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Islanders told new bus fleet is the best they are going to get

New measures are too little, too late, says VisitArran

REPORT
 by HUGH BOAG
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Islanders have been given a blunt 'put up and shut up' message over the new £1.5 million bus fleet.

Officials at the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, who bought the 12 new fully wheelchair-accessible buses, say they have bent over backwards to meet the needs of the travelling public on Arran.

They insist the vehicles represent a 'significant improvement' to services and that the new buses are here to stay.

There has been a wide range of complaints about the new fleet since they were introduced in March. One of the main concerns has been the lack of luggage space, but bus bosses say this is being addressed and racks will be fitted by next month.

Concern has also been expressed that the 'bandit screens' fitted to protect urban drivers on the larger Wrightbus Streetlites are inappropriate in a rural environment. It is also argued

they block the driver's view of his nearside mirror putting cyclists and pedestrians at the side of the road at risk.

However, since they are not part of the SPT contract, operator Stagecoach has decided to remove them.

Action has also been taken to improve the gearing on the buses which were initially struggling on some of the hillier parts of the roads.

However VisitArran this week said that the measures were 'too little, too late' and vowed to keep up their fight for a fully-integrated public transport system.

An SPT spokesperson said 'We are satisfied that these new vehicles represent a significant improvement for passengers and have no plans to replace them.'

'Regrettably the privatised bus industry does not consider the bus network on Arran sufficiently profitable to operate it commercially without public subsidy.'

Continued on page 2



Three and easy for winner Finlay

Three times winner Finlay Wild (centre) is all smiles as he picks up his trophies at the end of the Goatfell Hill Race on Saturday. He has been credited with running one of the best ever races after he finished in a time of 1hr 14mins 22secs - just 42 seconds outside the course record which has stood for 21 years. With him is Shettleston Harriers runner Ruth Joss, who was the first female home and top Arran runner Eliot Sedman, who finished a terrific fifth. Full report and pictures pages 10 and 11.



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New MP finding her feet in Westminster

'Working hard for my constituents in North Ayrshire and Arran will be my number one priority

Arran's new MP Patricia Gibson has been finding her feet at Westminster and she says that working hard for her constituents will be her number one priority.

Mrs Gibson said: 'I am delighted to have been elected by the people of North Ayrshire and Arran to represent them at Westminster.

'This first week has been a whirlwind and last Monday saw the new contingent of SNP MPs arriving in London for the first time.

'Our priority has been to secure office accommodation, in order to begin work in earnest, whilst getting our bearings in the House of Commons and embarking on the steep learning curve of parliamentary procedure.

'The job of SNP MPs is to work hard to make sure Scotland's voice is heard and that more powers are devolved to Scotland.

'The people have spoken and expect more decisions affecting Scotland to be tak-

en in Scotland. Certainly many feel that Westminster is remote and detached from their own communities and their own lives.

'Working hard for my constituents in North Ayrshire and Arran will be my number one priority and I have already undertaken several engagements, participating in community events and meeting local community activists.

'This will be a key part of my work as well as dealing with individual constituents' concerns, working with and for them on the issues that matter to them.

'I am in the process of organising office premises in the constituency and will hold advice surgeries as soon as these can be arranged. I will publicise details of these at the earliest possible opportunity.

'In the meantime constituents can contact me at: patricia.gibson.mp@parliament.uk'



Patricia Gibson on the terrace of the House of Commons.

Footprints charity shop to close

A Brodick charity shop is to close its doors 18 months after it was set up.

Footprints in the Douglas Centre raised money in the shop to help the disadvantaged, those down on their luck and the elderly on the island.

However, it has been unable to find the support of volunteers to keep the shop going.

No date has yet been set for the closure of the shop but a closing down sale has already been launched in which everything must go.

Volunteer Rosie Leetham, whose move off the island has helped to prompt the closure, said: 'It is sad. We have helped a lot of people on the island but a lack of volunteers means we have to shut up shop.'

Footprints first opened its doors in former office space to the rear of the Douglas Centre but later expanded to give it a shopfront entrance. It has in recent times been hampered by erratic opening hours.

New bus fleet is the best Arran is going to get

Continued from page 1

'Bus services on the island therefore are subsidised and the route and timetables are integrated with travel to school journeys to maximise efficiency of the fleet. These buses must be capable of carrying school children safely and also provide the backbone for a bus network on the island.

'Whilst SPT does not have a remit to subsidise tourism, recognising the benefit to the island economy, we do endeavour to coordinate the timetable to integrate with ferry services. In response to feedback from the local community on the island, we will be fitting additional luggage racks to the new buses in June.

'Until this £1.5m investment by SPT, the buses that operated on the island were in some case more than 20 years old and did not comply with current and relevant accessibility legislation. SPT prides itself in ensuring that the bus services it supports provide fully accessible buses to meet the needs of all, particularly those who may have mobility issues and found it difficult to board the very high steps of the buses previously operating on the island.

'The driver protection screens are a matter specified by the operator of the service and the contract does not require them to be fitted.'

A Stagecoach spokesman confirmed that the driver cab

screens would be removed and added: 'Once available the new luggage racks will be fitted by our team on the island.'

Executive director of VisitArran Sheila Gilmore said: 'These measures are too little, too late. We welcome the investment by SPT on the new buses but they aren't fit for purpose. There's nowhere to put luggage. They are urban buses and they're not designed for a Scottish tourist island.'

'We're extremely disappointed that thought wasn't given to the carriage for luggage or space for bikes on these buses.'

'We're trying to encourage people to use public transport on Arran but it's very difficult to tell people to bring their golf clubs if there is nowhere to put them on the bus. There aren't even any overhead luggage racks.'

Sheila said VisitArran had been fighting for three years to get buses that could accommodate bikes. 'I'm not saying they should take precedence over wheelchairs but bikes can be accommodated in the Lake District and Kintyre but there appears to be a 'can't do' rather than 'a can do' attitude for Arran.'

She stressed she was not criticising Stagecoach but said SPT had to do more to introduce a more integrated transport system for the island linking buses with ferries and trains.

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Folk festival is coming of age

The 21st Arran Folk Festival is almost here and as always there is a terrific line up with the cream of Scottish talent to whet the appetite.

Following on from last year's format, it will take place over the first weekend in June.

The dates for the diary are Friday 5 June to Sunday 7 June and, as always, there is expected to be a lively mix of locals and visitors alike at the events.

As usual there will be the free afternoon sessions in the Douglas Hotel which will also play host to the Open Mic night on the Sunday evening.

The evening concerts on the Friday and Saturday are once again licensed by the Isle of Arran Distillery and will take place in Brodick Hall.

A new feature for this year is the late night sessions at Fiddlers Bar. This should allow the music to continue into the wee small hours - but be a seat cannot always be guaranteed!

Organiser Jon Hollingworth of Arran Events said: 'All the hard work and planning in the world isn't half as important as the audience. A good folk festival isn't just about the quality of the folk music - it's about the quality of the folk who attend, participate and enjoy.'

'So here's hoping for a successful weekend of music, friendships and memories.'

The opening act - and compère for this year's festival - is Jamie McGeechan, aka Little Fire, a Scottish singer-songwriter based in Ayrshire. Jamie's passion for story and music, and his honesty as a performer, are winning him many fans, both here and abroad.

He regularly organises gigs and festivals in and around Ayrshire and recently became the first person to record in the Robert Burns Cottage. Jamie's debut album, High Hopes, was released at the



end of 2014.

Among the other artists appearing this year are:

Mairearad Green (accordion and bagpipes) and Anna Massie (guitar, banjo, fiddle) are a truly captivating duo, providing a highly energetic performance with an instantly warm and friendly stage presence.

Having played alongside each other for more than 10 years, they enjoy an intuitive approach to each other's

musical ideas. Now based in Glasgow, Mairearad and Anna both grew up in the Scottish Highlands amidst very similar musical backgrounds and so share an innate understanding of Scottish culture and music.

As a duo they have enjoyed many successes and become a much-loved live act.

The bagpipe-driven Scott Wood Band first burst on to the Scottish music scene at the 2014 Celtic Connections Festival Club.

The band, all graduates from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and the University of Strathclyde, contains a BBC Young Traditional Musician of the Year finalist, as well as a BBC Young Jazz Musician of the Year finalist.

Between them they have performed shows on every continent of the globe, apart from Antarctica, yet.

Their debut album will be released in August.

Emma Sweeney is a fiddle player from Manchester, born to Irish parents. Emma received an Emerging Excellence Award from Help Musicians UK, enabling her to study at the world famous Subramaniam Academy of Performing Arts in India.

With Emma will be the well-respected guitarist and multi-instrumentalist Jack Rutter, known for his highly rhythmic tune backing, flat-picking and fingerstyle playing. Jack also plays in the Seth Lakeman Band, and is in high demand as a session guitarist.

BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award winner, Mischa Macpherson is a young artist who looks set to achieve great things.

Having grown up immersed



The bagpipe-driven Scott Wood Band.

in the distinctive culture, music, language and landscape of Lewis in the Western Isles, she discovered an enjoyment in creating music at a very early age, and it is these in-

fluences that the young singer now presents with clarity and tenderness, and to multi-award-winning acclaim.

Mischa is joined by Conal McDonagh on Scottish bor-

derpipes and whistles and guitarist Innes White.

Tickets for evening concerts are available on-line: www.arranevents.com or from the Brodick Post Office.



The Misha Macpherson Trio led by a promising young artist.



Mairearad and Anna have performed together for more than ten years.

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Ferry bosses seeks public view on future of lifeline services

CalMac Ferries is embarking on a major tour of Scotland's west coast communities to ask ferry users how the customer experience can be improved on their lifeline services.

Board members and senior executives from CalMac's parent company David MacBrayne Ltd will host 24 public meetings in mainland ports and on more than a dozen Clyde and Hebridean islands over the next month.

They will visit Arran on Monday 1 June with the meeting held in Brodick Hall from 6pm to 8pm.

CalMac is already committed to ongoing dialogue, both formal and informal, with customer and representative groups, however, that

typically focuses upon operational matters relating to the day-to-day services. This programme of public meetings – the biggest single face-to-face engagement exercise the company has undertaken with its customers since securing the last contract in 2007 – is designed to gather public views on the delivery of ferry services from 2016 onwards and, along with the information already collected, will help shape CalMac's bid for the next contract.

Hundreds of ferry users are expected to attend the meeting on Arran to give their perspective on the future of the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services (CHFS), operated by CalMac since 2007. That contract expires on 30 Sep-

tember 2016, and the process to select the operator of the next contract – for a period of up to eight years – is underway.

Martin Dorchester, chief executive of David MacBrayne Ltd, said: 'We are working hard to retain the CHFS contract next October, which is why we are seeking the views of the real experts – the people who rely on this service day in, day out.'

'Our bid for the new contract will be shaped by the views of the people we will meet as we travel up and down the west coast over the course of the next month. It is critical that we understand our passengers' experiences of the current service and their aspirations for the future service.'

'We'll never be able to control everything – not least the west coast weather – but there will always be ways we can improve the customer experience on our boats and it is vital that we listen to the views of our passengers if we are to submit a bid deserving of winning the next contract.'

* A feedback form about the service and the meeting is available at the following link: <https://www.calmac.co.uk/community-engagement-meetings>



The MV Isle of Arran docks at Brodick this week. 20_b21arran01

Problems continue to hit second boat

Technical problems continue to dog Arran's second summer ferry, the MV Isle of Arran.

Disruption

Following the problems which led to disruption over the May Day holiday weekend the vessel was again out of service last weekend.

The Isle of Arran service between Brod-

ick and Ardrossan was off from Saturday and only resumed on Monday night.

There was a further interruption to the service on Tuesday.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'The Isle of Arran was out of action due to a problem with its controllable pitch propeller (CPP) which was reducing the vessel's manoeuvrability. This was repaired on Monday.'

Change in weather conditions is leading to rise in ferry disruption

Significant changes in prevailing weather conditions are leading to a rise in ferry cancellations and disruptions, a Caledonian MacBrayne boss said this week.

Speaking to a national newspaper, Guy Dale-Smith, head of marine at CalMac, said: 'In recent winters, our masters have witnessed an increase, not only in the severity of extreme weather events but also in their duration and frequency, all of which have impacted on our fleet's ability

to operate services safely.

'Such extreme weather events also have a considerable impact on the ability of the ports and slipways we operate from to safely support the delivery of our ferry services.'

Frustration

'The safety of our vessels, crew, passengers and port facilities is our number one priority. Of course we fully appreciate our customers' frustration that weather changes are leading to an

increase in disruptions across our network. But there is no quick fix to this and it will be a factor those responsible for replacing ships and upgrading harbours will have to take into account when planning for the future.'

Meanwhile, a strike ballot at CalMac has been announced by the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union.

The union said the move was prompted by the Scottish government-owned firm's 'failure to provide satisfactory reassurances over job security, conditions of service, pensions and continuity of lifeline ferry services for remote communities and businesses'.

A spokesman for CalMac said: 'We are disappointed that the RMT has outlined its intention to ballot for industrial action given the bulk of these issues were only raised with us on Monday of last week.'

'Should the possibility of industrial action arise we will strive to minimise the effect on our communities and employees.'

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Actors help to make exercise as realistic as possible

The emergency services could not have carried out their live play exercise at Brodick ferry terminal last week without the help of dozens of volunteer actors.

As reported in The Banner last week Exercise Bouyant was a simulation of a fire accident at the pier with passengers trapped on the docking ferry.

The exercise was reported from the perspective of any news organisation at such an event. But the photographers from Scottish Fire and Rescue Service had access to all areas to give them a full picture of the event for training purposes.

Here some of the more than 60 local actors, many from

drama groups on the island, have a chance to share some of the limelight.

Responders arrived on scene in 'real time' which would correspond to the response times and numbers of personnel available within each service on the island.

The casualties had various injuries ranging from simulated fatalities to walking wounded. This posed a significant challenge to the initial responders due to the large numbers of people requiring immediate assistance and treatment.

As the exercise progressed, actors also played the role of concerned relatives and media representatives to add this

dimension to the management of the scenario.

Arran emergency responders reacted fantastically to this challenge and worked together to prioritise treatment and carry out rescues.

Fire service area manager Jim Scott said: 'Exercise Buoyant was an excellent example of partnership working within the emergency services and the community.'

'Responders and volunteers coped exceptionally well with a highly challenging scenario involving a large number of casualties. The can-do attitude and community spirit was apparent during this realistic event.'

Photos courtesy of Scottish Fire and Rescue Service



A make-shift assessment centre was set up in the waiting room.



The actors are briefed at the start of the exercise.



Patients are treated depending on their pre-arranged injuries.



There were also casualties on the car deck.



A girl is rushed to a waiting ambulance.

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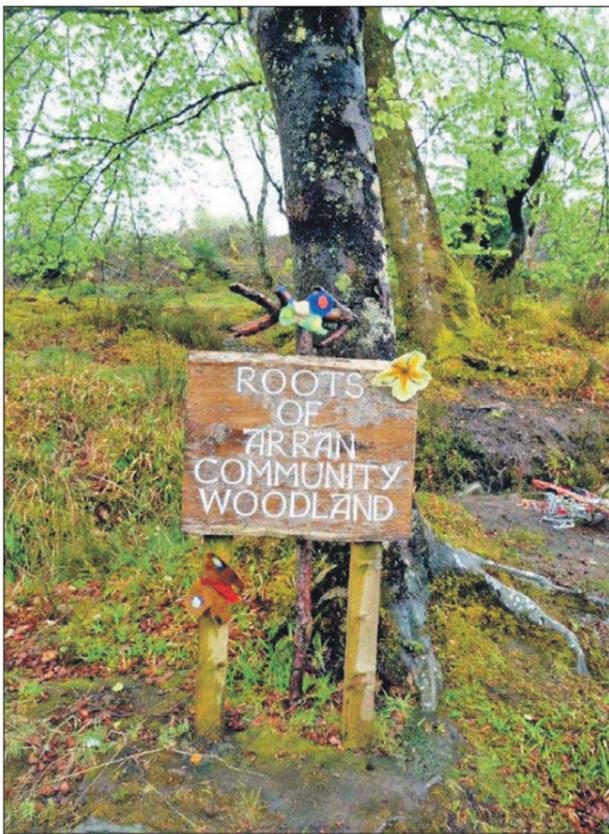
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A woolly mammoth is spotted in the undergrowth by Kaitlyn Roger and Lewis Thomson of Kilmory School. 20_b21wool16



Shelagh Collins reads her poem in front of the wild flower meadow. 20_b21wool18



The schoolchildren admire their flowers.

The Roots of Arran Community Woodland at the Fairy Glen.

Meadow of woolly creatures created at Brodick Castle

Installations will be unveiled in the grounds of Brodick Castle.



A knitted bird is even found in a real bird box. 20_b21wool17



A panda, where else but in bamboo. 20_b21wool11

A knitted wonderland has been unveiled in the grounds of Brodick Castle.

And 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 the enchanting outdoor exhibition - and they are all made of wool.

Individuals, arts and crafts groups, community groups, organisations and schools - both from Arran and further afield - have been crafting away to produce a host of woodland-themed creations for display both at the castle and at the Roots of Arran project in Fairy Glen on the other side of Brodick. One box of exhibits came from Illinois in the States.

Last Friday schoolchildren from the smaller schools on the island and a group from first year pupils at St Matthews in Saltcoats, were at the castle to plant the flowers they had made in the specially created wild flower meadow on the grass outside the castle entrance which, appropriately, is in the shape of a Paisley pattern.

Exhibition

The 62 children were then the first to see the finished Arran Woollen Woods exhibition and were given a quiz to help them spot the many and varied animals and other exhibits.

The installation then had its official opening later in the day. Castle property manager David Cameron gave special credit to the Woollen Woods co-ordinator.



A girl tries to decide what kind of dinosaur is in the tree. 20_b21wool15

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ower meadow. 20_b21wool08

Wild flowers at Woodick Castle on show all summer

dinator Sue Mills, who did so much to bring all the various groups together to create outdoor extravaganzas, but who was seriously ill in hospital. She was wished a speedy recovery.

Thanks

Special thanks were also given to Alison Barr and Tricia Sloss, who gave up a considerable amount of time going round the schools and helping to teach the youngsters craftwork.

There were also nature related poetry readings by Heather and Stuart Gough and a special poem written and read by Shelagh Collins titled 'Woollen Woods' and specially written for the event.

The exhibition is one of seven taking place across the country as part of Voluntary Arts Week

but will be in the castle grounds all summer.

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 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 all involved.'



The children spot a monkey up a tree. 20_b21wool10



The children hunt for The Gruffalo sitting on a rock near the stream. 20_b21wool13



A little girl plants her flower in the meadow. 20_b21wool07

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Stormy waters ahead for CalMac

There are stormy waters ahead for Caledonian MacBrayne in the weeks and months to come and we don't just mean at sea.

Certainly bosses claimed this week that changes in weather conditions were leading to a rise in ferry disruptions. And certainly over the last two winters, at least, there appears to have been, as CalMac says, 'not only a severity of extreme weather events but also in their duration and frequency'.

But the jury is still out on whether the weather can take the blame for all the ferry disruption.

That disruption may take another form in the not too distant future with the RMT union holding a strike ballot of CalMac members. The ballot will include both an option for strike action and for action short of a strike.

They say the action is being taken to protect members' rights in this period of 'increasing uncertainty and insecurity'.

That is because CalMac is about to enter what is likely to be a straight fight with rival bidder Serco for the next eight-year contract to run its west coast ferry network of some 25 routes, including both Arran services. The companies are expected to be asked next month to submit tenders, with the winner to be announced in May next year and the £125 million a year contract starting in October 2016.

To that end CalMac says it is undertaking the biggest single face-to-face engagement exercise with its customers since securing the last contract in 2007.

One can only wonder if that is the only time it feels that the travelling public's voice counts.

The Arran meeting is to be held on Monday 1 June and the company says it is designed to gather public views on the delivery of ferry services from 2016 onwards and that it will help shape CalMac's bid for the next contract.

The argument as to which would best run the contract is for another place and time.

But whichever runs the service from next October, it will take on the challenge of the new two-berth Brodick ferry terminal, when complete, followed by the introduction of a new ferry and, hopefully, a year-round two-ferry service for the island.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law.' (Galatians 5: 22-23)

press policy

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor

Following last week's letter from Colin Guthrie of Glasgow thanking whoever found and handed in his wallet he lost in Brodick the Banner received this letter:

An honest boy

Dear Mr Guthrie,
My name is Thomas Gilmore, I am 10 years old and I live in Brodick.

One day I was walking along the village with my nana, we were walking past Wooley's when I spotted a wallet on the floor. I thought I was imagining it so I shook my head and walked on, before I got five steps away I ran back and picked it up. I saw that there were lots of cards and things in it. I showed it to my nana, I said: 'Where should we hand it in?' and my nana said maybe the bakers is best because I'd found it outside there, so that's what we did.

I am very glad and happy that you got your wallet back.

Yours,
Thomas Gilmore
Brodick

New members for drama group

Sir,
Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music is seeking new members to join our friendly little group.

We welcome anyone 16 years or older from anywhere on the island, not just those who live in Whiting Bay.

The club has been going since 1947, but won't be able to continue much longer without new members - a problem which is a concern, I fear, for many organisations on the island.

On a personal level, I would be especially sad to see the club disband as my granny and grandpa, Kate (Kay) and Alastair Brown were active members of the group for many years.

If you don't fancy being on stage there are other opportunities such as set design/building, lighting and sound, producing/directing, costumes, props and front of house.

If you're interested find us on Facebook or email us at whitingbaydrama@gmail.com.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 26 May at 7.30pm in Whiting Bay Village Hall. We would love to see you there!

Yours,
Val Waite
Montrose Terrace
Whiting Bay

Solution needed

Sir,
I telephoned the Caledonian MacBrayne booking office around lunchtime on Wednesday 13 May, to book a car onto the 8.20am sailing from Brodick to Ardrossan on Friday 15 May. I was told that the first three sailings that day from Brodick were all fully booked, and further that they were closed off completely, so that it was not possible to even add me to a waiting list.

Having made alternative arrangements to travel as a foot passenger, I arrived at the port around 8am, to find that there was a lot of space in the marshalling yard, and the ferry was clearly going to be sailing with room for a lot more cars. I took a photograph before loading had begun.

The consequence was two fold - personal inconvenience for myself, and a financial loss to CalMac, which might be considerable, as it seems reasonable to assume that many other potential customers were deterred from travelling.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that similar problems are occurring quite frequently. A solution needs to be found, to allow island residents to travel at reasonably short notice, and to avoid deterring visitors to the island.

Yours,
Terry Raeside
Brodick

Around longer

Sir,
As a former recipient of Arran Sound (aka The 'Talking Banner'), I would like to comment on the recent volunteer recruitment article, which stated that the group had been going for 'around 17 years'.

I started receiving the weekly tapes after my first eye operation 24 years ago, at which point the organisation seemed

to have been established for some time, with a committee and a team of volunteer readers and technicians.

The service was set up, I believe, by Mrs Celia Silars of Brodick, inspired by the late Jack Cooper.

Yours,
Laura Selkirk
Brodick

Battle is won

Sir,
Walkers along the shore from Sandbraes to Kings Cross will notice that the battle is being won against the incredibly invasive Japanese Knotweed.

This hard work has been done by a couple of volunteers. Thank you for your labours.

Yours,
Kathy Sayer
Kings Cross

Extras wanted

Sir,
Those of you who enjoyed the Dragons' Den spoof video posted on my Facebook page that cannot be named in these pages (and on YouTube) may be interested to learn that the follow up is due to be filmed

on Arran on Saturday 6 June.

I'm looking for extras to play non speaking parts on the day.

You'll be in the audience of a magic show around 1pm in The Ormidale Hotel and/or in a crowd scene at Brodick Pier around 3pm.

The first scene requires adults dressed in 'onesies' or similarly ridiculous attire and the second typical tourist dress. Again the more silly, the better.

I'm hopeful that the premier of this work will be held in The Screen Machine at some point later in the year.

The first movie has had around 10,000 viewings to date. It would be nice to achieve similar exposure.

Anyone interested in helping out or requiring further information can contact me on 07786906992 or by posting on the relevant Facebook page. Please note that the filming is weather dependant and the reserve day is Saturday 13 June.

Yours,
Eric J Dunn
Moselle
Brodick



Celebrating liberation in Jersey

Sir,
David Craig of Lamlash was on Jersey recently to help the islanders celebrate the 70th anniversary of their liberation from the Germans.

Invited to attend by his daughter and son-in-law, both WW2 re-enactors, he portrayed a senior British Officer in the 130 strong military convoy that paraded through St Helier.

Yours,
Gerry Waters
the driver
Shaftesbury
Dorset

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Lucy's epic trig point attempt will raise cash for mountain rescue teams



Lucy Wallace has started her gruelling challenge.

'It wouldn't be a challenge if it were straight forward would it?'

Arran hillwalker Lucy Wallace set off yesterday (Thursday) on an arduous challenge to raise vital funds for mountain rescue teams on either side of the world.

The Arran Mulanje Trig Point Challenge will see Lucy attempt to link all the trig points on Arran in one single unsupported push.

During the challenge she will walk 120 kilometres, climbing some of Arran's highest peaks on the way while camping en route, and carrying all her own equipment.

Including 'bolts', there are

23 official trig points listed on Arran, and Lucy intends to visit them all.

Both Arran - of which she is a member - and Mulanje mountain rescue teams are volunteers who perform a life saving service in the mountains that they love.

The Mulanje team in Malawi provides rescues in a challenging environment with very little personal equipment or funding. In January 2015, they were involved with rescuing members of the public in catastrophic flooding that has left 200,000 people homeless.

Money raised for both teams will be donated to purchase essential equipment and to help with team training.

Lucy said: 'This is a tough challenge that is definitely very intimidating - I know it's possible, but can I do it? However, it wouldn't be a challenge if it were straight-forward would it?'

Difficult conditions

'I travelled to Malawi in 2014 and saw first hand the difficult conditions that the mountain rescue team on Mount Mulanje have to contend with, as a member of a MR team myself, it real-

ly brought home to me how much they do with so little. Following the floods, I really wanted to help.

'I'm travelling back to the area with Arran High School in July and will hand over half of the money raised when I'm there, with the other half going to my local team.'

If anyone would like to donate to the Arran Mulanje Trig Point Challenge please visit Lucy's fundraising page: http://www.gofundme.com/Arran_Trigs

Follow her progress on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/snoweider>

Duo to run all the way round Arran

A running duo will attempt to do two marathons in two days next week by running all the way round Arran.

Rob Ellis and Helen Gavin, who live in London, will be raising money for Cancer Research UK in their Isle of Arran Challenge on 25 and 26 May.

Rob admitted: 'It is a completely bonkers idea.' But they have already raised nearly £700 for the charity.

He added: 'Our families visit Arran every year, and we always cycle around the island. But this year, we thought we'd do an even bigger challenge. My uncle passed away

from cancer when he was 27.

'In my early teens, my mum was diagnosed with breast cancer. But thanks to all the amazing work and research in the intervening period, she was diagnosed early and is still with us today.

Attention

'We're hoping this challenge will do a lot to alert people's attention to what a beautiful island Arran is, but also to raise a substantial amount of money for a great cause,' Rob said.

Anyone wishing to donate can do so at: <https://www.justgiving.com/IsleofArranChallenge>

what will you discover?



This charming Chinese bronze foe dog was discovered recently in a local property by McTear's experts. The owner, pleased with the estimated value of around £500, decided to consign the item to be sold by McTear's; it was then included in last month's specialist auction of Asian Art. Despite competition online and on the phones from mainland China, the eventual winning bidder was from the UK who paid an impressive £3,400.

Every single lot McTear's offers for auction is illustrated, catalogued and included in an international sale on McTear's Live! Auctions platform. With an unrivalled selection of dedicated specialist auctions to choose from, there really is no better place to ensure the best possible price for whatever you may have discovered.

To arrange a free no obligation home appointment during McTear's next visit to Arran on **Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th May**, please contact Magda Ketterer or Brian Clements on **0141 810 2880**, email magda@mctears.co.uk or brian@mctears.co.uk

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Neil Young Joinery, Bill Young, William Kerr and Sons, Derek & Stuart Fleming, Armitage Groundworks, Arran Cleaning Services, County Carpets, Dave Campbell, John Duncan, Jethro Van Biljon, George Ralston, Kiscadale Forge, Jamie McClements, Poitr Vilcov, Paresh Solanki, Ian Cusick and of course Auchrannie's in house team, too numerous to mention.

A great job done by all – thanks guys (and girls) !!



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A delighted Eliot Sedman with his children Luke and Kirsty after the race. 20_b21goat12



Jessica McGuire still looks strong as she approaches the race end. 20_b21goat10



Race director Paul Emsley briefs the runners ahead of the race. 20_b21goat03



Arran runners Eliot Sedman, Jon Smith and Ben Tattersfield. 20_b21goat02

Finlay is crown the hill for the

Race director Paul Emsley

Finlay Wild made it three in a row when he won the 2015 Goatfell Hill Race last weekend in one of the best runs ever.

In doing so he nearly beat the course record set by Andy Peace in 1994 and which has stood for 21 years since and set the second fastest time in the history of the race.

Race director Paul Emsley of Arran Runners revealed that the prizegiving it had been thought unlikely the course record would ever be broken as the course is now more difficult.

Personal best

But Finlay, who runs for Lochaber AC, finished in 1hr 14min 22sec - just 42 seconds

outside the record. For Finlay it was a personal best and he has vowed to return next year to defend his title.

Hazardous

Paul said: 'Given the amount of extra stone that now covers the path as a result of the work to make a more durable surface, but which is more hazardous to run on, to my mind it ranks as probably the best run ever.'

It was a good day too for Arran's Eliot Sedman who finished the race in 5th place in a time of 1hr 24min 35sec - his best ever performance, and he shaved nearly 10 minutes off his time last year when he

finished 18th. Ben Tattersfield finished 10th.

There was a big entry this year with 160 runners setting off from Ormidale Park on Saturday in bright sunny conditions, although there was a fair bit of wind both at ground level and on the hill.

The first female home was Ruth Joss from Shettleston Harriers, who finished 20th overall in a time of 1hr 36min 41sec just ahead of David Allsop of Arran Runners who finished 21st.

Course record

Taking part for the first time was Jessica McGuire who was just four months old when



And they're off ... the race gets underway. 20_b21goat04

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Finlay Wild is way out in front as he re-enters Ormidale Park on his way to the finish line. 20_b21goat05



First time runner Jessica McGuire with her dad Brian Robertson. 20_b21goat01



Ben Tattersfield powers his way towards the finishing line. 20_b21goat07



Chris Park and Matt Keir are still smiling at the end of the race. 20_b21goat14

Owned king of the third time ley to step down

her dad Brian Robertson set a course record in 1990.

At the prizegiving Paul thanked the organisations, groups and people who made contributions to the event: the Arran Mountain Rescue Team, Brodick Improvements Committee, Scottish Co-op and the volunteers who provided first aid cover, refreshments, time-keeping and the results.

Final race

And it was the final race for Paul who announced that he was stepping down after more than 15 years as organiser.

He was given a huge round of applause by the gathered runners, but it is not known who

will take over the running of the race.

The top 20 finishers this year were: 1 Finlay Wild, Lochaber AC 1:14:22, 2 Gregor Stewart, Westerlands CCC 1:20:24, 3 Robert Simpson, Westerlands CCC 1:24:00, 4 Ruari Watt, Lochaber AC 1:24:09, 5 Elliot Sedman 1:24:35, 6 Stuart Crutchfield Lochaber AC 1:24:42, 7 Christopher Leigh, Pennine FR 1:27:59, 8 Russell McGavock 1:28:18, 9 Iain Gilmore, Carnethy 1:28:55, 10 Ben Tattersfield, Arran Runners 1:29:14, 11 Peter Mackie Shettleston H 1:29:26, 12 Andrew Gilmore, Carnethy 1:33:56, 13 Steve Macdon-

ald, Lochaber AC 1:34:10, 14 Stuart Sanderson, Penicuik H 1:34:28, 15 Chris Upson, Westerlands CCC 1:35:08, 16 Charles Lines Kilmarnock H 1:35:20, 17 Benjamin Ross 1:35:40, 18 Adam Anderson Carnethy 1:36:02, 19 Gavin MacMillan Lochaber AC 1:36:30, 20 Ruth Joss Shettleston H 1:36:41.

The other Arran runners taking part finished as follows: 79th Jon Smith RunArran 1:57:27, 91st

Catherine Attfield 2:01:00, 111th Jessica McGuire 2:05:02, 113th Matthew Keir 2:05:31, 150th Chris Park 2:38:05.



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Busy week for RNLI inshore lifeboat

The volunteer crew of Arran Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) was called to three rescues and received a visit from fundraiser Nick Ray in the past week.

The first of the three callouts was on Thursday 14 May to a 34ft yacht which had broken from its mooring in Lamlash Bay. The yacht had drifted past the mussel farm and grounded on the shore.

The volunteer crew were

paged at 9.43pm and launched at 9.51pm. The yacht was towed back to the moorings in Lamlash Bay where The Rachel Hedderwick and her volunteer crew of senior helm Crawford Duncan, Brian Donlin, Robert Ingham, and Myles Johnson returned to station. Arran RNLI inshore lifeboat was ready for service again at 11.15pm.

The second call of the week was made at 6.11pm on Sat-



The yacht which suffered engine failure under tow in Brodick Bay.

urday 16 May, by a yacht which had engine failure and requested assistance.

The Rachel Hedderwick was launched at 6.22pm. The volunteer crew of senior helm Crawford Duncan, Martin Wood, Carole Johnson and Eliot Sedman quickly found the vessel and towed the yacht to Brodick Bay, where the yacht moored. The Rachel Hedderwick returned to station and was ready for service at 7.16pm.

It was not long till the third call of the week. At 11.16pm on Saturday, the volunteer RNLI crew was tasked to a drifting dinghy. As the three people on board tried to return to their yacht, a strong wind blew the dinghy out to sea.

The Arran RNLI crew found

the dinghy and all people on board safe. The rescued party were returned to shore where they were checked by paramedics. The volunteer crew of senior helm Crawford Duncan, Martin Wood, Carole Johnson and Brian Donlin then helped the three people back to their yacht. The Atlantic 85, Rachel Hedderwick, returned to station and was ready for service at 12.17am.

Busy week

To round off the busy week, Arran RNLI was paid a visit by RNLI fundraiser Nick Ray on Monday 18 May. Nick is travelling round each of Scotland's 47 lifeboat stations.

Nick left Kippford on the Solway Firth on 1 May and will take around four months to complete this epic solo

journey. He said: 'The idea for this particular trip came to fruition when I found Nicholas Leach's excellent book The Lifeboat Service in Scotland - Station by Station.

'It suddenly occurred to me that it would be an amazing challenge to visit each of the 47 active RNLI lifeboat stations detailed in his book in one continuous sea kayak journey and, in doing so, fulfil my ambition of a circumnavigation of the Scottish coastline.'

Nick, a kayaker since 1986, will be camping during his journey and he hopes to raise up to £5,000 for the RNLI.

Nick added: 'I won't be putting in huge distances a day - I don't want to put myself under time pressures which would run the risk of

me making marginal decisions.'

Nick completed the 30-mile journey from Tighnabruich RNLI station to Lamlash in around nine hours.

'I am fascinated by the connection coastal communities have with the sea and I want to understand more about the volunteer service, its ethos and what motivates the volunteers to join the lifeboat.

'It is demanding, they are on call 24/7, 365 days a year, and it can be challenging with difficult rescues.

'There is also the possibility of physical danger, the emotion during a rescue, and yet they always demonstrate such professionalism.'

His Explorer expedition sea kayak has been donated by Sea-Kayaking-Scotland.



Nick Ray in his kayak who is visiting every lifeboat station in Scotland.

Lifeboat coffee morning raises £545

The sum of £545 was raised at the recent Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) coffee morning in Brodick.

Organisers wish to say a grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the event, in particular the businesses and others who donated prizes and items for the raffle, tombola and home baking. Lady Jean Fforde, honorary president of Arran RNLI and Trish Martin, branch secretary, are pictured on the day, along with the well supported tombola stall.

The RNLI is the national, though significantly appropriate, charity that saves lives at sea and relies entirely on funding from community events such as this.



Lady Jean Fforde, honorary president of Arran RNLI, and Trish Martin, branch secretary. b21rnl01



The well supported tombola stall. b21rnl02

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Garden party to raise funds for Gordon's friends in Nepal

A fundraising garden party is to be held in Brodick this weekend to help the earthquake ravaged people of Nepal.

All of the money will go to people and groups known personally by Arran artist Gordon Davidson.

The event is being held in the gardens of Lady Jean Fforde at Strabane near Brodick on Sunday 24 May from 12noon till 5pm. She offered the venue after being impressed when she read about Gordon's work in The Banner earlier this year.

In the early 1990s Gordon sponsored a child in Nepal through Plan International.

He looked after Kamal Surestha for a number of years.

When he reached 16 the sponsorship came to an end and he was not allowed to keep in touch, but he had always wondered how he was.

In 2012 he was taken to Nepal to set up and run a sustainable art project for the Gurkas with a group of war orphans east of Kathmandu.

The project is called Kalaa Jyoti and, it takes art skills to the orphans including painting, puppets, jewellery making, film making and photography.

In 2013 he met one of Nepal's top photographers who was going to help them with the photography. This famous photographer turned out to be Kamal, his sponsor child from the '90s.

The project has been going for six years now and has proved a great success having been praised by the governments in Nepal and Scotland,

then on 25 April the devastating earthquake hit Nepal.

Gordon told The Banner: 'For three days we did not know whether our children were alive or dead. Our team in Pokhara were silent and Kathmandu struggled to keep in touch. After three days Tenzing, of the orphans, contacted us to say that all the children and staff were safe and living in a tent. Our team in Pokhara all checked in, but our friends in Kathmandu were hit hard. Not all of our friends there have survived and some are missing.'

'Kamal Surestha grabbed one of his small daughters, while his wife got the other one and they ran for their lives as their house crumbled around them. They got out but their house has gone and they are also in a tent.'

Photographs

At the garden party some of Kamal's beautiful photographs of Nepal, which were exhibited on Arran last year, will be on sale with every penny going to help him get back on his feet.

The money raised from the rest of the event will be going to the Kalaa Jyoti project.

Gordon said: 'No one in the project gets paid in order to make sure everything gets directly to the kids. The Gurkas ensure no backhanders are paid out and that corruption does not take place.'

'One of our team is going to Nepal in July to assess the situation and to work out how best to spend the money. It could be to repair the orphanage, or set up a new one, or maybe to even help with the



A house lies in ruins after the earthquake. Photo Kamal Surestha.

village school, to make it safe and secure.

'I am scheduled to return to Nepal in September. A social worker tells us that many of the children are traumatised

by the 'quakes and the sights of the past two weeks. It is thought art therapy might help take their minds off recent events.'

At the garden party there

will be a silent auction for some very special items and the organisers have been kindly donated two original paintings by the late James Gorman.

Birthday tea for charity

They say a lady conceals her age until she is 80, and then tells the world about it.

This is what Morag Hutchison from Brodick is doing on Tuesday, but she has a special reason for doing it.

She is celebrating her 80th birthday with a coffee morning in aid of the Beatson Cancer Charity and is hoping to raise a really good sum for this great cause.

So many people on the island have had reason to be grateful for the incredibly good care provided by the Beatson Hospital in Glasgow. Morag's husband, Tom, had a seven-and-a-half week course of radiotherapy there last year and it is gratitude for this which has led to the rather unusual birthday celebration.

Sadly, the outcome of treatment at the Beatson has not been a bright one for everyone. Cancer is still a killer disease and vast sums are needed to enable research to continue and more cures to be found.

The coffee morning, which Morag and friends are running, is at the Ormidale Sports Pavilion in Brodick, on Tuesday 26 May, from 10am until 12noon. Entrance is free and it is hoped that many will come along and donate generously to this most worthy charity.

Beatson Cancer Charity
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Tuesday 26 May
10 – 12 noon, in the
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Sat. 6th June	Open Session.	Douglas Hotel.	12-5pm.	FREE
	Concert.	Brodick Hall.	7:30pm.	£17.50
	Scott Wood Band, Emma Sweeney, Pauline Alexander			
	Late Night Session	Fiddlers Bar.	11:00pm.	FREE
Sun. 7th June	Open Session.	Douglas Hotel.	12-5pm.	FREE
	Open Mic Night.	Douglas Hotel.	8pm.	FREE

Contact info@arranevents.com to take part in the open mic night.

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SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2015

1.00 p.m. ~ 4.00 p.m.

Grand Raffle, Bottle and Box Tombola, Bar-b-q, Teas, Coffees with cream scones
 Photographer, Family Tree and much much more

Everybody welcome - come along and meet old friends & stroll down memory lane

First common crane found on Arran in 25 years as spring migration gets underway

April is the month when spring migration gets underway, with arrivals and departures of birds, all seeking their best breeding territories. This April was an interesting, almost 'four season' month with a wide range of temperatures and other weather conditions.

A lovely dry settled spell from 17th to 24th was followed by a wet northerly blast. In comparison to April 2014 there was about half the rain but it was about two degrees cooler. The variable weather had a start-stop effect on the arrival of the first wave of summer migrants

with some arriving later than last year and some earlier.

Here are April 'firsts' with the 2014 arrival date in brackets for comparison: sand martin in Sannox on 4th (27 March), willow warbler in Glenrickard on 4th (6 April), white wagtail in Kildonan on 6th (30 March), swallow in Whiting Bay on 7th (1 April), sandwich tern also in Whiting Bay on 7th (6 April), house martin in Whiting Bay on 9th (31 March), Manx shearwater off Largymore on 12th (27 March), cuckoo in Glen Rosa on 12th (15 April), common sandpiper in North Sannox on 14th (15 April), tree pipit in Gleann Dubh on 20th (27 April), grasshopper warbler at the Lakin on 20th (26 April), sedge warbler in Sliderry on 22nd (16 April), whitethroat also in Sliderry on 22nd (9 April), Arctic tern in Blackwaterfoot on 23rd (16 April)



Common crane, first Arran record for over 25 years.



Dunlin, one of many migrants making their way north at this time of year. Photo Brian Couper.

Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
APRIL

and whinchat at rubha glas on 24th (30 April).

By the end of the month there were widespread reports of cuckoo and the songs of other summer migrants like willow warbler, blackcap and chiffchaff were beginning to fill the air.

In April some of our wintering birds were still around including; a brambling in Sannox on 5th, five wigeon at Machriewaterfoot on 6th, a mixed flock of redwing and fieldfare in Kilmory on 12th, five greylag geese in the Shiskine Valley on 13th and about 300 pink-footed geese flying over Auchenhew Bay on 16th.

April is an ideal time for watching migration particularly around the coast. Examples included: four black-throated diver off Largymore on 2nd, five common scoter off Cosyden on 3rd, five great northern diver off Dougarie on 5th, 180 golden plover and a knot in breeding plumage at Machriewaterfoot on 23rd, two dunlin at Blackwaterfoot on 25th, eight whimbrel at Kilpatrick Point also on 25th and a green-shank at Loch Ranza on 27th.

The signs of migration were also evident from the garden records in April. There were a number of lesser redpoll garden records, the first from Lochranza on 1st. In addition there were many widespread records of goldfinch, with 10 at Kildonan on 5th being the largest group seen at one time. Siskin were sim-

ilar, with 12 in Lamlash on 12th being the largest group seen at one time. There could be thousands of birds on the move through Arran at this time. The most unusual garden record was a female black redstart in Lamlash on 26th. Black redstart is a scarce passage migrant to Arran. The last Arran record was one first winter female near Brodick pier from 11 to 30 March 2013.

With all this movement there were 104 species of birds recorded on Arran in April. Other highlights included a male black grouse from the Arran reintroduction programme by the Goatfell track on 20th and a magpie in Mayish on 23rd. Magpie, although common on the adjacent mainland, is a vagrant to Arran. There was one bird on the island last year between March and May. There were no records in 2013 and only one record in 2012. Also reported in April was a species that had last been recorded on Arran over 25 ago, common crane. On Wednesday 22 April there was a report of two common crane soaring over Dougarie. The observer watched them for about 10 minutes before they went higher and headed out to sea towards Sanda Island. The previous day there had been a similar report from near Port Glasgow on the mainland.

My thanks to the many people who have been in touch to share their sightings in what has been a remarkable month.

Those of common birds are as welcome as those of rare ones. May should be an equally interesting month with the arrival of more summer visitors including, redstart, garden warbler and spotted flycatcher, wood warbler, swift and, hopefully, even corncrake and nightjar.

Finally, spring is a great time to be birding, as most birds are getting on with the business of breeding. The business of breeding involves attracting a mate by song, courtship display and ritual, defining a territory, nest building, and generally establishing relationships. Please take a moment to report any signs of breeding birds to me.

Already there have been reports of blackbirds carrying food.

Please remember that under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is being built or used.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report 2013 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

WIN TICKETS TO BUTEFEST 2015
17th -19th July 2015
The Meadows, Rothesay, Isle of Bute
www.butefest.co.uk

Be part of one of this summers most accessible and affordable family friendly island music festivals.

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Fancy trying a new festival and a new experience for summer 2015? Then look no further than ButeFest, the most accessible and affordable Island Festival of the Summer, who are offering two lucky readers the chance to win a pair of weekend tickets, which include camping, to this year's festival.

Rightly proclaimed as one of Scotland's most beautiful islands (the clue's in the name), from 17-19 July the Isle of Bute will play host to ButeFest, a brand-new three-day festival of music, food and fun. ButeFest has compiled a richly varied and superb line-up that includes both the contemporary

and the classic of the music world and runs that gamut from rock to roots and folk to dance. Confirmed acts currently include Skerryvore, Peatbog Faeries, Treacherous Orchestra, The John Langan Band and We Banjo 3. To buy tickets visit www.skiddle.com or call 0844 884 2920.

For your chance to win a pair of weekend tickets to ButeFest, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to The Oban Times, ButeFest Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB.

Entries must be submitted by Wednesday 3rd June 2015.

Question: ButeFest 2015 takes place over how many days?

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
Postcode.....
Telephone..... Email.....

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.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 27 May, 1995

Idea dismissed

An idea for a setting up a service of 'retained first aiders' in the more remote parts of Arran has been dismissed by the community council.

Lochranza representative Terry Crawley suggested that as ambulance response times could be up to one hour in places like Lochranza and Corriecravie trained volunteers could perhaps be ready to fill in, in the same way as retained coastguards and fire-fighters.

However, Dr Malcolm Kerr said he did not favour the idea and said he felt the widespread training of people in CPR would be more effective.

Ambulance supervisor Geoff Dawson agreed saying that retained people would require specialised training and indemnity, while neighbours with good first aid knowledge would need neither, but could be just as effective.

Although Mr Crawley's idea was not taken up, it is likely that it will result in efforts to have as many people training in CPR on Arran as possible.

End of an era

Arran farmers, who have held their annual show continually on the Lamlash playing field for 44 years, have been told they cannot have the use of it this year.

The reason for this is that efforts to improve it which started last August have been judged to be a failure. Ploughed after the last Arran



The Arran Gilbert and Sullivan Society commences its week long run of South Pacific on Monday. The picture shows three of the stars in the suitably Polynesian setting of Brodick Castle gardens. They are Bloody Mary (Jean Bowden), her daughter Liat (Helen Todd) and Lieutenant Gable (Stuart Gough). b21twe04

Show it was reseeded after that - too long after the ploughing say the farmers - and the result is that the reseeded has not worked.

'It is not as good as we had hoped for,' said assistant local officer Gus McLeod.

The farmers are resigned and disappointed rather than angry to hear that they would have to hold the show elsewhere.

Until 45 years ago it used to rotate between Shiskine, Lamlash and Lagg. They have decided, however, not to repeat this for, as luck would have it, they will be able to move to the next field up.

New discovery

Plans have been lodged with Cunninghame District Council for a development at Cladach which the developer Charles Fforde describes as a similar to the proposed Discovery Centre at Machrie.

Conceived by Mr Fforde before the Machrie idea was made public, he realises that both will not be passed and says: 'If there is sufficient unease at the thing at Machrie and then it'll just sail through.'

His own scheme will offer a substantially similar experience but much closer to the ferry and it could direct people to Machrie Moor without the need for building there.

Goatfell race

Last Saturday's bright, warm weather brought a large crowd out into Ormidale Park, Brodick to watch Goatfell Hill Race and junior race in the best conditions enjoyed for some years.

Despite clashes with other hill races, that kept some runners away, the day was a great success with 104 entries - 102 of whom finished.

High spot was Brian Robertson's sparkling performance which broke his own record to come in third in 1hr 21min 37sec. Arran Runners feel particularly proud of Brian's achievement as prior to the club's inception five years ago the local 'best' in the race was generally some 10 minutes slower.

Age restrictions in the junior race kept the number of entries down to 12. Arran's Kenneth Williamson ran an excellent time of 25min 13sec to come in third overall and at 13 years old, showed some of his elders a clean pair of heels.

Open top bus

Ano open top bus in Glasgow Corporation colours attracted much attention when it was brought to the island this week by a group of Yorkshire bus enthusiasts to drive round the island. It is, however, the precursor of an Arran open top bus which Stagecoach will bring to the island next week. Starting on 9 June it will run a service between Brodick and Whiting Bay and travellers will not only have the pleasure of being outside but be able to listen to a commentary as they travel along the route.



The Goatfell Hill Race runners set off from Ormidale Park. b21twe01



All set for the junior race start. b21twe02



The open top bus in Glasgow Corporation colours. b21twe05



Janice Miller gets some moral support on the last leg from Iain Murchie. b21twe03

This is YOUR paper.

Send your photos and stories to editor@arranbanner.co.uk

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,

Saturday 23rd May

Nepal Fundraiser Coffee Morning
 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

Sunday 24th May

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

Monday 25th 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
 Summer Bridge
 RunArran

Tuesday 26th May

Beatson Coffee morning
 Pop Quiz
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Garden Walk
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 RunArran
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Metafit
 Open Cricket Session

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

Whiting Village Hall 10am-1pm
 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

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

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 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
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.30pm
 Whiting Bay, 5.30pm

Ormidale Sports Pavilion 10am-12pm
 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
 Lamlash, 5.30pm
 All Stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
 Brodick Astro Turf, 7pm-9pm

Wednesday 27th May

Coffee morning (every Wednesday)
 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

Lamlash Church Hall 10.15am-12noon
 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
 Brodick, 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

Thursday 28th May

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Folk, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends
 Yoga
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran
 Paintings Tour
 Cardiac Rehab
 Body & Mind
 QuiltArran
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 RunArran

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
 Brodick, 6.00pm
 Brodick Castle, 2pm - 3.30pm
 Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6-7pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
 Auchrannie, 7pm
 Blackwaterfoot, 7.30pm

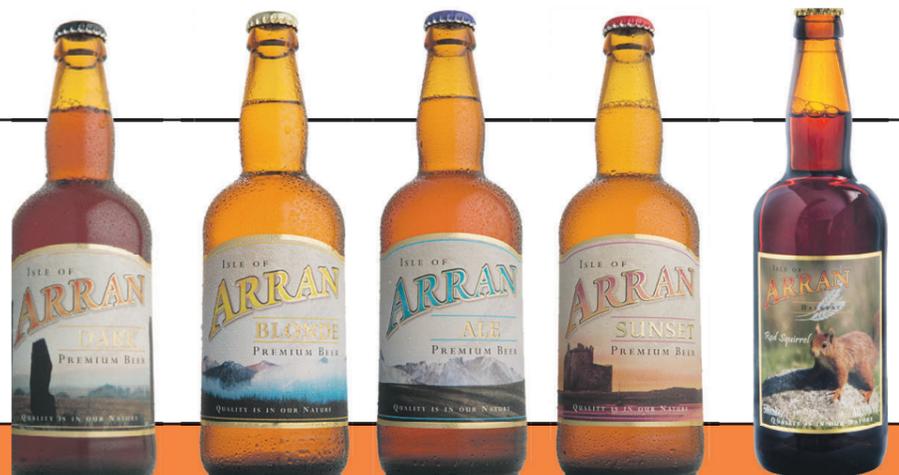
Friday 29th May

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
 Coffee Morning

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9am - 10am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 10.15 - 11.15am
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 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
 Corrie & Sannox Village Hall, 10.30am



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Monday 25th May

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On
111

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

ARRAN VIKING Longship society AGM

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the above Viking Group will be held at 7.30pm on Monday 22nd June 2015 at the Corrie Hotel. All existing and prospective members are welcome.

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Ex charter Gill offshore jackets £25, trousers £20, all sizes. Must to performance junior sailing jackets from 6 years to 13 years. GUL Junior wetsuit, never used £30. Contact 01770 302377 or 07717 845 755

One cello case - good quality plastic, padded - hardly used £30, 1 projector screen £10 or offer - 01770 601322

OVER £30

Electric planer 3mm £60, Mitre Saw £45, Housesafe and 2 keys £90, smartphone new £50. Tel: 07980671267

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WANTED

Greenhouse Glass. Any complete and unwanted glass panes required. 01770 830697.

If you have or know someone who has a metal detector please phone: 01770 700567

Records wanted, rock, reggae, punk etc. Tel David: 07940 811264

Front opening freezer Contact: 870348

FOUND

Very small gold ring found in the Clubhouse in Shiskine. 01770 860548

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday, 24th May

Holy Communion, 11.00 am. Rev Canon Simon Mackenzie, Priest-in-charge. Coffee after service.

Wednesday 13th May

Holy Communion, 12.15pm.

ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine

Independent but working together

Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson

Parish Assistant:

Mrs Jean Hunter.

Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

Sunday 24th May

Lochrancha Church, 9.30am

Morning Worship.

Pirmill Church, 10.45am

Morning Worship.

Shiskine Church, 12noon

Morning Worship.

Kilpatrick Preaching Cave,

2.30pm Pentecost Service.

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.

Wednesday 27th May

Service of Prayers for Health and Healing at 12noon in Brodick Church.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 24th May

Kilmory 10am

Lamlash 11.30 am

Rev. Lily McKinnon

All welcome, including families; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FRE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 24th May

Morning Service, 11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen

Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6.30pm

5 Glen Road, Brodick

Prayer Meeting

Wednesday 27th May

a 7pm

5 Glen Road

All welcome

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number SC014005)

Sunday 24th 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 24th May

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 24th May

Shiskine 11am (Church on road

between Blackwaterfoot and

Machrie)

Brodick 7pm (Church behind

post office)

Mr Ernest Brown

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakers meet every Sunday at

11am. For meeting venue ring -

830622, 820223

DEATH

SYM - Dorothy. Peacefully, at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, 12th May 2015. Dorothy, of Shannochie, aged 82 years, beloved wife of the late Donnie. Funeral service in St. Molios Church, Shiskine on Friday 22nd May at 11.30am and thereafter to Clachan Cemetery, to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

MURRAY - Norval and Jane Murray would like to thank their friends and neighbours for the cards and flowers received after the sudden death of their daughter-in-law, Debbie, wife of John and mother of Rosa, Anneliese and Kate. Thanks also to our minister Angus Adamson for his words of comfort.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Arran Golfers Association

Seniors bowl final was played on Friday 15 May at Lamlash Golf Club. Lamlash and Machrie both won through to the final after good wins the week before. The night was overcast with a few showers but didn't detract from a superb final.

After 18 holes from both pairs, which included some brilliant golf, the teams couldn't be separated with one pair one up and the other one down. The decision was taken, with the fading light, to share the trophy for the first time. Thanks to Lamlash for hosting and for the condition of the course, which was superb, and to both teams for a really entertaining final.

Fixtures: Thomson Cup, first round by Sunday 17 May, second round by Sunday 31 May with the semi and finals day on Saturday 13 June at 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.

Junior matchplay final to be played at Corrie on Sunday 24 May at 5pm.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday 13 May, Summer Cup. 1 Charlie O'Neill 80-18=62, 2 Greg McCrae 68-5=63, 3 Gordon Hendry 70-5=65. Sunday 17 May, the McCrae Trophy, club championship qualifier 1st round. 1 Ewan McKinnon 64, 2 Gordon Hendry 71, 3 Ian Macdonald 71. Sunday 17 May, sweep. 1 Ian Sillars 77-14=63, 2 Nicol Hume 78-14=64, 3 Jimmy Armit 73-9=64.

The first round of the club championship was played on Sunday. The top three scores are as above but there were quite a few scores in the mid to high 70s and with two more rounds there are plenty of chances to improve. Ewan should be congratulated on his scratch 64 in wet and blustery conditions and being interrupted by a rambler on the 17th, a really outstanding round. Also well done to Charlie and to Ian on winning the sweeps on Wednes-



Lamlash and Machrie shared the seniors trophy for the first time.

day and Sunday. Fixtures: Sunday 24 May, club championship, third and final qualifying round.

Ladies section: Tuesday 19 May, Club Trophy, 1 Lesley Murray 149, 2 Isobel Macdonald 150, 3 Susan Butchard, 15. Nine hole Stableford, 1 Mairi Thompson 14 pts; 2 Jennifer McArthur 10 pts. Fixture: Tuesday 26 May, Medal.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday 14 May, Ladies Club Championship qualifying round 2, 19 played, CSS 67.

Silver 1 and Scratch Kema Genda 74-12=62; 2 Elizabeth Kelso 86-20=66. Bronze 1 Piet Johnston 93-24=69; 2 Esther Henderson 98-27=71.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday 14 May, Summer Cup, 23 played, CSS64. 1 John O'Sullivan 80-21=59, 2 Scott MacFarlane 76-14=62, 3 Willie Currie 73-10=63 BIH, 4 Andrew Smith 78-15=63. Magic twos Dougie MacFarlane at 5th and 16th, Andrew Smith at 16th, Allan Colquhoun at 16th, Jaimie Ainsworth at 16th, Stuart Campbell at 14th. Scratch Iain Murchie 68. Senior Medal: 1 Roger Garratt 77-14=63. Magic two Jim Gibson at 17th. Friday 15 May, Seniors Bowl result. Lamlash and Machrie Bay drew and agreed to share the trophy. Sunday 17 May, Hamilton Bowl (bogey). 1 Billy O'Connor -2 to bogey. Fixtures: Thursday 21 May Jameson and Summer Cup see starter for times. Saturday 23 May, Grouse qualifiers, see starter for times. Sunday 24 May, Scratch Cup, tee times 9.30am and 12.30pm.

Ladies section: Wednesday 13 May, medal and Ann Cook Tray, 13 played, CSS 64, par 65. 1 Jo Hastings 84(18)66 BIH, 2 Liz Sinclair 83(17)66, 3 Jackie Winship 94(27) 67. Scratch Liz Sinclair 83.

Sunday 17 May, Sunday Stableford, six played. 1 Willie McNally 26pts, 2 Campbell Laing 25pts. Magic twos Willie Kelso and Andy Gray both at 7th.

Fixtures: ladies, Mary Craig Trophy, Thursday 28 May, tee offs at 1pm and shotgun start at 6pm. Gents, Sunday Stableford, Sunday 24 May, 1pm draw.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday 13 May, summer trophy round five, 26 played on a chilly day that improved as it wore on. The course was in fine shape with the greens now starting to settle down and run smoothly - not yet at their best but well on their way. SSS remained at 63 and Gordon Provan continued his fine run of form adding round five to his victories in rounds two and four. 1 Gordon Provan (9) 59; 2 Corey Allan (8) 59 ACB; 3 Nicol Auld (4) 59 ACB and lowest gross, 4 David Brookens (12) 63. Magic twos were scored at the second by Gordon Provan, the fourth by Adam Kelso, Gus Macleod and Jamie MacPherson, the 16th by Gordon Provan and the 17th by David Morrison.

Sunday 17 May, McKelvie Cup round one. On yet another cold, wet May morning eight players braved the conditions to compete in the first round of the McKelvie Cup, which also serves as one of the qualifying rounds for the

club championship. Despite the conditions the CSS fell to 62. 1 Jamie MacPherson (6) 62 and lowest gross, 2 Gordon Provan (8)63, 3 Markus Kroner (10)64, 4 Graeme Crichton (13)66. Magic twos Jamie MacPherson at 3rd Jamie MacPherson and Nicol Auld @ 4th. Fixtures: Saturday 23 May, Bill Lockie Clinic - see website for full details. Sunday 24 May, McKelvie Cup round 2. Wednesday 27 May, Summer Trophy round 7.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday 13 May, sweep, 12 played. 1 D K Henderson 36+32=68-8=60, 2 D Logan 34+37=71-9=62, 3 J McGovern 38+37=75-11=64. Best scratch D K Henderson 68. Magic twos B Lewis @14th, A McDonald @17th, D K Henderson. Twos pot now £52+ (not won).

Saturday 16 May, Jubilee, eight played. 1 J McConnachie 40+36=76-6=70, 2 J McGovern 40+42=82-11=71. Best scratch John McConnachie 76.

Fixtures: Saturday 23 May, Summer Cup, third round, 8.30am and 1pm. Monday 25 May, final of junior matchplay, 5pm.

Machrie Golf Club

Tuesday 19 May, Peter Sutton/Lady Mary, 17 played. 1 Phil Betley 79-16=63, 2 Hamish Bannatyne 74-6=68 BIH, 3 Ron Woods 86-18=68.

Congratulations to the Machrie men's AGA Senior Bowl team of Campbell Laing, Mike Hesp, Brian Sherwood and David Price who halved the final with Lamlash.

BIRTHDAY



Happy 22nd Birthday Fiona Clarke,

Sorry I can't be there, I will be somewhere of the coast of Ecuador by the time you read this. But I miss you and love you with all my heart. Make sure you relax and enjoy your time back home.

You deserve it. Sorry to embarrass you.

I will be back soon.

Your fiancé,

Daniel Crabb



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



On May 25th Margaret and Ary (Bles) Blesovsky will be celebrating their 60th Wedding Anniversary at their home in Brodick.

The last 30 years of which have been spent on Arran, to which can be attributed their happiness and longevity. Congratulations and have a great day. Love from all your family.

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Southend stroll to cup final victory

Brodict 1 Southend 5 Saturday saw the first cup of the season decided as Southend blew Brodict away in the Arran Haulage cup final. The game was played at Lamlash in very windy conditions which made for a scrappy game of football. Southend had a very strong team out while Brodict were missing a couple of key players with Kyle Barbour and Gregor Adamson both injured. Southend won the toss and decided to go uphill and into the wind in the first half. Brodict dominated the chances early on but Southenders Sandy 'Gattuso' Kelso and Ryan Armstrong were bossing the play in the middle with some hard challenges. Brodict pounced first with an uncharacteristic slip from Scott Hodgson at the back allowing Archie McNicol to blast a shot from the edge of the box into Stevie Judge's right hand corner to give first blood to Brodict. Ten minutes later referee Sam Tattersfield gave Southend a penalty when new Brodict signing Alan Murray handled the ball. Ryan stepped up and slotted the ball past Lyle Bunyan. Jack Simmons picked up a yellow card for a deliberate



The victorious Southend team with the Arran Haulage shield. 20_b21footy03



Archie McNicol and Danny Head in a tussle during the game. 20_b21footy01

handball not long after which may have resulted in a good chance for Brodict. Archie took the free kick and forced a brilliant save from Stevie. The second half was a different story as Southend dominating from the off with some well-placed crosses. One flew straight in from Fraser Gilbert to make it 2-1. It wasn't long until it was

3-1 after a corner resulted in a goal mouth scramble and the ball crossed the line off a Brodict defender. Corey 'Sid' Allan came off the bench and was booked almost immediately for a late tackle on Greg McCrae, who had been dragged out of retirement for the day. Scott made it 4-1 after knocking the ball in from another pin point corner from Elliot Smith. John Drummond and Sandy were then both booked for an inevitable clash in the middle of the park. The scoring was rounded off when Southend veteran Dave Morrison scored a header, after being pictured in the 20 years ago section of The Banner last week for scoring in and winning the 1995 cup final. Gordon 'Nog' Hendry received a late booking for an over eager tackle on Elliot. Sam gave the man-of-the-match award to Ryan after a solid display in the middle of the park.



Scott Hodgson scores Southend's fourth during a dominant second half performance. 20_b21footy02

Lamlash off to a flier in league

Lamlash 5 Northend 1

Monday saw the first game of the Isle of Arran FA league between Lamlash and Northend with the home side coming out on top 5-1. Lamlash dominated from the start and Sam Tattersfield rifled home a strike from the edge of the box to open the scoring. Grant Adamson made it two soon after before centre back Sam scored his second and Lamlash's third. Not even half an hour had gone and it was 4-0 after an unfortunate headed own goal by Jean Demazeux. Northend were then given some hope when the ball bounced through to Lennon Deary and he produced a sublime lob over Ben Tattersfield in the Lamlash goal. It was another own goal that completed the scoring when Northender John Ferguson put the ball into his own net. Referee Archie McNicol gave the man-of-the-match award to Danny Currie, the Lamlash left back who was good both defensively and going forward on the overlap.

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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.