sides including Paisley, Clydebank and Cumbernauld.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

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