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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2015 No 2034 60p

# Battlelines are drawn in fight for ferry contract

'We want to try and understand what the community wants' says bid director

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

The battlelines have been drawn in the fight for the right to run the Arran ferry services.

Private firm Serco, who will go head-to-head with Caledonian MacBrayne for the contract to run the lucrative Clyde and Hebridean Ferry Services, visited Arran this week with a promise to listen to what the travelling public want.

They are to hold an information day next month where islanders will get the chance to learn more about the company and the bid itself.

CalMac's contract to run the ferry services, including the two Arran routes, comes to an end in October next year and the Scottish government has put the contract out to tender, in line with European rules.

This is a lucrative contract with the Scottish government providing up to £1bn in funding to help the winning com-

pany improve services and to provide the road equivalent tariff (RET) discount travel fares.

Both companies have submitted their initial bids with the final bids to be made by February next year and a Scottish government decision expected in May. The new contract to run the ferry services will start on October 1, 2016 and will run for about eight years.

The Serco delegation visiting Arran was led by bid director, Jonathan Riley, a man used to winning contracts.

He led the winning bid team for the Northern Isles Ferries contract, Stockholm Harbour Ferries contract and the Caledonian Sleepers rail contract which Serco took over in April.

Mr Riley has more than 30 years' experience working in the UK transport industry and, since 2005, has been leading a large part of Serco's business development covering both maritime and rail transport in Scotland and Europe.

Continued on page 4



Kris Souter and Judy Murray teach a rapt audience of Whiting Bay pupils some new skills 02\_b43tennis02

## Judy inspires tennis stars of the future

Well known tennis mum Judy Murray visited Arran this week as part of her Tennis on the Road programme.

The roadshow aims to give parents, coaches, teachers and volunteers the tools that they need to get children active and playing tennis. Judy hopes to inspire a new generation of children with some of the games that she played with her sons, Andy and Jamie when they were younger.

The training was held at Whiting Bay Primary School on Wednesday by a team of four coaches lead by Judy along with Kris Souter, Robyn Horsburgh and Rhys Davis who entertained the children with fun games.

Acting headteacher, Raye Beggans, said that because of the limited space available, tennis had not been among the sports activities at the school. But, based on the immensely successful training session, it has become obvious that, with the purchase of a few tennis racquets, they could include tennis training for the children.

For a full report on the Tennis on the Road tour see next week's Banner.



Pupils demonstrate their hand eye co-ordination in this exercise using balloons 02\_b43tennis01



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# Eateries can benefit by using only quality Arran produce

Chefs on Arran are spoilt for choice as the range of great produce is as varied as its wonderful landscapes.

That was the view of keynote speaker, Jacqueline O'Donnell at an event organised to help Arran hospitality businesses capitalise on the business benefits of Taste Our Best, the awards scheme which recognises quality food and drink and the use of Scottish produce in menus.

Jacqueline is the chef/patron of the highly-acclaimed Glasgow restaurants, The Sisters and the star of BBC's Great British Menu. She has

worked with top Scottish chefs Tom Kitchin, Nick Nairn and Shirley Spears and shared her passion for our country's natural larder.

She told of her experience of customers' interest in the local provenance of food and drink, and about her award-winning restaurants' commitment to using quality Scottish produce and local suppliers, and ensuring this is actively communicated to customers.

Jacqueline told the audience made up of Arran's food producers and those involved in the hospitality and tourism

trade: 'Chefs in Scotland are so fortunate to have some of the very best ingredients in the world to use and to inspire them and for me, it's all about allowing the fantastic quality of our delicious produce to speak for itself.'

'Chefs on Arran are spoiled for choice - the range of great produce from the island is as varied as its wonderful landscapes - so it's important for local business to make the most of that and offer customers the very best taste of Arran. I'd encourage them too to make sure they tell customers the stories behind the ingredients they're using.'

#### Advantages

Hosted by national tourism organisation VisitScotland, A Taste of Arran and Arran Dairies, with support from VisitArran, the free event - aimed at owners and managers of restaurants, pubs, bars, cafés and takeaways, hotels, B&Bs, guest houses and visitor attractions - highlighted the business advantages of using and promoting the island's extensive and diverse range of fantastic produce to delight their customers with a 'taste of Arran'.

Held at the 1869 restaurant at the Auchrannie Hotel, over a buffet of Scottish tapas - which incorporated mouth-watering local pro-



Jacqueline O'Donnell speaks to the gathering of the hospitality industry 20\_b43lunch02



Jacqueline O'Donnell with Taste of Arran's Alastair Dobson at the lunch 20\_b43lunch01

duce - industry attendees heard tips from local chefs and producers about how to use locally sourced food and drink in their businesses' food offering.

Taste Our Best - a joint VisitScotland and Scottish Government initiative, supported by Scotland Food & Drink, was created to encourage eateries to deliver the very best Scottish food and drink experience and promote the local provenance of the ingredients and dishes they serve.

Launched for The Year of Food and Drink, which aims to boost economic growth by marketing the country's outstanding natural larder, the

scheme was developed as a direct response to evidence of consumer demand.

VisitScotland Regional Director, Annique Armstrong said: 'We're keen to encourage as many eateries as we can to work towards achieving Taste Our Best accreditation as it is such a valuable asset - both for the establishment itself and for its region's tourism industry and economy.'

Alastair Dobson of A Taste of Arran added: 'The array of quality produce we have here really does reflect the very best of food and drink across the length and breadth of the country. The superb selection

of producers the island boasts ranges from cheesemakers, bakers and market gardeners to chocolatiers, brewers and distillers.

'Taste Our Best accreditation presents a great opportunity for island businesses to demonstrate their use of quality local produce and reap the benefits of the rich resources on their doorstep but also demonstrating their use of produce from local suppliers through Taste Our Best accreditation. It's definitely an important way of attracting customers and helping us build Arran's reputation as a fantastic island to visit for quality food and drink.'

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# Belle's Boutique to open its doors in Brodick

'It will be hard work but I hope it will be worthwhile'

A new boutique is to open its doors in Brodick next month.

Belle's Boutique will open their second outlet on the island at the former Arran Asia shop on Brodick shorefront.

Arran Asia shut last month after 16 years of trading and the premises have now been taken over by Elizabeth Bell and her sister Sarah Southwick.

### Fun park

Elizabeth, who has lived on Arran for 13 years, already runs Belle's Boutique at the Arran Family Fun Park at Balmichael which opened last April.

And she runs a second business Arran Craft Works from home in Shiskine. Her sister Sarah has just moved to Ar-

ran from Newcastle with her young family.

The boutique in Brodick, which should be ready to open early next month, will sell discounted clothing from the top names in the high street, including Marks and Spencer, which Elizabeth sources from wholesalers.

The shop will also sell workwear, school uniforms, underwear and socks.

Elizabeth said: 'I am looking forward to the new challenge. It will be hard work but I hope it will be worthwhile.'

It comes just a week after it was announced that the former Bilslands store is to be reopened in Brodick by Andrew and Juliette Walsh who run Arran Active.



Elizabeth and Sarah outside their new shop 20\_b43bell01



Remember to put your clocks back one hour this weekend

## All change at Village Shop

Planning permission has been approved by North Ayrshire Council a change use of at the Village Shop in Whiting bay to form a cafe and sandwich bar.

The application will see the existing retail area being altered to form a cafe with a seating capacity of 24 and an extension towards the rear that will allow for a sandwich bar. A small storage area will also be created as part of the application.

## Scary walk and Trunk or Treat are lined up for halloween

The scariest night of the year returns to Brodick Castle with their annual Halloween scarefest called The Dead Walk taking place on Saturday, October 31.

With over 800 years of history, impressive period furnishings and a castle full of dimly lit corners and atmospheric rooms the venue is perfectly suited for the ghostly event.

The tours explore the large Victorian rooms and halls and other spooky areas before venturing out into the dark and foreboding woodlands outside.

The tours start at 5,00pm until 9,00pm at 15 minute intervals and

younger children are encouraged to take the earlier tours as the later the tour, the scarier they become! This event is not recommended for children under five years of age or for the faint hearted.

Hot drinks and freshly made doughnuts will be available after the tour. Bookings can be made online at [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)

Meawhile, the Arran Family Fun Park is opening for free to anyone who wants to come along to Balmichael Centre's first Trunk or Treat halloween event on October 31 from 3pm till 5pm.

But what is Trunk or Treat? The

centre's James Clark explained: 'In the USA we call a boot of a car a trunk, and this is the kind of event that communities have put together for the benefit of children in more rural areas.'

### Car boot decorated

'It's simple: you show up with your car boot decorated, like you might do with your home, and hand out treats to children.'

'While everyone is welcome to the event, we would prefer that you register in advance for the free tickets so we can keep track of how many people will be showing up to ensure we have enough staff and volunteers

to cover the amusements and events.'

The park are also looking for volunteers to come help set up, mind children around the park, and help give out candy and the cinema. If you're interested in helping, or if you'd like to bring your car for the Trunk or Treat event in the car park, please see the Balmichael Centre Facebook page.

\*If any community groups wish to let The Banner know when their halloween parties are being held please get in touch on 302142 or by e-mail at [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk) or drop a note in the office and we will do our best to get along.

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# Battlelines drawn in ferry fight

Continued from page 1

He previously worked with the Strategic Rail Authority, W S Atkins Consultants, the Halcrow Group, Thames Rail Ltd and British Railways.

And on his visit to Arran he pledged that the company would listen to what the travelling public wanted from their ferry service.

Speaking exclusively to The Banner he said: 'Last week we met with North Ayrshire Council to discuss the contract and we hope that will be the first of many meetings with the senior team there.'

**Understand**

'It is our aim to fully understand how the lifeline services impact local lives and are particularly keen to understand what the community wants and needs from its ferry provider be that freight, business or tourism all of which are really important.'

'Our experience working with local communities on

our NorthLink Ferries and Caledonian Sleeper services has taught us that no two communities are the same.

'And it is that thought process which will form the foundation of our engagement in Arran.'

Serco has more than 20 years experience of providing vital services to communities and government across Scotland including two hospitals Forth Valley Royal, Wishaw General and will deliver services at the new district general hospital in Dumfries which opens in 2018.

The global giant not only operates in the UK, but throughout Europe and in Asia and North America.

It also runs Kilmarnock Prison, Skypark, a multi-channel contact centre in Glasgow, and support services at Faslane and other contracts in Scotland.

The current ferry contract is held by CalMac Ferries Ltd



Serco bid director, Jonathan Riley, head of operations, Steve Rowbotham, and Ruridh Wilson, stakeholder manager beside the Brodick ferry they are bidding to operate 20\_b43serco01

(CFL) a subsidiary of David MacBrayne Ltd which, in turn, is wholly owned by the Scottish government.

CalMac returns to the Scottish government any profit it achieves over the

pre-agreed level of £1.5m. A CalMac spokesman said: 'We firmly believe that our track record as a major, multiple award-winning, UK transport operator providing lifeline ferry services in

some of the most challenging and demanding conditions - along with our deep rooted connections with the fragile and remote communities we serve - make us best suited to continue to operate Clyde

and Hebrides Ferry services from 2016. We are not complacent, however, and with the support of our existing customers and stakeholders, intend fighting hard to secure this contract.'



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## CalMac wins best ferry company honour at inaugural travel awards

Against stiff competition from across the world, Caledonian MacBrayne has won the best ferry company category at The Independent Travel Awards.

Nominees for this inaugural international competition were selected by public vote and industry experts, and the winners were chosen by a panel of judges.

The judges of the competition, run by The Independent newspaper, said: 'The winner, Caledonian MacBrayne, prevailed thanks to its artful combination of providing

lifelines from the Scottish Highlands to the islands, while at the same time offering an expanding range of tourist opportunities - such as the West Coast Whisky Pass.'

Other companies included in the shortlist were P&O, Brittany Ferries, Scillonian Ferries, British Columbia Ferries and Bosphorus Ferries - the latter was highly commended.

'We couldn't be more delighted to be the first ever recipient of this award,' said Caledonian MacBrayne's managing director, Martin

Dorchester. 'It was an extremely strong short list with companies which are well-known and admired within the industry.'

'The fact that the travelling public and industry experts selected us is a significant and pleasing endorsement in itself. Winning is a privilege. This award has to be accepted on behalf of all our staff for the exceptional work across all areas of our operation - they are the ones who work tirelessly to keep us on the water, sometimes in very challenging conditions.'

The award was presented to CalMac by senior travel editor and broadcaster, Simon Calder, at The Independent Travel and Tourism Conference, which was held in Oban last week.

Caledonian MacBrayne is also shortlisted as best ferry operator at the National Transport Awards, as well as in the corporate social responsibility category at the Scottish Business Awards, amongst others.



Senior travel editor, Simon Calder, presents the award to Martin Dorchester of CalMac

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# Assurances given that first new dual fuel ferry will serve on Arran route

## £97 million contract signed to see boats built on the Clyde

Assurances were given this week that Arran will get the first of two new ferries which are to be built on the Clyde.

Following the announcement that Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd (FMEL), Port Glasgow, has been named as the preferred tenderer for the contract to build two 100 metre 'dual-fuel' ferries, Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) and the shipyard last Friday signed the shipbuilding contract, worth £97 million.

The new ferries are earmarked for the Ardrossan-Brodick and the Uig Triangle routes, but there was concern when it was stated that the final decision on vessel deployment rests with CalMac Ferries Ltd and will be informed by further analysis of demand on all major routes.

And with the ferries not due in service until 2018, CalMac may not even be running the services by then, given their contract is up for renewal next year.

However, Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson insisted: 'The ferries being built are specifically for the Ardrossan-Brodick and the Uig Triangle routes. Given the success of RET and the need for a new vessel for the Ardrossan to Brodick route - and it will be designed with that route in mind, I see no likelihood of the new vessel serving anywhere else.'

'Under the tender, bidders are required to deliver services to a detailed specification based on the Ferries Plan 2012-2022 and subject to

strict contractual conditions. Ministers retain public control of routes, services and fares. The operator cannot unilaterally reduce services or increase prices and we have frozen ferry fares for the next year. The vessels too will remain in public ownership.

'Indeed, my focus is now directed towards a bigger and better vessel for Lochranza-Claonaig, given the success of that route under RET and I had my first meeting with the cabinet secretary for infrastructure, Keith Brown MSP at the SNP Conference last Friday to discuss it. I have also discussed the matter with Simon Richmond, CalMac, area operations manager.

'While a new ferry for that route is not on the immediate horizon, I am confident of progress and will keep Banner readers informed of future developments.'

### Detailed design

Now the contract has been signed, FMEL will now undertake the detailed design and construction work of the new vessels, as well as their testing, equipping, launching and delivery. The first ferry is expected to enter service in early 2018, with the second vessel following a few months later.

The contract will provide a boost for commercial shipbuilding on the Clyde and follows the shipyard's delivery of the first two hybrid ferries for the CMAL fleet, with the third due to launch in December this year. It will not only secure around 150 existing jobs in the Port Glasgow and Inverclyde area, but

create new jobs and aid the local economy.

The ships are designed to carry 127 cars or 16 HGVs or a combination of both and up to 1,000 passengers.

They will be capable of operating across a range of drafts and speeds to meet the requirements of the current operator, CalMac Ferries Ltd, to service a wide range of ports and routes.

The ferries will be 'dual-fuel' vessels so they can operate on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and marine diesel.

LNG is significantly cleaner and has been adopted by ferry operators in Northern Europe in response to tighter emissions regulations.

Minister for Transport and Islands, Derek Mackay, said: 'I'm delighted this contract has been formally awarded to Ferguson Marine Engineering Limited and the shipyard can now start work on these new 100m ferries, the largest commercial vessels to be built on the Clyde since 2001.'

'The award of this contract will see FMEL's 150-strong workforce retained and more staff taken on, underlining the Scottish government's commitment to creating the vital jobs needed to boost local economies and help stimulate growth across Scotland.'

'I once again congratulate FMEL on proving Scottish shipbuilding can succeed in a competitive market, and I look forward to seeing these new vessels join the West Coast ferry fleet in the future.'

Tom Docherty, Chief Ex-



The route's current ferry, MV Caledonian Isles, tied up at Brodick Harbour this week

02\_b43contract01

ecutive, CMAL commented: 'We are delighted to sign the shipbuilding contracts, securing FMEL as the contractor to build the two newest additions to our fleet. Key items of equipment will now be ordered, detailed plans will be developed for approval and it is anticipated that actual con-

struction will start early in 2016. We hope to see the first of these vessels in operation in early 2018.'

Liam Campbell, Managing Director, FMEL added: 'This is a great achievement for the yard and great news for the local community. The signing of the shipbuilding con-

tracts marks the beginning of a new era of commercial shipbuilding on the Clyde and, in conjunction with our experience in building battery hybrid vessels, confirms Ferguson Marine Engineering as a lead designer and builder of innovative green vessels internationally.'

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There was a surprise when the MV Isle of Arran was spotted in Brodick Bay this week having ended its summer season, but it was simply resting up after a day of post dry dock sea trials 02\_b43contract02

### Isle of Arran Bridge Club results

The results for Isle of Arran Bridge Club aggregate competition played on Thursday, October 15 at Brodick are: N/S: 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 John Baraclough and Jennifer Wales, 3 Jean Barclay and Morag Gardner. E/W: 1 Jian and John Beattie, 2 Linda Trickett and Elizabeth McKellar, 3 Jessmay Peacock and Margaret McGill.

Monday, October 19, aggregate competition played at Lamlash. N/S: 1 Margaret McGill and Alison Bilsland, 2 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 3 Jennifer McArthur and Jean Barclay. E/W: 1 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure, 2 John Baraclough and Jim Peacock, 3 Douglas Chase and Jennifer Wales.

### Community council meet

The next meeting of Arran Community Council will take place on Tuesday, October 27 at 6pm at the Ormisdale Pavilion in Brodick.

There will be updates from sub committee's covering forestry extraction, ferries and council restructuring. As always the meetings are open to the public.

# Life-saving training in island fire station

Members of the public took the opportunity to learn resuscitation techniques at Lamlash Fire Station last week.

Scottish Fire and Rescue has joined forces with the British Heart Foundation to help try and save lives across the country by providing 356 fire stations across Scotland as a base for members of the public to teach themselves CPR.

On Arran, members of the Lamlash retained fire service, Robert Simpson and Dave Ingham, were joined by group manager, Allan Stewart from Ardrossan fire headquarters, to teach the techniques using educational manikins and an instructional DVD.

#### Confidence

'It is all about giving people the confidence to do something if they find themselves



Stewart Cunningham of Lamlash (left) and Uel Lecky from Corrie learn resuscitation techniques using the manikins 20\_b43heart01



Fireman Robert Simpson explains how to perform mouth-to-mouth resuscitation 20\_b43heart02

in a situation when someone collapses. If we can save just one life with the initiative it will have been worthwhile,' Mr Stewart said.

The partnership is part of the

commitment of the fire service to support the Scottish government's out of hospital cardiac arrest strategy, which aims to save an extra 1,000 lives in Scotland by 2020.

### Free will writing offer for Arran residents

As part of Ayrshire Hospice's Make a Will fortnight, Arran residents can have a will drawn up free of charge by their local solicitor who will waive their usual fee in return for a donation to the hospice.

A total of 24 solicitors have signed up to the initiative, including 10 firms in North Ayrshire with local firm, Jas Campbell and Co, based at Invercloy House in Brodick offering their professional will service free in their support of the Ayrshire Hospice.

The firm recommend having a will drawn up to avoid the issues associated with intestate estates and recommend that you update your will and review it regularly as your personal circumstances change.

#### Gifts in wills

Gifts in wills are a vital source of income to the hospice. Over two thirds of hospice funding comes from voluntary donations, including gifts in wills, and every penny counts. Every gift, large or small, makes a difference to the patients cared for today, their families and loved ones, and those being cared for in the future.

Anyone interested in making their will should simply choose a solicitor from the list of those participating and make an appointment before Friday, October 30.

Olive Lindsay, Ayrshire Hospice Senior Fundraising Officer, said: 'We are so grateful for the ongoing support of the legal community throughout Ayrshire and Arran in providing this vital service free of charge. Together we have raised more than £60,000 over the past four years during Make a Will fortnight and we continue to be humbled by the support of the local community.'

For more information contact your local solicitor's office or visit [www.ayrshire-hospice.org](http://www.ayrshire-hospice.org)

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### Woman rescued after fall

A woman who was injured in a fall was rescued by the Arran Mountain Rescue Team.

The AMRT were called out last Friday afternoon to assist a woman who had fallen in the Ossians Cave area at the Cock of Arran.

Team members reached the casualty by Argocat and first aid was given as she had sustained knee, arm and facial injuries.

After being treated for her injuries, the casualty was then evacuated from the area by Argocat to a waiting ambulance.

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# First roadshow to bring local decisions into the community

## John has a long wait for walking prize

'As far as we know John's record has not yet been beaten'

A man who holds the record for walking round Arran has finally received his prize, just 25 years after he completed the challenge.

John Pennycott has been given the Arran Hospital Supporters' League stick for holding the record for walking round the island which he did in 11 hours and 24 minutes.

During the 1980s this event was held every year to raise funds for the charity.

The stick is inscribed: John Dalby and Neil McKechnie 1985, Neil McKechnie 1986, John Pennycott 1990.

League secretary Sheila MacLeod of Whiting Bay said: 'As far as we know John's record has not yet been beaten. The stick was given to Neil McKechnie by Mrs Sinclair and he donated it to the hospital supporters.'

'The stick has not been formally presented before now and who better to do this than Neilly himself, who has walked for fund-raising more times than mentioned on the stick.'

The Hospital Supporters' League began in 1983 and became a registered charity in April 1984. The



Neil McKechnie presents John Pennycott with the Hospital Supporters' League stick for holding the record for walking round Arran Photo: Jim Arnold

object of the League is to raise funds to provide comfort and help for patients and staff at the Isle of Arran War Memorial Hospital and for the community.

The hospital, medical centres, nurses, community nurses and ambulance service have all benefited.

Sheila added: 'The league continues to fund requests from the medical community. The committee and office bearers are deeply appreciative of the support we have had, and continue to have, from the people of Arran and take this opportunity to say thank you.'

## 'Local people will have a voice'

Brodick Hall will open its doors at 2pm on Wednesday, October 28 for the very first information roadshow on locality partnerships.

The roadshow forms part of a much wider nine week consultation on North Ayrshire Council's plans to develop locality partnerships across the area.

The roadshow is open to anyone looking for information on locality partnerships and will run until 6pm. Local community groups and representatives have already been invited to the consultation event which gets underway after the roadshow at 7pm.

The consultation forms part of the locality planning approach which results from the Christie Commission's argument for closer involvement of people in the design and delivery of the public services they use.

The approach will develop a stronger and more localised way of responding to community challenges. It will deliver better outcomes for local people and communities through increased participation in local decisions that take account of the needs, aspirations, capacities and skills of local communities.

The locality planning approach will see six locality partnerships established across North Ayrshire. Each partnership will develop locality plans and enable everyone's contribution on how best to address key local issues.

If you are a member of a North Ayrshire local community group then you should make every effort to take part in the wider consultation and roadshow. Local community groups will de-

termine how the locality partnerships will function and so your participation is key.

Council Leader, Willie Gibson, is urging local groups to get involved in the consultation. He said: 'These locality partnerships will give local people a voice and a seat at the table to discuss the issues which matter most to their communities.'

'This consultation will give local groups, community councils and other representative bodies the chance to have their say on how the partnerships will function and their participation is key to its success.'

The consultation will conclude on December 18 and the outcome will be reported to Cabinet early next year.

The council will be tweeting consultation developments - keep track of them at #NAlocalityplanning.

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AUGUST 2016



## Lost kittens in Lamlash

Two female tabby kittens have gone missing from a garden in Benlister Terrace, Lamlash, within the last week.

If you have any information about them please call 07977563611



Lamlash Aerobix – we're back for a limited period only!!!

Six weeks to tone those bones  
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6.30pm – 7.30pm – Arran High School Dance Studio/Gym!

Six week session – Monday £20 - Thursday £20  
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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Fair fight for ferries

So the fight is well and truly on to run our ferry services and it is a straight choice between CalMac and challenger Serco.

Who wins only the government can decide, but lets hope in the weeks and months to come there is a reasoned and sensible debate over where the future of the ferries lie, in private or retained in public hands.

The words 'lifeline services' are perhaps overused but, lets face it, they are our lifeline and we need to be sure that whoever runs them has the best interest of us, the travelling public, at the forefront of their priorities.

Of course both CalMac and Serco have promised to listen to what the public want. It would be a strange strategy to go into a contract fight without suggesting that is the case. But whoever wins is going to have to act as well as listen.

It is a time of uncertainly too for the CalMac staff. Their concerns led to industrial action earlier this year, as they felt it was the only way to get bosses to listen to their concerns over pay and conditions, and while this has returned to the background real and genuine worry still exists.

Of course both parties have their supporters and their detractors, but let's hope that the contract does not become a political football as there is too much at stake for it to be fought on petty political point scoring.

What is needed is a calm and sensible debate the outcome of which will affect each and every one of us.

The key dates are not that far away. Final bids have to be submitted in February next year with a government decision expected in May and a year from now the winner will already be running the ferries.

Lets hope it is a fair outcome and that the needs of Arran and the other islands and communities affected is at the top of the agenda. Not at the bottom.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on Him while He is near.' (Isaiah 55:6)

## 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



### Harmful to MPA

Sir,  
It is difficult to expand on the excellent letter by Stuart Turner in last week's Banner about the proposed extension of the fish farm in Lamlash Bay. He mentions the risk to the marine protected area of toxic chemicals (including antibiotics) and waste from fish and fish food.

I thought this waste from all fish farms in Scottish waters, predominantly on the west coast, was equivalent to the human waste from a town of 50,000 people.

To my surprise, results of research quoted in 2000 by Friends of the Earth and the World Wildlife Fund (Herald June 2001) suggest that this waste is in fact equivalent to that from a population of nine million people, nearly twice the population of Scotland!

Considering that there is spread of noxious substances for several hundred metres from cages, and Lamlash Bay is well enclosed, preventing dissipation, this can only be harmful to the marine protected area.

Yours,  
**Craig Simpson**  
Whiting Bay

### Distorted figure

Sir,  
Thank you for publishing my letter.

Just one thing that I think needs a correction. I wrote: 'More than 15 million litres of treatments containing hydrogen peroxide was used by Scottish salmon farms in 2013' whereas this was published as: 'More than 15 million litres of treatments containing hydrogen peroxide was used by the fish farm company in 2013'.

Your version seriously distorts the figure as it sounds like The Scottish Salmon Company used that amount whereas it was the whole Scottish salmon farm industry, of which TSSC is only a part.

Yours,  
**Stuart Turner**  
Lamlash

### Laugh out loud

Sir,  
Nothing whatsoever to do with the Isle of Arran but if you're suffering a little from mid winter blues can I suggest BBC catch up and a programme called 'Rich Hall, inventing the Indian'.

Laugh out loud informative entertainment - brilliant.

Yours,  
**Marc A Head,**  
Whiting Bay

### Fresh approach

Sir,  
We are a Swedish company with a fresh approach to rural business.

Husse Scotland is an all natural Swedish pet food company looking for a person on the island to sell and distribute their products to local pet owners. Basically we are a pet food brand who will deliver our foods free of charge to any one on the island, if we cannot find the right person on the island then we will come to the island a hold a nutrition and free weigh in day for pets where people with pets can bring them along, have them weighed and we will work out the feed rate and cost for them to be fed on our Swedish pets foods that are GMO free and all natural.

This is a great service for the island community and to top it all off, if we get people on the island buying our foods we will donate 5 per cent from every sale back to the community of the island of Arran. This food is very healthy, all natural and kind to the pet as its 92 per cent digestible

Go to You Tube and type in Husse Dumfries House dog show and see how the Duke of Rothsay loves our GMO free food and we can feed a dog from 25p per day and a cat from 17p per day.

Yours,  
**Kevin Simmonds**  
Shield House  
Cumnock

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## THE ARRAN BANNER

### ON HOLIDAY



Ian and Shereen McAdams in Cuba

The Arran Banner regularly receives pictures of its readers enjoying their holidays in far flung and exotic locations as well as closer to home.

In what has become something of a tradition, readers take a snapshot of themselves reading a copy of The Banner and when space allows we try and print these pictures.

In this week's edition we have a stunning sepia photograph of Ian and Sher-

een McAdams, who met on Arran four years ago, after their wedding in Cuba earlier this year. Ethan Sillars has also sent us this photo of himself at the top Ben Nevis where he took the time to catch up on island news on a misty day.

If you have a holiday photo with The Banner please send them to us either by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick, KA27 8AJ.



Ethan Sillars at the summit of Ben Nevis b38holiday02No

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# Polarbear to visit Arran High School

A critically acclaimed performance poet, playwright and author is visiting Arran High School next week.

Steven Camden, aka Polarbear, who is visiting schools in North Ayrshire as part of a Scottish tour, starts off with a visit to Arran on Monday, October 26.

Renowned for his straight-talking style, his gripping storytelling and hip hop sensibilities, Steven writes novels aimed at young adults.

His debut novel 'Tape' has been followed up with his second novel called 'Its all about love' and it is this latest offering along with his top writing tips that he will be sharing with pupils in Lamlash.

Set in Steven's home town of Birmingham, 'It's About Love' tells the story of two teenagers from different

backgrounds and different sides of town who meet during their first week at college.

Steven will encourage pupils to share their opinions on the themes of family, friendship, loyalty and revenge that flow through the book and to come up with story and character ideas of their own.

### Looking forward

Steven said: I can't wait to come back up to Scotland after the fun of last time. I'm really looking forward to introducing people to the world and characters from It's About Love and making up lots of our own.'

Having appeared at events all over the UK and internationally, from Glastonbury to California, Beth Bottery, school events manager at Scottish Book Trust which is organising the tour described Steven's books as: 'address-

ing issues that are relevant to many young adults in an entertaining and engaging way. I am sure pupils will be inspired by his action packed events.'

Scottish Friendly Assurance who sponsor the event bring visits from authors to 12 local authorities every year to inspire a love of reading, writing and illustration and has been received by over 70,000 children since it began in 1998.

Calum Bennie, communications manager at Scottish Friendly said: 'Seeing and hearing a writer "in the flesh" does so much to get young people engaged or re-engaged with books and with Steven we have an author and poet who is so much on the wavelength of his audience that all pupils in are sure to be enthused by the experience.'



Part of the exhibition which will be on Arran next week

## Exhibition to mark 20 years of Fairtrade

Fairtrade in action means a lot more than just giving farmers in the developing world a fair price for their bananas, tea and coffee, as can be seen at an exhibition being held on Arran next week.

The colourful photographic exhibition 'Fairtrade at 20' will be held in Brodick Library from Tuesday, October 27 until Saturday 31.

The Fairtrade Foundation has loaned the exhibition to help mark North Ayrshire's status as a Fairtrade Zone and to provide local folk with background on how fair trade helps communities in developing countries who produce so much of what we consume.

Joe Broussard, chair of the North Ayrshire Fairtrade Zone steering group said: 'We feel people here cannot but be impressed by the difference fair trade makes to the lives of the farmers and growers in the photographs. We want to encourage everybody to choose fair trade products when they see them and to contact us if they would like to be more involved in this campaign.'

### Steering group

Fairtrade Arran is part of the North Ayrshire Fairtrade Zone. They are a small steering group and would like to hear from anyone living on the island who would be interested in joining them.

## Council acclaimed for consultation

North Ayrshire Council is the first recipient of a brand new consultation award.

The Consultation Institute (TCI) awarded their skills development award to the council at its annual conference in London. North Ayrshire Council was the only Scottish local authority acknowledged among 25 English councils.

The award was introduced by the TCI this year to recognise an organisation which

has shown outstanding investment in building the capacity of its workforce in relation to consultation policies and practices.

The Consultation Institute promotes the highest standards of public, stakeholder and employee consultation by introducing research publications and specialist events to share best practice and improve subsequent decision-making.

Chief executive of North Ayrshire Council, Elma Murray, said: 'I am absolutely delighted that North Ayrshire Council is the very first recipient of this award.'

'It reflects the value we place in productive consultation which achieves meaningful outcomes.'

'It is testament to the fair and open practice which is central to all of our engagement activities.'

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Pylons along the Boguille road, an area of outstanding natural beauty 02\_b43power07



On the north eastern side of Arran electricity pylons sit prominently above the road 02\_b43power05

# Going under overhead po



An electricity sub-station off the A880 above the scenic Machrie valley 02\_b43power03



## Halloween - The Dead Walk at Brodick Castle, Garden & Country Park

Sat 31 Oct, 5.30-9.50pm (at 15 min intervals)

Join us on the scariest night of the year as we peer into dimly lit corners of the castle and venture out into the dark woodland. Not for the faint-hearted! Spaces are limited and booking is essential at [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk)



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# Public get the chance

Islanders are being given the chance to have their say on overhead distribution power lines they would like to see go underground.

Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) is urging the public to nominate power lines presently running across officially designated beauty spots, which they would like to see buried.

The electricity operator has launched a six month consultation to identify 48km of its

overhead distribution network in National Parks and National Scenic Areas that can be buried underground.

That includes the North Arran National Scenic Area which covers the whole of the northern end of Arran and extends as far south as the String Road from Brodick to the Machrie Moor road end.

The £5.5 million project will give the public, authority groups and charities the opportunity to nominate overhead

line sections, normally carried on wooden poles, within SHEPD's network areas which they would like to be considered for going underground.

SHEPD is responsible for maintaining the electricity networks supplying around 750,000 homes and businesses in the north of Scotland, the Highlands and Islands.

SHEPD will work with a variety of planning offices with responsibility for National Parks and National Scenic Areas to help it compare and prioritise the nominated sections. The cost to underground the overhead sections can vary due to the voltage, length of circuit and geography and these will be considered when selecting the final areas.

Kirstine Wood, stakeholder engagement manager with SEPD, who is working on the project said: 'We want our customers to play an important role in deciding which areas we consider for undergrounding. Overhead power lines are vital to ensure a safe, reliable and cost-effective electricity network.'

'However, we understand people feel they can have a detrimental impact on the views of the natural environment. To help address this concern we

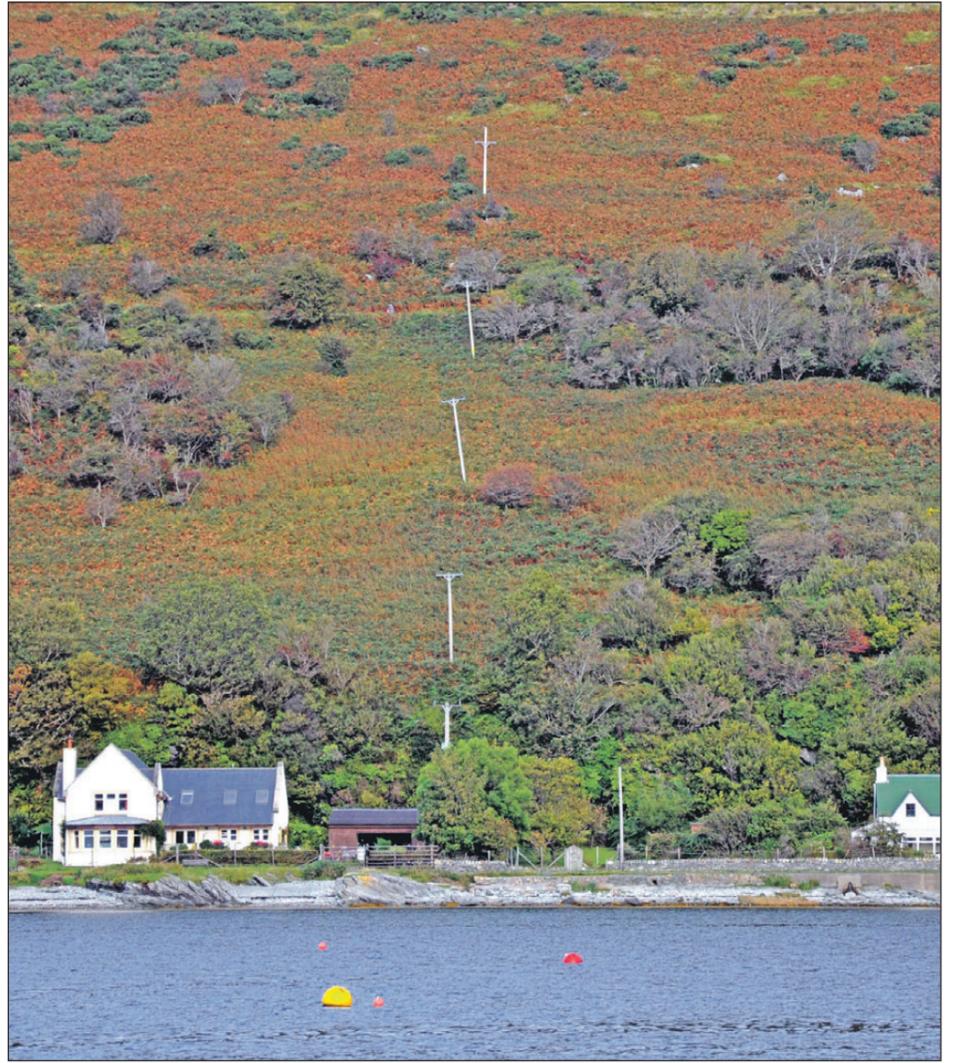


Kirstine Wood says customers can play an important role

# ground with wer lines



Large pylons leading up to Machrie forest o2\_b43power04



The overhead power network leading to houses in Lochranza o2\_b43power01

## ce to have their say

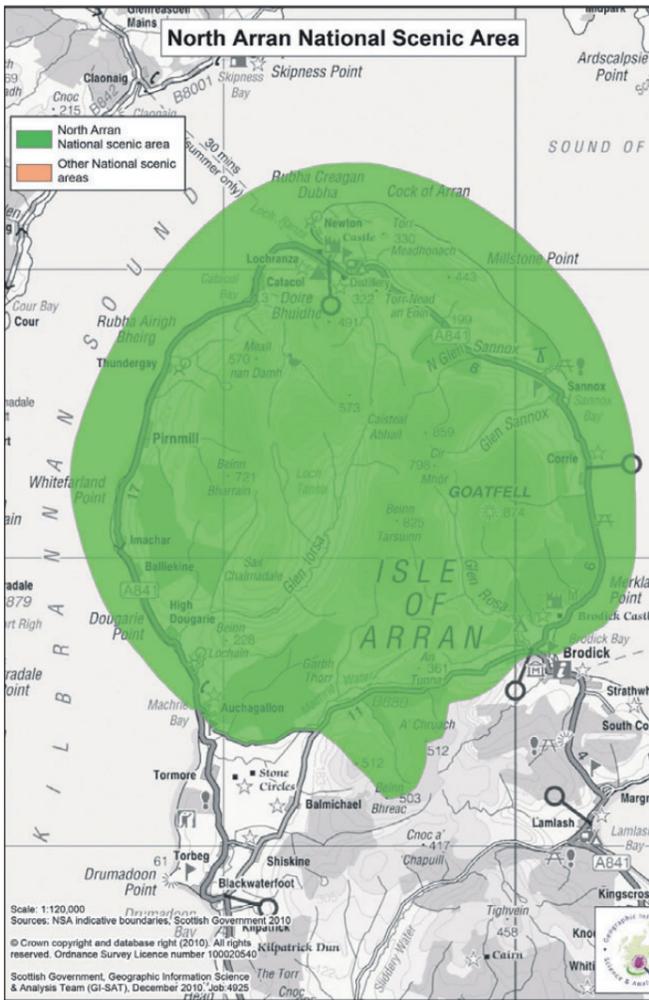
are launching a programme of undergrounding overhead lines in National Parks and National Scenic Areas.

‘We will engage with our customers and stakeholders to consider which sections of the overhead network can be undergrounded in a cost effective way and improves the visual impact of the natural environment.’

‘Undergrounding overhead lines is expensive and can often cause more damage to the environment than wooden poles or towers. Therefore we have to carefully consider each nominated area, work closely with other utilities, landowners and public bodies to plan and identify the best areas where we can do the work.’

To nominate an area people need to complete a form on SHEPD’s website. Submissions will require a photograph of the suggested area to show the current impact the overhead line causes.

Kirstine added: ‘We encourage anyone who would like an eligible area to be considered to fill in the form. We cannot guarantee all nominations will be selected but we will consider every submission and we will speak with everybody to explain our decisions.’



A map showing the North Arran national scenic area under consideration for undergrounding

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# Sculptor stages his first Scottish show in more than a decade

Arran sculptor, Tim Pomeroy, is to stage his first major show in Scotland for more than a decade.

The exhibition is entitled 'Contemporary Sacred - current sculptures, ideas and directions' is also Tim's first to be staged at The Fine Art Society in Edinburgh.

The month-long exhibition, which opens on November 20, features most of the

works exhibited at The Fine Art Society in London, but this new show will allow his appreciative followers to view a collection of his works a little closer to home.

Tim, a consummate artist, is often referred to as Britain's foremost stone carver with his works being included in both private and public collections such as Gray's School of Art, Leeds City Art Gallery,

Glasgow City Council, Strathclyde University, Chatsworth House, The Archdiocese of Glasgow and The Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery.

Born in Hamilton in 1957, he attended Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen from 1976 to 1981 where he was also invited back to lecture in 1983.

Tim has worked as a full-time artist since 1983 and is also well known as a painter, illustrator and poet.

His studio, located in a beautiful position above Lamlash Bay, displays many of his works that illustrate his diversity as an artist, working in many mediums from paper to elm wood and Cumbrian slate to granite stone.

Taking inspiration from the natural world and in machined objects, his recent works have been based on jewellery and grave objects from Neolithic and Bronze age archaeology.

Nicholas Usherwood, curator and art critic,



A pneumatic chisel is used on this stone sculpture



Tim Pomeroy in his garden at his home above Lamlash Bay

heaped praise on Tim's work. He said: 'Seed-pods, flower petals, arrowheads, spindles, parachutes, late Neolithic, early Bronze Age archaeology and Celtic Druidical grave-objects, even folded paper - the protean variety of sources on which Tim Pomeroy's sculpture seems to draw can, at first sight, appear bewildering,

the range of forms they give rise to is no less eclectic. 'There is, in short, an intense, transformative synergy of images and materials in Tim's sculpture which goes beyond what mere words, however imaginatively and carefully chosen, can do - a unifying poetry within which those interweaving acts of hand, thought and emotion

convey the sacred in a most profoundly contemporary form.'

The exhibition at The Fine Art Society in Dundas Street, Edinburgh will open to the public on Friday November 20 and runs to Wednesday December 23. For more information on the exhibition visit: [www.fasedinburgh.com](http://www.fasedinburgh.com).



Left: Many of the works can take an inordinate amount of time to perfect

Below: Tim Pomeroy working on a large stone piece



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Elma Stevenson at the Shiskine WRI meeting where she gave a talk on patchwork

# Shiskine SWI spotlight on world of patchwork

Evelyn Hamilton, president of Shiskine SWI, gave a very warm welcome to 27 members at the September meeting of the 2015/2016 season.

Elma Stevenson delighted her audience with an informative, witty and entertaining introduction to the world of patchwork. What's the difference between patchwork and quilting?

Elma explained it all. She told the audience about the heritage tradition behind

patchworking – patterns that have come down through the generations with names like 'Courthouse Steps', 'Log Cabin' and 'Trip Around the World' and many more.

As Elma said, it takes imagination, inspiration, patience and skill to turn coloured materials into wonderful quilts, cushions and even clothes. To encourage everyone, she gave them a selection of fabrics for them to choose from and to take home with them, as well as a basic

pattern and instructions. There were books that people could borrow (and return!) and much, much more information for everyone that wished to take part.

Lynn Macdonald thanked Elma on everyone's behalf for coming all the way from Sannox to share her knowledge and skills with the group. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 4, when Jim Cassels will talk about 'The birds on your doorstep'. Susie Thompson



## The Bothy - a new limited edition release by distillery

The award-winning Isle of Arran Distillery this week launched its latest limited edition bottling.

Named for the modest dwellings that were common to the Highlands and islands, The Bothy Quarter Cask was matured in small barrels reminiscent of those used in the whisky trade in the 18th and 19th centuries.

The multi-vintage Arran Single Malt selected for The Bothy was initially matured in first-fill ex-Bourbon barrels. It was then transferred for secondary maturation into smaller casks, made of the finest American oak.

This produces far greater contact between the whisky and oak and a faster, more intense maturation. The end

result is a full-bodied expression of The Arran Malt.

Master distiller, James MacTaggart, said: 'The centuries-old history of whisky-making on the island is at the heart of everything we do and with this new bottling we've captured those traditions. There are only 12,000 bottles available worldwide so we expect this edition to be

highly sought-after. The picturesque artwork on the bottle, coupled with a superior dram, makes this a beautiful collector's item as well as a fantastic whisky to drink.'

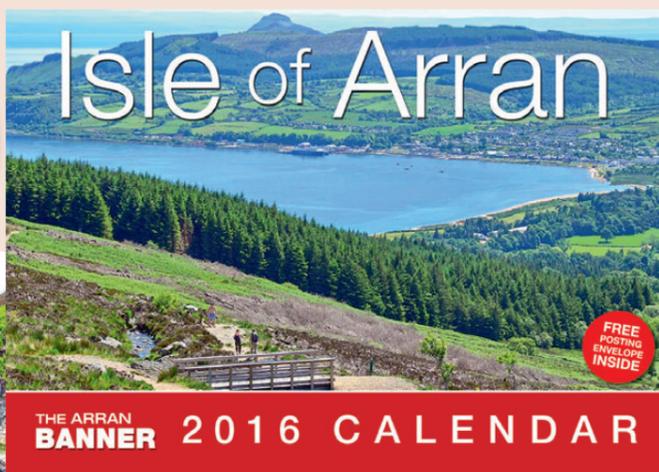
The Bothy has a nose of sandalwood, malty barley and damp oak. A sweet palate with the Arran character of fresh pineapple, green apples and toasted brioche is

enriched with a kick of red chilli. Finishing with refreshing citrus notes, The Bothy delivers all the complexity and richness for which the distillery is well renowned.

Bottled at natural cask strength 55.7% abv, The Bothy is available at specialist whisky shops and www.arranwhisky.com priced £54.99.

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There is something about the Isle of Arran which makes everyone who visits the island fall just a little bit in love with it – or even a lot!

It is more often than not referred to as 'Scotland in miniature' but we like to think of it as being absolutely unique.

We have set out to show some of those unique qualities in our Arran Banner Isle of Arran Calendar 2016 by scouring dozens of images of the island to find the best that represent the light, scenery and places dear to those who also love the island.

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# Kelpies creator Andy Scott guest speaker at Arran Saltire Society



The magnificent Kelpies at the Forth and Clyde Canal

Andy Scott, sculptor of The Kelpies, visited Arran's shores this week.

His purpose was to address the audience of the second meeting of The Saltire Society, Arran, writes Hazel Gardiner.

A quiet, unassuming man, Andy spoke of the eight and a half years it took to bring The Kelpies from submitted sketch to monumental landscape artwork to a captivated audience at Altachorvie, Lamlash, which included Lewis MacVicar as his technical assistant.

To date, Andy has completed more than 70 projects and, woven into his talk, were anecdotes about life and the landscape, comparing opening the doors of his studio on Australia's coastline with his current premises opening the doors to the frequently rainy Maryhill that is now home to his creative origins.

In a career that has held both the sleepless nights of managing vast and

complicated industrial and political projects - with the headrush of stopping traffic in Manhattan for the installation of the touring miniature Kelpies - one anecdote that surprised and delighted the audience related to the building of the distillery at Lochranza, for it was Andy, working with a team, who fashioned the balustrades.

### Enthralled

Speaking effortlessly for an hour and a half with humour and technical detail blending into a unique script, Andy held the audience enthralled throughout and he was gracious and generous in answering questions from the audience afterwards.

Andy honours a dignified industrial past by harnessing those traditional skills to give current employment, bringing distinction to the landscape with sculptures of monumental greatness.

His awareness of and sensitivity to the layers of history and humanity within each project is what makes

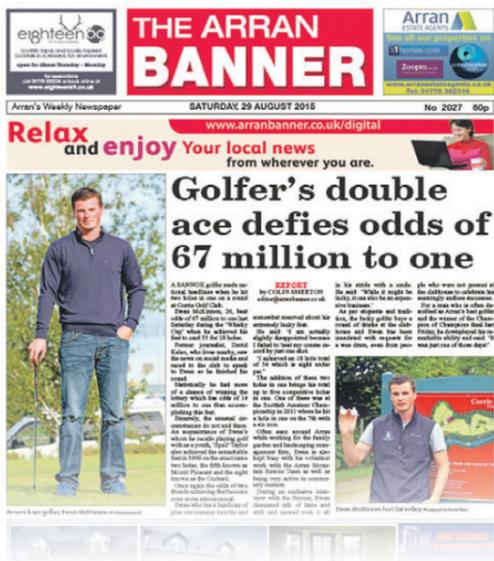
his works iconic. If his only legacy was The Kelpies he would have shown distinction indeed, but there can be no doubt that so much more will be said in steel by this quiet-mannered giant of our times.

His sculptures can be seen in Belfast, by the River Clyde, in London and Australia. As well as the iconic Kelpies in Falkirk there is an Andy Scott Sculpture Trail in Clackmannanshire, and it is Andy's work, Heavy Horse, that you see on the M8 while travelling between Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Of the symbolic Angel of Thanksgiving beacon in Belfast he told the audience 'That's a whole evening's talk in itself'. Haste ye back, Andy.

The Saltire Society, Arran will welcome Dolina McLennan, actress, singer, writer, formerly of the theatre company 7:84 to their next meeting which takes place on Wednesday, November 4 at 7.30pm in The Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick.

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Left to right: David Yuzenas, Joni Keen, Andy Scott, Hazel Gardiner, Lewis MacVicar, Andrew and Nicky Surridge and Heather Gough at the Saltire Society meeting

## ARRAN RIDING CLUB DINNER DANCE

All members & non-members welcome.

SAT 7<sup>TH</sup> NOV  
KINLOCH HOTEL  
6.30PM

Formal dress  
3 course meal & dance  
**£30 - Adults & £20 - Kids**

All under 18s must be accompanied by an adult over 21.  
Tickets are valid for the full dinner and dance -  
Strictly no entry will be permitted to the dance alone.

For tickets please contact Jayne on either:  
**860 392 / 07825 876 908**  
or email: [treasurer@arranridingclub.com](mailto:treasurer@arranridingclub.com).

Closing date for ticket sales: Wed 4th November.

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

## THE ARRAN

## BANNER

TWENTY  
YEARS AGO

Saturday 28 October, 1995

## Beach danger

Wartime incendiary devices were this week washed up on the shores all round the Clyde and Arran was no exception.

Head coastguard Peter Marshall told The Banner: 'The whole of Newton Shore was on fire. It was like the D-Day landings with over 200 sticks burning on the beach.'

Incendiary devices being found on Arran's shore is not unusual, especially on Blackwaterfoot beach. When washed ashore they dry out, start to smoke and then burst into flames.

The government has ordered a survey of Beaufort's Dyke, an area in the Irish Sea where wartime munitions were dumped. Island children have been warned at school to beware of any objects that they see on the beach after a child was injured in Campbeltown last week.

## All change

The Isle of Arran Tourist Board will be wound up on March 31 and in its place will emerge the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board. Following changes in the Scottish office, fewer, but larger, tourist boards will emerge.

Current managers from both Ayrshire and Arran have been unsuccessful in final interviews for head of the new merged boards with the successful candidate being Paul Buchanan who has been director of tourism in Dundee.

The new Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board will have a committee of 19 of which three will represent Arran. 'We are in a state of transition,' said tourism manager Charles Currie, 'the Tourist Information Centre in Brodick and on the boat are secure, but the Lochranza office may not be.'



The Rev Sheila Mitchell of Brodick will this Sunday preach at Lesmahagow Old Parish Church having been chosen by the vacancy committee there as their sole nominee b43twe03

## Registry closure

The registrar's office at Lochranza is closing down temporarily, perhaps permanently. Registrar Mrs Marshall has said that she does not wish to continue, although not very busy it is nevertheless very tiring.

All registrations on the island of births, deaths and marriages must now be done through the council offices in Lamlash.

It is understood that some effort will be made to replace Mrs Marshall and keep the registration facility in the north of the island but if not successful, the whole operation will be conducted solely from Lamlash.

## Holy Isle

Plans were passed this week for the building of two retreats on Holy Isle. The plans for public toilets and a tearoom were withdrawn because if they were to go ahead, planners were insisting that Samye Ling would have to provide extra parking spaces in Lamlash for Holy Isle visitors.

Thom McCarthy of Samye Ling said: 'Maybe we will put a small sign in Lamlash saying you are welcome to come to Holy Isle but please empty your bladder first.'

## Winter sailing

The Claonaig ferry is now making sailings between Lochranza, Claonaig and Tarbert on two days a week, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

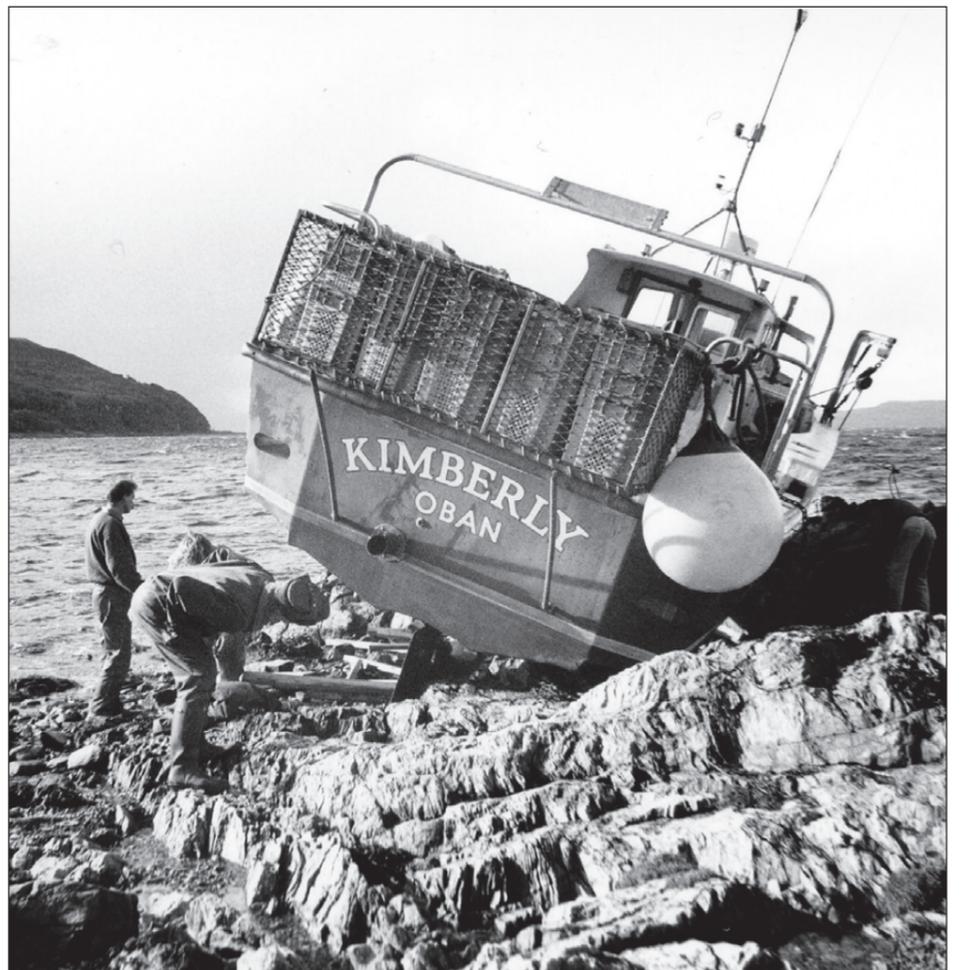
This is the first time that this sailing has been operated during the winter. Due to start last winter it did not get going as the harbour at Tarbert had not been made ready for the vessel to berth overnight.



Pictured at the ferry terminal this week was the MV Caledonian Isles lifeboat being launched, but thankfully it was just part of their regular lifeboat drills b43twe04



The Kilmory Community Bus Committee was overjoyed this week to learn that they scooped £22,000 from the National Lottery charity fund. The idea of a Kilmory community bus took shape six years ago, not to replace existing taxi services but to compensate for the poor bus service to outlying Arran areas. The bus is used most days and nights of the week by the Brownies, ladies darts team's and school swimming trips. Pictured are Edna Picken and Stuart Yates with the first bus in 1989 b43twe01

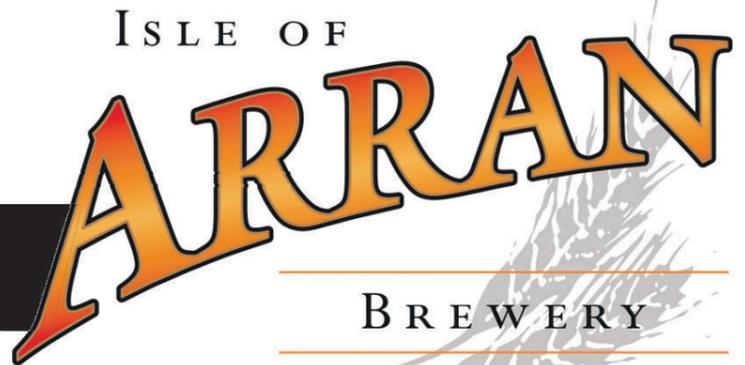


This is one of the results of last week's wild and windy weather. Taken last Friday this is Charlie Weir's fishing boat high and dry on Newton Shore, Lochranza. She was successfully refloated when the high tide came in b43twe02

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.com](http://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 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

Healthy Outdoors  
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club Rink Game  
 RunArran Run Coaching  
 Open Cricket Session  
 Garden Walk  
 Bridge  
 Scottish Country Dancing  
 Lamlash Drama Club  
 Community Council Meeting

NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm  
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.45pm  
 Lamlash, 5.30pm  
 Brodick Astro Turf 7pm-9pm  
 Brodick Castle, 2 - 3pm  
 Brodick Golf Club, 7pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 6pm

## Saturday 24th October

Army Cadets  
 Over 21s Disco  
 Family Games  
 Fun in the Pool  
 Live Music  
 Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic  
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club Rink Game  
 Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game  
 WBay Bowling Club Rink Game  
 Ceilidh Dancing  
 Live Music with James Burge  
 Arran Ladies Hockey vs Ardrossan

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.  
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4-5pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm  
 arranphysiotherapy.co.uk 9-12noon  
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.45pm  
 Lamlash Bowling Club, 2pm  
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
 The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm  
 Ormidale Park, 11.30am

## Wednesday 28th October

Rock & Pop Bingo  
 Tae Kwondo  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Arran Brass Rehearsal  
 Yoga  
 Hydrofit  
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
 RunArran Mixed Ability  
 Yoga-Arran  
 Live Music  
 Drift Inn Quiz  
 Mixed Hockey  
 Dog Classes  
 Knitting & Crochet Drop In Group

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 Library, 4pm - 6pm

## Sunday 25th October

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

## Thursday 29th October

Morning Fitness  
 General Knowledge Quiz  
 Ladies Hockey  
 RunArran Jogscotland Beginners  
 RunArran Mixed Ability  
 Live Music  
 Cardiac Rehab  
 QuiltArran  
 Brodick Embroidery Group  
 Burger & Quiz Night

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm  
 Brodick, 9.30am  
 Brodick, 6pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm  
 Auchrannie Leisure Club, 2-3.30pm  
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm  
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm

## Monday 26th October

Over 50s Badminton  
 Badminton  
 Live Music  
 Morning Fitness  
 Table Tennis  
 Badminton  
 Arran Junior Football Club  
 Circuit Training  
 WBay Bowling Club Rink Game  
 10/10 Total Body Workout  
 Citizens advice  
 Lamlash Aerobix  
 RunArran Jogscotland Beginners  
 RunArran Mixed Ability  
 Bridge  
 Scottish Country Dancing for beginners & improvers  
 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  
 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, 5pm  
 Whiting Bay, 5.30pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.30pm  
 Corrie Hall, 2-4pm  
 Brodick Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

## Friday 30th October

Yoga  
 Hydrofit  
 Arran Youth Foundations  
 Live Music  
 Lochranza Kids Badminton  
 Lochranza Adults Badminton  
 Quiz  
 AA Meeting  
 Live Music  
 Tae Kwondo

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm - 8.30pm

## Tuesday 27th October

Pop Quiz  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Youth Club  
 Rotary Club

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm

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# Recruitment



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At 7.30 pm on Thursday 29th October  
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Brodict Hall  
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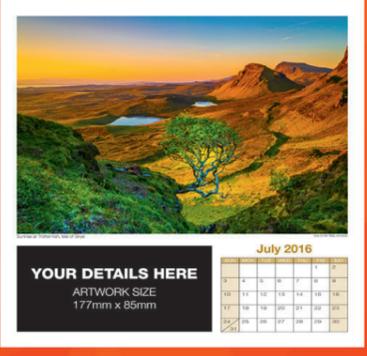
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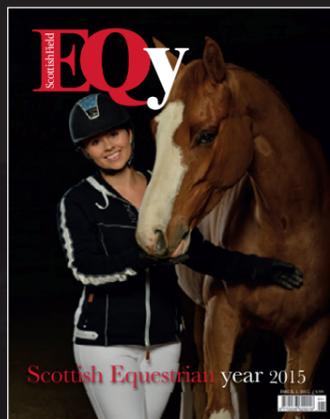
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### CHURCH NOTICES

#### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday, 25th October**  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
Mrs Janis Gallagher.  
Coffee after service.  
**Wednesday 28th October**  
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.

#### 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 25th October**  
Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches, 10.15am Harvest Festival Service  
in Lochranza Church.  
Shiskine Church, 12noon Harvest Festival Service.  
Brodick Church, 10.30am Harvest Festival Service.  
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12 noon Harvest Festival Service.  
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.  
**Thursday 29th October**  
Service of Prayers for Health and Healing, in St. Mollie's Church, Shiskine at 12noon

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 25th October**  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
Rev. Lily McKinnon  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)  
**Sunday 25th October**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
Prayer Meeting  
Wednesday 28th October at 7pm  
5 Glen Road  
All welcome

#### WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 25th October**  
Worship will be led by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.  
All welcome.  
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.  
All most welcome

#### HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday Morning Mass 11am

#### ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 25th 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

#### ARAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**Sunday 25th October**  
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm (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

### DEATH

**JACKSON - JOHN** - Formerly of Kinsale, Whiting Bay, died peacefully at his home in Spain on 16th October aged 85 years. Eileen and the family will greatly miss him. Funeral service took place on 23rd October at Polmont Old Parish Church.

**LIDDY - ROBERT** - Peacefully at Crosshouse hospital on Monday, 12th October 2015 after a short illness. Bob, aged 85 years, much missed dad and papa of the family. Funeral service at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreghorn on Friday, 23rd October at 1:00pm.

#### RUSSELL - ALEXANDER BEATON

Peacefully at Cooriedoon Nursing Home on Wednesday, 14th October 2015. Sandy, aged 93 years, beloved husband of the late Lucy, father of Elizabeth, Jeannette and the late Iain, much loved grandad of Andrew, Duncan, Philip, Louise and great grandad to Olivia, Harris, Lucca, Harry, Thea and Lucy. Will be sadly missed by all his

family and friends, but leaves us all with happy memories of a kind and gentle man. Funeral service in Brodick Church on Monday, 26th October at 11:30am and thereafter to Brodick new cemetery to which all are welcome. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Alzheimers Scotland or Cancer Research.

**BRUCE - MARJORY STEWART** - Suddenly on 18th October. Marjory Stewart Bruce nee Nicol formerly of Cliffdene Sannox. Devoted wife to the late Peter Bruce, Mother of John, Marjory and the late David Bruce. Mother in Law to Janice and Danny. Much Loved Granny to Marjory and Katharine and a friend to David. Funeral Service on Wednesday 28th October. St. Mary's Greyfriars Church at 11am. Thereafter to Roucan Loch at 12 noon.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**KERR - MACVICAR** - The family wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy and cards following our sad loss of our loving wife, mum and gran. Heartfelt thanks to all Doctors, nurses and caring staff who supported and cared for Sandra throughout the years. Special thanks to Jean Hunter for a lovely service, David and Clair Hendry for their care and funeral arrangements and to Sannox Bay for the catering. Thanks to all for the magnificent sum of £1100 raised for ArCaS and The Isle of Arran Hospital Supports League.

**TOD - WILLIAM** - The family wish to thank relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and cards following our sad loss of Willie, Much loved husband of Mary and dad to Mary Jo, Carol, Hazel and dear papa to Lily and Rose. Thanks to doctors and nursing staff in Lamlash Hospital and Ayr hospice. Special thanks to John Webster for a beautiful and comforting service. David and Clair Hendry for funeral arrangements. Lagg Hotel for excellent catering. £915 was raised for Ayr Hospice. Thanks to all.

#### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Friday, October 16, October Sweep, 8 played in the usual Autumn conditions, a beautiful morning and a first class course. 1 Andy Martin, 11, 39pts, 2 Pete Smith, 15, 37pts, acb, 3 Stuart McGregor, 24, 37pts. Andy is rewarded with the customary 2 stroke reduction in his handicap.

Sunday, October 18, The Hamilton Salver, 13 competed on another fine autumn morning with bright sunshine appearing after a misty start.

Congratulations go to Kevin McAleney on winning his first trophy at WBGC with a fine net 61. 1 Kevin McAleney, 13, 61, 2 John Pennycott, 13, 63, 3 Peter Smith, 17, 64, acb, 4 Jamie Macpherson, 6, 64 and lowest gross.

Kevin bagged the only magic two of the day @17th. Fixtures: Saturday, October 24, Texas scramble at 1pm. End of season buffet at 7.00pm. Tickets still available. Contact the clubhouse on 700487 to book your place.

Sunday, October 25, Stableford.

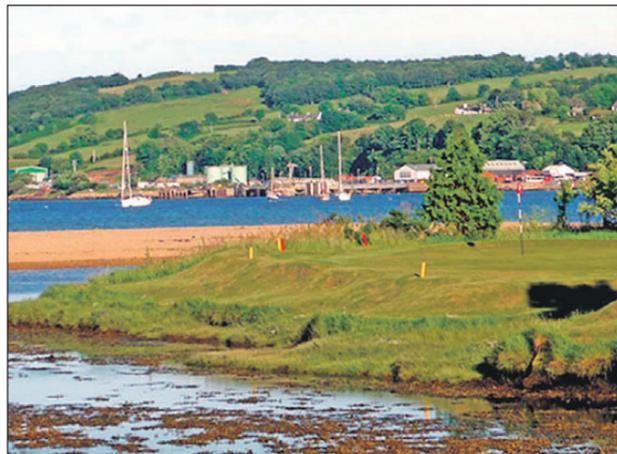
#### Corrie Golf Club

Saturday, October 17, Sweep. 1 E McKinnon 58+2=60, 2 J Adams 70-9=61, 3 A Napier, 70-7=63, Scratch E McKinnon 58. 2s J Adams, G Hendry, E McKinnon, A Napier, D Logan. Another great score from Ewan.

Fixtures: Saturday, October 24, Sweep, ballots at 08.30am and 1.00pm.

#### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday, October 14, seven started off in good conditions finishing chilly and breezy. Winner Bert McGunigle with 78-12=66. There were no magic twos so it is a



#### Brodick Golf Course

rollover to the next game. Tee off every Wednesday 12noon, all welcome.

Sunday, October 18, Clochendichter Round 1. On yet another perfect day for golf, this winter's much anticipated Clochendichter got under way with reigning champions Knowe beating wooden spooners Street by the narrowest of margins, 2 games to 1. Same score in the other match with Village beating Alma.

Fixtures, Sunday, October 25, Winter Cup, Open draws at 9:00am and 12:00 noon. Please note winter start times as clocks change.

#### Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday, October 15, Back 9 Medal, 1 Scott Macfarlane 35-7=28, 2 Ian Taylor 38-9=29, BL 6 Holes, 3 Iain Murchie 31-2=29, Scratch Iain Murchie 31. Magic twos Drew Wales @16th, Scott Macfarlane @14th.

Sunday, October 18, Glenburn Cup, 15 played, CSS 64. 1 Iain Murchie 64-4=60, 2 Ian Taylor 83-18=65, 3 Ian Bremner 73-7=66, Scratch Iain Murchie 64. Magic twos Calum Rae at 16th, Jim Henderson at 5th.

Fixtures: Sunday, October 25, Stableford, tee times, 9.30am and 12noon. Thursday, October 29, Yellow Medal, ballot at 10am, tee off 11am. Please note the Golf Shop is now closed so please use the honesty box.

#### Machrie Golf Club

Tuesday, October 13, Winter Cup, 7 played. 1 Dave

Brookens 73-12=61, 2 Elizabeth Kelso 84-22=62, 3 John Pennycott 76-13=63. Magic two @5th by Alastair MacDonald.

Tuesday, October 20, Lochranza Hotel Cup Stableford, 14 played. Qualifier, men CSS 62, ladies CSS 65. 1 John Pennycott 41pts, 2 Aileen Latona 39pts BIH, 3 John O'Sullivan 39pts.

#### Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday, October 18, 12 hole medal, 19 played. 1st Class: 1 J Faulkner 47-5 =42, 2 A Kerr 50-6=44, 3 M Adams 49-4=45. Scratch R McCrae 46. 2nd Class: 1 C Laing 49-11=38, 2 M Hesp 53-11=42 BIH, 3 P Betley 50-8=42. Magic twos: C Laing x 2, P Betley, A Kerr, B Green and A Young.

Fixtures: Ladies Arran Challenge ends today (Friday). Gents Challenge has now started and runs until Sunday, November 8.

#### Arran Golfers Association

Sunday, November 1, 2015/2016 Winter league/Duncan Trophy, first round at Machrie Golf Club. Draw: Machrie v Lamlash at 8.30am, Whiting Bay v Brodick at 9.20am, Corrie v Shiskine at 11.50am.

Please note that this year, as a trial, due to clubs struggling to get a team up following a cancellation due to weather, the game will take place the following Saturday with a team of four instead of eight. (two games in each match), if cancelled again one point each will be awarded.

### WEDDING



#### BLACKMUR - PATERSON

Married in Brodick Castle Gardens on 19th September were Sarah Paterson & James Blackmur. Sarah is the youngest daughter of Beth & Stuart Paterson while James is the only son of Lorna & Ian Blackmur of Leeds. Sarah is also the granddaughter of Willie Innes of Brodick & the late Nan Innes. James and Sarah both work as doctors on the mainland.

## Single point defeat for Arran

### Cumbernauld RFC 18 Arran RFC 17

Arran suffered a single point defeat like a certain other rugby team last weekend.

With five minutes left of this BT West League Division 2 encounter, Cumbernauld led 18-12 and seemed set for a comfortable, if not entirely decisive win over newly-promoted Arran, when the visitors scored in the corner.

After Cumbernauld had conceded penalty number 25, Arran kicked for touch, comfortably won the lineout and cleverly switched play for their winger to score in the corner. Unfortunately, Cumbernauld were able to hold onto possession and protect their one point lead for the few remaining minutes.

Arran have their belated first home game of the season today (Saturday) when they face Annan at Ormidale Park with a 2pm kick off.

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**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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# Sport

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# Mixed fortunes but Arran still sit top of the league

**Glasgow University 4  
Arran 0**

There were mixed fortunes for the Arran Ladies hockey team with one win and one defeat during their double header last weekend.

But, after five games, Arran sit top of the league and are hoping to stay there.

On Saturday, the ladies travelled as a team of 12 to Glasgow University. Their opponents were relegated two divisions at the end of last season for falsifying names so they knew they would be tough. Arran held their own for the first 20 minutes and had five short corners with many shots on target but they kept getting saved.

The university team had 16 so were subbing every 10 minutes with fresh legs and lots of young blood, not like Arran's team with an average age of 39!

They scored three goals in quick succession before half-time, but Arran came back in the second half stronger. However, the home side scored a cracker of a goal which no-one could stop!

The final score was 4-0 to the university side but Arran felt the score didn't reflect the game. They know they have to learn from losing and coach, Phil Adams, gave them the lowdown on the coach home. The home side voted Anne Watts man of the match and Arran's team voted Susie Murchie dame of the game.

**Arran 4  
Strathclyde University 1**

On Sunday, Arran were at home to Strathclyde Uni at the Ormidale astroturf. From the start as a team they were calling, moving and playing much happier and they quickly went a con-

vincing three goals ahead. Lorraine Howie scored the opening goal before Abbie Mckelvie scored her first ever goal and Judith Ross scored the third goal with a wee deflection in the right corner.

Lorraine scored again just before half-time putting the home side 4-0 up.

The university team kept fighting on and finally scored a consolation goal 10 minutes from the end. Arran goalie, Ali Hollingworth, almost knocked herself out with amazing tackles!

The visitors voted Ellie Wood man of the match and Arran's team voted El-lie dame of the game as she played fabulously!

Rachel Brown and Debbie Roberston had their first taste of a league match with a 10 minute stint, and it looks like they both have been bitten by the hockey bug too!



**Judith Ross in full flow in attack** 20\_bb43hockey10

Today (Saturday) Arran are at home to Ardrossan, pass back 11.30am. This will be a tough match and the ladies say any local support would be much appreciated.



**Dame of the game, Ellie Wood, has close control of the ball** 20\_b43hockey04



**Arran on the attack in numbers** 20\_b43hockey02

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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.