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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2014 No 1981 60p

New ferry for Arran

Clyde yard expected to bid for new boat

Arran could have a new ferry by 2017 and it is hoped it will be built on the Clyde.

Politicians say they have secured agreement for the first of 12 new Caledonian MacBrayne ferries, to be built at a cost of £250 million during the next decade, to be deployed on the Brodick to Ardrossan route.

Its introduction would pave the way for a year round two-vessel service to the island.

It would replace the MV Isle of Arran which finished its summer sailings earlier this week. The ferry, which is now 30 years old, is nearing the end of its serviceable life and will be replaced by a new vessel which will offer greater capacity than the 448 passengers and 76 cars the present ferry can take.

The Isle of Arran was built at the Ferguson Ailsa shipyard in Port Glasgow and it is expected that the recently rescued yard would bid to build the new vessel.

The yard, saved from closure by billionaire Jim McColl, this week secured its first ferry building contract from the Scottish Govern-

REPORT
by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

ment for a third hybrid ferry for CalMac.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson confirmed: 'For some time Councillor John Bruce, the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee and I have pressed Transport Scotland, CMAL and CalMac to take forward proposals to deploy new vessels on the Brodick to Ardrossan route.

'I am pleased to advise that it has now been agreed to deploy the first of a dozen new vessels over the next few years on this route.

Greater capacity

'Although the Caledonian Isles will remain in service for another decade, the new vessel will offer greater capacity than the MV Isle of Arran it will replace, which will be of particular importance as RET steadily increases visitor numbers in the years ahead.

'Although specific delivery dates are in the hands of the shipyards, 2017 is the target.

'The first step in the procurement process is to place a notice in the Official Journal

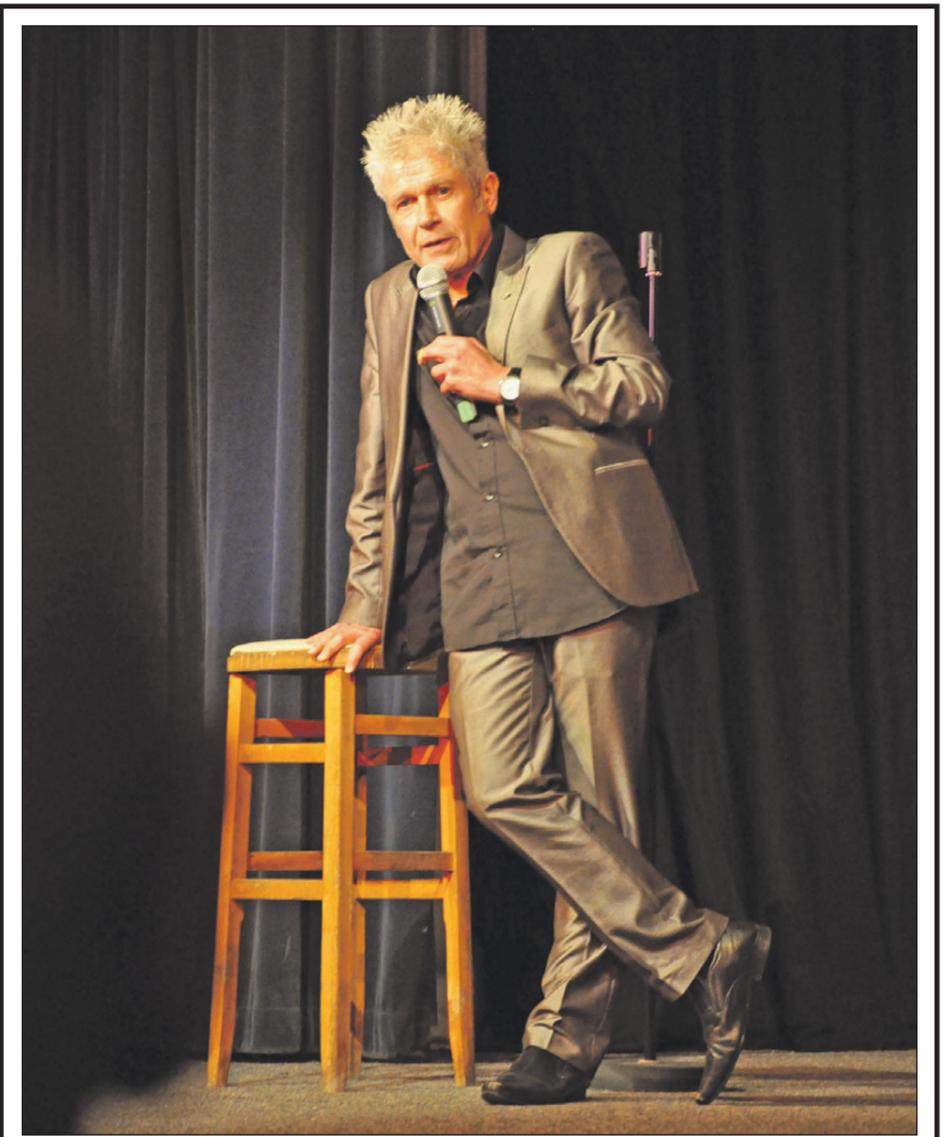
of the European Communities which should take place by the end of this month. Interested shipyards – and we anticipate that Fergusons Shipbuilders of Port Glasgow will be one – respond using a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire. Once a shortlist has been thus identified, CMAL will issue a formal invitation to tender with the vessel specification.

'It is planned to place a contract in the spring of next year.

'After safety, reliability is the priority in vessel design and deeper draft would be of assistance here, along with enhanced power, fuel efficiency and manoeuvrability to improve berthing at Ardrossan.

'The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee, Councillor Bruce and I will continue to work to ensure continued progress with this and indeed all other ferry-related issues.'

A spokeswoman for Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) said: 'CMAL's three-year corporate plan is fully aligned to the outcomes of the Scottish Government's ferries plan.



Serving up a delightful feast of hilarious social observations and topical satire with a caustic wit at break-neck speed, Vladimir McTavish was the headline act at the Arran Comedy Festival on Saturday night. Read all about it on page 7.

'The ferries plan sets out a series of vessel procurements over the next decade – 12 current CalMac Ferries vessels are to be replaced at an estimated cost of £250m. The ferries plan also sets out a series of improvements to ferry services to Arran including the roll-out of RET in autumn 2014 and, in the longer-term, the implementation of a two-vessel year-round ser-

vice on the Ardrossan-Brodick route.

Fleet replacement

'A vessels replacement strategy group has been established to progress and manage fleet replacement. The group, which includes representation from Transport Scotland, CalMac Ferries Ltd and CMAL, is responsible for detailing all requirements, specifications and procure-

ment strategies for the vessel replacement programme.

'Final decisions have yet to be taken but CMAL, CalMac and Transport Scotland have been engaging closely with the Arran Ferry Committee on this and other matters. Vessels will be ordered when requirements, specifications and strategies have been agreed and finalised by the group.'



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Co-op employee embezzlement charge dropped

The Crown Office has dropped the case against a supermarket manager from Arran who was charged with embezzling £1,000 from her work.

Fiona Crawford, 24, of Douglas Villa, Lamlash, had always denied taking the money in January 2013 while working as a team leader at the Co-op in Brodick.

The case was called seven times at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court but was adjourned repeatedly over problems with CCTV evidence.

Prosecutors have now announced the case has been deserted.

A spokesman for the Crown Office said: 'After full and careful consideration of the facts and circumstances of the case, including the admissible evidence, the Procurator Fiscal instructed that no proceedings should be taken at this time.'

'The Crown reserves the right to raise proceedings in future.'

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Lars Olsen (far right) with the Danish delegation and Visit Arran partners at the Auchrannie. 20_b40dane01

Learning journey for Danish visitors

Arran played host to a group of 42 tourism delegates from Denmark last week.

It follows a visit from a group of five from the island of Fanoe back in February to learn about tourism promotion.

Very keen

Lars Olsen, who was the group leader, from the Danish Coastal Tourism Organisation, was very keen to return with tourism professionals from across the country.

And last week VisitArran hosted a group of 42 Danish

delegates from Videnceter for Kystturisme.

One of the events saw the Danish visitors get together with VisitArran partners for a joint session at the Auchrannie Hotel.

Mr Olsen said: 'I am delighted I have been able to bring a larger delegation to Arran, as there is a lot we can take away.'

Sheila Gilmore, executive director of VisitArran, said: 'The visit was a learning journey - and I have learnt much from them too. Some

great ideas came out of discussions, such as concerts in Kings Caves and improved use of marketing at little cost. My thanks go to all involved in the success of this trip and it is now hoped that we can host an international European Cold Water Islands conference in March 2015.'

Programme

The programme for their visit included trips to and meetings with: the Ship's Master on the bridge of MV Caledonian Isles, Auchrannie Resort and restaurants, Fid-

dlers, Douglas Hotel, Arran Outdoor Education Centre, Argyll College, Arran High School, tour of south Arran including Kildonan, Kinloch Hotel, Cairnhouse Stables, Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club, Home Farm, Brodick Castle, Ormidale pop quiz, Creelers, Taste of Arran, Old Byre Visitor Centre, Machrie Standing Stones, Kings Caves, Distillery, Lochranza Castle, and Isle of Arran Heritage Museum.

'It was a busy two and a half days,' Sheila added.

Montrose House is handed over

The new Montrose House was due to be handed over to North Ayrshire Council today (Friday).

The new £5.7 care home and resource hub, which will replace the existing Montrose House and Stronach Services in Brodick, has been completed to a revised schedule by Kier Construction.

The developers were given a tight timeframe of just 12 months to build the centre with harsh weather and some technical issues only leading to a slight delay in the completion date.

The new home will provide 30 residential places for vulnerable older people and create a resource centre to support others to remain in their own homes for as long as possible.

The care home has been built to a high quality specification that includes en suite bathrooms and access from each bedroom to secure gardens which feature activity space, seating and shaded areas.

It is not yet known when the residents will move into their new accommodation when the present Montrose House site will be sold.

A spokeswoman for NAC said: 'The contracted works have progressed very well. The original target date for completion was mid-September this year, however, technical issues and harsh weather encountered during the course of the project have resulted in a jointly agreed revised completion date of Friday 3 October.'

'Residents will continue to be fully updated on progress with the new development and our staff will play a vital role in the orientation process that will be required as part of the move from the current Montrose House.'

'The existing property has not yet been sold; marketing of the site will shortly get underway.'

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Emergency move after fishing boat is caught dredging in maerl beds

A fishing boat has been caught scallop dredging within the new South Arran Marine Protected Area.

Now an urgent Marine Conservation Order (MCO) is being brought in to protect the fragile ecosystems in the three nautical miles of water around the south end of Arran.

This is the first time in the whole of Scotland these powers in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 have been used.

The move comes after a recent breach of the voluntary fisheries management arrangement in place at the South Arran MPA, which was designated in July this year. Fishermen had agreed to avoid an area that is home to delicate maerl beds under the water, which are a nursery habitat for young scallops as well as other juvenile fish and shellfish.

But at least one scallop dredger, which operate from mainland ports around the Firth of Clyde, has been caught inside the restricted zone leading to the move.

The MCO came into force on Wednesday but the government say there will be no impact on the vessels that were following the voluntary

arrangements for South Arran, including local creelers.

Scottish environment secretary Richard Lochhead said: 'Scotland's network of Marine Protected Areas has been put in place to safeguard our most iconic marine species and habitats. We take the responsibility for the protection of these 30 sites extremely seriously and that is why I have made this urgent MCO for South Arran.'

Biodiversity

'Maerl beds are crucial to the biodiversity of the marine environment in this area and scientific evidence shows that dredging can destroy significant proportions of these delicate habitats in just one pass of the gear. Such activity is in breach of the voluntary agreement between Marine Scotland and the fishing industry and so it is disappointing to hear about this incident.'

'I'm heartened to hear that the voluntary agreements in operation in other MPA sites around Scotland are working well so far. Our swift action in this case underlines how committed the Scottish government is to maintain and enhance our marine environment so that it remains a

prized asset for future generations.'

The South Arran MPA is unique as it is the only area proposed and developed entirely by a local community group, the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST).

Manager Andrew Binnie said: 'COAST welcomes the total exclusion of dredgers and bottom trawlers from three significant maerl beds within the South Arran MPA.'

'Marine Scotland has used a Conservation Order to bring this into force immediately as a voluntary agreement with the Scottish Fishermen's Association was not being adhered to. Full management measures are expected to be in place by May next year.'

'However, COAST was not consulted on this Conservation Order and has consistently argued that no part of the South Arran MPA should be closed to local creelers. We will be reinforcing this point during MPA management meetings with Marine Scotland this week and discussing the issue with creelers on Arran.'



Success at Dalmally for Glenkiln

Kenneth Bone of Glenkiln, Lamlash was just one of hundreds of farmers selling sheep at Dalmally Mart on Saturday.

One of the biggest events of the year, this annual breeding ewe and gimmer sale is run by United Auctions.

Quality lots from all sections were keenly bid for by

the packed ringside of buyers forward from all over the country whilst plainer sorts proved more difficult to cash.

Sale averages were as follows: Blackface ewes £60.36 (+ £5.39), Blackface gimmer ewe and gimmer sale is run by United Auctions.

Blackface ewe lambs £44.20 (- £5.36).

Mr Bone and shepherd Wullie Stevenson are pictured with his Blackface ewe lambs, which sold for £52 per head to Messrs Robertson, Rothesay. 16_t40dalsale02

Road closed for maintenance

The Lagg to Sliderry section of the C147 road is to close for essential work to the carriageway.

Works will take place between Monday 6 October and Wednesday 8 October and will be carried out between 9am and 12.30pm, and 1pm to 4pm. The road will be closed at these times on each day.

Because of the nature of these works and existing road widths, in the interests of safety to road users and the work force, a road closure must be implemented for the

duration of the works. A diversion route will be in place via the B880 String Road.

Drivers are advised to allow extra time for their journey.

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Trust Housing island base saved by NAC

'We collectively agreed to seek a positive outcome to the proposed closure of the local office in Brodick'

North Ayrshire Council has prevented the imminent move of Arran's local housing association office by offering a sustainable alternative.

The council has offered joint use of its office accommodation to Trust Housing Association (THA) following the partial closure of the Isle of Arran Homes office in Brodick earlier this year.

Safeguarded

In doing so it has safeguarded the jobs of the association's staff and secured its island base.

Proposals to share the council's accommodation at its offices in Lamlash followed constructive discussions and

negotiations with THA personnel.

Both the council and trust housing recognised the importance of retaining the housing association's presence on Arran and identified the opportunity for collaborative working.

The imminent move will provide a shared service available from the same location. Indeed, having the shared service accessible from the same location will make for a more efficient and convenient offering to island residents.

Councillor John Bruce, said: 'This is great news and demonstrates the council's

proactive approach in dealing with adversity faced by an external agency.

Agreed

'Following discussions with the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston (AASS) area committee in July, we collectively agreed to ask cabinet to engage with THA to seek a positive outcome to the proposed closure of their local office in Brodick.

'I am absolutely delighted that an equal measure of perseverance and good sense has produced a very positive solution to what appeared at the time to be a fait accompli.'



Parents and club members with the children and their certificates.

Next generation of bowlers

Members of Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club recently played host to the Shiskine Beavers and Cubs.

Around 20 youngsters and their parents were shown some of the rudiments of bowls and then, with the help of the members of

the club, they were divided into teams to enjoy an evening of bowls. At the end of the evening each youngster was given a certificate to show they had taken part in a bowls session. Afterwards some of the parents showed an interest in taking up the game.



Judy Porter teaching the youngsters to bowl.

Arran's MP votes against air strikes in Iraq

Katy Clark, MP for North Ayrshire and Arran, was one of only 43 members of parliament to vote against air strikes in Iraq.

At the vote in the House of Commons on Friday 26 September, parliament was recalled to debate a government motion to approve UK air strikes against the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) in the Middle East.

After a seven-hour debate,

the House of Commons voted 524 to 43 in favour of military action.

Since 27 September RAF Tornados have been flying over Iraq in action which is expected to continue for at least three years.

Speaking after the vote Katy Clark MP said: 'I have been horrified by the brutal actions of ISIS, but I do not believe that UK air strikes will improve the situation. They

will, however, increase the risk of terrorist bombings in the UK and are likely to act as a recruiting sergeant for the fundamentalists.'

She added: 'These air strikes lack UN backing and are not part of a coherent strategy. The military action agreed by parliament last Friday is open-ended with little, if any, consideration given to an exit strategy. The overall plan is unclear and the government's past record does not inspire confidence that they understand the implications of what they are doing.'

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Tesco confirms store go-ahead

Licence transfer is approved

Plans for Tesco's first store on Arran won't be affected by the £250 million profits shortfall announced by the company last week.

There had been concern that future projects could be hit by the turmoil at the retail giant.

However, Tesco bosses today insisted, that the Brodick project was 'good to go'.

And in a further boost this week an application for the transfer of the licence from Alastair and Alison Bilslund to Tesco was approved by North Ayrshire Council Licensing Board.

Next year

Tesco hopes to have the store open early next year.

Two weeks ago the Banner gave the first confirma-

tion that a Tesco Express was to be built on the site of the Bilslunds store in Shore Road.

But that was just days before a £250 million profit shortfall was revealed into the retailer's expected half year profits, leading to an internal investigation into poor company culture.

There had been fears that the problems might have a knock-on effect on development plans by the company including the Arran project.

But Richard Holligan, the corporate affairs manager for Tesco in Scotland, this week told the Banner that the situation would have no knock on effect on the Arran development. 'The Brodick store is

all good to go,' he said.

The new Tesco store plans to increase the off-sales display capacity to 41 square metres and increase the hours of the sale of alcohol from 10am till 10pm from Monday to Sunday, the standard Scottish supermarket licensing hours.

Enlarge

The company has also applied for planning permission to enlarge the car park to take 27 cars, including two disabled spaces.

At least three holes of the present crazy golf will be lost by the expansion, but it is hoped it will be retained and improved.

Tesco has said the new store will be open 'in the first few months of 2015'.



Kilmory September fete proves successful for village kidz

Sisters Abbie and Erin Mulholland were manning the Kilmory Kidz stall at the village's September fete on Saturday afternoon - just one of many stalls filling the hall. Most of the proceeds raised on the day will go towards Kilmory Village Hall funds. 20_b40fet03



Prehistoric Arran explored by castle event

There was a chance to step back in time at Brodick Castle last weekend when the 'Burning the Circle' event delved into the island's prehistoric past.

Ancient crafts on show included the Bronze Age casting of tools and weapons, pottery production, rope making, spinning and weaving.

On Saturday night a spectacular burning circle lit up the skies above Brodick as the events of the day came to a climax.

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Time for exhibitors to reveal their hidden talents

It is now time for exhibitors to decide what they are going to show at Shiskine Valley's Hidden Talents.

A total of 40 talented craftsmen and women had signed up by the closing date last month for the show to be held

in the Kinloch Hotel from Friday 31 October till Sunday 2 November 2014 from 10am till 4pm.

But now it is time for them to provide more details of the two items they are putting in.

Entry forms are now available and should be completed and returned to the organisers by Friday 10 October either online or by post or hand delivered.

Organiser by Coral Smith said: 'We can't believe that we now have 40 people taking part. At the start, way back in April, we imagined that we would probably find half a dozen or so brave souls who would be willing to join in with us.'

Support

'Little did we know just how much support we were going to get. It's going to be great seeing all the work out on show on 31 October.'

'The sooner exhibitors can return the completed questionnaire back to us, the better our chances will be of getting everything right.'

Coral added: 'As you know, our exhibition is going to be completely non-selective and non-competitive and nothing is going to be for sale. It's up to you to decide on your two exhibits – and the words you

wish to use to describe them. Exhibits don't have to be made especially for Hidden Talents. If you have something that you made some time ago and that you would like to share with us, that's just fine too. And, if you have any problems in filling in our questionnaire, just give us a call and we'll be there to help.'

'It's been a bit of a leap of faith doing this. We have had

so many offers of help and support from so many people that, between us all, we are sure that the whole project is going to be a big success,' Coral said.

Anyone seeking further information should contact Coral Smith on 870287 or ecoral.smith@btinternet.com or fellow organiser Susie Thompson on 860463 or susie@susie.thompson.co.uk



Co-op-sponsored walk raises funds for RDA

The staff from the Co-op at Inverclyde, Brodick have been busy raising funds this year for their chosen charity – Riding for the Disabled, Arran Group.

Last Saturday they boosted their fundraising efforts with a sponsored walk up Goatfell.

So far this year the staff have raised £660 with a further £246 coming from the sponsored walk.

The photo shows manager Johnny Kirkland with colleagues Daniel Jack, Tim Crockett and Josh MacDonald just before they set off on their walk.

Thank

On behalf of Arran RDA Janis Heaney would like to thank them all for their efforts and for raising money for such a great cause.

b40rda01



The new school Banner reporting team.

New team reporting for duty

The Lamlash Primary School Banner reporting team for the new session consists of two P2s Lewis Jeffrey and Filip Dybalski, one P3 Imogen Allison, one P4 Isabella Reid and two P7s Aleena Rojan and James Reid.

The oldest in the team is James and the youngest is Filip.

The topics they hope to write about are fundraisers, competitions, any special awards they received, school trips and things the school buys such as toys, new technology and new books.

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Laughs all-round for **top** Scottish comedians

Whiting Bay Hall was packed on Saturday night as crowds gathered for the fourth annual comedy night.

Organised by top Scots comedian and writer Phil Differ in partnership with Arran Events, Phil once again pulled out all the stops with a line-up of some great up-and-coming acts.

MC for the evening was the 'Afro-Celtic comedian' - his words - Bruce Fumme

who unfortunately had to pull-out at the last minute.

Born in the 1960s to a Scottish mother and an African father, Bruce was a natural storyteller and such an amiable character that the audience couldn't help but get swept up by his stories, and the fact that he obviously enjoyed the show so much was incredibly infectious.

He had the audience on his

side from the start and was a great MC for the evening.

The first act of the night was youngster Gareth Waugh - billed as an up-and-coming comedian often to be found performing in Edinburgh.

Portraying himself as a pathetic man, there were lots of chuckles from the audience as he regaled some of the pathetic things he's done in his life.

From £400 telescopes to

buying alcohol for underage kids, at no point in his life has Gareth done something that wasn't embarrassing, and the audience loved it.

Then it was the turn of Phil Differ, who having taken to the stage only six years ago as a stand-up proved that comedy is his calling.

From dry anecdotes about the referendum, to his experience of working from home as well as his recent hair loss, the writer of shows such as 'Only an Excuse' and 'Still Game' was a huge hit once again with the audience.

And then it was time for the top-billing of the evening, Vladimir McTavish - certainly one of the most popular and most successful of modern-day Scottish comedians.

Serving up a delightful feast of hilarious social observations and topical satire presented with a caustic wit at break-neck speed, McTavish was a fantastic headline act.



Phil Differ once again pulled out all the stops with a line-up of some great up-and-coming acts. 20_b40com03



There were lots of chuckles from the audience as Gareth Waugh regaled some of the pathetic things he's done in his life. 20_b40com02



Afro-Celtic comedian Bruce Fumme stood in as MC for the night. 20_b40com01

Distillery unleashes legend of Machrie Moor with new editions

Isle of Arran Distillers is launching the latest in its Machrie Moor peated whisky collection, which includes the first ever cask strength version of the limited edition Single Malt.

The Machrie Moor Single Malt first appeared five years ago, inspired by the legend of a warrior giant who tethered his dog to a stone in a mystical peat bog called Machrie Moor which lies on the west coast of the Isle of Arran.

This fifth edition of Machrie Moor - the only peated Arran malt - will be released worldwide, alongside a cask

strength edition which has been bottled at 58.4 per cent.

Master Distiller James MacTaggart carefully chose the very best Arran peated casks to create these two whiskies to savour.

Mr MacTaggart said: 'When we first created Machrie Moor, we wanted to create a drink which kept the character and taste of Arran that our followers love but included a taste of something different with the peat flourish.

'We were blown away with the reception our first edition of Machrie Moor received which has inspired us to pro-

duce the subsequent editions and now this fifth expression.

'This year's edition is particularly special as we are also introducing a cask strength version of the single malt, which we are really excited about and we are confident it will prove popular with whisky fans who want to try a cask strength dram with a difference.'

Only 12,000 bottles of Machrie Moor Fifth Edition and just 6,000 bottles of the first edition cask strength Machrie Moor will be available when they go on sale on 6 October.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Ferry investment is exciting development

A new ferry is always exciting news; a new 'Clyde-built' ferry is even more welcome.

With reports this week that Arran could have a new ferry by 2017, it looks as though there will be major improvements to the island's ferry service in the next two years.

According to Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson, the government has agreed for the first of 12 new Caledonian MacBrayne ferries to be deployed on the Brodick to Ardrossan route.

Its introduction will eventually mean Arran could have a year-round two-vessel service - a huge boost given that the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) will also see ferry fares fall in price later this month.

With the departure of the MV Isle of Arran this week it does feel though that summer has officially come to an end.

The MV Caledonian Isles is now the only vessel sailing between Brodick and the mainland, and it actually seems a little busier than in past months as she brings the October holidaymakers over for their break.

Ferries have long dominated the agenda of the community council so it was unusual that at Tuesday night's monthly meeting CalMac was barely mentioned.

There were murmurs of assent from the members when Councillor John Bruce was given the happy task of confirming the Scottish government's announcement.

The community councillors agreed that the major investments being placed on Arran's ferry service were most welcome.

The £12.3 million contract is great news too for Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd (FMEL). It could be the first major contract it has won since being taken over by Clyde Blowers Capital earlier this month.

The Port Glasgow shipyard had gone into administration in August after experiencing 'significant cash-flow pressures' but this could safeguard around 80 jobs.

Last year Arran saw an increased number of cancellations though bad weather and technical faults.

Never had it been so obvious that Arran desperately needed a two-ferry service all-year round.

With work on the new pier at Brodick due to start next year, a new second ferry in the pipeline and reduced ferry fares, some may soon argue that the island has never had it so good.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.' (Ephesians 4:32)

press policy

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Caring Co-op

Sir,
Having recently escaped from the hurly-burly of the mainland, I was relieved to find a) the absence of Tesco and b) the improvement in the Co-op stores.

Now Tesco is coming but I will stay with the Co-op which has a much more caring attitude towards customers.

I always found that Tesco stores on the mainland catered for families and we not at all interested in 'singletons', whereas the Co-op caters for those of us who live alone, as well as those who fill their trollies and later throw away unused perishable items.

True, the Co-op may be a little dearer and prices vary between Brodick and Lamlash, but by and large the quality is better. May the Co-op flourish.

Yours,
Willie Maude
McKelvie Road
Lamlash

What a team

Sir,
We have just lived through the most remarkable and exciting period in Scotland's modern history.

We now have arguably the most sophisticated and informed electorate in Europe. Some 97 per cent of Scottish adults are registered to vote and, of these, a record 84 per cent turned out on September 18 in the Independence Referendum.

An alienated population found its voice.

There will now be some time to reflect on the result and see how it serves Scotland's interests over the next year or two.

With a Westminster election in 2015, Holyrood elections in 2016 and a referendum on EU membership at some point, the current level of engagement is likely to persist for a while.

'Disappointment' does not begin to describe the sense of loss which Yes voters are currently experiencing.

But we note that more than 70 per cent of 16 and 17-year-

olds voted Yes and that there was a Yes majority of 54 per cent in under 55s.

It is also of some comfort that Arran voted for independence. Defying unfavourable demographics (high older population, relative affluence, and high proportion of the population born outside Scotland), the Arran boxes at the count in Saltcoats broke close to 60/40 for Yes, ensuring a very narrow Yes win overall in the Ardrossan and Arran ward.

On behalf of the Arran Yes campaign (what a team) may I express our thanks to those campaigning for 'No' who were prepared to stand up and be counted, and to engage in respectful dialogue.

If you thought you were voting for the status quo, however, I suggest you may need to think again.

Yours,
Malcolm Kerr
Cairndale
Brodick

Better buses

Sir,
Mr Mitchell-Luker's points are well made in the 20 September edition regarding lack of low-floor backup on buses. Whilst his comments were directed elsewhere, I would like to assure him that Strathclyde Partnership for Transport is working tirelessly to deliver better bus services on Arran.

SPT believes that it is right that disabled people should have the same access to public transport as able-bodied passengers and has committed around £2m to that over the next few years.

North Ayrshire Council has already received SPT funding in the region of £400,000 to make sure the road network on Arran is suitable for the operation of Disability Discrimination Act-compliant vehicles. We are also progressing the £1.6m purchase of a new, low floor, wheelchair accessible fleet which we believe will greatly improve transport on the island.

Yours,
Eric Stewart
SPT assistant chief
executive (operations)

Predictable tides

Sir,
Thank you for the mention of the Arran Tide Tables in your coverage of the low tide ferry disruption. The 2014 copy can be purchased from a number of shops around the island for only £1.40, rather than the £2 quoted.

The times and heights of the tides are predicted by people much cleverer than me at the UK Hydrographic Office.

They are based on the phases of the moon and the moon's proximity to earth. In that much, they are predictable.

As pointed out in the article, they are affected by weather. Southerly wind pushes water into the Clyde, northerly wind pushes it out. Barometric pressure also has a major effect, in the Clyde it can raise or lower the water level by up to a metre.

Yours,
Donald Johnston
Johnston's Marine Stores
Old Pier
Lamlash

Drama debut

Sir,
Winter is coming. Of course there are lots of things to do on Arran in the winter, but how about doing something a little different this winter and entering a team into the One Act Drama Festival in February 2015.

We welcome junior and senior teams.

If you would like to know more, the drama association is holding an open meeting on Wednesday 22 October in the High School at 7.30pm. Come along and find out more about the association and how to form a drama group.

You can also find us on Facebook.

Yours,
Mrs Jerry Arthur
Chairwoman
Isle of Arran
Drama Association

Tavern tales

Sir,
Doubtless unwittingly, your feature on the imminent demise of The Pierhead Tavern two weeks ago contained a

couple of inaccuracies.

The Public House Trust was a group of small, under funded, very Presbyterian establishments from Balloch in the north to Girvan in the south.

The whole set up truly belonged to the 1930s.

Because of the appointment of a sharp and formidable managing director John McVicar in the mid 1960s things and ideas began to change!

My father, Ivor Broughton Sheldon and John McVicar, one night in 1972, with the assistance of John Barleycorn, hit upon the transition from Public House Trust to Pier Head tavern.

As they say in the mill, job done.

Yours,
Tom Sheldon
Lamlash

Goatfell conqueror

Sir,
We took our little girl, Isabel, up Goatfell when we visited in August. She was five-and-a-half months old, so obviously not entirely under her own steam.

A few people commented that she was probably one of the youngest people to go to the top, so we thought you might like to see a picture (she does look a bit bored but she seemed to enjoy herself).

We'd also like to thank Arran Graphics for printing her a little t-shirt especially to commemorate the occasion. They printed the height of Goatfell onto the back of an Arran t-shirt for her as they didn't do Goatfell Conqueror ones small enough. We were very grateful to them.

Nicola and Ash Wilson
Mossley
Manchester



Is little Isabel the youngest person to scale Goatfell?

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Lamb arrival catches everyone by surprise

There has been a surprising arrival at a farm in Shiskine.

Despite the fact that it is now October a lamb has been born at Balgowan Farm, and it came as a complete shock to farmer George Tod.

'We are all really surprised. I have never heard of a lamb born in late September and having asked around neither has anyone else,' he said

The young tup was born out of a black faced gimmer last Wednesday, her first born lamb.

Baffled

But George has been left baffled. When he first saw the lamb in the field of long grass he thought it was a seagull. Then he realised it was a lamb suckling her mother.

He has deduced that the ewe must have been with a tup when it returned from wintering in April, but he has no idea where or when.

Now, after five months of pregnancy, the ewe has produced the lamb.

As a result he has no idea what kind of tup sired the lamb but said: 'I am not too concerned the lamb seems to be



The lamb and her mother at Balgowan Farm. 20_b40lamb01

full term and even after a few days seems fit and healthy.'

Certainly the mother was being very protective of her lamb when the Banner saw

them in the field at Balgowan.

George said: 'The debate is whether it is a late lamb from this season or an early lamb from next season, I think I

will go for the early.'

The tups will be brought to the ewes in the last week of November to produce lambs for April next year.

'Other farms have earlier lambs but our little fellow will have to wait a good few months for any pals,' he added.

Locals urged to take part in Lamlash beach clean

A beach clean in Lamlash will be held this Sunday (5 October) at 2pm.

According to research, more and more marine animals and seabirds are being washed up on coasts around the world with stomachs full of plastic.

So clean beaches mean not only nicer walks for those that live here but also healthier seas for the wildlife in Arran's waters.

Pickers and bags will be provided by the Lamlash Improvements Association, which organises three beach cleans a year.

Volunteers will meet outside the Lamlash Co-op and are asked to bring stout footwear and gloves.

Children should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Lost kitten

A tabby kitten has been lost in Lamlash.

If found please phone Jennifer on 600242 or 600137.

Banner
newsdesk
01770 302142

Bute can learn from an Arran which speaks with one voice

Arran can teach its near neighbours on Bute how to promote themselves better.

It follows a discussion on Bute which began with a letter in the The Buteman newspaper as to how to turn around the island's fortunes.

The letter was titled 'Bute needs to speak with one voice' and was written by Mark Cumming of Hong Kong, and compared the island with Arran.

He stated: 'I was struck by the difference in personality that Arran presents to the world in comparison with Bute.'

'Quite simply, Arran speaks with one voice.'

'Its community, its businesses, the local authority and even its visitors never miss opportunities to use the word Arran.'

'The promotion of even the smallest business seems to be in step with the thinking of the tourist authority's marketing strategy.'

'Bute, you have much to offer but you're sending very mixed messages.'

He added: 'Come together, collaborate, and stop looking

at your neighbours as competition. The reality is that it's the island across the water that's stealing your business...not the guy across the street.'

The letter was raised at a recent meeting of Bute Community Council where member Ray Beverley, commented: 'One of the problems is getting everyone involved. People have to stop moaning and come together. I would like to think that, yes, over the last year or so, it's changing.'

Frank Baxter added: 'I think it is improving, maybe slowly, too slowly, but certainly people are talking about the micro-brewery and that will hopefully encourage people to come to Bute.'

Mike Blair said: 'I totally agree. We hide behind 'high ferry fares killing Bute'.

'With RET we have a golden opportunity to say to people 'Come to Bute, it's so inexpensive. We have a unique product here. If Visit Bute can ride on the back of RET then go for it.'

Martin Catlin commented: 'How can we cohesively work together? And work with the council? The council has an economic development officer - is it possible to invite them down to coordinate an island event where key players are invited, like Mount Stuart, etc? They could have a brainstorming session and work together in a coordinated fashion? That might be an idea.'

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Friederike Lorenzen and Stuart Turner are hard at work clearing a path. 20_b39roots07



Mike Bailey with one of the first sculptures he made when he was a teenager. 20_b38roots03



Fireun and Eiken in a tree den. 20_b39roots04



Debra Adam and Fireun Hunter in the orchard. 20_b39roots01



Volunteers in the Spiral Wood, from kids Eden Robertson, Patrick Gwi

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Going back to

Project is creating a mature native

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

But this is no teddy bear's picnic. Instead, as a result of a lot of hard work for more than a decade, a group of dedicated woodland volunteers are starting to see a return on the fruits of their labour.

A registered charity, the Roots of Arran community woodland, was formed in 2002 and has since planted up a large clear-fell site known as Fairy Glen or Lag a Bheith which lies in the woods outside Brodick.

The area now has many young trees which include beech, hazel, willow, oak, alder, blackthorn and even fruit trees in a specially enclosed orchard, which produced its first crop of apples this year.

The project aims to regenerate the woodland for locals and visitors to enjoy and increase the island's biodiversity.

Volunteers meet on the sec-

ond Sunday of the month - at 11am at the viewpoint car park - to carry out conservation work in their 30-hectare woodland. The area is on 'loan' to the group through a 'concordat' agreement with the Forestry Commission Scotland.

Tasks include footpath creation and maintenance, tree-planting and management, as well as rhododendron clearance. In spring 2012 a pond was added as well as more footpaths.

There is an ancient beech grove to the right of the main track just before the bridge if walking up from the Mayish, which has provided a fantastic space in which to not only shelter and 'chill out' but make environmental art and practise woodland skills.

It was at the car park that The Banner caught up with the volunteers as they prepared for their work day in the woods.

They were joined by the resident project artist Mike Bai-

ley, who has produced various works of art in the woods.

These include the impressive Spiral Wood of 140 silver birch trees in an ever decreasing circle. And the 'healing' spiral theme is repeated at various points throughout the site.

Mike, a retired art teacher, has also produced a number of wooden sculptures and wood signmarkers, but his latest project is a wooden xylophone.

In the clearing used for Forest Schools, Mike, with the help of long-time supporters Russell and Debra Adam, 'tuned' and erected the xylophone made from well-seasoned sycamore branches and now on permanent display in the woods. Young volunteers Eiken Adam, Fireun Hunter, Eden Robertson and Patrick Gwizdowski later tested it out before toasting marshmallows for lunch.

During the day a start was also made on clearing a new footpath up to the Scots pines,



Getting there

The Roots of Arran site has fairly rough tracks leading through it but it is accessible on foot from the viewpoint car park on the hill leading out of Brodick towards Lam-lash or the next car park at Cnoc Na Dail. It can also be reached by walking up the track out of Brodick known as the Mayish, which leads to the site and is about a 1.5km walk.

From left, Keith Robertson, Debra, Eiken and Russell Adam, Jean Glen and Mike Bailey with Zdowski and Fireun Hunter. 20_b39roots02

o their roots

e woodland for everyone to enjoy

a potential future wedding venue, and the group is currently fundraising to help with construction costs.

The group also offers a memorial tree service and on the day Jean Glen joined two volunteers to choose a rowan sapling which will be planted in her chosen spot in the woods for a friend who died.

Thrive

Vice chairwoman Juliette Walsh said: 'We hope that Roots of Arran will continue to thrive and grow into a mature native woodland which is not only so vital for the survival of Scottish wildlife but offers us a mini paradise away from the stresses and strains of everyday life. We want to develop the scope of what takes place in the woodland and hope the Scots pine stand can be used as a wedding location in the near future.'

Debra and Juliette recently attended the Community Woodlands Association conference

which took place in Dunbar and have come back with lots of ideas for the woodland including plans to run green woodworking workshops.

Juliette added: 'We hope to hold a green woodworking weekend late in autumn which will involve making a pole lathe and saw horse with experts from Wooplaw Woods.'

'With these two pieces of equipment we can then consid-

er offering green woodworking workshops ourselves, so people can learn how to shape wood into items of furniture.'

The Roots group also now has three qualified Forest School leaders on the island and courses are available throughout the year for visiting groups in term-time. To find out more visit www.rootsofarrancommunitywoodland.org.uk and follow the links.



Mike and Debra in the beech grove with mushrooms growing on the mound behind them. 20_b39roots06



Russell and Mike tune the sycamore xylophone. 20_b39roots08



Russell tries out the completed xylophone in the woodland clearing. 20_b39roots09

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Renewal of their wedding vows helps to tie knot with Canada

New links are being established between Arran and descendants from the island who settled in Canada.

And in the latest exchange a Canadian couple renewed their wedding vows earlier this month in Sannox Church.

For some time the Sannox Christian Centre (SCC) has been trying to form links with descendants from Arran

in both Megantic County, Quebec and Dalhousie and Campbellton, New Brunswick. George and Fiona Hazel from Corrie have visited the folks in New Brunswick twice and in Megantic County once and relationships are starting to form.

Recently David and Pam Pott from Lochranza, also part of the SCC community,

visited Megantic County to research the joint heritage and strengthen the links with the areas where hundreds of Arran residents emigrated to in the 1800s.

It was as a result of these meetings that Ian and Mary Hamilton decided to come to Arran to visit SCC and renew their wedding vows.

Ian's family originally came from Kings Cross, so they spent some time researching the records in the local authority office and in the graveyard at Lamlash. There are many Hamiltons in the records and in the graveyard, so Ian is now off to do more research. He thanked the staff at the Arran Heritage Museum and the local authority office for all their help as he said they were superb and so enthusiastic. Ian is currently President of the Dalhousie Caledonian Society so is keen to establish links through this network as well.

The renewal of vows took place on a sunny Saturday

morning with Ian and his friend Paul, resplendent in full highland dress. Paul and his wife Carolyn, their best friends from Nova Scotia, had travelled with them to share the moment. Arran piper Andrew Earle, in full highland attire, was a surprise which greatly delighted Ian and Mary.

Charles Fforde was also there to welcome the guests and he later received a certificate from the Mayor of Dalhousie which is to be given to a descendant of the Duke of Hamilton on Arran.

A short service was then held in the church led beautifully by the Rev Jean Hunter before a celebratory glass of Prosecco and lunch at the tearoom, and then sent on their way by the Sannox bell.

Claire Irving provided a wonderful lunch complete with red roses and balloons on the table. The flowers held a special significance to Mary, as she had originally walked down the aisle to a tune called 'The Rose'.

George Hazel said: 'It was such a privilege to arrange this for Ian and Mary and a significant moment in the establishing of relationships with the descendants of the folks who left Arran to build new lives and communities in Canada in the 1800s. 'Thank you so much to Rev Jean Hunter, Charles Fforde, Andrew Earle and Claire and Kate at the tearoom for making this such a special day. Ian and Mary could not stop talking about it.'

On the Sunday Councillor



Ian and Mary Hamilton outside Sannox Church with the Rev Jean Hunter and piper Andrew Earle.



Ian and Mary hand over the Mayor's certificate to Charles Fforde.

John Bruce visited with a greetings card from the Provost of North Ayrshire Council Joan Sturgeon, so a link has been established with the two local authorities.

In the future more people from Quebec and New Brunswick will be visiting the island to strengthen these links. Indeed earlier this month another couple from New Brunswick, James and Maria Thompson visited the island. Maria is trying to establish

a link between her primary school class and one on the island so that the children can compare lifestyles, histories and other social aspects.

George added: 'Thanks to Stuart Gough and the staff at the museum and to Stuart Lambie, both father and son, for spending time with James and Maria researching their heritage.'

'SCC now has a number of links to people in Quebec Province and New Brunswick and we would be delighted to talk to anyone who is interested. We may well organize an evening event showing photos of the people and sites in both Megantic County and New Brunswick if folks would be interested.'



Councillor John Bruce gives Ian and Mary greetings from the North Ayrshire Provost.

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SATURDAY 18TH OCTOBER, 7.30 PM
ARRAN COMMUNITY THEATRE, LAMLASH
TICKETS £10 INCL. TEA/COFFEE
(STUDENTS & CHILDREN WITH ONE ACCOMPANYING ADULT FREE)
Tickets on door, or advance booking: Inspirations of Arran & www.arranevents.com

Arran Farmers' Society
Dinner Dance

Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot
6th December 2014, at 7pm

Ticket £30

Music by Steve Kelly

All Welcome

To book, please phone Christine on 820291



Charles Todd and James Sillars from the Scottish Salmon Company's Lamlash site and Mathew Laughton from the environment team, who cycled the Arran stage of the Salmon Run.

Salmon Run is a runaway success

Arran employees of The Scottish Salmon Company have helped to raise more than £5,000 for The Sandpiper Trust, a Scottish based charity, which aims to save lives in Scotland by improving immediate emergency care, especially in remote and rural areas.

The funds raised by 90 members of staff will be put towards the provision of defibrillators, providing improved rapid response care and equipment across many of the areas where The Scottish Salmon Company operates.

Over the course of five days at the beginning of September, staff from The Scottish Salmon Company came together to raise money for the charity by running, walking, cycling and rowing over 350 miles in the company's second annual Salmon Run.

Charles Todd and James Sillars from the Lamlash fish farm took part in the event by cycling around Arran.

Starting from the Uists, the

Salmon Run team covered all of the regions in which The Scottish Salmon Company operates, journeying from the Outer Hebrides to Arran and finishing at the company's head office in Edinburgh.

Penny Hawdon, environmental project co-ordinator at The Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'The Sandpiper Trust provides invaluable

resources for local communities and when we started the Salmon Run last year we thought it was a great cause that would bring staff together from our sites across the Highlands and Islands.

'I never dreamt it would be so successful; we've been blown away by the support received from staff and the local communities.'

Unusual Holy Isle view wins Jessica arts prize

Jessica Reid of Clauchlands Farm has won the Arran Open Studios (AOS) children's art competition.

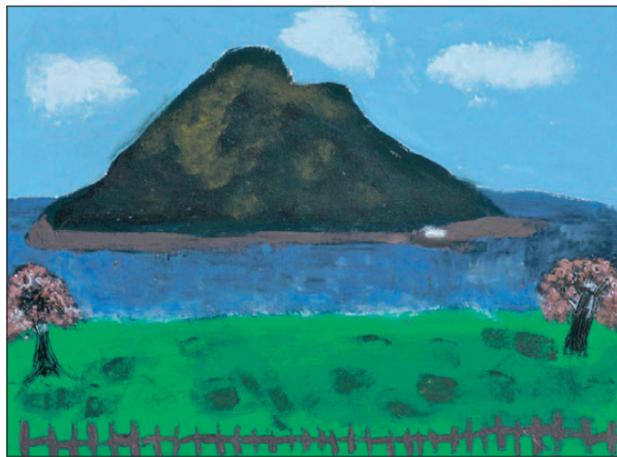
The competition was open to Arran schoolchildren to complete an artwork of any sort over the summer holidays. The art work had to be handed in to any of the participating artist's studios last month.



Ann Hume presents Jessica with her prize.

The entries were judged by Open Studios organisers and a spokesman said the winner showed 'the ambitious nature for a P6 pupil, of a painting on canvas'.

The judges also commented on the unusual viewpoint of the Holy Isle 'not the normal view that most people imagine'. This is very much the view from Clauchlands... Jessica's View.



Jessica's winning painting.

Bumper pack

Ann Hume of AOS presented Jessica with her bumper pack of art materials, part of which was donated by the Book and Card shop in Brodick. Thanks went to Alan Johnson and his team there.

This is the first Open Studios children's competition but it is hoped that it will continue and that this year's deserved winner will inspire other youngsters to take up brushes and pencils. AOS has its own dedicated website and Facebook page.

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a place for everyone

WHATS ON AT THE CASTLE

WED 8TH OCTOBER BACK TO THE BRONZE AGE
2.00pm - 4.00pm
Adults £8 u16 £4 + Park Entry
Booking essential

THUR 9TH OCTOBER PAINTINGS TOUR
2.00pm - 3.30pm
Adults £5 + Castle Entry
Booking essential

FRI 10TH OCTOBER CASTLE SECRETS
11.30am - 1.00pm
Adults £8 + Castle Entry
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Arran bird guide keeps flying off the shelves

A guide to Arran bird life is still flying off the shelves two months after it first hit the shops.

At the Harbour Shop in Blackwaterfoot, Gillian Ingham and her staff have sold more than 100 copies of the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 since July.

Gillian said: 'It is an attractive book that is selling really well.'

Author Dr Jim Cassels is absolutely delighted by the support from his local shop and from the many other outlets around the island where the book is for sale.

The Arran Bird Atlas maps all the breeding and wintering birds of Arran over a five-year period from 2007 to 2012 for the first time.

Under Jim's direction, the bird recorder for the Arran Natural History Society, over 30 volunteers conducted fieldwork over five years covering the whole of the island. In addition almost 700 people contributed bird sightings during these five breeding seasons and five winters.

The data collected contains more than 36,000 records on 177 species, an outstanding effort by residents and visitors, who share a passion for the birds of Arran. Adding to this community effort, at the publication stage more than 30 photographers agreed to the use of their images.

Gillian Ingham with a copy of the atlas in the Harbour Shop.

The 2014 FISHupdate Almanac NOW ON SALE!






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people on the move • days gone by • maps • events
species • contacts • company index • diary section • notes

To purchase a copy of the Almanac please call
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Hearing loss research panel needs your help

The charity Action on Hearing Loss Scotland is inviting people in Arran who are deaf, have hearing loss or tinnitus to join the charity's research panel and help influence its work.

Panellists will have regular opportunities to take part in the charity's research projects as well as through one-to-one interviews and focus groups.

Evidence gathered through the research will inform Action on Hearing Loss's policy, services and campaigning work for a world where hearing loss doesn't limit or label people, tinnitus is silenced and where people value and look after their hearing.

Delia Henry, director of Action on Hearing Loss Scotland, said: 'We'd be grateful if Arran residents would get involved in our panel, which we hope offers a great opportunity to feed in their first-hand experience of hearing loss and highlight everyday issues that will help shape our future work, supporting people who are deaf or have hearing loss or tinnitus to live their lives to the full.'

Information

For more information or to get involved in the research panel, people can complete a short questionnaire at www.aohl.org.uk/researchpanel or by e-mailing panel@hearingloss.org.uk

Kilmory SWRI

Kilmory SWRI is restarting for the winter on Monday 29 September.

The institute meets on a Monday evening once a month and has a variety of speakers and demonstrations to keep members entertained during the winter months.

The 'rural' - as it is affectionately known - is one of the largest women's organisations in Scotland and is always on the lookout for new members.

On occasion the women hold meetings that are open to anyone, especially if the topic may be of interest to all the people in the community.

To this end, an invitation is extended to people to come along and hear about 'Iceland: Land of geysers and gyrs' from the very knowledgeable Jim Cassels of Kilpatrick.

The group meets in Kilmory Hall starting at 7.30pm.

President Mairi Duff said: 'We look forward to seeing members returning; welcoming new ones and anyone who would like to hear and see about Iceland.'

Skye contest winner

Congratulations to Cheryl Lawrie of Lochaber Road in Kinlochleven who has won an overnight stay at Duisdale House Hotel on Skye in our recent autumn break competition, published earlier this month, worth up to £339.

Cheryl has won one night bed and breakfast for two plus a four course dinner at this award-winning hotel.

The hotel was named Best Hotel at last year's Scottish Thistle Awards and also judged the UK's best small five star hotel at the International Hotel Awards in London in 2013.

Entrants were asked to answer the question: Which peninsula does Duisdale House Hotel overlook? The correct answer was the Knoydart peninsula.

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TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 1 October, 1994

Dram delay

Work on Arran's malt whisky distillery was due to start next week, all the tenders are in, the finance is secured, but this week it has hit another snag.

Cunninghame District Council received an eight-page fax from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) which has been against the distillery from the start.

Despite various amendments, SNH now has further objections which would considerably reduce the size of the proposed distillery building.

School uniformity

School uniforms may have been the main topic of debate at the Arran High School board meeting this week, but drugs and the volume of homework were also major issues discussed. Parents were invited to meet new headteacher Iain Murray and top of his agenda was school uniforms.

'There should be a dress code for pupils,' he said, 'but there should be one for staff too.'

New council sits

Arran's new community council had its first meeting on Tuesday and Chris Carberry from Strathclyde Passenger Transport was the guest to discuss the ongoing work at Brodick Pier.

The £107,000 bus area is now 75 per cent complete and has included resurfacing, levelling, construction of six bus bays and lighting and information panels.

When this is finished in around three weeks time the area will be landscaped.

Julie Hannah serves gingerbread to Vicki Padfield, her daughter Emily, Hilary Buchan and Vicki's son Simon in the Brodick castle tearooms. b40twe04



New Holy Isle building

Foundations were laid this week for the first new building on Holy Isle since the Buddhists took over.

Until now their work has focused on refurbishing existing buildings.

This new building, a wooden kit chalet, is to be the retreat master's home.

When the kit comes it will be flown over to Holy Isle by helicopter from Lamlash.

Break in

Cooks Stores in Kildonan was broken into last Friday evening. A quantity of cigarettes was stolen and the till containing about £100 was stolen. Nothing has been recovered.

Kilmory fete

Last Saturday's September weekend fete at Kilmory was opened by Mrs Caroline Fleming, a lady who has a special connection with the village hall.

She told the assembled crowd that she was especially pleased to be asked as the hall had been officially opened 60 years ago by her great grandmother, the Duchess of Montrose.

Facilities questioned

A survey of provisions on the island for tourists has returned some interesting results.

There was almost 100 per cent agreement that Arran has a high quality of outdoor facilities but comments included the likes of 'the beaches are a disgrace' and 'there are not enough public toilets'.

However it was felt that indoor facilities were more of a concern as apart from the swimming pools at Auchrannie Hotel and the Kinloch Hotel, there was very little to do on a rainy day.



Arran's new community council met for the first time this week. b40twe03



The Turbett family have a go at 'throwing the wellie' at Kilmory Fete. b40twe02



The Brodick Castle staff pose in their Victorian costumes after a special event at the property. b40twe01

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Every day

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

Loch Garbad, boat & bank fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Open Mon-Sat 10am - 5pm, Sun 12.30-4pm
 2pm
 Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm
 Open all day

Session with the Arran Ceilidh Band
 Garden walk
 RunArran
 Live Music
 Garden Walk
 Bridge for beginners

Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Brodick Castle 2pm-3.30pm
 Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm
 Fiddlers, 7.30pm
 Brodick Castle, 2pm - 3.30pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm

Saturday 4th October

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink game
 Fun in the pool
 RNLI Shop
 Live music
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Lamlash Bowling Club Closing day
 Rugby - Arran vs Loch Lomond

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Lamlash bowling green, 7pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Lamlash Pier, 2pm - 4pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Green, 2pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Lamlash, 2pm
 Ormidale Park, Brodick 2pm

Wednesday 8th October

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yogalates
 Aquafizz
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 Traditional & Contemporary Ballads with Mike Bailey
 RunArran mixed ability
 Yoga-Arran
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink game
 Back to the Bronze age

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall 7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash bowling green, 7pm
 Brodick Castle, 2pm - 4pm

Sunday 5th October

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 AA Meeting
 Mackerel Lottery
 Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome
 Live music
 Lamlash Beach Clean
 Arran pool league AGM
 SNP branch meeting

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 4pm - 6pm
 Kinloch Bar, 5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Lamlash Front green, 2pm
 Kilmory hall, 3.30pm
 Ormidale pavilion, Brodick, 2pm

Thursday 9th October

Quiz
 Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Folk, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends
 Yoga
 Bridge Club
 Open Music session
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Men
 Pilates
 Paintings tour
 Country Park Volunteer Day
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 QuiltArran

Eden Lodge, 9pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
 Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
 Auchrannie Car Park, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm
 Brodick Castle, 2-3.30pm
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30-9.30pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm

Monday 6th October

Quiz
 Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Citizens Advice
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Yoga
 Summer Bridge
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 Circuit Training
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
 Live Music
 Scottish Country Dancing Beginners & Improvers

Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 9pm
 Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
 Arran High School, 6.30pm
 Lamlash Bowling Green, 7pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Lamlash, 7pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2-4pm

Friday 10th October

Aqua Fizz
 Yogalates
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Castle Secrets Tour
 Family fun night
 Brodick Market

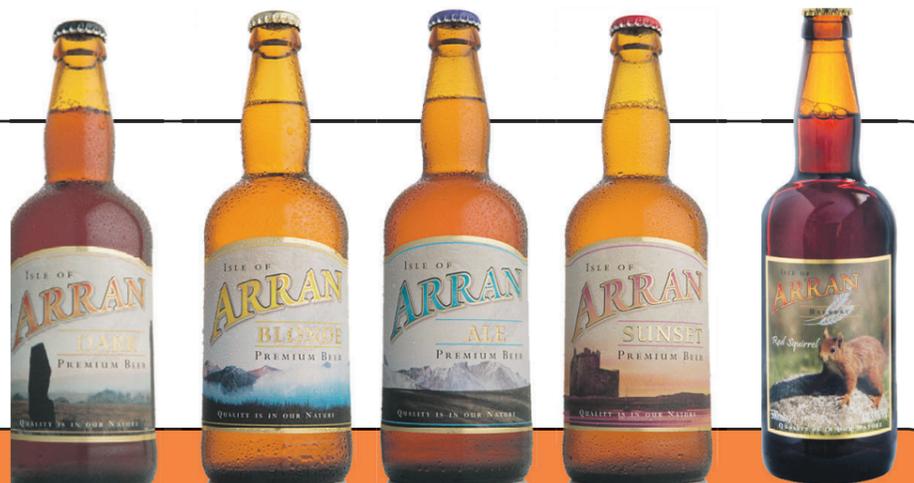
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Castle, 11.30 - 1pm
 Brodick Golf Club 4.45pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-5pm

Tuesday 7th October

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

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm

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For further information on this vacancy and an application pack visit www.trustha.org.uk/jobs or call our 24 hour recruitment line on 0131 444 4999/ email jobs@trustha.org.uk, quoting the appropriate reference.

The closing date for completed applications is 17th October 2014. Interviews are likely to be held on the 30th of October.

We are pursuing a policy of equal opportunities and welcome applications from all sections of the community.

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Public Notices



Kenneth Gibson MSP

will hold advice surgeries at the following times and locations.

Monday 06 October	
Kildonan Village Hall	11.30-12.30
Shiskine Village Hall	13.00-14.00
ACVS Office, Lamlash	15.00-16.00
Monday 10 November	
Whiting Bay Village Hall	11.15-12.15
Kilmory Village Hall	13.00-14.00
Brodick Health Centre	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

C147 COASTAL ROAD, LAGG TO SLIDDERY, ISLE OF ARRAN (TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2014

The Council made the above Order under section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers to temporarily close C147 Coastal Road (between Lagg and Slidderly), Isle of Arran between 9am to 12.30pm and 1pm to 4pm from Monday 6 October until Wednesday 8 October 2014.
The closure is for essential carriageway repair works.
A diversion route will be in place via the B880 String Road.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
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- A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

The co-operative memorials



- Traditional and modern styles
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- Additional inscriptions
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Visit our display area at Sorbie Road, Ardrossan opposite Cemetery Gates or phone

01294 461554



CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 5th October
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mrs Janis Gallagher.
Coffee after service.
Wednesday 8th October
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together
Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.
Sunday 5th October
Lochranza Church. 9.30am Morning Worship.
Pirmill Church, 10.45am, Morning Worship.
Shiskine Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30am, Prayer Meeting.
11.50am Tea and Coffee and Fellowship. 12noon, Morning Worship.
A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 5th October
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
Both Churches:
Rev. Dr. Ian Macleod
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 5th October
Morning Service, 11am
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 8th October
at 7pm
5 Glen Road
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005).
Sunday 5th October
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.
All most welcome.
There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm to which all friends will be most welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Vigil Mass 7.30pm
Sunday morning mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 5th October
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 5th October
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Mr Sean Ankers

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ROBERTS

A wee dram for Pam
Following her cremation, on Tuesday 30th September in Melrose, Pam Roberts, wife of the late Ian Roberts, and formerly of Bellevue Farm, Blackwaterfoot, is "coming home" to her final resting place. Family members Jackie and Kitty would very much like old friends to join them for an informal get together and to share a dram in Pam's memory on Friday 3rd October between 6pm and 8pm in Kinloch Hotel.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Whiting Bay Golf Club

On Sunday 21 September, 10 played in the gents' medal, CSS 64. 1 David Brookens (12)64, 2 Pete Smith (16)66 acb, 3 Wolfi Kroner (12)66 acb. Scratch David Brookens 76. Magic twos by Graeme Crichton and David Brookens.

On Wednesday 24 September, 14 played in the gents medal, the last Wednesday medal of the season. The CSS dropped to 62. 1 Corey Allan (8)62, 2 Gus MacLeod (10)64 acb, 3 Jamie McKechnie (6)64. Corey Allan won scratch with 70 and Gus MacLeod had the only magic two.

On Sunday 28 September, the lure of the Ryder Cup was too strong and only 13 played in the gents Stableford. Scoring was good with the CSS dropping to 62 (37 points). 1 Alan Foggo 39 pts, 2 David Morrison 37 pts acb, 3 Jamie MacPherson also with 37 pts. Alan Foggo won scratch with 64 and there were magic twos by Scott Adair and Jamie MacPherson.

Fixtures: Sunday 5 October, Winter Cup round 1.



David Jeffrey won the competition with 29 points.

BIRTHDAY

Happy 40th Birthday 'Marshie'



Rachel Brown, Innis Thorborn and Leah Brown at the Ryder Cup practice day last Wednesday.

Brodick Golf Club

On Wednesday 24 September, 12 played, which was a good turnout but the scoring was poor. 1 D Roxburgh 73-7=66 BIH, 2 J Green 86-20=66, 3 B Walker 85-19=66. There were five magic twos, D Robertson, J Hartley, D Roxburgh, I Fowle and W Kroner.

On Sunday 28 September, 14 played the Winter Cup first round. 1 Bryce Walker (19)37pts(acb), 2 Bruce Jenkins (7)37pts, John McKean (12)36 pts. There were two magic twos, Chris Pattenden and David Hendry.

Fixtures: Sunday 5 October, Brandon, class draws at 8.30am and 1pm, handicap counter. Sunday 12 October Winter Cup second round, open draws at 8.30am and 1pm, handicap counter.

Shiskine Golf Club

On Wednesday 24 September, the Shiskine Club juniors had a great time at the Ryder Cup practise day. Jack McNally, Innis Thorborn, Adam, Rachel and Leah Brown, and Rory Currie were accompanied by Robert Waine and Viv Parks.

On Sunday 28 September, nine played a Stableford. 1 J McNally 30pts, 2 W McNally 27pts. Nearest the pins: J Faulkner at the fourth, and J Salton at the 10th. Magic twos: J Faulkner at the fourth,

and S Black a the seventh. Congratulations Jack whp played great golf.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 27 September was the Corrie Open round one, where 20 played. 1 G Andrew 31+36=67-10=57, 2 L Hartley 38+37=75-17=58, 3 A Smith 33+37=70-11=59 BIH over J McGovern. Best scratch E McKinnon 60. Magic twos from I Bremner, D Logan and A Napier.

On Sunday 28 August 17 played the Corrie Open round two. 1 Ian Bremner 33+30=63-6=57, 2 Len Hartley 40+36=76-17=59, 3 Graham Andrew 33-37=70-10=60. Best scratch E McKinnon. Magic two from E McKinnon, G Andrew, P Moran, A Napier, A McDonald, D Logan and L Hartley.

Sweep overall: 1 Len Hartley 117 (better second round), 2 Graham Andrew 117, 3 Ian Bremner 118. Winner of the open was Len Hartley. Thanks were given to Pablo, Stevie and Guy for the excellent condition of the course; to all those who played and those who sponsored prizes for both days.

Fixtures: Saturday 4 October, Captain's Prize, 1pm for 1.15pm. Monday 6 October, Monday Cup and Jerry Pot 1pm. Saturday 11 October, Eddie Rankin trophy memorial, Machrie Bay at 12.30pm.

Lamlash Golf Club

On Thursday 25 September, the Summer Cup final round was played, CSS 64. 1 John O'Sullivan 86-22=64(BIH), 2 Neil Young 68-4=64, 3 Alan Smith 76-11=65(BIH). Best scratch Dougie Macfarlane 65, magic two Dougie Macfarlane@4th. Winner of Summer Cup was Iain Murchie - 60+63+60+59=242, runner-up Jon Smith - 61+60=62+61=244.

Yellow Medal, CSS 61. 1 Ian Taylor 80-19=61. Magic two John Houston at the 16th.

Friday 26 September, Seniors' Open, CSS 61. 1 Andrew Smith 39pts, 2 Allan Winship 35pts, 3 Ian Taylor 34pts. Best Scratch Andy Smith 73. Magic twos Andy Smith at the fourth and 12th, Allan Winship at the fifth and 13th, Allan Martin at the 16th. Saturday 27 September, was a Texas Scramble. 1 Jim Henderson, Ian Taylor and Morag Gardner 58-6.4=51.6. 2 David and Mary Deas and William and Lyn Black 69- 10=59.

Fixtures: Sunday 5 October, Glenburn Cup 09.30am and 12.30pm starts. Thursday 9 October, Front Nine Medal.

Ladies section: Wednesday 24 September, Fleet 2, 10 played, CSS 65. 1 Alison Heron 89-23=66, 2 Jenny Pattenden 98-31=67. Scratch Sheena Murchie 82.



The line up of those who took part in the Arran Greenkeepers Cup which was played at Shiskine on Friday 19 September.

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The Arran Ladies side who played Ardrossan II.

Good away win for Arran rugby team

Bishopton 7, Arran 14

The island's rugby team once again travelled with a reduced number of players as they took on league newcomers Bishopton in Renfrew.

After a first half that was evenly contested by both forwards and backs with mistakes in abundance from the two sides, the teams turned around with the score 0-0 at half time.

The second half saw some good attacking moves from Arran's backs and after a period of rolling mauls and good driving from the pack, Euan Bone dived over the try line.

A conversion from Iain Keen gave Arran the seven point lead which seemed to settle the pack who then showed more purpose in their play and were duly rewarded with another try from Euan, once again converted by Iain. (0-14)

Bishopton then got their act together and pressed towards the line just as Arran lost centre Gregor Adamson with an injury.

Arran's ranks were then further reduced with two players being sin binned.

Eventually Bishopton went over with the conversion and with Arran now camped on their own line, they were forced to tackle constantly for the next 10 minutes to defy the opposition and claim their third win in a row.

This Saturday (October 4) Arran are at home to Loch Lomond. Kick-off is 2pm at Ormidale Park, Brodick.

Hockey ladies off to a flyer with three wins out of four

The newly reformed Arran Ladies Hockey Club have got themselves off to a winning start.

With four matches played the team already have three wins under their belt.

Their latest success was a 2-1 victory last Saturday away to Ardrossan II. Arran were 2-0 up at half time with Ardrossan getting a single reply in the second half.

As previously reported in The Banner Victoria McNicol, Lorraine Hewie and Cat Galbraith have been playing indoor hockey for years and were desperate to get the Arran team up and running after a 15-year absence.

After many meetings and emails they were accepted into the Scottish Hockey Association West District Division 4 and have started

playing 22 matches home and away which will take them up until March next year.

Victoria secured lottery funding from Awards For All which they used to purchase the match kit, goalie kit, balls and first aid kit so they could get started without running into debt from the off.

Sponsorship

They have also secured sponsorship from The Douglas Hotel which has given them training hoodies, and provided hockey teas for home games, providing a beautiful setting for post match meetings.

They also offer visiting teams reduced room rates when coming over to play.

The club train every Thursday night at the Ormidale Park from 7.30pm to 9pm and now have 21 ladies registered

to play. Most have not played since school and some never before.

Anyone is welcome to training and the team is selected by coach Phil Adams on a weekly basis. The team can take 16 players to any of their matches, giving them five roll on/off substitutes.

Their first match was on 6 September playing GHK at home. This was the team's first official match in 15 years and they lost 3-2 after the team conceded a goal with just five minutes to go.

The second match was on 13 September away to Uddingston which Arran won 6-2. This was a fabulous result and gave them a much needed boost and to let many of the girls start believing in themselves.

Their third match was on 21

September in the West District Cup round 1. This match was away to Irvine who are the only team left playing on grass.

Great result

Arran won 1-0 which was a great result as they hadn't played on grass and they are now through to the second round on 2 November.

The 'Dame of the Game' in the first three matches were Pauline Reid, Anne Watts and Bethany Tetlow.

The team play every Saturday home or away and say it would be great to have local support at their home games.

The have three home games this month: today (Saturday) against Clydeside Western, pass back 2pm, next Saturday against Hillhead and welcome Dumfries as the visitors on 25 November.



Pauline Reid the 'Dame of the Game' against GHK.

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