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Winter is here

Arran struggles through the snow



Cash fight

Leaders at odds over budget



Staying safe

Busy year for Coastguard

New terminal won't be open for Easter

The delay is being blamed on the passenger access system

Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The new Brodick ferry terminal will not be ready to use until after Easter, it was confirmed this week.

Serious delays mean it will be the end of March, when Easter falls this year, before work on the redevelopment is complete - and it will be into April before the terminal is open to the public, more than five months late.

It had been expected that the £30 million terminal would be up and operating well before the start of the main summer tourism season.

The delay is being blamed on the passenger access system (PAS), which has caused many of the hold-ups, and bosses say it is

unfeasible to use the new pier without it.

Pier owner Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) says the covered walkway access system has not received its CE mark certification, which means it cannot be used.

A defect relating to the automated door closure needs to be addressed to meet CE marking standards. CMAL is working with Adelte, the specialist contractor appointed to supply and install the PAS, to deliver a solution.

Design, manufacturing, installation and certification timescales for the agreed solution mean the project completion and terminal opening dates have been delayed.

All other project work is

substantially complete, including the new terminal building, pier, marshalling area and car park. The main contractor, George Leslie Limited, is on site carrying out minor snagging work. Normally, snagging work would be carried out after building handover. However, given the delay to the PAS, CMAL agreed to allow the main contractor to undertake all snagging work whilst the facilities are still under its control.

The terminal will open to the public soon after project completion, once the operator, CalMac Ferries Ltd has conducted staff training and familiarisation.

Ramsay Muirhead, head of civil engineering at CMAL explained: 'As a re-

Continued on page 2

Arran United in Kathmandu



Meet the new Arran United FC. They are the boys of Arran House in Kathmandu who have just set up their first ever five-a-side football team. They have painted their own strips with the help of Corrie artist Gordon Davidson, who has just returned from Nepal. The team are back row: Tenzing, Yam, Finjo and Sakar. Front row: Adeep and Saroj. See centre spread for a full report on Gordon's trip.

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Repair time doubles for roadworks on Bogullie

Closure of the Bogullie in the north of the island for vital repair work will now

stretch out a month longer than planned. Initially it was proposed

to close the main road into Lochranza for seven-and-a-half hours a day with

the work starting on January 29. The resurfacing and widening on the A841 near the Witches Bridge was scheduled to take up to 30 days.

However, following a site meeting with the contractor North Ayrshire Council's roads bosses say that double that time will now be needed and the road will now be closed every day, including weekends, until the end of March.

A council spokesman said: 'After detailed con-

sideration, this project may take up to eight weeks to complete due to the timing of the road closure and the scale of the drainage and widening works involved.

'The contractor advises that it will work seven days a week, however, given the size of the project and the time of year it would be best not to underestimate the time required to complete the works.'

The road will be closed from 9.15am to 4.30pm daily with traffic signals

being in place overnight in the interests of public safety. These works will commence, weather permitting, on January 29 and are anticipated to be completed by March 23.

The A841 near the Witches Bridge is one of the island's notorious accident black-spots, with cyclists particularly badly at risk.

□ Meanwhile, carriageway works for Sliderry have been cancelled due to the weather and will be re-programmed at a later date.



Work will start on the Bogullie on January 29.



The automated door closure system which is causing the problem. 01_B03terminal01

New terminal won't be open for Easter

Continued from page 1

-sult of the PAS issues, the new pier cannot be used because taking passengers on and off via the car deck and link-span would affect service turnaround time and hence timetabling. It also reduces passenger comfort.

'The certification issue has created an unexpected delay as we were preparing for handover from the contractors. This

is a very frustrating situation, and we know the local community will be very disappointed.

'We are working closely with Adelte to ensure the solution is implemented as a matter of priority and we will aim to improve on the programme timescale, where possible, so that we can complete the project and open the terminal to the public.'

Arran sailing enthusiast dies

A well known Arran sailing enthusiast has died.

Police and emergency services were called after Donald Johnston, 64, was found dead at his home in Bungalow Road, Lamlash around 3.20pm on Sunday afternoon. He is understood to have been working

on the roof at the time but whether he fell or took unwell remains uncertain.

A post mortem examination will take place in due course to establish the cause of his death, which at this time, police are not treating as suspicious. A report will be submitted to

the procurator fiscal.

Donald owned and ran Johnston's marine stores at the Old Pier in Lamlash for more than 40 years, which was the oldest chandlers in the West of Scotland. He was also an author, specialising in books on shipwrecks.

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Arran hit by the snowy weather

Arran has kept on the move this week despite wide-spread snow.

Two days of heavy snow, sleet and hailstones left much of the island covered in a thick blanket of snow and plunging temperatures have made road conditions treacherous.

Round the clock

Many minor accidents have been reported particularly on the String and the Lamlash hill, but gritters and snowploughs have worked round the clock to keep routes open.

Drivers who became stuck were also assisted by other motorists. Pavements

too, even in Brodick and Lamlash, were covered in snow, leading to many older people staying indoors.

A number of meetings were cancelled, including the Saltire Society and the Arran Elderly Forum, schools finished early and Kilmory primary and early years class were shut on Wednesday.

There was also some ferry disruption with high winds causing the cancellation of services on Sunday and Monday as well as further delays during the week.

As a result the planned start of refurbishment work at the main Co-operative

Food store in Brodick was delayed by 24 hours, but started on Monday night.

Contractors have set up a yard at the back of the car park and work, which is mainly being carried out after the store shuts at 8pm, is said to be progressing well with little disruption in the shop so far.

Warnings

A series of weather warnings have been issued, with snow and ice forecast until today (Friday). Tomorrow (Saturday) should be dry and sunny with a rise in the temperature, but it is expected to be wet and windy on Sunday.



Andy Grant from Harvey Shopfitters shows the new yard to Co-op workers Susan Logan and Dara Mathieson. 01_B03snow02



A gritter hard at work in Douglas Place, Brodick.

01_B03snow01



A truck makes its way across a snowy String road. 01_B03snow03

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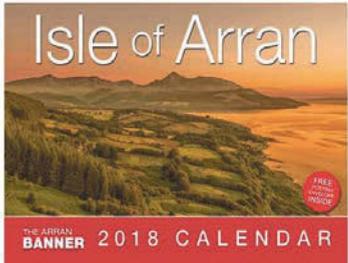
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An embroidery exhibition of local work is on at Arran Library in Brodick until the end of the month. It consists of works crafted by the ladies of the embroidery group who have been meeting for the last 30 years to sew and share ideas. They also sometimes take trips out to see exhibitions. The group meets on a Thursday night at 7.30pm in the community room at the library. Anyone interested in joining should contact Anne Hollingworth on 840270 or just come along and meet the group. 01_B03library01

Have your say on coastal planning

Arran residents are being invited to give their views on the coastal development as part of a new Clyde Regional Marine Plan.

The seas of the Clyde marine region are home to a rich diversity of species and habitats and are used for a range of activities from industry to recreation.

Free public events will be hosted by the Clyde Marine Planning Partnership (CMPP), who are responsible for developing the marine plan,

which is due in 2020. The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is a signed up member stakeholder and has a seat on the CMPP. COAST is calling on people from Arran to attend a workshop and make their voices heard.

Sensitivities

A presentation will be given on the current condition of the Clyde, changes over time, and the sensitivities and pressures faced by its diverse marine life.

Two short video animations will also be shown to illustrate the process of the 'assessment', and the 'condition of seabed habitats, fish and shellfish in the Clyde'. A guide has also been drafted, for the public, to describe the topics above and will be shown at the workshop.

The workshop will be held in the Lauriston Hotel, Ardrrossan on Saturday, January 27, 12.30pm-3pm, to allow travel from Arran. Register on line or call 0131 314 6782 to attend.

Health and social care drop-in session

Arran residents are invited to have their say on the future of the island's health and social care provision.

Consultation is now open on North Ayrshire health and social care partnership's new three-year strategic plan for 2018-21. A drop-in session on Arran will hope to address factors like the rise in demand

for services and current funding cuts, whilst helping people to stay informed about how to best improve their health.

Councillor Robert Foster, chairman of the health and social care partnership strategic planning group, said: 'We will have to work differently to ensure we provide the services that

people need and, just as importantly, ensure they have the tools and knowledge to have a positive impact on their own health.

'The new strategic plan aims to show that by working together, with a focus on prevention and early intervention, we can do more for people's long-term health and well-being.'

Arran residents are invited along to discover more about what they can do to keep themselves well. Health and social care partnership staff will also be on hand to answer any questions they may have.

The drop-in session will be held from 11.30am to 12.30pm on Friday, January 26 at Arran Library.

... and help for hearing too

Hearing aid users on Arran are being invited to give themselves a better chance to hear in the New Year by attending a charity's support session next week.

Help

Action on Hearing Loss Scotland's audiolo-

gy-trained Hear to Help volunteers clean and re-tube NHS hearing aids and provide new batteries to help people to follow conversations with their family and friends.

The first drop-in session of 2018 takes place in Ar-

ran Library from 11am to 1pm, Tuesday January 23 from 11am to 1pm.

Delighted

Hear to Help manager Hugh Donaghy said: 'We'll be delighted to welcome people to our upcoming drop-in sessions on Arran,

where our wonderful volunteers can adjust and re-tube your NHS hearing aids to be more comfortable and help you hear more clearly.'

For information about Hear to Help, call 0738 8227407 or email: scotland@hearingloss.org.uk

Community rallies after toilet block is torched

A community has rallied round after a toilet block was deliberately torched.

Police are treating the incident in Whiting Bay as wilful fireraising. The gents' side of the toilet block is now closed until repairs can be carried out. The fire was started in the early hours of Saturday morning inside the toilet block.

Youths

Reports say three or four youths were seen in the vicinity of the toilet block between 4am and 5am on Saturday morning.

The fire extensively damaged the sink and floor of the toilet which is housed

in a prefabricated building at Sandbraes Park. A toilet seat was also broken. The fire was extinguished without the attendance of the fire service.

The toilets were only recently taken over by Whiting Bay Improvements after North Ayrshire Council shut toilets across the island.

Stuart Fraser of nearby Bay Stores said: 'Lots of time, effort and fundraising went into the fight to keep these toilets open, only for this brainless activity to now close them until further notice.'

A meeting of Whiting Bay Improvements was held on Tuesday night to discuss

the future of the toilets. Chairman Ian Cook said: 'It was a positive meeting and we are determined to get the toilets repaired and reopened as soon as we can.'

Repair work

'We have had lots of offers of help and volunteers to carry out the repair work which will mean replacing the sink and repairing the floor and would hope to have them reopen as soon as we can.' The ladies' toilets remain open.

Arran police Sgt Douglas Robertson said: 'This was a pointless and mindless act of wilful fireraising. We are following a positive line of inquiry.'



The toilet block in Sandbraes Park and inset the notice explaining the closure.

01_B03toilets04 and 01_B03toilets01



The damage caused by the fire.

01_B03toilets02

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Leader slams 'black hole' austerity budget

Have your say on council funding

Time is running out for people to have their say on North Ayrshire Council's budget for 2018-19.

The council has invited residents to take the budget challenge, which enables people to set their own 'virtual budget' by allocating money to each service and seeing the potential consequences of this in real time.

Residents are also given the opportunity to add comments to express their own views on how the council allocates budgets to services.

This is the first time the council's budget engagement process has given every household in North Ayrshire the chance to have a say on spending priorities. However, the deadline for submissions is on Sunday, January 21.

Council leader Joe Cullinane said: 'The online budget challenge will allow people right across North Ayrshire to have their say by setting out what they believe our priorities should be in their own budget.'

'Residents can also use the comments section at the end to submit their own ideas, their views on local government funding or to simply provide feedback on the budget challenge tool. We will take the results of the online engagement and use this to inform the budget.'

Anyone can take part by visiting www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/budgetchallenge

Members of the public who do not have access to the internet at home can access online facilities at Arran Library in Brodick.

North Ayrshire Council's leader has rejected the SNP government's budget offer, which he says will leave a £17 million black hole in the council's finances.

Labour Councillor Joe Cullinane turned down the offer from SNP finance secretary Derek Mackay, who has written to Scottish councils with his budget proposals.

Councillor Joe Cullinane said the offer came with a 'threatening' ultimatum from the SNP chief that any council not accepting it by January 26 would get an even worse deal.

Councillor Cullinane accused the SNP government of breaking its promise to fully fund the expansion of early years provision by claiming it was being funded by cuts else-

where in council budgets. He said that of the £150m capital funding for early years, £60m was funded by cutting the capital revenue grant which will hit other projects.

Councillor Cullinane said: 'North Ayrshire Council faces the largest single year financial deficit in its history. Mr Mackay and the SNP are threatening to impose draconian cuts on our communities.'

Austerity

'They are once again selling out council workers too. Nine in 10 of the public sector jobs in Scotland that have been lost through austerity have been in local government as the SNP choose to dump cuts on to councils.'

'Now the SNP wants to claim it has ended the pub-



Council leader Joe Cullinane.

lic sector pay cap when in reality its pay policy only covers a fraction of public sector workers in Scotland. With councils facing an effective cut of £700m next year it's clear the SNP is happy to see council workers' pay award funded through their colleagues losing their jobs.'

Councillor Cullinane said the Scottish Parliament did not have to pass on Tory cuts as it had a range of fiscal powers to explore alternatives.

'Mr Mackay can threaten my administration all he likes but he knows he needs opposition support to pass his budget. If he wants me to support his budget then he will need to quickly find £17m for North Ayrshire Council because anything less will leave us facing cuts,' he said.

The claims were dismissed by SNP North Ayrshire group leader Marie Burns, who said Councillor Cullinane should stop

trying to scare workers and service users.

'Councillor Cullinane is living in a parallel universe in which the sums he mentions bear no resemblance whatsoever to the actual figures in the draft budget settlement for North Ayrshire,' she said.

'Even after inflation, the reduction in funding is 1.2 per cent, according to the politically independent Scottish Parliament Information Centre. That is before additional funding of an anticipated £4m is provided to North Ayrshire Council following further deliberations at Holyrood.'

'Of course, North Ayrshire Council would have an additional £13m available this year, were it not for Labour's disastrous PFI schemes and would be £5.1m a year worse off if the SNP Government had not rejected Labour's proposals to fund Glasgow at the expense of North Ayrshire.'



SNP group leader Marie Burns.

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Caledonian Isles gets a comfortable new fit out

Arran ferry passengers will enjoy a range of new comfort upgrades when the MV Caledonian Isles returns from its annual fit out.

The CalMac Ferries' vessel is due to return to service on the Brodick to Ardsaran route this weekend, after a two-week makeover at the Cammell Laird shipyard in Liverpool.

The Mariners Lounge has been given new wall coverings, window blinds, carpets and flooring, along with new tables and chairs.

CalMac's head of service delivery Ross Moran said: 'Passengers will be able to enjoy a distinctive new feel to the main passenger and hospitality areas, which will hopefully further add to their en-

joyment of travelling with us.'

Pets travelling on the ferry have not been left out either, with new seat coverings and flooring for the pet-friendly area.

Technically, the vessel's propeller hub has undergone a major overhaul, along with the main engine, to ensure the vessel's reliability.

The MV Caledonian Isles has been in service since 1993, and can carry more than 1,000 passengers and 110 cars.

Last year it made more than 2,000 return journeys from the mainland to Arran.

The new MV Glen Sannox, currently being built at the Ferguson yard in Port Glasgow will join her on the route sometime early next year.



The MV Caledonian Isles enters dry dock in Liverpool for her upgrade work.

Window cleaners will need a clean slate to operate

Window cleaners on Arran could soon need a licence to operate after a move to regulate their services in the same way as taxi drivers.

North Ayrshire Council's licensing committee proposed a period of consultation and, if approved, the new rules are likely to come into force by the end of 2018.

Area commander Chief Inspector Brian Shaw of Police Scotland reported that over the past 12 months there were 17 alleged offences committed by people who at time of detection gave their occu-

pation as a window cleaner. All of these were on the mainland.

It has been argued that as window cleaners have access to properties they – like taxi drivers – should be seen as fit and proper individuals and have undergone the proper checks.

Further discussion

Following the decision, representations by interested parties will be allowed to be made in due course, before further discussion and a decision finalised at a later committee meeting.

If passed the new regulation is likely to come into

effect on Sunday December 23.

Councillor Ronnie McNicol, convenor of the licensing committee, said: 'The licensing of window cleaners is at the discretion of each local authority. We have taken advice from our colleagues at Police Scotland and feel that it is right to propose this resolution.'

'This is just the first step in the process and there will be a chance for anyone to make representations if they wish to do so. It will then be discussed further and we hope to make a decision at a forthcoming meeting in March.'

Charities benefit from Provost's awards

North Ayrshire's most vulnerable children and families will be in the limelight at the Provost's Civic Pride Awards.

Cash for Kids and the Ayrshire Hospice are the chosen charities of the event, which is in its eighth year and has raised more than £136,000 for good causes so far.

Provost Ian Clarkson said: 'Once again, I'm delighted that Cash For Kids and the Ayrshire Hospice will benefit as they do so much for so many people, both young and old.'

A total of five awards will be presented at the Civic Pride Awards dinner at the Portal, Irvine, on Friday March 16.

Voting

They are: The North Ayrshire citizen of the year award, young citizen of the year, arts and culture award, community group award, and the sports award.

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Editorial

Terminal delay is a major blow

The news that the new Brodick ferry terminal won't be open in time for Easter is a major blow.

It had been expected that the new £30 million terminal would be up and running, and with any teething troubles ironed out, long before the start of the main holiday season.

What makes the delay all the more galling is the fact that throughout the two years of construction work everything went more or less to plan.

The first delay came with the delivery of the passenger access system (PAS) and that appears to be the main cause behind the five-month hold-up which we are now facing.

It is extremely annoying for both passengers, and we are sure for CMAL and CalMac too, to see a new spick and span terminal sitting idle just waiting to be used while they have to plod on using the old terminal and pier.

Let us hope that the contractors can get the access system working, and certified, as soon as possible and let everyone benefit from the new facilities.

We would also like to think that contractors may face a penalty clause for delays so that there is no further cost to the public purse.

Thought for the week

'Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun.' (Psalm 37:5-6)

Clear obligation

Sir,
I have worked as a volunteer at the Arran Citizens' Advice bureau for a number of years. Firstly, I would like to thank both our local councillors for their strong support for a local service. Secondly I apologise to our clients for the withdrawal of the CAB. It is very disappointing.

The long, jargon-filled statements from North Ayrshire and Citizens' Advice don't hide the fact that this is a severe reduction in the service for Arran residents.

Yes, there may be someone in Ardrossan they can travel to see about debt and benefits, but many CAB clients have jobs or mobility problems which rule out a trip to Ardrossan. There will also be internet and phone advice available, but many do not have internet access. Problems are often too complex to solve over the phone. As you say in your editorial, this decision will hurt people when they are at their most vulnerable.

I assume that the reason is to cut costs. However, the service on Arran runs on a shoestring. I am a volunteer, the Ormidale provide a room at a low rent and there is a phone/internet bill. Contrary to the impression in your editorial, I live on the island and there are no 'visits' from NACAS, except to provide occasion-

al cover for my holidays. The management input and costs are negligible. Paying travel to the mainland may well exceed the small saving.

In future, whoever wins the new tender for advice must have a clear obligation to provide a regular face-to-face service on the island.

Yours,

**David Scott
Blackwaterfoot**

Cemetery disgrace

Sir,
Further to your excellent article regards the condition of Kilmory Cemetery in the *Arran Banner* last August, I have to take this opportunity to voice my total dismay regarding the condition of the cemetery as we stand at this time.

My father Phil was buried in 1980 and my dear mother Murdina in 2017 and to look at the grave at this moment you or any family would be shocked and saddened by the condition.

I can only believe that this is indeed 2018 where we should show respect to our parent and family members in their resting place and allow them to rest with dignity.

The condition of the cemetery with water not being sufficiently drained - I believe this was pointed out in the early 1990s - allow-

ing the ground to be sodden and indeed not suitable to walk on has in my opinion being responsible for the condition of the headstones which have been taken down or condemned as unsafe. Regarding the top graveyard, this has lasted decades and no problems so this is a recent problem (1990s) and should be rectified with dignity immediately.

I must also point out that this is indeed not a matter of financing as we have paid for all the necessary requirements to reposition the headstone in its proper place when the monumental mason returns to the island.

I can only ask that the council will maintain the cemetery in a way that offers dignity to the families of the people buried as this is their RIP place.

Yours,

**Graham Currie
Whiting Bay/Derby**

War memories

Sir,
I work for a documentary company called Testimony Films and we are currently making a new documentary series on the First World War for the BBC.

I am very keen to contact people local to your area that may have a story to share for our latest documentary series. We are trying to find Britain's oldest men and women who can share memories and stories of childhood during WWI and the immediate aftermath.

We are keen to speak to men and women in Britain who have memories of the First World War for a new BBC4 documentary series, 'Britain's Great War: The People's Story'.

The series will feature the childhood stories of centenarians and supercentenar-

ians who still vividly remember family life at the time, alongside archive footage and testimonies from those who fought.

We are especially interested in talking to those who may have lost a loved one at the front or who remember the air raids, the food shortages and the patriotic spirit of the time.

If you - or someone you know - have childhood stories of the Great War, we'd love to hear from you. Please email, call or write to Emily Sivyver, mail@testimonyfilms.com, 0117 925 8589, Testimony Films, 12 Great George Street, Bristol, BS1 5RH

Yours,

**Emily Sivyver
Testimony Films**

Band against cancer

Sir,
Readers may not be aware but World Cancer Day is fast approaching on February 4, which is a great time to raise funds and vital awareness in the fight for young lives against cancer.

CLIC Sargent, the UK's leading cancer charity for children and young people, are calling on locals to 'band together' behind families affected by cancer by donating just £2 to get your own special Band Against Cancer wristband (available in three different collectable colours).

To find out more about World Cancer Day and to get your own Band Against Cancer wristband go to: www.clicsargent.org.uk/ WorldCancerDay also available in J D Wetherspoon pubs and Morrisons stores.

Yours,

**Rachael McLean
Fundraising
engagement manager
West of Scotland**



Family headstones lie toppled over in Kilmory Cemetery.

How to contact us

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Press policy

At The Arran Banner, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

However, we realise 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 chief reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter.

You can call IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body that deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

THE EDITOR welcomes letters for publication on this page. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, should also be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ. Fax: (01770) 302021. Email editor@arranbanner.co.uk
Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.

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hold it until all your goods have arrived and deliver it all together to your home. If you're needing special arrangements for your delivery we can help. Just let us know your requirements when you book in. Forklift on site for pallets and as well as our speedy parcel services, we offer a 2 man and tailift service throughout the Island.

Busiest year on record for Arran Coastguard

The Arran Coastguard rescue team experienced its busiest year on record in 2017.

A busy December saw the team called out 16 times which took its yearly total to 186.

The previous record for call-outs was in 2015 when the team was tasked 140 times.

The small team of seven members attended various incidents including medical evacuations from Knockenkelly and Holy Isle along with a fishing vessel requiring assistance.

Team members were also involved in a five-day search in Machrie for John Smith and provided assis-

tance after a whirlwind in Corrie, as well as searching for a military drone.

Working alongside Ayrshire Police Division, Scottish Ambulance Service, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Arran MRT, Arran RNLI, K9 Search and Rescue, SARDA, Royal Navy and Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance, the maritime rescue organisation also completed many days of training at search, water and rope rescue in order to keep their skills sharp along with regular training sessions at the Coastguard station on Wednesday evenings for more practise.

December also saw four much-needed new mem-

bers joined the team. They applied in May and have successfully gone through interview, medicals and then completed their basic training. While the boost to numbers is welcomed, recruitment for more members will continue.

A spokeswoman for the Coastguard service thanked the community for its support during 2017 and vowed its commitment to serving the people of Arran and those that visit her shores.

Members of the Coastguard team pictured practising their rope techniques.



MP in bid to help combat loneliness this winter

Patricia Gibson, MP for North Ayrshire and Arran, is campaigning to highlight and combat loneliness this winter.

Building locally on Age Scotland's campaign 'No one should have no one', she is seeking to highlight the extent of loneliness and isolation, encouraging people to act in, and seek support from, their communities. Loneliness and social isolation can be especially bad when wintry weather and icy pavements can make people afraid to leave their homes.

While Age Scotland reports that 100,000 older people say they feel lonely often or always, sometimes passing an entire month without speaking to anyone, loneliness can affect anyone.

Mrs Gibson said: 'For the majority of us, the festive season was a time for celebration and being with loved ones. Unfortunately, for many people it highlights a loneliness which impacts on them all year round. Indeed, January is a particularly difficult

month; the month in which suicide levels peak in Scotland. Some people who take their own lives do so because of extreme loneliness.



Patricia Gibson MP

'Society has changed over recent years, and communities are often comprised of people who see little of each other as they go about their daily lives. Many of us no longer live near our relatives, and mobility issues, a lack of confidence, and access to transport are just some of the factors which contribute to isolation.

'Loneliness impacts on both our mental health

and our physical well-being. Lonely people are 64 per cent more likely to develop dementia and lacking social interaction can be as bad for us as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Indeed, loneliness is not just linked to depression but also an increased risk of coronary heart disease, diabetes and strokes.

'There are steps we can all take to reduce loneliness in our communities, and I urge people to make a special effort to reach out to those you know will be alone this winter. It can be hard for those affected to let others know they are struggling and many people feel depressed and anxious, but are embarrassed to let people know they need some extra help.

'Something as simple as inviting a neighbour round for a cup of tea can build vital connections that are a lifeline to many during these cold, dark months of winter.'

To contact Age Scotland for information, friendship and advice, call 0800 1244222.

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

The Scottish Government in their Climate Plan 2017 have identified air source heat pumps as one of their favoured ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

Want to find out more and see how much you could reduce your energy costs by?

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*The amount of assistance you will get is calculated from the figures shown in an Energy Performance Certificate for your property and based on 10.13p per kilowatt of heat produced by the heat pump



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Billy enjoying down time with the children.



Gordon surrounded by a growing number of children he has helped.



Gordon passes the time with some of the locals.

Gordon's Nep paint a big pic

Arran artist Gordon Davidson has returned from his latest Kathmandu trip with a host of new adventures to report.

Since becoming a trustee of charity project Kalaa Jyoti in December 2016, Gordon has been making regular visits to check on Arran House - a safe place for children left homeless after the 2015 earthquake in the region.

Having hosted a fundraising exhibition at the Isle of Arran Distillery in June last year, Gordon was presented with £1,000 cheque from Billy Black, an old football team-mate of his from Albert United FC.

Half of the sum came from Billy's own fundraising effort and was matched by Boots, where Billy works as a pharmacist. Billy joined Gordon for three weeks last November and December to see how the money was spent and also to try another fundraiser.

'Billy told me he wanted to climb a mountain in Nepal wearing a kilt,' said Gordon. 'I took one look at him and said you couldn't manage to walk up Goatfell!'

Billy went off to spend the summer getting into shape and at the end of November both Gordon and Billy walked up Sarangkot mountain, north of Pokhara.

'It's only 5,500 feet but it was hard, hot work in the kilts,' said Gordon. 'We stayed in a hotel near the top and spent the next morning watching the stunning sunrise over the Him-

alayas, before walking down the steep part of the mountain to the side of Fewa Lake.'

Their walk raised £1,200 and this money will be spent on Arran House over the next few months.

Gordon also worked with a school out in the villages north of Pokhara called Vinhaya Visini School, and made a fourth visit to work with the children in the very remote region of Mustang. Gordon affectionately calls these children his Mustang Monkeys.

'The trip to the Mustang Monkeys this year was very productive,' he said. 'There's one wee kid called Ngawang who is a total natural when it comes to painting. There is a possibility he might end up at Arran House as he will have to go to Kathmandu in the future to continue his education.'

Gordon, who lives in Corrie, recalls two moments from the Mustang visit which caused a lot of laughs.

'The Mustang Kids all got a hat each, knitted by my neighbour Rita, in Corrie,' said Gordon. 'Everyone found one that they liked and one that fitted and they were so pleased as winter was on its way.'

'There was another point when I was working with the kids doing their art and I heard lots of laughs going on behind me. When I looked around Billy had a packet of playing cards out and he was teaching the wee ones



A freshly-completed mural is a source of pride.



One of the many budding artists

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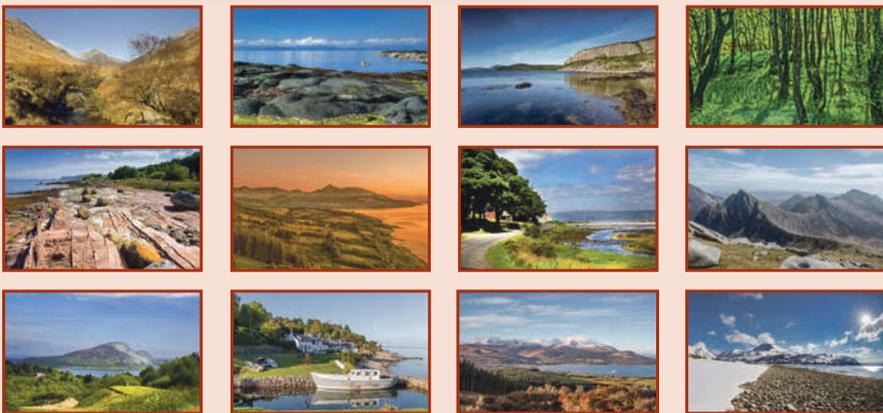
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The students are hard at work in Gordon's artwork class.



Arran residents' knitted winter hats arrive for the children.

al adventures cture of hope



Happy children take some time away from their studies.

how to play pairs! They were getting so excited and roaring every time they got a pair and giving big theatrical sighs when it didn't work out so well. I'm not sure it was quite what the art project was all about, but it was so funny to watch.'

On this visit, Gordon also organised his first ever exhibition in Nepal. The exhibition, in the garden of the Moonlight Hotel in Kathmandu, included work from the Arran House boys and the kids from the Himalaya boarding school.

Nepali Ambassador to India Dr Durgesh Singh opened the exhibition and hotel guests got the chance to meet the kids who had painted the works, which were later taken all over the world.

One of the greatest thrills for Gordon is catching up with children his charity work has helped. He met again with a boy called Sarjo, who had earlier turned up at Arran House asking for help after being beaten in his orphanage.

'We had known Saroj for five years and were so upset that legally we could not take him in so the ladies from my Wednesday art classes, Mary, Lynda, Diana, Joy and Katie, all decided that they would sponsor him and now pay his rent, food and school fees,' said Gordon.

'He is so happy he is away from his old

home even though his situation is really, really basic by our standards. I included him in a lot of the things we did with the Arran House kids.'

Before setting off Gordon received a number of small donations from neighbors and friends. This money was spent on winter jackets, visits to palaces and temples and on t-shirts which they painted to make football strips for a game where they played as Arran United.

Gordon says Arran House will be going through many changes this year as three of the kids will be moving on.

Tenzing will be going to Japan to work to help pay back his family's loan for rebuilding their house after the earthquake. Finjo wants to go to Australia to study and Adeep really wants to go to the art school full-time.

At the moment Adeep is doing his year 11 and 12 but has no idea how he can pay for art school when he leaves the house.

The costs for his art school fees will be £630-a-year for four years and Gordon's charity is currently seeking help with funding from any interested individuals or organisations.

The work completed by the children from Nepal will go on display in the Gurkha museum in Winchester in April, and again at the Lochranza distillery over the summer.



shows off some skills.



Gordon and Billy make tracks in their kilts.

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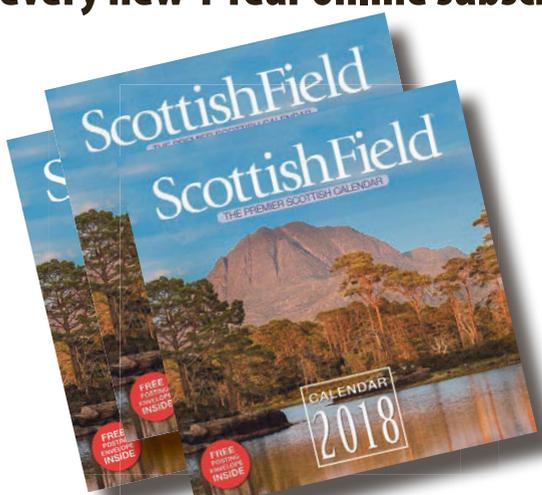
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Scotland's largest exhibition is making its welcome return to Glasgow from February 8 to 11.

The Scottish Caravan, Motorhome and Holiday Home Show, which is once again sponsored by one of Scotland's leading motorhome dealers, BC Motorhomes, will take over the entire SEC in Glasgow for another year to welcome more than 200 exhibitors and outdoor experts across the four-day period.

And to celebrate the return of the much-loved exhibition, we've teamed up with the show to offer readers the chance to win a pair of tickets to the ultimate outdoor extravaganza.

With the exhibition set to be bigger than ever in 2018 – with an even larger family camping area, more accessories and hundreds of models, layouts and specifications all in one place – it's the perfect destination to find out more about holidaying at home.

Visitors to the show will be able to have first sightings of the brand new models for 2018 as well as a variety of holiday homes from luxury lodges to eco pods.

With brands including Airstream, Swift, Elddis, Lunar, Bailey, Coachman, Roller Team and Rapido, there is guaranteed to be something to suit all needs and budgets.

Back by popular demand, visitors will also be able to purchase the 'must have' tents and accessories for their outdoor adventures at the Accessory Superstore.

Also on show will be marine products including jet skis and dinghies, as well as other marine accessories.

If that wasn't enough, visitors will be able to wander through the Holiday Park Village where staff will be on hand to pro-

vide advice and offer suggestions to make sure their caravanning experience is the best it can be.

In addition, a number of clubs and associations will be there to help you pick out your next destination while free caravan towing or motorcaravan manoeuvring sessions are on offer from the Caravan and Motorhome Club.

Tickets on sale now. Book yours and find out more about this year's exhibition at www.caravanshowscotland.com

To be in with a chance of winning the tickets, simply answer the following question: What dates is the Scottish Caravan, Motorhome and Holiday Home Show on?

Send your answer to Scottish Caravan Show competition, Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ.

Terms and conditions.

This competition is open to all adults over 18. All entries must include the name and contact details of the entrant. Entries will not be considered if they do not have all information specified.

Winners will be chosen at random and the editor's decision is final. The prize is one pair of tickets to the Scottish Caravan, Motorhome and Holiday Home Show 2018. Prize is valid for one day entry only and can be used on any one day between Thursday February 8 and Sunday February 11, 2018.

This prize has no cash alternative, is non-refundable and non-exchangeable. Travel and parking are not included. Please note that you must provide a full driving licence to participate in the free towing and manoeuvring sessions.



What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Every day

Trout fly fishing
 Brodick Castle
 Soap making and candle dipping Arran Aromatics
 Arran Brewery

Loch Garbad, bank fishing
 Garden only open 9am-dusk
 Brodick, 10am - 4pm
 Open Mon - Thursday 11.30am - 4.30pm
 Friday & Saturday, 10am - 4.30pm, Sun - Closed

Saturday 20th January

Flow Yoga
 Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Army Cadets
 Eco Savvy Shiskine & Blackwaterfoot Hub Launch
 Eco Savvy Music Workshop
 Blackwaterfoot bowls
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Soul Proud, Arran Soul Choir
 Live Music - Tim Pomeroy
 Live Music - Midnite Hour - ELO, The Police, Santana & more
 Over 21s' disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 9.30am - 11am
 9.30am - noon
 Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
 Shiskine Hall, 11am - 3pm
 Whiting Bay Village hall, 11am - 3pm
 Bowling Club, 1.30pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Lamlash Community Theatre, 7pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Sunday 21st January

Live Music
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Live Music - Midnite Hour - ELO, The Police, Santana & more
 AA meeting

Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 2pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm

Monday 22nd January

Morning fitness
 Arran Vets Surgery
 Arran Vets Reception
 Over 50s badminton
 4pm
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Adult Tennis
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Circuit Training
 Lamlash Aerobix
 Badminton
 Badminton
 Arran Bridge Club
 Tae Kwon Do

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30am - 10.30am
 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
 Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm-
 Brèagha Holistic Beauty, Corrie, 5pm
 Shiskine Church Hall, 5.15pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 6pm
 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 23rd January

Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Healthy Outdoors
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Blackwaterfoot Bowls
 Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
 Metafit Class
 Flow Yoga,
 Pilates
 Lamlash Junior Drama Club
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Youth club
 Fiona's FitSteps
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Live Music - Shindig
 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
 Arran High School, 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

Wednesday 24th January

Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 5pm

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Chair Yoga
 Bus Pass Club Free Soup
 Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service
 Knittery and Natterry
 Zumba Gold
 Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness)
 RUNclub - Mixed Ability
 Flow Yoga
 Tae Kwon Do
 Yoga-Arran
 Mixed hockey
 Burger and quiz night
 Tae Kwon Do
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Family friendly pub quiz, cash prize
 Rock and Pop Bingo

Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am
 The PHT, Lamlash, 12noon - 2pm
 10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm
 Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 4.30pm - 5.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5.45pm - 6.45pm
 Dunfion, Brodick, 5.30pm
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm
 Arran High School, Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30pm-9pm
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
 Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm - 10pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

Thursday 25th January

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

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
 9.30am - 10.30am
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am
 Brodick Church Hall, between 10.30am - 12noon
 Lamlash Church Hall, 2pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 5pm
 Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm
 Arran High School, 6 - 7pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

Friday 26th January

Arran Vets
 Arran Vets
 Coffee Morning for charities, all welcome.
 Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Smart Recovery Meeting
 Build a Steak night
 Lochranza Children's Badminton
 AA meeting
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Tae Kwon Do
 Douglas Hotel Burns Supper
 Live Music - Cams Campbell
 Lochranza Adults' Badminton
 Pool, Darts & Poker

Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
 Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
 Corrie and Sannox Hall, 10.30am
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 1.30pm - 3pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 5pm - 9pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, adults, 7pm - 9pm
 Douglas Hotel, 7pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 The PHT, Lamlash

Saturday 27th January

Flow Yoga
 Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Army Cadets
 Blackwaterfoot bowls
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Lamlash Burns Club Annual Burns Supper
 Burns Night, Burns songs & poems - Arran Artists
 Music Arran, DUO BIZ'ART
 Live Music - Lemon Soul - a soul band covering artists from the '60s
 Over 21s' disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 9.30am - 11am
 9.30am - noon
 Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
 Bowling Club, 1.30pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Lamlash Golf Club 7 for 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Community Theatre, Lamlash, 7.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm



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New Arran Coastal Way walking guide is a winner

Book review

A new guidebook really is an invaluable companion to anyone taking up the challenge of the Arran Coastal Way.

Out this month the new guide from Rucksack Readers has usefully been printed on rainproof paper and contains large-scale easy-to-use mapping in a handy new format.

The Arran Coastal Way was recognised as one of Scotland's Great Trails in 2017. It runs around the coast for 65 miles (105 km). The walking varies from easy coastal paths and cycle track to rugged beach-walking with some boulder-hopping.

The guidebook is lavishly illustrated with 125 colour photos and contains all

you need to plan and enjoy your holiday:

- Detailed route descriptions including all the recently added route options;
- Ten pages with mapping of the entire route at 1:55,000;
- Practical information about public transport and travel;
- Information on geology, whisky-making, history and wildlife.

Author Jacquetta Megarry is a professional author who has written or co-authored 18 guidebooks for Rucksack Readers after she devised the weatherproof format in 2000. She visited Arran three times last year while researching this guidebook, which is the second fully revised edition of the guide first published 10 years ago.

In his foreword to the guide, author and broadcaster Cameron McNeish, who opened the coastal way in March 2003, says it has evolved and improved greatly over the years.

He goes on: 'My own fa-

avourite section remains the toughest route option, from Kildonan to Whiting Bay via Dippin Head. No footpath tames this section, although all difficulties can be bypassed by heading inland from Kildonan on the main way.

'With steep cliffs on one side and open sea on the other, there's something very satisfying in the uncompromising nature of the terrain. Rocky reefs run out towards the little lighthouse island of Pladda. This is rugged coastal walking at its finest.'

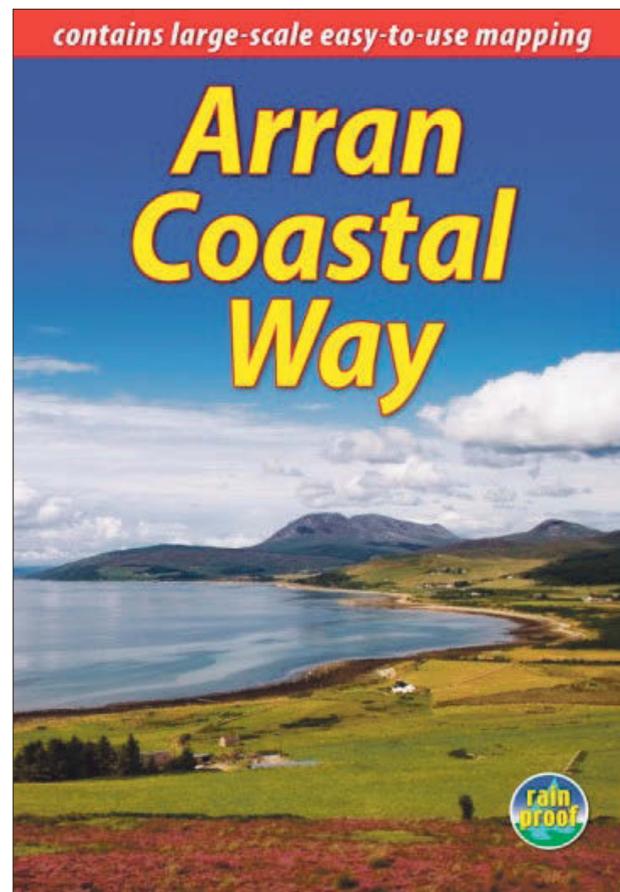
Malcolm Whitmore, chairman Arran Access Trust, said: 'Meticulously researched and superbly produced, this guide makes the ideal companion for all those walking this stunning route.'

Edinburgh-based Rucksack Readers is a specialist publisher that has produced more than 35 weatherproof guidebooks for walkers, trekkers and cyclists since 2000.

The new Arran Coast-

contains large-scale easy-to-use mapping

Arran Coastal Way



The cover of the new guidebook.

al Way guidebook from month. It is available in all Rucksack Readers priced good bookshops and online £12.99 is published this at www.rucsacs.com



A view from the guide looking south to Drumadoon Point.



The guide provides a useful illustration of what to look for at Hutton's Unconformity.

Walk to school badge design contest

A national charity has cast its net on Arran in the hunt for the next budding designers as it launches its WOW badge design competition, one of the largest design competitions for children in the UK.

Primary school aged children are asked to design a badge that can be used in the WOW challenge. WOW

is the year-round walk to school challenge from Living Streets, the UK charity for everyday walking.

Every year more than 100,000 children take part in the competition, making it one the UK's biggest art competitions. Of the designs received, just 11 are turned into the monthly badges with winners re-

ceiving prizes for themselves and their school, including a year's supply of WOW resources, and the prestigious accolade of seeing their designs turned into more than 450,000 badges for use in more than 2,000 schools across the UK during the next academic year.

This year's theme is Walk the Seasons with pupils being taken on a year-round journey through autumn, winter, spring and summer - bringing to life what pupils see across the year on

their journey to school.

Living Streets schools manager Kevin Croasdale said: 'From serene snowy scenes to a picturesque picnic on the beach, there are lots of things children can choose. We can't wait to see what this year's entrants have to offer.'

The competition closes on Friday March 16. Entry forms can be downloaded now from the Living Streets website: www.livingstreets.org.uk and follow the links.

MIDNITE HOUR

SAT. 20TH - 9PM
SUN. 21ST - 4PM

STEAK NIGHT
Build your own
from £9.99 - Friday

Family friendly
Pub Quiz
Wednesdays
8.30pm

The PIERHEAD TAVERN, LAMLASH
www.thepht.co.uk 01770 600418

LAMLASH BURNS CLUB No. 2197
(Affiliated to the Robert Burns World Federation)

Annual Burns Supper

To be held in Lamlash Golf Club
Saturday 27 January 2018 at 7.00 for 7.30pm
Want to hear superb Speakers!
Be entertained, well fed and lubricated, then come along to this great Supper.
Ticket £20.00 available from Committee Members:
Jock Kelso 860318; Allan Nicol 870212;
Jake Kerr 302138; Andy Martin 700449 & Jim Lees 810248.

MUSIC ARRAN DUO BIZ'ART
Twenty fingers playing one piano
SATURDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 7.30 PM
IN THE COMMUNITY THEATRE AT ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL
TICKETS £10 INCL. REFRESHMENTS.
(STUDENTS & CHILDREN PLUS ONE ACCOMPANYING ADULT FREE)
Tickets on door, or advance booking:
Inspirations of Arran & www.arranevents.com

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 17, 1998

New lifeboat

As well as a new lifeboat station Arran has a new lifeboat. It arrived last week complete with new launching tractor and over the next two weeks the 17 RNLI crew members were to undergo intensive training on her.

However, as it turned out, the training inspector decided that after the first weekend that the Arran crew had mastered the boat and she was commissioned last Sunday. The boat itself is not Arran's permanent boat, it will be here for two years before another of the same type, an Atlantic 21, is delivered.

Last year the lifeboat was called out nine times, this being a low figure as it has had as many as 25 calls in previous years. Already in 1998 they have had two call-outs, one on New Year's Day to a yacht in Lochranza and the second was last Sunday to the fish farm with the new boat.

The lifeboat station which has been un-

der construction for some time is now fully functional, however it will not officially be opened until the summer.

New projects

If two new projects go ahead in Brodick as proposed the village will see considerable change over the next year. Plans for both the Charters Towers project and the Invercloy project are now on display in the library.

Opinion is much less hostile to ideas put forward for Charters Towers and as well as some caution in people's minds, there is also a realisation that there are two semi-derelict sites, which, as long as they remain as they are, present two eyesores within the village.

The latest incarnation of Charters Towers shows one pair of semi-detached houses (of which there will be five pairs) and the largest of the four detached houses which is to stand on the corner of West Mayish Road.

The Invercloy proposal which is almost across the road has been described as hotel style rooms based on a travel inn type of development. It remains to be seen if the two proposals have a smoother passage through planning in March than their predecessors.

Cinema commitment

The cinema in Brodick is now closed until Easter. Hopefully, but by no means certainly, it will open up again then. This appears to be part of a wider cost cutting exercise and it is considered by North Ayrshire Council that January to April is the part of the year when it can best be closed.

When the cinema opened there were people who were not happy about it because, while it was an extra facility, it would undercut Lochranza films and use public money to do so. There were also reservations about whether it could attract the audience to justify the operation. People now having become accustomed to it, believe that the council having made the commitment to start it, should continue with it.



The Arran RNLI crew standing proudly in front of their new station and vessel. 01_B02twe01



Great Chieftan o' the Puddin' Race ... David Hughes addresses the haggis at what was probably the first supper of the Burns season held at Cameronia Hotel in Whiting Bay on Saturday night while owner Ross MacKay looks on. 01_B02twe05



Changing the Brodick Poultry and Pigeon Club Show, affectionately known as the Chookie Show, to a Saturday has been considered a good move after attracting almost 280 entries and an even larger number of spectators. 01_B02twe03



Teacher Dave McKay and his pupils receive a cheque for £2,000 from Iain Russell of Arran Aromatics who sponsored an understanding industry course for 6th year pupils at Arran High School. 01_B02twe02



Reserve Overhead Champion at the Chookie Show, first-time exhibitor Karen Curzons won the best hen and best overall bird in large and fowl and bantam section with her Pekin Bantam. Karen also took the second and third prizes in the same class. 01_B02twe04

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Arran Cottage Owners Website

www.cottagesonarran.co.uk

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www.cottagesonarran.co.uk
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Classifieds

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www.arranbanner.co.uk

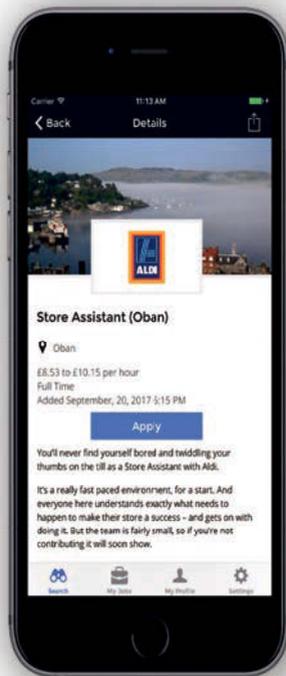


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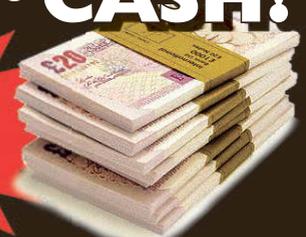


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Brodick Golf Club - Green Keeper

Brodick Golf Club are seeking applications for the position of Green Keeper.

Good rates of pay and conditions.

Applications to : secretary@brodickgolf.com
or in writing to - The Secretary, Brodick Golf Club,
Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DL

CLEANER REQUIRED FOR LARGE HOLIDAY RENTAL PROPERTY IN WHITING BAY

THIS WOULD BE A PART TIME POSITION FOR SATURDAY CHANGEOVERS APRIL-NOVEMBER

EXCELLANT RATE OF PAY

PLEASE CONTACT JACKIE 07831 835942

ARRAN ECO SAVVY SHOP MANAGER



Arran Eco Savvy has an exciting part-time opportunity for an **enthusiastic** and **capable** individual with exceptional **organisational** qualities to take on the role as Shop Manager for the Eco Savvy Whiting Bay Shop.

As Shop manager you will be responsible for the running of the shop and supporting our team of volunteers.

Experience in a similar environment and managerial role would be an advantage but is not essential. For the full job description, please see the

Arran Eco Savvy website: <http://arranecosavvy.org.uk/>.

If you are interested please email your CV and a covering letter to arran.ecosavvy@gmail.com or call Jude on 07557229191 to chat through the role in a little more detail.

Application closing date: 10/02/18

Working together for the healthiest life possible for everyone in Ayrshire & Arran



Arran War Memorial Hospital, Isle of Arran
Staff Nurse

Band 5 £22,440 - £29,034 per annum (pro rata)

The Isle of Arran, often described as 'Scotland in Miniature' is an island some 20 miles long by 10 across, separated from the mainland Ayrshire by an hour long ferry crossing from Ardrossan to Brodick, and in summer, by a shorter ferry from Kintyre to Lochranza. Arran's stable population of just 5250 increases approximately 3 fold during the summer months.

In support of our core purpose of Working together to achieve the healthiest life possible for everyone in Ayrshire and Arran we are committed to a culture that is Caring, Safe and Respectful. The post holder is required to work collaboratively in a safe, caring and respectful way.

Dynamic and forward thinking, Arran War Memorial Hospital is a 17 bedded hospital providing care to a diverse patient population on an inpatient and outpatient basis, including Accident and Emergency services, day therapies and outpatient clinics. Patient care services are provided by a wide range of clinicians from both Primary and Secondary care setting and are expanding as the Integration of Health and Social Care progresses locally.

We are seeking an enthusiastic and flexible nurse to join our team of staff providing care to patients within all of the hospitals settings. The successful candidate will be a first level Registered Nurse who will be able to provide evidence of work experience in a variety of acute clinical care settings. Staff will be required to work on all shift patterns and provide care in all general areas within the hospital and also the opportunity of working in the community. **Ref: N/671/17**

Please quote reference number on enquiry.

Hours: 34.5 hours per week.

Informal enquiries to Mrs Ailsa Weir, Senior Charge Nurse on 01770 600777.

An application for this post can be completed online at www.jobs.scot.nhs.uk. Alternatively, to request an application form please contact the Department of O&HRD, University Hospital Crosshouse, Tel 01563 825734 or e-mail HRNursing&Midwifery@aapct.scot.nhs.uk.

Closing date: 3 February 2018.

All correspondence will be sent by email. We have experienced some issues with personal email addresses and there is no guarantee correspondence will be sent to your inbox. It is therefore your responsibility to check all email folders, including your junk folder, as we have no control over which folder the correspondence will be sent to.

PLEASE RESTRICT YOUR SUPPORTING STATEMENT TO NO MORE THAN 500 WORDS, IF LIMIT IS EXCEEDED TEXT WILL BE CUT-OFF. PLEASE AVOID USING SYMBOLS, &/E SIGNS, BULLET POINTS, ETC THROUGHOUT YOUR APPLICATION.

To find out more about NHS Ayrshire & Arran and services visit www.nhsaaa.net



Public Notices

EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE REGISTRATION WEEK

Parents are advised that registration for the early learning and childcare intake in August 2018 takes place from 29 January 2018 - Friday 2 February 2018.

Children with dates of birth between 1 March 2014 and 28 February 2016 can be registered with Local Authority Early Years establishments or Partner Providers of early learning and childcare in North Ayrshire during this time.

Parents wishing to register their child for early learning and childcare should apply directly to the class/centre of their choice. A list of all Local Authority and Partner establishments can be found on the North Ayrshire Council website, www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages).

The child's birth certificate should be produced at the time of registration. It is not always possible to place all children in the early year's class/centre of their choice. You will be asked to state your second and third choice of establishment.

Please note:

- there are no 'catchment areas' for early years class/centres and parents can choose to send their child to the most suitable class/centre, if a place is available.
- attending an early years class within a primary school does not influence whether your child will be able to transfer to that school in Primary 1.

Please note that North Ayrshire Council operates an Admissions Policy which clearly describes priorities.

Further information on North Ayrshire Council's Admissions Policy and Early Years places can be found on the North Ayrshire website, www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

John Butcher, Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment)

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 9am - 4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

*and at The Council Offices, Lamslash

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 9 February 2018. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)

18/00013/PP; Site To East Of Margenaish Farm, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Renewal of unexpired planning permission 15/00748/PP for the erection of detached dwellinghouse, garage, outbuilding and private drainage arrangement.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



Brodick Golf Club

Clubhouse Manager and Steward

Brodick Golf Club invite Applications for the post of Clubhouse Manager and Steward.

The successful applicant will be responsible for running the Clubhouse and Bar. Experience in the licensed trade would be an advantage but not essential as full training will be given.

Franchise Caterer

Brodick Golf Club are also looking for applications for the position of Franchise Caterer.

This is an opportunity to run your own business. Applicants should be suitably qualified and have experience in the catering trade.

The positions of steward and caterer could be considered as a joint application.

Applications should be emailed to : secretary@brodickgolf.com
or in writing to - The Secretary, Brodick Golf Club,
Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DL

BANNER BANNER RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

Arran Coastal Rowing Club AGM

This year's AGM will be held on Thursday 8th February in Arran Yacht Club at 7.30pm.

All welcome.

Nominations for committee, from club members should be sent to:

secretary@arrancoastalrowing.co.uk
together with names of proposer and seconder by Thursday 1st February.

FRIENDS OF BRODICK CASTLE & COUNTRY PARK

SC033817

AGM

Thursday 25th January 2018
2pm Rangers' Centre

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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 21st January

No services at our Linkage today
Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church at 12noon, will hold a joint Arran Churches together for Christian Unity Sunday. 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, 21st January
11.00 am.
Said Holy Communion (to allow time for those wanting to go to the Christian Unity service).
Rev Adrian Fallows.
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY:
Sunday, 21st January at 12.00 noon in Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church.
Preacher:
Rev Benjamin van Rensburg. Offering to TEAR Fund for work among refugees.
Tea and coffee available in Church Hall from 11.15am
All WELCOME

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 21st January
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 21st January
Rev Lily McKinnon
No Church Service in either Church.
You are invited to attend the service of Christian Unity in Whiting Bay Church at 12noon.
Scottish Charity SC015072

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland
Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 21st January
Arran Churches Together Service for Christian Unity will be at 12noon.
Tea and coffee served in the Church Hall from 11.15am. (There will be no service at 10.30am)
All most welcome.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 21st January
Service time - meeting with Service of Christian Unity 12noon at Whiting Bay Church of Scotland.
Everyone warmly invited

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 21st January
Sunday Mass 11am

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Sunday meetings at 11am at Brodick Library
Telephone 700346 or 302246.
Come and join us

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

SMITH (MILLAR): Helen Roy. The family would like to sincerely thank all friends and neighbours for their sympathy and support following Helen's death. Special thanks to the Rev Lily McKinnon for her eulogy and her compassion and to both Hendry's and Sturrock, Funeral Directors. Generous donations to WaterAid have raised £204 for the international charity.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Arran Ladies Golf Union

The wet autumn weather has caused a pile up of fixtures in the ALGU calendar and in an effort to catch up extra fixtures will be played over the next few months.

A total of 15 ladies played at Corrie Drumaddon on Sunday January 14 where they escaped the worst of the weather and some great scores were recorded.

1 and scratch Kema Genda 76-12=64 BIH, 2 Fiona Henderson 84-15=69, 3 Ann May 76-6=70

Thanks to Ewan for the condition of the course, to Fran for the catering and



The 9th hole at Lamlash golf club - Mullaig Mhor



Corrie Drumadon winner Kema Genda, right, and runner-up Fiona Henderson.

to all those who braved the weather and the String closure to get this fixture played.

Fixture: Lamlash Drumadon Saturday January 27, 10.30am

Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday January 14, Glenburn Cup: 1 Andy Smith 76-15=61, 2 John O'Sullivan 88-21=67.

Magic twos Andy Smith at the 13th, Mark Wren at the 4th and 5th. Scratch Andy Smith 76.

Fixtures:- Sunday January 21, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday January 25, Yellow Medal, 11am.

Saturday January 27, Lamlash Burns Club annual Burns Supper.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday January 14, Brandon qualifier, 12 played, NQ: 1 Chris Pattenden 77-13=64, 2 Brian Smith 79-13=66, 3 Iain Sillars 83-15=68. Scratch Gordon Hendry 76.

Fixture: Sunday January 21, Winter Cup, 9am and noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday January 9, Winter Cup: 1 C Laing 85-18=67, 2 A MacDonald 81-12=69, 3 R Betley 99-28=71 BIH.

Fixture: Tuesday January 23, Winter Cup.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday January 20, Sweep, ballots at 9am and 12.30pm. Monday January 22, Monday Cup, noon

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

HAMILTON: Robert, James would like to thank everyone most sincerely for the kind expressions of sympathy and support received in the sad loss of Catherine (Cathy). Special thanks to all the staff at Cooriedoon where mum felt very much cared for and received a high level of care and attention. Thanks also to Lily and Angus for a comforting service, David and Claire Hendry funeral directors for a professional service, Kinloch hotel for excellent catering service and to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside. Donations raised were £165 for The hospital supporters League. A special thank you to Jan Crawford for being a great comfort to Mum.

Arran Bridge Club results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club aggregate competition played at Brodick on Thursday January 4 were as follows: N/S 1 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 2 John Baraclough and Jennifer Wales, 3 Ellie Jones and Elizabeth McKellar. E/W: 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Margaret MacGill and Jessmay Peacock.

The results of the aggregate competition played at Lamlash on Monday January 8 were as follows: N/S 1 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure, 2 Jim Pea-

cock and John Baraclough, 3 Jennifer Wales and Doug Chase. E/W 1 David Campbell and Tricia Martin, 2 Margaret MacGill and Elizabeth McKellar, 3 Fiona Henderson and Pat Adamson.

The results of the aggregate competition played at Brodick on Thursday January 11 were as follows: N/S 1 Margaret MacGill and Jessmay Peacock, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 3 John Baraclough and Jennifer Wales. E/W 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Fiona and David Henderson, 3 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

The results of the match points competition played at Lamlash on Monday January 15 were as follows: 1 Jean Barclay and Jennifer McArthur, 2=Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 2=Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 4 Jan and John Beat-

This is YOUR paper...
Send your photos and stories to editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Nicola is riding high after her first treble win

Arran jockey Nicola Currie has beat the odds to secure her first treble win at a race meeting.

The 24-year-old apprentice said it was a 'huge surprise' to score three track victories last Thursday on Titan Goddess, Marshall Aid and Spare Parts at Chelmsford City Racecourse.

The wins came hours before Nicola was the subject of a major sports feature in last week's *Arran Banner*. As we told readers Nicola has been racing for four years, completing more than 250 races, but this is the first time she has scored three wins on one racecard, bringing her career tally to 26 wins.

The rising star told *The Racing Post* she had been full of confidence in her mounts but the hat-trick had been totally unexpected. 'It was a good evening,' Nicola said. 'I certainly didn't think the treble would come through but I was hopeful for Titan Goddess and I knew Spare Parts would give a good account.'

'In the past few weeks I have been looking for that double. To finally get it and make it a treble was a huge surprise. I have to try to get the next one now. Rid-



Nicola Currie last week rode three winners on one racecard. 01_B03nicola01

ing a treble makes 100 per cent difference to my confidence. That grew even as I was riding last night. I can take that confidence into the next meeting.'

Nicola was born and raised on Arran, attending Shiskine Primary and Arran High School. At the tender age of 16, she took her first steps towards attaining her dream by going to Edinburgh's Outridge College to study horse

management. Later, Grand National winning trainers Lucinda Russell and Peter Scudamore spotted Nicola's potential, giving her a start in the industry. Although Nicola was initially interested in jumps racing, Scudamore persuaded her to get a flat licence and her career has flourished since.

'I realised I was never going to be a jump jockey because I was too light but Lucinda got me my appren-

tice licence out and gave me my first ride and was then kind enough to let me move south to pursue my career. Even now Lucinda and Peter Scudamore have been behind me,' Nicola said.

Now signed to trainer Richard Hughes, Nicola shares an agent with British flat racing champion Josephine Gordon, who became only the second female to ride 100 winners in a year

in 2017. Nicola also has other trainers behind her, such as Phil McEntee and Mark Usher, who are lending significant support to her career.

'Josie rode for Phil McEntee the previous two years and with her riding out her claim he was looking for another claimer to use,' Nicola added.

'Richard specifically put me with [agent] Phil Shea, the reason being he had Josie, who can also do light weights, so if there was something she couldn't ride the hope was he could put my name forward.'

The Arran apprentice says she is aiming for the top and hopes to follow in the footsteps of champion Josephine Gordon. 'If I can follow in her footsteps even halfway it would be an absolute achievement. That's the plan anyway,' she said.

'If we can have a good all-weather season then it makes sense to go for champion flat apprentice championship come summer. It's definitely achievable.'

'You have to be realistic but at the same time you have to push yourself. You don't want to make a ridiculous goal because you will only disappoint yourself

but you need something to aim at. Aim high and hopefully get there.'

Trainer Phil McEntee is betting on more success from Nicola. He told *The Racing Post*: 'We tried to target an apprentice we could use for the all-weather season through the winter.'

'Two years ago, Josephine was claiming seven, we liked the way she rode and the rest is history. It's exactly the same with Nicola.'

'We watched her through the summer and struck a verbal agreement that she would be stable jockey for the winter with me having first shout after Richard Hughes.'

After clocking up the treble win, Nicola is edging closer to her goal this year of becoming apprentice champion, and turning professional. She admits that she was never short of ambition.

'I didn't just want to be a stable girl, I wanted to be a jockey. At the time it was a ridiculous goal but we've got there. I wasn't for giving up,' Nicola said.

'Not many jockeys come from Arran. I think everybody goes to the pub to watch me now,' she joked.

Arran and Dumfries Ladies share the spoils

Continued from page 20 and a very respectable draw.

Dumfries awarded Arran's defender Rebecca Early with dame of the game for her amazing play at the back. All in all it was a good match, evenly played.

The result sees the Arran Ladies move up to second place in the West District women's hockey league division 3, but they have played two more games than the leaders Uddingston Clinetix Ladies 2s who are five points ahead.

Special thanks were made to Billy Dunlop for travel-

ling from the mainland to umpire alongside Pauline Reid and once again to the Ormidale Hotel for providing match teas.

Arran ladies have another home match this Saturday against Milne Craig Clydesdale Western Ladies 6s at the Ormidale pitch with a passback time of 2.30pm.



An Arran player prepares to fire over a cross.

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Nicola is riding high after her first treble

Ladies earn a plucky draw against Dumfries

Arran Ladies 1
Dumfries Ladies 2s 1

The second half of the hockey season began with a rather drier day for a hockey match for Arran and Dumfries ladies' teams at the Ormidale astroturf last Saturday.

These two teams are quite evenly matched with a history of very close results, Arran have won five out of the previous seven matches, but all of which could've gone either way. This game was no different and both teams came out strong and determined to win.

Arran finally broke the deadlock 20 minutes into the first half, when the home defence turned play over and moved the ball down the right line to Mia Walker in midfield. Mia passed the ball forward to right winger Helen Thomson who worked by the Dumfries defence and made a square pass to Lorraine Hewie in the goal circle, to finish with a clean goal passed the goalkeeper.

Both teams worked tirelessly thereafter, with Arran trying to secure another goal and Dumfries trying to equalise. With four minutes left to play in the first

half Dumfries managed to score after numerous short corners awarded to them, bring the half time scorline to 1-1.

With all to play for, both teams picked up the pace in the second half and there were numerous attempts on goal. Arran showed fantastic teamwork with switching play and quick short passes. Kirstie Barton and Hazel Malakoty, both playing in midfield, had a fantastic game and encouraged calling for passes and movement on the ball. The final whistle went with no more goals being scored

Continued on page 19



Jenny Stark makes a surging run forward. 01_B03hockey04



Jenny Stark bears down on the Dumfries goal but her shot was deflected wide by the goalkeeper. 01_B03hockey02



Lorraine Hewie challenges a towering Dumfries player for the ball. 01_B03hockey05

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