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TUE	2	9 16 23 30	TUE	6	13 20 27	TUE	6	13 20 27
WED	3	10 17 24 31	WED	7	14 21 28	WED	7	14 21 28
THU	4	11 18 25	THU	8	15 22	THU	8	15 22
FRI	5	12 19 26	FRI	9	16 23	FRI	9	16 23
SAT	6	13 20 27	SAT	10	17 24	SAT	10	17 24
SUN	7	14 21 28	SUN	11	18 25	SUN	11	18 25
APRIL			MAY			JUNE		
MON	2	9 16 23 30	MON	7	14 21 28	MON	4	11 18 25
TUE	3	10 17 24	TUE	8	15 22 29	TUE	5	12 19 26
WED	4	11 18 25	WED	9	16 23 30	WED	6	13 20 27
THU	5	12 19 26	THU	10	17 24 31	THU	7	14 21 28
FRI	6	13 20 27	FRI	11	18 25	FRI	8	15 22
SAT	7	14 21 28	SAT	12	19 26	SAT	9	16 23
SUN	8	15 22 29	SUN	13	20 27	SUN	10	17 24

# Major revamp for Brodick Co-op store

Shop is to stay open during two months of work

**Hugh Boag**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The main Brodick Co-operative Food store is to get a major refurbishment which will start later this month.

The work, which will take more than two months, will see a complete re-vamp of the shop with new long-belted checkouts, four self-service checkouts, a new heating system and a community room.

However, the shop will remain open throughout the work with bosses pledging to keep disruption to customers to a minimum. Much of the work will be done overnight with the shop closing two hours ear-

ly at 8pm throughout the renovation.

Work is scheduled to start on Monday January 15 and will take until Friday March 23. It the first full refurbishment of the Brodick store since it opened in 1995.

Manager Liz McLean said that if the shop had been on the mainland, it would have been closed while the works were carried out. But she added: 'Being on an island, that was not an option as the two smaller stores would not have been able to cope with demand.'

'The refit will give the shop a whole new look.'

Continued on page two

## Brave dookers plunge into 2018



Brave swimmers emerge from the water at Brodick slipway at the annual Douglas Dook which took place on New Year's Day when participants plunged into the icy water dressed appropriately for the theme of Dookstock – the winter of love. For a full picture special see pages four and five.

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# Major revamp for Brodick Co-op store

From page one

There will be new fridges and freezers and a new heating system, and we have responded to customers' requests for longer belts at the checkouts. We will do our very best to keep disruption to a minimum during the work but would ask for customers to be patient.'

She said a new community room, where the present kiosk is, will be where they will serve tea and coffee presently given to pensioners on the shop floor, but it will also be available for wider community use.

It is part of a £28 million investment by the Co-op in Scotland this year with plans to open 18 new stores and upgrade a further 20, including the Brodick outlet. The move is set to create a further 275 jobs for Scottish people and will take the total number of Co-op employees in Scotland to almost 6,000.

Five new employees have



The Co-op in Brodick is to get a major renovation. 01\_B01coop01

just been hired in Brodick and the revamped store is expected to bring further job opportunities.

The expanded and upgraded estate will see the community retailer focus on offering the 'ultimate' convenience store experience – with a wide range of fresh, healthy foods, meal

ideas and essentials available, alongside increased ranges of own-brand and locally-sourced produce.

John McNeill, the Co-op's divisional managing director, said: 'We invested heavily in Scotland in 2017 and we're delighted to be ramping up activity yet again in 2018 with 18

new stores set to open their doors.

'Such sustained investment is indicative of our long and proud history in Scotland. We are passionate about serving the many diverse communities across the country and want to give shoppers the opportunity to buy what

they want, when they want it, in great looking stores that also give back to the community.'

The Co-op's expansion in Scotland forms part of the retailer's UK-wide plans to invest £160 million in 100 new stores and 150 shop makeovers in 2018, which will create an estimated 1,600 jobs.

Meanwhile, the Co-op convenience store at Inverclyde was unable to open on Wednesday morning due to flooding after storm Eleanor brought north-easterly winds and rain which seeped in through the roof and balcony of the vacant apartments above the shop.

Staff began mopping up operations and had the floor dry and safe for shoppers in time for the rush over lunch. The flooding has happened before, owing to the poor state of waterproofing and the age of the windows and doors on the north eastern side of the building.

## All sailings cancelled on Lochranza route

All ferry sailings between Lochranza and Tarbert have been cancelled for two weeks owing to the lack of a suitable replacement vessel while the MV Catriona undergoes dry-dock maintenance.

A notice issued by CalMac states: 'Due to the current dry-docking programme and restrictions of suitable vessels for this route, the Tarbert to Lochranza sailings have been cancelled between Thursday January 4 and Thursday January 18, inclusive.'

Meanwhile, the MV Caledonian Isles was scheduled to leave today (Friday) for her annual refit. The Brodick to Ardrossan route will be served until January 17 by MV Isle of Arran and MV Hebridean Isles. The regular vessel is expected to be back in service on January 18.

# ARRAN Haulage

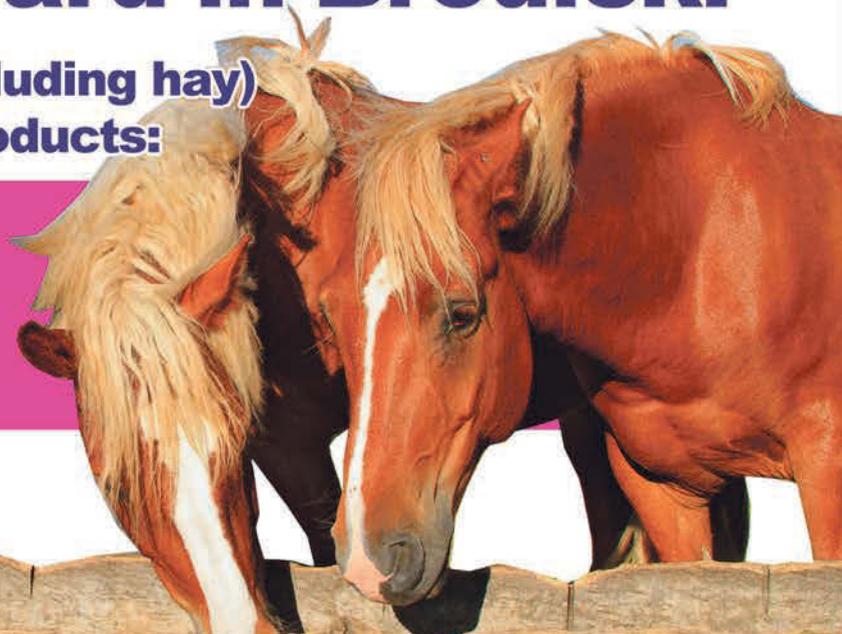
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Alisa and Margo outside The Rock Pool the day before it closed. 01\_B01rock01

# Rock Pool closes doors

The Rock Pool in Corrie has closed its doors for the last time.

Jeweller Ailsa McNicol and glass artist Margo McLellan have shut the popular gift shop after seven years because Margo is retiring.

The pair have been business partners for 19 years with Ailsa having run shops and studios for more than 40 years. She insists she is not retiring and will continue her jewellery design at a studio she has set up at her Merkland home.

### Trading

Ailsa began trading on Arran in a small shop in Invercloy, behind where Fiddlers' now stands, before moving along the road to the shop Belle's Boutique now occu-

pies, where she was joined shortly afterwards by Margo.

The duo then moved to the Alastair Bilslund owned premises, which are now Bunty's, before moving up to Corrie where they converted the former Post Office and general store of Marvin Elliot's into the popular shop and tearoom.

Alisa said: 'It is the end of an era. While Margo is retiring I intend to continue working from home and my jewellery will be still be available at outlets on the island and, hopefully, soon online.'

However, Margo is giving up her stained glass mirror work and intends to devote her retiral to her other hobbies which include gardening and beekeeping.

# Council chief awarded OBE

North Ayrshire Council chief executive Elma Murray has said she is surprised and honoured to be recognised in the Queen's 2018 New Year's Honours List.

Elma is to receive an OBE for services to local government, education and the economy. It is understood the award recognises her pioneering work in transforming Scottish local government economic development services as well as her continuing commitment to ensure young people get the best possible start in life.

Elma said: 'This is not something I had ever thought about but it concludes an amazing year for North Ayrshire Council. Our council teams have all been recognised in a variety of ways during 2017

for their sector-leading approaches to transforming how they work and deliver services. I am very fortunate to be able to work with such fantastic staff and my award is as much for them as it is for me.'

Dedicating almost 35 years to public service, Elma starting out at Glasgow City Council and Strathclyde Police before being appointed head of IT services at North Ayrshire Council in 1995.

She went on to become head of organisational change, deputy director of finance and head of eGovernment at Glasgow City Council before returning to North Ayrshire as chief executive in September 2009.

Since then, she has led a programme of transformational change at the coun-

cil. The results of this ongoing programme were seen in September 2017 when North Ayrshire Council was named APSE's UK Council of the Year.



Elma Murray OBE

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Young dookers emerge from the water smiling. 01\_B01dook11



Children take their own dook after the adults. 01\_B01dook13



Two ladies rush into the water amid screams and giggles. 01\_B01dook09



And they are off – participants make their way down the slipway in

# Ne'erday take the p

More than 30 dookers took to the water at Brodick slipway for the annual New Year's Day dook organised by the Douglas Hotel.

Known as the Douglas Dook, this year's theme was Dookstock - Winter of Love and all money raised from

the event went to the Arran Mountain Rescue Team.

Joining the ranks of hippies and flower power children, Kate Russell took part for the first time in the event's seven-year history - along with friend Janice Miller - who did it in memory of Alan John-



The look on this young girl's face goes some way to describe the temperature of the sea water. 01\_B01dook06



Kate Russell, Janice Miller and Tanya Guthrie prepare to take the plunge. 01\_B01dook03



...to the water. 01\_B01dook02. Pictures: Colin Smeeton

# dookers plunge

ston who passed away last year. Janice donned Alan's fire fighting kit and took the plunge.

### Frivolities

The event was very well attended, despite the chilly time of year, and a large crowd always turns out to witness the

frivolities. This year's event saw a large number of young children and families taking the plunge, and as usual the brave dookers retired to the Douglas Hotel for some warming soup and, for some, a wee dram to kick start the New Year.



A young dooker contemplates his decision to enter the water. 01\_B01dook12



A swimmer emerges from the water with his guitar. 01\_B01dook08



Dookers dressed as hippies sang as they made their way to the slipway. 01\_B01dook01



Flower children hold hands and sing as they prepare to dook. 01\_B01dook04



Spectators line the promenade and shore to watch the spectacle. 01\_B01dook10



Swimmers walk into the water and immerse themselves. 01\_B01dook05

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The Rev Angus Adamson poses with his Brodick colleagues for a last photograph which also features his replacement Frazer Barr. 01\_B52fire01



Angus receives his retiral certificate from fire service chaplain the Rev Gordon Armstrong. 01\_B52fire04



Senior officer Jim Scott recounts the long career of Angus in the fire service. 01\_B52fire02

# Angus calls t

Colleagues of the Rev Angus Adamson gave him a rousing send off when he retired as a retained firefighter after more than 36 years.

At the event in Brodick fire station he was presented with a traditional fireman's axe. However, the axe was to have a double meaning since it was that very tool that almost ended his career more than 20 years ago.

Angus himself takes up the story, which happened in 1995. He told colleagues: 'I have reason to remember the fire at Auchareach Farm and not with much fondness. Cutting away a dangerous roof beam in the dark, which turned out not to be wooden as I thought but an RSJ, the axe I was wielding glanced off the steel and went right through my foot.

'I didn't look as they pulled my wellie off, but the sight of ADO Davie Morrison's face, turning white at the sight of blood spurting out of it wasn't comforting.

'Pre-fire brigade training days, the first aid consisted of shoving the foot back into the boot and bundling

me in a van for the 12-mile trip to hospital in Lamlash where, thanks to the surgeon Miss Bussell, I lived to tell the tale and the foot, despite my best efforts to have it otherwise, is still attached to the end of my leg.'

In a speech which was mixed with poignancy and humour, Angus revealed that he first wanted to become a fireman when, as a 10-year-old, he had witnessed his next door neighbour's house in Corriecravie burn down in 1972.

As soon as he was 18 he followed in his father Robert's footsteps and joined what was then known as the Lagg Volunteer Unit and served for a number of years at Corriecravie, where he witnessed big improvements in equipment and accommodation for the fire service. In 2006 he transferred to Brodick after completing his training for the ministry and took up the charge at St Brides.

He told his colleagues past and present: 'I have thoroughly enjoyed my 11 years at Brodick with an amazing bunch of folk. So why retire from the service? Well simply it is time to move over and let some-



Brodick station officer Janice Miller

one younger enjoy the privilege I've had and, like my father, volunteer leader at Corriecravie before me, 55 is the right time to go, not least as genetics catch up with me.

'I want to walk out of the service on a high note, not be invalidated out. It's a nice wee touch too that young Frazer Barr is my replacement. His father Alistair and I served together at Corriecravie.'

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# Time on long fire career



presents Angus with a mounted axe as his fire colleagues look on. 01\_B52fire05

Earlier senior officer Jim Scott had recounted the long career of Angus in the fire service and thanked him for his dedication and service and wished him well in his retirement. He was then presented with various retiral gifts.



Angus is presented with his retiral gift by Ardrossan station manager Jim Anderson 01\_b52fire03



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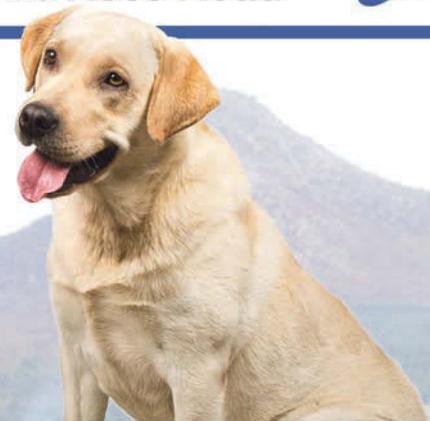
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## Editorial

### Ready for revamp

It's great to see Arran getting a share of the £28 million the Co-op is investing in Scotland next year.

A major refurbishment of the Brodick store is long overdue and will benefit staff as well as customers with reliable new fridges and freezers, and a replacement heating system.

There will be more room for the checkouts too for bigger shops, and the introduction of, hopefully, quick self-service checkouts can only be good news.

Yes, there is bound to be disruption during the works but Co-op bosses have recognised that they cannot shut the shop completely and promised it will be kept as minimal as possible.

So, it is up to the customers to be patient, as, at the end of the day, it is they who will benefit.

The creation too of a new community room is also welcome news.

The Co-op is justifiably proud of its work and commitment to the community through its Local Community Fund, as well as the regular donations of food, drink and prizes it makes to island organisations throughout the year.

We hope that, come the end of March, the new-look Brodick Co-op will be a benefit to all.

#### Thought for the week

'Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.' Joshua 1:9

### Improving nature

Sir, Scotland is world-renowned for its incredible landscapes and varied wildlife: earlier this year, the readers of Rough Guide voted ours the most beautiful country in the world.

But it's important to remember our stunning vistas do so much more than simply bring us joy. Nature-based tourism benefits our economy, and nature benefits each of us personally: research shows access to green spaces improves our health and well-being.

At Scottish Natural Heritage, we have long extolled the benefits we all get from the natural environment as well as the need to create better places for nature.

Over the past year, we have worked on a number of high-profile initiatives to help connect people with nature and protect our wildlife and habitats.

We continue to lead the development of the national cycling and walking network to encourage people to enjoy the countryside and to help bring more tourists to Scotland.

To help improve Scotland's carbon stores, we restored 400ha of peatlands under the peatland action programme. These areas are also home to many of our well-known plants and animals.

Looking ahead, the Scottish Government has designated 2018 the Year of Young People.

It's so important to provide our young people with access to nature. Research shows childhood access to green space can reduce the risk of anxiety and depression as adults. Early and continuing contact with nature also helps develop and maintain a sense of stewardship and an interest in



This touching image of the youngest and oldest residents of Lochranza enjoying a recent Christmas carol concert was kindly sent into us by Ethne Cumming. Peggy is nearly 102 and Archie is two weeks old.

looking after our natural assets.

That's why we've just launched the future routes fund to encourage youth across the country to share ideas that will help young people engage with nature. Working with Young Scot, we will help develop their ideas and bring them to life in the coming year.

You can find ideas for getting involved with nature in your community on our new website, nature.scot.

Have a happy and healthy New Year!

**Mike Cantlay**  
chairman  
Scottish Natural  
Heritage

### Gaelic course

Sir, Today there is a new ground-breaking Moray Language Centre Gaelic acquisition course that is very different from any existing second language learning course which is called the learning Gaelic on your own course.

Added to which, to make learning even more appeal-

ing and accessible for a student, the course comes with a set of clear cut and user friendly guidelines that offer help and support for the entire learning journey.

For example, problems and solutions, questions and answers, self assessment, performance indicators, measurable language usage, equipment etc, are all covered within its remit.

The course has a number of other unique facets besides those listed above, such as: students having the freedom to create their own individual work pattern and learning pace. The source material being BBC Gaelic programmes, means that they can be recorded from anywhere in the world on a computer, iPad or smart phone. And, though largely studying on their own, a student is never alone, backup, contacts and suggestions are all readily available.

This course is one of the few language courses that not only recognises various Gaelic dialects found in Scotland but also embraces them. Also mentioned are the various sites in Scot-

land that have some 40,000 hours of recorded Gaelic dialect related material for a student to peruse.

Taking a learning Gaelic on your own course may provide the ideal solution for those who are either house bound, though still seeking a Gaelic conversational fluency, or for a variety of reasons, such as family commitments; one may have two or three young children to look after; limited mobility, course costs, location; there are many more reasons, but these give some idea of the course's value and potential client group range.

If any of the above information strikes a chord of interest and a project you may consider undertaking, please contact me, at finlaymlc@btinternet.com or telephone 01542 836322 whereupon we can discuss the course and at the same time, I can offer more detail regarding its contents, delivery and follow up direction.

Yours,  
**F M Macleod**  
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# Air ambulance in New Year's Day call-out

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance got their new year off to a busy start with a medical evacuation from Arran on New Year's Day.

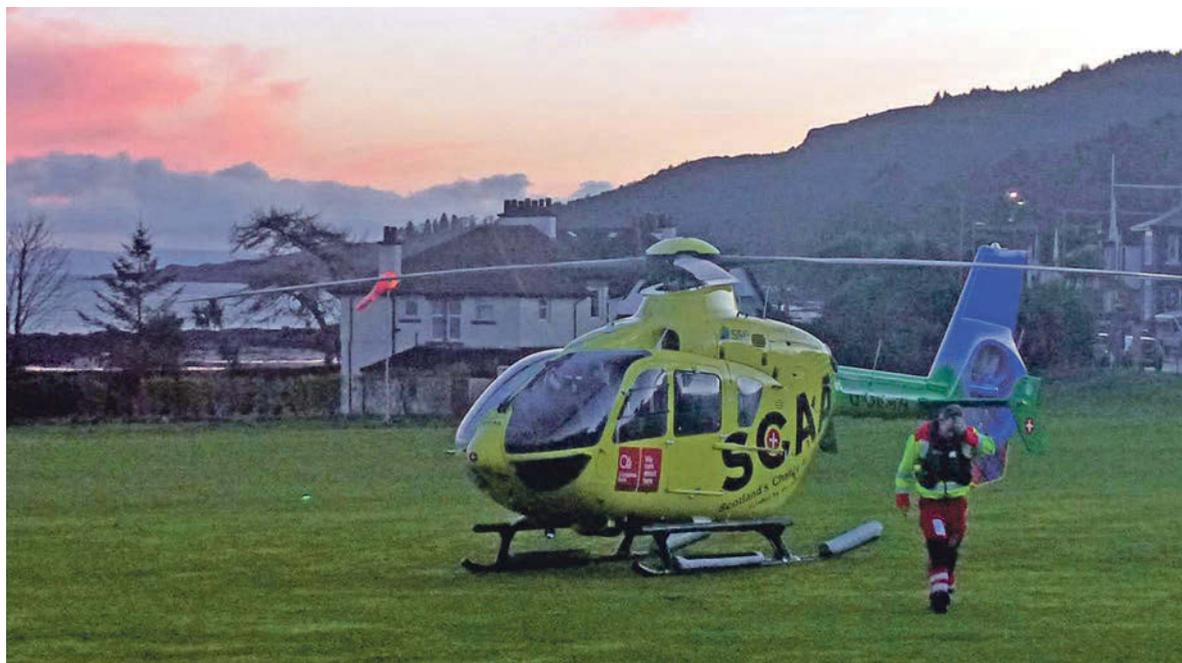
The air ambulance landed at its temporary landing site at Sandbraes Park in Whiting Bay to evacuate a patient to hospital. Visitor Ian Brown of Blairgowrie watched proceedings and told the *Banner*: 'The whole process appeared faultless from the arrival of the ambulance by road, the preparation of the landing area by the stewards in visibility green, the expert landing and loading, and finally a take off in the gathering gloom of the evening.'

'How fortunate the residents and visitors are to have such a well-oiled organisation of caring and competent people

available throughout the year, it is very comforting.'

Based at Perth Airport, Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance (SCAA) can be airborne within five minutes of receiving an emergency call and can reach 90 per cent of Scotland's population within 25 minutes.

Working in partnership with the Scottish Ambulance Service, it is an integral part of Scotland's frontline emergency response network, responding to trauma incidents and medical emergencies across the country and assisting with rural emergencies when time is critical or resources are tied up elsewhere. Operating the helicopter and one rapid response vehicle, the charity covers an area of more than 30,000 square miles.



Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance arrives in Whiting Bay on New Year's Day for a medical evacuation.

## Three-week bin collections to be considered in council review

Arran could be heading for a three-weekly cycle of bin collections after a similar move was approved by North Ayrshire Council for the mainland.

The proposals are part of major plans for an enhanced recycling and waste collection service and form part of the new overall Zero Waste Strategy 2018-2022.

The strategy aims to increase recycling to more than 60 per cent by 2020, to meet the Scottish Government's Zero Waste Plan recycling targets. This target will increase further to 70 per cent by 2025.

However, changes on the mainland will not come into force until April 2019 and before then waste and recycling collection services on Arran will be reviewed separately.

In North Ayrshire, currently 55.3 per cent of waste is recycled, but studies have shown that around 71 per cent of the rubbish in the average grey bin could be recycled or composted, but is instead sent to landfill – showing that there's significant room for improvement.

The proposals aim to maximise recycling by giving households additional capacity. Among these is the introduction of a new 240 litre purple bin for glass, cans and plastics. This will free up space in the blue bin which will instead be used for paper and cardboard only. Both of these recycling bins will be collected on a three-weekly cycle along with the grey general waste bin, as already happens in some parts of the country.

This will be supported by a hygiene waste collection which can be requested for households that need to dispose of nappies and non-clinical medical related waste. This, along with the brown bin, for food and garden waste - not presently available on Arran - would be collected fortnightly.

A North Ayrshire Council spokeswoman said: 'All local authorities in Scotland have been set a target by the Scottish Government to recycle at least 60 per cent of household waste by 2020.

'Our recycling perfor-

mance is currently one of the best in the country, but with these new Government targets, we simply cannot stand still and need to keep improving.

'Where councils have already made similar changes, they are reporting an increase in recycling and a reduction in waste being sent to landfill, which is excellent for our local environment.

'We have therefore developed our own plans by taking advice and learning from other local authorities to ensure they are robust and go some way to ensure North Ayrshire doesn't fall short of the Government's target.'

The strategy also outlines how the council will be looking at specific areas where bin storage space is an issue to identify if communal bins or underground waste storage systems could help relieve the problem.

Meanwhile, any island residents looking to dispose of real Christmas trees should take them to the household waste recycling centre in Brodick.

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# A look back at 2017 in pictures – July to December

In the second part of our series looking back at some of the highlights of the last year we delve into the pages of the *Arran Banner* from the previous six months and review some of the stories that made the headlines in 2017.



JULY - Arran High School leavers joined teachers and friends at the Douglas Hotel where they enjoyed a reception and dinner marking the end of their school days. 01\_A26caption01



AUGUST - Strongman Scott Clark gives a huge heave to the caber at the Brodick Highland Games in his last competitive event before retiring from the sport. 01\_B32games20



JULY - Newly retired Shiskine primary school teacher Mrs Susan Dobson received a fond farewell from pupils after 28 years in post. 01\_A26retire01



JULY - Early years pupils from across the island attended graduation ceremonies marking the transition from pre-school to primary school. A large contingent from Lamlash celebrated the occasion with a performance attended by parents, siblings and grandparents.

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AUGUST - All of the prize winners at the Isle of Arran SWI Federation's annual handcraft show which received a bumper 365 entries from the five Arran groups. 01\_B31SW102



AUGUST - Arran children embraced Gaelic culture during the four-day Feis Arainn which culminates in the traditional concert at the end of the festival. 01\_B31feis16



SEPTEMBER - Arran High School had joint duxes with Alison Provan and Rachel Janse Van Rensburg being conferred the title by head teacher Barry Smith. 01\_B36dux01



SEPTEMBER - The McLellan Arts Festival included a performance in the Corrie Church where young opera singers from the Royal Northern College impressed the congregation. 01\_B36festival03



SEPTEMBER - Arran's seven primary schools on the island had a new intake of 30 children after the summer holidays. Pictured are the new starts at Brodick primary school with Mrs Claire Scott. 01\_b38P101



SEPTEMBER - Alex and Sheila Roberts celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a special party and a card from the Queen marking the occasion at Montrose House. 01\_B39front01

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OCTOBER - Whiting Bay Primary pupils said a sad farewell to pupil support teacher Mrs Lesley McHale who retired after more than 40 years in the profession. 01\_B41teacher01



OCTOBER - A ghoulish gathering of P3 to P7 Brodick pupils who enjoyed Hallowe'en parties which took place across the island's village halls and schools. 01\_B44front01



NOVEMBER - Mothers, children and midwife colleagues join Scottish midwife award recipient Elaine Kelso to thank her for her invaluable help and to congratulate her on her award. 01\_B46elaine01



NOVEMBER - Thousands turned out to witness the launch of MV Glen Sannox, Arran's newest hybrid fuel ferry which will come into service in 2019. 01\_B47launch10



OCTOBER - Lady Jean Fforde passed away at the age of 96 and has been laid to rest in the Hamilton family cemetery at Brodick Castle. 01\_B42lady01

## Important new information on Government support for Central Heating Systems: UPDATE NOV 2017




**FACT 1**  
If you have electric storage heaters, an oil, electric or LPG boiler the Government will pay you up to £11680\* to change over to an air source heat pump system which is more efficient, can be less costly to run and is kinder to the environment.

**FACT 2**  
The Scheme called The Renewable Heat Incentive is available for home owners, landlords and businesses.

**FACT 3**  
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NOVEMBER - Members of the Arran farming community bid agricultural supplier Mary McGinn a happy retirement after serving the island's farmers for 38 years of uninterrupted service. 01\_B46farm01



DECEMBER - Head teacher Shirley MacLachlan and a representative from each of Arran's seven primary schools wished active schools coordinator Archie McNicol all the best in his new career on the mainland. 01\_B49dance01



DECEMBER - Margaret Galloway, Lisa Morrison and Marion Logan of Arran Active were just a few of the people providing festive fun during the Shop Arran weekend. 01\_B49shop10



DECEMBER - The Lamlash Church annual carol concert was filled to capacity with an audience enjoying the performance of more than 100 musicians and singers. 01\_B49carol06



DECEMBER - The cast of Lamlash Drama Club's production of Sinbad's Desert Adventure take a bow after their first performance of their excellent pantomime. 01\_B51panto01

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## Saturday 6th January

Flow Yoga  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Army Cadets  
Blackwaterfoot bowls  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Live Music -Shindig  
Over 21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am  
9.30am - 11am  
9.30am - noon  
Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm  
Bowling Club, 1.30pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
Fiddler's Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

## Sunday 7th January

Family games  
Fun in the pool  
AA meeting

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

## Monday 8th January

Morning fitness  
Citizens' Advice  
Arran Vets Surgery  
Arran Vets Reception  
Over 50s badminton  
Adult Tennis  
Arran Junior Football Club  
Circuit Training  
Lamlash Aerobix  
Badminton  
Badminton  
Arran Bridge Club  
Tae Kwon-do

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30am -10.30am  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9.30am - 1.30pm  
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm-4pm  
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
Ormidale Park, 6pm-7.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 6pm-7pm  
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm-9pm  
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm  
Brodick Church Hall, Adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

## Tuesday 9th January

Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Healthy Outdoors  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Blackwaterfoot Bowls  
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)  
Every Tuesday - Metafit Class  
Flow Yoga,  
Pilates  
Lamlash Junior Drama Club  
Auchrannie Winter Bowls  
Youth club  
Scottish Country Dancing  
Pop quiz

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
Bowling Club, 1.30pm  
Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm  
Arran High School, 6pm  
Corrie Hall, 6pm  
Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm  
Brodick, 7pm  
Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

## Wednesday 10th January

Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Coffee Morning  
Chair Yoga

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am- 2pm and 4pm -5pm  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12 noon  
St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am

Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm  
Knittery and Nattery Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
Zumba Gold Brodick Hall, 4pm - 5pm  
Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness) Brodick Hall, 5.50pm-6.50pm  
RUNclub - Mixed Ability Little Co-Op Car Park Brodick, 5.30pm  
Flow Yoga Shiskine Hall, 6pm  
Tae Kwon-do Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm  
Yoga-Arran Kinneil, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Mixed hockey Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30pm-9pm  
Burger and quiz night Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
Tae Kwon-do Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Family friendly pub quiz The PHT, 8.30pm  
Rock an Pop Bingo Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

## Thursday 11th January

Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Morning fitness, Auchrannie Gym  
Chair Yoga  
Quilt Arran  
Adult Tennis  
10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers  
Ladies' Hockey  
Arran High School  
Arran Bridge Club  
Brodick Embroidery Group  
General knowledge quiz

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
9.30-10.30am  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am  
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm  
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 6.30pm - 8.00pm  
Arran Soul Choir, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm  
Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

## Friday 12th January

Arran Vets  
Arran Vets  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Coffee Morning for charities  
Smart Recovery Meeting  
Lochranza Children's Badminton  
AA meeting  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Tae Kwon-do  
Lochranza Adults' Badminton

Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
Corrie and Sannox Hall, 10.30am  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 1.30pm - 3pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
Arran High School, Lamlash, adults, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Lochranza Hall, 8pm

## Saturday 13th January

Flow Yoga  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Army Cadets  
Blackwaterfoot bowls  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Over 21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am  
9.30am - 11am  
9.30am - noon  
Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm  
Bowling Club, 1.30pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm



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Contestants play Deal or No Deal. 01\_B01mackerel05



Fraser Hendrie calls out another winner during the mackerel lottery. 01\_B01mackerel04

# Mackerel lott and running

A bumper Christmas mackerel lottery got a marathon fundraising effort for Maggie's Centres off to a flying start.

Around 100 people packed the Kinloch Hotel two days before Christmas for the annual fun event and which saw the mackerel lottery raise £936 towards Barbara Crawford's target of £3,000 she has set herself to raise before she and friend Carol

Brown run the London marathon in April.

Barbara said she had chosen to raise money for Maggie's because of the wide support they give people affected by cancer across the country and said they hoped to expand their services on Arran.

### Training

Other fund raising events will be held at the Kinloch, which she runs with husband

Robbie, ahead of the marathon, which she is now hard in training for.

As well as the lottery, guests enjoyed a Christmas jumper competition for children and adults as well as games of Deal or No Deal and Play Your Cards Right.

The winners of the Shiskine Christmas lights competition were also announced with Charles Currie emerging as the winner.



The adult Christmas jumper line-up. 01\_B01mackerel02

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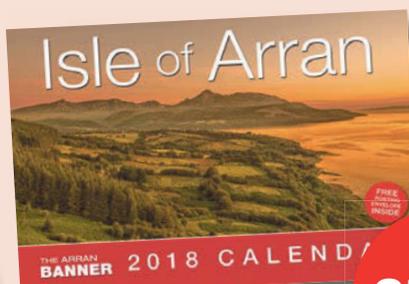
Fraser turns the cards during the Play Your Cards Right game. 01\_B01mackerel06

The winners with all the entrants of the children's Christmas jumper contest. 01\_B01mackerel01

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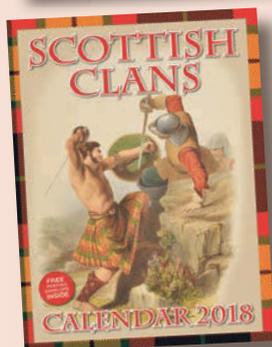
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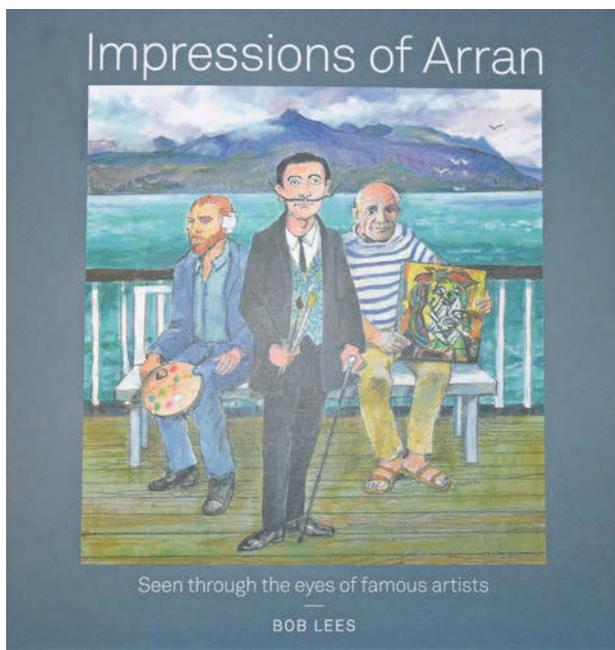
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# Leading artists give their impressions of Arran

## Or what Bob thinks they would be



The front cover of Impressions of Arran. 01\_B52impressions02

An Arran artist has released his first ever book called *Impressions of Arran*.

With more than 30 years of exhibitions and artworks spanning the globe, including royal collections, Bob Lees's work of Arran landscapes has long been published commercially as cards and art prints.

Bob's first foray into publishing some of his artworks in book form came about because of pressure from his friends and family who urged him to put his art and characteristic good humour - acquired through years of creating humor-

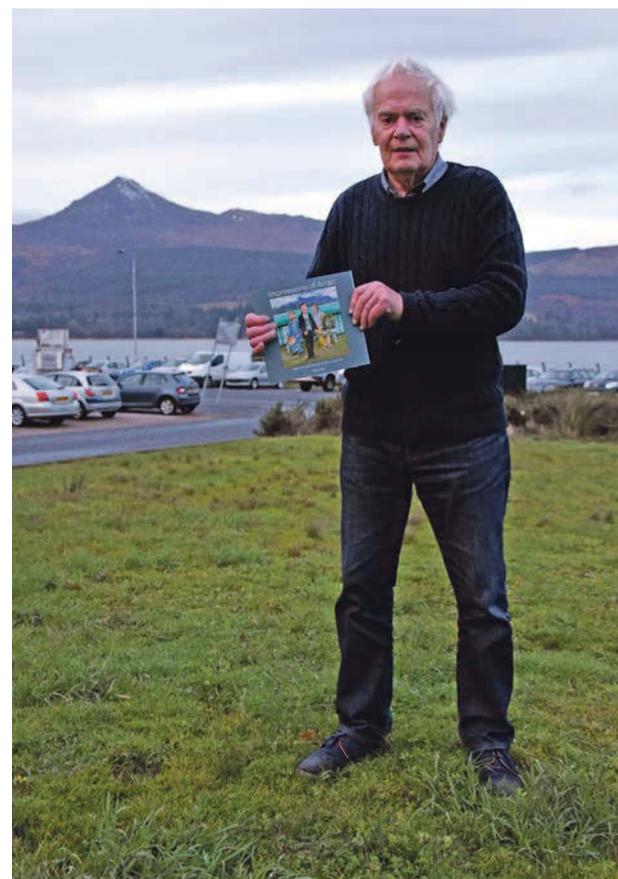
ous cards - into a collection which showcases the scope of his work.

*Impressions of Arran* not only shows artworks of iconic Arran landscapes, it is also creatively done in the styles of famous artists who Bob says - using a fair bit of poetic licence and humorous imagination - have visited Arran.

Artistic styles and artists included in the book, numbering more than 30, include John Constable, Turner, Van Gogh, Salvador Dali, Picasso, Andy Warhol, Matisse, Renoir and even Lowry and Leonardo da Vinci.

The £15 book, *Impressions of Arran - Seen through the eyes of famous artists*, is interesting to read with information and artworks of the artists themselves sitting neatly alongside Bob's re-imagining of their work, using Arran locations.

Bob, who has an identical twin brother Jim, spends his time between his house in Corrie and his home in Edinburgh. The book is



Artist Bob Lees shares a similar location to the front cover of his book, *Impressions of Arran*. 01\_B52impressions01

available at Arran Graphics, which organised publication, and Arran Active and will soon be in other shops and artists' studios on the island.

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## Profits up at Auchrannie hotel and spa resort

The Auchrannie hotel and spa resort has seen a rise in profits and turnover in its latest financial year. The company said improved occupancy, cost control and the impact made by room and restaurant refurbishments had all been contributing factors.

### Turnover

Accounts newly available at Companies House show pre-tax profits at Auchrannie rose by 64 per cent to £308,982 in the year ended March 31, with turnover climbing to £7.2 million from £6.7m.

Director Colin Morrison, who noted the resort

had just had its busiest ever Christmas, said average occupancy at Auchrannie grew to 90.8 per cent over the period, up from 87.9 per cent, as the business benefits from cheaper ferry prices to Arran thanks to the Road Equivalent Tariff.

He was quoted by *The Herald* as stating: 'It has had a positive impact on the whole island; it's much cheaper to get to.'

But he also highlighted the impact made by greater focus on controlling costs and the continuing investment. During the period around £500,000 was invested to refurbish two of

the resort's restaurants - Brambles and Cruize bar and brasserie - and in upgrading 12 bedrooms in the older Auchrannie House property, as previously reported by the *Banner*.

A further £750,000 is currently being invested to add six luxury 'couples' retreats' in the grounds, which will be ready in April.

Meanwhile, Mr Morrison said the prospect of the free movement of people across the EU coming to an end after Brexit was 'still a major concern' for Auchrannie, which has many EU staff.

# Lend a helping hand this winter

January is expected to be cold and wet so spare a thought for our feathered friends at this time of year.

Their survival skills are tested to the limit when winter tightens its grip and food becomes hard to find. During one cold winter's night a bird can use up to a 10th of its body weight keeping warm. Unless it is able to feed well every day to replenish its reserves, a prolonged cold spell can be deadly. Provide a helping hand this winter by feeding your garden birds.

## What to feed

Peanuts, black sunflower seeds and nyjer seeds are all rich in fats and oils. Fat balls, cooked rice, uncooked oats, grated hard cheese and finely chopped unsalted bacon are all good but not milk nor desiccated coconut nor salted peanuts. Fruits, including dried fruit and halved windfall apples and pears, all attract in birds.

## How to feed

Use a bird table or feeders and avoid scattering on the ground. This attracts rats. Remove stale and mouldy food and reduce the amount

offered if it takes days to clear. To avoid the build up of harmful bacteria and parasites clean bird tables and feeders regularly. Remember to provide the birds with access to clean water to drink and bathe in. Bird baths should also be regularly cleaned.

## Where to feed

Where the humans can get good views, but more importantly where the birds feel safe and can feed undisturbed. In particular avoid putting bird tables and feeders near fences or dense hedges, where cats can easily get to them. If there is a bush nearby, birds can use this as a look-out point to make sure it is safe to come down.

## When to feed

Dawn and dusk: first thing in the morning, as they replenish energy lost overnight, and last thing in the afternoon, to prepare for the long night ahead.

## Wildlife-friendly gardening

Grow plants that provide natural food sources for your birds either directly with fruits and seeds or

indirectly by attracting insects and invertebrates. Abandon slug-killer and pesticides and increase the amount of invertebrates around for birds to feed on. Grow plants that fruit in winter like holly and ivy. Delay your annual pruning of herbaceous and berry-bearing plants until late winter to provide food and much needed shelter and areas to roost.

## Finally

Winter feeding of birds is not only good for the birds but also good for humans, giving us close views of our feathered friends and enabling us to better appreciate their wonderful colours and fascinating behaviour.

## Enjoy your birding

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012as well as the Arran Bird Report 2016 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels

A great spotted woodpecker feeding. Photo Tony Church.



A redwing enjoying a tasty morsel.  
Photo Mike Rose.



Siskins at a feeder. Photo Carl Reavey.

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# Public Notice

### NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CHILDREN ENTITLED TO START P1 – SESSION 2018/2019

Children who attain the age of 5 years between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019 should be registered for education during the week commencing Monday 15 January 2018.

As times vary from school to school, parents are asked to check registration arrangements with the appropriate catchment primary school for the area in which they live. The child's birth certificate and proof of address should be produced at the time of registration.

Information on Registration can be found on the Council's web site: [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) (Education and Learning pages).

If you wish your child to attend a school outwith your catchment area you must register at your catchment school then submit a placing request. This can be done online by accessing [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) (Education and Learning pages).

Placing request assistance can also be obtained by telephoning 01294 310000. Registration at your catchment area school does not guarantee entry to that school.

**JOHN BUTCHER**  
Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment)

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**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 7th January**

Pirnmill, and Lochranza Churches Together 10.15am, Morning Worship at Lochranza Church Shiskine Church, 12 noon Morning Worship. Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship. Corrie Church 11.30am, Prayer meeting 12noon, Morning Worship. There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 7th January**  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
Rev Adrian Fallows.  
Coffee after service.  
ALL WELCOME

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
**Sunday 7th January**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge,  
Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All welcome

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 7th January**  
Rev Lily McKinnon  
Kilmory - 10 am, Lamlash - 11.30 am.  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

Quakes meet every Sunday at 11am  
For meeting venue ring - 830622 or 820223

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Charity Number: SC014005  
**Sunday 7th January**  
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All most welcome. There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm to which all friends are welcome.

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 7th January**  
Service 11am  
Ormidale Pavilion  
Tea and coffee after the service  
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.  
Telephone 600222  
Everyone warmly invited

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm  
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Sunday 7th January**  
Vigil Mass 7.30pm  
Sunday Mass 11am

**DEATHS**

**CROSS:** On Thursday 28th December 2017, in Norfolk, Dorothy Joyce, aged 90. Beloved wife of the late Ron. Sadly missed.

An interment of ashes at Brodick will be arranged.

**SMITH (MILLAR):** Helen Roy Peacefully, at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee after a short illness, Helen aged 105, formerly of Llandulas Cottage, Lamlash. Wife of the late Tommy Millar and Harry Smith and beloved mother of Tom and Iain and their families.

Funeral service at Lamlash parish church on Wednesday 10th January at 11.30am and thereafter at Lamlash cemetery. Family flowers only, please. Donations, if desired, to WaterAid

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**



All of the trophy winners at the Whiting Bay Bowling Club prizegiving.

**Whiting Bay bowlers lift the silverware**

Whiting Bay Bowling Club recently held its annual dinner and prizegiving at Felicity's at Eden Lodge where, after a sumptuous meal, the trophies were handed out by Mrs Jan Young.

The recipients of the trophies were as follows: Co-op Shield, J Doug-

lass, M M Pringle, J McGovern. Angus Cook Memorial Trophy, C Haggarty, R Crawford, C Weir. Royal Bank Trophy, J McGovern and S Allen. Anniversary Triples, S Kerr, A and R Frame. Fun Week Shield, C and J Steed, A and R Frame. Shurig Shield, N Cook, M M and N C Prin-

gle. Kiscadale Shield, M M Pringle, K M Irving. Gents' Singles Trophy, K M Irving. Ladies' Singles Trophy, J Douglass. Tom and Jennie Robison Memorial Trophy, M M Pringle, A Frame. Arran Ladies' Bowls Federation, A Frame, Whiting Bay Bowling Club.



Members of the Machrie Bay Golf Club enjoyed the nine-hole Christmas competition which saw Reuben Betley winning the Eclectic Shield for 2017.



**Lamlash Golf Club**

Thursday December 28, Yellow Medal. 1 Lee Dutton 84-20=64.  
Tuesday January 2, course

backwards. 1 Calum Rae 79-14=65, 2 Alistair Crawford 78-12=66, 3 Matt Harvey 84-12=72 BIH over Ian Bremner. Magic twos Paul Jameson @6th, Alistair Crawford @7th. Scratch Alistair Crawford 78.

Fixtures: Sunday January 7, AGA Winter League. Thursday January 11, Yellow Medal at 11am.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Monday January 1, Ne'er-day bottle and shield, Stableford. A total of 15 intrepid sober souls took on the course in reasonable weather apart from a lengthy shower half way through the round. Most

had their worst round of the year whilst three players had their best round of the year. 1 R Logan 39pts, 2 S Beardsley 32pts, 3 D Logan 31pts.

Fixtures: Saturday January 6, ballot at 9am and 12.30pm. Monday January 8, ballot at 12noon.

**THANK YOU**

**THANK YOU**

A huge thank you to all the people who saw us through a difficult time.

Your kindness and gifts galore had to be experienced to be believed and we would have been in serious trouble without your enormous and selfless help.

We can't thank you enough.

*Ted and Margaret Godfrey*

**This is YOUR paper...**

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

# A look back at 2017 –



JULY - More than 100 runners took to the roads for the annual Shiskine half-marathon organised by the Shiskine Valley Improvements Committee. 01\_A27half01



AUGUST - Record crowds attended the Brodick Highland Games where Tom Gilmore successfully lifted one of the McGlashan stones. 01\_B32games18



JULY - Arran bowlers took the honours in a friendly international match against 17 visiting members from various bowling clubs in Florida. 01\_B29\_bowls\_01



SEPTEMBER - Pupils from the Lamlash campus enjoyed a memorable and action-packed show by Scottish stunt cycle team, The Clan. 01\_B35bike06



AUGUST - Lois Ashley on Kippin was this year named the overhead champion at the 181st Arran Farmers' Society annual show at Glenkiln. 01\_B31front01



SEPTEMBER - Brodick are crowned four-in-a-row league champions after a thrilling play-off match against Southend for the Arran Dairies league championship. 01\_B36footy01

# July to December



SEPTEMBER - Heather Queen Alyssa McGarrie joins the team of 11 Arran folk who took part in the annual Lamlash Splash. 01\_B38splash02



OCTOBER - Arran Coastal Rowing Club ended their last regatta of the season on a high note after winning the Prestwick regatta trophy.

OCTOBER - Team Arran brought back the silverware at the British Schools Orienteering Championship at Sheffield where Ciara Wood took silver in her class - S3 girls.



NOVEMBER - Lamlash campus faculty members and young sports ambassadors celebrate the second year of being awarded the prestigious North Ayrshire Council community sport award for school sport.



NOVEMBER - Trophy winners from Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club at their annual prize-giving evening.



DECEMBER - Island runners took to the streets for the annual 5k Santa Dash around Brodick dressed in festive attire.



DECEMBER - Trophy winners receive their awards at Brodick Bowling Club's annual presentation of awards and dinner.

## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

A look back at 2017  
July to December



Arran Taekwondo students Nastassja Alberti and Patryk Gwizdowski joined students from all over Scotland to receive their black belt grading.

# Taekwondo duo achieve black belt grading success

Two of Arran's dedicated young Taekwondo students have achieved success in their black belt grading scoring two of the highest scores.

Nastassja Alberti, aged 16 and Patryk Gwizdowski aged 11, who both live in Whiting Bay,

travelled with instructors John Divine and Debbie McNally to Dalkeith recently, where they joined 16 students from all over Scotland who were graded from 1st dan to 4th dan.

Participants underwent a rigorous assessment with the Ar-

ran pupils both enduring a tough two-hour test and achieving two of the highest scores in the category.

Master Catherine Divine, who headed the grading panel, commented on their success saying that she was very impressed

with the performances of the Arran students. The Taekwondo clubs on the island now boast an impressive 12 black belts, eight of which have been completely home taught on Arran.

Club training will restart on Wednesday January 10, at Arran

High School and anyone interested in joining can go along for a free taster session on Wednesdays from 7.30pm to 9pm or on Fridays from 7pm to 9pm.

The club also meets in Brodick Church hall on Mondays from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

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