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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2015 No 2035 60p

Arran must strive to be an all year round destination

'The best problem businesses can have is to be too busy'

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

Arran needs to become a year round tourist destination if it is to continue to grow and thrive. The island has just had its best summer season in many years, but tourism bosses say the hospitality trade has to get over the message that Arran is open in the winter. And while the cheaper RET fares brought droves more visitors this year, Arran will now face competition from its near neighbours of Bute and Cumbrae, and other islands, which now all have the RET fares announced this week. As well as thousands of extra visitors over the summer months businesses have found that the season has been extended well into October and beyond. Sheila Gilmore, chief executive at VisitArran, said: 'I've heard people say it's been a long season. That's something we not only need to get used to, we have to embrace it. We have to let people know that Arran is open for business, not for the season, but 365 days a year. The

days of Arran shutting down in October for two weeks has to be consigned to the past if we are to compete effectively in what is a tough tourist market. It has been a good season and overall we are delighted. The best problem for businesses to have is to be too busy. Arran doesn't have a quiet time any more, but we can't sit back and expect people to come back.'

Appreciated
Sheila said she accepted this could put pressure on sole traders and appreciated staffing was an issue for some businesses. But she said: 'Is it not better to be able to provide year round permanent employment than seasonal work, which helps both the employees and the business develop? 'Anyone who wasn't busy really has to look at their marketing and that is something we are always keen to help with and support our partners.'

Sheila said the season had already extended way beyond the traditional Easter to the end of the August season, with the island still very busy during the Scottish October school holidays and the Eng-

Continued on page 2



Early Hallowe'en fun in Lamlash

There were skeletons, superheroes, vampires and princesses at the Early Years Class dress up day in Lamlash on Wednesday. Pictured are (left to right): Leah McHale, Kirsty Sedman, Penelope Tannahill and Mali Ross with teachers Heidi Macfarlane and Catherine Scott. See next week's Banner for full coverage of the Hallowe'en parties this weekend across Arran. 20_b44early01



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RET expansion will see island face new fight for visitors

Continued from page 1
lish school holidays last week.

And with Easter in March it is going to be an early start next year.

But Arran is going to face some tough opposition in the fight for tourists with near neighbours Bute and Cumbrae now having RET fares, as well as popular islands further north such as Barra and Mull and the smaller islands like Eigg, Muck and Rum.

Sheila went on: 'Arran is going to face a lot of very good competition. While it is more accessible, an island like Mull is always going to be a big attraction. We need to play to our strengths and work hard to improve our offering.'

Strengths include committed collaboration, which sees businesses working together for the common good and the promotion of the Arran brand.

VisitArran will be working hard on these over the winter months, with Celia Paul having joined the team as business tourism support administrator, a two-year post supported by Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

While still waiting for full CalMac sailing figures, there was a 40 per cent increase in cars coming to the island in July and by August foot passengers were pouring off every boat. There has also been a big increase in mobile homes and caravans coming to the island, which was previously price prohibitive.

The increase in cars has led to an increase in mobility for visitors coming to the island and this has boosted businesses in the west, north and south as they are travelling further and exploring more of the island than previously.

That has certainly been the experience of businesses in Blackwaterfoot, including the Black Grouse which opened earlier this year and the Kinloch Hotel, where they have had a super summer season.

And as food and beverage manager Fraser Hendrie said, the season shows no signs of slowing up. 'We had 100 covers for dinner last Tuesday, which is unheard of for the end of October and hotel bookings right up till Christmas. RET has seen more peo-

ple venture to other parts of the island and the season is certainly getting longer and longer.'

Even the shops at Home Farm just outside Brodick, believe they have benefited from more people bringing their cars. Gordon Kinniburgh of the Island Cheese Co has seen trade up 19 per cent year on last year, which he did not expect given the poor summer weather.

'While we would have got some trade from visitors on foot, the number of people bringing their cars over, even for the day, is certainly helping to boost trade.'

And Gordon said he was not unduly concerned that neighbouring islands now had RET. 'Rothesay has always been cheaper to get to than Arran, but I think people recognise that there is a lot going on here and that it will continue to prove a popular destination.'

The extension of the season is also being seen in the holiday letting sector. With more than 50 properties, the biggest island-based letting agent is The Arran Team run by Jane and David Mack.

Jane said: 'This is our fourth season and by far our best season yet and I am sure a lot of that is down to the cheaper ferry fares.'

Jane has certainly found a



VisitArran chief executive Sheila Gilmore with new recruit Celia Paul 20_b44tourism01



Jane Mack smiling after a busy season in The Arran Team office 20_b44tourism02

significant increase in bookings this year away from peak holiday times and continued throughout October, and which have been made for over the winter months.

'At one time bookings began to slow after August, but now it is not even stopping at the end of October with enquiries for over the winter months, which would never have happened before.'

'We are also finding that

the price of the ferry fares means people are coming back again, once with their families and maybe just as a couple later on in the year.'

Jane says the Indian summer helped with a lot of last minute short breaks booked throughout September and October.

She added: 'The season on Arran is certainly much more extended than it was previously.'

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Laughs all the way as Alice gets an Eco Savvy makeover

Sometime in the midst of June a group of islanders got together with Eco Savvy to work on upcycling the familiar tale of Alice in Wonderland, which is 150 years old this year.

This creative group of people felt that they could create a new look for Alice by using a range of upcycling processes. Throughout the summer they met and designed, sewed, glued and painted their way through a collection of donated and waste items to create not only a

new image for Alice but also all the costumes, props and decorations that were to become the upcycled story of Alice in Wonderland.

Last Friday in the Whiting Bay village hall, Alice in Wonderland was retold with a small invasion from characters from the Wizard of Oz.

A packed audience bought into this madness and eagerly anticipated the new tale that had become Eco's version of Alice in Wonderland. They were not disappointed as a cast of adults and children, led by Alice

Lockhart, took to the stage to tell a seemingly familiar tale that became a story sprinkled with dramatic entrances, comedic moments and well timed choreography that left the audience in fits of laughter.

The creative team chose the Queen of Hearts as the character to represent exactly what can be achieved with upcycling and her entrance from the



Christine Lyle as Dorothy, Jill Hollick as the Mad Hatter, Alice Lockhart as Alice and Keyd Allan as the White Rabbit with Eco Savvy

back of the hall did not disappoint. The madness continued until the culmination of the story when the brand new upcycled Alice was presented to the audience. It was a moment to pause and reflect on what has been achieved by a spirited group of people who set out to rework the old classic. The show closed with a stunning new arrangement of 'Somewhere over the rainbow' from the Vivace choir.

Eco Savvy put on a night that created a great deal of special memories but more

than that it showed everyone just what could be done with a little upcycling and what a group of committed people could achieve. Eco Savvy would like to thank everyone who helped to make the project such a success.

If anyone would like to join Eco Savvy in his work on the island - towards an ambition of zero waste - do pop into his shop in Whiting Bay and have a chat with one of his volunteers. Visit his website on <http://arranecosavvy.org.uk/>



Tricia Sloss as the Queen of Hearts

Dutch string trio in Brodick

Those who enjoyed the Swing 2015 concert in September, and others who missed it, have a treat in store in Brodick Village Hall on Saturday, November 14, when Arran Music Society presents the Tim Kliphuis Trio.

They have long been firm favourites on the festival scene. Highlights include the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, collaborations with the Netherlands Chamber Orchestra, Richard Strauss Festival and Baltimore Fiddle Festival.

Seating will again be café-style at tables, and people may bring a bottle. The concert begins at 7.30pm, and tickets are available on the door, at Inspirations of Arran in Brodick, or online from www.arranevents.com

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Record call outs for rescue team

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team has recently had its busiest time on record.

The team has been called out 22 times in the last six months - more than it would normally expect to be called out in a whole year.

Its most recent emergency was on Wednesday, October 21 when the team was called out in the early evening to search for a woman who had become lost in the clagg descending Goatfell.

Thankfully she was located very quickly by team members, and brought down to the team base by Argocat. Although cold and wet, the woman was unharmed.

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Polarbear thrills the audience at high school

The critically acclaimed performance poet, playwright and author Steven Camden visited Arran High School on Monday as part of his Scottish



Steven Camden, author and performance poet addresses his audience

02_b44polar01

tour. Known for his straight talking style and gripping storytelling, the author, who is better known as Polarbear, writes novels aimed at young adults. During his tour he discussed his latest book, called *Its all about love*, and he also shared writing tips and some good general life advice for the young audience.

Steven, a hugely animated and energetic man connected with his audience using phrases and terminology that they understood and related to, which enthused his responsive audience who were as involved in the proceedings as he was.

Shannon Galbraith, a S3

student, described the event: 'My first thoughts of him were: Wow!, he is very enthusiastic, which he was, incredibly so. At first I wasn't listening but he captured me when he was talking about his trip to school and started to talk faster and faster. Most of the words I got were 'bus', 'girlfriend' and 'Arran'.

'He played a rhyming game with us where you can say anything but it had to rhyme with 'create'. He started off with me and I froze - I didn't know what to say, so I blurted out, 'I like dates' and everyone was staring, but Steven said it was excellent and moved on.

'It gave me a second of fame! He also taught us a game where you can either make up a character or a story. You start with an age, then a name, then what the character wanted to be, what their actual job is, and the charac-



An impromptu dance move from Polarbear which had the audience in fits of laughter 02_b44polar02

ter needs to have at least one relationship.

'Steven was trying to teach us that ideas don't come to you when you stare at a piece of paper. If you mess around with the piece of paper and write whatever comes to your head you can get a story from a jumble of words. Steven was really inspiring and re-

ally fun. He is such a great author and poet, and I really recommend you to buy his book.'

Polarbear's visit was organised by the Scottish Book Trust and was sponsored by Scottish Friendly Assurance which aims to bring authors to young adults to inspire a love of reading and writing.

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Decaying trees to go at hotel site

The Douglas Hotel has applied for permission to remove nine trees covered by

the Brodick No3 Tree Preservation Order. They want to get rid of six

sycamore, two elm and a Scots pine, which are either dead, decaying or diseased, amid fears they might break or fall, on the plot of land adjacent to the hotel which has been cleared.

Planning officials at North Ayrshire Council are considering the proposal for the site which bounds the Strathwhillan Burn.

The hotel wants to re-introduce tree species indigenous to Arran, such as the Arran whitebeam, rowan, sessile oak, white willow, Scots elm, aspen, Scots pine and mountain ash on the site, which, it is believed, is earmarked for a camping project.



The cleared site across the Strathwhillan Burn which will be replanted 20_b44tree01NO

CalMac finalises dry dock refit programme

Ferry operator CalMac has finalised dry dock arrangements for its fleet this year.

Each of the fleet's 31 vessels is required under Maritime and Coastguard Agency regulations to undertake a period of maintenance every 12 months.

'Arranging dry dock for our fleet is a complex logistical exercise that we try and undertake with minimal potential disruption to our normal services. We appreciate our passengers patience and understanding for the short period of time that they are not served by their normal vessel,' said CalMac's operations director, Drew Collier.'

On the Brodick-Ardrossan route the MV Caledonian Isles replaced by MV Clansman January 5 to January 20 next year.

On the Lochranza - Tarbert route with MV Lochinvar will be replaced by MV Loch Tarbert from March 7 to March 21.

Three-way fight for Shiskine seat

Arran Community Council has had a good response to its plea for new members.

Four nominations have been received for the vacancies in Corrie and Sannox, and Shiskine, after an article in *The Banner* earlier this month.

It means that for the first time in several years there will have to be an election to pick one of the three candidates who have come forward for the Shiskine post. It will be up to the residents to decide who should serve on the council during the contest, which it is hoped to hold next month.

The other nomination for Corrie and Sannox was Barry Mochan and he has been accepted unopposed and will be invited to his first meeting next month.

Camera bag is found

A Lowepro camera bag has been found on the Sliderry road on Sunday, October 25.

The camera bag contains four SD cards, which the owner would probably be very keen to be reunited with. If you have lost the camera bag please contact Rachel Lambie on 302866.

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Ayrshire young farmers visit Arran counterparts

Evening gave some good networking opportunities

Island youngsters, who are in the advanced stages of resurrecting the Arran Young Farmers Club, have received a visit from the office bearers of six Ayrshire district clubs.

The well-attended event provided an evening of entertaining team building games.

As well as being filled with raucous laughter, the evening gave some good networking opportunities and the visitors provided helpful advice to the Arran Young Farmers Club on its imminent affiliation to the Scottish Association of Young Farmers Clubs next week.

Investment

Development manager Jenny Baillie said: 'With farming challenges ahead and a decrease in the number of youth staying on islands, it feels like the correct time for further investment in setting up new and re-establishing

clubs. Social networking is crucial for bringing isolated individuals together and in many cases forging friendships which will last a lifetime.'

Membership

The SAYFC is Scotland's largest rural youth organisation. It provides a social network of opportunities from competitions and events to training and travel. Membership is open to anyone between 14 and 30 years and it has more than 80 clubs across Scotland.

Its motto, 'Not just for those that wear wellies' encourages everyone to join, even if they don't have a farming background or connections.

There are already plans underway for networking opportunities and future events. For more information or to join, Jenny can be contacted on 0131 333 2445.



Arran youngsters pictured with the visiting Ayrshire district club members

Mountain festival prepares for 10th birthday celebrations

In 2016 Arran Mountain Festival will celebrate its 10th birthday. Aimed at promoting awareness of Arran as a second-to-none walkers' destination, the four-day community-run festival has offered guided mountain walks and mountain-themed social events to hundreds of people from near and far over the past decade. As a result, special 10th anniversary celebrations are now being planned.

The organisers would like to know what people think about the festival. Everyone is welcome to the Arran Mountain Festival AGM on Wednesday, November 4 in the Ormidale Hotel, Brodick at 6pm.

For those who run businesses that welcome walkers, the AGM will also be an opportunity to find out more about how their business can be promoted through the festival. The mountain festival dates for 2016 are 13 to 16 May and booking for walks opens later this year. Early booking is advisable.

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Second day of dog chipping

The Dogs Trust is coming back to Arran for a second day of microchipping on November 5.

Such was the success of their last visit in September, Margaret Kay has been able to persuade the charity to come back, giving everyone who missed the first event the opportunity to have their dogs chipped prior to the deadline.

During the last event in Whiting Bay Hall, 247 dogs were chipped by the two veterinary nurses, a Scottish one-day record.

The service is sponsored by the Scottish Government and is free, although donations are gratefully received by the charity.



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Arran Brewery ready to break into US market

The Arran Brewery has taken a significant step in its bid to break into the US market.

A year after it set up the US company Arran Brew LLC in Texas, the craft beer maker has signed up its first group of distributors and taken its first orders across the Atlantic.

The news came as the brewer exhibited at the US Beer Wholesalers and Distributors Conference in Las Vegas.

Managing director Gerald Michaluk said: 'We have received our first orders from the USA and have signed up a first group of distributors.'

'Our company in the US is a beer importer and has been set up to take our brands and those of other brewers' into the US.

'It has taken us more than a year to fully understand the US market and its three-tier system and now our staff in the US know how to import beer brands efficiently and effectively all the learning pain having been absorbed by the Arran Brewery.'

'We are now actively looking for UK brands to import into the United States as part

of a portfolio that will represent the best in British beer. With the beer market in the USA forecast to grow to a staggering \$108.52 billion by 2019 this is a market brewers can't afford to miss.'

Arran Brew LLC is run by Karen Miles, former finance director of US Rice Producers, joined the Arran team to specifically move the company into the US market.

Mr Michaluk added: 'Arran Brewery is happy to acknowledge all the help and assistance from Scottish Enterprise and Scottish Trade International as well as UKTI, which have made the introduction of these services possible and we hope these services will support fellow brewers and make entering international markets for Scottish and other UK brands a faster and more successful prospect in future.'



Karen Miles of Arran Brew LLC in Texas

Meanwhile, the Arran Brewery has become one of only three breweries in Scotland to achieve SALSA accreditation, which stands for 'Safe and Local Suppliers Accreditation'.

As the brewery has expanded its production and is now raising funds for its own bottling facility, the company has had its focus on quality recognised and has been awarded SALSA accreditation.

Brewery manager Veronica Michaluk said: 'This external scrutiny shows the world that we produce beer to the very highest standards.'

'I think it is just a matter of time before this standard is a requirement for breweries seeking to sell to supermarket and other large retailers. Arran is getting ahead of the curve by become SALSA accredited now.'

Archive artist on the hunt for old photos, slides or negatives from the island

Archive artist Debbie Adele Cooper visited Arran last week in the hunt for old photos, slides or negatives from the island.

The resident artist for NHS Ayrshire and Arran was looking for community help with a project that aims to help hospital patients as well

as the Isle of Arran Heritage Museum.

The project seeks to make artworks for hospital walls, something which has been proven to help patients recover more quickly when they are surrounded by images that share a sense of place and of local history, at

Woodland View, the new £46 million adult mental health and community facility in Irvine.

Debbie was visited by a number of residents during the day telling their stories from the past and having

their images scanned. She also expressed her gratitude to the museum staff and, in particular, archivist Stuart Gough for his assistance with her research.

The museum is now closed for the season.



Debbie Adele Cooper at the museum with one of the recordings she took on the day on her laptop

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Centre gets five-star award for activity accommodation

The Arran Outdoor Education Centre has received a five-star grading from VisitScotland for its activity accommodation on the shorefront at Clauchlands in Lamlash.

The award rubber-stamps its place as a real holiday favourite for families, groups and schools. It is the only five-star accommodation of its type on Arran.

The centre, which was purpose built at a cost of £4.5 million, was completed in late 2007 and capitalises on its panoramic views over the entire bay and Holy Isle from most of the well-appointed rooms.

With conference rooms, a dining room, library, conservatory, private jetty and public spaces, the bright and airy venue has much to offer its guests and this VisitScot-

land accreditation confirms the standards and quality expected at the centre.

Visit Scotland rated the exterior of the building, including gardens and the surrounding environment, as 'perfect'.

The bedrooms, bathrooms, dining room and restaurant were also described as 'of the highest standard' in all of the categories, which included cleanliness and additional facilities.

Centre manager Ian Staples said: 'This is a fantastic accolade and testament to the hard work of everyone involved in the centre. To be awarded a five-star accreditation by VisitScotland, the first on Arran for our category, makes it even more special.'

'We want people to come here and have an experience they will never forget. The activities are fun and often

frenetic so we ensure the accommodation is spotless and perfect to ensure there is plenty of opportunity to kick back and relax.

'The building is very homely and fresh and hospitable and the people who work here are of that same ilk.'

'We always say to people that this is their home for a week so come home,' he added.

Previously only being used over the winter by groups, the venue's accommodation was under utilised in the summer, something that the centre's management are in the process of changing and they will be promoting accommodation to the public throughout the year.

The accommodation is suited to groups or small families, but can also cater for individuals on a bed-and-breakfast



Kyle Lockhart of VisitScotland (right) presents centre manager Ian Staples and bursar Elizabeth Faulkner with a five-star grading for activity accommodation



The bright and airy conservatory overlooking Holy Isle

tariff and the highly experienced and friendly team of instructors can create the perfect package or tailor make any arrangements according to guest requirements.

With a vast range of exciting activities on offer, including kayaking, sailing, gorge walking, mountain biking, abseiling and hill walking, there is something on offer for everyone to enjoy.

Included in the price of a holiday is the cost of all daily activities and instruction, the use of all the required specialist equipment and clothing, and delicious home-cooked meals.

It is often used during the school session with its part-

ners, such as the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, Royal Yachting Association and the Scottish Canoe Association and by many primary and high schools.

To make a booking, call

the centre on 01770 600532 or email info@arranoutdoor.com.

Alternatively, visit the website www.arranoutdoor.com or centre's Facebook page for more information.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Motto has to be 'we never close'

There was a time, not too long ago, when the Arran tourist season started at Easter and finished when the schools went back at the end of August.

The story told of visitors wandering around Brodick off season in the rain and unable to get a cup of tea springs to mind.

At the end of the season the signs went up that Arran was shut for the winter and that was that.

But times have changed and businesses need to embrace this new dawn. Some are still closing, cutting their hours and generally winding down, but others are actively embracing the notion that Arran must become a year-round destination.

One of the great success stories of this approach is the Auchrannie. No sooner has the 'summer season' ended than the hotel is offering cut price rooms to keep occupancy up over the once quieter months. The Douglas and Kinloch hotels are also past masters of this approach.

But if the hotels are keen to attract visitors all year round - there has to be things for visitors to do when they get here, and that's where the restaurants, cafes and attractions have to play their part.

Have no doubt tourists are a fickle lot. If they have a great time, you can only hope it will stick in their mind and they will come back, but if anything, however trivial, upsets them, you can be sure that is what they will remember.

The choice has never been wider for tourists and the roll-out of RET to Arran's Clyde 'rivals' cannot be ignored.

VisitArran does a great job in trying to pull its partners together as does Taste of Arran amongst producers, as was demonstrated by the terrific feast at last week's VisitScotland lunch. There is much Arran does right.

What the island cannot afford to do is sit back and let others steal its thunder - and its tourists.

If everyone involved in tourism pitches in, the whole island can benefit from a year-round tourist trade.

As the famous Windmill Theatre said, the motto has to be 'we never close'.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.' Romans (12:9)

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.

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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



Cheapest fuel in Scotland?

Sir,
Most locals will probably recall the very high unleaded fuel price that was payable locally last winter. To cut a long story short, the price of unleaded dropped dramatically everywhere else apart from on Arran and we ended up being charged 38p/litre more than in Ardrossan.

The price being charged (taking account of the 5p/litre subsidy we receive here) for unleaded on Arran was 141p/litre (when it was only 103p/litre in Ardrossan) and this was the most expensive price that could be found anywhere else in Scotland by a significant margin.

The only supplier of fuel to the island is Certas Fuels. When they were asked why the price was comparatively so high all winter, their senior marketing communications and PR manager Sara Richardson replied (and I quote): 'The higher wholesale price on the Isle of Arran is a direct result of filling our storage tanks to full capacity at the end of each summer. We do this as a duty of care to our customers on the Isle of Arran to ensure there is security of supply during the winter months when ferry access from the mainland to the isle is restricted.'

'As a result, our 'in tank' wholesale price remains at the summer wholesale price and isn't impacted by current pricing trends.'

The date for the end of the summer sailings is Saturday, October 31, (this weekend) so if Certas are still filling their storage tanks to full capacity at the end of each summer, as they have done in previous years, their tanks will now be full for the winter. As a result (assuming that Certas Fuels' policy still stands), the price is now fixed (just like it was last winter), and 'won't be impacted by current pricing trends'.

Therefore, the price of unleaded cannot rise until the end of the winter, no matter

how much it rises anywhere else.

At the time of writing, the pump price of unleaded fuel at the random two garages I checked was 121.9p/litre at Brodick and 119.0p/litre in one of the Whiting Bay garages (+ the 5 pence/litre subsidy that the island garages receive). For reference, it is between 107p/litre and 110p/litre at the garages in Ardrossan.

If the mainland unleaded price rises significantly this winter, it's possible that instead of having the most expensive fuel like last winter, we could actually have the cheapest fuel in Scotland!

Fingers crossed.

Yours,

Dave Black
Blairbeg House
Whiting Bay

Shoparran weekend

Sir,
This year's Shoparran weekend will take place on December 4, 5 and 6 and will be another fantastic opportunity to do your Christmas shopping locally while benefiting from discounts, prizes and lots of fun. This year we are offering a prize draw to include your chance to win a bumper hamper of goodies selected from each participating shop. Remember that by shopping locally you are supporting the Arran economy, local jobs and families, not multinational companies and you'll also get great gifts not available elsewhere.

I would like to invite all Arran shops, which are not already participating, to join this worthwhile and exciting event by e-mailing lorna@oldbyre.co.uk

Yours,

Lorna Mansfield.
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Grateful thanks

Sir,
I would like to thank the two men who found my wallet

on Brodick golf course last Saturday, October 17, and returned it to me. I was completely unaware it had fallen out of my golf bag and their kindness saved me from a lot of worry.

Yours,
Douglas Russell
Brodick

Get walking

Sir,
For those who find winter a depressing time, my advice would be to get walking.

Walking has many benefits for our health but less frequently discussed is how it helps us remain positive and happy. In fact, walking has been shown to reduce the risk of developing depression by 20 per cent.

Walking for just part of the journey to work can significantly boost our happiness levels, which is especially important during the winter months when many of us get up, travel in the dark and can find it hard to incorporate activity into the day. It stimu-

lates endorphins, which help to improve sleep quality and reduce feelings of stress.

Walking is free, accessible and easy to build into everyday life. Research suggests that active people are 30 per cent less likely to feel distressed and 30 per cent more likely to experience enhanced levels of wellbeing.

Yours,
Tompson Platt
Living Streets
London

Anyone expecting a call?

Sir
On a recent holiday in Whiting Bay I was amused to see that the telephone kiosk on the north side of Whiting Bay Garage was always lit up at night, despite the fact that it appears to be in a vandalised state, with weeds growing inside. Any plans by BT to put it back in working order?

Yours,
Norman Nicholson
Brampton
Cumbria



The illuminating Whiting Bay phone kiosk.

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Late, late show but Arran team wins award at cookery contest

Mak Russell, Jasmine Scorey and Oisean Gold of Mrs Lucy Urquhart-Dixon's S4 hospitality group at Arran High School recently took part in a cookery competition at Dumfries House in Cumnock using ingredients from lots of Arran food producers.

Here, in their own words, is how they got on:

'We headed to Dumfries House from Arran with only two weeks of practise under our belts. We were to compete in a competition against 15 schools from the whole of Ayrshire.

'The competition was a cook-off to produce six hot/cold canapés and an Ayrshire dish to represent Ayrshire's food produce in the Year of Food and Drink. We were given a list of ingredients that would be provided on the day and were allowed to take only three items of our own choice. After several letters to the food producers on the island, we were very kindly gifted with several items to practice with and the items to take with us.

'The competition started at 9.15am but the 7am boat was cancelled. We had to get the 8.20am and be very late! We were very grateful for everyone at the event who helped us when we arrived by picking up our ingredients from the suppliers and providing us with refreshments and encouragement. Between 9.15am and 10.15am the other schools were shown the layout of the kitchen and given demonstrations by some of the chefs. They had also set up their work stations and weighed all their ingredients and were at the ready.

'We ran in just in time for the 10.15am start of the competition and got straight into our canapés with no organisation time whatsoever! We made a goat's cheese and salmon puff pastry tartlet, a

HRH Prince Charles visits competition



Mak Russell prepares the scallop dish b44cook04

courgette, carrot, chocolate pepper, cucumber, parsley and Arran garlic crowdie roulade; and finally a hot smoked salmon pate on an Arran oatcake.

'For our Ayrshire dish we made a mille-feuille (which basically means thousands of layers) with a mashed po-

tato base, a crumbled black pudding centre and a layer of candied tomatoes on top. We made four of these towers and also cooked queenie scallops to garnish the tops of the towers and to dot around the plate. The plate was shaped like Arran and was made at school by Mr Steve Garraway.

'At around 10.30am a buzz of excitement filled the room with the arrival of Prince Charles.

'He made his way around the room meeting and greeting all of the schools and food producers that had taken part in the competition. He was delighted to see that we had made it across and in time to represent Arran and spent the longest time talking to us about ferries, food and dentistry!

'At 12 noon all entries were judged by an array of chefs who were to award prizes for three categories: Best taste, best presentation and best recipe. Best recipe was



Hospitality students Mak Russell, Jasmine Scorey and Oisean Gold with the judges and their best presentation award b44cook01

awarded to Belmont Academy, best presentation was awarded to Arran High and finally came the best taste, which was awarded to St Matthews.

'We returned home feeling

ecstatic - not only had we turned up fashionably late but we won one of the three main categories! We would like to thank all of the food producers who helped us to achieve this; (unfortunately

we couldn't use all the offers of help), but particularly the Arran Cheese Company, Torrylin Creamery, Creelers and Visit Arran's Sheila Gilmore who also helped us practise some of our recipes.'



Prince Charles chats to Lucy Urquhart-Dixon and the Arran team b44cook02



Jasmine Scorey checks out the lobster b44cook03

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Judy and Kris teach the pupils how to 'flip the pancake' 02_b44tennis12



A team effort, Judy and a Whiting Bay pupil team up for a relay event 02_b44tennis14



Judy throws a beanbag in an exercise to assist with hand eye co-ordination 02_b44tennis05



Judy hands out racquets for a relay event while Kris Souter looks on 02_b44tennis08



Judy and Kris demonstrate the rules of a relay activity 02_b44tennis09

Net gain for pupils as tennis the Murray

It didn't do Andy or Jamie any harm!

Tennis on Arran was given a big boost by an 'inspirational' visit by Judy Murray to the island last week.

Judy, mum of double Scots grand slam winner Andy Murray and his brother Jamie, spent a day at schools on the island as part of her Tennis on the Road roadshow, as reported in last week's Banner.

The visit included sessions for Whiting Bay and Lamlash primary pupils as well as a packed KA leisure auditorium at Arran High School last Wednesday.

The purpose of the roadshow was to introduce pupils, parents, coaches and volunteers to the skills needed to train others on how to effectively train people and to introduce a whole new generation to the game of tennis.

WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The coaching was carried out by a team of four, led by Judy and including Rhys Davis, Robyn Horsburgh and the charismatic Kris Souter. It showed that introducing tennis to children did not require large spaces or even specialised equipment.

Using the equipment that most leisure facilities have on hand, the basics of tennis – ability, balance and coordination – can easily be taught.

During the afternoon session, Judy spoke to pupils at the Arran High School giving tips based on her experiences while training as a coach and what she learnt from others after qualifying. Emphasis was

placed on engaging those that coach and showing that even if mistakes are made, it is important to learn from them to improve. Judy gave an example of where she learnt valuable lessons by watching others and taking note of what was effective and using that knowledge to inspire and motivate those being trained.

The pupils attending sat in absolute silence as Judy shared her enthusiasm and training tips, which she had used on her own children, Jamie and Andrew when they were youngsters.

Active Schools Coordinator Archie McNicol said: 'It is a great opportunity for pupils and coaches to work with a person of this calibre. Judy's enthusiasm and training is an inspiration to us all.'



Kris Souter gives the Lamlash primary children some tennis tips 02_b44tennis03



Lamlash primary pupils gather around Judy to hear what the next activity will be 02_b44tennis06



The children learn the tec

pils learning ray way



Proper racquet technique being demonstrated by Judy 02_b44tennis02



The roadshow team with Judy are (left to right): Robyn Horsburgh, Kris Souter and Rhys Davis 02_b44tennis07



Whiting Bay primary pupils enthusiastically participating in an exercise 02_b44tennis15



Techniques before practising themselves 02_b44tennis13



Concentration etched on the face of this Lamlash pupil attempting to hit the ball 02_b44tennis01



Whiting Bay pupils keep the balloons aloft using their heads and shoulders 02_b44tennis11

From the hills of Arran to the roof of Africa

Catherine takes on her biggest challenge yet – Mount Kilimanjaro

Arran's own Catherine Macbain and her sister have completed a remarkable achievement by climbing the highest mountain in Africa, Mount

Kilimanjaro, while raising thousands of pounds for charity. Catherine, 37, climbed the 5,895 metre summit in Tan-

zania after her sister Kirsty, 25, who lives in Glasgow, managed to convince her to do it as a personal challenge while also raising money for their favourite charity.

The intrepid duo have raised more than £2,600 pounds for Mind, the mental health charity that provides support and advice while also raising awareness and understanding of mental health issues.

The expedition was led by Jon Gupta, the world renowned mountaineer, who has an incredible track record of breaking world records for his mountaineering feats. He took the group of 13, made up of 10 women and three men, up the mountain, with 10 of the group making it to the final summit.

The journey took the sisters



The group stop for a light hearted photo shoot as they approach the summit



On top of the world, sisters Catherine and Kirsty Macbain are pictured with the Arran Banner and a Mind t-shirt



Catherine Macbain with her certificate of accomplishment 02_b43kilimanjaro04

seven days to complete with the ascent taking five days. They reached the summit in the early hours of the morning, just in time to watch the sun rise over Moshi, the town from which the expedition started.

With temperatures at the base as high as 26C and the summit sitting at a chilly -15C, Catherine said: 'It was challenging with the temperature extremes but it was not gruelling at all, having trained extensively on the hills of Arran and in the capable hands of the expedition leader, I felt confident that we were part of a well organised and disciplined team.

'On some days we had heat, rain and then snow, a wee bit like on Arran,' joked Catherine. 'The difficulty for Kirsty and myself was dealing with the symptoms of

the altitude where headaches and nausea set in, so you have to pace yourself.'

Catherine is now safely back home in Lamlash where she looks forward to concentrating on the hockey season

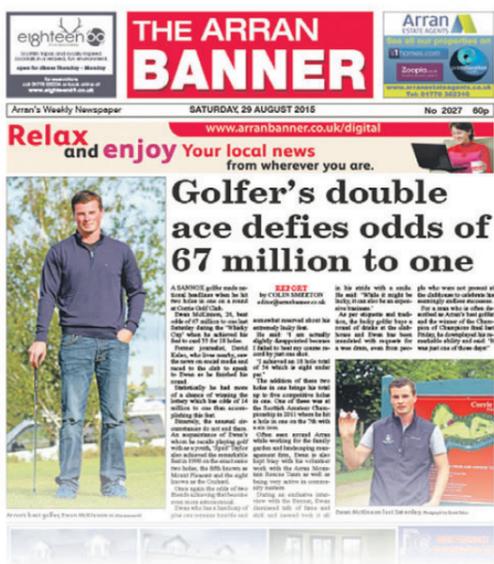
and spending time with her dog, Hazel.

Her JustGiving page is still active at www.justgiving.com/Macbain-sisters if anyone wishes to support the work of Mind.



The expedition walking along the snow covered peak as the sun rises

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Bessie the play bus visits Arran

Educational bus Bessie visited Arran last week and parked at the Brodick Co-op where young children could play and learn.

The PlayTalkRead bus is a Scottish Government initiative to provide children with an 'easy fun way to help children be happier, learn more and enjoy a better start in life'.

Manned by two experienced workers, Catriona White and Alan Little, they entertained the children with a large variety of activities such as

painting, making play dough figures and singing or reading the colourful story books from the extensive library.

Catriona and Alan also offered parents advice on fun and educational activities and a link to their website which offers a large number of inspired ideas for educational games for children.

Bessie visited Arran as part of the tour of North Ayrshire.

For more information and for fun ideas of games to play with children visit www.playtalkread.scot



Bessie the PlayTalkRead bus on Arran as part of its North Ayrshire tour 02_b43bessie01



Play worker Alan Little and Jamie Bowden create a paper plate ghost with mum, Fiona Trewby, looking on

Friends hear about a year of garden improvements

A good number of Friends of Brodick Castle came to hear Tim Keyworth talk on 'A year in Brodick Castle gardens'.

As head gardener, he was able to share his vision of the future for the gardens and show pictures of just how much progress has been made in his year in the position.

He gave a summary of his 10 years at Leith Hall in Aberdeenshire with its hard cold winters and interesting features such as the catmint border and the rockery he rebuilt.

Delighted

So, he was delighted to come to Brodick where he was told there were no frosts - cue picture of the walled garden covered in frost.

He found the morale of the gardening team to be at a low point due to several years of misfortune: Phytophthora infection, trees blown down, staff difficulties, but he has been able to take them on a positive journey to bring the garden back to its former glory and beyond.

Paths have been cleaned,

borders dug and planted with interesting combinations, views re-instated by selective felling and pruning and the future plans include a Nigel Price Memorial Garden, and the rejuvenation of the scented garden that Nigel created.

Tim gave full credit to his gardening team and thanked the Friends for their donation of £400 to purchase bulbs for the grassy banks beside the castle.

The next meeting is the AGM after which Fish 'n Ships will provide the entertainment and tea and cakes will be served. Note that this is at 2.30pm on Wednesday, November 18.

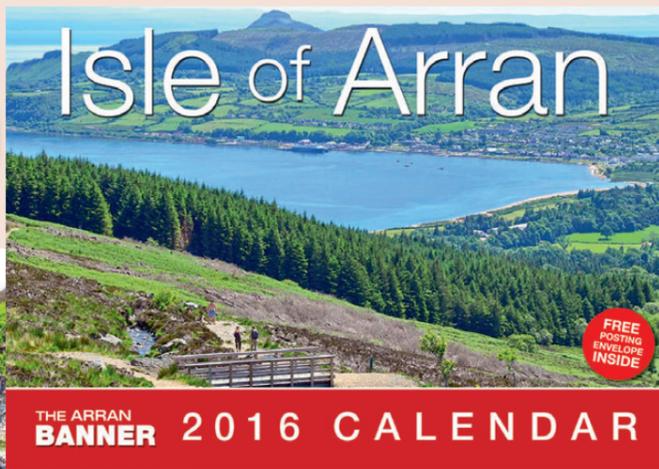
Grassbox found

A grass collection box from a Honda lawnmower has been found on Brodick hill. If you have lost it please contact 600512 to collect it.

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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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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 4 November, 1995

Hallowe'en picture special



The gang's all here at the Kilmory Hallowe'en party b44twe06



Traditional apple dooking at Kildonan's Hallowe'en party b44twe03



Brodick guisers Sinead McKinnie, Penny Raeburn, Sean Cooke, Mary Keir, Alex Basford and Kath Cooke b44twe02



All dressed up at the party in Lamlash b44twe05



Fraser Currie is the little devil at Shiskine b44twe08



Four guisers in Lamlash, Holly Carpenter, Jenny Campbell, Rebecca Kennedy and Katherine Turner b44twe01



Left: Jamie McKechnie is the grim reaper in Whiting Bay b44twe04

Right: Puppetmaster Andrew Cook at Kildonan with Pinocchio on a string, Tommy McHale b44twe07



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
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green
 Arran Heritage Museum

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

Open Cricket Session
 Garden Walk
 Bridge
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Lamlash Drama Club
 Winter Bowls

Brodick Astro Turf 7pm-9pm
 Brodick Castle, 2 - 3pm
 Brodick Golf Club, 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
 Auchrannie, 7pm

Saturday 31st 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
 Halloween Disco

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
 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
 Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm

Wednesday 4th November

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
 Coffee Morning
 Parkinsons Support Group
 Coffee morning

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
 Brodick Church Hall, 10.30am - 12noon
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4pm
 Lamlash church hall, 10.15am - 12 noon

Sunday 1st November

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

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

Monday 2nd November

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
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.30pm
 Corrie Hall, 2-4pm
 Brodick Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Thursday 5th November

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Jogscotland Beginners
 RunArran Mixed Ability
 Live music
 Cardiac Rehab
 QuiltArran
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 Burger & Quiz night Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
 Winter Bowls
 Lynn Ross book launch
 Free Microchipping Event

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
 Auchrannie, 7pm
 Auchrannie Spa, 11.30 - 1.30pm
 Whiting Bay Village Hall, 11.15am - 3.15pm

Tuesday 3rd November

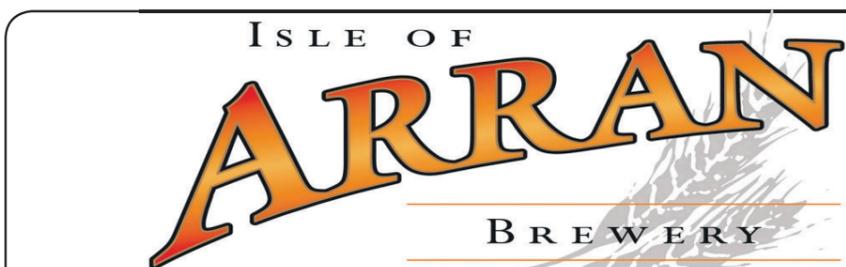
Pop Quiz
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 RunArran Run Coaching

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

Friday 6th November

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



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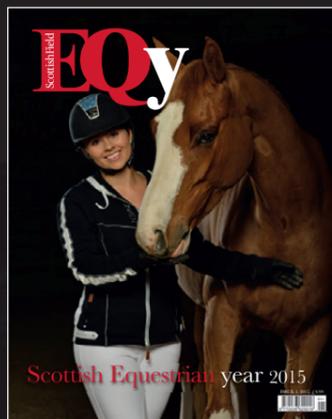
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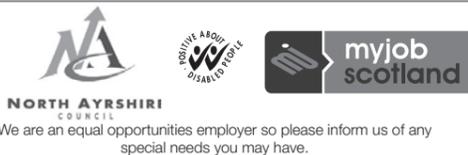
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Public Notices

Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall

AGM

Wednesday 11th November at 7pm
At the village hall
Contact Anita Ford 830200
or Tony Baboolal 830217



AGM

Wednesday 4 November, 6pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick

Find out more about the Arran Mountain Festival
and how YOU can get involved,
be it as a participant, organising committee member,
walk leader or event sponsor.

All welcome.

info@arranmountainfestival.co.uk



PUBLIC NOTICE

Brodick Terminal Closure of car parks

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) has appointed
a contractor to undertake essential groundworks
at Brodick Ferry Terminal, in advance of the main
redevelopment project. These works are due to start
on Monday 9th November 2015 and are programmed
to last approximately 2 weeks.

As a result of these works, the car parking areas at the
ferry terminal will be closed from the first week of
November 2015. All vehicles must be removed from
this area by no later than Friday 6th November 2015.
CalMac Ferries Ltd (CFL) port staff will be managing
the closure of the car parks and your assistance in
complying with their requests would be appreciated.

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 1st November
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.
Wednesday, 4th November
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

There will be Taizé worship on **Thursday 5th November** at 7.30 pm, in St Molios' Church, Shiskine. 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 1st November
Joint Linkage Celebration of the Lord's Supper at Shiskine Church at 11am.

There will also be a Celebration of the Lord's Supper in Montrose House at 1.30pm. Thanksgiving Praise Service in Corrie Church at 7pm.

Thursday 5th November
Service of Taize Worship in Shiskine Church, 7.30pm

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 1st November
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Rev. Lily McKinnon
In both Churches:
Sacrament of Communion
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 1st November
The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated by the minister,
Rev Elizabeth Watson,
at 10.30am.

The Young People's Church will meet as usual in the Hall. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm. All welcome.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Communion Weekend
Saturday 31st October
Preparatory Service 7pm
5 Glen Road. Brodick
Sunday 1st November
Morning Service 11am
The sacrament of The Lord's Supper will be dispensed at the close of morning service.
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road.
Thanksgiving Service 7pm
Hazelbank, Pirmill
Services taken by Rev.James Clark, Inverness
All welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday Morning Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 1st November
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 1st November
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 6pm (Church behind post office)
Rev Benjamin von Rensburg

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Past Captains' dinner held at Shiskine Golf Club



Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday October 21, eight played and got round before the heavy rain came down. There were two winners, Don Rudge 81-19=62 and Derek Roxburgh 69-6 =63. There were three magic twos ,Derek Roxburgh @4th, Brian Allison @3rd and Douglas Robertson @18th. Nice one Douglas. Don Rudge had his handicap cut by two. Tee off every Wednesday at 12noon, all welcome.

Sunday, October 25, Winter Cup, 19 played, non counter. 1 Gordon Hendry 37pts,

DEATH

McALLISTER - KITTY

The McAllister family would like to thank the following people for their love, care and concern for Mum over many years. Thanks to Red Cross volunteer drivers who got Mum to the ferry, rain or shine and to Cal-Mac staff for looking after her even when travel plans were disrupted. To the caring staff of the Renal Unit Crosshouse for the years Mum had to travel regularly for treatment and to the Home Haemodialysis Team for their support over the last six years. Thanks to the Arran Home Care Team, the Meals on Wheels volunteers and District Nurses. To the wonderful staff of the Acute Renal Ward Crosshouse for caring for Mum throughout her last few weeks. To David and Clare Hendry for funeral arrangements, Benjamin for spiritual comfort and conducting the funeral service, all who attended, sent cards and condolences. Finally, special thanks to all Mum's good friends and neighbours over the years. The sum of £800 was collected for the John Lynch Renal Unit Crosshouse University Hospital.

2 Brian Smith 36pts BIH, 3 Terry Raeside 36pts. No less than five players recorded 36pts, the BIH accounting for the final positions. Well done Gordon and hard luck to the third, fourth, and fifth players with 36pts. There were five magic twos. Fixtures: Sunday, November 1, Winter League, the Duncan Trophy starts with the first round at Machrie. The Brodick team having rested for the summer are ready to go, good luck.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Friday, October 23, 10 played on a cool and breezy morning showing distinct signs of winter approaching. Hot food and drink in the clubhouse at the end was most welcome. 1 Wolfi Kroner 14, 39pts, 2 Douglas Auld 26, 35pts acb, 3 Stan Rainey 9, 35pts. Top lady golfer was Chantal Smith on 29 pts. In these conditions Wolfi's winning score was well worth his reward - an irrevocable two stroke cut in his handicap. (The maximum permitted under the rules of the sweep.)

Sunday, October 25, Stableford, 11 played on a cool blustery morning. The extra hour in bed must have helped, however, as scoring was generally good. Stan Rainey emerged as the winner, his 36 points being more than respectable in the conditions.

1 Stan Rainey 10, 36pts, 2 Jamie Macpherson 6, 34pts acb, 3 John Pennycott 13, 34pts, 4 Ronnie Mann 12, 33pts. There were no magic twos.

Fixtures: Saturday, October 31, ALGU Drumadoon. 9.30am to 12noon. Sunday, November 1, AGA Winter League at Machrie, WBGCC v Brodick.

Shiskine Golf Club

Saturday, October 24, The Past Captains was won by Joe Faulkner with 24pts. Thanks to Sara and her team for providing a lovely meal.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday, October 21, competition rained off.

Fixture: Saturday, October 31, Sweep, ballots at 8.30am and 12 noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday, October 22, Back 9, second game. 1 Drew Wales 35-4.5=30.5, 2 Ian Taylor 41-9=32. Best scratch, Iain Murchie 34. Magic twos Drew Wales @15th, Dougie Macfarlane @12th and 14th. Best front 9 and back 9 for October, overall winner Ian Bremner 31.5+29.5=61. Runner up Iain Murchie 33+29=62.

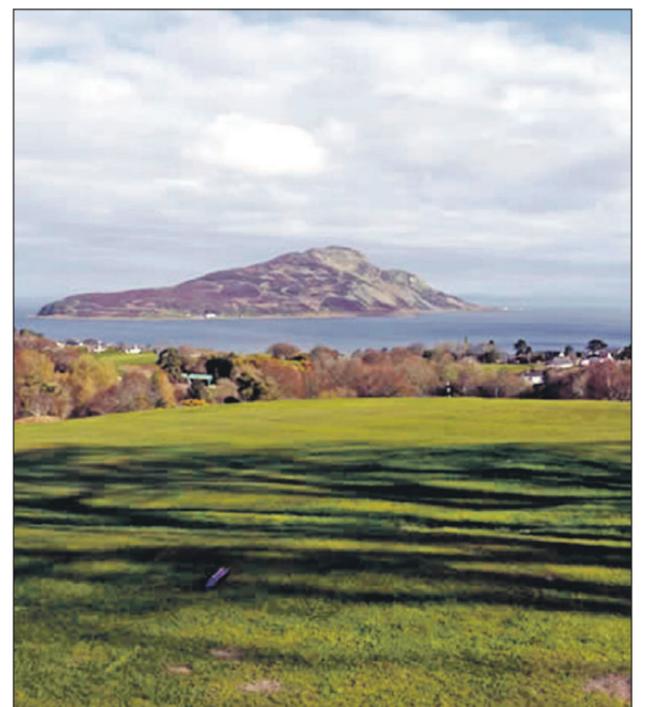
Sunday, October 25, Winter Stableford, CSS 64, Par 64.

1 Alan Smith 36pts, 2 Allan Winship 34pts, 2 @ 16th.

Fixtures: Sunday, November 1, Winter league, team game, Lamlash v Machrie at Machrie. Thursday, November 5, Yellow medal, 11am start.

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.



The 9th hole at Lamlash Golf Club

Annan maintain undefeated record against plucky Arran

**Arran RFC 11
Annan RFC 15**

Arran rugby club narrowly missed out on winning their first game of the season when the undefeated Annan 1st team visited Arran on Saturday at Ormidale Park.

Due to a very shaky start, Arran gifted Annan several opportunities to score, which gave the visitors a 12-0 lead after only eight minutes. This appeared to give Arran the impetus needed to fight back and Jack Simmons delighted the crowd with a good opportunist try after a kick through.

The game, Arran's first on home soil after playing four away matches, then saw the two sides involved in an exchange of penalties which saw Iain Keen pop two over the crossbar in reply to Annan's one, bringing the half time score to 15-8.

In the second half, Arran scored the first penalty bringing the tally up to 11. Arran were constantly chasing the Annan lead but did not manage to close the gap, however, they put up a good fight making the Annan side work for every bit of territory, but there was no more scoring bringing a final result of 15-11.

Disorganised start

Despite the disorganised start and the ultimate defeat, the Arran forwards were magnificent and dominated long phases of play and kept the pressure constantly on the Annan line. Missing regular No 10, Lachlan Jones, the talented Arran backs were always forced to try to

use scrappy ball on a greasy pitch.

This defeat means Arran have suffered four league losses, but at least Arran pick up another point and more than proved they can hold their own a league up against a side undefeated so far this season and already in a cup final.

Long trip

The team have a long away trip to play McLaren RFC in the Trossachs today (Saturday) and Jack Simmons delighted the crowd with a good opportunist try after a kick through.



Annan try to break through Arran's defence 02_b44rugby02



A lineout is won by the Arran side 02_b44rugby01



A breakaway run by Arran's Iain Keen 02_b44rugby04



Arran's Niall McMaster grimaces as he tries to clear a path through the opposition players 02_b44rugby08



An Annan player quickly passes the ball as he is tackled by an Arran opponent 02_b44rugby07

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Malcolm Pennycott with the Clydesdale Bank Quach after winning the Scottish Alliance Amateur Championship

Malcolm wins top amateur golf trophy

Arran's leading amateur golfer Malcolm Pennycott secured another top prize when he recently won the Scottish Golfers Alliance Amateur Championship in Banff.

Although currently living in Edinburgh, his roots remain firmly on Arran with his home club being Whiting Bay.

This year the championship brought together amateurs and professional golfers from their respective clubs to compete against each other for the championship prize over three days at the Duff House Royal Golf Club.

During this annual winter tournament Malcolm led the amateurs through the first two days and, with a competitive closing round, secured his amateur victory with a total of 208. His score was not far behind the overall winner and professional Kris Nicol from Aberdeen who came in at 202.

Progress

Malcolm said: 'It's always great to win an event and it shows me that I'm making some real progress with my game. I'll look to build on this by working hard over the winter and can hope-

fully hit the ground running next season in the big events.'

Malcolm plays golf between juggling various occupations, mostly sales and marketing related, but also an unusual one in which he is employed to measure golf courses. While resisting the temptation of competing professionally, Malcolm says that he is happy working at improving his amateur status and, while one day hoping to represent Scotland, he is content to focus his efforts on improving his game and honing his skills.

Arran schools challenge for Sports Hall Athletics glory

More than 100 primary school children on Arran are in the final stages of training for the annual Sports Hall Athletics Festival at the Auchrannie Spa Leisure Centre on Friday, November 6.

Six teams of up to 20 pupils from schools at Brodick, Corrie/Pirnmill, Kilmory, Lamlash, Shiskine and Whiting Bay will participate in the festival. The best of the best will then be chosen to represent the island in the annual KA Leisure Sports Hall Athletics Final at the Magnum Centre in Irvine on Wednesday, December 2, hoping to bring home the title for the first time in the event's 23-year history.

More than 800 primary pupils from 37 North Ayrshire schools will take part in the championship finals.

A series of four heats will see the teams of 10 boys and

10 girls compete in a range of track and field events, culminating in the grand final.

For more than 20 years KA Leisure's sports development team have organised a competition and this year's event has attracted record numbers of participants.

Sponsored by Irvine Housing Association, in partnership with Ayrshire Harriers Clubs Association and Scottish Athletics, the competition involves primary 6 and 7 pupils competing in a series of running, jumping and throwing events, specially developed for indoor competition.

Senior sports development officer Alison Craig said: 'We are pleased to have seen the event gain in popularity over the years, and are always delighted at the sense of fun and sporting spirit that the youngsters bring to the event.'

Arran Bridge Club results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club aggregate competition at Brodick on Thursday, November 22, were as follows: N/S 1 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan, 2 Morag Gardner and Eendy McNiven, 3 John and Jan Beattie. E/W 1 Pat Adamson and Brenda Livingstone, 2 Linda Trickett and Elizabeth McKellar, 3 Jennifer Wales and John Baraclough.

The results of the aggregate competition at Lamlash on Monday, November 26 were: N/S 1 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 2 Jim Primrose and John Baraclough, 3 Tricia Martin and David Campbell. E/W 1 Fiona Henderson and Maureen Cumming, 2. Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Jenny McIntyre and Libby Alexander.

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