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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 23 JANUARY, 2016

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# Calm and stormy waters at island ferry meeting

**'I'm confident when the new vessel is operational it will be able to berth in 50 knot winds at Ardrossan'**

**REPORT**

by STEVEN RAE  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

There were periods of calm and others of stormy weather during Monday night's ferry meeting at Brodick Hall.

Representatives from Transport Scotland, ferry operator CalMac and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) which owns the majority of the vessels and infrastructure on the west coast ferry network, were on hand to field questions in the standing-room-only session. Joining them on the panel was Karen Yeomans, executive director of economy and communities at North Ayrshire Council.

Members of the public, along with the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee quizzed the officials for more than two hours. The meeting was chaired by Sir Kenneth Calman, the former National Trust for Scotland chairman, who is a regular visitor to Arran.

Work has already begun on the Brodick Ferry Terminal expansion, which will be carried out over the next

18 months. CalMac will also deploy a new vessel in May 2018 to serve the Arran to Ardrossan route.

Sir Kenneth Calman said: 'I first visited the island in 1964 through my clinical background. I've been aware of travel issues here and on other islands. When I became chief medical officer for Scotland I became aware of the challenges of providing medical provisions for an island. Everyone wants Arran to remain a world-class island.'

The first question of the night raised was not about Arran, but rather facilities at Ardrossan. The member of the public said: 'We've waited a very long time for this. I remember debating this in the 1960s and saying that Ardrossan was the right port for Arran, but something had to be done about the harbour.'

I

representatives from Transport Scotland agreed, saying: 'Something has to be done about Ardrossan.'

Tom Docherty of CMAL said: 'They are two quite distinct projects, the ship and need to fix Ardrossan, so there won't be a conflict of interests.'

Andrew Duncan of CMAL said: 'I'm confident when the new vessel is operational it will be able to berth in 50 knot winds at Ardrossan.'

Anne Roberts from Brodick asked what would be done to make ferries arriv-

ing in Ardrossan match up with departing trains, saying: 'Scotrail doesn't appear to tie in with the ferries at all. When you arrive five minutes late you see the train leaving empty a lot of the time.'

Graham Laidlaw said: 'Transport Scotland is responsible for the ferry services and train services. Discussions to update the timetables are not outwith our control. The two liaise on a regular basis, and we always try to make sure the services align as much as possible.'

Ross Moran, general man-

ager of operations at CalMac, added: 'I used to manage a number of railway stations so I know how important it is to have an integrated transport hub.'

Ian Ferguson, who is a member of Arran Civic Trust, raised concerns about the new ferry terminal. He said: 'I'm an experienced architect and have some residual concerns about the work being done at Brodick. I'm in my 80s and I am frightened by what is proposed at the terminal. People of a certain age or

ry service. The design is such that you will need to climb up quite a height to reach the level to board. The height is to be 5.5meters which will be very challenging for people. Also the 13-people lifts will only accommodate around 10 people at a time as they have luggage, buggies, golf carts. It's going to be a long wait for people.'

Mr Ferguson also claimed that the rising cost of the project, which is up from £18million in 2014 to a recent estimate of £30million,

**Continued on page 2**



**The guests from CalMac, Transport Scotland and CMAL, along with Sir Kenneth Calman.**

02\_b04ferry01



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# Ferry meeting

**Continued from page 1**  
is excessive, adding: 'It's public money being spent. It's not good enough.'

Ramsay Muirhead, head of civil engineering at CMAL, said: 'We have been here for five public meetings before we settled on the masterplan for the new terminal. There are a lot of conflicting things which need to be built in a small area. We need to build the pier in the location it's in to keep the existing pier open.'

Discussing the cost of the development, Mr Muirhead said he was 'disappointed' it had come in higher than initially planned but that it had been tendered on the open market at the best price possible.

Mr Ferguson added: 'Some people have lift anxiety and don't want to use them. There are a substantial amount of people who won't use lifts – I know three in Corrie alone – and they will be imprisoned on the island if they aren't

able to use the stairs either.'

Mr Muirhead said: 'If people can't use stairs they go directly onto the car deck and need to get the lift from there, so are faced with the same issue.'

Kate Russell from Ardrossan asked if the new vessel will be able to get into Ardrossan harbour.

Mr Muirhead said: 'We should have the results in the next couple of weeks, but the general fit says that it will. We have time to work on that though, if there are any issues.'

#### Unacceptable

Robert Cumming from Lochranza said: 'If CalMac is in discussions about Ardrossan Pier then it must be talking to its skippers, who will be telling them it is unacceptable what is there just now. Everyone I've spoken to is agreed the money being spent at Brodick should have been spent in Ardrossan, making it a safe, more reliable ferry terminal.'

Mark Thompson, senior marine manager with CalMac, said: 'There are three masters on the ship who spread the workload between them and I have spoken to them at length. Not a lot can be done to improve Ardrossan because of the weather, other than building a massive breakwater. Ardrossan isn't a massive port and ships must turn a massive starboard turn to get into it. Other than a significant breakwater, there's not much that can be done.'

Andrew Duncan, director of vessels for CMAL said a breakwater was being considered at the moment for Ardrossan.

David Kelso from Sannox asked if Troon would be used as a port of refuge or alternative destination when Ardrossan was not a sailable destination.

Mr Thompson said: 'Generally speaking, the weather that makes Ardrossan untenable applies to Troon as well, so this wouldn't make much of a difference.'

Mr Thompson said that all alternative ports, within reason, had been considered for sailings from Arran. He also said that he was taking proper captain's reports from skippers on the vessels, adding: 'This is more than just a "chat on the side". They're the ones who really know the problems, not the engineers, and they are giving me updates all the time.'

'I'm mindful of Gourock



A member of the public grills the panel. 02\_b04ferry02

being a potential port. The Caledonian Isles would just about fit in there, and it doesn't suffer the swell the way Ardrossan does. But you are still going to have strong southern and south-westerly winds blowing the ship off the pier at Gourock. I'm a former master myself and have regular discussions with the other masters. If you damage the ship it could be out of commission for six weeks, if you were to damage the linkspan it could be six months. The safety of the ship, the passengers, the crew, people on the pier and the infrastructure all have to be taken into account.'

However, Gavin Fulton from Lamlash argued that Gourock was, compared to Ardrossan, very sheltered, and claimed the Argyll Ferries service which goes from Dunoon to Gourock was a 'political hot potato'.

He added: 'The Caledonian Isles used to go to Gourock in 48 knots and berth suc-

cessfully, so the answers we are getting are disingenuous, we're simply getting denied. Gourock is considerably more sheltered, and it used to go there regularly, now it doesn't. There were periods where the service was woeful and there wasn't a credible excuse. There is something going on.'

Mr Thompson said: 'There is no pressure put on masters not to come to Gourock. I feel the strength of opinion from the room so I will double my efforts to bring the ferry to Gourock. The swell doesn't exist the same as it does in Ardrossan but if it's blowing 40 knots it's blowing 40 knots regardless of where you are berthing. There is no political pressure or underlying feeling not to go to Gourock so I will certainly continue that conversation.'

Ali Campbell, who lives on the island, said that the plans for Brodick would cause an 'enormous amount of more walking to do', and that people who go as foot passengers seemed to be being 'considered second to those who are mobile'.

Mr Muirhead said: 'Pedestrians are at the absolute forefront of our thinking. There will be one crossing into the central zone, a spine which runs down the centre of the new terminal, which will make it as safe as possible for foot passengers.'

Steven Henderson, who is a member of the Arran National Farmers Association (NFU), asked why animals were refused on a boat on an amber alert, when the sailing went ahead. He added: 'Was it safe enough for humans but not animals?'

Mr Thompson said all decisions were made by the masters of the ships. He said there were issues with livestock where trailers could move and the weight of animals being bunched together make masters wary it could topple over during a heavy roll causes the vessel to lurch to one side. He noted that a friend working on a vessel which was sailing on the English Channel experienced a trailer carrying livestock toppling over. His friend said it was the 'worst experience' he had had during all his years at sea. He added that he would be meeting representatives of the NFU, and was aware of the issue.

#### Dredged

Neil Arthur, who is a member of the Arran Ferry Committee, and a former community councillor, said: 'I have been travelling to Arran since 1948. The ferries entering Ardrossan and turning sharp right are not designed to do that. CalMac should insist that the harbour at Ardrossan is dredged. I would urge them to do that and they would instantly get an improvement.' No response was given to this.

John Ford from Lochranza asked what more could be done to ensure spaces on ferries for people travelling for medical reasons. Simon Richmond of CalMac said that if people were having issues when booking for a medical appointment, CalMac would try to address the problem.

Kenneth Calman thanked the community for a wide range of questions and the representatives for their answers.



Karen Yeomans of North Ayrshire Council, fields a question. 02\_b04ferry03

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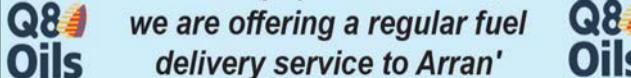
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# Busy time for broadband providers

ConnectArran has been busy in the background over the festive period, focusing on two key projects.

The group plans to improve internet connectivity for the Machrie community and to bring 4G mobile phone coverage to Lamlash and Kilmory.

There will be a free public meeting on Thursday 18 February at 7.30pm in Arran High School to update the community about the projects, answer questions on local broadband and mobile connectivity and to discuss how to progress with the scheme.

The superfast broadband rollout is happening with Arran residents beginning to be connected. To check when

this will be available, visit: [www.connectarran.net](http://www.connectarran.net).

Please be aware that a lot depends on how premises are connected. Exchange only lines which are common across the island, will take longer to connect.

ConnectArran has said it aims to achieve world-class connectivity for the whole island.

## Brand new

This announcement comes after the first 1,400 premises in parts of Brodick, Lamlash, Shiskine and Whiting Bay are now already part of a brand new fibre optic network, not associated with ConnectArran.

The start of the roll-out began in November and more will follow across Arran in



**ConnectArran's new logo.** b04connect01no

the coming months, giving superfast broadband speeds of up to 80 Mbps.

The connection is part of a £146 million investment funded by the Scottish Government, the UK government, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and BT which finally sees Arran able to enter the modern digital age.

As reported last week, engineers from BT's local net-

work business Openreach have completed wiring up a fibre cabinet in Brodick, three cabinets in Lamlash, three in Shiskine and one in Whiting Bay, and those who have subscribed are already able to enjoy the fastest internet speeds available on Arran.

Work is currently being undertaken on cabinets in Corrie and Lochranza and are expected to go live as soon as

work is completed, and more work should start later in the year for Pirmill, Kildonan and Sliddery.

To see if your premises is able to be connected to the new network, prospective users can enter their postcode or telephone number on the interactive website at [www.hie.co.uk/whereandwhen](http://www.hie.co.uk/whereandwhen) which will indicate if the service is available, imminent or in a planned area.

## Second Cold Water Islands Tourism Conference

Cold water islands offer a huge draw to tourists, adding significant sums to local economies and providing attractive and economical alternatives to both home and foreign visitors. That was the conclusion of the inaugural Cold Water Tourism Conference, when more than 120 international delegates met on Arran in March 2015.

Building on that success, a second Cold Water Tourism Conference is being held on Arran from March 14 – 16 this year.

The theme for the next conference will be innovation, architecture and design, tying in with the Scottish themed year. Speakers include architects, artists, tourism experts, environmentalists and academics.

Joining keynote speakers such as Claus Rex of Dagnor, and Gordon Young (artist and designer of the Comedy Carpet), will be Julian Jenkins, CEO of Fanalyse.

Julian will co-chair the event with Terry Stevens, International Tourism Expert, and Christel Seyfarth, Knitwear designer and creator of Fano International Knit Festival (which now attracts more than 10,000 enthusiasts) who will discuss what a positive impact CWIT 2015 has had on her business.

Christel commented: 'It has been very rewarding to be part of CWIT, and we are looking forward to coming back in March. As a direct result of CWIT 2015, I have just finalized the programme for an annual Loch

Ness Knit Festival and the entire business community there is working closely together in order to make a great success for all related businesses and for the area as such. In 2017, another Knit-festival will be added, on the Isle of Arran.'

The conference is aimed at destination organisations, professionals, academics and indeed anyone with an interest in tourism and economic development in the somewhat colder (and wetter) climate of Northern Europe.

Bookings are being taken now and a full programme can be viewed on the website - [www.cwit2016.com](http://www.cwit2016.com)

Councillor Willie Gibson, leader of North Ayrshire Council, said: 'Following the overwhelming suc-

cess of last year's event we are delighted the conference will be hosted on the beautiful Isle of Arran again this year. North Ayrshire Council is proud to sponsor the event and looks forward to hearing from the wide variety of speakers from home and abroad.'

This year's conference commences with a Taste of Arran buffet at the Arran Distillery Visitor Centre, where managing director Euan Mitchell will offer an insight into the development of the distillery itself. The rest of the conference will take place in Arran High School's community theatre, and is once again supported by North Ayrshire Council, CalMac, VisitScotland, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and VisitArran.

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## Plea for music festival competitor cups to be returned

An urgent plea has been made for the return of competitor cups and trophies for the Arran Music Festival.

These should all be returned by Friday February 5 to the holder's school, Lamlash Dental Surgery, or to any committee member. To make other arrangements or for more information, please call 01770 302625.



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## Dogged determination for classes

Dog classes will be back in Whiting Bay Hall on Monday, February 1 at 1pm. The last session of evening classes were not well enough supported to justify them being continued. However, organisers are prepared to give it one more go and if they can get 10 dogs to register for the 10-week course, they will go ahead. Ten dogs are required to cover the course cost.

If there are not sufficient numbers then it will be back to day classes only. Anyone interested should contact Margaret on 01770 600725.

**This is YOUR paper...**

Send your photos and stories to [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

# New training to inspire a passion for Arran

The new tourism training initiative developed by VisitArran and its training partners held its first training session at the Douglas Hotel to a large audience of island employees last Tuesday.

The two-hour induction course, Destination Knowledge, was taken by Alison Page of Routes to Flourish, a well-known coaching and learning consultancy based on Arran. Alison gave an informative and well-prepared, interactive talk on the many tourist-related options that are available on Arran.

Describing her training as a 'knowledge sharing exercise through experiential learning', delegates were provided with a huge amount of resources, including a specially-prepared book of Arran destinations, utilising pictures and information garnered from locals, such as Chris and Jan Atkins, Andrew Surridge and Arran in Focus.

Alison said: 'It is a pleasure to share some of my Arran knowledge with the delegates, I am passionate about

Arran and all it has to offer, so I am positive that this training will instill a similar passion in the people that promote Arran as a world-class destination, which will ensure that visitors receive a warm Arran welcome and return to enjoy the many opportunities and experiences this island has to offer.'

The training course is one of many available through the initiative, which is aimed at people who are either new to the island or those who wish to fill in the gaps of their knowledge which they can then share with their visitors or help them to know where to direct visitors for further information.

Other courses in the initiative include the Ayrshire Smiles course, a free online training tool which helps to develop customer service skills and to further staff de-



Alison Page of Routes to Flourish pilots the first training course. 02\_b04training01

velopment. The Professional Visitor Services (PVS) course which is aimed at course is another which is back-of-house staff who do aimed at front-of-house staff, not specifically deal with cus-

tomers on a face-to-face basis but who play an important part in any organisation. The Managing Excellent Visitor Services, (MEVS) course is designed for those in management and leadership roles and together with the PVS and BTB was developed by Ian Hunt of Training Solutions who developed them for the Auchrannie Hotel.

All courses can be tailored to individual business needs, and costs have been kept to a minimum.

For further information or to book a place on any of the courses, contact VisitArran on 01770 302043 or email [info@visitarran.com](mailto:info@visitarran.com)



Some of the training resources available to delegates. 02\_b04training02

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# Consultation brings locality partnerships one step closer

BRODICK HALL opened its doors last October to host the very first information roadshow on locality partnerships. The roadshow formed part of a much wider, nine-week consultation on North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership's proposals to develop locality partnerships across the area.

Bill Calderwood, vice-chairman and secretary of Arran Community Council took part in the consultation. He coordinates the council's communications, helps promote the community's views and takes their concerns to the appropriate bodies.

Here Bill gives his views on the consultation and what a locality partnership will mean to him.

#### Was the consultation useful to you in making an informed decision about locality partnerships?

I found the event very helpful and informative. It highlighted questions from the wider participants covering many areas requiring clarification, not least of which was how the partnerships would be staffed and operate. The initial session

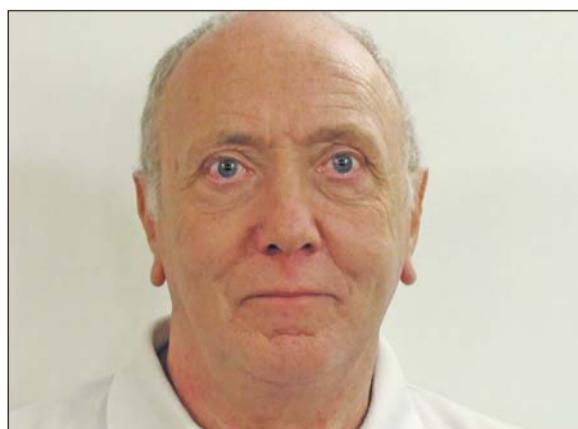
highlighted reservations that these local panels could be resourced by mainland-based representatives. This will be an important aspect of the success of the partnerships. It cannot simply be a group who meet on the island on a regular basis but needs to have clear local representation across all partners. We look forward to this being addressed in the next communication.

#### What benefits do you think the locality partnership will bring?

It is hoped that the partnership will help to bring focus to the requirements of the island and provide a voice within the local authority to build on the plans. It should also help establish local ownership of the decision making process.

#### How do you feel about having a locality partnership in your community?

We are very pleased that North Ayrshire has recognised the special needs and challenges which Arran faces and that these have been reflected in the establishment of a partnership panel spe-



cifically to address the island's needs.

#### What difference will it make on the ground?

The partnership should establish a local reference point which residents can relate to and communicate through to drive local decision making and enhance representation to the local authority and health care service providers.

#### What do you think your role in the partnership will be?

The Community Council's role

**Bill Calderwood – the consultation closed in December. The findings will be reported to North Ayrshire Council's cabinet in February.**

anticipated changes in the island's demographics and expanded needs. Roads and other transport needs are also important to protecting and or improving the quality of life for all residents. It is also imperative to recognise the additional services that will be required to support a growing tourism and leisure industry essential to the sustainability of the area.

#### Do you think the partnerships offer a sustainable solution to engaging local people in local decisions?

It is too early to say how the initial structures will address the changing needs, but it is clear that if the partnership is to establish a sustaining presence, there needs to be a willingness and openness on behalf of the participants and that they need to embrace change and react timely to circumstances.

It will also be important that the local authority embrace the partnerships in the wider decision making and respect the local views where they may not always align to the general approach.

## North Ayrshire Education stars sought for national awards

People in Arran are being urged to nominate local school and teaching professionals who go the extra mile for recognition at a national awards ceremony.

The search for North Ayrshire's brightest education stars is under way as nominations open for the Scottish Education Awards 2016. Across Scotland, teachers, parents, pupils and community partners are working hard to ensure that all children and young people have equal chances to reach their full potential.



Alasdair Allan is urging people to nominate their educational heroes.

classrooms across Scotland.

'The awards help us showcase and celebrate the vast amount of fantastic work that is going on across the country.'

There is a wide variety of award categories which recognise and reward the dedication of teaching staff and educational supporters. Entry is open to all publicly funded schools, including secondary, primary, nursery and special schools.

Do you know a local school that shines within the community, or an exemplary teacher who motivates pupils to become confident learners? If so, this is an ideal opportunity to recognise the hard work of deserving schools and educational workers in North Ayrshire.

The closing date for nominations is Monday, February 15, 2016.

Nominations can only be accepted online. To nominate a school or teacher for any of the awards, and for more information on the categories, go to: [www.scottisheducationawards.org.uk](http://www.scottisheducationawards.org.uk). Winners will be revealed at an awards ceremony in Glasgow in June.

he who asks is a fool for five minutes, but he who does not ask remains a fool forever

(as the ancient chinese proverb says)



Specialists from McTear's travel the UK visiting clients, advising on the auction values of antiques and works of art. One such client, who was moving house, was surprised to be informed that this heirloom was in fact a Japanese cloisonné vase by Kumeno Teitaro.. It was later sold for £17,000.

#### If you don't ask...

Specialists from McTear's are available in February for home visits, free and without obligation. To make an appointment, please contact Magda Ketterer on 0141 810 2880, or email [magda@mctears.co.uk](mailto:magda@mctears.co.uk)

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# Could you foster a child in 2016?

**'All prospective foster carers receive training as part of their initial assessment'**

PEOPLE in Arran are being asked if they could give a child a home in 2016.

Figures released by the Fostering Network in Scotland reveal the country needs 800 new fostering families to ensure the provision of safe, secure, nurturing and loving homes for children in foster care.

In particular there is an ongoing and urgent need for more foster families to provide homes for teenagers, sibling groups, children with disabilities, and unaccompanied, asylum-seeking children. Many foster carers who choose to foster children who have been traditionally thought of as 'hard to place', comment on the positive difference these children have made to the lives of the foster family.

Without enough foster families throughout Scotland, children are often placed many miles away from their family, school and friends, being split up from brothers and sisters, or being placed with a foster carer who does

not have the right skills and experience to meet their specific needs. There is then a significant risk that a child's placement will breakdown, which means they move home again, adding to the loss and trauma experienced in their young lives.

With a rising number of children coming into care, and around 12 per cent of foster carers retiring or leaving fostering last year, there is a need to not only recruit more foster carers, but also better utilise the current pool of foster carers to best meet the needs of the children and young people in foster care.

Sara Lurie, director of the Fostering Network in Scotland, said: 'For some children they're not able to be looked after by their mum or dad, no matter how much they might love them.'

'Due to often sad and tragic circumstances, these children require the love and care of a foster family. We want Scotland to be the very best place for all children to grow up, and that means that for any

child who is not able to live with their own birth family they still have the opportunity to experience normal family life. All children should feel safe, cared for, loved, understood and believed in. Foster carers give children this opportunity.'

The work of foster families contributes not only to society now, but in the future as young people who live with foster carers grow up with a more positive future ahead.

'By recruiting more foster carers we can provide a wider pool of potential foster families so that every time a child needs a foster family, they have the best chance of finding the foster family who best meets their individual needs.'

'All prospective foster carers receive training as part of their initial assessment. Following approval as a foster carer, there is a range of ongoing support and training from their fostering service and The Fostering Network.'

'We would encourage everyone who is keen to learn more about fostering to visit [couldyoufoster.org.uk](http://couldyoufoster.org.uk), find their local fostering service, and contact them to find out whether they can foster.'



Participants at the Saltire Society, Arran, with speaker Ann Bruce in the centre

## Saltire society enjoys 'Norwegian Noir and the challenges of translation'

The Saltire Society, Arran was delighted to start off 2016 with a talk by local translator Anne Bruce at their recent meeting. Speaking on Norwegian Noir and the challenges of translation, Anne took participants on a historical journey through the potent connections between Scandinavia and Scotland with the dynastic marriages of James III to Princess Margaret, 'the Maid of Norway' and James VI to Anne of Denmark. The richness of cultural exchanges from the composer Grieg's visit to Edinburgh to the writ-

er Peter Dass being the son of a merchant from Dundee, were further developed by warm and cordial trade links in forestry and building.

While the migration of Scots left it's inevitable footprint on the language, Anne's link to the Norwegian language began with her university studies in English and Drama. Anne, of course, has long standing links to the island community having been a former assistant head teacher at Arran High School, among other roles.

Translation, formerly known as 'the art of Translation' is, Anne says 'more of a craft', with years of building skills and knowledge in the language through numerous visits, exploration the layers of meaning that convey the cultural, historical and societal norms contained in a single word. The dexterity in conveying the sense of a writer's sentence, and the agonies caused by satisfactory expression of a multi-faceted word

or phrase mean Anne has researched some unexpected topics including post-mortem examinations, politics and building interiors.

Although Anne has translated for a number of respected Norwegian writers, recent translations have included the writings of Anne Holt hailed as 'the Goddess of modern Norwegian crime fiction'.

Having opened the evening with film footage of landscape and Norwegian music Anne illustrated her talk with excerpts from authors and gave generously to the copious questions that arose in the following question and answer session. A fascinating evening thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The next meeting will take Altachorie by storm with 14 members of the New Heretics, starting at 7pm on Wednesday, February 10, it's a 'come when you can' event and bring an instrument if you have one. All are welcome.

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**THE PIERHEAD TAVERN**

LAMLASH 600418

# Get on your bike for charity

A new cycle challenge is to be staged on Arran later this year.

Called the Arran Sportive, the non-competitive event will be held over two distances on the island on Saturday September 3.

Organisers hope to attract 300 cyclists from all over Scotland to enjoy the fast flowing roads, lung busting

climbs and exhilarating descents the routes offer.

The event is being organised to raise money for the youth development charity Ocean Youth Trust Scotland. All proceeds of the event will go directly to the charity, which helps deliver life changing boat trips, called 'adventures under sail' to young people from disad-

vantaged backgrounds.

The challenging open-road event offers a choice of two routes to suit the appetite of entrants. Route one starts at 9am and is a 56-mile, full island loop with 1,300 metres of climbing. Route two starts at 11.30am and is a 35-mile (57km) half-island loop with 817 metres of ascent round the northern part

of the island. Both routes will start and finish in Brodick taking an anti-clockwise route around the island.

Event organiser Doro Weber, from the charity's Greenock office, visited Arran last week to carryout a full risk assessment.

She said: 'The Arran Sportive will not only provide entrants with an abundance of

stunning island landscapes and nature, but fast-flowing roads, lung busting climbs and exhilarating descents to ensure they have an unforgettable day in the saddle.'

The event is open to everyone but anyone who would like to actively raise funds for Ocean Youth Trust Scotland by entering the event, is entitled to a reduced entry

fee of £25. The standard entry fee is £38.

To sign up, visit: [www.arransportive.co.uk](http://www.arransportive.co.uk), where you will be directed to the SiEntries official page.

Each year Ocean Youth Trust Scotland delivers life-changing sail training voyages to more than 500 young people from diverse backgrounds.

## Takeaway store in Blackwaterfoot is On a Roll



**Blackwaterfoot's new takeaway, On a Roll.** 02\_b04roll01

A new takeaway shop called On a Roll opened its doors in Blackwaterfoot this week. The cosy store, run by Nicola Greig, offers filled rolls, wraps, salads, pies, soup and speciality coffees which can be taken away or eaten at one of the eight seats in the premises.

Nicola, who can usually be seen working in the Blackwaterfoot Post Office, opened the store after demand for takeaway food at the Post Office increased and she found that there was a large, untapped market to cater for.

**Demand**  
She said: 'With so many

new houses being built in the area, as well as the increase in customers because of RET and the increase of traffic using the Arran Coastal Way, we found that the demand for takeaway food sometimes could tie up staff in the Post Office who would have to make the foods so this new venture will allow us to look after everyone better.'

The store, which opened on Monday (January 18) had a queue of eight people waiting before the doors even opened.

On a Roll is open from 8.30am to 3pm every day, except Sundays.

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Arran needs to remain world class

Island life is challenging and residents often feel at the mercy of the weather – and the ferries.

It was encouraging to see senior members of CalMac, Transport Scotland and CMAL at Monday's ferry meeting, and credit is due to them for allowing to be quizzed in an open forum format, with a neutral person chairing the event.

However, the questions that were asked and topics discussed were as telling as they were familiar.

One member of the public said there had been concerns since the 1960s about Ardrossan harbour's facilities and have been calling for an upgrade. Here we are, 50 years on and still debating it.

Quite rightly, the public want to know if the route's new ferry, which is due to be constructed by 2018, will be able to successfully berth in Ardrossan. What good is a top-of-the-range ferry if it can't sail to the destination?

Many argued at the meeting that the huge investment in Brodick should have been earmarked for Ardrossan instead, with calls for a breakwater and dredging work to be carried out, making sailings in choppy weather more likely.

Alternative destinations for the Arran ferry are being suggested by the public, including Gourock and Troon.

Mark Thompson of CalMac said at the meeting that he 'felt the strength of opinion' from the audience and would double efforts to consider Gourock as an alternative route. Let's hope he follows through with that promise and increases options when Ardrossan is not viable.

Others asked for better timetables to co-ordinate with trains leaving Ardrossan, taking into account a full journey for travellers, rather than just one part. Transport Scotland's Graham Laidlaw said he would look into these concerns.

If CalMac is successful in its bid to remain the operator on the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service contract, the public will want to see promises kept. Otherwise they may be left wondering whether rival bidder Serco was a better option for operating the service.

Transport Scotland must also keep its promises and allow Arran to remain, in the words of Sir Kenneth Calman, a 'world-class destination'.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Those who live on the level of the Spirit have the spiritual outlook, and that is life and peace.' (Romans 8:6)

### press policy

WE AT the Arran Banner endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvern Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt 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 either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

### your letters

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

## Letters to the Editor



### Candidate's views on the NHS

Sir,

I was quite bemused by a recent statement from North Ayrshire and Arran MP, Patricia Gibson, that we should 'back the SNP to ensure we continue to protect our NHS, keep education free and ensure crime remains low'.

Would that be the same SNP which, after nine years of power in Holyrood, has presided over catastrophic failures in our NHS, education system and policing?

An NHS which is seeing a rise in waiting times for appointments, consistently-missed targets in A&E and a new West Scotland super hospital where ambulances are queuing for half an hour just to get into casualty. A real-term reduction in spending on the NHS (compared to an increase in England). A 'health check for the over 40s' policy abandoned.

An education system where college numbers have plummeted to their lowest level since the SNP took power, increased pupil: teacher ratios and a drop in people from poorer backgrounds going to university.

Or perhaps Police Scotland? A doomed obsession with centralisation which has led to call centre disasters, voluntary redundancies to try to balance its books and morale at an all-time low.

Let's not even venture into its transport failures. We learn this week of an abandonment of a plan to better connect Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Patricia Gibson is entirely correct about one thing. We should think about the SNP when we go to the polls this May. We should think beyond their 'only we stand for Scotland' war cries and instead judge them on their record.

The political landscape may have changed in 2015, but it is still changing and the Scottish Government should be ready for a credible opposition from me and my future MSP colleagues.

If you think Scotland deserves more than a one party

state, intent on breaking up the UK, then you should take a second look at my party and I. You may be surprised to now find a home in the Scottish Conservatives.

**Jamie Greene**  
Conservative candidate  
for Cunningham North.

### Broadband support and maintenance

Sir,

I do not usually write letters to the local media but I feel compelled to put pen to paper after reading about Arran at last getting super-fast broadband and all the hype and self-congratulating that appeared in the *Banner*.

I hope that my experience is not the norm, we have been now been without a working phoneline since November 24, 2015. We could still get broadband, albeit very intermittently. It too died on the January 3.

We do not rent the line from BT so therefore have to report the fault to our service provider.

You can't speak to Openreach directly, so all information and excuses are second-hand and, boy, have there been some crackers (too many to list here).

I think Openreach have used every excuse in the book except the wrong leaves, snow or the wrong rain – no wait a minute they did say at one point last week (they must have got to the end of the excuses book) that all available service engineers have been called away to the flooded areas. Very commendable but what have they been doing up to that point?

To date, January 18, I have no working phone line.

The point is it is no good having super-fast broadband costing billions or even slow broadband if there is not a fast and dependable maintenance service to back it up.

Yours suffering in exasperating silence.

**Dennis I Goodchild**  
Brodick

### Castle concern

Sir,

I find it very difficult to un-

derstand some of the thinking behind the National Trust for Brodick Castle.

I realise I know nothing of the problems of running a castle and how to enable it to make a profit, but I do have two major concerns.

The walled garden – leave it alone. It is the most relaxing and comforting of places, it is elegant, understated and tranquil, please don't spoil it. People can sit in its tranquillity, totally switched off from everyday cares and, Oh, the view towards Strathwhillan...

Next, the play area. Do we

really want a theme park? If so, are parents going to have to pay for it?

I think that the majority of wee ones who do go to the play park are very happy with it. Why does everything have to be bigger and more impressive – can we not just enjoy what we are lucky enough to have on our doorsteps and spend the money the Trust has on really important projects, such as keeping the castle building in good repair?

**Sandra Macmillan**  
Brodick

## THE ARRAN BANNER

### ON HOLIDAY

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

When space allows we print them. In this weeks edition we have Dave, James and Fraser Hackett sporting Arran Rocks t-shirts while reading the *Banner* on a boat tour in Yalilavak, Turkey. At the top of the Empire State Building we have the Jackson family who visited New York late last year.

If you have holiday photos with the *Banner* please send them to us either by email at editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick, KA278AJ.



**Dave, James and Fraser Hackett in Turkey.**



**Debbie, Michael, Abbie and Sarah Jackson in New York.**

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# Frances Harwood

## 2 February 1937 – 6 January 2016

Frances Margaret Mary Briggs was born in Ilford, Essex, where her father was a teacher.

At the outbreak of World War Two, Frances, with her older brother Joseph, was evacuated to be with family at West Bradford, near Clitheroe, Lancashire.

Schooling included a year or so in the school at which her father was headmaster, but then she went to a nearby convent school. There, Frances's inquisitive and questioning mind and naturally rebellious nature made for lively days and not always easy or comfortable ones.

Her Uncle Edward tried to teach her the piano, but she did not care for his classical tastes, preferring instead boogie-woogie and other lively styles.

At the age of 17, Frances chose to start nursing. She had four years of training in both children's and adults' nursing at Alder Hey hospital in Liverpool. Her first post afterwards was in Southport, a Lancashire seaside resort.

A young insurance agent, David Harwood, was brought in as a patient following a motorbike accident. A relationship grew and they were married in 1957.

They lived in Southport, where Mark was born.

David joined the Yorkshire Constabulary, which led to moves to several Yorkshire towns. Frances worked in shops and offices.

David took early retirement on medical grounds, and having enjoyed holidays on Arran, he and Frances moved here in 1982. So began many pleasant years living in the strong community of Pirnmill.

In 1988 Frances was diagnosed with cancer. It was treated with surgery and radiotherapy. Whilst making one of many journeys to and from the Beatson Hospital for treatment that Frances met a fellow traveller at Glasgow Central Station.

A comment about the hassle of all the travelling elicited the response: 'Why don't you think about doing something about it?'

So Frances began the arduous, complicated business by first talking it over with friends, some of whom were in the same situation, and local doctors.

Arran Cancer Support (ArCaS) was formed in 1989 to provide the transport. Obviously travelling by car on the mainland would be

simplest, but who would do it? Initially the North Ayrshire Cancer Support Group helped out, but it was thought that Arran should be an independent group.

A friend, a retired police officer, volunteered. Soon, as more patients requested help, it became obvious that more drivers were needed. So, drivers were recruited by personal contact.

Then came the question of how to pay for their expenses. The fund-raising began. A Tupperware party at Ferry Cottage raised £68. Then a second-hand clothes rail in the back of the shop in Pirnmill kept the money coming in. ArCaS then opened its own shop, which was located in four different premises in Brodick until the present premises in Brodick were bought in 2000.

Arran Cancer Support Trust has evolved over 26 years from those simple beginnings, coming from the vision, will, courage and perseverance of Frances Harwood, supported by many friends and volunteers.

At present there are eight drivers on the mainland. Their services are called upon by the ArCaS transport co-ordinator. This is the practical part of the charity, with the shop supplying the financial support for the transport and also for equipment for local surgeries, the Arran War Memorial Hospital, and mainland hospitals where Arran cancer patients are treated.

To date, over £1 million has been raised.

Late last year Frances was again diagnosed with cancer. This time her treatment was less successful. She was to spend her last earthly days in Lamlash, cared for by the dedicated and caring medical team, in the bright, thoughtfully fitted-out Ward 3B, which was paid for by ArCaS donations. Her family used the ArCaS family room.

The legacy Frances Harwood leaves is one shared by hundreds of island patients going to-and-from mainland hospitals, as well as the local hospital, on hassle-free journeys, in a manner that Frances herself had dreamed of.

Thankfully she lived to see her dream come true.



Frances Margaret Mary Harwood.



The Arran Cancer Support shop in Brodick.



## FIBRE IS HERE

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Finn MacArthur, who won the under-12 competition.

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# Natural History photography



Andrew Muir, who was second in the under-12 competition.

THE WINNERS of a photography competition have been announced by Arran Natural History Society.

Launched in May, the Audrey Walters Memorial Photographic Competition was used as a way to showcase Arran's flora and fauna. There are two sections; under-12s and under-18s.

Audrey, who passed away in August 2014, had a lifelong passion for birds and was the bird recorder for the society from 1992 to 2005. Audrey collated all the Arran bird sightings, organised surveys, contributed regularly to the nature notes in the Arran Banner and each year produced the annual bird report.

It is hoped the photography competition will be held annually as a tribute, and to promote the interest young people have in their local environment and wildlife.

The winners have come from as far away as Milton Keynes, with entries from all over the UK, with local boy Finn MacArthur taking the under-12 prize.

A spokeswoman for Arran Natural History Society said: 'We had

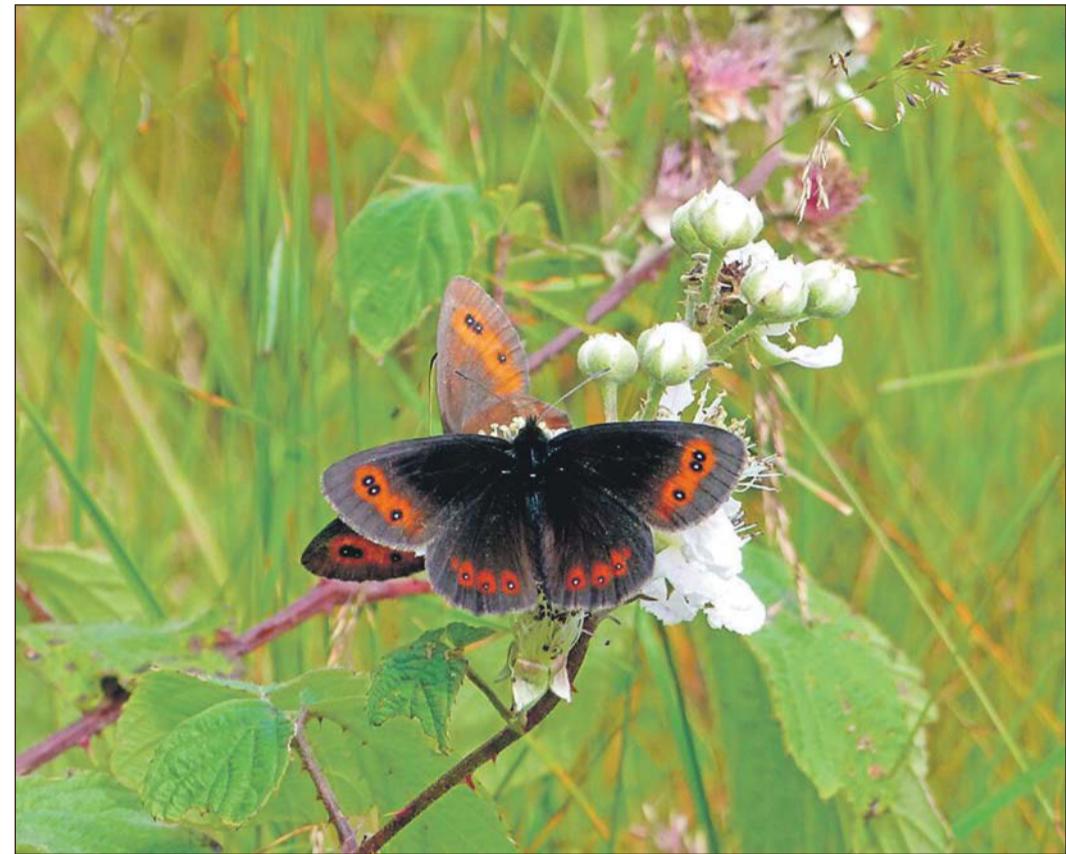


**Audrey Walters**



Lewis Hopkins, third-place in the under-12 contest.

# Story Society pic winners



**Findlay Hopkins, who came second in the under-18 contest.**

82 entries of a variety of subjects from Arran and it was difficult to select the winners. Subjects included the geology, snakes and lizards, insects, birds, flowers and of course, seals. The locations of the images were varied, from the mountains to the beaches, showing what a diverse island we have.'

A small panel from the society viewed the images to judge and select the winners and runners-up.

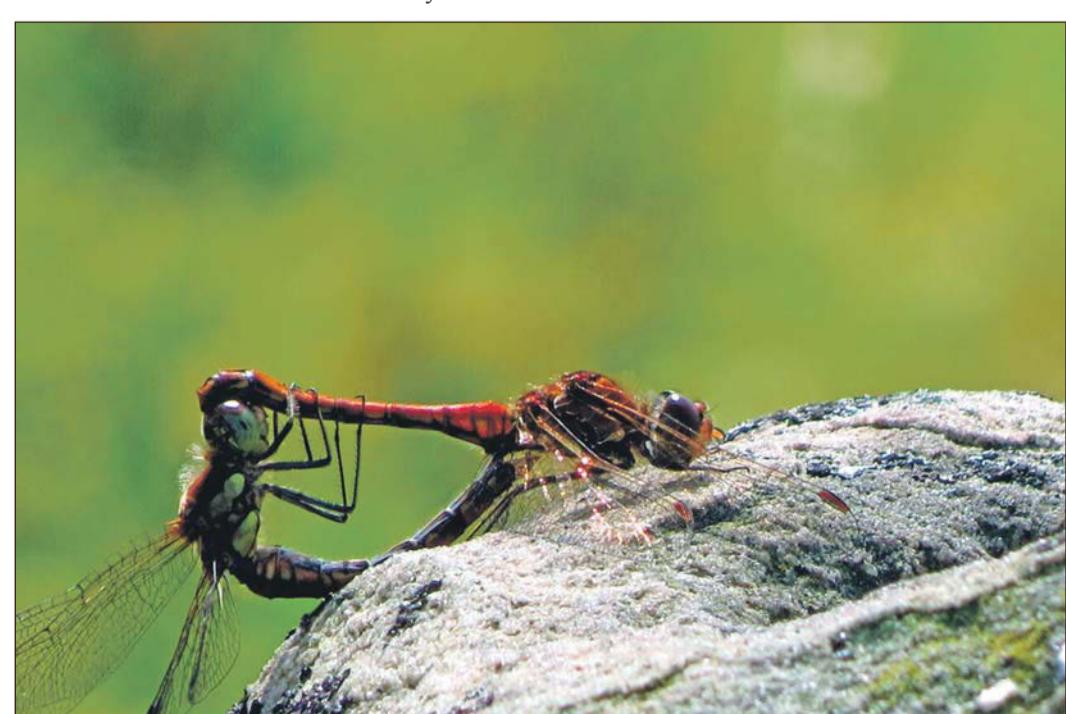
The results were: under-18; 1 David Raffle, Newcastle; 2 Findlay Hopkins, St Albans; highly commended, Ellie Webber, Milton Keynes.

Under-12: 1 Finn MacArthur, Whiting Bay; 2 Andrew Muir, Glasgow; 3 Lewis Hopkins, St Albans.

First prize in both age groups is a £50 voucher plus a mounted print of their image, second is a £25 voucher and a mounted print and highly-commended entries receive a mounted print. The vouchers are exchangeable with selected Arran businesses that the society feels fits in with its ethos.



**Under-18 winner, David Raffle.**



**Ellie Webber, who was highly commended.**

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## Exciting line-up for 2016 library exhibition

Brodick Library has a lively exhibition list for the new year, including photography, painting and prints.

This January and February, local lad Keiran Robertson will display his landscape photographs followed by Jenny Brown from Kilmarnock with her stunning works based on *Alice in Wonderland*, on display in March.

During April, Ed Donnelly will exhibit his conceptual art work at the exhibition space. Anyone wishing to add their name to the list of exhibitors in the library is most welcome.

Contact Nickey on 01770 302 835 or email arranlibrary@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



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# Boundary proposal could lead to EU windfall

NORTH Ayrshire could receive a boost of increased European funding following a review of Scotland's boundaries.

At a meeting of the local authority's cabinet next week, councillors are set to support Scottish Government plans to revise council regions for future European Programmes. The Scottish Government is proposing a fifth region which would cut the size of South Western Scotland by over a third – stripping out around 833,000 people and combining them with 113,000 from Eastern Scotland.

The revised outlook would see North Ayrshire move from a South West region, focused on Glasgow and the Clyde Valley, to a new South of Scotland region to sit alongside the other Ayrshire authorities, South Lanarkshire, Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders.

Data relating to these administrative regions is used to formulate EU initiatives and to determine funding al-

locations and eligibility. EU funds – which amount to around £670 million in the latest seven-year spending round – are distributed based on productivity per head in each region.

There has been concern about the current boundaries within Scotland for some time due to the low Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per head in the South of Scotland area being masked as this area is grouped in with the higher GDP area of Glasgow.

The case for boundary change has been made previously by Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway Council. They stressed that they had shared challenges such as an ageing population, out-migration of young people, low wages and a high dependency on small and micro businesses.

While this is the case for them, North Ayrshire has a more post-industrial economy with a strong relationship with the Glasgow City region in terms of the labour market

and transport links. Councillor Marie Burns, cabinet member for economy and employment, said: 'While the proposed change may lead to financial benefit, it will be important that we ensure that any programmes put in place reflect the economy of North Ayrshire as well as the more rural areas of the South of Scotland.'

'But overall I think these changes are necessary. The current level of investment, under the current regions, takes us to 2020 so we won't suddenly get extra funding from the EU. But in the longer term, this change is necessary and could help North Ayrshire benefit from a higher level of EU funding.'

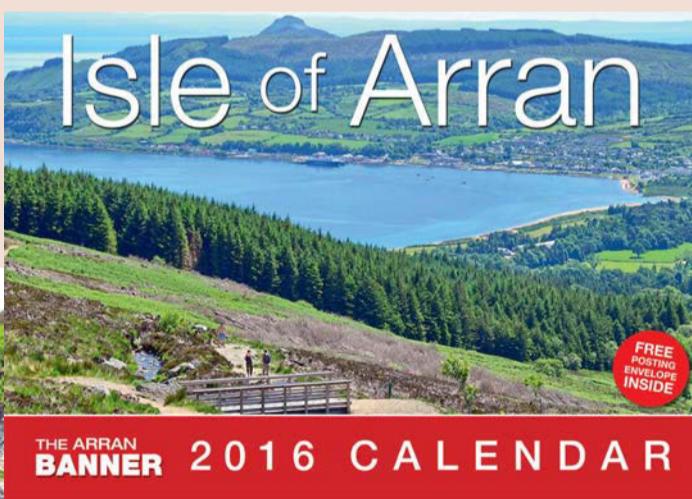
'If the South of Scotland region was in place now, it would receive the highest level of EU funding if the most recent GDP figures were taken into account.'

Arran and Millport will remain in the Highlands and Islands area if the plans go ahead.



SNP Councillor Marie Burns.

## Isle of Arran Calendar 2016



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**THE ARRAN****BANNER****TWENTY  
YEARS AGO****Saturday 20 January, 1996****Rejected at last**

Cunningham District Council on Tuesday night turned down the application by CU Developments to build Charter Towers in Brodick. This was the end of the line for an application which has travelled a long and bumpy road.

First announced in 1994 the proposed development has had at least three revisions, gone through several public meetings, has required two site visits by councillors, has gone up before two planning meetings and, on Tuesday, came before the full council for the second time.

The vote taken to reject the application was carried by 16 votes to 6.

**Tourist appointment**

Charles Currie has been appointed director of marketing at the new Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board. This is one of two senior posts on the new board under the chief executive.

The other, director of visitor services, has been offered to Margaret Souter who is at

present the Ayrshire tourist manager. It is not known if she has accepted this post since she is believed to be in dispute with the new board after not being appointed as chief executive, a post Mr Currie also applied for.

**Community bus**

Kilmory is shortly to get its brand new community bus, thanks to the National Lottery. Although several lottery awards have been made on the island, this, due next week, will be the first purchase to be made. It is to be collected at Kilmarnock next week and will cost £23,000. The old community bus has been put up for sale.

**Extra day**

All Arran hospital staff, together with their colleagues in the rest of the North Ayrshire and Arran Trust, are to receive an extra day's holiday.

This is being given as a thank you for there being no hiccups or refused admissions during the cold spell when other hospitals around the country were having to turn people away.



**Twelve horses, ponies and riders braved the bitterly cold day to take part in a treasure hunt held by Arran Riding Club last Sunday. Pictured are all of the winners at the event.** b04twe05



**Jamie Campbell dressed up as a jousting knight on Seiran the horse at the Arran Riding Club's treasure hunt last week.** b04twe06



**Arran's triplets came home this week. Born on December 29 in the Ayrshire Central maternity hospital in Irvine, parents Sharon and Andrew Millan have named them Fraser, Eoin and Graham Millan and they arrived home on Monday to the delight of sister Stacey. These are believed to be the first triplets to be born to an Arran family for 45 years.** b04twe01



**Brodick Bowling Club held its annual dinner and prizegiving in the Kingsley Hotel, Brodick last Friday evening. Pictured are all of the prize winners including ladies' singles winner Ann Hollingworth and men's singles winner Jackie Donaldson.** b04twe04



**The office bearers of the Arran Licensed Trade Association pictured at their annual dinner dance held at the Kinloch Hotel last Wednesday. This year's dinner was sponsored by Whyte & Mackay who sent along four representatives. Pictured with them are Tommy Gilmore, Russell Duncan, Lawrence Crawford, Alastair Bilsland, John Carpenter, Joe Bulger, Brian Boal, Ravi Khosla, George Stewart and Iain McFadzean.** b04twe03

# Get ready for the big garden birdwatch

A lot of people get a lot of fun out of watching the birds in their garden, and by sharing your observations you are contributing to increasing our understanding of the birds that visit our gardens.

Next weekend January 30 and 31 is the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. So stock up



**Blue Tits are regular garden visitors.** Photo Robert Lambie



**The chaffinch is always a popular sighting.** Photo Angela Cassels

## Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

JANUARY

your bird feeders, spend one hour of your weekend watching your garden birds, and note down the highest number you see of each bird spe-

cies. Last year nearly half a million people throughout the UK and over thirty on Arran took part in this valuable exercise. For more information or to get the form, visit the RSPB website Big Garden Birdwatch <http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/> or phone 0300 456 8330.

But why only do it once a year? You could do it throughout the year as part of the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) excellent Garden BirdWatch scheme and contribute even more to our understanding of garden birds.

The BTO Garden BirdWatch, through its network of 14,000 volunteers across the UK, produces a quarterly magazine called *Bird Table* in which it shares information, including a quarterly report of trends and changes in garden bird population. This is a summary from the article from April to June 2014: 'A very mild winter, a warm spring and settled weather in March and April meant that many birds got off to a good start to the breeding season. Great and blue tit families were appearing in gardens in mid May, earlier than in recent years. Species that had been uncharacteristically absent from gardens over the winter, such as robin and dunnock, returned in force in June. However, greenfinch and chaffinch numbers have stayed low throughout the season, possibly due to disease.'

Anyone who watches garden birds can get involved with the BTO Garden Bird-

Watch project, which is the largest year-round survey of garden birds in the world.

Not only is the survey great fun but simple observations made by participants build up our collective understanding of garden birds and help to protect bird populations. It is easy to join. To find out more visit this website Garden BirdWatch (GBW) | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw>

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](mailto:jim@arranbirding.co.uk)

I look forward to hearing from you.

For more information on birding on Arran, purchase the *Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012*, as well as the *Arran Bird Report 2014* and visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)



**Will you spot a great spotted woodpecker?**

Photo Bill Donaldson



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# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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



## Every day

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

## Saturday 23rd January

Army Cadets  
Over-21s Disco  
Family Games  
Fun in the pool  
Arran Vets – Surgery Brodick  
Live music  
Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic  
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club Rink Game  
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game  
WBay Bowling Club Rink Game  
Ceilidh Dancing  
Yoga  
Live Music from James Burge

## Sunday 24th January

Family Games  
Fun in the pool  
AA Meeting  
Open Session – All Musicians & Singers Welcome  
Live Music – Lucy Cartledge Jazz Trio

## Monday 25th January

Over-50s Badminton  
Badminton  
Morning Fitness  
Table Tennis  
Badminton  
Arran Vets – Surgery  
Arran Junior Football Club  
Circuit Training  
WBay Bowling Club Rink Game  
Citizens advice  
Lamlash Aerobix  
RunArran JogScotland Beginners  
RunArran Mixed Ability  
Bridge Club  
Scottish Country Dancing for Beginners & Improvers  
Yoga  
Tae Kwon Do  
Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals  
Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals Brèagha Holistic Beauty, Corrie 5pm-5.45pm  
Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals

## Tuesday 26th January

Pop Quiz  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Youth Club  
Arran Vets – Surgery

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
9am-Dusk  
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 12.30 - 5pm, Sat 10-5  
2pm (limited spaces call for availability)  
Open all day

Auchrannie Road 11am – 1 pm.  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm  
9.30am-11am  
Fiddlers, Brodick from 7.30pm  
arranphysiotherapy.co.uk 9-12noon  
Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm  
Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 9am - 10am  
The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm  
Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 1.30pm

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
9am - 10.30am & 3pm - 4pm  
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm  
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm  
Whiting Bay, 5pm  
Whiting Bay, 5.30pm  
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm  
Corrie Hall, 2-4pm  
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
Brodick Church Hall Adults & Over-10s, 7pm-8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall 3:45-4:30pm  
AA Meeting  
Live Music  
Tae Kwon Do

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
9am-10.30am

Rotary club  
Healthy Outdoors  
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club Rink Game  
RunArran Run Coaching  
Open Cricket Session  
Non-competitive Bridge  
Lamlash Drama Club  
Winter Bowls  
Scottish Country Dancing  
Community Council Meeting

## Wednesday 27th January

Rock & Pop Bingo  
Tae Kwondo  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Arran Brass Rehearsal  
Arran Vets – Surgery  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy Service  
RunArran Mixed Ability  
JogScotland Beginners  
Yoga-Arran  
Live Music  
Drift Inn Quiz  
Mixed Hockey  
Dog Classes  
Knitting & Crochet Drop-in Group

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm  
Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
Brodick, 9am-10.30am & 6pm-7pm  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am-10.45am  
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
Brodick, 5.30pm  
Auchrannie Car Park, 7pm  
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm  
Lamlash, 9pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
Brodick Library, 4pm-6pm

## Thursday 28th January

Morning Fitness  
General Knowledge Quiz  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Ladies Hockey  
RunArran Mixed Ability  
Cardiac Rehab  
Burger & Quiz Night  
Winter Bowls  
Embroidery Group  
Live Music

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
9am-10.30am  
Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm  
Brodick, 6pm  
Auchrannie Leisure Club, 2-3.30pm  
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm  
Brodick Library, 7.30pm-9.30pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm

## Friday 29th January

Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Live music  
Lochranza Kids Badminton  
Lochranza Adults Badminton  
Quiz  
AA Meeting  
Live Music  
Tae Kwon Do

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am-10.45am  
Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick, 8pm  
Arran high School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm-8.30pm



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



# Recruitment

## The Holy Isle Project

Volunteering Opportunities: **Organic Gardeners and Pontoon Attendants**

Location: **The Centre for World Peace & Health, Holy Isle North**

Our biodynamic/organic kitchen garden on Holy Isle has grown, and we are looking for full time experienced organic gardeners, and an enthusiastic pool of short term volunteers to support the garden team. Our gardens provide organic food for the Centre for World Peace and Health at the North End of Holy Isle, all year around. We grow vegetables, herbs and fruits as well as provide a garden for wildlife and a peaceful space for our many guests and visitors throughout the year.

We are also looking for local part/time volunteers for this coming season (April – October) to help with Pontoon duties. This role includes assisting with docking, arrivals and departures and ensuring safe practices are followed on the Pontoon for the protection of all visitors, guests, co-workers and equipment.

For more information about these opportunities please contact –

Grant or Rose at: Holy Isle Reception (01770) 601100

or email [volunteering@holyisle.org](mailto:volunteering@holyisle.org),

Further background information also available on our website: [www.holyisle.org](http://www.holyisle.org)



### House Keeping Vacancies

The BEST WESTERN Kinloch Hotel are looking for full time, part time and casual contract house-keeping attendants to join our busy team!

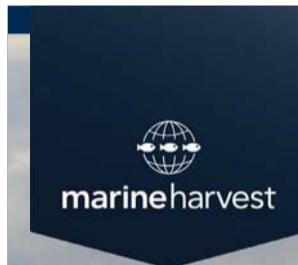
Experience preferred but not essential.

Live in accommodation available.

Applications & Enquiries to [hr@kinlochhotel.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:hr@kinlochhotel.eclipse.co.uk)

BEST WESTERN Kinloch Hotel,  
Blackwaterfoot, Isle of Arran, KA27 8ET  
Tel: 01770 860444 Fax: 01770 860447

**BANNER RECRUITMENT**



Marine Harvest Scotland is the largest producer of Atlantic salmon in Scotland. The Company employs a workforce of over 600 throughout the Highlands and Islands and produces over 50,000 tonnes of salmon annually. Our farming operations are based in Fort William and the Company prides itself in being a major employer of skilled people and strives to produce high quality, healthy and nutritious seafood in the most sustainable way.



## Arran Dairies Ltd

We are looking to recruit a **Delivery Driver** to complement our busy team based in Brodick.

No experience is necessary, as full training will be given.

However we do require a hard working person with a driving licence and a can do attitude.

We are looking for someone to help our existing team with the delivery of daily supplies to our customers on Arran.

Our drivers are very important front line staff so great customer care is very important to us.

We offer a competitive salary and great terms and conditions.

Written enquiries including your current CV should be sent to:

**Greg McCrae**  
Arran Dairies Ltd  
Market Road  
Brodick  
[greg@taste-of-arran.co.uk](mailto:greg@taste-of-arran.co.uk)  
Tel 01770 302374

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If you have some retail experience, bags of enthusiasm and a real desire to provide great customer service, then we'd love to hear from you.

**For more information about the roles on offer and to apply please contact Barry Miggan on 01770 302212 or call into our Invercloy store.**

# Operations Director Farming

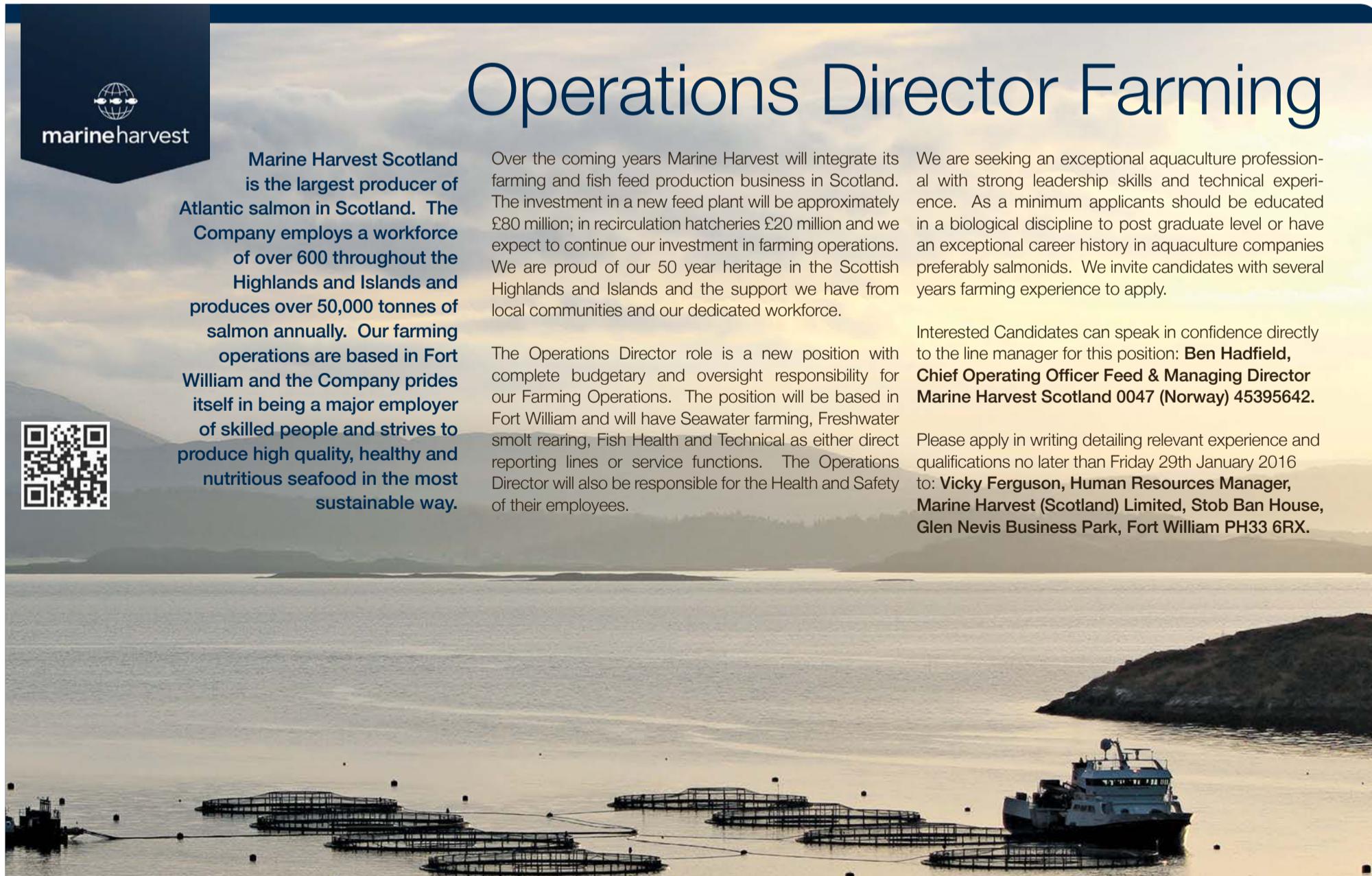
Over the coming years Marine Harvest will integrate its farming and fish feed production business in Scotland. The investment in a new feed plant will be approximately £80 million; in recirculation hatcheries £20 million and we expect to continue our investment in farming operations. We are proud of our 50 year heritage in the Scottish Highlands and Islands and the support we have from local communities and our dedicated workforce.

The Operations Director role is a new position with complete budgetary and oversight responsibility for our Farming Operations. The position will be based in Fort William and will have Seawater farming, Freshwater smolt rearing, Fish Health and Technical as either direct reporting lines or service functions. The Operations Director will also be responsible for the Health and Safety of their employees.

We are seeking an exceptional aquaculture professional with strong leadership skills and technical experience. As a minimum applicants should be educated in a biological discipline to post graduate level or have an exceptional career history in aquaculture companies preferably salmonids. We invite candidates with several years farming experience to apply.

Interested Candidates can speak in confidence directly to the line manager for this position: **Ben Hadfield, Chief Operating Officer Feed & Managing Director Marine Harvest Scotland 0047 (Norway) 45395642.**

Please apply in writing detailing relevant experience and qualifications no later than Friday 29th January 2016 to: **Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Stob Ban House, Glen Nevis Business Park, Fort William PH33 6RX.**



# Recruitment

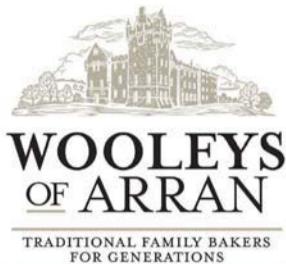
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# Public Notices

## EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE REGISTRATION WEEK

Parents are advised that registration for the early learning and childcare intake in August 2016 takes place from 1 February 2016 – 5 February 2016.

Children with dates of birth between 1 March 2012 and 28 February 2014 can be registered with Local Authority Early Years establishments or Partner providers of early learning and childcare in North Ayrshire during this time.

Registration for all Local Authority Early Years and Partner providers of early learning and childcare in North Ayrshire will take place in the week beginning Monday 1 February 2016. Parents wishing to register their children for early learning and childcare should apply directly to the class/centre of their choice.

At the class/centre you will be asked to fill in an application form and provide your child's birth certificate. 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 doesn't influence whether your child will be able to transfer to that school in Primary 1.

## BIRTH CERTIFICATES SHOULD BE PRODUCED AT THE TIME OF REGISTRATION

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](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

All Local Authority Early Years provision and Partner providers of early learning and childcare in North Ayrshire are listed below and parents are requested to contact the class/centre of their choice to confirm the most suitable time to register.

## PROVISION FOR 2 YEAR OLDS

The Government has committed to providing 600 hours of free Early Learning and Childcare for eligible 2 year olds whose parents meet certain benefits criteria.

If you think your 2 year old child may be entitled please phone CARIS on 0345 3513000 or 01294 472971.

All Local Authority Early Years provision and current Partner Pre-School Centres in North Ayrshire can be found below.

## LOCAL AUTHORITY EARLY YEARS CLASSES AND EARLY YEARS CENTRES

Corrie Primary & Early Years Class, Corrie, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8JP Tel: 01770 810244

Kilmory Primary & Early Years Class, Kilmory, Isle of Arran KA27 8PQ Tel: 01770 870262

Lamlash Primary & Early Years Class, MacKevie Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8NP Tel: 01770 600527

Pirnmill Primary & Early Years Class, Pirnmill, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8HP Tel: 01770 850226

Shiskine Primary & Early Years Class, Shiskine, Isle of Arran KA27 8EP Tel: 01770 860207

## PARTNER PROVIDERS OF EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

Brodick Nursery, Brodick Public Hall, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DL Tel: 07903775898

(Brodick Nursery is open from 9am – 12.10pm or can be contacted on the above number for registrations)

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunningham House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siordach Air a Tuath

## Arran Young Farmers Club ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Friday 12th February**

**Ormidale Hotel**

**7.30pm start**

**\*All Welcome\***

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[ArranYoungFarmers1/?fref=ts](http://ArranYoungFarmers1/?fref=ts)



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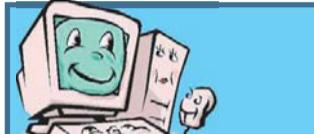
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2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.

5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.

6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.

9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

# Drive Times

## Mitsubishi Shogun Sport Trojan 2.5



TD Silver. 57 plate 75,000 miles. 2 owners from new. FSH, tow bar, leather interior. MOT until Oct 16. Good condition.  
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Cars sell **QUICKER** and for a **BETTER PRICE** when accompanied by a photograph.

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BANNER**

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## UNDER £30

Brand new B&Q Easy Plumb Pack. Cost £60, will accept £30 ono, Tel 700442

TREsemme electric brush - used once £10, BaByliss electric wand used once £10 Tel: 860755

Donkey Jacket New - Size Large, Dark navy - £15 Tel 600238

Us Mail box £25, Birds nest boxes and feeder boxes £15 Tel: 07980671267 - Whiting Bay

## OVER £30

Clothes dryer v good £45, Hoover/Charles/Henry model £30, Gents mountain bike, good working order £30, Medium chest freezer £55 Tel: 07980671267

## WANTED

Touring Caravan 4 berth or more. Anything considered Tel: 07920145407 or 07809006815

## FREE TO UPLIFT

Cot and mattress - very good condition Tel: 700536

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www.arranbanner.co.uk

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Simply complete the form and return to the  
**Arran Banner office**

**PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE TUESDAY 4.00pm**  
NO MORE THAN 25 WORDS PLEASE

ITEM.....

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## The co-operative memorials



- Traditional and modern styles
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### CHURCH NOTICES

#### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday, 24th January**  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
Mr John Roberts.  
Coffee after service.

#### ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

The Offering at the CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY on Sunday 17th January totalled an amazing £904.38.

#### 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 24th January

Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches  
10.15am Morning Worship in Pirnmill Church.  
Shiskine Church, 12noon  
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.

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 24th January**  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
Rev. Lily McKinnon  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

#### Sunday 24th January

Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge,  
Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

#### Sunday 24th January

Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm (Church behind post office)  
Rev Benjamin von Rensberg



# Golf

#### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday, January 13. Three braved a cold drizzle to complete a competitive round. One fine magic two from Derek Roxburgh on the 7th and Jim Green scraping home a win of 85-20: 65. The dominoes afterwards was equally competitive. Tee-off every Wednesday noon, all welcome.

#### Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday, January 14. Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 11 played. CSS, 69, PAR, 67.

Silver: 1. Esther Henderson 94-27=67, 2. Elizabeth Kelso 93-19=74, 3. and scratch, Ann May 82-6=76. Congratulations, Esther!

#### DEATH

#### FRAME - Iain Fleming

Peacefully, at home on Arran on Monday, 18th January, 2016, beloved Husband, Son, Brother, Father and Grandfather. Iain was an amazingly strong and independent man, lovingly remembered and never forgotten. Weep not that he has gone but smile that he has been. Funeral service takes place at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreghorn, on Friday, 29th January, 2016, at 10am, followed by a celebration of his life at The Ormidale Hotel, Arran, from 2pm, to which all family and friends are warmly invited. A coach will meet the 8.20am ferry and will return for the 12.30pm ferry. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to MacMillan Cancer Support.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

#### Frances Harwood

We wish to express our gratitude for all the kindness and support that we have received in recent weeks. We could not have hoped for more during such a sad and difficult time.

*Mark, Carol and Scott*

#### DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY

## Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Terry and Jessie McManus would like to thank all their family and friends for all the lovely cards and good wishes on our anniversary which was on the 7th of January 2016.

#### Arran Golfers Association

Saturday, January 16. Winter League/Duncan Trophy, third round.

The third-round matches took place on a frosty Brodick course. A vote was taken by all the players before the start and the majority were happy to try and get the games played.

The decision was taken to delay the start to allow the course to thaw slightly and, to the green keepers credit, it did. A massive thanks to Brodick for hosting on a day when most other courses would have struggled. Thanks also to Trish for the welcome soup and rolls afterwards.

The hosts Brodick were up against Corrie. A superb performance by the Corrie boys saw them take both games and the match 2-0.

Shiskine were up against near neighbours Machrie. A more convincing result this time saw Shiskine win both games comfortably and the match 2-0.

Finally, league leaders Lamlash played their neighbours Whiting Bay. A closer tie this time saw both teams win one game each and the match was halved 1-1. With two games to go, Lamlash and Shiskine are level on five points, Whiting Bay have four, Corrie three, Brodick one, and Machrie has yet to get off the mark! Fourth Round at Corrie Golf Club, Sunday February 7 draw:



Winners of the Peggy Currie Cup and the Ann Cook Tray hold their trophies.

## Arran Bridge Club results

The results of the Aggregate Competition held at Brodick on Thursday, January 14 are as follows: NS, 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 3 Jan and John Beatie. EW, 1 Jessmay Peacock and Margaret McGill, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Linda Trickett and Elizabeth McKellar.

Corrie v Machrie at 8.30am, Shiskine v Whiting Bay at 9.20am, Lamlash v Brodick at 11.50am.

#### Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday January 17, Sweep – Back 9 twice. 1. John O'Sullivan 81-19=62, 2. Ian Bremner 73-7=66. Best scratch, Ian Bremner 73. Congratulations to the Lamlash Team who

drew with Whiting Bay at Brodick in very difficult conditions and now remain top of the league.

**Fixture:** Sunday January 24, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon start.

Thursday January 28, Yellow Medal, 11am start.

Sunday February 7, Lamlash v Corrie at Corrie.

## Brodick Bowlers celebrate the season

Almost 30 members and guests enjoyed their annual dinner in the warm and welcoming surroundings of Brodick Golf Clubhouse on Friday January 15.

Prize winners for the 2015 season were presented with their trophies at the conclusion of a lovely evening.

Winners: ladies singles champion, Ann Holling-

worth; gents singles champion, Charlie Weir; pairs winners, Lavinia Hendry and Colin Haggerty; triples winners, Lavinia Hendry, John McConnachie and Colin Haggerty; club champion of champions, Charlie Weir; Stewart Cup for highest total scores in the season, Charlie Weir; President's Trophy, Andy McCrindle; George

Watson Trophy, John Lauder and Charles Hendry.

Pictured are trophy winners at Brodick Bowling Club annual dinner and presentation of prizes in Brodick golf clubhouse: (left to right) Charles Hendry, Andy McCrindle, John McConnachie, Lavinia Hendry, Charlie Weir and Ann Hollingworth.



Brodick Bowling Club trophy winners.



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# Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

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All your vehicle requirements under one roof  
Contact Lamlash Garage on 01770 600328

# Arran curlers prepare for inter-island competition

Arran curlers were once again in action at Greenacres, Howwood last Friday preparing for their participation in the Inter Island Cup on January 27.

The players hope that a touch of experience and lots of enthusiasm will stand them in good stead in the competition, which will involve Ar-

ran, Cumbrae and Bute. It is the first time the competition has been played for since the 1980s.

In November, a group of Arran curlers, mainly from Lochranza, caught the early ferry en route to Greenacres Ice Rink, after receiving an invitation from curlers from Millport to make

up teams for two rinks. Following this session, it was agreed the cup would be played for on January 27.

Team organiser Ann Coulter is trying to track down anyone who either took part or remembers the last occasion the cup was played for.

She can be contacted on 01770 830219.



Action from Friday's practise session in Howwood. b04curling01



Arran curlers preparing for the cup challenge at the end of the month. b04curling02



The curlers who are hoping for glory in the Inter Island Cup. b04curling03



Arran High School's Ciara Wood.

## Arran's Ciara is the leader of the pack

AN ARRAN teenager has won a cross-country competition, beating girls a lot older than her in the process.

Ciara Wood from Arran High School competed in the Ayrshire schools cross-country race on Saturday, which involved S1-S4 boys and girls across a 2km course.

As well as coming first in the S1 category, Ciara was the second girl across the finish line in a time of 7 minutes, 21 seconds.

She will now compete in the schools cross-country national championship in March.

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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.