

**THE Aspa**  
 OPEN DAILY FROM  
 9AM TIL LATE  
 AUHRANNIE RESORT, BRODICK  
 01770 303 303  
 WWW.THEASPA.CO.UK

# THE ARRAN BANNER

**Arran**  
 ESTATE AGENTS

See all our properties on

s1homes.com

Zoopla.co.uk  
 Smarter property search

primelocation.com

www.arranestateagents.co.uk  
 Tel: 01770 302310

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY, 2017

No 2101 70p

# Action needed on affordable homes

'Arran is a special place but it must be allowed to develop and grow'

**REPORT**

by **HUGH BOAG**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Some 200 affordable homes are urgently needed to provide accommodation for the workforce required to grow Arran's business sector.

While estimates suggest the Arran economy grew by as much as 10 per cent last year, the chronic lack of affordable housing is seriously impeding future growth.

Now Arran Development Trust is being set up, which it is hoped will act as a catalyst to bring the private and public sector together to get house building moving on the island.

A major study, commissioned last year, found the house price-to-earnings ratio on Arran is 8:2, with only London is higher at 10:4. Scotland as a whole is 3:2. This means that local

wages do not allow local workers to purchase homes, and tourism and high prices attract high rents, again impacting on the potential workforce.

In addition, it has been found that 22 per cent of homes on Arran are second homes and that does not include the 95 empty homes identified in the study.

The details are contained in the first annual report of the Arran Economic Group, which sees the development of affordable housing for business needs to be its number one priority.

But it wants to ensure that the local community is fully engaged and supportive of the need for affordable housing.

Chairman Tom Tracey said: 'No-one is suggesting that this would be one major housing investment. These would small developments bringing together



**Chairman Tom Tracey and development director Sheena Borthwick-Toomey discuss the first annual report of the Arran Economic Group.** 01\_b06ecomonic01

supply and demand, prioritised and targeted at skilled jobs bringing the right people to the island.'

It has been estimated that the capital investment in Arran in the four years until 2018 – including the new Brodick ferry terminal, the new board and investment by businesses on the island – will be in the region of £100 million.

Arran was fortunate, he said, that the private in-

vestment was substantial and that there was an active third sector which made it a 'good bet' for public investment.

He added: 'People love Arran and want a piece of it. For a population of 4,600, the amount of public investment is quite dramatic.'

However, he said the economy was overheating as a result of the lack of affordable housing, which had to be at the forefront of

all the many other aspects of the forum's long-term plans.

And he admitted there was no 'quick fix' to the complex housing issue which, he said, had to be a four- to six-year plan.

The housing study, carried out by North Star Consulting, found the chronic lack of affordable housing is impacting and will continue to impact on Arran's ability to

**Continued on page 4**

**INSIDE YOUR ARRAN BANNER THIS WEEK**

**Fèis future**

The future of the popular Fèis Arainn is in doubt as it looks for a new organiser.

This year's event will go ahead as planned in July, but at the moment it could be the last.

'That possibility makes us all very sad but is a realistic view of the situation,' retiring organiser Aileen McLaughlin said.

**Full story, page 7.**

**Get connected**

School children got their hands on the latest technology at a connectivity day held at Arran High School last week.

As well as the very latest 3D technology to try, the day, which was organised by ArranSkills, had a serious side, allowing businesses on the island see the benefits technology could bring them.

**Full story, page 9.**

**Rescue team**

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team had a spectacular day of training on Goatfell last Sunday.

Our centre pages capture the drama as the team carry out their February training in the snowy wilderness. 'There are some training days when the weather doesn't play ball but then there are the days like today,' one member said.

**Full story, pages 10 and 11.**



**JTC John Thomson Construction Ltd**

**New Homes on Arran**

We have several properties nearing completion, and land also available for bespoke development

John Thomson Construction, Lamash, Isle of Arran www.thomsonconstruction.co.uk Telephone: 01770 600242 Fax: 01770 600714

# SNP welcomes funding for North Ayrshire schools

Three Arran schools are to get extra cash as North Ayrshire Council has been given more funds by the Scottish government.

North Ayrshire Council is to receive a share of £4.4million under the Pupil Equity Funding scheme announced by Deputy First Minister John Swinney MSP.

Councillor Willie Gibson, shadow education portfolio holder for the SNP group

at North Ayrshire Council, welcomed the announcement which will see Brodick Primary School receive £7,200, Lamash Primary £9,600 and Arran High School £14,400.

Councillor Gibson said: 'This additional funding will make a huge difference to children at our schools. We have made significant progress in closing what is referred to as the attainment gap: the gap in per-

formance of children from less well-off families compared to those from better off families. These funds are specifically allocated to allow our schools to continue that work. This is a very exciting initiative. As a former teacher, I am delighted at the additional focus that is being brought to bear on improving the opportunities for every child in North Ayrshire.'

Mr Swinney said: 'I want every child in Scotland to have the best possible start in life. It is unacceptable for children from the poorest backgrounds to have their chances limited by circumstances outside their control. This Government has made clear its priority is to close the poverty-related attainment gap and our new

£120 million Pupil Equity Funding is aimed at doing just that. We are providing additional ring-fenced funding which will enable individual schools to target support where it is needed the most. The allocations I am announcing today will let parents, teachers and school leaders see how much funding their schools will receive in 2017-18 to

help break the inter-generational cycle of deprivation.

'The Pupil Equity Funding is on top of the existing £50 million Attainment Scotland funding and in addition to the action being taken by this Government to raise standards for all and make the improvements that are necessary to make Scottish education world-class.'



**New SNP group leader Marie Burns.**

## New SNP leader on council

North Ayrshire SNP councillors have elected Councillor Marie Burns as their group leader. Her first task will be to spearhead the SNP campaign for the forthcoming local government elections.

Councillor Burns said: 'It has been a privilege to represent the people of Irvine East and North Ayrshire for the last five years and I hope to continue to do so following the elections on May 4.'

'I have now been tasked with leading the SNP group into that election campaign and I do so proud of what we achieved when in administration.

'That said, there is still a massive amount to do. If elected, our focus will be on inclusive economic growth: working to develop the economy of North Ayrshire for the benefit of all of our communities.

'We will shortly announce our candidates for the Council elections in May. I am excited we have a strong group of candidates who mix experience with new talents.'

## Labour move sees budget row go on

North Ayrshire Council's Labour administration has refused to accept the SNP's draft budget which, it says, will see £3.5million returned to the council's coffers.

The budget, passed at Stage 1 of the Scottish Parliamentary process, will still see the council's revenue budget cut by £5.7million and the Labour administration has promised to continue fighting for a fair deal.

Derek Mackay, the SNP's Finance Secretary, demanded council leaders accept his draft budget 'offer', which involved a £9.2million cut in North Ayrshire Council's revenue budget, by January 20, and threatened to impose a 'worse settlement' on local authorities which didn't accept it. NAC leader Joe Cullinane refused to accept Mr Mackay's offer of cuts.

In addition to refusing Derek Mackay's 'offer', Councillor Cullinane also lobbied opposition party

leaders, urging them to deliver a fair settlement for local government.

Councillor Cullinane said: 'The real reason £3.5million has been returned to North Ayrshire Council is because our Labour administration, and other Labour councils across Scotland, refused to be bullied by the SNP Government into accepting the cuts they offered in their draft budget. They are a minority government and they wanted us to accept a cuts deal before opposition MSP's could negotiate or vote on the proposal. It was a clear attempt to circumvent the democratic process and ensure that they could dump cuts onto councils.'

North Ayrshire Council will not decide whether to raise the council tax rise until Wednesday March 1. The nine year long national council tax freeze ends this year, and councils have the power to raise the basic bill by up to three per cent.

See letters page.

## Raising funds for Erskine

The annual Guild coffee morning to raise funds for Erskine Hospital will be held in Lamash Church Hall on Wednesday February 15 from 10.15am till noon.

When Erskine was founded in 1916, the aim was to care for servicemen and women who had been injured in active service. Today, care remains the cornerstone of their philosophy, but they do much more as well.



**Welcome to Arran Haulage**

We are your local, friendly haulage company, ready and dedicated to move your goods from A to B, hassle free! Whether it be goods onto or off the island, we are here to provide excellent service and rates.



**Large supply of coal, building materials and animal feeds**

**Please phone for more details**

**Have your goods delivered into our Glasgow depot for a daily service to the island**



We are the main distributors on the island for Calor gas  
**CALOR DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR**

Home Farm, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DD  
Tel: 01770 302777 Email: info@arranhaulage.co.uk  
Opening Times: Monday – Friday 8am to 5pm / Saturday - 8am to 12 noon



**Jolly Molly**  
Gift Shop

Brodick  
Isle of Arran  
01770 302162

It pays to advertise in the Banner

**DIRECT TAXIS**

→ 01294 ←  
**60-2005**

**8-seater taxis available**

**Ardrossan Harbour to:**

Glasgow Airport	£35.00
Prestwick Airport	£25.00

Return bookings and other prices on request.

# Irvine opticians back hearing loss charity

An Irvine opticians has helped keep a vital hearing service running on Arran.

After reading a story in *The Banner* about the possible closure of Action on Hearing Loss (AOHL), staff at the Rivergame Shopping Centre branch of Specsavers decided they wanted to support the charity, which offers a hearing aid repair service on the island.

A fundraising event was held at Little Rock last Friday to help the charity raise the £2,000 it needs to continue operating for a year. The event attracted a large

gathering of supporters who enjoyed live music by 'The Sensational Biff Simpson and her band'.

Raffle prizes, donated by local organisations, included bed and breakfast at the Douglas Hotel, tasty Pater-son Arran treats, Specsavers vouchers and Wooley's goodies.

Action on Hearing Loss volunteer Nancy Bremner gave an informative talk to an attentive audience on the work of the charity, how it has helped her family and the impact it has on Arran.

### Vital

Store director Gill Syme said: 'When we read the article, we felt strongly that we should support the charity. Many of the hearing aid users on Arran will be older ladies and gentlemen who may find it difficult to travel far in bad weather, so this service is vital, especially in the winter months.'

'The volunteers do a fantastic job and we want to raise as much money as we can for the cause.'

Action on Hearing Loss Scotland's fundraising manager Adam Kelly said: 'Our amazing team of volunteers on Arran provides a much-loved hearing aid



Attending the event were, left to right, Susan McNicol, Nancy Bremner of AOHL, Margaret English, Teresa Garden, Gill Syme and Lynsay Dunlop of Specsavers and Fiona Mackenzie of AOHL. 01\_B06hearing01

maintenance service for local people with hearing loss so that they don't need to travel to the mainland.

'The event in Little Rock was great fun as well as

raising vital awareness about hearing loss and the positive impacts of our service on the island.'

Mrs Syme added 'We would like to thank everyone who helped us raise £800 and counting.'



Irvine Specsavers director Gill Syme thanked the audience and volunteers for their support and hard work. 01\_B06hearing02



Volunteer Nancy Bremner detailed the work Action on Hearing Loss carries out on Arran. 01\_B06hearing03

## Your photos wanted

How would you like to see your favourite photos of Arran feature in a tourist magazine?

We are in the process of putting together this year's ever-popular Holiday Arran publication and are giving readers the chance to submit photos of Arran they would like considered for entry.

They can be of the great outdoors, wildlife, sport, favourite places or anything you think tourists, returning or new, would like to see.

All photos used will be credited to the photographer. Send your photos to lhemming@arranbanner.co.uk by Monday February 20.

**THE DOUGLAS**  
Hotel - Bistro - Bar  
www.thedouglashotel.co.uk  
telephone : 01770 302 968

**WARM WELCOME**  
SERVING TEA, COFFEE  
Delicious Home Baking  
'Arran Larder' BAR MEALS  
**SHARING PLATTERS**  
ALL FRESHLY PREPARED  
Our Bistro Opens  
Each Evening 6pm  
**BOOKINGS PREFERRED**  
Closed Each Monday  
**DURING WINTER**  
Find us on Facebook and Twitter

PLEASE CALL 01770 302968 TO RESERVE A TABLE

3 course valentine's menu



saturday 11th February & tuesday 14th February

like us on facebook www.facebook.com/arranbanner

## MAINLAND TAXIS

# 01294 463 556

**ARDROSSAN HARBOUR TO YOUR DESTINATION**

**MAINLAND TAXIS**  
Tel: 01294 463 556  
Mob: 0792 199 8457

info@mainland-taxis.co.uk  
www.mainland-taxis.co.uk

Friendly Reliable Service GUARANTEED

7 SEATER WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE AVAILABLE

[www.mainland-taxis.co.uk](http://www.mainland-taxis.co.uk)

**Glasgow Airport £35 Prestwick Airport £25 Edinburgh Airport £100**  
**Glasgow City Centre £42 Kilmarnock £23 Ayr £28**  
**Crosshouse Hospital £20 Ayr Hospital £32 Irvine Central Hospital £14**  
**OTHER QUOTES ON REQUEST**  
**\* HOSPITAL TAXI SHARE AVAILABLE \***

## SALE - Children's half price jackets

# Arran Active

### New Season Footwear and Clothing Now In!

Great sale rail bargains and Jack Murphy Clearance!

**20% off Sence Jewellery from Copenhagen perfect for Valentine's Day Gift!**

Footwear and clothing for all ages including waterproofs, insulated jackets, thermals, wellies, swimwear, sportswear, maps & books, Scottish whisky and gins, wooden toys and knitting supplies

Art exhibition upstairs - silk prints by Heather MacLeod and landscape photographs by Peter Ribbeck

## SALE CONTINUES!....

**Open 7 days Mon-Sat 9.30-5.00 Sun 10.00 - 5.00**

Shore Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ  
info@arranactive.co.uk T : 01770 302113

# Plans to turn ferry building into a community hub

The existing ferry terminal building at Brodick could become a community hub.

The Arran Economic

Group is in talks with Cal- edonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) over its future use when the new pier

facilities are completed next year.

One plan is that it would become a focal point for

visitors, highlighting the diverse attractions Arran has to offer, with a community trust formed to take over the running of the new centre, according to the group's first annual report.

If plans for the hub come to fruition, it could see it house VisitArran, and the tourist information centre, as well as be a showcase for local artists, jewellery, cosmetics and food and drink producers.

## Opportunities

The group is also in talks with CMAL, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and North Ayrshire Council over development opportunities for the Market Road area in general and the residual old harbour facilities which could see the provision of a step-ashore boating facility for smaller craft – as a first step to a marina, if there was a commercial interest in such a facility in the years ahead.

Last year Ironside Farrar Consultants were appointed to carry out a comprehen-



The present ferry terminal could become a community hub



The existing harbour could one day house a marina. 01\_B06market01

sive study on the potential re-development of the area. They have now completed comprehensive site visits and conducted initial interviews with various individuals/businesses within the vicinity.

A survey specifically designed for all 325 businesses on Arran has also been conducted through the Arran Business Gateway with the results of both studies expected by March.

Chairman Tom Tracey said: 'The redevelopment of Market Road is a project of significant scale and as such must be considered

over a longer timescale. In 2017, we will target achieving all-party agreement on how to proceed, based on community and economic need.'

A spokesman for CMAL said: 'While work is progressing well with the new terminal building, CMAL/CFL will continue to use the existing terminal building until completion of the overall Brodick redevelopment.

## Transition

'This will ensure a smooth transition for passengers between the existing and the new ticket and

## Chronic lack of affordable housing

### Continued from page 1

sustain or grow its current level of economic and social activity.

And it said the workers required to sustain and grow services and grow the economy are being priced out of the housing market and that this impacts all sectors.

Despite the urgent need for housing – with a current council waiting list of 238, at the time of the report – North Ayrshire Council only recognise a need for 11 new houses a year.

Now, the group is setting up the Arran Development Trust, whose job it will be to expedite community-led solutions and access funds for housing, from both the public and private sector.

Attempts will also be made to trace the owners of the 95 empty homes identified to bring vacant properties back into use as affordable homes, utilising financial incentives available through North Ayrshire Council's Empty Homes Fund.

The Arran Economic Forum last year brought on board successful Ayrshire businesswoman Sheena Borthwick-Toomey as development director to drive forward the programme.

She said Arran had a very fast-growing economy and a very high quality of life, but where there was an imbalance was in the de-

mography of the population, which was ageing. She said that meant there was a wealth of 'knowledge and experience' on the island but they had to be prepared to get their sleeves rolled up and get stuck in.

She said Arran was already a popular tour-



The recent Benlister development in Lamlash

01\_B06economic03

County Carpets  
(Arran) Ltd

Since 1970

# WINTER SALE NOW ON!!!!!!

www.countycarpetsarran.co.uk

Tel: 01770 700480 Fax: 01770 700455

Email: admin@countycarpetsarran.co.uk

Whiting Bay Open 6 Days, 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.

# WOOLLEN CRAFTS ON ARRAN

has moved down to the front  
window within Arran Active

Wider range of

\* Wool \* Ribbon \* Buttons \* Patterns \* Threads

Large range of hand kitting baby clothes and blankets

Also raising funds for Brodick Primary 7  
pupils for a 5 day trip - selling raffle tickets  
at £1 per strip to win a large  
hand knitted blanket worth £65!

Tel: 302973



D\_01\_B06market02

# We want to keep Arran a special place

## Chairman Tom Tracey outlines his vision for the Arran Economic Group

'The Arran Economic Group (AEG) was created to optimise planned infrastructure changes and initiate others as required, to support a sustainable island economy. Arran's wild island beauty, welcoming communities, shared values and access to peace or adventure, and everything in between, makes Arran a special place. The AEG's guiding principle is to manage inevitable change without changing the fundamental nature of the island.

'Last year saw the beginning of many of these changes, from the new Brodick harbour to access to superfast broadband for the majority of the population. We also have two communities set up to receive 4G mobile communi-

cation. In addition, we now have metrics for the island so we can measure the economic and quality of life impact of change.

'Recommendations from the housing study and the skills study will continue to be rolled out in 2017, as will recommendations from the Brodick Harbour II Study on re-use of the existing ferry terminal and step ashore boating facilities.

'Recommendations on Market Road are more complex and will require further consideration.

'Our economy grew at 10 per cent in 2016 (estimate) supported by our first full year of RET, which is very impressive by any standard.

'Looking ahead, superfast broadband, 4G mobile

and the new two ferry services from 2018 will significantly improve our physical and digital connectivity. This will encourage the development of creative industries and people who can take advantage of flexible working practices. Our skills development initiative will keep pace with this to ensure our local population can take full advantage of these infrastructure improvements.

'New industries and additional residents will increase our overall population back to 2001 levels, supporting the continued improvement in our schools and creating a truly sustainable island economy.

'However, there are significant challenges and chief among these is a lack of affordable housing. This is impacting the sustainability of economic growth.

'Therefore, it will be a significant focus for the AEG until the newly formed Arran Development Trust becomes fully operational. In addition



Chairman Tom Tracey and development director Sheena Borthwick-Toomey with the first Arran Economic Group annual report. 01\_B06economic02

to the above, we will use our collaborative model to continue to support wider initiatives such as the Ayrshire Growth Deal and the Clyde Islands Renaissance.

'Challenges and support notwithstanding, we have a tremendous opportunity. We have a rapidly growing economy with a high qual-

ity of life and the prospect of significant improvements in digital and physical connectivity which will support our existing industries and attract new ones. Our challenge is to do all this while maintaining our overarching principle of keeping Arran a special place.'

## omes hits island economy

ist attraction but that if the island wanted to take that to the next level of being an attractive place to live and work, it had to be digitally and physically connected. But with improved connectivity and the prospect of nine sailings when the new ferry arrives next year,

she said the island should be looking at new creative industries and at people with flexible working practices who could live on Arran and work on the mainland, or the other way round.

Mr Tracey said: 'Change is going to happen and if Arran is to adapt the demographic has to change and attract a younger workforce on to the island.

'We want to make sure the specialness is not lost. Arran is a special place but it must develop and grow. We want the children of the island to grow up, go to school and then leave for university, but we want them to come back.'

The housing report is just one of the areas covered in the first annual report of the Arran Economic Group.

Founded 18 months ago, the group's guiding principle is to manage inevitable changes without changing the fundamental nature of the island.

The idea behind the group, which was formed out of the harbour redevelopment committee, was to identify five themes which represent the challenges: infrastructure, economy, housing and land, business development and skills development, which further break down to 24 specific projects with AEG owners and agreed goals and metrics.



ash which provided affordable homes.



### Campbell Fuel Oils

Is your current supplier letting you down?  
Why not contact Campbell Fuels for a reliable service



We offer a weekly top-up service on the Isle of Arran supplying heating oil, tractor diesel, derv and a wide range of lubricants

**Call us on 01563 521925**  
Hurlford Road, Riccarton, Kilmarnock KA1 3LS  
[www.campbellfuels.co.uk](http://www.campbellfuels.co.uk)



## BUILDING AND TIMBER SUPPLIES

**Delivery and Key Cutting Services**

**FOR HIRE**  
Floor Sander & Edger  
Carpet Cleaner & Wallpaper Stripper  
Cement Mixers and Drills  
Tower Scaffold • Power Barrow

**FULL SCAFFOLDING SERVICE**  
Petrol, Diesel, Gas, Coal, Logs, Kindling

**PAINT**  
Plumbing & Electrical  
Rainwater Goods  
Sheet material  
Stripwood & Mouldings  
Power Tools  
Gardening  
Fencing  
Ironmongery  
PAINT

Whiting Bay  
Tel: 700202 Fax: 700711  
mbsbuild@yahoo.co.uk  
Open: Mon - Sat  
8am - 5pm  
**CLOSED SUNDAYS**

# Arran Dark beer takes Scottish champion title

The Arran Brewery's Arran Dark will be competing in the CAMRA Great Beer Festival in London in August for the UK title after winning the Scottish champion title in the mild category. Arran Dark added this title to its long list of awards,

including the world's best dark brown beer in 2012.

Arran Brewery's managing director Gerald Michaluk said: 'I am very proud of our excellent brewery team who have consistently, over many years, kept Arran Dark at the very highest

levels of excellence despite ferocious competition from some extraordinary fellow craft brewers and the big multinationals with their crafty beer offerings.'

Arran Dark has come full circle as in 2000, on its launch, it won the beer of the festival title in a CAMRA festival in Renfrew.

Now, 17 years on, it is still winning awards.

Gerald went on to say: 'There are a lot of new beer drinkers out there introduced by the new wave of craft brewers, which we are proud to be classed as.

'These new drinkers are looking for quality over quantity and as their palates become educated, they are being drawn more and more to these fantastic ales. With great malt and less hops, they offer the drinker a more balanced taste experience and less of the, at times, monotone hoppiness some new wave beers can only offer.

'As the brewing industry changes the mass producers are trying hard to imitate the success of the craft brewers and the range of great tasting beers on offer is expanding rapidly.



Joseph Pawlowicz and Gwen Bilson of the Arran Brewery display their award. B05beer01No

I am pleased to see Arran is holding its own against their crafty beer tactics. I hope consumers continue to drink local, and support local craft beer jobs and, above all, experience great, well made beers wherever

they come from ... in moderation of course.'

The Arran Brewery uses only Scottish barley and has invested more than £300,000 on the first phase of its redevelopment of its brewery on Arran. Its cider house in Loch Earn, Perthshire, will shortly go into production as well as producing Scotland's only sake. Meanwhile, Arran has been test marketing a craft gin made with special botanicals which will be sourced on the island.

## Performers sought for music festival

Ever felt like dusting off your tuba or singing that song you've always wanted to try?

Well now you can get practising.

The 88th Arran Music Festival will be taking place from Wednesday to Friday, March 22 to 24, in the Lamlash community theatre. For those new to the island, this is a three-day community festival of music, Scottish country dance and verse speaking.

There are a mixture of competitive and non-competitive classes and anyone is welcome to come and be in the audience to help support the performers.

Primary school children are already hard at work dancing, learning verse and rehearsing their choirs but organisers would love to see more individual entrants. This can be done by having a look at the syllabus and returning the entry form before Wednesday February 22.

The syllabus can be found in the Book and Card Centre in Brodick or by calling Donna on 302733 and she will send an email copy, or contact accompanist Lorna Buchanan on Facebook.

Lorna said: 'You can accompany yourself, bring an accompanist with you, play or sing unaccompanied or get the sheet music to me and I will be delighted to support. If you feel you'd like a practice, please contact me.'

'The Friday evening session, we would really like to encourage more adult performers.'



The Arran Brewery team were presented with the champion mild beer award from CAMRA at the Auchans Pub in Dundonald.

**Scottish Field** FEBRUARY ISSUE OUT NOW

**HISTORIC DUNFERMLINE**  
Singer Barbara Dickson on the joys of Scotland's ancient capital

**THE NEW TOWN'S 250TH BIRTHDAY**

Plus SWANSONG: THE WHOOPER SWAN WHO IS THE REAL JOYRIDER?  
THE TRASHY NIGHTS OF GUNBOAT YACHT BRITANNIA

**20 PAGES OF** Scotland's top independent schools

WEDDINGS SPECIAL - How Scotland became one of the most popular places in the world to get married

**Historic Dunfermline**

SINGER BARBARA DICKSON ON THE JOYS OF SCOTLAND'S ANCIENT CAPITAL

**THE NEW TOWN'S 250TH BIRTHDAY**

SWANSONG - THE WHOOPER SWAN  
RECIPES FROM THE ROYAL YACHT BRITANNIA

**20 PAGES OF** SCOTLAND'S TOP INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

**WIN A LUXURY HIGHLAND BREAK**

30% DISCOUNT SUBSCRIPTION OFFER INSIDE

[www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk)

*Valentine's Night*

Two courses and a glass of Prosecco / pint only

**£15!**

**LIVE MUSIC!**

this Saturday 11th      Sunday 12th 3pm



McRasta: Spike & Keith also ft. Joni Keen

See website or facebook for further details

**The PIERHEAD TAVERN, LAMLASH**

[www.thepht.co.uk](http://www.thepht.co.uk)      01770 600418

**Scottish CND**

Please join members and friends in a gathering to support a UN Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.

**Saturday 11 Feb**  
(1 till 2pm)

**Brodick (opp. Douglas Hotel)**

Sponsored by NFU Mutual

Campbeltown call Rhona Millar on 01586 552 428 for your insurance needs.

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



**NFU Mutual**

# Fèis needs fresh blood to survive another year

This year's ever popular Fèis Arainn could be the last unless fresh blood is found to take over its organisation.

Aileen McLaughlin, who has acted as treasurer and main organiser since the start in 1999 feels she no longer has either the physical or the mental stamina to continue.

She is happy to continue the duties of treasurer and will undertake organising this year's event and would guide any volunteer who comes forward.

'We have a strong committee but the other members are all in full-time employment and, while they will take on some of the jobs which I have been doing, we need somebody who can commit time and organisational skills if we are to continue,' Aileen said.

'The busiest period is from mid June till fèis week itself. We have asked parents on several occasions for help and been grateful to those who came forward at specific times but we now need someone with the passion and commitment to take over the main role – or to suggest some better solution. If this doesn't happen, then this summer might well see the last Fèis Arainn. That possibility makes us all very sad but is a realistic view of the situation.'



Children performing their fèis song at last year's event. 01\_A06feis02

But while there is uncertainty surrounding the future, this year's Fèis Arainn will take place from Tuesday to Friday, July 25 to 28, in Arran High School and registrations will begin after Easter, from the week beginning April 18.

As always, youngsters from eight to 18 are eligible, including those who will reach the age of eight by the time of the fèis, or shortly after, and we are also open to visitors.

The week will finish with a concert given by the participants on Friday afternoon and there will be a family ceilidh in Whiting Bay Hall on Wednesday July 26. 'We are lucky enough to have almost all of last year's tutors coming back, which pleases us all

as they provided one of the best ceilidh bands we have ever had, as well as giving inspirational teaching during the day,' Aileen added.

This will be the 18th annual Fèis Arainn and, over the years, more than 1,000 youngsters have been part of it, at least half of them returning several times.

They have enjoyed learning different aspects of Gaelic language, songs and traditional musical instruments and how much of Arran's history and culture has been influenced by these.

A significant number have continued to develop what they learned and have, for example, joined the Arran Pipe Band or formed their own band or in other ways nurtured the seeds which were sown at the fèis.



Organiser Aileen McLaughlin is standing down. 01\_A06feis01

## Police in bike theft warning

Police on Arran have warned they will come down hard on anyone caught with stolen bicycles.

It follows a spate of three bike thefts in the past couple of months, two of which have since been recovered.

One was taken from Brodick, another from Lamlash and the third on the west side of the island. Two have since been recovered, but the third remains missing.

Acting Arran police sergeant Allen Gow told the *Banner*: 'We do not believe the same person has been responsible for the thefts.

However, we are concerned that it seems to be considered acceptable by certain individuals to take a bike without permission simply to get home. But let me say that anyone found in possession of a bike which is not theirs will be dealt with robustly.'

The police also have in their possession a bike found behind the high school for which they are trying to trace the owner. It is a blue Giant ladies hybrid bike and if anyone thinks it may be theirs, they should contact the Lamlash police office by using the non-emergency 101 number.

find us on  
**facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/arranbanner](http://www.facebook.com/arranbanner)



A range of musical talent on display at the fèis concert. 01\_A06feis03

## Arran Dancers new classes

The Arran Dancers, after a successful workshop in November, will resurrect their regular fortnightly dance classes at Arran High School tomorrow, Sunday February 12.

The dancing and creative

movement classes are open to all – from toddlers to high school students – and feature various dance styles. Whether you are a beginner or an advanced dancer, a contemporary or street dancer, one of the classes,

which run from 11.15am to 3.30pm, is sure to appeal to the dancer in you.

For more information, Jill McKillop can be contacted on 810666 and updates are available on the club's Facebook page.

**trade** **K** Beautiful bespoke kitchens at trade prices

- Ayrshire based
- Operating for 16 years
- Dedicated showroom
- Supplying kitchens at genuine trade prices
- Modern gloss to painted traditional
- Weekly delivery service to Arran
- Free no obligation design service
- Stunning 3D visuals
- Over 65 ranges to choose from
- First class service

[www.tradekitchenscotland.co.uk](http://www.tradekitchenscotland.co.uk)  
Unit 1, Barrmill Road, Galston, Ayrshire, KA4 8HH  
Tel: 01563 822442

**Serving the Isle of Arran every week**

# THE ARRAN BANNER

## A blueprint for success

Anyone with an interest in the growth and development of Arran knows the island has a chronic shortage of affordable housing.

But for it to be laid out in such a stark manner really gets to the crux of the issue. Arran doesn't need a few more affordable homes – it needs 200 and it needs them soon.

So it really is time for the talking to start and the first report of the Arran Economic Group is a good place to begin. For the first time in a long time, Arran has a clear and viable blueprint of where the economy of the island is going and how it is going to get there.

And while affordable housing has been, rightly, classed as one of the biggest hurdles facing development in the future, there is a lot of positivity in its first annual report.

The Arran Economic Group has now been going for 18 months but has been largely under the radar – though clearly it has not been wasting its time.

Consultants have been brought in to examine everything from housing to Brodick harbour, connectivity, and even what to do about Market Road. The group also now has a clear set of parameters with which to measure economic performance going forward.

There is no doubt Arran is in a good place and even a loosely estimated economic growth of 10 per cent can be considered a real success, particularly in these uncertain times.

But now the work really begins. The group is in the process of setting up the Arran Development Trust, whose job it will be to drive forward affordable housing projects in both the private and public sector.

There will be the naysayers who will see affordable housing as being something that will somehow harm the tranquillity of a serene island life. But let's face facts: Arran has an ageing population and if it is to develop and thrive in future, it needs a younger workforce, with families and children growing up here and desiring to return.

The ball has just started rolling but we hope everyone will get behind the vision.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'When Jesus spoke again to the people, He said: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' (John 8:12)

### 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](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk); telephoning the senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, 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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

## Letters to the Editor



### MSP says the facts are crystal clear

Sir,  
I find it somewhat ironic that North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane, in last week's *Arran Banner*, accused me of spin, a way of massaging the truth, in relation to the local authority financial settlement. Although a Corbynista, I'm sure even Councillor Cullinane appreciates that spin was developed by Tony Blair, Peter Mandelson and his party, New Labour.

We can all argue figures and, although he tried to, Mr Cullinane neglected to make his case by stating what the SNP government's support for North Ayrshire Council (NAC) will be in the year from April 2017 compared to the current financial year, which would have been the obvious way of proving his point, if correct. I am happy to assist.

The facts are crystal clear: in the current financial year, NAC received £279,443,000 in support from the SNP government. From the new financial year beginning in April, this will grow to £304,358,000, an 8.9 per cent increase – the highest in Scotland.

Should the local authority choose to impose a council tax increase across the board – which we have capped at three per cent given it increased by 75 per cent under Labour in the decade to 2007 – that would generate a further £1,808,000.

Concern over council budgets is a fairly recent phenomenon for Labour. In 2007, when the SNP came to office, Wendy Alexander MSP decried the SNP for not having the 'courage' to impose year on year cuts of three per cent on councils. Her party was so shocked that it elected her to be its leader in Scotland unop-

posed just a few weeks later. And who can forget Labour's proposal to change the local authority funding formula in 2014 that would have cut £5,081,000 each year from North Ayrshire's budget and given it to Glasgow?

To be fair to Mr Cullinane, the final funding settlement was only agreed last Thursday when the SNP and Greens voted together to provide £4,392,000 directly to head teachers of North Ayrshire schools to spend as they see fit to improve attainment and a further £4,184,000 in resource and capital was allocated directly to NAC. An unholy alliance of Labour, Tory and Lib Dem MSPs voted against.

Now he knows the facts, Mr Cullinane should get on with deciding how NAC will spend its budget to improve services for the people of Arran and the communities of North Ayrshire.

Despite obvious financial challenges, the SNP government will continue to deliver the best possible support to our partners in local government.

Yours,  
**Kenneth Gibson MSP,  
Cunninghame North.**

### Road danger

Sir,  
The current poor condition of the roads on Arran is a consequence of flawed decisions made at the time of their original construction.

I am sure that even the most disgruntled of Arran's road users will admit that North Ayrshire Council (NAC) does make a commendable effort in the Sycophan task of maintaining/improving our roads.

What is particularly frustrating (and ironic), however, is when NAC, in the process of maintaining/improving the roads, cre-

ates a hazard which did not previously exist and then aggravates such by failing to provide adequate warning to road users of the resulting risk.

Such an event occurred this week at the roadworks on the A841, between Brodick and Corrie. The works had scarified sections of this road for resurfacing. This process had left ramps at the start and conclusion of the treated road surface. Contractors did post warning signs (inadequate) at the entries and exits to some of these hazards.

But they left one ramp where no warning was given to north- and south-bound traffic to Corrie and Brodick respectively. As far as I am aware, this apparent neglect has resulted in at least three instances (during the hours of darkness) where vehicles were badly damaged as a consequence of the contractor's omission. It is fortunate for the car users involved (and the contractor) that no-one was seriously injured as a result of this failure.

Yours,  
**Road Hog,  
name and address  
supplied.**

### Ardrossan backing

Sir,  
I have been an MSP representing West Scotland for nine months now. Since my election in May, I – like others – have been on a learning curve. Being a parliamentarian is a tricky business, knowing the right decision is a difficult decision.

Some constituents on Arran have contacted me to ask why I don't support moving the home port to Troon, while others have questioned me about standing with other parties on this issue. These are fair and genuine things to ask.

I'd like to address these matters.

In my view, the campaign to retain Ardrossan as the mainland point is not a vote for the status quo.

We have assurances from Peel Ports that it will invest £13 million into the Ardrossan Harbour – that's significant money for significant improvements that will mitigate some of the problems that we've previously seen.

Another point is that journey times to the mainland would increase. A move to Troon wouldn't guarantee the frequency of services we currently see.

We'd also see prices go up – for those who need to travel to the mainland regularly, this will seriously impact your budgets.

I chose to back this campaign because a move to Troon would hamper journey times, force prices up and would end up threatening jobs on both sides of the shore. Yes, I have to take into the economic effect that losing this route would have on Ardrossan, but also the A to B campaign is giving thought to those on Arran too.

On the matter of working with other parties, it is quite clear that this North Ayrshire Council-led campaign has crossed all political lines.

I am pleased and happy to work with the local MP and MSP on the matter if it is in the best interests of the area.

What I would say, though, is this. The campaign to retain the Ardrossan route should not be solely for the benefit of Ardrossan. Those on Arran who raise concerns should be listened to. It's a two-way service – therefore it must be a two-way conversation.

Yours,  
**Jamie Greene MSP,  
West Scotland region.**

# Arran Deliveries

Arran Deliveries  
The Parcel Point  
Harbour Road,  
Ardrossan  
North Ayrshire  
KA22 8BZ

Open Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm  
Daily collection throughout Ayrshire,  
Glasgow and surrounding districts

Tel: 01475 676 255  
Fax: 01294 469 492

Glasgow Depot  
Arran Deliveries  
149 Balmoral Street  
Glasgow G14 0HB

Open Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm  
Accepting goods destined  
for the island

*We deliver the goods  
not excuses*



# Connectivity day brings immersion in hi-tech 3D

A multi-organisational connectivity day was held at Arran High School last week when schoolchildren, members of the public and local business people were introduced to the benefits and advantages of using technology and high speed broadband.

The event, involving input from the University of the West of Scotland, NAC, Business Gateway, HIE, Argyle College, Arran High School, Scottish Futures Trust, Broadway

Partners and ConnectArran, took place from 2pm to 6pm and included a ArranSkills event where businesses on the island were invited to join speakers from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the University of the West of Scotland.

A fully digital mobile campus was also brought along to provide a interactive experience for school children but, after experiencing 'non-technical difficulties', the equipment was moved into the community

theatre where pupils experienced an immersive 3D environment using state of the art Oculus Rift technology.

During the business event, Dr Matt Frew of UWS discussed how communities could promote and introduce their products and services to global markets using digital marketing and the power of the internet.

Business people who attended the event had the opportunity to ask Dr Frew and his colleague, Theo Tzinadis any ques-

tions that they had regarding technology in business and were impressed by the technology on show and learning about the benefits to business in the future.

The ArranSkills group is an education/employ-

er forum delivering Arran-specific requirements to and from employers ensuring development and growth in required areas.

It aims to provide a pathway to sustainable careers for students and residents outwith the academic arena.



Dr Matt Frew introduces a pupil to the pleasantly unnerving experience of virtual reality.

01\_B06connect01



A pupil stands on the precipice of a virtual reality world under the guidance of Theo Tzinadis of the University of the West of Scotland. 01\_B06connect02

## Arts co-ordinator sought for Arran

A co-ordinator is being sought to promote the arts on Arran.

The Arran Theatre and Arts Trust has secured two years of funding for the part-time, self-employed post.

The person hired will work for eight days a month to co-ordinate and develop existing and new projects, promote an arts programme on and off the island, and work with local groups in a wide range of art forms. Applications should be lodged by February 20 and interviews will be held in early March.

Arran was runner-up two years in succession – in 2014 and 2015 – in the Cre-

ative Places Awards run by Creative Scotland. As a result of this success, it became obvious that, despite this, a key reason for not winning was the fact that Arran does not have a professional arts organiser/co-ordinator responsible and accountable for the spending of public money. Arran is the only Scottish island of any size which does not benefit from such a post.

While much of the arts activity on the island is run effectively by volunteers, it is also true to say that the development of the arts in all areas would benefit and be more sustainable if there

was professional help to build on the existing creativity and energy of the island as well as promoting Arran as an arts island to the benefit of all – professional and amateur artists alike.

Arran Theatre and Arts Trust has been lucky to receive funding for a new post through Creative Scotland, North Ayrshire, the Robertson Trust and the Leader programme, and the post is presently being advertised.

It is to be hoped that the person appointed to this post will bring expertise, collaboration and a new dimension to the island.

## Polish offering at Corrie Film Club

### A Short Film About Love (Kieslowski, 1988, Poland, Cert 15)

After a splendid Day in the Dark of classic films last Saturday, culminating in a screening of *Doctor Zhivago*, which reminded everyone of what an amazing film it is, Corrie Film Club has its regular February slot tomorrow night (Sunday).

This month is devoted to European cinema – specifically Poland – with a screening of *A Short Film About Love* directed by Krzytof Kieslowski. Part of a series of films based on the Ten Commandments,

this one concerning adultery. It is an ironic drama about a shy 19-year-old who becomes infatuated by an older and more sophisticated woman. Despite their sharply contrasting views about what constitutes love, they discover that they have more in common than they think.

This film won the Grand Prix Prize at the Gdansk Film Festival in 1988 and the Fipresci Prize at the San Sebastian Film Festival in the same year.

See this film in Corrie and Sannox Hall this Sunday at 8pm. All welcome.

## Old Byre Visitor Centre Machrie

Look out for the sign ½ mile north from Machrie golf course.

Open 7 days a week 10am -5pm Tel: 01770 840227

## FEBRUARY FRENZY!

We've cut prices on already reduced sale items, £10 rail, £15 rail etc to make way for new stock. Fabulous bargains!

Come and treat yourself to a bite to eat and a bargain.

Teas, coffees, delicious lunches, homemade bread and pides in our wood burning oven, wines, beers, extensive loose leaf tea selection and a warm welcome.

Open 10 - 5pm, lunches 12-3pm.





A quick lunch was enjoyed before the weather closed in again.



Team member Kirstie Smith takes a minute to offer encouragement to search dogs Ruby and Caileag.



Participants enjoy their moment in the sunshine as they make the most of their spectacular surroundings.



Rope work was put to the test during the training exercises.



The team poses for a photograph during a brief

# Training doesn't go for dedicated mountaineers

Arran Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT) held its February training exercise on Goatfell last Sunday.

The team, including search dog Ruby and trainee search dog Caileag, headed out in mild, snowy conditions with limited visibility but when they reached the summit of Goat-

fell, they were treated to a superb cloud inversion offering spectacular views for a brief 20 minutes before the clag closed in around them again. After enjoying the views, the team continued on from the summit of Goatfell and onto Stacach ridge where they had the chance to practice winter scram-

bling skills, including setting up belays for lowering on some of the steeper drops.

Enjoying the winter training and spectacular views, the group posted a message on its Facebook page saying: 'There are some training days when the weather doesn't play ball but then there are

the days like today!' AMRT members train throughout the year and in all conditions through a combination of formal courses and exercises in the hills and mountains.

Training varies from the use of specialised equipment, first aid, navigation, rope work and helicopter familiarisation.

Photographs by Arran Mountain Rescue Team members Lucy, Martin, Ian, Daz, Ewan, Kirstie, Davie and Calum.



Team members descend Goatfell among the snow capped hills of the northern ridge.



Martin Ross, Jamie McKinnon and Ian Staples enjoy freezing conditions at the Goatfell summit.

GRANTS FOR OIL & LPG BOILERS NOW AVAILABLE!

## MPC ENERGY LTD

FREE GOVERNMENT BOILER GRANTS SCHEME (ECO)2016  
NOW COVERING THE ISLE OF ARRAN

Helping you replace old inefficient boilers OIL or LPG boilers with new A rated high efficiency boilers

Grants apply to :

- PENSION CREDIT
- CHILD TAX CREDIT with income below 16,010
- INCOME RELATED EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT ALLOWANCE with a secondary component.
- INCOME BASED JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE with a secondary component.
- INCOME SUPPORT with a secondary component
- WORKING TAX CREDIT with income below £16,010 or aged 60 and over.

Please call to verify eligibility and for more details 07873 472941 or email: mark.conroy@mpcenergy.org

https://www.facebook.com/MPC-Energy-Ltd-846743095437443/



riod of sunshine.

# et better than this ountain rescue team



AMRT members enjoy a cup of coffee at the frozen trig point at the summit of Goatfell.



David Boal, team leader Alan McNicol, Darryl Urquhart-Dixon and Andy Walker ascend Goatfell with Brodick visible in the background.



Rescue members enjoy a snack in white-out conditions.



Members enjoy views of the peaks rising above the clouds.



ying the blue sky in



The snow thickened at higher elevations as the team rose above the height of the clouds.

**SAY IT WITH DINNER**  
VALENTINE'S DAY - TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
@

**f IDDLERS'**  
MUSIC BAR · CAFÉ · BISTRO

Complimentary Valentines' Cocktail with 2 Courses  
Live Music from 7.30pm  
To Book call: 01770 302579  
Online bookings at [www.fiddlersmusicbar.com](http://www.fiddlersmusicbar.com)

# 'Wee ginger dug' at Brodick

Brodick Hall was packed on Sunday January 22 for the much-anticipated visit from Paul Kavanagh, blogger, journalist, National columnist, author and activist.

His wide-ranging and unscripted presentation, lasting more than an hour, covered his early life, his work as a publisher, a period living in Spain and his role as carer for his terminally-ill partner.

The audience was, in turn, entertained, moved and inspired as Paul described his involvement in the 2014 independence referendum, the birth of his 'Wee Ginger Dug' blog and his aspirations for a better society.

#### Discussion

His talk was followed by a lively discussion, a book signing session and refreshments.

Star of the show, as expected, was Ginger (the actual 'wee ginger dug'), who circulated among the audience throughout the afternoon, making lots of new friends.

Organised by the Isle of Arran SNP branch, it would like to thank Arran Events for PA, and to the Scottish Green Party and Scottish Socialist Party for their valued contributions.



Brodick Hall was packed for the event.



Paul Kavanagh and Ginger with Councillor John Bruce and Ellen McMaster.



## Café Bar Grill

Whiting Bay 01770 700 357

[www.felicitysarran.co.uk](http://www.felicitysarran.co.uk)

[felicitys@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:felicitys@hotmail.co.uk)



New Extended Opening Hours for February though to April  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday & Sunday : 11am-late  
(meals served 12pm to 8pm)

THURS: QUIZ & BURGER DEAL - Gourmet Burger & a Drink\* for £10

\* Drink includes 1/2 pint Tennents or Best, 125ml Merlot, Sauvignon or Zinfandel or a soft drink

\*

FRIDAY- 2 for 1 Fish n Chips (4pm- 8pm)

SATURDAY - Steak Night Specials

SUNDAY - Brunch Specials (12pm-3pm) Dinner menu served until 8pm

## Friends learn about the water of life

The January meeting of the Friends of Brodick Castle was held in the castle tea-room and they were delighted to welcome Faye Waterlow from the Isle of Arran Distillery, especially as she brought along a 14-year-old malt and Arran Gold for members to sample.

Faye has been at the distillery for 20 years and her experience showed in her most informative and interesting talk. She started with the three ways to taste a whisky. First, one should look at the colour, which is obtained purely from the cask in which the whisky is stored. Arran Distillery does not add any colouring agents and its whiskies are also unpeated.

The second is to smell the whisky and finally to taste a small sip.

The distillery's motto is: 'Independently owned and independently minded'.

Its master distiller, James MacTaggart, came from Bowmore 10 years ago. There are six stills men and 30 members of staff in the

centre. The distillery sells to 44 countries and had 104,000 visitors last year.

Loch na Davie is said to have the purest water in Scotland so Lochranza was an obvious choice for siting the distillery. Four brand new stills have just been installed so they hope to produce 700,000 litres of spirit this year and one million litres next year. They use 100 per cent Scottish barley from Speyside. The fermentation process takes 52 hours and the spirit is double distilled which is the traditional Scottish method. Some 20 distillations are performed each week and there are six bonded warehouses on Arran.

Faye then told the friends a little about the malts. Arran Distillery has the only official Burns Malt. Arran Gold uses a 10-year-old Arran Malt and has reverted to the original recipe although the bottle shape has changed.

James MacTaggart decides on the 'specials', such as the recent Smugglers

bottling. She then told the group about the new distillery in Lagg which will use barley from Lagg and water from a borehole nearby. It will produce a peated malt. Faye showed the group pictures of the proposed building, which has been designed so that the grass roof represents the outline of the Arran hills. It will also have an apple orchard on the site and will produce an Arran cider. The construction of the warehouse is due to start at the end of January and will, hopefully, be operational by 2019.

The next friends meeting is on Wednesday February 15 at 2pm in Brodick Church Hall when Sue Mills will speak on the castle treasures and the planned outdoor tours as the castle is now closed for its major refurbishment. Despite this, the Easter Sunday event on Sunday April 16 at the castle will still go ahead as usual with an Easter trail, duck derby, tombolas and Easter bonnets competition.

# The joy of young riders wins photography prizes for David

An Arran resident has been awarded two prizes in a prestigious annual UK-wide photography contest run by a leading charity.

Judges at the Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) rated the images by amateur snapper David Kelso second and third in separate categories.

David, of Sannox, said: 'The news came as a huge surprise – and a delightful one.'

'I had been invited along last summer to a Saturday morning session of Arran's RDA group by one of their volunteer stalwarts, Janis Heaney, to take some pictures of the children during their riding lessons.'

'It was a very enlightening and rewarding experience to see at first hand how much enjoyment and confidence the youngsters gained from their interaction with horses and the volunteers.'

'The sheer joy on their faces meant it was pretty much impossible not to get some decent photos.'

'These people do a fantastic job.'

'I am grateful to Janis for sending the pictures to the RDA as competition entries.'

David, 59, added: 'I became hooked on photography about three years ago, thanks to signing up for classes with Jackie Newman of Arran in Focus at Lamlash.'

'Until then, I had been scared to take my camera off automatic mode and quickly began to realise the amazing things you can do with just a little knowledge.'

David's second place was awarded in the category 'Happiness is'. The picture featured Riley before his lesson on his favourite horse Dan.

His other top-three success was in the 'On track' section, portraying the gleeful expression of little Rosanna, being led by volunteer helper Yvonne Bailey with Arran RDA chairman Sue Tozer instructing.

Sue expressed her thanks to David for taking the time



**David's second place was awarded in the category 'Happiness is' and featured Riley before his lesson on his favourite horse Dan.**

to come along, and for the 'beautiful photographs'. She added: 'The RDA is dedicated to improving lives through therapy, achievement, enjoyment, wellbeing, self-confidence, mobility and co-ordination.'

'Arran RDA was launched in 2006 in Lamlash by Barbara Tinto – and more than a decade later, are going from strength to strength. We are creating a new outdoor arena that will help the riders progress more quickly, allow more interaction with the ponies and ensure the future of the group for

many years. This is possible due to the generosity of many who have donated to our local charity.'

Sue explained that the horses themselves are the true therapists in many aspects.

\* Physical: balance, co-ordination, muscle strength, hand dexterity and general fitness.

\* Psychological: confidence, self-esteem and a real sense of achievement through learning a new skill.

\* Social: enjoyment of personal interaction and a



**His other top-three success was in the 'On track' section, portraying the gleeful expression of little Rosanna, being led by volunteer helper Yvonne Bailey with Arran RDA chairwoman Sue Tozer instructing.**

real feeling of belonging through communication.

She added: 'Above all, it is great fun in the in the fresh air. But we could not function without the volunteers who give their time, energy, expertise and devotion.'

'With new adults and children regularly being introduced to us, we are always looking for more helpers to join our happy bunch. No experience is necessary – only a reasonable level of fitness.'

'We also have availability

for riders, so if you think you or your child could benefit, get in touch for a chat.'

You can call Sue on 850201 or Yolly on 600470.

• David will be donating his prize money to the Arran branch of the RDA.

## WIN

**AN OVERNIGHT STAY FOR TWO PEOPLE AT DOUNESIDE HOUSE IN A PREMIER ROOM WITH BREAKFAST AND FULL ACCESS TO THE DOUNESIDE HEALTH CLUB**



Douneside House is situated in the Scottish Highlands, steeped in history and full of character.

Its breath-taking location, coupled with luxurious accommodation, outstanding facilities and a passionate, attentive team dedicated to indulging your every whim, will ensure that your stay is a truly memorable one.



Guests can take full advantage of on-site health club with pool, sauna, steam room and gym.

The award-winning Head Chef, David Butters, has created a menu offering a true Scottish dining experience which showcases seasonal, locally sourced produce, perfectly matched by an extensive wine and whisky list.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:  
What is the name of Douneside's Head Chef?**

To be redeemed by 30 June 2017

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Wyvex Media Ltd, Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 28 February 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd, 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 Wyvex Media rules apply.

# Signs of approaching spring but winter is not over yet

The mild winter continued in January with only three days where the temperature was in negative figures. The mean temperature was a degree warmer than last January. It was also drier than

the same month last year, with around 40 per cent less rain, and there were fewer winter storms.

Highlights included: a Slavonian grebe in Loch Ranza on the 1st, the last

record was January 2016, aerial jousting between a merlin and peregrine over Slidery on 2nd, a pair of goosander on Loch Iorsa on 25th and a hunting goshawk on the south of Arran on 31st.

Wintering wildfowl numbers included: 20 pink-footed goose on the Roddin on first, 100 teal at Cosyden on fifth, four whooper swan at Cordon also on fifth, 400 greylag goose in Shiskine on 9th and 50 wigeon at Cleats Shore on 30th. Other winter visitors included: 40 fieldfare in Slidery on 15th, six purple sandpiper at Silver Sands also on 15th, two rook in Slidery on 16th and eight redwing at Hazelburn on 28th. While there were numerous reports of wintering wood-



**Bullfinch, one of a number of unusual garden birds reported in January.** Photo by Marquerite Richards.



**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels  
JANUARY

**A Slavonian grebe, the first Arran record for 12 months.** Photo by Brian Henderson.

cock, snipe and jack snipe, unlike December there were no January reports of waxwing or brambling.

Wintering flocks included: 150 lesser redpoll in Lochranza on the 7th, 41 turnstone at Silver Sands on 15th, 40 curlew at Clachlands on 16th, 600 common gull with 400 herring gull at Kilpatrick Point on 25th, 25 lapwing on Kilpatrick Farm on 27th, 150 chaffinch in Slidery on 29th and 110 starling at Cosyden also on 29th. Off the coast there were reports of all three divers including: four red-throated diver at Dougarie on 13th, five black-throated diver at Pirmill on 14th and four great northern diver at Cosyden on 25th.

Interesting garden birds included: a great spotted woodpecker in Margnaehglish on 1st, 10 goldcrest in Shannochie on 4th, two siskin at Torbeg on 9th, a yellowhammer in Catacol on

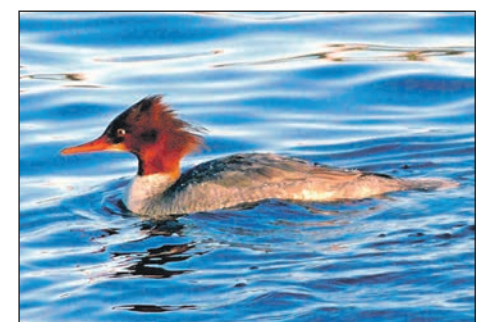
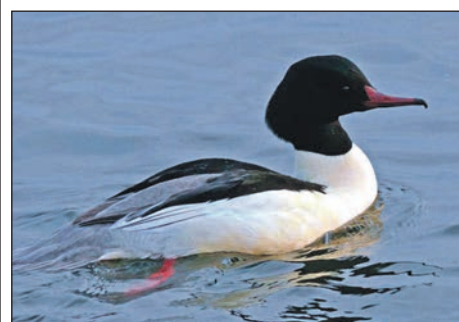
10th, eight long-tailed tit in Lamlash on 25th, four bullfinch in Corrie on 29th and several reports of numbers of the usually singular, fiercely territorial robin, including eight in a Brodick garden on 28th. In a future



**Merlin, a small feisty raptor not afraid to take on the much larger peregrine.** Photo by Brian Couper.

in 2016 the first one was reported on the 1st - shelduck were on numerous coastal territories including Ben-nan, Clachlands, Cleat, Kildonan and Merkland. Other signs of approaching spring included: two returning lesser black-backed gull at Sandbraes on 21st, eight returning linnets in Slidery on 29th, 32 courting eider off Cosyden on 25th and displaying golden eagle over Lochranza on 26th. But the winter is not over yet.

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 2015 and visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)

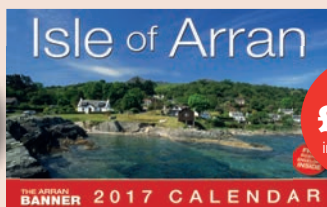


**Goosander male and female, there is no confirmed breeding of this saw billed duck yet.** Photos by Dennis Morrison.

## Scottish Calendars 2017



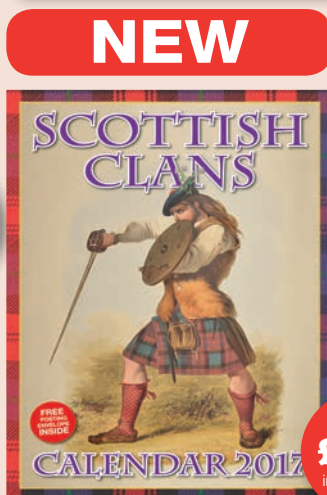
FROM **£7.95**  
including P&P



FROM **£7.95**  
including P&P



FROM **£11.95**  
including P&P



FROM **£7.95**  
including P&P



FROM **£7.95**  
including P&P

Enjoy Scotland at it's best all year round with our selection of stunning calendars. To see all the images from our 2017 range visit: [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)

**ORDER ONLINE AT [www.scottishcalendars.co.uk](http://www.scottishcalendars.co.uk)**  
or call us on 01371 851 868  
**OR POST ALL ORDERS TO:**

Wyvex Media Limited, FREEPOST RTEY YUBG TYUB Trinity House, Sculpins Lane, Wethersfield, Braintree, Essex CM7 4AY

# THE ARRAN

# BANNER

# TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 15 February, 1997

## Long lost course

Arran has seven golf courses, but once there were 12. Eleven are quite well known, even those which are no longer. The 12th is scarcely known but it was at Cleats Shore, to the west of the mouth of the Lagg Burn.

Mrs Jean Glen of Brodick has been researching Arran's golf courses for her booklet to mark the centenary of Brodick Golf Club and she revealed the existence of the 12th course. The Cleats course was started in opposition to the slightly longer-lived and nearby Lenamhor Golf Course.

An old lady living in a thatched cottage nearby had her house bombarded by a French warship during the war as target practice so she moved into the wood-and-corrugated-iron clubhouse at Lenamhor Golf Course. Sadly, that old clubhouse, which had no running water or loo, is no more and neither is Lenamhor Golf Course.

## Valentine card

The North Ayrshire Council cleansing department combined a promotion with Valentine's Day when they were seen deliver-

ing little pink chits to houses across Arran. The little chit wished everyone a happy Valentine's Day and it also contained a 'Bin It' logo and a telephone number to call if you see litter dumped or accumulating in an area.

At least one resident was unhappy with the connection and for two reasons: first, she thought that the use of staff to deliver flyers was a waste of their time and, secondly, she also thought that the 'Bin It' promotion was rubbish. Her son had recently tried to report some litter around a property but he was told that he would need to hire a skip for £50 and pay a further £70 to empty it at a council coup.

## High tides

High tides of 3.7 metres on Monday coupled with high winds caused some damage across the island.

There was flooding at Sannox and Brodick Golf Club and the recently completed gabian walls along the sixth fairway at Shiskine Golf Club were severely damaged. High winds caused the ferry to be diverted to Gourock at 4.40pm on Monday although that was only the third Gourock sailing so far this year.



The Junior Arran Hockey Club are pictured with their opponents from Steps in North Lanarkshire. The mixed team beat the local girls but it was their first game on the astroturf and good experience for the entire team. B06twe02



Last year was Shiskine Golf Club's centenary and handing out donations from the centenary fund last Friday was captain Willie Kelso and ladies captain Liz Kerr. Receiving them were: Wilma Robertson (Shiskine and Machrie Senior Citizens), Ann Murchie (Shiskine Hall Committee), Helen Cook (ArCaS) and Denise Sherwood (Shiskine Playgroup). B06twe03



Actress Dorothy Paul, who spent the winter in Lochranza, and Dave Ashcroft kneel for instruction on a four-headed dummy supplied by ambulance man Jeff Dawson after receiving £4,000 for equipment from the British Heart Foundation. B06twe01



Arran High School recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the school's Burns Supper where pupils displayed a huge range of musical talent and outstanding performances at the sold-out event. B06twe04



The victorious Kilpatrick team celebrate winning at the final round of the Ryder Cup at Shiskine on Sunday where, before the celebrations began, the present captains nominated their successors. B06twe05

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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



## Everyday

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

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
Garden open 9am-dusk  
Mon- Fri: 12.30pm - 5pm and Sat: 10am - 5pm  
Arran Aromatics, Brodict, 10am - 4pm

## Saturday 11th February

Army Cadets  
Over 21s disco  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Live music - Arran Ceilidh Band  
Blackwaterfoot bowls Bowling Club,  
Flow yoga Ormidale Pavilion,  
Live music - Leanne and The Radix  
Scottish CND

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie spa pool, 4-5pm  
9.30am - 11am  
9.30am - noon  
Fiddlers, Brodict from 7.30pm  
Brodict, 1.15pm  
Brodict, 9am  
The PHT, Lamlash 9pm  
Opposite the Douglas Hotel, Brodict, 1pm - 2pm

## Sunday 12th February

Family games  
Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm  
Fun in the pool  
Open acoustic session at Fiddlers'  
AA meeting  
Taigi and Oigong  
Live music - McRasta

Auchrannie spa pool, 4pm-5pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict 2.30pm - 5pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 3pm

## Monday 13th February

Over 50s badminton  
Badminton  
Morning fitness  
Badminton  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Arran Junior Football Club  
Circuit training  
Lamlash Aerobix  
RunArran  
Tae Kwondo  
Arran Bridge  
Arran Citizen's Advice Bureau  
Arran Skinnymalinks  
Arran Skinnymalinks  
Arran Skinnymalinks  
Arran Skinnymalinks  
Arran Skinnymalinks  
Scottish country dancing for beginners and improvers  
Live music - Biff & Friends

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie sports hall, 7-9pm  
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm  
Arran High School dance studio, 6.30pm  
Drift Inn, Lamlash 5.30pm  
Brodict Church Hall adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm  
Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 11.30am - 3pm  
Lamlash Church Hall 3:30 - 4:00pm  
Brodict - Arran Active 4:15 - 4:45pm  
Corrie - Breagha Holistic Beauty 5:00 - 5:30pm  
Shiskine Church Hall 5:15 - 5:45pm  
Brodict Church Kitchen 5:45 - 6:15pm  
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict, 7.30pm

## Tuesday 14th February

Pop quiz  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Youth club  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Rotary Club  
Healthy outdoors  
Blackwaterfoot bowls  
RunArran run coaching  
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)  
Open cricket session  
Lamlash Junior Drama Club  
Flow yoga  
Metafit  
Pilates  
Scottish country dancing  
Winter bowls  
Live music - Folk like us  
Arran Skinnymalinks

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm  
Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm  
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm  
Bowling Club, 1.15pm  
Lamlash, 5.30pm  
Brodict Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm  
Brodict Astroturf 7pm-9pm  
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm  
Corrie and Sannox Hall, 6pm  
Arran High School, 6pm  
Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict, 7.30pm  
Lochranza Arran Distillery visitor centre 3:30 - 4:00pm

## Wednesday 15th February

Rock an pop bingo  
Tae Kwondo  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Arran Brass rehearsal  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm  
Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm adults-7.30-8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 7-9pm  
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm

Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service 10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30  
RunArran  
Yoga-Arran  
Mixed hockey  
Dog classes  
Flow yoga  
Knittnerly and Natterly  
Bus pass club meal  
Chair yoga St Molios  
PHT Jamming session; guitars vocals etc  
Arran Elderly Forum  
Coffee morning - Guild's fundraiser  
Live music - Arran Dawn

Auchrannie studio, 9.30am-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30  
Auchrannie spa, 5.30pm  
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
Auchrannie sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm  
Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
The PHT, noon - 2.30pm  
Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am - noon  
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
Brodict Pavilion, 11am  
Lamlash Church, 10.15am - 12 noon  
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30pm

## Thursday 16th February

Morning fitness  
General knowledge quiz  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Ladies' hockey  
RUNFIT  
Burger and quiz night  
Winter bowls  
Arran Bridge  
Quilt Arran  
Flow yoga  
Chair yoga  
10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers  
RUNFIT  
Brodict Embroidery Group  
Thursday Club  
Live music - North Country Winters

Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm  
Lamlash front green, 6.45am  
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm  
Brodict Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm  
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 6pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30am - 11.30am  
Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm  
Lamlash green, 6.45am  
Brodict Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 2pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30pm

## Friday 17th February

Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Lochranza children's badminton  
Lochranza adults' badminton  
Quiz  
Arran Vets  
Arran Vets reception  
AA meeting  
Tae Kwondo  
Factory Tours  
Live music - Arran Ceilidh band

Auchrannie spa leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
Church Hall, Brodict 7pm-9pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm  
surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Arran High School, Lamlash adults, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Arran Aromatics factory shop, Brodict, 11am, 1pm & 3pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict, 7.30pm





# RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

Visit [hijobs.net](http://hijobs.net) ✓ FIND A JOB ✓ SIGN UP FOR JOB ALERTS ✓ GET CAREER ADVICE ✓ ADVERTISE A JOB



## HOUSEKEEPERS REQUIRED

The Arran Team are looking for reliable and conscientious housekeepers for various locations across the island.

Competitive rates of pay.

If you are interested, please contact us on 303113 or call into our office at The Douglas Centre, Brodick.

**BANNER RECRUITMENT**  
**BANNER RECRUITMENT**  
**BANNER RECRUITMENT**  
**BANNER RECRUITMENT**  
**BANNER RECRUITMENT**

### Part – time Arts Co - Ordinator

Arran Theatre and Arts Trust seeks a part time, self – employed arts co-ordinator for 8 days per month to co-ordinate and develop existing and new projects, promote an arts programme on and off the island of Arran and work with local groups in a wide range of art forms.

For full job description and information about Arran Theatre and Arts Trust go to [www.arrantheatreandarts.co.uk](http://www.arrantheatreandarts.co.uk)

To apply go to [http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/show/search\\_view.aspx?ID=JAN271054](http://www.publiccontractsscotland.gov.uk/search/show/search_view.aspx?ID=JAN271054) including a CV.

Applications should be lodged by 20th February 2017. Interviews early March.

If you have problems following this link or have questions regarding the application process please contact: Sophie.Paice@argyll-bute.gov.uk Phone: 01546 604363



## MACHRIE BAY GOLF CLUB

Applications are invited for the Lease for the Tea Room at Machrie Hall

Contact 01770 840360 for more details

## BUSINESS FOR SALE Cladach Sawmill, Brodick

For sale as a going concern, a long established timber business.

Interested parties please call David on 01770 302471 or 07803625248 for more details.

## LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

THE ARRAN **BANNER**

Tel: 01770 302142  
[www.arranbanner.co.uk](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk)

John Thomson Construction Ltd

## VACANCIES

**HGV DRIVERS** Class 1 & 2  
**EXPERIENCED PLANT OPERATORS**  
**TRAINEE PLANT OPERATORS**

Tel: 01770 600242

## VACANCIES LAMLASH GOLF CLUB

### Bar Steward/ess

Part time October to March. Full time April to October. Full details of position and pay structure at interview

### Caterer

### Shop attendant

5 days per week 1st April to 21st October. Excluding Tuesday and Wednesday. Wage scale minimum rates. April 0900 until 1300 May to August 0900 until 1630 with flexibility to cover golf parties and Open competitions. September & October as for April.

### Apprentice green keeper

Full time for the duration of the 2-year apprentice scheme with day release at college. Starting date Easter or as soon after until June

Applications to be in writing to the Secretary, closing date 24th February.

Lamlash Golf Club

Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8JU

## Community Connector



Salary £20,188

35 hours

12 month fixed term contract

Ideally possessing a HNC or SVQ level 3 in Health and Social Care or equivalent

The Community Connector on Arran will play a key role in engaging with the community and will be working closely alongside colleagues from the Arran Medical Group and the Health and Social Care Partnership. The aim will be to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents on the island through connections between them and the resources and services that are available in North Ayrshire.

Based in Lamlash. Post involves travel & operating from various locations on Arran, for which appropriate car mileage will be paid.

Please contact – Vicki Yuill, Operations Manager  
 01770 600909 [vicki.yuill@arrancvs.org.uk](mailto:vicki.yuill@arrancvs.org.uk)  
 Closing date Friday 10/2/17

## BRODICK BAR & BRASSERIE

We are now recruiting staff for the coming season

Positions available for

\* front of house

\* Waiter/waitress

\* Bar person

\* Sous Chef

\* Kitchen assistant

We can offer live in accommodation if required, close to work. Very competitive rates of pay for the right applicants.

Please apply in email to [iainmcfadzean@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:iainmcfadzean@yahoo.co.uk) with a current CV please.

**BANNER RECRUITMENT BANNER RECRUITMENT BANNER RECRUITMENT BANNER RECRUITMENT**

# Trade Classifieds Properties

## PAINTER AND DECORATOR



**FULTON**  
decorators

LAMLASH  
TEL/FAX 01770 600705  
Est. 1985

SCOTTISH DECORATORS ASSOCIATION MEMBER

- All paintwork undertaken
- Any job, large or small
- Paper hanging
- Floor sanding & sealing
- Phone Gavin Fulton for a free estimate

## SELF STORAGE

### ARRAN SELF STORAGE



- small & large cabins
- climate controlled
- condensation free
- CCTV monitored

**Gavin Fulton 01770 600705**  
[www.arranstorage.co.uk](http://www.arranstorage.co.uk)

### Property to let

## GLAISTER FARM HOUSE

String Road

Large detached four bedroom modern farmhouse built 2007. Parking, out buildings and outside area. Access via farm road Short assured tenancy References and deposit required £800 pcm plus utilities

Contact : [office@dougrie.com](mailto:office@dougrie.com)  
Tel : 01770 840259

## LONG LET WANTED

Urgently require 2/3 bedroom property for small family. All areas considered. Excellent local ref available.

**Please contact Emma or Mark on**  
**0777 5904320 or 01770 860531**

**THE KEY TO SELLING YOUR HOME TODAY**



THE ARRAN **BANNER**  
Tel: 01770 302142

## Public Notices

### EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

THE ARRAN **BANNER**

Tel: 01770 302142  
[www.arranbanner.co.uk](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk)

### Kenneth Gibson MSP



**Kenneth Gibson MSP will hold advice surgeries on the following date:**

<p><b>Monday 13 February</b></p> <p>Kilmory Village Hall 11.30 - 12.30</p> <p>Whiting Bay Village Hall 13.30 - 14.30</p> <p>Lamlash Fire Station 15.00 - 16.00</p>	<p><b>Monday 13 March</b></p> <p>Corrie &amp; Sannox Village Hall 11.15 - 12.15</p> <p>Shiskine Village Hall 13.00 - 14.00</p> <p>Lamlash Fire Station 15.00 - 16.00</p>
--	--

To contact Kenneth outside these times, please do so at: 01294 833 687

15 Main Street, Dalry, KA24 5DL Tel: 01294 833 687  
Email: [Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:Kenneth.gibson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk)  
Facebook: [kenneth.gibsonmsp](https://www.facebook.com/kenneth.gibsonmsp) website: [www.kennethgibson.org](http://www.kennethgibson.org)

No appointment necessary

### CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

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.

- 1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
- 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.

## Arran Farmers' Society

### A.G.M.

Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot  
Wednesday 22nd February, 8pm  
All Welcome

Sec: Christine McBride, Tel: 820291

## Classified

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNDER £50</b></p> <p>One white single panel radiator W: 80cm x H: 74cm £10 Tel: 302383.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>OVER £50</b></p> <p>AGA 2 oven, 13 amp electric, dark blue, AIMS, used once, 01770 600705.</p>
---	--

## UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?

THE ARRAN **BANNER**

Tel: 01770 302142  
[www.arranbanner.co.uk](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk)

**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – GRASS CUTTING SCHEME 2017**

North Ayrshire Council is now accepting applications to the Council's Grass Cutting Scheme, which is limited to grass and hedge cutting. The scheme covers cutting grass of an area no bigger than 150 square metres and hedges where they border a path. No weeding or planting is provided for however, we will maintain gardens to an acceptable standard. Due to the limited number of gardens to be included on the scheme, applications will be accepted on a "first come first served basis".

To be eligible the applicants must permanently reside at the property and meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be aged 75 and over.
- Or
- Aged 65 and over and in receipt of Attendance Allowance (higher rate) or free personal care.
- Or
- Aged under 65 and in receipt of DLA mobility (higher rate) or care (highest rate).
- Or
- Aged under 65 and in receipt of PIP mobility (enhanced rate) or daily living component (enhanced rate).

To apply contact the Council online at [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/grasscuttingscheme](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/grasscuttingscheme) or by telephone from Monday 13 February 2017 on 01294 310000. An assessment of eligibility will be made during the application process and payment for the scheme will be taken.

Applications will close on Friday 10 March 2017. Applicants from previous years are not automatically re-enrolled on the scheme and are required to re-apply. The grass cutting scheme will commence on Monday 3 April and terminate Friday 29 September 2017.

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine\*, between 9am-4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) \*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to [eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) by 03.03.17. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

17/00044/PP; Bennan View, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Renewal of planning permission N/13/00711/PP for demolition of existing dwelling house and replacement with single storey dwelling house.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

## CHURCH NOTICES

## SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 12th February**  
11am Holy Communion  
Rev Canon Simon Mackenzie,  
Priest-in-Charge.  
Coffee after service.  
ALL WELCOME

## 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 12th February**  
Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches,  
10.15am Morning Worship in Lochranza Church.  
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.  
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship including Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.  
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship including Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.  
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House including Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at 1.30pm.

## WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 12th February**  
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.  
Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service.  
All welcome.

## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 12th February**  
Rev Lily McKinnon  
Kilmory 10 am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
In Lamlash:  
Admission to Kirk Session in both churches  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Sunday 12th February**  
Sunday Mass 11am

## ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

## ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)  
**Sunday 12th February**  
Morning service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge  
Glen Estate, Brodick.  
Evening service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All Welcome

## ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 12th February**  
Service 11am  
Ormidale Pavilion  
Tea and coffee after the service  
Wednesday at 7.30pm  
Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.  
Contact phone no 600222  
Everyone warmly invited

## RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

## DEATHS

**ANDREWS - MARGARET JEAN** - Peacefully at Montrose House on Friday, 3rd February 2017. Jean, beloved wife of the Late Captain James Andrews, loving mother to Susan and Jayne, grandmother to Jessica and Laurence, great grandma to Beth. Funeral service at Montrose House on Tuesday, 21st February at 10:30 am and thereafter to Clachan cemetery.

**SAMS - FIONA** - Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Tuesday, 31st January 2017. Fiona, in her 73rd year, beloved wife of Bart, loving mother and grandmother. Funeral service on Wednesday, 15th February at Masonhill Crematorium, Ayr at 11:15 am followed by a memorial service on Thursday, 16th February in Brodick Church at 11:30 am to which all are welcome. Family flowers only please, donations to, Isle of Arran Hospital Supporters League or, Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre. Dress code - colourful.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**KERR - RUTH ALEXANDRA** - Sandy, Jane, John, Lucie & Ella, would like to express their sincere thanks for all the support received over the past few months. The fantastic care of ALL the medical services on Arran & Crosshouse was unsurpassed. Special thanks to David & Clair Hendry, Chris, Evelyn & Lynn at Lamlash Café, Lamlash Golf Club & Rev Elizabeth Watson. Also, Ronnie Costley for "Lassies of Lamlash" song. The Collection raised over £900 for research into Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis (IPF), to which we lost a wonderful wife & mum.

# Club to benefit from new sports initiative

Arran Junior Triathlon Club is to benefit from an initiative set up by new UK Sports-wear Company, everactiv.

Everactiv, which was founded by former world champion professional triathlete Catriona Morrison MBE and business partner, Linda Barclay, offers technical sportswear for junior and youth athletes.

The Arran group is one of only 10 UK clubs selected to participate in the 'Club everactiv' programme which will see the company donate a percentage of its profits to the club. As funds accumulate, organisations have the option

of redeeming them for clothing or receiving the monetary donation to support junior sports development.

Catriona Morrison, everactiv director, said: 'Clubs are the grass roots of all sports and our programme is just one way of valuing their contribution. By investing back into these organisations, it will support the important work they carry out in communities across the country to get young people active. Our business is all about empowering and inspiring young people to be physically active and clubs are at the very heart of this.'



Catriona Morrison and Linda Barclay of everactiv.

Everactiv's current range is designed specifically for girls, aged seven to 14, and provides colourful, fashionable and technically suitable clothing for any sport.  
Katie Webster from Arran

Tri Club added: 'everactiv is an exciting new Scottish-based company and we are delighted to be both supporting and benefiting from their new range of active sportswear.'



**Arran Golfers Association**  
Winter League/Duncan Trophy, 4th round at Brodick Golf Club. The penultimate matches of this year's competition took place over a sodden Brodick course.

First out were the hosts who had a convincing victory over Shiskine by three games to one thus ending any hope Shiskine had of taking the trophy for the year. Bottom club Corrie, who are yet to win a point, continued the

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**SAMS - FIONA** (nee McNaughton) 18/12/1944 to 31/01/2017 lost her battle with cancer. Bart, Jeremy, Maria, Sheila and Alan would like to express their thanks for the efforts of the Doctor's and nursing staff at the Beatson, more importantly we appreciate the care and compassion shown by the Doctors and Nursing Staff at Arran War Memorial Hospital during the last weeks and days of her life. We cannot single out anyone, you were all great. Our thanks also go to ArCaS, Keith and his team of drivers for their help in getting Fiona to hospital appointments on the mainland.

trend by getting beaten by Machrie by three games to one.

Finally it was leaders Lamlash against Whiting Bay. It is always a close game between these two and this was no exception with three close games out of the four. But it was Lamlash who ended Whiting Bay's title hopes with a deserved victory by three games to one.

With one round of matches to go, there is only two teams with a chance of winning the league and with Lamlash a point ahead on seven, it's theirs to lose.

If they do slip up, Brodick, who are sitting one point back on six, can still pip them to the title.

Sadly Corrie, who are still pointless, have secured the wooden spoon for the year, with one game to go.

Fixture: Sunday March 5, Winter League/Duncan Trophy, final round, shotgun start at 10am. Draw: Whiting Bay v Machrie, Shiskine v Lamlash, Brodick v Corrie.

Players are encouraged to be on time for tee off as it is quite a trek at Whiting Bay to get to the tees.

## Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday February 5, Whiting Bay v Lamlash GC at Brodick.

On a very wet Brodick, Lamlash edged it in three of the four games to take the

tie by three and one, taking Whiting Bay out of the running for this year's trophy. Well played Lamlash but for us it will have to be next year.

Fixture: Sunday February 12, Winter Cup, Round Five, 10am draw.

## Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday February 1, Wednesday Cup. On a difficult afternoon for golf, Douglas Robertson had a magnificent 72-15=57. He had five birdies, three of which were magic twos. A distant runner up was Jim Green.

## Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday January 31, Winter Cup. 1 P Betley 82-8=74, 2 R Betley 107-27=80.

Saturday February 4, Lochranza Hotel Cup, CSS 65. 1 J Pennycott 35pts, 2 B Sherwood 26pts BIH, 3 P Betley 26pts.

Fixture: Tuesday February 21, Lochranza Hotel Cup.

## Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday February 5, Winter League at Brodick. Lamlash beat Whiting Bay 3-1. Fixtures: Sunday February 12, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 12noon. Thursday February 16, Yellow Medal, 11am.

## Corrie Golf Club

Fixture: Saturday February 11, Winter Cup, Stableford. Ballots at 9am and noon.

## Arran Bridge Club results

Arran Bridge Club results: Aggregate competition held at Brodick on Thursday February 2: N/S 1 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie; 2 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan; 3 Margaret and Douglas Bruce. E/W 1 Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson; 2 John Baraclough and Jennifer Wales; 3 Morag Gardner and Margaret MacGill.

Aggregate competition held at Lamlash on Monday February 6: N/S 1 Margaret and Douglas Bruce; 2 Jan and John Beattie; 3 Doug Chase and Jennifer Wales. E/W 1 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan; 2 Margaret MacGill and Elizabeth McKellar; 3 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure.

## Strathaven pay a visit

Arran Rugby Club has a home game against Strathaven RFC at Ormidale Park today (Saturday) with a 2.15pm kick off.

The players are hoping for a strong local support.

The team then faces a gruelling run of five away fixtures, starting at Wigtownshire RFC next weekend, taking them into April.

**SKIP HIRE**



**John Thomson  
Construction Ltd**

Telephone: (01770) 600242

# Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

**LAMLASH GARAGE**

**MOT DISCOUNT**

Car MOT Fee - £50

**24 HOUR RECOVERY**

**4 WHEEL LASER ALIGNMENT**

- ✓ MOTs, repairs, servicing
- ✓ Full body repair service available
- ✓ Panel beating, spray painting

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

# Kayak club paddle their way to success

The Arran Kayak Club are going from strength to strength and now have more than 60 members on the island and are starting to get interest from visitors as well.

The pool training sessions at the Auchrannie have

been very popular over the autumn and winter months and have been attended by more than 40 members each week. The club will be running sessions for adults and children again from October 2017.

Secretary Beth Mowatt

said: 'We have had a very successful start for a new club and hope to see lots more kayakers out on the waters around Arran this summer.'

The club held their first social event last Saturday when 40 club members and



**A kayak training session in the Auchrannie pool.**



**Chris Traill helps with tuition in the pool.**

some new faces turned up at the Arran Outdoor Education Centre to hear about the forthcoming sea kayaking trip around Gigha in May and to watch a selection of short kayaking films.

**Isolated**

The main film, about a kayaking expedition to an extremely isolated coast in Russia, showed two very experienced women kayakers, who had to be accompanied by an inexperienced Russia soldier.

He coped surprisingly well for a novice but there were plenty of exclamations from the room while we watched his kayak being thrown into the air by the wild and unforgiving surf in that area.

We all hope the Scottish coast doesn't have any

challenges like that for us this season.

During the interval tea, coffee and a great selection of cakes were enjoyed by all, including a specially baked club cake. The evening was huge success and anyone interested in joining the club will be more than welcome.

The club run various social events, training events and trips during the year as well as smaller groups of members meeting up throughout the season for paddling trips around our beautiful Arran coastline.

For more information, email [kayakarran@gmail.com](mailto:kayakarran@gmail.com) or visit the club's Facebook page.



**Andy McNamara cuts the specially made Arran Kayak Club cake at the social event.**

like us on  
**facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/arranbanner](http://www.facebook.com/arranbanner)

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran  
Tel: 01770 302142 - Fax 01770 302021  
E-mail: [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)



The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - [www.abc.org.uk](http://www.abc.org.uk). The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 31st December 2014 and 31st December 2015 for combined print and digital editions was 3,053.

The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.