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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2016 No 2050 70p

inside Your guide to  
*Arran Weddings*  

# Whisky galore!

## Distillery plans to double its output

The Isle of Arran Distillery is to double its production capacity.

Later this year the Lochranza distillery, which turns 21 this year, will close its doors for three months to install two brand new stills which will allow it to double production.

Such has been the success of the distillery it can no longer cope with the worldwide demand for its products.

Although just made public, the expansion has been in the pipeline for some time, with the new stills ordered two-and-a-half-years-ago. It will see production at the distillery double from 650,000 litres a year to 1.2 million. But there will be no expansion of the distillery 'footprint' as they can be accommodated in the existing space.

One of the few remaining independent distillers in Scotland, it is run by Master Blender James MacTaggart

**REPORT**  
by **HUGH BOAG**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

and five stillmen, but the expansion will not immediately see any new jobs as more automation is to be introduced.

Mr MacTaggart told *The Banner*: 'Sales increases year by year by a substantial percentage makes it necessary for us to increase production. While the increased automation means there will be no immediate jobs created we continue to strive to provide more employment for the island.'

Other improvement works will be carried out during the closure including the installation of a new boiler and replacement of the distillery floor.

The news comes as construction work continues on a new VIP lounge and office development in the grounds of the distillery. The smart

lounge with a veranda on the ground floor will be used for small conferences of up to 20 and as a meeting room for international importers and distributors, as well as for a new 'gold' distillery tour.

The building will also house three offices and a very special blending room upstairs which will be known as James' Blending Room.

It will host exclusive tastings with the Master Blender and will have an octagonal natural light feature, not only in the blending room, but extending to the bar below.

The work is due to finish by the end of May.

In a further sign that the distillery is going from strength to strength, last year the Visitor Centre had 88,000 visitors through its doors up from 66,000 in 2014 - a whopping 33 per cent increase.

As a direct result the Visitor Centre is looking for more

**Continued on page 2**



**Eilidh Macpherson is congratulated by headteacher Barry Smith on her election success. 01\_B07elect01**

## Election success for Eilidh

Arran schoolgirl Eilidh Macpherson has been elected as a member of the Scottish Youth Parliament.

The 14-year-old from Whiting Bay finished top, following a week of online voting, in a by-election to choose two new MYPSP's to represent Cunninghame North.

She polled 821 votes to win the election, with 15-year-old Emily Eadie from Skelmorlie, second, with 566 votes.

### 75 per cent

There were 2,938 votes cast over the five days voting was open, representing 75 per cent of the school population over the six secondaries and ASN schools in the area.

A total of seven candidates put forward their manifestos to prospective voters including Ellie Bonner, also of Whiting Bay, who polled a respectable 232 votes.

Eilidh, who is in 3rd year, told *The Banner* this week she was delighted to have

been elected. 'I really didn't expect to get that many votes given the small population of Arran. I have a serious interest in politics and really hope I can raise some important island issues when the parliament meets.'

Arran High head teacher Barry Smith said: 'I am delighted Eilidh has been elected to the Scottish Youth Parliament and I wish her every success.'

The youth parliament was founded in 1999 and meets three or four times a year at locations across Scotland.

North Ayrshire's Youth Champion, Councillor Ruth Maguire, said: 'I would like to congratulate both Eilidh and Emily and commend all of the candidates who showed their willingness to engage with the democratic process by putting themselves forward for election. The Scottish Youth Parliament gives young people a platform which allows their voices to be heard.'



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# Labour angry but council vote to accept funding deal

Councillors on North Ayrshire Council this week accepted the Scottish government's funding deal ahead of setting the budget next week.

The settlement was agreed at a special meeting of the council on Monday by 14 votes to 12 and ensures the council tax freeze will continue for a ninth year.

But the Labour opposition are angry at what they consider were 'threats and intimidation' from the SNP's Finance Minister John

Swinney ahead of the vote. Council leader Willie Gibson said after the vote: 'Our overriding priority when we come to set our budget next week will be to protect key frontline services.'

'This is a challenge for us at a time when we have to balance reducing resources with increased demand for services.'

'By accepting this financial settlement from the Scottish Government, we will be protecting the people of North Ayrshire from a

potentially crippling rise in Council Tax.

'The settlement makes available resources to the Health and Social Care Partnership to meet rising demand, reduce charging for non-residential care services and support payment of a living wage of £8.25 per hour to all social care workers by October 2016.'

'Working within our budget we remain committed to growing North Ayrshire's economy to create more jobs, strengthen commu-

nities and tackle inequalities.'

But the North Ayrshire Labour Group have called for all public sector workers to support Labour opposition to SNP cuts.

Labour Group leader councillor Peter McNamara said: 'For the first time in my experience councillors have been given neither the time nor the comprehensive and detailed information required to conduct a proper scrutiny of the annual budget. But if we delay the letter or question the budget we

are threatened with even more draconian cuts. It's nothing short of blackmail by the Nationalist Government.'

'This is completely unacceptable. In my 28 years in local government, I have never felt as angry as I do at this tawdry SNP/Tory budget and the heavy handed tactics used to force it upon North Ayrshire Council.'

'More importantly the cuts are being forced upon those who depend on council services the most.'

# Two new stills will double production at island distillery

Continued from page 1

staff and manager Faye Waterlow is delighted to be able

to announce that all staff over 25 will be in future paid the living wage of £8.25 an hour.

Out of a staff of more than 20 they were able to retain 12 staff over the winter, giving them year round employment. They are currently looking for tour guides as well as kitchen and waiting staff for the new season.

Faye said: 'The increase in the number of visitors has been tremendous and I have no doubt this is partly due to the RET fares, which has certainly seen a big increase in the number of visitors coming by car.'

'We have had to open a new staff car round the back to accommodate the number visiting cars. We have also



The new VIP lounge takes shape in the distillery grounds. 01\_B07distillery01



An artists impression of the stunning new bar in the new facility.

seen a big increase in the number of 'drivers drams' we bottle for visitors driving.

'I believe there is also an increase in whisky tourism and island hopping and we are pleased they chose Arran as one of their destinations.'

Apart from its two week winter shutdown for essential maintenance, the Visitor Centre is open all year round. Faye said: 'In the winter months we like to provide a service to the community for somewhere to have a coffee or a bite to eat.'

It will open for the summer season on March 3.

Faye added: 'I just want to say thank you to everyone who visited, once, twice or 16 times last year. We are looking forward to welcoming you and lots of lovely new visitors in 2016.'

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## ConnectArran meeting to update community

A public meeting is to be held next week to update the community about the the work ConnectArran is doing, the projects it is working on and answer questions

on local broadband and mobile connectivity.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, February 18 starting at 7.30pm at the Arran High School will also discuss ideas on how to take connectivity on Arran forward.

ConnectArran said it would be helpful if those interested in attending would pre-register, so there is an idea of demand and it can set up accordingly. However, people can also feel free to just turn up on the day.

For further information or to pre-register, use the website at www.connectarran.net or their Facebook page which can be found at www.facebook.com/ConnectArran.

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## South Arran MPA is now a reality

The South Arran Marine Protected Area, first designated in July 2014, came legally into force on Monday.

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) has worked closely with scientists and government agencies on this proposal which cleared its final hurdle at Holyrood last month.

As reported in *The Banner*, and to the delight of thousands of MPA supporters on Arran and throughout Scotland, the Rural Affairs Committee voted against a motion to annul MPA's by Conservative MSP Jamie McGrigor by seven votes to two. COAST's Andrew Binnie said: 'The Scottish Government's refusal to buckle to scaremongering from the mobile prawn lobby means the South Arran MPA came into effect on February 8 along with legislation for a further 13 MPAs including the St Kilda World Heritage Site MPA.

'We are celebrating on Arran this week and looking forward to healthier and more productive seas around Arran and Scotland. This will benefit all marine stakeholders and future generations'. The South Arran MPA prohibits scallop dredging but still allows bottom trawling in outer areas of the MPA. Apart from in the existing small No Take Zone in Lamlash Bay sea angling is permitted within the entire area as well as all other recreational activities.

On Wednesday a small celebratory gathering was held by COAST at the Arran Outdoor Education Centre where a short presentation was given and a discussion held on their plans for the future. See next week's *Banner* for a full report.

## Erskine Hospital coffee morning

The Lamlash Church Guild coffee morning in support of Erskine Hospital will be held today (Saturday) from 10.15am till noon and everyone is invited to come and enjoy the coffee, tea and baking to support this worthwhile cause.

The guild has supported the ex-serviceman's hospital but unfortunately due to flooding in the hall last year the coffee morning had to be cancelled.

## Lochranza winners

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club's January draw were; 1st prize Forbes Bramble, 2nd prize to Jean Wilkinson.

# Erin gets in tune for Parkinson's charity

Young fiddle player Erin McNiven has raised £331 for the Isle of Arran Parkinson Support Group with a sponsored fiddleathon held at the Lamlash Fire Station last week. The amount raised included a £200 donation from the Mackerel Lottery which is regularly held at the Kinloch Hotel and whose proceeds are donated to worthwhile charities.

An enthusiastic group of supporters attended the event which saw Erin playing the fiddle with Heather Macleod accompanying her on the harp. The performance was followed up with tea and coffee and homebaking, which the audience nibbled on while enjoying the music.

Supporting Parkinson's research is a cause that 10-year-old Erin is passionate about, having two grandfathers who both suffer from the condi-

tion. Last year Erin raised £62 with a sponsored silence. In recognition to her contributions for the charity Erin was presented with a certificate by her grandfather Donald McNiven who proudly presented it to her after her performance.

The Isle of Arran Support Group offers information, friendship and support to local people with Parkinson's, their family and carers. They also organise regular events and social activities. There are currently 12 members and they are always looking for new recruits to join. Donald thanked Erin and those attending for their support and also for the help the group has received from Arran Community and Voluntary Service, and the St Mollo's Masonic Lodge, which recently donated £200 to the cause.



Erin McNiven and Heather Macleod pictured at the fiddleathon with supporters Morven Ross-Bain of Arran CVS and grandfather Donald McNiven  
01\_B07McNiven01

Left: Erin McNiven and Heather Macleod performing.  
01\_B07McNiven02

## Corrie road closed again next week

The main road between Brodick and Corrie will be closed again for two days next week after bad weather led to delays.

Work on the main road surface was due to have been completed yesterday, but this has not been possible. The road reopened with traffic management yesterday (Thursday) for the school holiday weekend and will remain open until Tuesday.

It will close again for the same periods next Wednesday and Thursday to finish the resurfacing work. The convoy system will be in operation again during these two days.

The road closure has caused considerable inconvenience to drivers trying to use the road and businesses at Home Farm and Cladach, many of which have taken to social media to vent their frustrations.

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'The road will again be closed at the designated times on Wednesday and Thursday to finish off some work.'



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## Local talent at Lochranza Burns Supper

Fancy cheering yourself up during what appears to be a long, dreich and dark month of February? Then why not go to the famous Lochranza Burns Supper in the village hall on Friday February 19 at 7pm?

For £15 you will get a traditional three-course meal and an evening of top class speakers and entertainers.

The Immortal Memory will be given by Gilbert Anderson, born in Catacol, retired Glasgow lawyer and long time board member of the Arran Society. The Toast to the Lassies and the reply are from the well-known Brodick husband and wife team of Nicol and Fiona Hume. Peter Alexander Wilson from Corrie will also delight the audience with his wonderful rich voice.

Music will be provided by Angus Anderson, another Catacol man and world class violinist ably supported by Diana Hamilton from Lam-lash.

Tickets are on a first come, first served basis and are available from the Book and Card Centre or you can phone Archie on 830243 and reserve seating.

# Young filmmakers document island life

Around 20 young people from all over Ayrshire attended an intensive filmmaking course on Arran last weekend.

Run by the Ayrshire Youth Arts Network, the youngsters, who ranged in age from 14 to 25, were split into three groups and received training on using equipment, designing a brief, filming and editing from course leaders Martyn Dempsey and Henry Cruickshank.

### Films

The groups produced three films, a documentary on island life, a horror film and a spoof David Attenborough type documentary from their base in Brodick Hall.

One of those taking part was Fraser Beattie from Kilmarnock, who helped create the documentary on island life. 'Everyone was so friendly and accommodating to us as we went round the island.



The young visiting filmmakers pose for a group photograph in Brodick Hall.

01\_B07visit01

We had a really great time and learned a lot.' The group had an extra night on the island after they were unable to leave after the ferries were cancelled on Sunday.

## Shiskine trade unionist to stand for Scotland's new left alliance

Retired social worker and trade unionist Colin Turbett from Shiskine is to top the west of Scotland candidate list for RISE, Scotland's new left alliance, for the May Scottish parliamentary elections.

RISE was recently formed from young activists in the Radical Independence Campaign and the Scottish Socialist Party. As a pro-independence alliance it hopes at this stage to form a socialist opposition to the SNP in Holyrood. Its policies include a commitment to a £10 an hour minimum wage for all workers, an end to zero-hour contracts, and a taxation system that would make the rich pay a fairer proportion of their

wealth in order to pay for improved public and health services. It would also cease the privatisation of public assets like CalMac and return them to full public ownership.

Colin said: 'I worked in front line social work for 40 years and saw poverty and disadvantage at its worst throughout the west of Scotland - including here on Arran. However, I never dreamed when I started my career in the Glasgow housing schemes that things would be worse now - and that we would even have foodbanks to feed those who fall through the welfare system. Inequality has actually increased hugely since the 1970s.

'We need change and that can come through independence and a chance to create a country based on social justice and a proper sharing of our wealth and assets. We

need a new type of politics for that - one based on service rather than careerism - all our elected representatives would take only an average workers wage (about £26,000 a year, or half what MSPs presently earn) and would serve a maximum of two terms only.

'If anyone would like to help with our campaign please phone me on 860427.'



Colin Turbett.

## Successful year for Auchrannie

The Auchrannie Resort has had a very successful year and is on track for a leap in profits and a £1 million rise in annual turnover.

Company accountant Colin Morrison said in an interview that the hotel and spa resort was on course for turnover close to £6.3m in its current financial year to March and a leap in underlying pre-tax profits to around £350,000.

Mr Morrison highlighted a rise in the number of customers from England and overseas, but emphasised that the west of Scotland would remain Auchrannie's main source of visitors, but also flagged success in attracting customers from other parts of the country.

He said the accolade of 2015 Hotel of the Year, in the Scottish Hotel Awards, as one factor that had helped raise awareness of Auchrannie outside its west of Scotland heartland.

In an interview in *The Herald* newspaper Mr Morrison said that the 57-bedroom Spa Resort had achieved occupancy of 87.9 per cent while 28-bedroom Auchrannie House Hotel achieved occupancy of 88.4 per cent - both up on the previous year.

Mr Morrison also said that Auchrannie's trading had been significantly stronger than expected, given the business had anticipated a fall in occupancy given the addition of 20 bedrooms.

He said: 'Given that the room stock had increased by 20 rooms, we did expect occupancy overall to drop in the year and it has increased, so it has been a very strong year so far in terms of trading, our income being over £1m up at the moment.'

Mr Morrison noted that spending in Auchrannie's bars and restaurants and its ASPA spa facilities were all higher on the back of the increased number of people staying at the hotel and spa resort.

He said: 'We have certainly had a very successful [year] so far.'

Mr Morrison added: 'It has been great. It has been well in excess of what we were expecting.'

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# Government taskforce to fight for improvements at Ardrossan Harbour

A new government taskforce has been set up to help get vital improvements to the operation of Ardrossan Harbour.

Arran residents have long complained that the harbour is the cause of many of the reliability problems on the Ardrossan to Brodick ferry route and recent storms have seen repeated cancellation of services.

The first meeting of the Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce was convened by Minister for Transport and Islands, Derek Mackay at the North Ayrshire Council headquarters in Irvine last week.

The group, which is made up of all of the harbour's key stakeholders including the owners Peel Ports Group, who have previously been criticised for their reluctance to address the harbour problems at Ardrossan.

However, ahead of the first meeting Douglas Coleman, programme director at Peel Ports Group, said: 'We acknowledge the importance of the lifeline ferry link between Ardrossan and Brodick and are pleased to form part of the

Scottish Government Taskforce to explore future opportunities.'

It will also consider any infrastructure work required for the entry into service of the new 100-metre ferry that has been earmarked for the Ardrossan-Brodick route and is currently under construction at Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd in Port Glasgow.

Mr Mackay said: 'We are committed to supporting our lifeline ferry services and providing the best possible service for the communities that rely on them. With this in mind, I want to ensure Ardrossan Harbour operates as effectively as possible and is ready for the arrival of the new 100-metre ferry that's being built for the Ardrossan-Brodick route.'

'It's no secret the harbour is susceptible to bad weather, so we will consider ways to improve its resilience in times of difficult conditions. By gathering all the key stakeholders together, we aim to identify actions that we can take to make sure the harbour realises its full potential. Today's

meeting is the first step in that process.

'We had great success with a taskforce which was set up to bring developments on the Stornoway-Ullapool ferry route back on track, and a similar partnership approach in this case will allow us to address some of the key issues at the harbour.'

Willie Gibson, leader of North Ayrshire Council, said: 'These are really exciting times for Arran, Ardrossan and, of course, North Ayrshire. The introduction of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) has led to an incredible rise in the number of people using the service with over one million passengers using the ferry last year. That's a phenomenal number of people. We have to build on that and make sure this is sustainable for years to come.'

'The new ferry will be in place for 2018 and it's important we have the infrastructure in place to support this and to ensure passengers have a reliable and secure crossing.'

The partners within the Taskforce all recognise this so I'm delighted we're all working collectively to capitalise on the potential we have here in North Ayrshire.'

Tom Docherty, chief executive of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) said:

'We look forward to working with the owner of Ardrossan Harbour and the other

stakeholders on this taskforce to ensure we have a safe harbour, fit for purpose and that can accommodate a wider variety of vessels in our fleet, including the new dual fuel ferry.'

CalMac's director of operations, Drew Collier said: 'We look forward to working with our partners on this steering group to ensure that we continue to provide a modern, reliable ferry service that closely meets the needs of the communities we serve.'

The new taskforce was discussed at this month's Arran Ferry Committee on Monday night.

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson, who was at the meeting, said: 'As Arran's MSP I have always prioritised improving the island's ferry services; from lobbying for RET and a new ferry, to the new Brodick Harbour, enhanced summer



Transport minister Derek Mackay with other stakeholders at the first meeting of the Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce.

service, ensuring a two ferry service all year round from 2018.

'Despite the financial challenges brought by recession, the SNP Government has always responded positively and is doing so again by forming this taskforce. Delivering an improved Ardrossan Harbour will be the last piece of the jigsaw.

'It has always been of concern. As it is not in the public sector it has been more difficult to address. Now all the stakeholders are on board with a timetable to meet of the new ferry being in place for 2018 it is important we have the infrastructure to support it and to ensure passengers have a reliable and secure crossing.'

## Arran dress misses out

The team from Arran High School competed in the Scottish Final of the Junk Kouture competition with their 'Sweet Dreams' dress made from Tunnock's caramel wafer and teacake wrappers last Friday.

However, they came home empty-handed, but everyone appeared to have a good night at the event at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow where Megan Ingham modelled their dress on the catwalk.

Katie Morrison and Gabrielle Allison made up the Arran team.

The overall competition was won by the dress 'Reborn' made by pupils at Hillhead High School in Glasgow.



Megan on the catwalk in Glasgow. Photo Junk Kouture

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Distillery has a special spirit

It's good news all round at the Isle of Arran Distillery this week.

Whisky sales are doing so well that they are going to double their production capacity, thousands more visitors are finding their way to the Lochranza distillery and their new VIP lounge is coming on a pace.

Oh, and not forgetting that the distillery comes of age on June 29 - the day the first legitimate spirit ran through the stills 21 years ago.

What a remarkable story it has been and it looks like the chapters have a long way to run.

Everyone connected to the distillery seems to have a special connection with the place and it shines through not only in the whisky, but in the welcome at the award winning visitor centre.

And they must be doing something right. To increase the number of visitors from 66,000 to 88,000 in just one year is remarkable and must be the envy of every other visitor attraction on the island.

RET has played its part, particularly in encouraging more people to bring their cars and see more of the island, but that can't be the only reason.

All the visitor centre team members do a great job in welcoming tourists from all over the world - even Russian oligarchs like Roman Abramovich. Scotch whisky is cool and so is whisky tourism and attracting a new and younger audience.

Their's no doubt that word of mouth from visitors does a great job getting return business and also helps spread the word of how much the distillery is worth a visit.

Of course the more that the distillery can do to attract visitors to the island the better for everyone involved in the tourist trade.

The distillery folk always go out their way to impress on visitors that they are not just a distillery but, the Isle of Arran Distillery, and that the island has so much more to offer.

So with another summer season starting next month, a new VIP lounge in May and new stills in October, it looks like onwards and upwards for the distillery team.

### 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; 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. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

### your letters

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

## Letters to the Editor



### Machrie slipway is not the answer

Sir,

I would like to comment on your front page article and editorial last week related to timber extraction on Arran.

The Forestry Commission (FC) employ only three foresters and one gamekeeper on Arran - fewer than some small businesses in Machrie - yet the FC seems able to determine what is in the best interests of the whole of Arran and, in so doing, cause concerns to local businesses and residents, and necessitate considerable extra costs to the council.

The FC strategy for timber extraction on Arran aims to reduce costs and minimise timber lorry road miles by building two additional slips, at Machrie and Springfield at the south end of island, close to forests, to supplement the existing slips at Brodick and Sannox and export the timber using a landing craft-type vessel and a barge. Then to replant with more conifers so that timber harvesting is in perpetuity.

The minutes of the Forestry Extraction Working Group (which are in the public domain on the Community Council web site), show repeated requests sent to the FC to provide cost data to back up their claims that exporting timber via Machrie is more cost effective than via Brodick. This data has not been provided on the grounds of commercial confidentiality.

The latest statement is that the Machrie scheme will pay back in five years, but this does not include the cost (estimated at £1.2 million) which would be required to upgrade sections of the narrow Machrie Moor road. This would have to be paid for by North Ayrshire Council. The money would be better spent maintaining the String road, and benefit more people. With the proposed Machrie storage yard being on the landward side of the coast road, 300

transporter trips across this road to load the vessel would cause considerable traffic disruption and road debris.

The minutes also indicate a dominance in the discussions about Machrie and a lack of agreement about the strategy being proposed, despite the remit of the Group to be island-wide.

The Machrie community prefer a strategy which is cheaper and maximises other benefits to the Arran community by:

\* Actively pursuing the Springfield slip as the top priority as the tonnage to be exported from nearby forests amounts to 53-65 per cent of all Arran's timber. Road miles would be virtually zero as forest tracks would be used.

\* Export the bulk of the remainder via the Calmac ferry. This does involve more road miles than the FC option, but not necessarily significantly more vehicle miles as forest tracks are used in their option instead of road miles. This also means there is no additional CO2 produced in the sea transport leg of the journey as the ferry is sailing anyway, unlike the landing craft. The FC does acknowledge that the CalMac ferry route is the cheapest, when compared to use of slips, and that by utilising unattached timber trailers, this route would be even cheaper. Calmac is very supportive of this option. Increased use of the ferry, with or without attached trailers, will help reduce costs of transport of general goods to Arran, so benefiting the whole community - and potentially help maintain local jobs, such as in the haulage sector.

In January 2016 the FC tabled details of its 30 year plan for Arran. This can be summarised as an annual harvest rate of 58,000 tonnes per year, but heavily front-loaded at 133,000 tonnes per year between 2016 and 2020. This figure should be compared with the historical rate of only 40,000 tonnes per year, which is below target, due in part by the fact that Arran timber is more expensive

than from the mainland so is not in demand.

The recommendations of the Machrie Community are:

1. Given that from April the FC role is purely to decide which trees to fell, they should let the tree contractor decide how best to export the timber.

2. Costs can be reduced by actively pursuing the Springfield slip as top priority.

3. The use of the ferry for the remainder of the timber should be urgently pursued with CalMac to provide even more cost savings and ensure the new vessel is compatible.

4. Given that timber sales on Arran appear to be only marginally profitable, the current practice of replanting with more conifers and harvesting in perpetuity should be replaced with one of replanting with mixed deciduous woods.

Yours,

**David Price**

**Chair**

**Machrie Improvements**

### Terminal concerns

Sir,

It is now more than three weeks since the meeting, regarding the ferry terminal, in Brodick Hall and still no indication from CMAL on how they propose to resolve the problem of passengers who are not prepared to use a lift nor able to climb the 5.5 meters of stairs to board the boat. Perhaps this is just another problem they are leaving us to resolve.

What is really puzzling me is the complete silence of the medical section of the community; surely it is in their interest to raise concern, with so many elderly and mobility-impaired patients on the island, to the problems CMAL's terminal proposals are going to cause.

As for the community councillors and the island representatives who sit on the ferry committee, why are they so silent. Even if they agree with CMAL's proposals are they not duty bound to investigate the fears being expressed by many residents?

Finally why have we not had detailed drawings to in-

spect nor the architects to explain the thinking behind the design for the terminal, which in my opinion is going to cause lots of problems and will be an eyesore given its surroundings.

**Guy Murray**  
**Corrie**

### No excuse

Sir,

Further to the letter regarding dog fouling in a recent edition of *The Banner*, I wish to raise the following issues.

At the start of the Fisherman's Walk from the car park to the bridge, a distance of about 200 metres, there are three dog-poo bins plus other waste bins.

However, with this abundance of bins available, there still seems to be dog owners who cannot be bothered to pick up their dog's poo! The grassy area between the path and the beach is particularly bad.

Children could easily pick up some nasty infections, with serious implications such as blindness, if they came into contact with the poo. There is no excuse for not picking up after your dog. Owners should carry plenty bags (free from the council) and deposit in one of the many bins.

There should be clear signs to say that it is an offence if you do not clear up after your dog and can be subject to an on the spot fine of £40 and if it goes to court can be as much as £500!

I would also like to suggest that the council was more pro-active in placing 'dog poo' bins in areas where people walk their dogs. None of the three car parks at the top of the Lamplash hill have bins yet this is where many people walk their dogs and forest walks start and finish. Bins would mean that responsible dog owners would not have to carry dog poo home in their cars and might hopefully encourage those others to pick up after their dogs.

Yours,

**Ann Hart**  
**Gartconner**  
**Brodick**

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# Arran finalists in bid for glory at Provost's Civic Pride Awards 2016

Two finalists from Arran have made it into the last 15 of the Provost's Civic Pride Awards 2016.

Modern apprentice and volunteer Bethan Remmington is one of three finalists in the Young Citizen category, while the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust are bidding to win the North Ayrshire Arts & Culture Award.

Provost Joan Sturgeon and her team of judges - area committee chairs Depute Provost Robert Barr and Councillors John Ferguson, Alex Gallagher and Arran's own John Bruce - had the tough task of sifting through dozens of entries nominated by the public.

They have now selected three finalists in each of the five categories for the 2016 awards and the public now have the chance to pick their winners. Residents can have their say by completing the voting form on the North Ayrshire Council website. All votes must be received by Thursday, March 10 at noon.

Provost Joan Sturgeon said: 'The quality of nominations received seems to get higher every year and it means the task of choosing 15 finalists gets harder. Every single finalist deserves recognition for their achievements and we are fortunate to have so many people in North Ayrshire who are willing to make a positive difference in our communities and to the lives of others.'

'It is now up to the people of North Ayrshire to decide the winners in each of the categories and I would encourage as many people as possible to cast their vote.'

Bethan Remmington is bidding to become the North



**Finalist volunteers from the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust are l-r: Cicely Gill, Cil Paul, Heather Gough, Ruth May, Margaret Wright, Ian Watt, Alison Prince, Jan McGregor, Ann Hume and Diana Hamilton.**

Ayrshire Young Citizen of the Year. Bethan has never allowed the fact that she is wheelchair-bound, and has the use of only one arm as a result of cerebral palsy, to limit her activities. She is now a modern apprentice at Arran High School, where she was previously a student, and has made a huge contribution to her community through her volunteering role with Brodick Library and as a peer supporter at Lamlash Primary.

### Role model

She is up against Cameron Hughes from Largs who has established himself as a real role model through his involvement with a variety of groups and Shannon Morrison from Ardrossan who has gone above and beyond to give support to children and young people.

Bidding for the Arts & Culture award, the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust are described as a group of vol-

unteers which has dedicated time and effort to develop the burgeoning arts scene on Arran. As well as organising the acclaimed McLellan Festival, members are looking to the future and are working to establish Arran as a leading light in Scotland's arts scene.

They face a challenge from Centrestage Communities who have been working with Ardeer Community in Stevenston for more than a year, encouraging everyone from toddlers to older people to participate in singing, dancing and acting and Involved! which was launched to support people who access mental health at Irvine's Harbour Arts Centre.

Each of the finalists will join Provost Sturgeon at the prestigious Oscar-themed awards ceremony at Seamill Hydro on Friday, March 18. This year's event will once again raise vital funds for two charities - Cash for Kids, which provides support to the most vulnerable children within our communities, and the Ayrshire Hospice, which provides outstanding quality care services. And Scottish actress and comedienne Elaine C Smith has been unveiled as the guest speaker at the awards.

Generous businesses have already committed to ensuring the event is a hit by booking tables at the dinner and donating prizes but it is still hoped that many more will also show their support and sign up to help. To support the event or to donate a prize,

please contact the council's corporate communications team on 01294 324137. To vote, or for more information

about the Provost Civic Pride Awards 2016, visit [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/provostscivicprideawards](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/provostscivicprideawards)

## New classes for spring flower show

This year's Spring Flower and Bulb Show will be held on Saturday, April 2 in Brodick Hall.

Organised by the Arran Horticultural Society, schedules will be available at the usual outlets from early March for all interested parties. There are some changes to the schedules this year including two new classes in the cut flower section and some alterations to the children's sections.

Last year's trophy winners are asked to have their trophies back in good time for the show. There are also lists available for anyone wishing to take advantage of the coach trip to Ingliston. Raffle prizes will be most welcome, as will all of the entries, old



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**Bethan Remmington, is a finalist in the Young Citizen category.**



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# Big Garden Birdwatch fun

Despite the snowy weather, great fun was had last Saturday at the Arran Community Land Initiative in Whiting Bay as families took part in the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, (RSPB) Big Garden Birdwatch event.

Along with spotting and counting birds, the kids made some fantastic bird feeders and bird cake pots to take home with them to feed the birds through the winter, and they also enjoyed some well-

earned cupcakes themselves.

In their counting, the chaffinch came out on top, which was the same as the top bird last year on Arran.

At the event the children were treated with sightings of many birds, including a redpoll and a robin which pestered the children for bird cake before it was even finished.

Organisers wish to say a big thank you to all of those who braved the cold and snow

to support the RSPB survey and to make feeders for local birds.

An invitation is also extended to everyone to wander through the community land and to enjoy the space and the birds.

You are more than welcome and if you are lucky enough you might even get to spot water rail which have been known to visit some of the quieter parts of the community land.



The children are given a hand to make inexpensive bird feeders.



Some of the creations that the children made a carton, plant pot and pine cone feeder.



A small refreshment station for the children.



Above and below: The children learn that making bird cakes is

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Photograph courtesy of Andrew Surridge

**B**rodick Castle are holding their first ever Wedding Fair to show the fairytale setting they can offer for your big day.

On Saturday, February 21 from 2pm until 4pm the stunning venue will be dressed, both inside and out, for a wedding.

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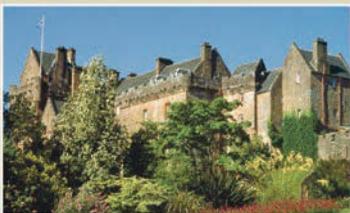
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# Chaffinch comes out on top again as Arran's most popular bird

**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels

The last weekend in January was the weekend of the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. Individuals, families or groups not only took part in this survey of garden birds but some shared their results with me. This year there were 28 sets of results sent to me, up from 23 last year.

From the collation of these results, the top 10 birds this year in terms of the number of gardens in which they were seen is: chaffinch, robin, blue tit, coal tit, great tit, blackbird, house sparrow, dunnock, goldfinch and in joint 10th place collared dove and woodpigeon. Chaffinch was the only species recorded in every garden and in five out of the last six years it has been the top bird.

The robin in second place was recorded in all but one garden this year. Within the top 10, coal tit was the highest mover, moving from eighth place last year to fourth place this year. Like last year there were 30 species of bird recorded. Lesser redpoll was recorded for the first time. On the other hand pied wagtail was missing for the first time.

Notable changes in the percentage of gardens in which various species appeared included: great spotted woodpecker four per cent last



**Chaffinch appeared in all gardens in the survey and the highest number of birds counted.** Photo by Carl Reavey

year to 21 per cent this year, greenfinch 13 per cent last year to 32 per cent this year, goldfinch 22 per cent last year to 43 per cent this year and coal tit 61 per cent last year to 86 per cent this year. On the other hand long-tailed tit was recorded in four gardens last year and only one this year.

By far the largest total of birds seen was chaffinch with 367. Last year there was 227. House sparrow was the next most-counted species with 128, three more than last year. Notable changes in numbers from last year, as well as chaffinch, included great spotted woodpecker up from one to seven, goldfinch up from 12 to 55, coal tit up from 44 to 96 and long-tailed tit down from 22 to 7.

If you would like a copy of the complete collated data for Arran for the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch over the last six years, please get in touch. While the information is interesting, too much should not be read into these small samples.

It is a fun survey to do but it only covers one weekend in the year. If you enjoyed doing it, there is a garden bird

BTO Garden BirdWatch visit the website <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw>

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at [jim@arranbirding.co.uk](mailto:jim@arranbirding.co.uk)

I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2014 and visit this website [www.arran-birding.co.uk](http://www.arran-birding.co.uk)



**Great spotted woodpecker saw a big increase in the number of reports.** Photo by Tony Church



**Young Luke Sedman proudly displays his home made bird.**



**messy and fun**



**Robin appeared in all but one garden.** Photo by Sue Archer

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**Corrie Film Club:**

**Force Majeure (Cert 15)**

This weekend Corrie Film Club is offering Swedish director Ruben Ostlund's perceptive and frostily funny film, Force Majeure.

The sun is beaming and the skiing spectacular for middle class Tomas, his wife Ebba and their two children. However, during lunch at a mountainside restaurant an avalanche suddenly happens. As the wall of snow gets ever closer Tomas makes a split-second decision in a moment of panic which will leave him struggling to reclaim his role as the family patriarch.

This film is an intelligent black comedy that pierces the stereotypes of what a man should be in the modern world. See tomorrow (Sunday) at 8pm in Corrie Hall - all welcome.

Also look out for details next week for Day in the Dark - Corrie Film Club's free mini film festival which will take place on Saturday, February 27 and this year celebrates black and white film including: The Misfits, Twelve Angry Men, The Artist, Dr Strangelove and Plesantville.

# Corinna tells society of her passion for bats

The Arran Natural History Society met on Thursday, February 4 at the Rangers Centre at Brodick Country Park, to hear Corinna Goeckeritz, who has been working as a ranger/naturalist at the country park for the past 8 years, talking about her passion for bats.

Ever since rescuing a juvenile that had fallen from a roost in the brewery she has pursued her passion by training to become the island's only registered bat worker, allowing her to rescue injured bats and return them to their roosts. She was one of the first people to discover a

new bat species to Arran including 'Brodick', a Leisler's bat. Corinna gave what she called an interactive bat talk on the night, encouraging a large audience to explore their knowledge and assumptions about these fascinating mammals.

Corinna explained that there are around 1,100 species of bats, of which 18 occur in Britain and nine of those in Scotland. At least six of these are found on Arran, but she pointed out that the breeding data for Arran is still patchy. New species of bats are still being discovered worldwide, such as the panda bat, first found in South Sudan in 2013.

The smallest of Arran's bats is the pipistrelle, and the largest is Leisler's bat. In between is the brown long-eared bat amongst others. Each species hunts insects at night, specialising in differing habitats. Corinna explained how bats use echolocation to find their prey, and played record-



**A Soprano pipistrelle bat. Photo courtesy SNH.**



**Corinna Goeckeritz entertains the audience with audio recordings of bat calls.**

ings of the calls they send out, illustrating the differences between the species. By recording these sounds and analysing the traces, the different species can be identified 'on the wing'.

Corinna ended with a look at the dangers bats face, including habitat loss, and encouraged as many people as possible to put up bat boxes.

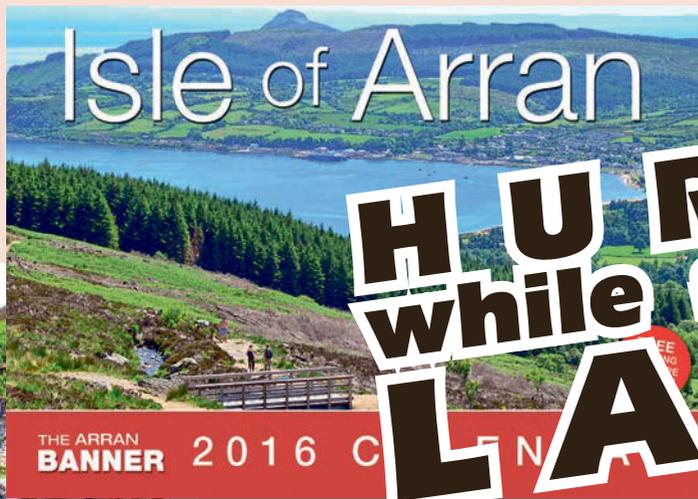
Further details of these can be got from Corinna at the Ranger Centre. This was a fascinating and important talk, and the audience was very appreciative.

The next talk is on Thursday, March 3 at 8pm and will be focussed on the Herring Gull. Everyone is welcome to come along.

*Alan Bellamy*

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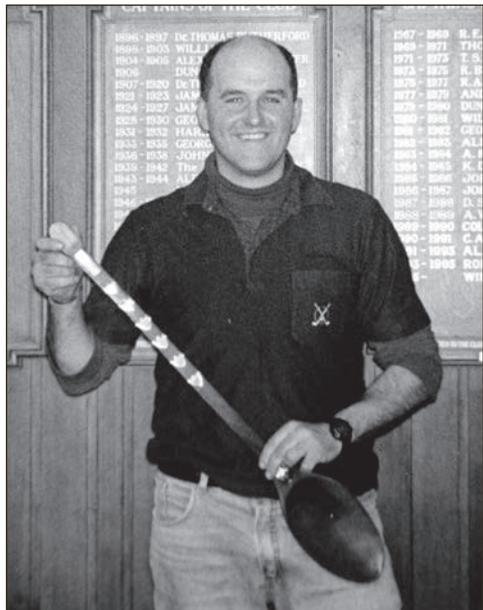
# TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 17 February, 1996

## Test case

Protests from a few Arran people have made a change in a government ruling. The result is that cars with a catalytic converters can be MOT tested on Arran, even though the garages do not yet have the specialised equipment to do it.

It has just become law that, as from January 1, all K-registered cars have to be tested by special equipment to measure exhaust emissions. After a garage owner and the owner of a K registration car called the Department of Vehicle Testing and explained the situation, Arran garages were telephoned and told that they have an exemption and that they can test cars without the machinery.



Alastair Barr, captain of the Kilpatrick team, receives the wooden spoon for coming a long way behind in this year's Ryder Cup golf tournament. b07twe05

## Parent meetings

The Arran High School head teacher Iain Murray is to hold meetings in each of the villages to speak to parents about the school, the curriculum and to answer any questions they may have. His idea is that parents are likely to feel more comfortable speaking about the school in small groups and in their own villages..

## French Burns

Andy McCormack of Lamlash is off to Paris this week to speak at the oldest Masonic Lodge in France. A regular speaker at Burns suppers all over Britain and Europe he finds Burns fans among the most unexpected of people. Just recently in Paris he was approached by a group of Afghans and asked to speak about Burns and not long ago in Turkey, he did likewise with a group of Kurds. Burns and Andy travel well.

## European funding

A sum of £375,000 has been awarded from European funding for the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust towards the conversion of the St Georges Church, Lamlash, into a theatre and arts centre. This was announced last week at the Scottish Grant Committee. In the submission it said that this would create 17 jobs on Arran and generate an additional 85,000 overnight stays.

## Lamlash weather

Lamlash received an unusual spell of rapid temperature change last Tuesday and Wednesday. At 6am on Tuesday the temperature was sitting at -6 C, by noon on Wednesday the following day it had rapidly increased to +14 C.



Nina Waterman, Lucy Gwilliam and Kirsty Watson represented Arran High School in an interschool cookery competition at Stonefield Castle Hotel in Tarbert, Loch Fyne this week. b07twe01



Lamlash church marked the feast of St Valentine's Day with a coffee morning which raised £277.63 for the church restoration fund. Attending the coffee morning was Audrey McArthur, Ruby Middleton and Joey Cook. b07twe02



This years Ryder Cup winners, l to r: Back row, Donald Galbraith, Joe Faulkner, Colin Bannatyne, Cameron MacDonald, Donald Logan, Hugh McKinnon. Front Row, Nicol Hume, captain Colin Muir, James Kelso and Gordon Johnston. b07twe04



Head teacher Iain Murray and computer teacher Liz Clarke in the newly-equipped computer lab at Arran High School. A total of £9,000 has been spent on replacing the old BBC computers with 14 new Apple Mackintosh Performas which are the most up to date entry level Apple computers. b07twe03

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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

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## Everyday

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

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

Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game  
RunArran Run Coaching  
Open Cricket Session  
Non- competitive bridge  
Lamlash Drama Club  
Winter Bowls  
Scottish Country Dancing

Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.15pm  
Lamlash, 5.30pm  
Brodick Astro Turf 7pm-9pm  
Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm - 9pm  
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

## Saturday 13th February

Army Cadets  
Over 21s Disco  
Family Games  
Fun in the pool  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Live music  
Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic  
Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game  
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game  
WBay Bowling Club Rink Game  
Ceilidh Dancing  
Yoga  
Karaoke Night  
Lamlash Church Guild Valentines day coffee morning  
Eco Savvy sale

Auchrannie Road 11am -1 pm.  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm  
Brodick, 9.30am - 11am  
Fiddlers, Brodick from 7.30pm  
arranphysiotherapy.co.uk 9-12noon  
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 1.15pm  
Lamlash Bowling Club, 2pm  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 9am - 10am  
Corrie Hotel, 9pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15-12noon  
Eco Savvy Shop, Whiting Bay, 10.30 - 4.30pm

## Wednesday 17th February

Rock & Pop Bingo  
Tae Kwondo  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Arran Brass Rehearsal  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
RunArran Mixed Ability  
JogScotland Beginners  
Yoga-Arran  
Live music  
Drift Inn Quiz  
Mixed Hockey  
Dog classes  
Knitting & Crochet drop in group  
Friends of Brodick Castle, Archaeology Talk  
Unison Arran AGM  
Arran Brass Band AGM  
Arran Elderly Forum

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm  
Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
Brodick, 9am - 10.30am & 6pm - 7pm  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30  
Brodick, 5.30pm  
Auchrannie Car Park, 7pm  
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm  
Lamlash, 9pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
Brodick Library, 4pm - 6pm  
Castle Tearoom, 2.30pm  
Lamlash Council Offices, 4.30pm - 6pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 7pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 11am

## Sunday 14th February

Family Games  
Fun in the pool  
AA Meeting  
Open Session - All musicians & Singers welcome  
Live music from the Drambusters

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

## Thursday 18th February

Morning Fitness  
General Knowledge Quiz  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Ladies Hockey  
RunArran Mixed Ability  
Cardiac Rehab  
Burger & Quiz night  
Winter Bowls  
Embroidery group  
Mixed Martial Arts/XFit  
ConnectArran Community meeting

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
9am - 10.30am  
Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm  
Brodick, 6pm  
Auchrannie leisure club, 2-3.30pm  
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm  
Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Balmichael Centre, 7pm  
Arran High School, 7.30pm

## Monday 15th February

Over 50s Badminton  
Badminton  
Morning Fitness  
Badminton  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Arran Junior Football Club  
Circuit Training  
WBay Bowling Club Rink Game  
Citizens advice  
Lamlash Aerobix  
RunArran JogScotland Beginners  
RunArran Mixed Ability  
Bridge Club  
Scottish Country Dancing for beginners & improvers  
Yoga  
Tae Kwondo  
Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals  
Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals  
Skinnymalinks Weigh in for Mary's Meals

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
9am - 10.30am & 3pm - 4pm  
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm  
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm  
Whiting Bay, 5pm  
Whiting Bay, 5.30pm  
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm  
Corrie Hall, 2-4pm  
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
Brodick Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall 3:45 - 4:30pm  
Brèagha Holistic Beauty, Corrie 5pm-5.45pm  
Brodick Church Kitchen 6:30 - 7:00pm

## Friday 19th February

Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Live music  
Lochranza Kids Badminton  
Lochranza Adults Badminton  
Quiz  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
AA Meeting  
Live music  
Tae Kwondo  
Famous Lochranza Burns Supper

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm  
9am - 10.30am and 3pm - 4pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm  
Arran High School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Lochranza & Catacol Hall, 7 for 7.30pm

## Tuesday 16th February

Pop Quiz  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Youth Club  
Arran Vets - Surgery  
Rotary club  
Healthy Outdoors

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
9am - 10.30am  
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm  
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm

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[www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/north-ayrshire-council](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/north-ayrshire-council)



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Tel: 01499 600 430 [angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com](mailto:angela.gibson@scottishsalmon.com)

Closing date for applications: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2016

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# Public Notices

**UNISON ARRAN**

**AGM**

Council Offices, Lamlash  
Wednesday 17th February  
4.30pm - 6pm

## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL - GRASS CUTTING SCHEME 2016

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 8 February 2016 on 01294 310000. An assessment of eligibility will be made during the application process and payment for the scheme will be taken. The charge for the scheme is £61.00 including VAT.

Applications will close on Friday 4 March 2016. 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 4 April and terminate Friday 7 October 2016.

## 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 04.03.16. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

15/00793/PP; Co-operative Store, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8AJ; Installation of new ATM.

16/00045/PP; Montrose House, Glen Cloy Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Change of use of former care home to staff accommodation in association with Auchrannie Spa Resort.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
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### CHURCH NOTICES

#### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 14th February**  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
Mrs Janis Gallagher. 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 14th February**  
Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches, 10.15am Morning Worship including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in Lochranza Church.  
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.  
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.  
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting  
12noon Morning Worship.  
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 14th February**  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
Rev. Lily McKinnon  
In Kilmory:  
Sacrament of Baptism  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)  
**Sunday 14th February**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
Afternoon Service. 1-30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All welcome

#### ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 14th February**  
11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick  
Tea and Coffee after the service.  
Wednesday at 7.30pm  
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.  
Contact phone no 600222

#### WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
(Charity Number: SC014005)  
Sunday 14th February 2016:  
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.  
Holy Cross Catholic Church  
Sunday 14th February - Morning Mass 11am

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**Sunday 14th February**  
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm (Church behind post office)  
Rev Benjamin von Rensberg

#### RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**ANDREW** - Mary and Neil would like to thank Dr Thompson and Dr Campbell for the kind attention given to Iain. Also to all the nurses at Arran War Memorial Hospital and to Karen and Lynn for the home visits. Also to Clair and David for organising the funeral service and to Rev Elizabeth Watson for the lovely service she provided.

We would also like to say a big thank you to our friends and family who supported us at this time.

He was a good husband, father and my best friend...my heart is broken.

Mary Andrew

**HAGAN - HUGH** - Rosemary and family would like to thank relatives and friends for the cards, flowers and support following the death of Hugh. To the Reverend Elizabeth Watson for beautiful service, to Clair and David Hendry for the arrangements and to the staff of Little Rock for the lovely refreshments afterwards.

**WALLWORK - RONALD ALEXANDER** - Linda and Roddy would like to say thanks to all family and friends for their love following the sad passing of Ron, who passed away 23rd February 2016 aged 81. Thanks to all hospital doctors and nursing staff for their unending care during Rons illness. Special thanks to Rev Lily McKinnon for her lovely service.



Prize winners at the Brodick Golf Club ladies annual dinner and prizegiving.

# Susan is champion in rain-hit season

The annual dinner and prizegiving of Brodick Golf Club ladies section was held last Friday in the clubhouse.

The ladies enjoyed a wonderful buffet meal at the clubhouse provided by Trish and that was followed by the prizegiving and entertainment. The prizes for season 2015 were presented by the club captain Margaret Bryce.

The Club Championship was won by Susan Butchard and also the Scratch Cup. The Bronze Championship was won by Lesley Murray who also won the Club Trophy and the Wilkie Trophy.

The Winter Trophy and the St.Elmo Cup were won by Pat Reid. Carole Stewart won the Centenary Quaich.

Gege Kroner won the Lad's Trophy, the Wright Trophy

and the Joyce Taylor Cup. Aileen Latona won the Legion Trophy. The foursomes competition Stronach Cup was won by Margaret Roxburgh and Gege Kroner, and Helen's Vases by Margaret Roxburgh and Trish Martin. The Cloy Bridge Trophy was won by Jennifer McArthur.

The Captain's Prize was won by Brenda Livingston who also won the Hendry Trophy and the Thistle Brooch. The McKechnie Trophy was won by Margaret Roxburgh. The Coronation Foursomes was won by Susan Butchard and Isobel Macdonald.

The Flag Brooch was won by Ann Hart, the Silver Medal by Yvonne Brothers and the Bronze Medal by Gege Kroner. The Eclectic was won by Ann Hart.

In spite of a difficult year of mixed weather the ladies enjoyed their golf and look forward to an improvement in the weather before the start of the next season although it is amazing to see some good scores in less than perfect conditions.

#### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday, February 3, Wednesday game. Seven players enjoyed a warm sunny day but returned poor scoring, obviously not used to having the sun in their eyes. Derek Roxburgh returned a well crafted magic two at the 3rd. The outright winner was Douglas Robertson with 85-18=67. Tee off every Wednesday at noon. All welcome.

#### Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday, February 4, Yellow

Medal, CSS 61, par 61. 1 John O'Sullivan 77-19=58, 2 Andy Smith 79-18=61. Magic two Alan Smith @16th.

Fixtures: Sunday, February 14, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 12noon starts. Thursday, February 18, Yellow Medal, 11am draw.

#### Corrie Golf Club

Fixture: A.G.A Winter league, Saturday, February 13 from 8.30am and 18 hole sweep ballot at 1pm.

#### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday February 2, Winter Cup. Four played in testing conditions. 1 C Laing 77, 2 P Betley 79, 3 B Sherwood 83. Fixture: Tuesday February 16, Lochranza Hotel Cup at noon.

## Arran Bridge Club results

The results for the aggregate competition held at Brodick on Thursday, February 4 were as follows: N/S 1 Janie Macclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 John and Jan Beattie, 3 Jennifer McArthur and Elaine Duncan. E/W - 1 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 2 Linda Trickett and Elizabeth McKellar, 3 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton.

The results for the matchpoints competition held at Lamlash on Monday, February 8 were as follows: 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Margaret McGill and Elizabeth McKellar, 3 Jan and John Beattie.

In last week's results the aggregate competition held at Lamlash on Monday, February 1 N/S winners should have been Jim Peacock and John Baraclough.

## First rugby game of the year

The Isle of Arran Rugby Club were hoping to finally get their season kick-started with a home game against Paisley RFC at Ormidale Park today (Saturday), weather permitting.

As reported in last week's *Banner* the team have had game after game postponed both home and away due to the winter storms and flooded pitches.

However, without being played the Brodick pitch is in a sound condition and the team can't wait to get their first run out of the year.

Kick off time is still to be confirmed. See club's Facebook page.

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# Sport

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The rain can clearly be seen in the dark and wet conditions in which the game was played. 01\_B07hockey01

# Arran Ladies are winning in the rain despite torrential downpour



Lorraine Hewie was named dame of the game and man of the match.

B07hockey04No

## Arran Ladies 3

### Loch Lomond Ladies 2s 1

The Arran ladies Hockey team have risen to second place in the league after a home win against Loch Lomond on Saturday night in atrocious conditions. Storm Imogen dumped huge amounts of water on the Ormidale astroturf and left it covered in an inch of water and the players soaked to the skin.

With the players adjusting to the conditions by having to hit the ball really hard to be able to pass it, the teams were evenly matched for the first



Soaked within the first few minutes of the game, conditions were challenging for both teams. 01\_B07Hockey02

15 minutes. Arran scored two goals in the first half, one by man of the match Lorraine Hewie and another by Anne Watts. Loch Lomond scored with two minutes to go in the first-half as the pitch slowly drained by half-time with the score at 2-1.

### Reverse sweep

The improvement in conditions brought one more goal in the second half when Arran's Lorraine Hewie contin-

ued the wet weather fight with a fabulous reverse sweep into the back of Loch Lomond's goal bringing the final score of 3-1. Captain and first half umpire, Victoria McNicol congratulated the ladies on an excellent game in challenging weather and awarded the dame of the game to Lorraine Hewie who was also voted man of the match by the Loch Lomond team.

On Sunday conditions

worsened again, causing ferry disruptions and the cancellation of the scheduled West District Plate match against Garnock, which will now be

held on Sunday, February 21. This Saturday the ladies play an away game against Glasgow Accies at 2pm and supporters are always welcome.



The rain soaked pitch stopped the ball from rolling but it could not stop the fierce competition from both sides. 01\_B07Hockey03

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