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Crumbling roads

Arran lobbies for road repair funds



Journey's end

CalMac's best customer retires



Wait for it

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Pupils bring plastic straw fight to Arran

Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Pupils from a Glasgow primary school are bringing their campaign to reduce plastic pollution in the sea to Arran.

The children from Sunnyside Primary School in Easterhouse have already had widespread success and nationwide publicity with their bid to have all plastic straws banned.

Glasgow City Council, Caledonian MacBrayne, and all 14 businesses in Ullapool, have already agreed to switch to paper straws.

On Arran the Auchrannie Resort has given its backing and Arran Dairies is looking to lead by example.

Now the Sunnyside Ocean Defenders are coming to Arran to encourage their peers to start their own campaign on the island.

Arran head teacher Shirley McLachlan has invited the group of primary 7 eco warriors to talk to Ar-

ran pupils next week after their successful #NaeStrawAtAw campaign.

They will meet representative of all seven primary schools on the island in Lamlash on Monday as well as meeting representatives of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST).

The Ocean Defenders biggest coup to date has been to get Glasgow, Scotland's biggest council, to stop using plastic straws in all of its 26 cafes in museums, sports centres, offices, schools and the city chambers.

When it was announced the Sunnyside Primary principal teacher Lisa Perrie said: 'This is fantastic news and the children are absolutely thrilled. They have worked so hard on this campaign and the results have been amazing. We've had tremendous support and Glasgow City

Continued on page 2

Burns night 'brithers' in Lamlash



New chairman Gordon Kinniburgh and the top table at the Lamlash Burns Club annual supper held on Saturday night where guest speakers included Iain Currie, centre, and Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson. Full story, centre pages.
01_B05burns01

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Robert is a lucky winner

The Banner had a great response to our competition to win tickets to the Scottish Caravan, Motorhome and Holiday Home Show later this month.

And the winner is Robert Marr, from Brodick Road, Lamlash.

Robert wins two tickets to the show, which is once again sponsored by one of Scotland's leading motorhome dealers, BC Motorhomes, and which will take over the entire SEC in Glasgow from February 8 to 11.

Congratulations!

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Digging work starts at McLaren site

A planning application is expected within weeks for a new hotel on the shorefront site of the former McLaren Hotel in Brodick.

In the first tangible sign of progress in months a JCB digger arrived on the plot this week and is understood to be digging trial pits for foundation design works.

It was in April last year that the Banner first revealed development plans for a new 96 bedroom mid-market aparthotel which has been proposed by the Norfolk-based Abode Group.

Since then, despite a lack of progress on the ground, work is believed to have been continuing apace behind the scenes and a planning application is understood to be imminent.

The proposals for the site, which closed more than three years ago and has been branded an eyesore, met with a mixed reaction when they were unveiled last June.



The JCB digger at the McLaren Hotel site.
01_B05mclaren01

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Glasgow primary school pupils bring plastic straw fight to Arran

Continued from page 1
Council's announcement is a major boost.'

The pupils have also won support from Best Bar None Glasgow – which runs an annual awards scheme involving almost 100 pubs, clubs and licensed premises in the city.

Venues which reduce plastic straw usage are to receive extra credits in the awards which recognise good practice among the licensed trade.

Sunnyside describes itself as a conservation school with the motto 'We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children'.

Pupils launched their #NaeStrawAtAw campaign on social media last year

after estimating the number of school milk straws they throw away each year at 38,000 and learning how plastic can kill seabirds, fish, turtles and cetaceans.

On CalMac's decision to support the campaign environmental, manager Klare Chamberlain said: 'The company is extremely concerned about marine litter and the blight it can have on the marine environment across the West Coast.'

'The Ocean Defenders group provided both CalMac and the community board with an extremely informative presentation highlighting the dangers of single use plastics and provided us with samples of suitable alternatives which we could adopt.'

'We have been working with our suppliers over the last year or so to identify alternatives to single-use plastics and with our waste contractors to ensure that any alternatives can be suitably managed.'

'I am delighted that CalMac Ferries can support #NaeStrawAtAw and ban plastic straws on-board and look forward to spreading word of the campaign across the communities we serve.'

'Our procedures are also changing so that straws are only available on request. All other sources of single use plastics on board are also under review and we hope to be able to announce further changes over the coming months.'



Pupils from Sunnyside Primary School are to visit Arran to spread the work of their #NaeStrawAtAw campaign.

More funds demanded for our crumbling roads

Arran Community Council are to lobby for more funds for Arran's crumbling roads.

At the monthly meeting of the council in Brodick on Tuesday night members were unanimous in their view that more money had to be found in the North Ayrshire Council budget for an increase in the island roads repair fund.

It follows a host of complaints about the dreadful state of Arran's roads, as highlighted by the *Banner* last week.

But island officer Gus MacLeod said the roads workers were filling in potholes as fast as they could. He said the current Arran roads

maintenance budget presently stood at around £1 million a year but he said there were 'a whole range of problems they were trying to repair'.

Mr MacLeod told members that a decision had to be made whether to concentrate on making a full repair of the worst potholes or try a more broad brush approach, saying: 'We took the decision to try and repair as many potholes as possible, even if it is only a temporary repair.'

The community council heard that both resources and funding had been cut for roads maintenance.

Members agreed they should lobby the three

NAC councillors who represent Arran for a strong roads maintenance schedule in the coming financial year and for more winter resources.

They also want to see an investigation into possible alternatives to the use of salt to keep the roads clear in winter, as it badly damages road surfaces.

Mr MacLeod said the council previously used sand but that is now a 'legal requirement' to use salt.

Welcome to Arran: potholes are the first thing drivers arriving at the Brodick ferry terminal see as they turn into Market Road. 01_B05pot01



Plan ahead to avoid road repairs

Motorists are being warned about changes to road closures on the island this weekend which may cause some disruption.

Due to roadworks on The String the Bogullie will be open this weekend but will shut again for the duration of the works on Monday.

To allow for carriageway improvements, around 800 metres west of the bridge near Glenshurig, The String will be closed from 8.30am to 4.30pm today (Saturday) and the same tomorrow (Sunday).

The Bogullie will close again from Mon-

day February 5 between North Sannox and Lochranza for resurfacing and widening works at the Witches Bridge for up to seven weeks. The road will be shut every day, including weekends and is not scheduled to repon until Friday March 23.

Meanwhile, Main Street, Slidery, will be closed from the junction at Slidery Moor to a point at Slidery Bridge, for carriageway improvement works from Monday February 5, to Monday February 12, between 9am and 4.30pm, but not at the weekend.

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Missing Largs mum found by rescue team

A Largs woman, who had been missing on Arran for five days, was found by the mountain rescue team, it has emerged.

Claire Paton was traced on Tuesday afternoon after the rescue team were called in by police, who found her within an hour. She was taken to hospital to be checked over as a precaution and police thanked the public for their help after a widespread appeal.

The 45-year-old of Lindsay Crescent, Largs, was reported missing by her family last Thursday when she did not return home and Police Scotland launched a search.

They later found CCTV footage of her boarding the ferry from Ardrossan to Brodick on Friday and in the Arran Active shop in Brodick on Saturday where she purchased a sleeping bag, hat and gloves.

It was believed that she may have been sleeping rough and the Arran community had been asked to check their gardens, outbuildings and huts.

Ms Paton is the wife of historian and former BBC presenter Chris Paton. She is also understood to have formerly worked at the BBC.



Claire Paton may have been sleeping rough on the island.

Ardrossan harbour late trains row

Ardrossan harbour is the third-worst station in Scotland for late train arrivals, new figures reveal.

In the last month, two-thirds of trains were late arriving and just 36 per cent were on time at the station which is a lifeline

for Arran residents. This is the third-worst record in Scotland, with only Largs and Milngavie station in East Dunbartonshire scoring worse.

West Regional MSP, Jamie Greene, who is also the shadow transport min-

ister, said the figures were unacceptable and went far beyond what can be considered reasonable delays.

The MSP has vowed to raise the issue with transport minister Humza Yousaf in his next meeting with him.

The statistics were taken from the ScotRail performance update for December 2017 to January 2018 which shows the percentage of services that arrive at their location on time or within one minute of the timetabled time.

Chair yoga is no soft option at Shiskine SWI

It is hard to believe that the first month of 2018 has passed already, writes Jenni Turnbull.

Way back last year on Wednesday December 6, the Shiskine SWI met for their monthly meeting. As this was the last meeting before Christmas it was fitting that we enjoyed ourselves being festively creative under the watchful eye of Morag Campbell.

Morag started the evening with a short but effective and instructive chat and demonstration on how to make a Christmas table display using winter greenery from the garden and carefully placed baubles, ribbons

and candles. It was hard for some of us to believe when we were assured at the start that everyone would create something they would be proud to display. But we all did.

The competition for the evening was best wrapped parcel won by Clare Buchanan and the exhibition was our evening's efforts which Elizabeth Kelso deservedly won.

Benefits

The January meeting was held on Wednesday January 10. On that evening Gillian Craig came to share with us the benefits of chair yoga.

Now you might think chair yoga could be a soft option but I can as-

sure you that by the end of our session with Gillian we all felt relaxed while being aware that we'd had a bit of a work out. It was very enjoyable.

January's competition was a yoghurt dish. This was won by Evelyn Hamilton with our president Marilyn Woods a close second. The exhibition was 'Your favourite tee-shirt' and that was won by Piet Johnston, with Evelyn Hamilton coming second.

The next meeting is on Tuesday February 6, with Arran in Focus 'Photography and Media'. The competition: photograph of Arran (own work) and the exhibition: postcard.



John 'Hammy' Hamilton, left, receives a final Bon Voyage from port manager Colin McCort as he embarks on his last CalMac journey for Arran Haulage.

Journey's end for Hammy

One of Caledonian MacBrayne's most prolific passengers is retiring after sailing the equivalent of more than 10 times around world with the ferry company.

John 'Hammy' Hamilton from Shiskine is estimated to have completed at least 8,500 return journeys on the ferry from Brodick to Ardrossan and back during his 27 years as a truck driver with Arran Haulage.

That equates to a total of around 250,000 miles of

CalMac crossings, almost exactly 10 times the circumference of the earth around the equator.

Hammy is a well known character with CalMac crew and port staff who sent him off on his final crossing with a travel voucher for £150 in recognition of his custom over the years.

'The sheer number of journeys Hammy has made shows just how much of a reliance our island commu-

nities have on the ferry getting goods to and from their destination,' said CalMac's port manager in Brodick, Colin McCort.

'He has been a daily fixture around the port for pretty much three decades and he has to be the company's most well travelled passenger, he'll be missed.

'I and everyone else who has dealt with him day after day during this time wish him a long and happy retirement.'

Young votes will help local projects get cash

Young people aged between eight and 25 are being encouraged to take part in an online vote to help decide which Arran organisations are to receive a share of a £50,000 participatory budgeting pot being handed out by North Ayrshire Council.

Voting opens today (Friday) at 9am and closes at midday on Friday February 9, with results being announced later that day on the council's Twitter account.

The island organisations vying for votes are: the Arran Duke of Edinburgh group, Arran High School mountain bike club, Arran junior triathlon club, Arran kayak club, North Ayrshire's got talent group, Arran Theatre and Arts Trust, and the Arran Youth Foun-

dations cooking group and LGBT group.

The exercise forms part of the council's plans to celebrate the Year of Young People 2018 by giving young people the power to decide on how thousands of pounds will be spent on activities and events that celebrate one of the YoYP's six key themes of: culture, education, enterprise and re-generation, equality and discrimination, health and wellbeing and participation.

Multiple

The available funding will be split between multiple projects across the six localities, including Arran, based on the number of votes cast by young people themselves.

All young people aged eight to 25 in North Ayr-

shire are eligible to vote using the single transferable vote method. Access to the online voting platform will be granted using their Young Scot National Entitlement Card – or they can obtain a temporary number to vote if they don't have a card by emailing: youth-pb@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

North Ayrshire's youth champion, councillor Shaun Macaulay, said: 'This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people to shape the delivery of the Year of Young People programme here in North Ayrshire.'

More information on each project in the running for a share of the funding along with details on how to vote, is available on the Young Scot website: <https://young.scot/napb>

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Campaign wins ban for electric dog shock collars

Electronic shock collars, which deliver painful electric shocks to dogs, have been banned by the Scottish Government after a campaign which had its roots on Arran.

The collars, used for 'aversive training' rather than positive re-inforcement, were the subject of government consultations in 2016 but which only

resulted in regulating their use. However, after carefully considering the concerns raised about electronic 'training' collars, the government has now announced an immediate and effective ban on their use in Scotland.

Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham said: 'Causing pain to dogs by inappropriate training

methods is clearly completely unacceptable and I want there to be no doubt that painful or unpleasant training for dogs will not be tolerated.

'I will be issuing strong ministerial guidance on the use of all painful training devices for courts to take into consideration in any cases brought before them regarding unnecessary suffering through using these devices.

'I have therefore today published initial draft guidance, which I look forward to developing with key stakeholders, particularly those with direct responsibility for enforcement.'

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson added: 'This matter was first brought to my attention by an Arran constituent and, having campaigned for a ban on the



Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson with fellow MSPs Christine Grahame and Richard Lochhead during the campaign.

use of electronic shock collars since 2011 with my colleague Christine Grahame MSP, I am delighted that the SNP government

is now taking further action. Christine and I lobbied the cabinet secretary's predecessor, Richard Lochhead MSP in the previous parliament, which led to a consultation resulting in the SNP government heavily curtailing the use of electronic shock collars.

'It is heartening to see that this will now be extended to an outright ban.

'In doing this, it is important to bear in mind that controls on the import of goods, including electronic devices, is a reserved matter for the UK government.

'Unless the importation of such devices is prohibited on a UK-wide basis, any possible prohibition on sale in Scotland alone could still be circumvented through on-line purchases or buying from suppliers in other countries.

'I therefore call upon the UK government to follow Scotland's lead and end this practice.'

Shock collars are already banned in Wales, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Germany but are still permitted in England where they are sold for as little as £20.

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New writer wins Gaelic award



Winners of the Gaelic new writers award Alistair Paul and Calum MacKinnon.

Photograph: Rob McDougall.

Arran landscape gardener Alistair Paul has scooped a Gaelic new writers award 2018, handed out by the Gaelic Books Council and the Scottish Book Trust.

Alistair, a writer and musician who lives in Brodick, is one of two recipients, the other being Calum MacKinnon who is a media manager of Radio nan Gàidheal in Glasgow. They will both receive various incentives and support to further their writing careers.

Alistair has written sev-

eral pieces for the online magazine, Dana, which includes short stories, poetry, reviews and non-fiction pieces on various topics. When not writing Gaelic stories, songs and poetry Alastair is a full-time gardener and plays the fiddle in a ceilidh band.

The skills development scheme, which began in 2010, provides each select writer with a tailored package of professional guidance and training to enable them to progress with their creative work.

Over the course of this year, Alistair and Calum will have the opportunity to engage in a programme that can include mentoring, manuscript appraisal, professional development workshops, and a retreat at the Moniach Mhor Creative Writing Centre near Inverness.

They will also link up with other writers at a similar stage in their careers, and perform their work at a showcase event in Edinburgh at the end of the programme.

Spend a day in the dark at Corrie Film Club

Corrie Film Club hosts its free mini film festival, Day in the Dark, on Saturday March 10.

This year, as always, there will be a chance to see a variety of films between 10am in the morning and 10pm at night, as well as the chance to socialise over lunch and supper provided by members.

Everyone is welcome and please feel free to dip in and out at any time to any film.

This year's programme begins at 10am with Scottish shorts and coffee followed at 10.45am by the whimsical *I Know where I'm Going*. There is a lunch break of soup, bread and cheese from noon to 12.45pm.

True story

At 12.45pm we present the interesting Timothy Spall film, *Denial*, based on the true story of a court case against a holocaust denier and appropriate for this time of year. For this year's Day in the Dark we have included two Spall films as a tribute to the work of this splendid actor.

After *Denial* at 2.30pm is the delightful Audrey Hepburn film, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, surely a favourite with everyone, followed at 4.15pm by tea and cake.

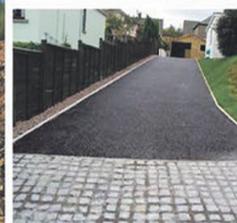
Then at 4.30pm comes the second Timothy Spall film, the often hilarious Mike Leigh film *Life is Sweet*, after which supper is served – baked potatoes and fillings at 6.15pm.

Finally, at 7.15pm, the audience will settle down to enjoy the classic, *Lawrence of Arabia*.

Please feel welcome at any or all of these films. Admission free.

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Editorial

The last straw

We should give a warm welcome indeed to the young Glasgow pupils bringing their plastic straws campaign to Arran next week.

The youngsters from Easterhouse have really made a mark across the country with their war on plastic pollution harming marine wildlife, which has caught the attention of the national press.

And it is not surprising. It really is a no-brainer for any organisation not to get behind a campaign which can so significantly help the environment with little or no cost to them – and hats off to Glasgow City Council for being among the first.

So we hope that our own environmentally conscious youngsters will take up the campaign here and help persuade businesses on the island that it is in all our interests to fight the pollution of the seas in any way we can.

Of course this action alone is not enough for a fundamental change, but if youngsters are thinking this way at an early age in an inner-city environment, then there must be hope they will grow up feeling the same way.

For now we say 'well done' to the youngsters of Sunnyside Primary School who can proudly wear their badge of ocean defenders.

Thought for the week

'Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.' Isaiah 40:28

Managed decline

Sir,
Arran roads are indeed crumbling under North Ayrshire Council's negligence but, in his letter to Elma Murray, Jamie Greene confined himself to mainland road problems and made no specific mention of the perilous state of Arran roads. Of more concern is the complacency of Ms Murray's management-speak reply which implies everything is OK.

She states: 'The council has an asset management approach for road maintenance and undertakes condition assessments of all our roads on an annual basis. Condition information is entered into our Roads Asset Management System to determine a long-term investment programme in road maintenance.'

'This approach takes account of road condition, deterioration rates based on historical information for our road network and prioritisation criteria established to meet council priorities. It uses life cycle planning to allocate treatments efficiently, making optimum use of the available budget.'

My translation of the above is a programme of managed decline, subject to criteria set by NAC by reference to budgets/other NAC priorities which do not even include the provision of public toilets.

I first raised the roads issue with MSP Kenneth Gibson, who acknowledged the historical neglect of Arran's roads and said Arran roads budget was given an uplift to take account of this. I wonder if this still applies and, if not, what action NAC proposes to address the continued decline of Arran's roads relative to the mainland.

I recognise there is no magic money tree but I simply want whatever cash is available to be spent wisely – not wasted on repairs which last a few weeks or months.

The main problems seem to be NAC skimping on the depth of tarmacadam and not being able to get hot material over to the island in optimal condition, neither of which will be solved by the recent introduction to the island of a small piece of hot tarmac recycling plant.

Yours,
**Jim Peacock,
Whiting Bay.**

Bad money

Sir,
In the wake of the Presidents Club scandal, I find it incredulous that those in charge at Great Ormond Street Hospital believe they can distinguish good money from bad.

I suggest they put two piles of £10 notes on a table and mark one good and the other bad. Then mix them all together and since they all look alike it will be impossible to put them back as they were. In other words, there is no such thing as good and bad money. The important thing about money is the use it is put to – not where it came from.

Yours,
**William W Scott,
North Berwick.**

Cemetery neglect

Sir,
Reading last week's *Banner*, I was very interested in Mr Currie's letter 'The state of our cemeteries'. I could not but agree with his comments. What is happening to our cemeteries?

On attending a funeral in Kilmory, the late Lady

Jean Fforde was appalled at the number of fallen headstones around the church. She very kindly telephoned me and offered to open Strabane Gardens for a day if we could get stewards to collect money which her ladyship hoped would assist us to help raise a few fallen stones.

Putting Lady Jean's suggestion forward at the next business meeting, only one member agreed with this and the other members left me in no doubt that they considered that it was the responsibility of North Ayrshire Council to take care of our cemeteries.

There has been very little done since, apart from stickers being placed on damaged stones in need of repair.

What happens to the stones with no living relatives? Are they to be left to disintegrate and leave our church yards looking un-

cared for? I would suggest the council keeps a supply of dry cement in stock to assist with the repair of these stones.

As to ditches, it appears they no longer require clearing. The late Neil McLean and myself wrote, telephoned and asked repeatedly for our new cemetery to be drained properly before being opened, but it was never done properly and is now a disgrace.

Our cemeteries should be places one can visit and spend time with our thoughts in peace. What is more helpful than to visit a church with old records and a cemetery with old headstones to obtain information about our past?

Can the council please do something about this upsetting and neglectful situation?

Yours,
**Edna Picken,
Kilmory.**

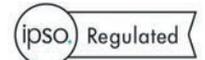
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Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.

Just having a quick nap

Rory Cowan of Kildonan sent us this nice photo of his two dogs taking a close interest in a sleeping otter on the shore but they didn't go too close.

Rory said: 'I managed to get five pictures in total and the otter slumbered throughout. It did wake up after about five minutes and quickly resumed its fishing expedition.'



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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.

The sale of the century!

Well, it's been 54 years in the making

It has been a long time coming but the elder statesman of Lamlash shopkeepers, Jimmy Gordon, is having a sale – his first in more than 54 years of trading.

But he has been working in the Gordon Brothers store for a lot longer than that – more than 73 years in fact – but says he has moved with the times and embraced modern technology.

Located in the century-old Ship House building, Jimmy has worked in the shop with his father since he was 12, toiling seven days a week and serving generation after generation of customers as he continues to do to this day.

A general merchant of the traditional variety, Jimmy knows most of his customers by first name and enjoys his daily conversations with them.

Somewhat reluctantly adapting to modern technology, Jimmy has been

convinced by shopkeeping assistant Denise Bodie to adapt to the requirements of modern shopkeeping by using email, internet and card facilities.

Jimmy said: 'Customers will still get the same friendly service that we are known for but these new advances will make ordering and sourcing products simpler and provide a better experience for the modern customer.'

'We will also be introducing various new product lines such as mobile phone accessories and a wide range of new and exciting products which may include stationery, gifts, hardware and ceramics, among others.'

Stressing that there is no need to completely change a winning formula, Denise said: 'The shop will be hosting a huge sale to move some of the product lines which will be updated. Discounts of up to 50 per cent

will be available on selected items across the range and with special offers available on items like jewellery and toys and many others.'

In time, Jimmy says, unconvincingly, he might spend less time at the shop but he is certain customers will reap the rewards of him adapting to the times with special offers, weekly discounts and a new and improved product range.

Specialising in a surprisingly wide range of products, it is one of the few remaining general merchant stores of its type, packed to the rafters with products of all descriptions, from pet food to toys and car parts and a veritable gold mine of unexpected treasures.

Locally known as Jimmy Gordon's, the Gordon Brothers shop is open seven days a week from early in the morning until early evening in the summer and six days a week in winter.



Happy to help and at your service, Jimmy has been a fixture in Lamlash for over 73 years. 01_B05jimmy02



Jimmy Gordon and Denise Bodie stand in front of a window display showing a small range of the goods on sale. 01_B05jimmy01

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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? Simply give us a ring today and speak to one of our friendly, fully qualified Domestic Energy Assessors. We are an award winning specialised installer of the Mitsubishi Ecodan range of air source heat pumps throughout Scotland. Talk to qualified heating engineers and Domestic Energy Assessors who are passionate about their craft and not pushy sales people.

*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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Memory of Rabbbie lives



Daisy McNamara gives a Burns recitation. 01_B05burns02

Aaron Norton gives his address to the haggis. 01_B05burns03

Iain Currie gives the Immortal Memory. 01_B05burns08

More than 60 Burns enthusiasts enjoyed the Lamlash Burns Club annual supper last Friday.

And the speaker who gave the traditional Immortal Memory speech, Iain Currie, did not shy away from the recent controversy surrounding the bard, who has been accused of plagiarism by, among others, poet Liz Lochhead. But Mr Currie asked: 'I bet everyone in this room

could recite a line of two of Burns. How many could recite Liz Lochhead?'

However, he did not dwell on the unpleasantness and went on to give a terrific speech mixed with humour as well as some interesting facts of the time Burns spent farming at Ellisland in Dumfriesshire.

Incoming club chairman Gordon Kinniburgh, in thanking him, said he thought



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... on in Lammlash

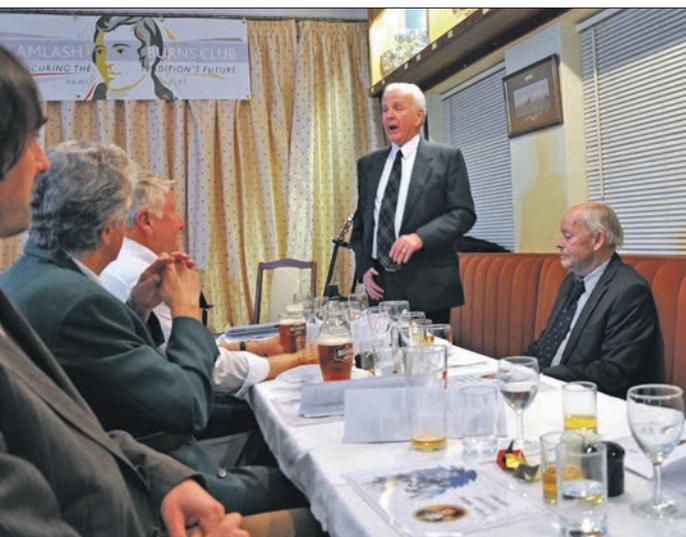
everyone in the clubhouse at Lammlash Golf Club would have learned something new about Burns from his talk.

The all-male gathering began with a recitation by Arran primary schools poetry competition winner Daisy McNamara. Jim Less gave the traditional Selkirk Grace before the haggis was piped in by Ross Kerr and addressed by Aaron Norton.

Along with Mr Currie, who

is the brother of Arran resident Charles and the son of the well-known Scots minister the Rev James Currie, the other main speaker was Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson, who gave the Toast to the Lassies.

As well as traditional speeches, there was music from John Divine, Peter Wilson and Mr Kerr on his pipes and the evening rounded off with the entire company joining in *Auld Lang Syne*.



Peter Wilson in full voice. 01_B05burns09



The gathering listen to Allan Nicol recite Tam O'Shanter. 01_B05burns11



John Devine entertains with Green Grow the Rashes. 01_B05burns06



Ross Kerr pipes in the haggis. 01_B05burns05



Finlay Murchie gives a recitation. 01_B05burns07



The programme cover featured an excellent illustration of Tam O'Shanter by artist Tony van Breugel. 01_B05burns13

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Open studios call to exhibitors

Arran Open Studios (AOS) has had its first meeting of the new year when some exciting initiatives were planned to accompany the seventh year of its operations.

After last year's very successful biscuit tin initiative, organisers are enthusiastic that the project will be repeated and built on. It is

hoped that it can be extended to the mainland to encourage artists across Scotland to reflect on the open studios across the Clyde.

Also planned is a joint venture with COAST, whose new premises in Lamlash, it is hoped, will host a small themed exhibition in the week prior to and including the open studios weekend.

The long weekend this year is from August 10 to 13 inclusive and organisers are keen to invite art/craft newcomers to the island or previous exhibitors to consider showing and

supporting the flourishing venture.

Participants and advertisers alike have benefited from the open studios event and organisers believe that the more who participate, the more the appreciating public have to choose from. Already organisers know that people visit from the mainland, many of them there for the duration of the weekend to attend the various studios.

The AOS was begun by Josephine Broekhuizen and Sarah Cook and has become a contemporary island fixture and continues to give island makers of all descriptions an unparalleled shop window at the height of the season.

Anyone wishing to take part this year need only get in contact with Ruth Mae at Southbank Studio on 820373 or check out the AOS website at www.arranopenstudios.com.



Arran artist's show opens in Glasgow

Arran artist Josephine Broekhuizen's solo exhibition opens in Glasgow today (Saturday) and already indicators seem optimistic with the sale of major works and an increase in interest.

It is being held at Glasgow's prestigious Compass Gallery in West Regent Street, which has become a main Glasgow fixture since it was set up by Cyril Gerber in 1969, and is widely regarded as one of the top galleries for contemporary art in Scotland.

Every year the gallery, now under the directorship of Cyril's daughter, Jill Gerber, attends the London Art Fair and for the past three years have taken Josephine's paintings to show there. And in each of the past three years they have sold them.

This year was no exception. The exhibiting and selling of two large-scale paintings also acted as advance notice of Josephine's



Jill Gerber and Josephine Broekhuizen select screen-prints for the show during Jill's recent visit to her White Rock studio.

impending show and a statement of intent.

As previously reported in the *Banner*, the exhibition, aptly titled *Seeing Things Grow*, will feature a mixture of new work and slightly older work and will also include new screen-prints and drawings.

Josephine works at the Glasgow Printmakers Workshop once a week making screen-prints based on her collages.

Her new flower paint-

ings are inspired by Josephine's garden. Those who know Josephine are aware that her garden is an abiding passion. Indeed, she has tended both her own all her life and also recently the late Lady Jean's garden for several years.

Josephine will be attending the opening of the exhibition today (Saturday) which runs until Saturday February 24. For further details, contact Jill on 0141 221 6370.

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Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

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

Saturday 3rd February

Flow yoga
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Army Cadets
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Family games
Fun in the pool
Live music – George Machray
Live music – Skunnered, Celtic folk rock
Over-21s disco

Sunday 4th February

Live music – George Machray
Family games
Fun in the pool
Live music – Skunnered
AA meeting

Monday 5th February

Morning fitness
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Over-50s badminton
Arran Skinnymalinks
Arran Skinnymalinks
Arran Skinnymalinks
Adult tennis
Arran Junior Football Club
Circuit training
Lamlash Aerobix
Badminton
Badminton
Arran Bridge Club
Tae Kwon Do

Tuesday 6th February

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
Arran Rotary Club
Scottish country dancing
Live music – Shindig
Pop quiz

Wednesday 7th February

Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Yoga

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

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 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
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

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

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30am - 10.30am
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm-4pm
Brèagha Holistic Beauty, Corrie, 5pm
Shiskine Church Hall, 5.15pm
Brodict 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
Brodict Church Hall, Adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Bowling Club, 1.30pm
Brodict Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Arran High School, 6pm
Corrie Hall, 6pm
Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
Brodict, 7pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
Arran High School, 7pm
Douglas Hotel, Brodict, 7pm for 7.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 7.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 5pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am

Hydrofit
Coffee morning
Chair yoga
Bus Pass Club free soup
Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service
Knittery and Natterry
Parkinson's Support Group
Zumba Gold
Arran Skinnymalinks
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,
Rock and pop bingo

Thursday 8th February

Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Morning fitness,
Chair yoga
Arran Skinnymalinks
Arran recycling workshop, hosted by Eco Savvy
Quilt Arran
Adult tennis
10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers
Arran ladies' netball
Ladies' hockey
Arran Soul Choir
Arran Bridge Club
Brodict Embroidery Group
General knowledge quiz

Friday 9th February

Arran Vets
Arran Vets
Yoga
Hydrofit
Smart Recovery meeting
Build your own steak night
Lochranza children's badminton
AA meeting
Arran Youth Foundations
Tae Kwon Do
Live music – Mike Edwards
Lochranza adults' badminton
Pool, darts and poker

Saturday 10th February

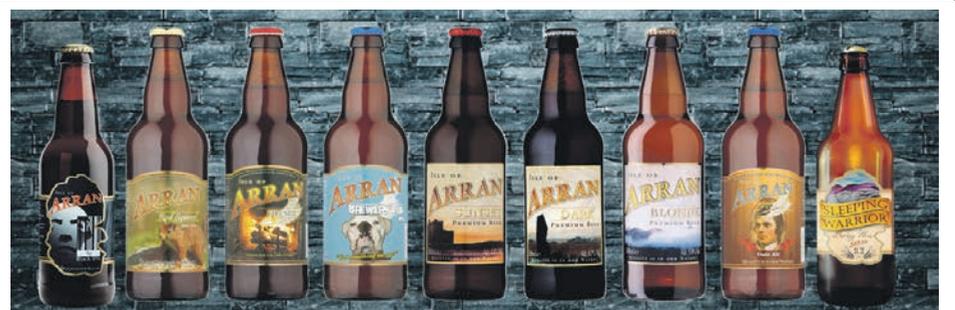
Flow yoga
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Army Cadets
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Family games
Fun in the pool
Live music – Mike Edwards
Live music – Skunnered, Celtic folk rock
Over-21s disco

Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon
St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am
The PHT, Lamlash, 12noon - 2.30pm
10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30pm-3.30pm
Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4pm
Brodict Church Hall, 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 5pm
Brodict Church Hall, 5.45pm - 6.45pm
Dunfion, Brodict, 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

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Auchrannie Gym 9.30am - 10.30am
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30am
Brodict Church Hall, between 10.30am - 12noon
Glen Cloy Suite, Auchrannie, 2pm - 4pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm
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
Brodict Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm
Brodict Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

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

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 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
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm



Keep a look out for the common scoter

The common scoter is a seaduck that can be seen round Arran in the winter. While it is not as familiar as

the eider, which can be seen round the coast of Arran all year, it is there. In the winter, goldeneye is a regular

visitor to our coast as well as freshwater ponds and lochs, but common scoter sightings are less frequent.

The common scoter is far from 'common'. It is the only wildfowl species that is red-listed as a breeding bird in the UK. There are only around 50 pairs left, with numbers having dropped by more than half over the past 25 years, the core of the population being in the extraordinary blanket bogs of the Flow Country in the far north of Scotland. Winter is the best opportunity to see these ducks, when tens of thousands appear in UK coastal waters each winter.

Although it is not clear where these birds come from, the common scoter breeds across northern Europe and Russia, including Iceland, Greenland, Scandinavia and as far east as the Olenek River in Siberia. Outside of the breeding season, the common scoter moves south to spend the winter along inshore coastal waters of western Europe and western North Africa, from Norway south to Mauritania. A large proportion of the common scoter population overwinters in the Baltic Sea.

In Arran coastal waters last year, there were seven reports of common scoter from two locations with 20 off Cosyden from December 2-10 being the largest group.

This is fairly typical reporting of common scoter on Arran in recent years.

The systematic name of



A male common scoter.

common scoter is *mellanitta nigra*. The word *nigra*, comes from the Latin for 'black', and refers to the entirely glossy black plumage of the male. As well as entirely glossy black plumage, the beak of the male common scoter is also black, with a swollen black knob at the base and a conspicuous patch of yellow on the top. In contrast to the male, the female common scoter is dark brown, with a darker crown which contrasts with the pale sides of the head and neck. The female common scoter has a dark brownish to black beak and is also slightly smaller than the male. Juvenile common scoters are similar in appearance to the adult female.

The diet of the common scoter consists mainly of molluscs, particularly mussels. However, this species will also eat other invertebrates, such as shrimps, worms and insects, as well as small fish, fish eggs and some plant matter. The common scoter usually catches its prey by diving underwater. The common scoter swallows mussels

Bird notes
by Jim Cassels

whole, crushing their shells in its gizzard. This seaduck species typically dives with a short forward jump, with its wings closed tightly to its body. Flocks often surface dive together.

The common scoter is a highly sociable species and is often seen in flocks, particularly during the winter where they form bobbing rafts offshore or long straggling lines flying along the coast. Look out for small flocks of common scoter on the sea round our coast this winter.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at 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 2016 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk.



Common scoter often flock in groups on the sea.



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A flock of common scoter in flight.

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 24, 1998

One way

There are those who do not fancy the idea of yellow lines on Arran. Nor do they relish the prospect of traffic lights or roundabouts. But on Tuesday it was proposed that a one-way traffic system just might be on the cards.

It was at the community council on Tuesday that Brodick's councillor, Stewart Walls, raised the problem of traffic congestion around Brodick Post Office and a likely increase once potential developments in the area were completed. Mr Walls, whose chemist shop is opposite the position, asked for planning and roads and sewerage to get together so that an overall plan could be devised.

After a suggestion of making the road a one-way route, members agreed that the corner had long been a focus of anger and congestion and that bollards had to be placed at Kames corner after Kames cottage had been hit by cars on several occasions. Sergeant Jim Weir added to the discussion by saying: 'What we also need is for the islanders to be aware of The Highway Code. It is illegal to park within 15 metres of a junction.'

Explosive celebrations

A member of the public reported to the police two flares and loud bangs above Whiting Bay on Wednesday last week. Investigation uncovered that two military aircraft were in the vicinity at the time and an alert was signalled.

However, closer investigation disclosed that it was merely two fireworks which had been set off in celebration of the 21st birthday of Andrew Driver of Largie-meanoch. Both police and the Ministry of Defence took it in good spirit.

Ferry figures

The number of passengers carried on the Brodick to Ardrossan ferry during 1997 was 636,425, an increase of 2.6 per cent on the previous year. Cars, however, at a total of 99,599 were down 0.4 per cent while coaches were up by 16.5 per cent.

These recently released figures reflect very much the trends for the whole fleet and it has been argued that the increase in coaches, each of which carry around 60 passengers, could be the explanation of the increase in passenger figures.



Head NTS ranger Duncan Stevenson stands next to a sign at the Merkland Wood where after years of rhododendron clearing a network of paths and open woodlands has been created. 01_B05twe01



On Tuesday the Brodick Youth Club enjoyed a Burns supper. There was no immortal memory, nor was there a toast to the lassies and there was no whisky. But the pipes did play, Burns was spoken of and it was a lot of fun for the many young members. 01_B05twe04



The Banner office had an unusual visit this week. Making up the Hodgson School (and family) are Michael, Katherine, Stephanie and teachers John and Janet Hodgson, with little Rachel, who are all home-schooled on Arran and who came to learn how a newspaper is prepared. 01_B05twe02



More than 20 Arran farmers joined a mass rally in Edinburgh in protest at rules that are increasingly making farming in Scotland no longer viable. The protests started at the Edinburgh Playhouse and continued along Princes Street. 01_B05twe05



At their Burns lunch in Corrie Hall last week, the Corrie Wednesday Club was entertained by children from the primary school. Particularly memorable was their dance to the Flying Scotsman which included choo-choo sound effects. 01_B05twe03

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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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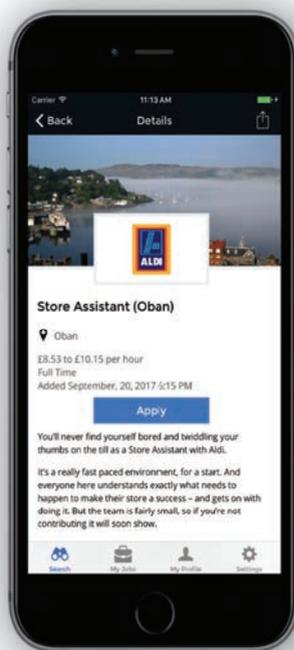
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Arran Cottage Owners Website

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Public Notices

Arran Civic Trust

Acting on behalf of the Planning Department at North Ayrshire Council, the Arran Civic Trust is distributing copies of " Design Guidance: Development in the Countryside ", describing ways in which housing can best be designed and accommodated in settlements in rural locations. These are being sent to design and building organisations on the Island, but copies will be available to the general public free from the following: Tourist Office, the Pier, Brodick; NAC Local Offices, Lamlash; Brodick Library; Arran Estate Agents, Invercloy, Brodick

Arran Theatre and Arts Trust

AGM

Thursday 8th February

5pm

Forestry Commission Offices,
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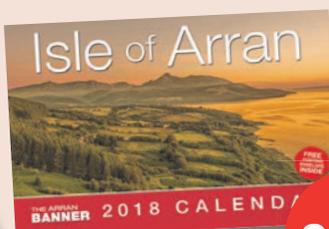
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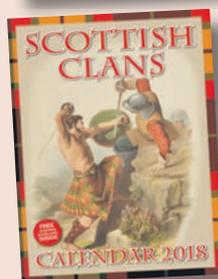
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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine
Independent but working together
Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

Sunday 4th February

Pirmill, and Lochranza Churches Together - 10.15am, Morning Worship including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Lochranza Church
Shiskine Church, 12 noon Morning Worship including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.
Corrie Church - 11.30am, Prayer meeting, 12noon, Morning Worship.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 4th February
Holy Communion 11am.
Rev Elaine Garman, Rothesay.
Coffee and discussion after service.
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

Sunday 4th February
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 4th February
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory - 10 am, Lamlash - 11.30 am.
In Lamlash: prayer time 10.45am
Praise Service.
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland,
Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 4th February
The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
The table belongs to the Lord Jesus and all who love Him are most welcome.
There will be activities for our young people in the Church Hall.

Tea and coffee will be served after the service.
There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm to which all friends are welcome.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 4th February
Service 11am, Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and coffee after the service
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.
Telephone 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 4th February
Sunday Mass 11am

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

DEATHS

CRAWFORD - William, died peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Thursday, 25th January 2018, aged 91. Beloved husband of the late Bunty, dearly loved by all the family and friend to many. Funeral service at Corrie Church on Monday 5th February at 11.30 am and thereafter to Sannox Cemetery to which all are welcome.

Six teams do battle for Peggy Currie Cup

Six teams of four competed for the annual Peggy Currie Cup at Lamlash on Monday January 22. For the first time the bridge teams were chosen by ballot which will likely be the new format for the competition.

The winning team were David Campbell, Maureen Cumming, Fiona Henderson and Tricia Martin. Runners-up, and winners of the Ann Cook Tray, were Jean Barclay, Jan Beattie, John Beattie and Jennifer McArthur.

In other recent results, the winners of the Arran Bridge Club aggregate competition played at Brodick on Thursday January 18 were: N/S 1 John Baraclough and Jennifer Wales, 2 Jan and John Beattie, 3 Margaret and Douglas Bruce. E/W 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Janie Macclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Margaret MacGill and Jessmay Peacock.

The results of the Boyd Trophy round four played at Brodick on Thursday January 25 were: 1 Anne



Bridge competitors with the Peggy Currie Cup and the Ann Cook Tray.

McKelvie and Janie Macclure, 2 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 3 Jean Barclay and Elizabeth McKellar, 4 Fiona and David Henderson.

The results of the aggregate competition played at Lamlash on Monday January 29 were: N/S 1 Janie Macclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 Gege Kroner

and Jane Davidson, 3 Jan and John Beattie. E/W: 1 Elaine Duncan and Alison Bilsland, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 3 John Baraclough and Jim Peacock.



HUTCHISON: Peacefully, at home, on Sunday 28th January 2018, Tom Hutchison, dearly loved husband of Morag, loving father of Helen and David and father-in-law of Gill, brother, grandfather and great grandfather. A service of thanksgiving will take place at Bearsden Baptist Church, Roman Road, Bearsden on Friday 9th February at 2pm. It is requested that there be no mourning clothes. There will be a local service of thanksgiving in the near future. Family flowers only, however there will be an opportunity to donate to the British Lung Foundation and TEAR Fund. The family is very grateful for the excellent medical and nursing care provided by GPs and district nurses.

MITCHELL-LUKER: Bernie on Saturday 27th January. He will be sadly missed by his family, especially his grandchildren and remembered by all who met him. Funeral will take place on Friday 9th February at 11.30am in Lamlash Parish Church.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday January 14, Winter Cup, round four, With the third round having been postponed due to bad weather, the fourth round was played on a very windy morning that drove the CSS up to 64 for the eight golfers who played. Undeterred, Jamie Macpherson

carded a fine net 64 to take first place from Graeme Crichton whose net 65 puts him in pole position in the overall rankings. 1 Jamie Macpherson 6, 64 and lowest gross; 2 Graeme Crichton 13, 65; 3 Gus MacLeod 12, 70. Magic twos Nicol Auld at fourth.

Fixture: Sunday Febru-

ary 4, AGA Winter League round four vs Machrie at Machrie.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday January 23, Winter Cup. 1 P Betley 71-11=60, 2 R Betley 89-28=61, 3 C Laing 90-18=72. Magic twos Reuben Betley and Phil Betley.

Fixtures: Saturday February 3, Lochranza Hotel Cup at noon. Tuesday February 6, Winter Cup at noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday January 29, Monday Cup, five played in challenging conditions. 1 Alan Smith 63; 2 A MacDonald 65; 3 L Hartley 66. Magic twos - A Smith and L Hartley.

Fixtures: Monday February 5, Monday Cup, ballot at noon. Saturday February 3, Sweep, ballots at 9am and 1pm.

DIAMOND WEDDING



Irving Diamond Wedding

Congratulations Keith & Elsie Irving on your Diamond Wedding Anniversary,
1st February 2018.

Love from all the family.

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Ferguslie park defence in bad tempered match

Arran Ladies 0
Ferguslie Ladies 2

The damp and dreich weather matched the mood of some of the players taking part in the Arran vs Ferguslie encounter last Saturday.

With disallowed goals, unnecessary contact and questioning of the umpires decisions, Arran players can claim the moral high ground, despite it not counting in the final scoreline.

As both teams settled into play, it was Ferguslie who forced the play first and using quick, successive passing worked their way past the Arran defence and scoring 10 minutes into the first half.

Arran rallied together and managed to repel a few more attempts by Ferguslie to score again – Cat Galbraith had stepped into the goalie pads for this game and made some strong saves.

As the game continued, the opposition became more disgruntled

and mouthy, playing a very rough and physical game of hockey.

Through this first half Arran had some great running drives but the ball just wasn't quite travelling to the forwards, being cut off by Ferguslie's defence. An interception by Ellie Wood in Arran's defence led to play down the right hand side to Mia Walker and then Helen Thomson into the attacking quarter for Arran.

Helen cleared past two Ferguslie defenders to make a raised 'jink' pass to Lorraine Hewie in the scoring circle, finishing off with an unstoppable goal. As the team celebrated, the umpires deliberated and the opposing umpire stated that she saw a foul prior to the play which led to the goal being scored, so the goal was disallowed.

Despite being disappointed with this call, and ignoring the unpleasant cheers from the opposition, Arran focused on play again.

Before the end of the first half, Ferguslie had a disal-

lowed goal, when the umpire had seen it hit off the foot of one of their players before going into the goal. This led to much back-chatting and complaining which was soon dealt with, with some sharp words from their own umpire.

Before the second half resumed, both team captains were called to the umpires, and asked to remind their teams that the moaning and complaining was unacceptable conduct and the physical contact in the game was to be stopped or players would be carded and sent off.

Arran held most of the possession in the second half, applying continuous pressure on the Ferguslie goal, but the oppositions goalkeeper proved difficult to beat and Ferguslie heavily manned their defensive area, leaving just three field players waiting for a break. This tactic payed off when 23 minutes into the second half they cleared a ball into mid-field catching Ar-



A Ferguslie player overreaches to try and prevent an Arran attempt at goal. 01_B05hockey06



A tussle right in front of goal is rapidly curtailed by Arran's Ellie Wood. 01_B05hockey03



Hazel Malakoty outpaces her opponents with a lengthy stride. 01_B05hockey01



Elyse Aitken goes low to capture the ball and eject it from the Arran half of the pitch. 01_B05hockey02



Man of the Match Mia Walker bears down on her Ferguslie opponent. 01_B05hockey05



Match captain Lorraine Hewie powers down the side line leaving Ferguslie players struggling to catch up. 01_B05hockey04

ran's defence off guard and ending in a second goal for the visiting team. The final whistle blew with Ferguslie winning 2-0.

Both teams retired to the Ormidale Hotel where Laura and her staff had laid another superb after-match tea, with delicious soup, stuffed rolls and delicious cakes to take away the chill of the day.

Ferguslie nominated young Mia Walker as their Man of the Match for the game for her excellent play and skills in mid-field.

Acting captain, Lorraine Hewie said: 'Ferguslie have moved down from the 2nd Division, they were always going to be a tough team to beat. Arran only managed to pull together 11 players for the game, missing key players through illness and prior commitments making it all the tougher. Well done team for all your efforts on Saturday. Everyone played their socks off against a very disgruntled and mouthy opposition.

'Arran had most of the

possession, especially in the second half. All-in-all a game to hold our heads up high and be proud of.'

The Arran Ladies will be playing a double header this weekend with an away game against Irvine Ladies today (Saturday) at Marr school playing fields in Troon, with a 1pm push back and a home game against Milne Craig Clydesdale Western Ladies 5s on tomorrow (Sunday) at noon. All supporters will be very much appreciated and warmly welcomed.

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Ferguslie park defence in bad tempered match

Successful cross country for young Arran runners

Youngsters from Arran gave a good account of themselves at the first cross-country race of a four-part series held recently at St Matthews Academy in Saltcoats.

A total of 22 children from Arran primary schools and Arran High School took part in the event, with six of them achieving top three positions.

Arran schools were represented in all categories at the North Ayrshire Cross-Country League from P5 to S2 with an enviable team spirit and all of the children supporting one another.

For some of the children it was their first time competing with Jenny Ross, Niamh Gosman and Lewis Gregg of Lamlash Primary all gaining valuable experience with their first competitive event.

Achieving podium positions were Rhea Webster



James McCarthy with his first place medal.

of Shiskine Primary, who achieved first place in the P5 girls' race along with James McCarthy of Arran High who came in first in the S2 boys' race. Second place winners included Ruaridh Lindsay-Smith of Lamlash Primary in the P7 boys' race and Milo Godwin of Arran High who was just behind the winner in the S2 boys' race. Earning themselves third place were Myles Lindsay-Smith of Lamlash Primary in the P5 boys' category and Archie Gunyadi of Shiskine Primary in the P7 boys' race.

Competitors received a great deal of support from parents and grandparents who joined the athletes in the trip over to the mainland.

The second race of the series will take place on Saturday February 17, with an even larger contingent from Arran due to take part.



Connah Wright, Ruaridh Lindsay-Smith and Archie Gunyadi prepare for their race.



Ruaridh Lindsay-Smith congratulates Rhea Webster on winning first place.



Abbie Stewart and Beth McCarthy are all smiles on the track.



Ben McCarthy finishes his race.

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