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Let's make Arran a world class island

Demographic must change if 2020 target is to be met

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

A government minister has pledged to back a plan to turn Arran into a world class island by 2020.

On a visit to Arran this week Islands Minister Derek Mackay told a meeting of business and community leaders that the proposals were what 'the forward-thinking island communities needed'.

The plans are being promoted by the newly formed Arran Economic Group. Born out of the Brodick Harbour Redevelopment Group, it includes a wide cross-section of representatives from VisitArran, North Ayrshire Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Scottish Government, Arran Community Council and businesses.

Chairman Tom Tracey said: 'As the group discussed ways to solve the pier, which became the harbour, problem it became clear there was a bigger prize.'

Following its first meeting in July, the group has come up with an Arran Economic Action Plan.

This will focus on five

themes: infrastructure, business growth, housing and land, skills development and the all-encompassing Arran economy. These break down to 22 specific actions, which range from a very detailed plan for Brodick Harbour Redevelopment to housing based on economic need and opportunity with a very sketchy outline of what needs to be done.

In a bid to get the plans moving the group is to hire an Arran development director, at a salary of up to £40,000, to drive the project forward.

In the meantime, Mr Tracey told the minister that there were several areas that needed the government's continued support including: world class digital, mobile, energy and transport infrastructure.

He said the government could grow marine tourism by 45 per cent over five years and asked for Arran and North Ayrshire be the vanguard.

He also said Arran needed a continued commitment to RET, the new ferry and the schedule to match as well as housing and land availability driven by economic need and growth opportunity.



Double trouble at Shiskine Primary

The new primary one class at Shiskine Primary School has a set of identical twins in Isaac and Eion Jones (centre) pictured with their new classmates and teacher Miss Carol Shaw. For a full round up of all the new starts see pages 4 and 5 20_b37school01

Mr Tracey told the minister that on many levels the island was doing well.

'Our tourist revenue for last year increased by seven per cent. With the help of RET this could double this year.

Ten per cent of the working population are employed in manufacturing, this compares with five per cent in Argyll and the islands and seven per cent in Scotland.

Food and drink sectors are

also growing and there have been several significant private sector investments; Auchrannie, The Douglas, The Kinloch, The Glenisle, The Arran Distillery and

Continued on page 2

Monument to mark start of walk

The eyesore flower bed at Brodick pier is to be turned into a monument to mark the official start and finish of the Arran Coastal Way.

The Arran Access Trust approached North Ayrshire Council about using the giant bed in Brodick to mark the beginning and end of the 65-mile circular footpath in a bid to put the coastal way on the map with Scotland's other long distance trails.

Having an official start and finish - complete with a new monument - will also help improve the trust's ambition of gaining 'Scotland Great Trail' accreditation. Indeed, this is the remaining piece of criteria the trust needs to gain the hallmark and have the coastal way recognised as a national people-powered journey.

Island metal worker, Simon Horne of Pirnmill, has designed the monument. His design was chosen because its original feature incorporates a plinth made of stone from all around Arran and in the centre of the monument is a copper topography map of the island. Work will begin on the flower bed on Monday to reshape it to incorporate the monument.

Cabinet member for place, Councillor Tony Gurney, said: 'The trust has made considerable progress in getting the coastal way to the standard necessary for 'Scotland Great Trail' accreditation.'

The trust embarked on a two-year project last May to make improvements to the route including better signage, maintenance on the paths and re-routing of short sections, all of which will make for a better walking experience.



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Minister hears pupils views of highland life

Pupils asked some excellent questions which touched on a range of subjects

Islands Minister Derek Mackay has met with young people on Arran to seek their views on island life.

During a visit to the island, Mr Mackay met pupils from Arran High School to hear about the opportunities and challenges of living on Arran.

The students from the senior modern studies class asked the minister a range of questions about job opportunities, housing, transport, health and a range of other topics.

Afterwards Mr Mackay said it had been a good conversation with the pupils who he

said had asked some excellent questions which had really touched on the subjects

His visit came ahead of a three-month public consultation on plans for more autonomy for Scotland's islands which will be launched later this month.

Islands Bill

The Scottish Government will be seeking the views of all interested stakeholders to help shape the content of a future Islands Bill.

Mr Mackay also held a public discussion with representatives from the local commu-



The modern studies pupils, who took part in the conversation with Mr Mackay 20_b37derek02

nity and local businesses to discuss the plans.

Mr Mackay said: 'It is a real pleasure to be here on Arran and a wonderful opportunity for me to hear the views of young people about what they think about living on the island.'

Consultation

'Engaging with local communities on the upcoming Islands Bill consultation is essential.'

'The consultation will include looking at the possibilities of providing more power, equality and protection for the islands to allow them to build a more prosperous and fairer future for their communities.'

'We see the consultation as the start of a conversa-

tion with the island councils, their communities and wider stakeholders over what a future bill may look like.

'We remain committed to supporting local democracy and empowering our island communities to build a wealthier and fairer future.'

Councillor Marie Burns, North Ayrshire Council's cabinet member for economy and employment, said: 'I was delighted to welcome Mr Mackay to Arran today ahead of the launch of the public consultation over plans for greater autonomy for our islands.'

'During the visit we were able to hear first-hand from pupils at Arran High School about their views on island life.'

Let's make Arran a world class island

Continued from page 1

Brewery, Taste of Arran and Arran Aromatics.'

However, Mr Tracey said the island had 'several challenges'.

'Arran is a high cost, low income economy. This is most keenly felt around affordable housing. We also face skills gaps and a high cost of services. All of these manifest in our biggest challenge, our demographics. The last census showed a four per cent increase in Scottish island population. Of the seven largest islands that make up 75 per cent-plus of the island population, five of them saw population growth. Two declined - one of them was Arran. Further, the population from zero to 64 years has declined by 16 per cent. And 34 per cent of our population is now over 65.'

'Failure to change this demographic will challenge the social and economic fabric of the island.'

'The Arran social and business community have a track record of making positive things happen. With your help and the focussed efforts of the Arran Economic Group, we will deliver Arran - A World Class Island - quite simply, because we have to,' Mr Tracey told the minister.

Afterwards Mr Tracey said: 'I think the meeting was very positive. He was supportive of our proposals and seemed to take on board a lot of what we were saying.'

Councillor Marie Burns, North Ayrshire Council's cabinet member for economy and employment, said: 'The newly formed Arran Economic Group will help to maximise the potential for wider economic growth on Arran. Our aim is to have sustainable, vibrant and prosperous island communities which meet the needs of our existing and future residents.'

Mr Mackay said: 'I was pleased to meet with a range of representatives from the Arran Economic Group. The entire community has a really positive attitude to the challenges it faces, and the Arran Economic Group plays an important role in responding to those.'

'I welcome the group's early work on developing its action plan and I was pleased to hear about the expected improvements to broadband availability in Arran in 2016.'

'I encourage the group to look at the model for community ownership of telecoms infrastructure which has already been tested in Coll.'



Pupils take part in a round-table discussion with Mr Mackay 20_b37derek01

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Street writer returns to Arran

If folk keep their eyes on the Brodick promenade this week, (September 10 - 17) they might be lucky enough to catch Luke Winter hard at work on a bench or a grassy patch.

More often than not, Luke is to be found beside the River Thames in London, outside the Tate Modern gallery, where he sits with his typewriter and spontaneously writes stories on any subject that is requested of him.

Petit Prance, the pseudonym he uses, which he describes as a disastrously bad pun, has taken his street writing to Belgium, Spain, France and Germany as well as performing at Scottish festivals such as Knockengoroch, Eden Festival, and Doune the Rabbit Hole.

If anyone misses him on the seafloor, Luke's website can be found at www.petitprance.com

Corrie Film Club Showing

Ilo Ilo (Singapore 2013, Cert 12)

The film Ilo Ilo, which was originally scheduled for August, will be shown this month at the Corrie Film Club. But please note, this film is not Under the Skin which it gets confused with.

Ilo Ilo is a film full of sweetness, humour and humanity from Singapore, a debut film directed by Anthony Chen and based on his own childhood.

Set in Singapore during the Asian financial crisis, Ilo Ilo chronicles the day-to-day drama of the Lim Family, troublesome Jiale and his stressed parents, Heck and Leng. Comfortably middle class and with another baby on the way, they hire Teresa, a Filipino immigrant as a live-in maid and nanny.

See this film in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall on Sunday, September 13 at 8pm.

Baby trout death mystery in burn

SEPA has tested the water and found no pollutants

A mystery surrounds the deaths of a number of baby trout in the Knockenkelly Burn at Sandbraes.

Gege Kroner of Whiting Bay was out walking with her husband Wolfi when they came across about 18 small dead trout on the banks of the burn. 'They are just little babies but it was quite shocking to see so many little fry belly-up,' said Gege.

Gege uploaded a picture that she took on her camera phone to facebook and was contacted by others. One person told Gege they had been walking at the burn the day before her discovery on Saturday, September 5 and they too noticed a number of dead fish.

Another Whiting Bay resident claimed that they had seen 'a man in a boiler suit' spraying what they thought was weed killer that is sometimes used to kill knotweed in the area but this has not been substantiated. Gege said that there are about three people in the village who were authorised to deal with knotweed but that none of them were responsible.

Later in the day, speculation took off with some wondering if silage had seeped into the river. Another wondered if it could be a leaking septic tank that had been responsible.

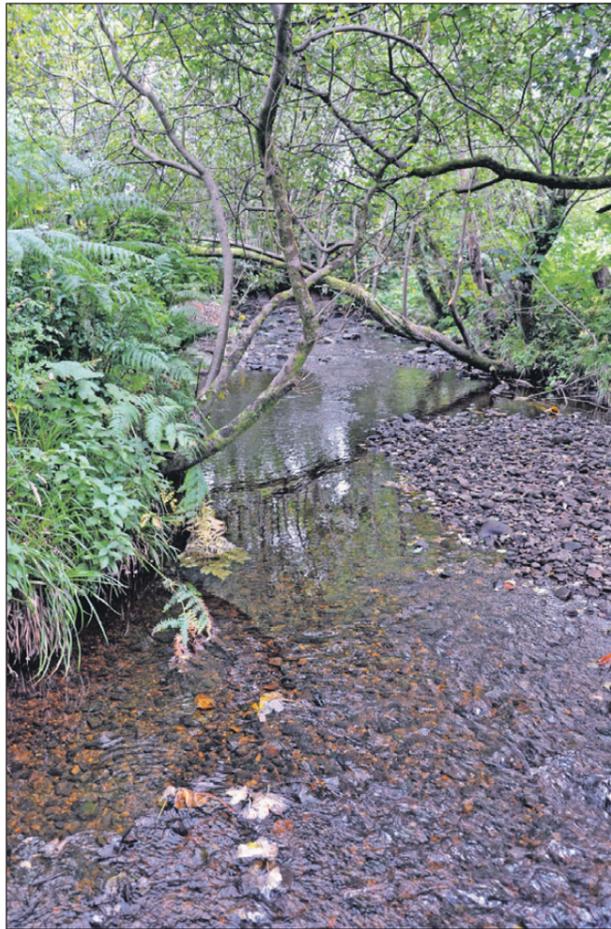
Gege reported the incident to Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).

SEPA advised that it had tested the water and had found no pollutants or any land drain discharge into the burn. It has contacted organisations in the area and is not

aware of any form of spraying having taken place but it does encourage any information that may help, to be reported by contacting the pollution hotline. It has also pledged to do a follow-up visit in one week's time for further investigation.

SEPA spokeswoman Gayle Howard said: 'We would like to take this opportunity to thank the individual who contacted us. Reports like this enable us to investigate pollution concerns quickly and take action where required.'

'We would also remind anyone who is concerned about pollution that they can always contact our 24-hour pollution hotline on 0800 807060 or our Ayr Office on 01292 294000. All calls can be treated as confidential.'



One of the small trout found floating in the Knockenkelly Burn

The Knockenkelly Burn at Sandbraes in Whiting Bay

20_37fish02

ConnectArran survey widened

As reported in last week's Banner, ConnectArran is doing an island-wide survey on connectivity.

It is available online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/connectarran

ConnectArran now also has paper copies for those with poor internet access which are available at any of the Arran Medical Group surgeries as well as Bay Stores in Whiting Bay and the Byre at Brodick and Machrie, where they can also be handed in once completed.

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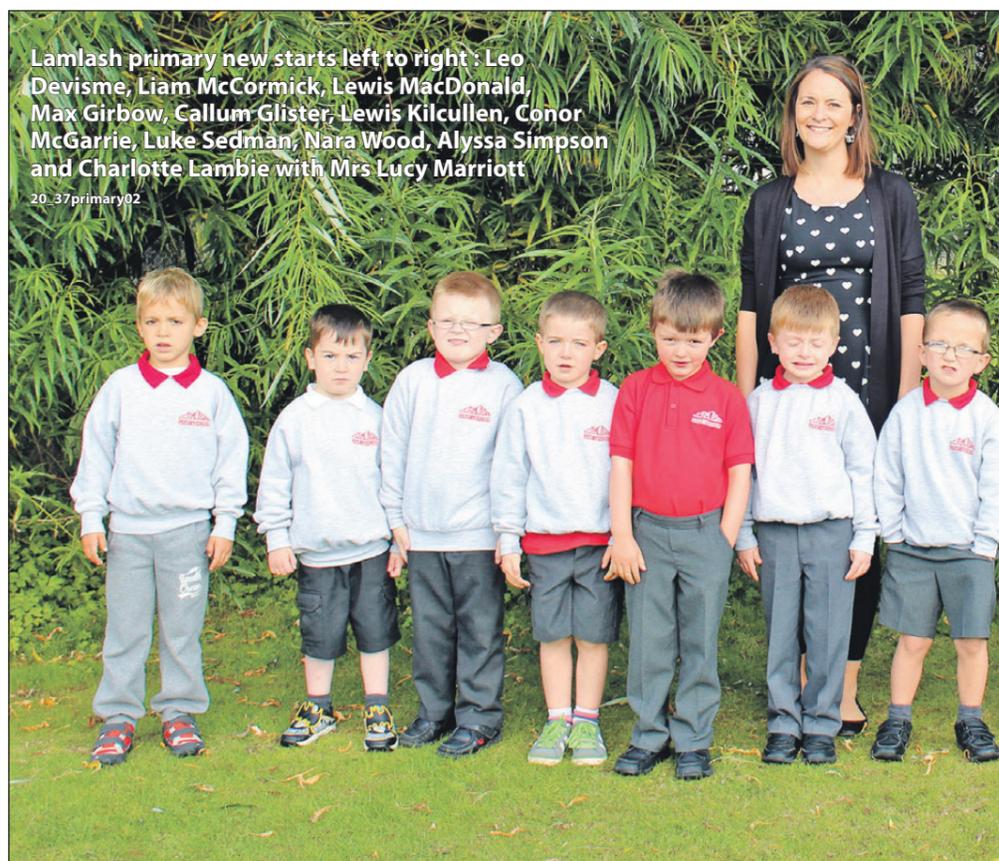
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Brodick primary one pupils, left to right: Kayla Hewie, Herbie Helliwell, Mollie Buckby, Jamie Ferguson, Eva McCrae, Lachlan McNicol, Julia Kulis and Kellen Craig who posed in their 'garden' with Mrs Morag Donaldson, who shares the class with Mrs Jackie Colwell. 20_37primary01



Above: Shiskine primary ones left to right: Lily Hendrie, Eoin Jones, Ava McNeice, Keira Webster, Isaac Jones and Daragh McNiven with Miss Carol Shaw. Not pictured Susan Dobson 20_37primary05



Lamlash primary new starts left to right : Leo Devisme, Liam McCormick, Lewis MacDonald, Max Girbow, Callum Glister, Lewis Kilcullen, Conor McGarrie, Luke Sedman, Nara Wood, Alyssa Simpson and Charlotte Lambie with Mrs Lucy Marriott

20_37primary02

Primary o: in the pict

Schools see an increase in n

With the summer holidays over and the start of a new school term, the Banner visited the island's seven primary schools to see how the P1s were adjusting to their new school routines.

Settled in

Thankfully, every single one has settled in exceptionally well and there were many enthusiastic faces enjoying the lessons and the company of their

friends, some old, some new, when the Banner visited.

In total there are 33 new primary one pupils, which is an increase on the 31 of last year but still far off the previous year, 2013, where Arran saw a huge intake of 43 P1 pupils.

This was largely due to the 12 new pupils at Whiting Bay primary which boosted the numbers for 2013.

Lamlash primary topped the tables with the largest intake of 11 this year, closely followed by Brodick which has had eight year-on-year since 2013.

Shiskine saw six P1s including twins, Eoin and Isaac Jones who have been causing some of the teachers to have difficulties discerning between the two.

Whiting Bay primary, the school where one pupil, Se

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nes ure ew starts

Words and photos by **Colin Smeeton**

Kilmory primary new starts, left to right: Chloe McNeil, Lachlan Smith and Jenny Monteith with Mrs Karen Barbour 20_37primary04

The P1s of Whiting Bay Primary, left to right: Sera Bibin, Fraser Hackett, Julieta Gray and Greta Renan with Mrs Sheila Macalister 20_37primary03

ne Bibin, politely thanked the Banner photographer for every photo taken, had four this year, as they did the last year.

At Pirmill primary, the bright and colourful school received one new enrolment bringing their total pupil count up to nine.

Corrie Primary was the only school not have any P1s for the second time in three years.



nmill primary's only P1 this year
rosanna Weir 20_37primary07

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Footprints affairs are wound up

The affairs of the charity shop Footprints in Brodick have been wound up with £1,000 handed over to help those most in need.

Although Footprints was only open for a couple of years, it was successful in helping many people on Arran, especially those on low income moving into the new houses in Lamlash.

However, without the necessary number of volunteers it was impossible to continue and the shop in the Douglas Centre finally closed in July.

Founder Judy Draycott said: 'The trustees would like to thank all those who gave into the shop, without your goods many would be still struggling and to those who gave money on a regular basis to help with the running

of the shop. Without either, Footprints could not have achieved what it did.

'So, what has happened to the items and funds remaining? Some were taken to the Salvation Army in Saltcoats and a few needy items to Scope. The majority of items Sue Girbow took for AR-CAS, which was such a blessing as we were wondering how we were going to move a shop full of goods donated for a worthy cause on Arran, thanks Sue.

'All new stock of fleeces and T shirts which didn't sell in the shop was sold to another and the funds added to the residue in the bank. The funds remaining, which total just under £1,000, have been given to Rev Angus Adamson to use at his discretion to help those on Arran who have fallen on hard times, as he sees fit.

'On behalf of many people, I would just like to say thank you for your support,' Judy added.

The Rev Adamson confirmed he had given the money to Arran Churches Together to support its work with the ACTS Foodbank to help local families in need.

Club winners

Congratulations to Christine McIlwraith and Stewart Cunningham of Lamlash, who each won £100 in the July and August draws of the Lamlash Improvements 50-50 Club.

New members are very welcome. Contact Stuart Turner on 808181.

Visiting poets at Arran restaurants

Brodick's Little Rock Café was packed out when the renowned poet and broadcaster Simon Armitage paid a visit to Arran.

It was a first time visit to the island for Simon, who was in town to present the prizes for this year's McLellan Poetry Competition. On a blowy day he had been out on the deck of the Caledonian Isles to admire the views during the crossing.

This year's competition attracted more than 1,400 entries from all over the world confirming its growing reputation as one of Scotland's foremost literary prizes. Introducing the winners, Simon

Armitage commented on the high standard of poems submitted and said that he had found at least 30 poems that he felt might have deserved the £1,000 prize.

Powerful poem

John Foggin, the overall winner this year, had travelled up from his home in Yorkshire to read his poem to the enthusiastic audience and receive his award. 'Bheinn na Caillich' with its Gaelic title and description of the voyages of Viking settlers was a powerful poem and seemed a fitting winner for a prize awarded on a Scottish island.

The other prizewinning or commended poems found



Simon Armitage, left, presents John Foggin with his prize at the Little Rock Café

their inspiration in a bewildering variety of subjects ranging from medieval mountebanks, to Japanese cuisine, to a ghost in the Cambridgeshire fenlands. You can find them all on the festival website at <http://www.arran-theatreandarts.org/index.php/poetry-competition>

Later in the weekend Simon, whose wife Sue has fond memories of holidays in Lamlash when she was younger, found time to explore Glen Rosa and attend the festival ceilidh in Corrie Hall.

Also on the island over the same weekend was Chris Harrison, a London-based musician, who performed his

'Carols from the Coalfields', songs based on the poems of his great-great-grandfather Joseph Skipsey, the 'Pitman Poet'. Joined in the Brodick Bar by other visiting poets, including no less than three past winners of the McLellan Poetry Prize, the result was an evocative evening of ballads and poems on the hardships, tragedies and satisfactions of working life.

Thanks were due to both Ailie at Little Rock and Ian McFadzean at the Brodick Bar for opening their doors to host two marvellous festival events.

*See pages 8 and 9 for coverage of the McLellan Festival opera gala night.



Chris Harrison sings one of his Carols from the Coalfields at Brodick Bar



Open day

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It pays to advertise in the Arran Banner

New moorings facilities boost for villages

Moorings add to existing stock on Arran and will be a great asset to the island

An ambitious programme to improve mooring facilities on Arran is due to get underway this month, providing additional facilities for boating enthusiasts.

More than £120,000 has been secured to improve facilities on Arran and Cumbrae. Funding has been provided by the Coastal Communities Fund, an initiative established by HM Treasury and delivered in partnership with the Scottish Government, (Marine Scotland). The award will allow North Ayrshire Council to install additional moorings in Whiting Bay, Blackwaterfoot and Pirnmill.

The new moorings will allow boat owners to visit these locations in the knowledge

that their boats, weighing up to 10 tons, are secured to a fully serviced berth. Work is underway to investigate the potential for improved step-shore facilities linked to the moorings. This will further enable Clyde sailors' exploration of the islands and all they have to offer.

Proposals for the new boat- mooring amenities have been developed in association with the local communities, and they will be managed in partnership between North Ayrshire Council and VisitArran.

Councillor Marie Burns, cabinet member for economy and employment, said: 'The isle of Arran is very popular for tourists and boat owners who visit this destination and bring in much-needed busi-

ness to local shops, hotels and restaurants. This is the reason the council, together with its key partners, has secured the funding to develop the moorings which better meet the needs of our visitors and tourists.'

Sheila Gilmore, VisitArran, said: 'These moorings add to the existing stock in Lochranza, Brodick and Lamlash and will be a great asset to Arran enabling leisure craft to visit the island and moor in locations which did not lend themselves to such before.'

'VisitArran is delighted to have been involved in these developments from the outset and sees these moorings as a great start to further developing marine infrastructure on the island.'



Sunflower winners Alison Bilsland, judge Nicol Hume, holding David's trophy, and Aileen Latona.

Alison proves she has flower power

Alison Bilsland won the annual Brodick Golf Club sunflower competition.

Her sunflower was judged best in show. David Hendry took the prize for the tallest plant with a height of 7ft 8in.

For the third year running Wyllie Hume was runner up with a sunflower of 7ft 2ins.

Aileen Latona won the prize for the farthest travelled - all the way from Shiskine in her Fiat Panda.

Fundraiser at Strabane

Arran Youth Foundations will host its annual fundraiser on Saturday, September 19 at Strabane House. The open day will see Lady Jean open her beautiful gardens to once again help raise funds for the charity, with teas and coffees, home baking and a raffle among the attractions hosted by the young people of the group.

The date has been rescheduled from June, when storms forced the youngsters to cancel.

The event will run from 11am to 4pm and visitors will be encouraged to make a small donation to help the group raise funds to support the work they do with the island's youngsters.

Youth worker Graeme Johnston said: 'The community is always very supportive of our events and I hope we get another great turnout this time around. It would mean a lot to the group.'

*Kids - see page 15 to find out how to get involved with the project.

• Do you have a story for **The Arran Banner**? Call our reporters on 01770 302142

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

NOW IT'S TIME FOR NORTH AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY GAMES!

Grass roots sports in North Ayrshire are poised to enjoy their very own golden day when the annual KA Leisure Community Games come to St Matthew's Campus, Saltcoats on Saturday, September 12.

One of the area's premier multi-sports events, the Community Games will provide an opportunity for people to come and try a new sport or speak to local clubs who can give them the chance to take part more regularly.

The North Ayrshire Community Games is KA Leisure's biggest event of the year and provides a range of exciting opportunities like Come and Try Sessions, Displays, Market Stall Area, Bubble Football, Outdoor Climbing Wall, Golf Simulator, Circus Skills and much much more.

Now in its 6th year, the aim is to inspire the people of North Ayrshire to become more active by raising awareness of what is on offer in the area.

Live performances include a super BMX Stunt Display by The Clan, Scotland's premier cycle stunt team.

The fun starts at 11am and lasts until 3pm. Entry to the Community Games costs just £1.00 per person and Under 1s go free. For all enquiries, tel 01294 316454

For the first time we are holding a Children's Scootathon plus our regular 1km Family Fun Run.

The Scootathon starts at 11.15 with 5 - 7 years (300m Scooter or Bike and 100m Run) followed at 11.30 by 8 - 12 years (400m Scooter or Bike & 200m Run)

The 1km Family Fun Run is at 11.40.

Participants must bring their own bike or scooter and must wear a helmet (not provided), all activities may be subject to change.

To pre-register your child's space for the Scootathon visit www.kaleisure.com

We are also holding a series of Come and Try Fitness Sessions.

£1.00 gets you a day pass which also includes entry to the Community Games.

The schedule is as follows:

- 09.30-10.30 - Boxercise
- 10.30-11.00 - Metafit
- 12.00-12.30 - Body Combat
- 12.30-13.00 - Hatton Boxing
- 13.00-13.30 - Kettlecise
- 13.30-14.00 - Aerobics

Pre Booking required for fitness classes by calling 01294 316454, all activities may be subject to change.

This year KA Leisure is also taking part in National Fitness Day on Wednesday September 9!

This is the biggest and most visible annual celebration of physical activity of the year. It is the day to celebrate the role that physical activity plays in our lives. This year, our aim is to make National Fitness Day the most active day of the year.

We will be running FREE Studio Classes, FREE Gym Use, FREE Health Checks, FREE Swimming, FREE Badminton and more.

We challenge all our members to bring their family and friends along for FREE!

Full details are available at: www.kaleisure.com



Brian McNamee and Arthur Bruce perform Bizet's Pearl Fishers' Duet 20_b37opera01



Isabella Gage performs Handel's O Sleep, why dost thou leave me? 20_b37opera03



The singers with a rousing finale of the song 'If You Walk through a Storm' from Carousel 20_b37opera18



Isabella Gage and Dominic Stewart perform Love Unspoken from the Merry Widow 20_b37opera12



Puccini's 'Sloe e amore' performed by Christopher Littlewood 20_b37opera05



Lara Rebekah Harvey and Francesca Letch perform Offenbach's Barcarolle 20_b37opera13



The pianists, left to right: Mi applause of the cast and the

A night at the opera is one to be remembered

Summer school students serve up a musical treat

The talented young singers and musicians attending the Arran summer school this year gave a splendid opera concert in the community theatre last Friday.

Billed as a 'Night to Remember' the evening of opera and operatta certainly lived up to its name.

This year 14 singers and two accompanists from all over the UK, who are undergradu-

ate or postgraduate students at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, attended the sixth summer school organised by Peter Wilson on the island.

And at their showcase gala evening they showed off what they had learned with a diverse range of opera works.

The first half of the show saw the students tackle songs from

the operas of Handel, Mozart, Verdi and Puccini to name but a few.

The second half was lighter with music from shows and operattas from the likes of Offenbach, Cole Porter and Kern.

And the two hours of joyous entertainment was rounded off by a stunning group performance of the Rodgers and Hammerstein song 'If You Walk Through a Storm' from Carousel.

The only disappointment of the night was the fact that the evening was two performances short due to the illness of one of the singers Matthew Nuttall.

And the students were back in Lamlash on Sunday night to give more solo performances before joining together to perform Haydn's Nelson Mass with the McLellan Festival Chorus made up of local singers.



Sarah Gilford gives a fine rendition of Kern's 'On my lips every kiss is like wine' 20_b37opera16



zero waste
7-13th Sept. 2015
ARRAN

INVITATION

The Big Arran Feast & Zero Waste Arran Challenge - Exhibition - Competitions
Saturday 12th September Whiting Bay Hall
From 11.30am - FREE - All day café
All Welcome



James Berry and Sarah Gilford perform Mozart's Papageno, Papagena duet 20_b37opera04



Rachel Abbot sings Mozart's Come Scoglio accompanied by Daniel Browell 20_b37opera10



Michael Davies, Daniel Browell and Roderick Barrand take the audience 20_b37opera20



David Cane gives a dramatic performance of Soliloquy from Carousel 20_b37opera17



Lara Rebekah Harvey gives an animated performance of Cole Porter's The Oyster Song accompanied by Roderick Barrand 20_b37opera15

ADVERTORIAL

Be part of the exciting future of Argyll College

With an expanding portfolio of courses, increasing student numbers and a vision to become the heart of further and higher education in the area, Argyll College UHI has an exciting future – and is seeking community leaders to be a part of it.

The college is inviting applications from prospective board members to help guide the organisation through a period of significant growth and development.

More than 1,500 students studied with Argyll College across its 15 campuses and learning centres last year and the organisation expects the number of higher education students to rise by 30 per cent in the coming academic period. The college is an academic



Some of the college's 2015 graduates

partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands and is a growing contributor to the economic development of the region.

College Board Chair Andrew Campbell said: "This is an exciting time for everyone involved with Argyll College, which has achieved so much since it was established in 1997.

"As we have grown, we now also operate more than 40 commer-

cial courses for both individuals and company-sponsored employees from health and safety to management development.

"For the next chapter in our story we need experienced, dynamic and inspirational leaders to join our talented board of directors. By adding extra skills to our directorate, Argyll College can continue to flourish and produce a highly-skilled work-

force for the prosperity of the area."

In 2015/16 the college is offering its widest ever range of full-time higher and further education courses, from Business Administration to Construction and Engineering.

And the institution is this year offering for the first time a Professional Graduate Diploma (PGDE) in Primary Teaching, in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council.

So, if you want to make a real difference to your community, and you have the skills and experience to contribute to this progressive and developing organisation, contact Pauline Cameron, Secretary to the Board, on 07917 791591 or at pauline.cameron@uhi.ac.uk for more information.



University of the Highlands and Islands
Argyll College

Oilthigh na Gàidhealtachd agus nan Eilean
Colaiste Earra-Ghàidheil

Help Argyll secure a skilled local workforce

Argyll College UHI Board Member appointment

We are looking for up to 3 individuals to join the Board of Management of Argyll College UHI, one of the major success stories in Argyll and the islands. You will have a strong commitment to the area served by our College and the belief that we can develop and increase further and higher education opportunities.

You should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the value and importance of education and training to the future economic prosperity of Argyll and the islands and a commitment to the highest standards of governance.

As a Company director and Charity Trustee of the College, you will be part of the Board during a period of considerable change and opportunity for this area and the future of further and higher education in the region. Board members are responsible for the leadership, management and direction of the College across its 14 campuses and learning centres.

We are particularly seeking members with experience as a local employer, in financial management, human resource management and marketing and who may come from the commercial, third or public sectors.

The key requirement is a willingness to give time and energy to assist with the effective governance of the College.

A commitment of approximately 15 days per academic year is required.

These positions are not remunerated; however, reasonable expenses may be claimed.

Further information, in the form of an application pack, can be obtained by emailing Pauline Cameron, Secretary to the Board: pauline.cameron@uhi.ac.uk.

Applications, which must include a CV and cover letter may be submitted by email or by post to Pauline Cameron, Argyll College (UHI) Ltd, Oban Campus, Glenshellach Business Park, Oban, PA34 4RY by Thursday 21 September 2015. Interviews will be held on 7 October in Oban.

We are particularly keen to welcome applications from women who are currently under-represented in the College's governance structure.

THE ARRAN BANNER

Arran can be world class

Arran wants to be a world class island by 2020.

That is the target of the newly-formed Arran Economic Group and the simple answer to 'why?' is 'because we have to'.

The island may be, on the face of it, doing pretty well. But if Arran is to reverse the trend of its worrying ageing demographic, action needs to be taken - and soon.

But just what does becoming a world-class island entail?

Collaboration is the name of the collective game and since the new group was formed out of the Brodick Harbour Group, which turned a five-year development plan into an 18-month single-phased improvement programme, it has already proved it can get things done.

While the full group will only meet four times a year, a steering group will get together every couple of weeks and the new Arran development director, who is presently being hired, will have a daily role to press plans forward.

These have been broken down into five specific areas that need to be urgently addressed: infrastructure, business growth, housing and land, skills development and the Arran economy.

Many of these go hand in hand. Because business growth is being hampered by skill shortages, which are being hampered by the availability of affordable housing for incoming workers.

The Arran Economic Group wants to see housing linked to economic need and any government initiatives that could assist this, such as the new rural housing fund, should be investigated.

Improved infrastructure is, of course, also vital, if the island is to flourish and grow. And certainly a long-term aim of a two-ferry service from the new £20 million Brodick harbour could see commuting from the island to the central belt a realistic prospect and bring younger people and their families to the island.

Communications too must be improved for businesses on the island to stay in better touch with their customers which are now scattered far and wide.

All of which would have been known to the Islands Minister Derek Mackay before his visit to Arran this week. But it is always useful to have a positive plan in place when you have the ear of a government minister.

Politicians always like to help communities which are seen to be helping themselves.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said: 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.' (Matthew 5:7)

press policy

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

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

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

your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Help for elderly

Sir,
Some time ago an 86-year-old was caused much distress at Central Station in Glasgow being turned away from the 4.40pm boat train because staff didn't know the regulations for concession ticket holders from Arran going for the ferry at 'rush hour'. We took up her case, and several other people with similar experiences, by corresponding with the relevant authorities on her behalf. Perhaps no one could help you understand the services available to help you in your own home when you are not so fit as you are now? Maybe you have a neighbour needing assistance and you don't know where to access information. Or it may be just that you feel you should be more engaged in advocacy and being informed on issues that affect you now or may do a few years down the line.

Isle of Arran Elderly Forum helps older people - 55 years and over - keep in touch with issues concerning those with the experience of years. At monthly meetings we are informed of the work of North Ayrshire Council and other organisations and island groups on issues that concern us.

Once every three months we have interesting speakers whose work affects our lives - a team talked on mental health and wellbeing including the manager of the new Montrose House, facilities at Aramcara, dementia respite care, how and who cares for older people. Another day the youth worker from Arran Youth Foundations brought us up to speed on what young people are engaged in on the island, then Arran's chief first responder gave us a most informative and graphic presentation on CPR and the working of defibrillating machines which are dotted all over the island. There was no room for 'I cannae dae that'.

Recently we hosted a joint meeting with North Ayrshire elderly forums, sharing mutual concerns and enjoying lunch together. Oh yes, we

men and women in AEF have a social side - an annual lunch together, a summer outing.

This year it was a sail on the Waverley, at discount rates of course, and a day in Largs with members and friends in sunny weather.

Why not come along and join us - be informed, help reform and transform our community and not just for ourselves but for those less able to get out and about, helping us be good neighbours. Join our next meeting in the Ormadale Sports Pavilion at 10.40am for a cuppa before the 11am meeting on Wednesday, September 16. See you there.

Yours,
**Helen Kerr
Shiskine**

Misplaced spending

Sir,
Re the new ferry announcement in last week's Banner.

This news was expected for quite a while, however, the promises made by CalMac (and the government) were for two vessels, smaller ones but with much more frequency.

Now we will get another Leviathan again, probably not really suitable for Ardrossan and at an atrocious cost of nearly £50 million. I read in that eye-opening book 'Who pays the Ferryman?' from Roy Pedersen (available at Book and Card shop, as well as at the library) of a similar situation in the Pentland Firth (mainland to the Orkneys) has been done for a fraction of the cost and at a cheaper price for the users.

This massive funding, which will be spent for a single vessel, in conjunction with the new high-faluting Brodick pier extension, is really misplaced in today's world of austerity. The government should better use this money, saved with a much humbler solution which serves us and our guests much better, for supporting the people fallen into the austerity trap from the stories.

Yours,
**Bruno Baumgärtner
Corrie cravie**

Clyde pride

Sir,
I write with interest following the front page headline news concerning the latest ferry vessel for the crossings to and from the Isle of Arran.

Whilst I am sorry the contract for the construction of this vessel never came to Birkenhead, I am pleased that it is to be built on the Clyde.

Fergusons Ship Builders have built a number of vessels for Clyde and Hebridean waters and I am sure the vessel will be built to Fergusons' marvellous standards of quality and reliability.

All we need now is for CalMac to keep the contract for the operation of this vessel and keep the tradition in full Scottish hands.

Yours,
**J Hughes
Wirral
Cheshire**

McLellan thank you

Sir,
On behalf of the steering group of the McLellan Arts Festival and Peter Wilson and colleagues of the Arran Summer School I would like to thank the many people on Arran who have supported the festival this year and also who have helped in so many ways.

Little Rock proved to be an ideal venue for Simon Armitage - thanks to staff there for contributing towards the success of the event and to all those who organised it, especially Cicely Gill and David Underdown. Thanks are also due to Corrie and Sannox Village Hall which hosted the Poetry Workshop with Simon Armitage and the ceilidh at which we were all entertained so wonderfully by Stuart Gough, the Taiko Drummers and the Arran Jazz Cafe Band and fed so well by all those kind folk who provided supper.

Grateful thanks to Corrie Church, Angus Adamson, the stirring recitations of Arran Burn by Sheila Gilmore, Stuart Gough and John Sillars and the glorious singing of the summer school students

at the McLellan church service.

Also thanks to Whiting Bay Hall and to Andy McCallum for providing an excellent venue for Weaving Musical Threads and to Lamlash fire station for the use of its ideal space for the adult music workshops and, on that, a warm thank you to Chris Harrison and Jan Anderson for leading these.

Altachorvie provided a welcoming and elegant setting for the joint event with the Saltire Society on Scottish painting - thanks to Hazel Gardiner for her sterling efforts towards this. Altachorvie was also a wonderful home for the music students of the summer school during their stay so thank you to Joni Keen and staff for facilitating this.

Brodick Bar once again proved to be an ideal spot for the Arran and Beyond poetry and music event whilst the staff of KA Leisure and MITE could not have been more helpful when it came to the performances in the community theatre of the Indepen - Dance, Opera Gala and the Nelson Mass. Thanks here also to Diana and Douglas Hamilton for rehearsal of the chorus for the Mass and to all those who made up the McLellan Arts Festival Chorus. We must thank again the members of Arran Singers who made such a generous donation towards the expenses of the summer school.

We are also grateful to the local press in publicising and reviewing the events, to Russell Porter and Ed O'Donnely for help in preparing publicity materials, to Arran Graphics for efficient services, to Arran Events and the Book and Card Shop for selling tickets, to Visit Arran and Tourist Office for support, to Ann Hume, Katharine O'Donnely and Simon Sloan for help with publicity on social media and, finally, of course, to all those audience members who attended the performances

Yours,
**Heather Gough
McLellan Arts Festival**

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Arran man takes on 3 Peaks Challenge

An Arran man is this weekend tackling a gruelling challenge to raise money for charity.

Walter Brown, 64, from Kildonan, is trying to complete the National 3 Peaks Challenge, along with his colleagues from the RR Donnelley Team.

The 3 Peaks Challenge consists of a hike up Ben Nevis in Scotland (a 10.5-mile round trip to the summit at 4,409 ft), followed by a scramble up Scafell Pike in England (six miles there and back to the top at 3,209 ft) and finally, a climb to the peak of Mount Snowdon in Wales (3,560 ft and seven miles in all back to the bottom).

The whole exercise has to be completed within 24 hours - a limit which includes driving time between the peaks of more than 10 hours in good traffic and a distance itself of over 460 miles.

Walter, director of corporate services in legal services, said: 'Signing up for this event was not an easy decision - although the spirit was more than willing the flesh was rather weak. However, the cause was good and the mountains were there to be climbed!'

Training

Walter takes part in the Arran Mountain Festival every year with his wife and he started training for the three peaks challenge by upping his game this year and choosing some of the more difficult routes. Since the festival in May, Walter's climbed Goatfell several times, Ben Nevis and Scafell Pike, as well as cycling 92 kilometres around Arran in August. The cycle part of his training involved five climbs up to more than 200 metres above sea level on day one and an impressive 875-metre climb in the mountains the following day.

He said: 'I am delighted to say I have raised more than £2,850 which exceeds my initial target.'

Walter is raising money for I CAN which works to foster the development of speech, language and communication skills in all children with a special focus on those who find this hard: children with a communication disability.

Anyone wishing to support Walter can do so at: www.justgiving.com/WalterBrown7/ or text WBIC64 with a donation to 70070.



The project team, left to right: Denise and Andy Spragg, David Miller and Ken Robertson.

Meditation platform plan for old jetty on Holy Isle

An old stone jetty on Holy Isle is to be converted into a meditation platform.

It is an exciting and collaborative project between the Holy Isle Project, its parent Samye Ling Buddhist monastery in Lockerbie and Re-Vitalise, a tai chi, yoga and meditation retreat company which has been holding retreats on Holy Isle since 2006.

Re-Vitalise is run by Denise and Andy Spragg who need to raise £5,000 to complete the project.

Volunteers on the island built a new landing platform in 2013 allowing easier access to the island. The old stone jetty has since been falling into disrepair.

One of the guests on Re-Vitalise's 2013 retreat, Ken Robertson, had the idea of converting this old stone jetty into a meditation platform using marine grade timber, and drew up sketches. Another guest, David Miller, a structural engineer, agreed it was possible and from there, the idea was born.

Once completed, the platform would be available for meditation, personal yoga practice or simply to sit and

contemplate. The jetty occupies a wonderful position outside the front of the retreat centre, with stunning views across the water to Lamlash Bay.

In the spring this year, Denise and Andy, together with David and Ken, were honoured to meet with Lama Yeshe Rinpoche, abbot of Samye Ling, to discuss the plan with him and ask if this would be something that would benefit the island.

Funds

He gave his blessing for the project and, since then, work has begun to source the materials and raise the funds needed to complete the work.

The monastery's architect, Howard Sargent, drew up detailed plans. Work would be carried out by a team of volunteers who have previously attended a retreat on Holy Isle, combined with tai chi and meditation to ease those aching muscles.

The project will cost £5,000 to complete, and Re-Vitalise is looking for help to raise the funds.

Denise said: 'We are looking for people who would be willing to pledge money



The old stone jetty has fallen into disrepair.



An artist's impression of how the platform will look when it is completed.

WIN!
a case of sparkling wine
six to give away



Award-winning McGuigan Wines is giving six lucky readers the chance to win a case of their brand new sparkling McGuigan Frizzante.

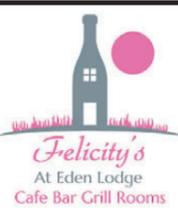
The McGuigan Frizzante is bursting with soft lemon and apple fruit characters. The wine is crafted from some of the finest grapes in South Eastern Australia's sunny climate. McGuigan Frizzante is full of lively yet delicate bubbles that give a crisp and refreshing sparkling wine. The acidity is perfectly balanced with soft citrus fruits and a hint of dryness. www.mcguiganwines.co.uk

For a chance to win a case of McGuigan Frizzante, simply answer this easy question, complete the form and send to Wyvex Media, McGuigan Comp, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Wednesday, September 23rd, 2015. Entrants must be 18 or over. Winners will be asked to collect their prize in person along with proof of age from their local Wyvex Media office.

In which Australian state will you find Sydney?
a) New South Wales b) New South Scotland
c) New South England

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

Terms and conditions: Entrants must be 18 years old or over and be available to collect in person from a local Wyvex Media office via appointment. Employees of McGuigan Wines, Wyvex Media and any agencies connected with the competition and their families are not eligible to enter. The prize is only open to UK residents. The prize is as stated. 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 also open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. Digital subscribers can enter by printing this page and submitting their entry along with a letter explaining you are a digital subscriber (please provide your email address). Closing date for entries is midnight, September 23, 2015.


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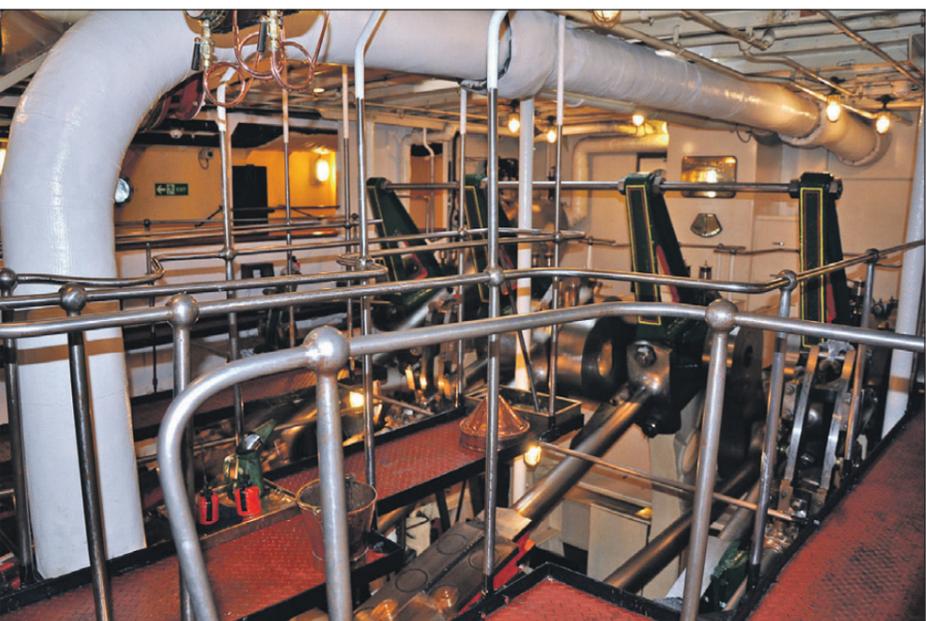
Great white swell from the paddles as the boat docks at Brodick 20_b37wave18



The Waverley's paddles leave a trail behind her 20_b37wave06



A mirror image from the back of Holy Isle showing the Stevenson lighthouse 20_b37wave08



The gleaming engine room 20_b37wave10



The Waverley leaves Arran heading for Largs 20_b37wave20

A trip on the Waverley for an unforgettable experience

The 40th anniversary of the Waverley

PHOTOGRAPHS by HUGH BOAG
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Waverley has just completed its summer sailings in the west coast waters of Scotland in what is her 40th anniversary in preservation. She is a regular visitor to both Brodick and Lochranza over the summer months and the Banner joined a trip along the Arran coast. The paddle steamer has now headed south to ply her trade in the Bristol Channel, the south coast of England and the Thames before her final two cruises of the season in Scotland next month. Here the late John 'Skipper' Easton tells the story of the famous boat.

She is graceful, smart and attracts attention wherever she goes. She is the Waverley, the last paddle steamer to put to sea, which this year celebrates her 40th anniversary in preservation.

Her operators, Waverley Excursions, have hosted a variety of celebratory events in all areas in which the Clyde icon has made her mark during a remarkable voyage of discovery.

This last working remnant of a bygone era now successfully operates under the flag of the Waverley Steam Navigation Company but after a series of early setbacks the Waverley was said to be in the hands of 'steamer dreamers'.

However, all that has changed as in 40 years she has now carried the astonishing total of more than five million passengers since

1975 and is viewed by Clydeside local authorities as an important part of their tourism offerings, bringing immense benefit to their economies and communities.

She is above all a 'Glesca' boat, launched on October 2 1946 from the former A and J Inglis yard near where the Glasgow Riverside Museum now stands and later towed to Greenock where her triple expansion steam engines were fitted by Rankin and Blackmore Ltd. They are now known as 'working dinosaurs' and are arguably the ship's major attraction.

Originally operated by the London and North Eastern Railway with her distinctive red, white and black funnels, Waverley was specifically designed for the Three Lochs excursion from Craigendoran to Lochgilphead and Arrochar, which make her current travels round large parts of Britain's coastline all the more remarkable and challenging.

Her sale for one pound by Caledonian MacBrayne to the Scottish branch of the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society in 1973 has been well documented. Thus began a preservation drive that has fired the imagination of the public and introduced an entire new generation to the delights of coastal cruising.

The first 'driving forces', Douglas McGowan and Terry Sylvester, decided that Waverley would have to break new horizons if long-term preservation was to be sustained and in 1977 Waverley headed for Liverpool, a brave decision as no Clyde paddle steamer had



A plaque tells the story of the Waverley 20_b37wave02



Waverley makes able day out the last paddle steamer

left her home waters since the war. In the same year came one of the darkest hours, a grounding on the Gantocks rocks off Dunoon which almost led to the steamer being declared a total constructive loss. Among the heroes was the US Navy from the Holy Loch which arrived on the scene with an array of heavy-duty pumps.

The special relationship was very much in evidence. As the Commander put it: 'Gee we're going to save this grand old lady for your nation.'

Waverley was virtually rebuilt in 2000/2003 at the former George Prior yard in Great Yarmouth with the aid of more

than £3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund. And in 2011 EuroMillions lottery jackpot winners Chris and Colin Weir, from Largs, stepped in with a substantial donation to help avert a financial crisis.

There has been a long list of devoted folk over the years from within and outwith the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society who have devoted time, money and skills to the Waverley cause.

The present chief executive is Kathleen O'Neill, who heads a handful of full-time employees at HQ at Lancefield Quay, Glasgow.

Trained as an accountant, she has been with WEL since 1999 and has been in her current role for more than four years. She said: 'My main challenge is to find ways of generating a minimum of £14,000 every day the steamer is scheduled to sail.'

'Since 1999 the cost of fuel has rocketed by 654 per cent and re-fit costs by 423 per cent. Fuel is undoubtedly the single biggest cost but the principal factor that dictates the success of the season is the weather. We are always looking at ways of reducing costs and finding ways to increase income.' Senior Master Captain Andy O'Brian spent two teenage summers as assistant purser with CalMac on the Glen Sannox, Saturn and Clansman. In the course of a 24-year career with CalMac

he worked his way up from 'gangway boy' to relief chief officer. He is now in his ninth season in Waverley command.

He said: 'Regulatory environment has made commercial operation of an old steamship increasingly difficult. Three years ago we thought that financially the doors were closing for us and we would all have to look for a new job.'

'We are in a better position now, but there is always a challenge on the horizon.'

Paddle steamers made a significant contribution to the war effort as minesweepers in both World Wars and indeed Waverley is named after her predecessor which performed a heroic role at Dunkirk in May 1940 before being sunk by enemy action.

With a three-year funding package now agreed with Glasgow and four other Clyde local authorities, there is optimism that Waverley will continue to sail for the foreseeable future and that the public will continue to give extensive support.

A day out aboard Waverley is a unique and unforgettable experience.

**In tribute to journalist and Waverley enthusiast John 'Skipper' Easton who died in June.*



Captain Andy O'Brian and Stan Michita on the bridge 20_b37wave16



The Waverley pulls away from Brodick pier 20_b37wave01



The Waverley takes the inside route around Holy Isle on the return trip 20_b37wave14



The famous twin funnels of the paddle steamer 20_b37wave03

The paddle steamer ploughs through the sea with Pladda in the distance 20_b37wave12



previous Waverley vessel

Shiskine tea party raises £850

More than 120 visitors and members of the Shiskine Valley community and their families enjoyed a traditional, sit-down, afternoon tea party on

Saturday, August 29. There was a wonderful help-yourself selection of tempting home-baked cakes and biscuits and sandwiches and the

tables were absolutely laden with sweet treats.

Traditional, some might say 'old-fashioned', cups, saucers and plates sparkled on the tables laid out with tablecloths and posies of flowers.

One grandson asked his granny: 'What's this for?' Granny replied: 'That's a saucer, it goes under your cup.'

He had never seen a saucer in his life.

The big highlight of the afternoon was the presentation of honorary membership of Shiskine WI to Jean Lammie by Evelyn Hamilton, the President of Shiskine SWI.

Jean has been a member for more than 50 years and during this time she has been an invaluable asset to the SWRI.

Eilidh Hamill from Shiskine was lucky enough to win the traditional luxury hamper which undoubtedly the Hamill family enjoyed over the next few days.

The WI wished to thank all of the members who so generously baked all the delicious cakes, biscuits, meringues and those who made so many sandwiches.

A special mention too was made for those who valiantly



The well-attended Shiskine tea party in full swing

poured the many cups of tea and coffee and other drinks all afternoon. Thanks too, went to the washer-uppers, especially Morag Murchie, who didn't leave the sink all afternoon.

The Christmas party for local children has been organised by the WI for many years and it is always an afternoon of party food, fun, games, gifts and jollity with Santa and Fairy Nough making an appearance. With the £850 raised at the tea party, the 2015 Christmas party is guaranteed to be another roaring success.



Visitors and members enjoy tea and cakes



Jean Lammie receives her honorary membership from Evelyn Hamilton, president of Shiskine WI

Our values
Caring Safe Respectful

NHS
Ayrshire & Arran

Annual Review

NHS Ayrshire & Arran's 2015 Annual Review will take place on:

Tuesday 22 September 2015 at 1.30pm
Common rooms 1 and 2
MacDonald Education Centre
University Hospital Ayr

This year's review is non-ministerial and will be chaired by Dr Martin Cheyne, Chairman of Ayrshire and Arran NHS Board.

Members of the public are welcome to come along to observe and listen to the meeting and take part in the question and answer session.

If you would like to attend please call freephone 0800 169 1441 or email comms@aaaht.scot.nhs.uk

Also let us know if you have any special requirements.

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Society learns about the chough on Colonsay

The Arran Natural History Society began its new season of meetings on Thursday, August 3 with David Jardine's illustrated talk about the island of Colonsay.

David is a past president of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club with a long relationship with Colonsay, one of the Inner Hebrides lying to the north of Islay and to the south of Mull.

David has been visiting and studying the wildlife on the island of Colonsay since the 1960s. He is a bird ringer and talked about many aspects of the island's birdlife, as well as details of finds in the Mesolithic shell middens on Oronsay.

According to Frank Fraser Darling, 'Colonsay and Oronsay together might well be looked upon as the epitome of the West Highland world in its full range and consequence of Atlantic exposure and sheltered mildness'. It is Argyll's largest seabird colony with as many as 26,469 guillemots as well as other seabirds. David was able to discuss the historical trends in the populations of

these birds from the evidence found in the shell middens.

He also talked about the corncrake and the conservation efforts for it on Colonsay and Islay.

The main focus of the talk, however, was that beautiful corvid, the chough. The 2002 Census found on Colonsay 14 to 18 pairs and on Islay 64 pairs. David explained the breeding cycle of these birds and discussed in detail the research on the factors that seem to play a part in its success or otherwise.

The key seems to be first year survival, not breeding success or adult survival, and

this in turn is linked to weather, in particular the temperature in late summer before fledging and the rainfall in late winter before laying.

These have presumed effects on numbers of soil invertebrates. However other factors may also play a part and the research continues.

This was a fascinating and informative look at this beautiful island, not so far from Arran, and at one of its iconic birds.

The next meeting is on the Thursday, October 1 at 8pm in the Ranger Centre, when Anthony McCluskey will give a talk on bumblebees.



A chough pictured on Colonsay in May 2007

Kids - don't just sit there - do something!

Arran Youth Foundations has relaunched its weekly activities for the new school term, and youth worker Graeme Johnston reckons young people should grab the opportunities on offer to them with both hands.

Speaking after a summer packed with events and trips to the mainland, as highlighted in the Banner last week, Graeme says the group is doing more than ever for the island's youths, highlighting the fact that all activities are provided completely free of charge.

'Everything we do is open to all young people of high school age, so every young person on the island should feel more than welcome to come along at any time. The wide scope of what AYF now provides means there really is something for everyone.'

'On a Monday, we teach young people cooking and baking. This has twice culminated in the group hosting their own night at the Auchrannie's 1869 for invited parents. The young folk at cooking club are currently writing, illustrating and producing their own recipe book, which looks set to be great.'

'On Wednesdays, we run our film-making club. The group has produced all sorts - zombie horrors, shorts promoting the high school, a clip for Arran Medical Group - and is currently working on an advert on behalf on VisitArran which looks impressive so far.'

'Most importantly, group members have the opportunity to work towards National 4, National 5 and Highers in film-making. This is a massive opportunity for our youngsters, especially anyone wishing to go on and

work in this sort of industry.' Thursdays see the group run two weekly sessions: a mixed-ability running club with Laura Aitcheson, and youth forum at the cabins behind the high school. Young people form a committee which aims to discuss and tackle local issues which they see as important. Their most recent feat has been undertaking a complete renovation of the youth cabins.

'The forum is a huge success story, giving young people a voice and a chance to affect change in their area. The work they have completed on the cabins is massive - in particular, the spray paint mural is fantastic - and there's now a totally modern, state of the art facility for youth work in Lamdash, to complement our use of St Bride's church hall in Brodick.'

Forum members complete Dynamic Youth and Youth Achievement awards for their participation in the group, meaning their efforts are recognised and accredited.

Laura's jog club, run in partnership with AYF, launched six months ago and has seen a small group of teenagers grow from absolute beginners to completing their first 5K at RunArran's Gate to Gate event. The group hopes to attract new members and will soon be purchasing personalised running vests - any boys or girls of high school age should feel free to go along and give it a try.

The biggest night of the week is still Friday, when 40 or so young folk meet in Brodick church halls for the drop-in youth club. Activities are incredibly varied and include things like sport, gaming, music, arts and crafts, group games and film nights.

Over the next couple of months, Friday sessions will see the group try its hand at lacrosse with a member of the national squad, visit the Auchrannie swimming pool, relax with a makeup pamper night, carve pumpkins and throw a fancy dress Halloween party, and enjoy a visit from Ayrshire youth specialists Model X Media, which will deliver workshops in things like dance, DJing and hip-hop.

On the heels of a summer programme which saw the group try everything from paragliding to gorge-walking, trips planned for the group between now and Christmas include a Glasgow Warriors rugby match, an SPFL game in Kilmarnock, a trip to Braehead cook school, visits to Glasgow for shopping, cinema and the Escape Glasgow team-building game, a game of ten-pin bowling in Saltcoats and ice-skating in George Square. As with all of AYF's activities, these are open to all of the island's young people and are provided completely free of charge.

Graeme says he is very pleased with attendance figures at the group's weekly activities, but still finds it baffling that there are youngsters who don't come along and take part.

'I naturally find it more than a little infuriating when I hear anyone say that there isn't enough for young folk to do on the island. Forgetting AYF's activities for a minute, there's loads of great stuff with Archie McNicol at Active Schools, the mountain biking club run by Robert McNiece, clubs for football, rugby, sailing, taekwondo, Duke of Edinburgh, you name it.'

'Looking at what we do, I feel the hard-working team at AYF has put so much in to making this the best youth club it could possibly be - the scale of what we are doing is massive and we have so many more plans for how we can do even more still for the island's young people.'

'In the past we've run a peer education IT project, taught kids wood-carving with Marvin Elliot, done work in the community with things like painting church railings and planting flowers at Montrose House.'

'I think there are very few people on the island who realise the sheer scale of what we



Cooking up a storm at the parent's night at the Auchrannie back in March 20_b37youth02

do for the island's youngsters, so it seems important that we promote everything we do to ensure that no youngster on the island is sitting at home bored and looking for more opportunities in life through anything other than personal choice.'

AYF's weekly youth work sessions run throughout term

time, with school holidays given over to events and trips to the mainland. Monday's cooking club meets every week in St Bride's church halls between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. The film-making club is on between the same times on a Wednesday, usually based at the church hall but with many weeks seeing the

group go out into the community to film. Thursday's forum group meets at the Lamdash cabins behind the high school between 3.45pm and 4.45pm and the running club sets off from the Auchrannie spa in Brodick at 5.15pm. On Fridays, the drop-in youth club meets in the church hall between 7pm and 9pm.



Ross Dobson is interviewed on camera by weatherman Sean Batty as other AYF members look on during his trip to Arran in June for the STV Children's Appeal from which the project has received funding 20_b37youth01



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Market report

United Auctions in Stirling this week had forward 1559 store cattle and cast cows, 11,316 prime and store lambs and cast ewes.

Bullocks: Hawthorne (CharX) £1110, 282p; Auchenhew (CharX) £1030, 270p; Hawthorne (AAx) £900, 256p. Heifers: Hawthorne (CharX) £1190, 247p; Auchenhew (CharX) £1030, 229p. Cows: Hawthorne (Char) £1290, 150p

Lambs: Moor (TexX) £76.50; Drumnaghinier (SuffX) £62.00; Lenamhor (TexX) £61.00; Springfield (TexX) £60.50; Auchenhew (TexX) £60.00; Hazelwood (SuffX) £60.00; Hillhead (SuffX) £54.00; Hillhead (TexX) £50.50; Craigraineach (Mule) £50.00; Kilpatrick (Mule) £46.00. Ewes: Hazelwood (Cross) £48.50.

Arran Banner Newsdesk 01770 302142

North Ayrshire's first music ambassadors

A group of talented youngsters have been selected as the pioneers of a new scheme aimed at getting more young people involved in music.

Nine pupils, one from each of North Ayrshire's secondary schools, have been selected as ambassadors for their role in a North Ayrshire Ensemble, including Arran High School S3 pupil Alison Provan.

The young music ambassadors scheme has been developed by the council's music service as a way to bridge the gap between the service and the area's schools.

Each ambassador will act as the 'face' of the music service at their school and report back on how to develop and improve the offering to give more young people a chance to get involved and achieve in music. The first meeting took place last Thursday, September 3, in the music service office at Auchenhew Acad-

emy where the group were briefed on their duties.

As a young music ambassador, each will get to work gathering the views of their peers over the current school year and take part in focus groups to determine how the service can improve.

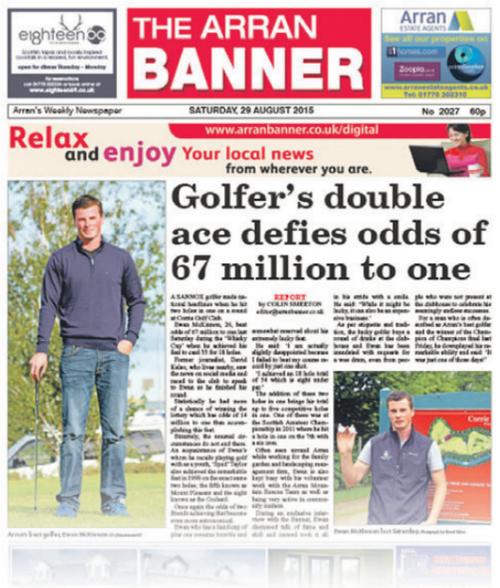
Cabinet member for education, attainment and achievement, Councillor John Bruce, said: 'Our music service team is dedicated to helping our pupils achieve their very best in music. That is why the addition of these young music ambassadors is really beneficial, as they will each help to encourage their peers to become involved in music and in turn they too can reap the rewards that music skills can bring.

'I look forward to hearing how successful the scheme is and how these young ambassadors help to strengthen the already high quality service provided by the team.'



The young music ambassadors, left to right: front row: Iona Faulkner, Arran's Alison Provan, Beth Jamieson, Anna Reid, Mae Murray (music service coordinator); back row: Christopher Rimicans, Tyler Kedens, Rhona Macintosh, Adam Lee. Not pictured, Lucy Northcote

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Portraits and life drawing

Last weekend Arran Visual Arts held a two-day portraiture workshop at the Ranger Centre at Brodick Castle.

The workshop was led by Joan Lawson, who guided participants through the process of painting a portrait from a photograph. Joan studied at Glasgow School of Art and taught for many years before establishing her own art school, Robinwood, in Ayr in 1993. She is a practising artist working in a variety of media.

The workshop began with a slideshow and discussion of the range of styles and range of effects achieved by current portraiture artists and then moved on to demonstrations and exercises focusing on facial anatomy and the shadows and planes of the face. These newly learned techniques were then applied to the stage by stage painting of a portrait. Bearing in mind that several participants had no previous experience of portraiture, the work produced during the two days showed clearly the advantages to be gained from expert tuition within a small group.

When the workshop concluded, the nine participants had benefited from Joan's encouragement, skill, experience and expert knowledge of portraiture and left

with comprehensive printed course notes and practical experience of the procedure and techniques of portrait painting.

The next Arran Visual Arts workshop will be on Sunday, September 20 and will be 'Life drawing with a model' with Rebecca Roberts.

Rebecca studied life drawing and painting part time at Glasgow School of Art. She is a practising artist and a bas-

soonist - and has a particular passion for life drawing.

This workshop is for people of all abilities who would like to work with a professional model, exploring drawing through a variety of poses.

Paint, crayon, pencil, ink or pastel can be used.

Phone Kathleen Sowden on 600827 to book. £25 for members, £35 for non-members or visit www.arranvisualarts for more information.



The portraits produced by the participants at the workshop

Anxious wait after first possible willow tit sighting for six years

August 2015 was the warmest month of a cool summer but with several days of prolonged heavy rain it was also the wettest. Towards the end of the month, with lower temperatures some nights, there was more than a hint of the approach of autumn.

Having said that, summer visitors were still to the fore including family groups of the following: spotted flycatcher in Brodick Country Park on 6th, chiffchaff in Pirmill on 9th and willow warbler in Kildonan on 19th.

In addition, there were 44 swallow at Kilpatrick Farm on 13th and 10 broods of house martin at Corriecraivie on 18th. Please, let me know when you last see a swallow this summer. On 27th there was a whitethroat in a Shiskine garden and three late swifts were flying over High Kildonan on 30th. Swift do not breed on Arran. The last swift record in 2014 was 27 July.

Other signs of successful breeding this month included: up to 50 black guillemot, including young, off Pladda on 1st, a pair of mute swan at Clauchlands with five large young on 3rd, a family group of buzzard over Catacol on 7th, at least two family groups of kestrel mobbing a golden eagle as it moved

through Glen Rosa on 24th, and widespread groups of house sparrow including up to 30 in Shannochie on 30th. They seemed to be thriving on the 'host's' lettuces!

In August, breeding is coming to an end, and after breeding a number of species begin to flock together, some in preparation for migration. These included: 60 pied wagtail at Silver Sands on 3rd, 200 manx shearwater off Imachar on 9th, 20 redshank at Sandbraes on 15th, 15 mistle thrush on Whiting Bay Golf Course on 21st, 150 linnet and 200 meadow pipit on Cleats Shore on 22nd, 83 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot on 23rd and 40 red-breasted merganser off Cosyden on 24th.

All around the coast were signs of birds on migration, including a great skua in Brodick Bay on 4th, a bartailed godwit at Drumadoon Point on 9th, 20 turnstone at Sandbraes on 15th, three knot and two sandwich tern at Sandbraes on 16th, two sanderling and two wheatear at Drumadoon Point also 16th, 21 black-tailed godwit at Cleats Shore on 17th, 20 dunlin at Drumadoon Point also on 17th, a white wagtail at Auchenhew Bay on 21st, a whimbrel on Silver Sands on 24th and two reports of

osprey, one at Lamlash Bay on 26th and the second from Bennicarrigan on 28th. The bird was heading south.

Other birding highlights this month included: a lingfisher on Fisherman's Walk on 1st, a dipper at Glenashdalewaterfoot on 3rd, a common crossbill by Brodick Golf Course on 12th and a willow tit in North Sannox on 15th. If this record is accepted by the rarities committee it will be the first record since 2009. A twite on Cleats Shore on 17th was only the second record of this species this year and on 28th there was a black-throated diver in summer plumage in Whiting Bay.

September sees the start of the peak migration season when many birds are on the move. It is the time to expect the unexpected. I look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy your birding

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2014 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Bar-tailed godwit at Auchenhew Bay, another long distance migrant on the island's shores Photo Brian Cooper



Two reports this month as osprey move south from their breeding grounds for the winter Photo Dennis Morrison



Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

AUGUST

Willow tit, if accepted, will be the first recorded since 2009

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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 16 September, 1995

Young pretenders win

A historic game of football took place in the Ormidale Park last Friday evening. As the sun was setting two teams met to play in the last game of football to be played there before work begins to convert it into a custom built Arran sports field. No more the casual change of role from golf course to football field to Highland Games venue to kids' winter playground on the occasional days of snow.

The next game will be altogether a more serious matter. But there was nothing serious last Friday, except the fear that one of the players might expire on the field. Fighting in this historic last match were the Young Pretenders, a team made up of the current football team and the Old Guard, a team of 'auld yins' whose qualifications were that, at some time, they had played for Brodick.

Oldest and most feted was 71-year-old Jimmy McRorie while the others were in their 40s. Surprisingly, the game was very fast with the crowds right behind the 'auld yins'. At the final whistle it was 4-4 and the match had to be decided by a penalty shoot-out which still failed to produce a winner meaning it went to sudden death. Gregor Small scored the goal that decided the game in favour of the Young Pretenders against his father's team, which had come close to showing that experience was worth a lot more than youth.

Mushroom fever

Mycosophist Mark Williams has started a series of articles in The Banner about wild mushrooms. Last week he referred to his

mushroom hunt on Tuesday, hoping that half a dozen or so might turn up to join him.

As it turned out, more than 60 people appeared, all eager to find out where to find mushrooms and, perhaps, above all to be given the confidence of an expert identifying them. Not only were they keen, they were lucky and found plenty of mushrooms including last week's Chanterelle and this week's Penny Bun or Cep.

After the walk they had a big cook-in, sauteed the mushrooms in butter and garlic and sampled all the varieties they had found. Mushroom fever has definitely gripped Arran.

Paraglider fall

A paraglider was injured and taken to hospital last Friday afternoon after meeting the ground more quickly than he had intended.

The paraglider, a 21-year-old man, who was in training to be an instructor, got into difficulties in the air above Derneneoch but was not sufficiently high up to use his emergency chute. He suffered a cracked vertebrae.

No jazz band

The poor PS Waverley, which left Arran just weeks ago, is in trouble again. Now sailing from Bournemouth Pier, passengers who paid £11.95 each for tickets on a jazz cruise are demanding compensation after boarding the vessel and being half way to the Isle of Wight before being told that there was no jazz band, nor indeed any entertainment on board at all.



The Old Guard: back row - Brian Smith, Bobby Macrae, Iain MacDonald, Ian Small, Alastair Dobson, Billy Hartley. Front row - Gordon Bunyan, Nicol Hume, Billy Armit, Graham Kerr, Alastair Hume, Jimmy McRorie, Len Hartley, Iain Sillars, Jimmy Armit



The Young Pretenders, who narrowly beat the Old Guard in a historic last match at the Ormidale Park



Mark Williams addresses the mushroom hunters after their walk as they admire their haul before cooking them



Clairvoyants at a psychic fair held at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot last week, where five psychics gave readings to an attentive audience

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

Loch Garbad, bank & boat fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Mon - Sat: 10am - 5pm, Sun: 12.30 - 5pm
 2pm (limited spaces call for availability)
 Open all day
 Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am to 4.30pm

Saturday 12th September

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
 WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
 The Big Arran Feast & Zero Waste Arran
 Swing 2015
 Arran RFC vs Paisley

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
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 11.30am
 Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
 Ormidale park, 2pm

Sunday 13th September

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

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

Monday 14th September

Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Live music
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Circuit Training
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink game
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
 10/10 Total Body workout
 Citizens advice
 Lamlash Aerobix
 RunArran
 Summer Bridge
 Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic
 Tae Kwondo

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Brodick Bowling club, 6.30pm
 Lamlash Bowling club, 7pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
 Arran High School Dance Studio, 7pm
 Whiting Bay 5.30pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.30pm
arranphysiotherapy.co.uk 5-8pm
 Brodick Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 15th September

Pop Quiz
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 RunArran

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm
 NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Lamlash, 5.30pm

Open Cricket Session
 Dog Obedience Class
 Garden Walk
 Metafit

Brodick Astro Turf 7pm-9pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7.00pm - 8.00pm
 Brodick Castle, 2 - 3pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash 6pm

Wednesday 16th September

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 RunArran
 Yoga-Arran
 Live music
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey
 Dog classes
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink game
 Knitting & Crochet drop in group
 Roundhouse Open
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
 Vile Victorians Tour
 Arran Elderly Forum
 Ormidale Pavilion, 11am

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, 9.30am-10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Brodick, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
 Brodick bowling club, 6.30pm
 Brodick Library, 4pm - 6pm
 Brodick Castle, 11am - 3pm
 Lamlash Bowling club, 7pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm
 Brodick Castle, 2-3.30pm

Thursday 17th September

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran
 RunArran
 Paintings Tour
 Live music
 Cardiac Rehab
 QuiltArran
 Senior Tennis
 Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic
 Brodick Embroidery Group

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
 Brodick, 6pm
 Blackwaterfoot, 7.30pm
 Brodick Castle, 2pm - 3.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm
 Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
 Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, 5.30pm
arranphysiotherapy.co.uk, 5pm - 8pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Friday 18th September

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

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 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



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Mahogany dressing table stool £30, Shaver light £10, Cast iron bench ends £20, 2 chairs - white £5 each, Oval mirror with blue frame £8, 4 down lights - still in box £10 for the set, white Carron showerbath still boxed offers Tel: 302383	Tall fridge freezer, hotpoint £50 can deliver Tel: 820660 3 piece suite, 3 seater sofa and 2 armchairs dark red vgc £100 ono can deliver Tel: 820660- King size mattress (160 x 200 cm). IKEA firm mattress with memory foam topper. Only used a few times. Free to uplift. Tel 07915 605053
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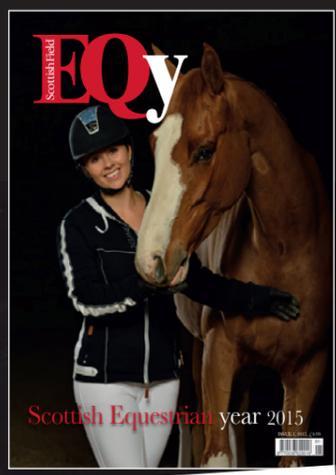
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Recruitment

Arran Development Director.

Do you have the ambition to be World Class? Then this could be the best job in the world.

Arran, a World Class Island by 2020 is the target of the Arran Economic Group.

We will achieve this with the successful implementation of The Arran Economic Action Plan. We need to hire someone that shares our ambitions and has the leadership and management skills to drive the development and implementation of the Arran Economic Action Plan.

Skills Required:

- The ability to influence at a senior level and align resources behind agreed priorities;
- Make complex change happen through your own efforts and in partnership with others;
- An understanding of the levers of economic development and how these may be applied in the Arran context;
- A proven track record of delivering complex, multi-agency or private sector projects;
- Excellent research and analytical skills;

Terms and Conditions:

- The post is a full time post, funded for two years with the possibility of extending.
- The salary will be between £34,000 and £39,999 per annum depending on skills and experience;
- The Arran Development Director is funded by North Ayrshire Council and Highland and Islands Enterprise, employed by VisitArran Ltd, and reporting to the Chairman of the Arran Economic Group.
- While not necessarily based on Arran on a full time basis, the successful candidate will be expected to be based on Arran at least 50% of the working week;

**Applications including relevant information and a current CV should be sent in the first instance to info@visitarran.co.uk
Closing date: 18th September 2015**



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Day Porter

Full time position to be flexible to work any shift pattern between 9am and 10pm. Looking for someone who has customer service experience and must have a valid driver's licence.

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Aspa Receptionist

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All positions will benefit from free leisure club membership and various other discounts.

Full descriptions can be found at

www.auchranniejobs.co.uk or contact hr@auchrannie.co.uk

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Tel: Laura 01770302293

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We're looking for staff to work either 30-36 hours a week, or part time 18 hours a week, starting immediately.

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Please email Sheila

info@fridayschildonline.com

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RECRUITMENT OPEN DAY

North Ayrshire Council is currently looking to recruit for a number of vacancies in Arran including:

Catering assistants • Cooks • Janitors/Cleaners • Cleaners

Come along to one of our open days to find out more about the positions available. Staff will be available to offer advice and support and help to fill in online application forms at the following venues:

Tuesday 15 September - Brodick Library 10am - 4pm

Wednesday 16 September - Kinloch Hotel in Shiskine 10am - 12noon

- Arran High School, Lamlash (via the College access) from 1pm - 4pm

If you are unable to make the open days and want to find out more, please call Bernie on **07779 428947** or Maria on **07779 023055** or check out the vacancies at www.myjobscotland.com/northayrshire

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North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

Public Notice



Kenneth Gibson MSP

will hold advice surgeries at the following times and locations.

Monday 14 September

Pirnmill Village Hall 11.45 - 12.45
Corrie & Sannox Village Hall 13.30 - 14.30
Brodick Health Centre 15.00 - 16.00

Monday 12 October

Kildonan Village Hall 11.15 - 12.15
Shiskine Village Hall 13.00 - 14.00
ACVS Office, Lamlash 15.00 - 16.00

No appointment necessary

To contact Kenneth outside these times, please contact his constituency office:
15 Main Street, Dalry, KA24 5DL Tel: 01294 833 687
Email: Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk



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Lamlash Golf Club

Ladies' section: Wednesday, September 2, Fleet, seven played, CSS 66, par 65. 1 Kate McAdam 85(20)65, 2 Liz Sinclair 87(17)70. Scratch: Kate McAdam 87.

Thursday, September 3, Summer and Commando Cup, CSS 65, 25 played. 1 Scott Campbell 81-16=65, BIH, 2 Paul Bremner 71-6=65, 3 Ian Bremner 73-7=66, 4 Bill Young 82-15=67, Scratch, Paul Bremner, 71. Magic twos, Paul Bremner @2nd, Dougie Macfarlane @16th, Iain Murchie @17th, Billy O'Connor @16th.

Fixtures: Sunday, September 13, Ladies and Gents Captain's Prize. Stableford and Team, Stableford tee off at 12.30pm. Thursday, September 17, Summer Cup, see starter.

Machrie Golf Club

Tuesday, September 1, September medal, eight played. 1 Campbell Laing, 83-18=65, 2 John Pennycott, 80-13=67, 3 Elizabeth Ross, 94-26=68.



The Ladies who played in the Pink Day competition in Brodick raised £53 for breast cancer research

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday, September 2, Summer Cup, 36 played, CSS 64. 1 Alistair Hume 71-12=59, 2 Bruce Jenkins 69-9=60, 3 Nicol Hume 76-14=62.

The scoring reflected the superbly prepared course, as good as it's been since the Hope Cup. It was simply the best scoring of the season and one of the few Summer Cups to have a CSS of 64.

The golden two was won by Gordon Robertson for his two at the 18th.

Well done Alistair a great score, also well done to Bruce and Nicol all three of the winners reducing their handicaps.

A number of other congratulations are due, including Robbie Duncan for winning the Senior Club Championship, a scratch championship.

Robbie beat lots of younger men with lower handicaps, so very well done. Iain Sillars won the McLelland Medal and the Handicap Championship, while Nicol Hume and Lindsay

Keir won the Merchants beating Michael Homes and David McKinnon in a closely-fought final and last, but not least, Dougie Robertson won the Kintyre Cup.

There was no sweep on Sunday as the AGA autumn handicap was held at Whiting Bay on Sunday, September 6.

Fixtures: Sunday, September 13, Brandon monthly medal.

Ladies' section: Tuesday, September 1, Pink Day Medal, 14 played, CSS 70 1st Div: 1 Margaret Roxburgh, 83(14)69, 2 Isobel Macdonald, 89(17)71. 2nd Div: 1 Heather Rae-side, 101(26)75, 2 Ann Hart 103(22)81.

Arran Golfers Association

Sunday, September 6, Autumn Handicap 2015. This year's competition was played on a lovely dry day with a slight breeze, thanks to Whiting Bay for hosting and the lovely condition of the greens, thanks also to Corey for scores and to John behind the bar for the soup and rolls, top notch as always. CSS 65.

First Class: 1 Stan Rainey 74-10=64 BIH, 2 Andy Pattison 74-10=64, 3 Jamie McPherson 71-6=65, Second Class: 1 Graham Kennedy 81-16=65, 2 Duncan Heenan 78-12=66 BIH, 3 Matt Harvey 80-

Draw: Brodick B v Machrie A at 1pm, Lamlash A v Brodick A at 1.10pm, Whiting Bay A v Machrie B at 1.20pm, Lamlash B v Whiting bay B at 1.30pm, Corrie A v Shiskine B at 1.40pm, Lochranza B v Corrie B at 1.50pm, Shiskine A v Lochranza A at 2.00pm.

Senior Handicap at Shiskine Golf Club, Saturday, September 19 from 1pm, yellow tees, qualifying age 55.14=66. J C Reid award for over 55s, Stan Rainey.

Best scratch, Ewan McKinnon 67. Overall winner of trophy, Stan Rainey. There was no sweep money taken through the day, so no sweep, just association cheques for

winners. Fixtures: Saturday, September 12, Arran Grouse at Machrie Golf Club at 1.00pm.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday, September 2, Summer Trophy, rnd 15, 25 played, CSS 63. Scoring at the top of the leader board was tight with three players tying on 62. 1 Jamie Macpherson, 6, 62 acb and lowest gross. 2 Danny Head, 6, 62 acb, 3 John Pennycott, 13, 62, 4 David Morrison, 8, 64.

There were magic twos at the par 4 6th by Danny Head, Peter Smith and Jamie Stewart and one at the 16th, by no means an easy par 3 by Stan Rainey.

Fixtures: Sunday, September 13, Cooper Angus par 3 competition. Wednesday, September 16, Summer Trophy final round.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday, September 2, Medal results. 1 A MacDonald 70-10=60, 2 D Logan 70-9=61, 3 A Napier 69 -7- 62. Scratch A Napier. Magic twos from A Cumming, A Macdonald and R Burke.

None of the above twos were picked, therefore 'the pot' rolls onward and upward and will be delivered next week by Securicor.

Saturday, September 5, Eddie Rankin Memorial Trophy, Corrie vs Machrie. Corrie managed to edge it against Machrie in this 'friendly' match in honour of a great supporter of both clubs.

Individual result: 1 A Napier 38pts, 2 R Jeffrey 37pts, 3 J McGovern 36pts.

Fixtures: Saturday, September 12, No formal competition at Corrie as Arran Grouse is on at Machrie. Informal sweep at 8.30am and 1pm for those not at Machrie. Wednesday, September 16, the grand final of the Wednesday Medals for 2015.

To ensure everyone finishes in daylight, 4pm start please. Big money.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 13th September
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Rev Canon Simon Mackenzie,
Priest-in-Charge.
Coffee after service.
Wednesday 16th September
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, 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 13th September
Lochranza Church, 9.30am Morning Worship.
Pirnmill Church, 10.45am Morning Worship.
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning worship, including celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting,
12 noon 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 13th September
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Rev. Lily McKinnon
In Lamlash:
Sacrament of Baptism
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vigil Mass: Saturday 7.30pm
Sunday Morning Mass 11am

WHIRING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number SC014005)
Sunday 13th September
Worship will be conducted by Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.
Everyone most welcome.
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept immediately after the service; please stay and enjoy more fellowship.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 13th September
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 13th September
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Rev Benjamin von Rensberg

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

BIRTH



RUSSELL - BARR

Duncan and Sheila are delighted to announce the birth of Lucy Joanna Russell at 6am on the 28th of August weighing 7lb 7. Thank you Donna, Elaine and the staff at AMU Crosshouse for all your support.

DEATH

FERRIS - Sheena from Lamlash passed away peacefully at Crosshouse Hospital on Tuesday 8th September 2015, aged 68. Beloved wife of John and dedicated mother of Sean and Martin. May she rest in peace.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

TAIT - Iain Hamilton. Fiona and family would like to thank all who sent cards and messages of support at this sad time. Grateful thanks to Rev Lily McKinnon for taking the service, the staff at Arran War Memorial Hospital, Mary and Peter Bowers at the Lagg Hotel and all who contributed to the sum of £426 to the Hospital Supporters League.

WEDDING



GARETH GREGG AND EILEEN JEFFREY

were married on July 31st at Lochranza church by the Rev Angus Adamson.
The couple both work and live on the island with their two children Lewis and Callie.

A brave performance but Oban prove too strong for Arran visitors

Photos by Paul Paterson

Oban Lorne 27 Arran 7
Arran RFC went down 27-7 to Oban on Saturday, in a BT West regional shield game, but the scoreline flatters Oban.

Last year's Division 2 Champions, now playing up in Division 1, were pushed all the way by a very stuffy Arran team who, despite some notable absences in the forwards, matched the powerful Oban pack up front toe to toe.

No 8 Jamie Picken working wonders both in the line out and at the rear of the scrum-mage linking brilliantly with Keeno at scrum half to secure enough good possession

from the set piece to supply the talented Arran midfield of Jones, Adamson and Barbour with good ball.

Oban scored first with a well-worked opportunist try from a kick ahead and went another three points up with a penalty soon afterward. Arran pulled a score back with a superb Lachlan Jones try, before Oban went further ahead with another penalty.

At the beginning of the second half Arran enjoyed a real purple patch and threatened the Oban line on several occasions, but for a miss pass too far out to the wing Arran would have scored again.

However, with Arran having used their only replacement, when due to injury Alan McGrath had to leave the field early on, it was Oban who scored again after bringing on fresh players to inject more strength to their pack.

When flanker Scott Currie sustained a shoulder injury and had to play the remainder of the game on the wing, Oban seized the chance to put all play down the weakened touch line. Despite a valiant shoulder check with his one good arm Scott couldn't prevent the Oban full back scoring in the very last play of the game.

A club spokesman said: 'Arran came away on the day pleased with a very brave and fine performance, the team in good spirits. Hopefully with almost a full squad available for the first league game against Paisley today (Saturday) at home they can build on this performance and return to winning ways.'

The match, at Ormidale Park, is expected to kick off at 2pm.



A diving pass by Iain Keen



Scrum half Iain Keen with another well executed pass



The teamwork of Neil McMaster, Iain McDonald and Ryan Boal



Jamie Picken looks on as Lachlan Jones surges ahead

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Gelding takes top honour at Friesian horse inspections

A Friesian horse from Arran has been named the best gelding in the UK.

At the prestigious official UK Friesian Inspections 2015 Time (pronounced Tima) took the top award for owner Eleanor Bone of Glenkiln Farm, Lamlash.

It was Eleanor's first time entering the national event and she admitted she was 'shocked and delighted' to have lifted a top prize with the nine-year-old gelding.

This year's official inspec-

tions took place on Monday, August 31 at Myerscough College International Arena in Preston. It is the only event in the UK supported by the Friesian Studbook (KFPS).

Eleanor took two horses on the five-hour trip to Preston, accompanied by grooms for the day Laura Hemming and Sally Hunter. The other horse to make the trip was the four-year-old mare Kissme.

Back on Arran, Eleanor said: 'Time has regularly been shown at the Arran Show but

I have always wanted to go to the national inspections.

'It was a great experience and the result for Time was very unexpected.'

The inspections are run by the Friesian Horse Association of Great Britain and Ireland and all the judges come from Holland.

President Tracey Venter said: 'The official inspections give owners the opportunity to bring their Friesian to be assessed by the jury of the KFPS. Unlike gradings for other horse breeds, which usually take place away from the public view, we encourage people to come and enjoy watching these magnificent horses being put through their paces.

'We are passionate about raising the profile of the breed and some of the committee members are breeders and trainers, so we can offer help and advice to people who may be interested in owning or caring for a Friesian.'

The Friesian is a horse breed originating in Friesland in the Netherlands. Although



Eleanor Bone with Time receiving his winning rosette Photos: E J Lazenby Fine Art



Time is led round the arena by a runner

the conformation of the breed resembles that of a light draught horse, Friesians are graceful and nimble for their size. It is believed that during the Middle Ages, ancestors of Friesian horses were in

great demand as war horses throughout continental Europe and later their size enabled them to carry a knight in armour.

Though the breed nearly became extinct on more than

one occasion, the modern day Friesian horse is growing in numbers and popularity, used both in harness and under saddle. More recently, the breed has been introduced to the field of dressage.

Greenkeepers return to Arran after 10 years

Greenkeepers from Ayrshire and Dumfries were on Arran last week for their latest competition.

Those taking part are all members of the Scottish South West region of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

More than 20 players took part in the twice-yearly contest which was played at Brodick Golf Club, the first time the association has played a tournament on Arran since it played at Shiskine 10 years ago.



The greenkeepers on the first tee at Brodick Golf Club 20_b37green01

Arran Bridge Club results

The results of the Summer Bridge competition played in Lamlash on Monday, September 7 were as follows: 1 Trish Martin and David Campbell, 2 Eendy McNiven and John Baraclough, 3 Dougie and Margaret Bruce. The full results can be found on the Arran Bridge Club website at www.bridgewebs.com/arran.

There will be no Summer Bridge on the September weekend and the last evening of this season will be Monday, September 21.

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