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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY, 2017

No 2102 70p

# Let's get dug in!

## Work starts at Lagg distillery

### REPORT

by HUGH BOAG

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Work has officially started to build the new Isle of Arran Distillery on the south of the island at Lagg.

Contractors moved on site last week and a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday marked the start of works with the construction of three vital bonded warehouses.

Situated overlooking the cliffs at Lagg, the new £10 million distillery will initially have two pot stills, which will allow enough capacity to increase production to 1.2 million litres, and a stunning visitor centre, designed to reflect the iconic contours of Goatfell and Glen Rosa.

The distillery is expected to be open by the end of next year although the first whisky will not start flowing until 2023 – at the earliest.

Steel fabricators RHC Ltd of Carnwath have won the first phase contract to build the initial three of six bonded warehouses and complete the site road infrastructure, with Murchie Sand and Gravel providing

all the plant hire. The second phase, to build the distillery and visitor centre, is still to be confirmed.

In response to the popularity of Machrie Moor, the peated Arran Malt, master distiller James MacTaggart plans to dedicate production at Lagg to more heavily-peated single malts.

Mr MacTaggart said: 'Having been at capacity at Lochranza for some time, the prospect of starting production at Lagg is extremely exciting. The Arran Malt continues to grow in popularity – the extra storage alone will enable us to lay down more of the award-winning Arran spirit.'

'I'm also very much looking forward to expanding our peated range. By moving production of Machrie Moor and concentrating the distillation of peated malts on the south of the island, I'll also be freed up to create more of our extremely popular limited editions at Lochranza.'

Managing director Euan Mitchell added: 'The past 21 years has seen the 'Arran waters' flow around the world. We are relatively young compared to some other Scotch whisky distill-



The distillery's James MacTaggart and Euan Mitchell cut the first sod at the Lagg site. 01\_A07lagg01

eries and we have a fresh, dynamic approach coupled with big ambitions to introduce more people to top quality malt whisky.'

Construction at Lagg begins as the popularity of distillery visits reaches an all-time high. The distillery site at Lochranza welcomed record numbers of visitors in 2016 with more than 104,000 people making the trip to the distillery. This number is expected to rise to a combined

166,900 by 2018 once the new visitor centre in Lagg has been opened.

Mr Mitchell continued: 'Visitors to Lochranza have been growing year on year, making the Lagg site of even greater importance. By 2018, we hope to be extending the same warm welcome on the south of the island that visitors enjoy at Lochranza.'

The visitor centre at Lochranza will soon re-open

after the completion of extensive renovations including a complete re-design of the reception area and a tasting bar to help accommodate larger groups of visitors. In the distillery itself, four brand new stills have been installed with a new spirit safe will support the production of 700,000 litres per annum, or 140 casks a week.

\* See next week's *Banner* for picture special.

## Late bus leads to ferry fiasco

A bus full of angry passengers were left high and dry in Ardrossan when they were refused permission to board their ferry, despite the fact it was still in port.

Around 25 passengers arrived late at Ardrossan Harbour on a replacement bus service from Glasgow Central on Sunday. Although it was still nine minutes before the MV Caledonian Isles was due to depart, the gangway had been raised and Caledonian MacBrayne staff refused to lower it.

But this week CalMac blamed ScotRail for the mix up, saying the train operator should have told them the bus would be late. A replacement bus service has been operating on the route on a Sunday for several weeks. All the passengers had a wait of three hours for the next ferry.

Danny Head, one of the passengers caught up in the fiasco, told the *Banner*: 'The bus arrived at 9.36am, nine minutes before the ferry was due to leave and when I saw the gangplank was down I just presumed there was a problem and we would be heading on the car deck but when I started to walk over to that, the ramp was on its way up. I asked the guys if they were putting the gangplank back up because this was the bus which is the link from Central Station.'

'They looked very sheepish and said they didn't know the bus was coming, which is a bit strange con-

Continued on page 2



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# Ferry committee get behind Ardrossan bid

The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee is officially backing Ardrossan to be retained as the primary port for the Arran service.

Chairman Iain Thomson has written to Scotland's transport minister, Humza Yousaf, arguing that Ardrossan harbour provides the best option for 'travellers' convenience, cost-effectiveness and future development of the island'.

The move came just days before the transport minister visits the island today (Friday) to discuss the future route with the island's business, tourism and community bodies.

The letter states the current Brodick to Ardrossan service, which operates around 4,700 sailings per year, was only affected by a 'weather-related failure rate

of 3.6 per cent' and highlights that on days where no service at all was provided, CalMac's entire network was impacted and 'therefore the decision not to sail could be related to comfort and safety of passengers rather than the port'.

## Commitment

Mr Thomson refers to a commitment by harbour operator Peel Ports to invest in a multi-million-pound upgrade to infrastructure and the Scottish Government's pledge to spend £48m on a new vessel to be rolled out in 2018, which is anticipated to 'address some of the current restrictions having been designed for the Ardrossan route'.

He added that Troon would 'require longer journey times at a higher cost which would extend the

working day and potentially limit the viability to extend the number of sailings. This would impact upon the potential for growth of the tourism industry; it would also lessen the flexibility for residents to attend medical or personal appointments which would not be in the island's best interests'.

He added that any proposed fare freeze to minimise the cost impact to travellers in the event of a relocation of the service would amount to an annual subsidy of £2.5m for the 30-year duration of the contract to 'tackle an unproven bid to address fewer than five per cent of failed sailings'.

The figures presented by Troon harbour operator ABP, forecasting faster connection times to Glasgow



MV Caledonian Isles, which operates on the busiest route in the CalMac network, carried a record number of vehicles and passengers last year.

## RET sees big increase in passengers

The main Arran ferry route saw an 8.7 per cent rise in passengers during the first full year of RET fares.

Figures released by Caledonian MacBrayne shows the Ardrossan to Brodick route was the busiest route in the network and carried 828,262 passengers and 202,843 vehicles during 2016, a rise of 8.7 per cent and 6.84 per cent respectively.

Figures from the Clyde and Hebrides routes show the 32 vessels carried more than five million passengers for the first time in 20 years – 428,801 more than in

2015 and 186,695 cars, a rise of 9.27 per cent and 15.96 per cent respectively.

## Professionalism

'Last year was our busiest in terms of passengers for two decades,' said CalMac's managing director Martin Dorchester. 'This is a great reflection of the professionalism of our staff in dealing with an increase of more than 400,000 passengers and almost 190,000 cars, while still running a smooth operation to help all our travellers, whether islanders or visitors, business or pleasure to get where they are going.'

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via public transport, are also called into question, he said, with 'the shorter turnaround time and the assumed time projections for a link to Troon train station' highlighted.

Mr Thomson said: 'The committee has undertaken

extensive consultation with representatives from both port authorities and thoroughly assessed all of the information presented to us.

## Support

'Following this process, we are formally registering our support to retain the

Ardrossan link as the best option for travellers' convenience, cost-effectiveness and the future development of our island. We hope our position is reflected by the transport minister as part of his decision-making process.'

## Late bus leads to ferry fiasco

Continued from page 1

said: 'We have an arrangement with ScotRail that port staff at Ardrossan will be notified if the replacement bus is running late so we can consider delaying the sailing.'

'On Sunday morning, there was no such notification and the ferry sailed as scheduled.'

## No notification

'Had the staff at Ardrossan been aware of any delay to the bus, then we would have held the gang-

'I think most of the passengers were tourists and they didn't really understand what was happening.'

A CalMac spokesman

way and delayed the sailing. We are seeking an urgent meeting with ScotRail to ensure they are aware of the importance to our ferry customers of communicating any delays to us.'

A ScotRail Alliance spokesman said: 'We are meeting with CalMac next week to discuss how we manage this short-term disruption and potential impact on the Arran ferry, to try to prevent this happening again.'

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# Council warns of threat to vulnerable by Troon switch

Council bosses in North Ayrshire this week claimed they had 'grave concerns' over their ability to deliver vital health and social care services to vulnerable Arran residents effectively, and within budget, if the island's ferry service is moved to Troon.

It is the latest attempt to put pressure on Transport Minister Humza Yousaf, who visits Arran today, to maintain Ardrossan as the port for the Arran ferry.

Senior staff from the council's health and social care partnership (HSCP) are said to believe moving the ferry route from Ardrossan to Troon would have a significant adverse impact on their ability to secure cover from mainland staff for both in-home and residential care.

They say recruiting on-island staff to provide the partnership's care at home service is already an issue. Until December 2015, in-home care on the island was delivered by independent provider Carewatch.

However, owing to problems hiring and retaining staff who are resident on Arran, the provider passed the service back to North Ayrshire HSCP who now provide it in-house.

Since then, the staff shortfall has been made up by care at home staff who live on the mainland – the ma-



Councillor Peter McNamara.

majority of whom are three towns' residents who live close to the current ferry base at Ardrossan.

### Concerns

Now there are concerns whether these staff would be willing to travel to Troon to get to work in Arran, given the increase in cost and time.

In addition to the care-at-home service, the partnership also provides residential care and respite services at Montrose House in Brod-

ick – which is staffed by both Arran and mainland residents.

And they say a move to Troon could again adversely impact the council's ability to retain staff – and could even lead to a reduction in the number of residents who could be cared for at Montrose House.

The residential home is governed by the Care Inspectorate, whose rules dictate that if staff levels fall below a minimum level, the

number of residents would have to be reduced so that they can be safely supported by the number of staff available.

The chairman, Councillor Peter McNamara, said: 'We already struggle to hire enough staff to deliver our in-home care to elderly and other vulnerable Arran residents. Now we are being told by our mainland staff that they simply could not afford the extra time or money to travel to and from Troon.'

'We fear that moving the ferry to Troon would cause an exodus of staff and leave us unable to provide adequate support for those residents.'

'At Montrose House, we would have to consider relocating frail residents to alternative independent fa-

cilities, either on Arran or – given the limited alternative capacity on the island – to mainland facilities.

'More importantly, we need to consider the inconvenience and distress that would cause to those

residents and their families. At a time when we already have significant challenges in delivering health and social care within budget, relocating the Arran ferry to Troon would be disastrous.'

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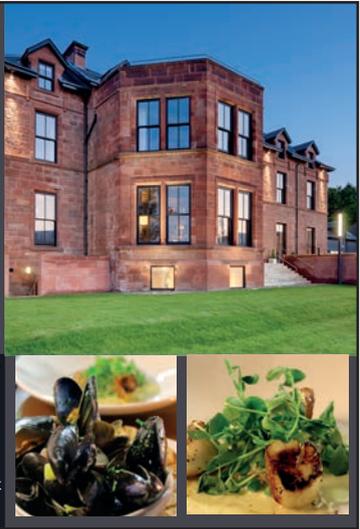
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# Islanders support bid to abolish nuclear weapons

Despite the bitter cold, a large number of Arran residents, from babies to senior citizens, gathered in Brod-



Shona Dunsmuir and daughter Loxa make their feelings known.

01\_B07CND02

ick last Saturday in support of a week of action for the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, (ICAN).

Members and supporters of CND included one of the most senior and respected attendees, the Rev John Webster, who has been campaigning against nuclear weapons for more than 50 years. Mr Webster supports the view of ICAN that nuclear weapons, which are indiscriminate in nature and are designed to cause catastrophic humanitarian harm, should be prohibited under international law.

Joining the political and religious figures and members of the public was local business owner and mother, Shona Dunsmuir, who with her husband Stewart



A large group of campaigners braved freezing conditions at the demonstration in Brodick. 01\_B07CND01

and baby Loxa, said: 'I believe that it is every parent's responsibility to ensure that our children are brought up in a world that is safe and

secure and free from this type of harm.'

Last December 113 countries voted at the UN to establish a mandate on nego-

tiating the prohibition of nuclear weapons. Negotiations are scheduled to take place in New York next month and in June and July.

## Engineering competition

The Design and Make Challenge had more than 20 entries for the competition which takes place at the Arran High School today (Saturday), taking the first prize payout to £500.

The challenge, which is in its second year, sets out an engineering task to design and create and test against other entrants, in an effort to encourage the youth to get interested in engineering. All of the entries this year were from primary schools and, despite also being open to adults, no entries were received in that category.

The competition will take place at Arran High School at 10am and will be judged by organisers of the competition Rory Cowan and Donald McNicol.

## Come and try the fiddle

Arran Fiddle Club has a few spaces for new recruits. To attract budding young musicians, the club is running a come-and-try session in Brodick Hall tomorrow (Sunday) February 19, from 3.30pm to 4pm for ages eight to 12.

The club's regular fiddle tutor, Lynsey Tait, will be on hand to demonstrate and there will be a chance to sign up to the club's regular after school classes which take place on a Tuesday throughout term times.

For more information, contact Alistair on 302881.

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## Plea for music cups

An urgent plea has been made for all cup holders and trophies for the Arran Music Festival to return them.

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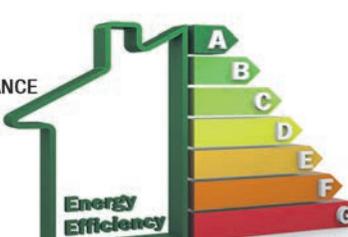
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# Panther legend comes to life

A fun new film has been produced bringing to life the legend of the Ormidale Panther, writes Hugh Boag.

Over the years the panther has been blamed for countless incidents involving injuries, losses – including numerous phones and glasses – and of being a frightening presence to anyone venturing into the woods after dark.

But no one has ever seen him ... until now.

Using state-of-the-art camera equipment a film, *The Legend of the Ormidale Panther*, is getting hundreds of hits on YouTube.

The men behind the film – Eric J Dunn and Scott Clark – are no strangers to film-making but the panther effort is their most ambitious to date.

The action starts with two intrepid campers – Eric and

Scott – taking a detour to the Ormidale as they search for the Glenrosa campsite ... a decision they may live to regret.

In the Ormidale, they meet a bizarre gathering of locals (no change there then!) and get mixed up in some grizzly goings-on, involving one Bushcraft Bunyan – but we don't want to give too much away.

The film, which features nods to Queen's famous *I Want To Break Free* video – step forward Harry Anderson – a horse's head (Gilly the filly), a farmer played to perfection by John 'Jasper' Murchie and, in homage to *The Shining*, Trevor Helliwell on a tricycle.

Then there is Barry Selkirk as John Lennon and Colin Ribbeck as his assassin Mark Chapman – don't ask!

The bar scene is designed to replicate *An American Werewolf in London* and similarly features two Norwegian backpackers who, by complete coincidence, had just stepped off the boat and landed in the Ormidale – a move they didn't regret as they found the whole afternoon hilarious.

Filming for the six-minute panther movie took two days, with the exterior shots on a Saturday and the indoor bar scenes the following day. 'They took a bit longer, maybe because the bar was open,' Eric said.

'The Ormidale Panther is legendary and has so many pairs of glasses he must be sponsored by Specsavers,' Eric joked. 'Many, many people have fallen victim to the panther over the years.'

Turning to the film, he added: 'We all had great



Some of the cast outside the Ormidale at dusk. 01\_B07film01

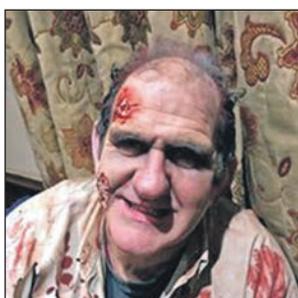
fun making it and I hope it will be enjoyed by everyone who watches it on YouTube.'

The expensive camera equipment was operated by Allan Atkins, who has had a few acting credits to his

name, including the well-known 1996 Scottish film *Small Faces*, about Glasgow gangs.

Now the film-makers are already in planning for their next big budget production, *The Great Arran Hol-*

*lywood Adventure*. But you can see *The Legend of the Ormidale Panther* on YouTube now, where, at the time of going to press, it has had 666 views. The Ormidale Panther also has its own Facebook page.



Scenes from the film. Lots travellers, a damaged Bushcraft Bunyan and some weird extras

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Andy Macdonald of Kildonan and Jamie Campbell of Lamlash work on the foundations at the Wild Adventure Park. 01\_B06castle01



The toddler play park begins to take shape among the trees. 01\_B06castle02

# Things are about Brodick Castle

## New adventure park starts taking shape

**REPORT**  
by COLIN SMEETON  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran's newest tourist attraction is beginning to take shape in the woods at Brodick Country Park.

The Arran Wild Adventure took a significant step forward recently with the delivery of wood and materials which tradesmen immediately used to create the foundations of the new adventure play park.



The castle structure will rise above the tree line and offer fantastic views.



A three dimensional artist's view

The project, which is expected to be completed in May, is being undertaken by The Curious Adventure Company (CAPCO) and will feature high level walkways, bridges, chutes and look-out towers, as well as an education centre and toddler play area – all made of wood.

The development, which will be a major tourist attraction, will be built on nearly two hectares around the current play area and

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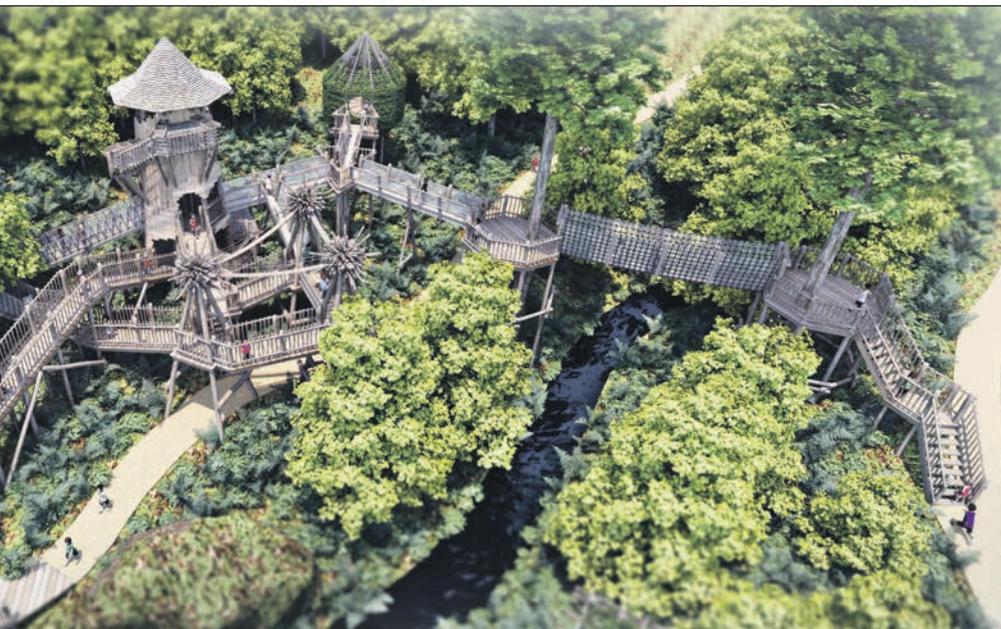
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# ut to go wild at



Overview of the development.



A viewing platform that overlooks the river is built around a large tree. 01\_B06castle03



A small amount of the natural wood that will be used in the project along with milled timber. 01\_B06castle04

rangers centre at Brodick Castle and will include an educational element and audio visual interpretation unit.

Visitors to the the National Trust for Scotland property will walk into a world of adventure and wonder as the elevated wooden walkways cross over a flowing river and a treetop castle extends into the tree canopy.

CAPCO has already built a number of adventure play parks throughout the country, including the Wild Woodland at Culzean Castle, where phase two is currently under construction, but the company says Brodick is its most exciting project to dates.

A spokesman at CAPCO said: 'We are thrilled to be on site at Brodick Castle, bringing to life what we believe is our most exciting play space design to date.

'It is without question the most stunning place we've been asked to develop our adventure play yet.'

Brodick Castle property manager Hugh Walker said: 'We

are making good progress on the adventure play area – the foundations for the look-out area, the toddler play and zip lines are already taking shape.

'This development will be a great experience for visitors and a real benefit for Arran. We plan to open mid May, while other works will also start shortly, including the major fire prevention works, which are scheduled to commence from mid April.

These works have forced the closure of the castle until spring next year. However, the grounds remain open to the public.

'Garden improvements have already started, although this will be a three-year scheme of works. We will be open for business in the reception centre, garden, play park, and will provide guided historical tours of the grounds and castle surrounds,' Mr Walker added.



Work has already begun on the toddler play area which will be built in a similar style to the rest of the development.

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## Hello Humza, any news?

It looks then that we are in the final straight of the ferry port fight.

We welcome back to the island today (Friday) transport minister Humza Yousaf who is surely making his final round of talks before making a decision on whether it is Ardrossan or Troon.

We'd like to say it has been a good clear fight, but there has been a good bit of mud slinging from both camps in an increasingly bitter contest. But, as *The Banner* has said from the start, the people who matter most are the residents of Arran.

Business, social and tourism bodies on the island will today hear where Mr Yousaf is in his deliberations and no doubt get one last chance to state their case.

All business and community organisations, including the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee, are now of one voice that it has to be Ardrossan. But for many, the support is conditional on real investment in Ardrossan by Peel Ports.

Mr Yousaf doesn't have unlimited time. With the local council elections on May 4, this year the six-week pre-election purdah will start at the end of March, giving him just four weeks to reach a decision.

We have no desire to speculate who will win, but the odds seem increasingly stacked against Troon.

What has been worthwhile in our view is the need for a debate in the first place. Associated British Ports had every right to throw their hat into the ring and bid to be the Arran ferry destination.

Maybe, it won't be this time, but why can the port not be considered as a port of refuge if, as it says, it is a more sheltered harbour. Certainly the main Arran ferry seems to have very little thought of going to Gourock any time soon. But that is a debate for another day.

Let's hope the port decision is made for all the right reasons.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'God is a forgiving God, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love.' (Nehemiah 9:17)

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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.

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### 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



### The importance of toilets to tourism

Sir,

I am very concerned about the scheduled closure of the public toilets on Arran in March and would urge everyone to write to their councillors, MSPs and MPs.

Many locals and tourists currently use these facilities which have been provided and maintained by North Ayrshire Council for many years. Arran is promoted as a tourist island encouraging many people to visit. I believe there will be a public health hazard created from the removal of public toilets from remote areas such as North Glen Sannox.

Many islanders are elderly and need to use the toilet more regularly. Many people with young children do not want to go to the beach without toilets being available. People who are caught short with no toilet in sight risk being fined. They will end up going in the bushes which will create a health hazard.

Our UK and Scottish governments are allowing local toilets to be closed. At the same time China will transform 100,000 toilets for the sake of tourism.

The China National Tourism Administration has been urging the country to lead what it calls a 'nationwide toilet revolution' aimed at building more toilets and ensuring they are 'clean and odourless, user-friendly and free'.

Please keep our toilets open. If you need to make council cuts, ask village committees to look after the flower beds and use the money to continue providing a necessity. Please stop spending the money on new railings around Arran's shore line.

We don't want or need

them but we do need our public toilets.

I believe it should be a statutory obligation for public toilets to be provided by the council. I ask North Ayrshire Council to rethink its decision and carry on providing public toilets on Arran.

Yours,

**Zabdi Keen**  
Strathwhillan Road  
Brodick.

### Major issue

Sir,

I was pleased to read the Arran Economic Group has recognised housing is a major issue for Arran, especially for people looking for affordable rental homes.

As a business owner, I am aware staff working in hotels and restaurants, not just the Glenisle, find it very difficult to get rental accommodation. Lack of housing already affects the ability of businesses to meet the high demand of the summer visitor trade. As visitor volumes increase this will only get worse.

I very much support bringing empty houses back into use to help with overall pressure on housing, however, we need to recognise business needs are specialised.

Summer workers may come to work for a few months or just a few weeks. Imagination will be needed to provide flexible accommodation. In addition we need to address the shortcomings of public transport around the island. We need to ensure people can get to work every day of the week, including Sunday.

An effective solution to these issues needs a joined up approach with North Ayrshire Council actively working with local groups.

Yours,

**Timothy Billings**  
Conservative candidate.

### Fantastic job

Sir,

I thought it best to set the record straight regarding your back page picture in last week's *Banner*. Although it was me sitting in the kayak in the Auchranie Pool with Arran Kayak Club, I was the one receiving the much-needed expert tuition, not providing it.

I joined the newly 'returned' club this year to help me gain paddle qualifications and get experience and confidence. I can't think of a better way of doing this than in the warmth of the Auchranie Pool with a bar just next door - certainly beats the Firth of Clyde!

The club committee has done a fantastic job bringing together a group of keen and enthusiastic young coaches who are great at teaching other young, and not so young people, how to paddle effectively and most importantly, safely. There will be more beginners sessions starting later in the year. If you would be interested in learning this is certainly the way to do it. Contact Beth Mowett [kayakarran@gmail.com](mailto:kayakarran@gmail.com)

Yours,  
**Chris Traill**  
Lochranza.

### An open letter to Jamie Green MSP

Sir,

In your letter of support for retaining Ardrossan as the mainland terminus for the Arran ferry, published in *The Banner* of February 11, you state: '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 is a two-way service - therefore it must be a two-way conversation.'

With regard to the for-

mer, all talk has been solely of the benefit of the regeneration of Ardrossan to the tune of millions of pounds, of both private and public funds.

But to what benefit to the residents of Arran?

Following such a regeneration, I fail to see any scenario that would have people from Arran flocking to Ardrossan as a leisure destination of choice, other than for cheaper groceries and fuel at ASDA.

As for the latter, people on Arran have raised concerns, principally a reliable ferry service able to berth in adverse weather conditions. I challenge even the most ardent of A - B-ers to deny this is not somewhere on their wish list.

The only Ardrossan advocate to address this point thus far has been a representative of the port owners to dismiss an obvious fix, an outer breakwater, out of hand.

Troon has been lambasted because the *Isle of Arran* ferry had a coming together with the harbour wall. But A - the Master is responsible for the safety of his vessel and it was his decision to proceed into port. B - the vessel berthed safely in high winds albeit with the assistance of a tug, a service not available at Ardrossan, and C - if Ardrossan is such a safe haven why did Cal-Mac decide to move the ferry to berth at Troon?

As I write, the service is disrupted because of sea and swell conditions at Ardrossan, something which has been touted as never having happened.

With regard to a two-way conversation, a former line manager of mine used to say 'I hear you, but I'm not listening'.

Yours,  
**P W Yates**  
Catacol.

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# Time for drama festival

The Isle of Arran Drama Association will once again host their One-Act Festival over three days starting on Thursday February 23 at the Arran Community Theatre in Lamlash. The well-established festival will play host to eight plays, with three junior and five

senior plays taking place over the course of the festival. The plays presented by the Lamlash Junior Drama Club, Whiting Bay Music and Drama Club, Shiskine SWI and Shiskine Junior Drama Club will be adjudicated by Mr Nat Little, who is a first-time visitor to the Isle of Arran Drama Festival and who will provide feedback on the evening's performances each night.

Jerry Arthur, chairman of the Isle of Arran Drama Association, said: 'The teams have worked hard to put on the festival, and I would like to thank the casts and producers.'

'Our behind-the-scenes people pull it all together for us – the stage crew led by Euan Stout and up in the sound and lighting box, Colin Macdonald. We would not be able to run the festival without them. Our thanks also to KA Leisure staff, who are always more than helpful.'



A scene from last year's performance of *Reunion on Gallows Hill* by the Lamlash Junior Drama Group.

'We are very lucky to have a junior section in our festival. The children get a lot out of acting and along the way they will learn a lot of things which will stand them in good stead for the future. We appreciate their input, especially when they have exams on the go too.'

So to all the junior teams, thank you and break a leg.' Doors open at 7pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, February 23, 24 and 25 with curtains up at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at the door for £6 or are from the Book and Card Shop in Brodick.

## Lamlash police office to stay unmanned

Lamlash police office will remain unmanned, despite a recent online furore regarding its opening hours.

As with other smaller stations, such as in Ardrossan, the station in Main Road, Lamlash, is unmanned as officers are out in the community instead.

Police Scotland say the number of people visiting the office does not justify it being permanently manned.

However, when the station is being used for various police activities and administrative work, the police officer on duty will leave the door open. The non-emergency number 101 can be used for contacting the police on Arran.

If you require the non-emergency police service, contact 101. Officers will be able to deal with your request and can contact particular local officers by mobile or email.



Rachel Brown, Ellie Ewing and Kate Murchie has the audience in stitches in last year's performance of *Knock, Knock, Knock*.

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# Arran Weddings



Photo by Andy Surridge

Whether you are lucky enough to live on

Arran or simply enjoy spending time here, the island is one of the most beautiful places in the world to celebrate your marriage.

All year round the wonderful scenery provides the perfect backdrop to your special day ensuring a wedding on Arran is sure to be one to remember.

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and atmosphere of the day through reportage style photography. Together with stunning images with Arran's scenery as your backdrop, I create a contemporary, stylish and complete story of your wedding day. It is always privilege to photograph such a special occasion and whilst remaining discreet many

couples thank us for helping the day run smoothly, whether it's suggesting the best place to cut the cake or a last minute repair job to the brides dress. Whether you are having the most intimate of ceremonies or celebrating in grand style I aim to capture the essence of your day in pictures to last a lifetime.

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The Best Western Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot is set in a stunning location with panoramic sea and mountain views on Arran's west coast. The hotel is the perfect setting for any wedding whether you plan to get married in the nearby church or the hotel

itself. At the Kinloch there is no standard wedding package. Their specialist team will help tailor-make a wedding to suit you and your needs to ensure that every special day is unique and unforgettable. The ceremony can be held in the beautiful grounds set against the backdrop of the sea.

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Perched on the southern tip of the Isle of Arran, overlooking panoramic sea views of the Firth of Clyde, Pladda Island and Ailsa Craig, the Kildonan Hotel is the perfect intimate wedding venue and is fully licensed for all marriage ceremonies. The outdoor area is simply

stunning. Well-maintained gardens, incorporating a beautiful gazebo in the centre for ceremonies, decking area and feature stone walls for amazing photographs. And of course the beach is literally a stone's throw away with basking seals, diving gannets and otters playing on the rocks. You will have exclusive use

of the Function/Dining room which has floor to ceiling windows all around, giving you and your wedding guests those amazing views in the day and a romantic sunset in the evening. The layout and décor of the room itself will complement your personal style and colours making your special day truly unique.



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## Dog owners warned as lambing time starts

Dog owners are being warned that their animal could be killed if it is found to be in the presence of sheep, even if it is not chasing them or has physically attacked them.

The warning comes at the start of a campaign launched this week by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime, in conjunction with Police Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage, NFUS, Scottish Land and Estates and the Kennel Club, to raise awareness among dog owners about the devastating effects of livestock worrying.

The campaign seeks to highlight to dog owners who live in or walk their dogs in the countryside that they must act respon-

sibly and keep their dogs under close control.

A dog attacking, chasing or even being at large in a field where sheep are kept can lead to significant injury and often leads to the sheep being killed or destroyed.

Inspector Jane Donaldson, Police Scotland's rural crime co-ordinator, said: 'The worrying of livestock can have devastating consequences for farm animals and has an obvious financial and emotional impact on farmers and their businesses.'

'This campaign is being launched to coincide with the spring lambing period because this is when sheep are at greatest risk.'

'The advice to dog owners who live in rural areas,

or anyone walking and exercising their dogs in the countryside, is to ensure that they are under control at all times and avoid going into fields where livestock is grazing. The Scottish Outdoor Access Code says that dogs shouldn't be taken into fields where there are lambs or other young farm animals.

'We are encouraging farmers and landowners to engage with dog walkers and to put signs up on gateways and on key roads and paths alerting them to the presence of sheep and lambs in their fields.'

Farmers and those who use the countryside are urged to report all incidents of livestock worrying to police on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

## Arran duo are finalists in youth awards

Two local youth workers have seen their hard work recognised after it was announced that Graeme Johnston and Hollie Watkins of Arran Youth Foundations have been shortlisted for the national youth worker of the year awards.

The pair, both nominated by a pupil from Arran High School, will find out if they are winners at the annual awards night held in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow on Thursday March 16 and organised by national body Youthlink Scotland.

Hollie is shortlisted in the part-time youth worker category, while AYF's project manager Graeme has made it to the final three of the full-time category for the second year running.

Nominator Leigh Boyd, 15, cited the positive impact both individuals had on her and many other young people on Arran. She described Graeme as a 'large friendly



Hollie Watkins.



Graeme Johnston.

giant' who 'has the biggest heart ever', saying the four years she has known him have been the best years of her life. She said Hollie has been an inspiration and a role model, describing her as 'the big sister of the group'.

AYF runs a wide variety of weekly activities and events, including a Friday night drop-in, cooking club, youth forum, mixed-abilities running club, LGBT+

club, professional guitar tuition and lunchtime drop-ins. It also organises trips to the mainland and days out on Arran, with recent activities including mountain biking, paragliding, gorge-walking with the Outdoor Centre, and visits to a skate park, the Scotland v Georgia rugby match, regular games at Kilmarnock FC, and the chance to learn car mechanics at the Three Towns Motor Project.

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Play by Tim Kelly  
Lamlash Junior Drama Club

'Poison'  
Drama/Comedy by David Neale  
Whiting Bay Music & Drama

'Jilted Lovers Helpline'  
Comedy by Johnny Grim  
Shiskine SWI

#### FRIDAY 24TH

'The Little Foundling'  
A Play by Kay Macauliff  
Shiskine Junior Drama

'A Nice Cup of Tea'  
Comedy by Joe Biggs  
Whiting Bay Music & Drama

'Present Slaughter'  
Comedy by Michael Green  
Lamlash Drama Club

#### SATURDAY 25TH

'Home at Last'  
Play by Eileen Brandon  
Shiskine Junior Drama

'Checking Out'  
Drama by Jo Chandler  
Shiskine Drama Club

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### Art group gears up for busy year

Arran Visual Arts, a charitable group of around 140 artists on Arran, has confirmed the dates for its two exhibitions this year as well as the dates for its programme of workshops which are incredibly popular and held throughout the year.

The Easter exhibition, held at the Arran High School community theatre, will be from Wednesday April 12 to Monday April 17 and the summer exhibition, held at the Lochranza Hall, will be from Saturday July 29 to Thursday August 3.

Further information about AVA, workshops and exhibitions can be found on their website at [www.arran-visualarts.co.uk](http://www.arran-visualarts.co.uk).

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## Book Review:

# The Scots who left a stain on American history

There are few places in the world where Scots have failed to leave their mark on the fabric of that particular society.

And the world's bookshelves are full of accounts of their achievements and worthy deeds, which helped establish cities, continents and brought new hope where there was none.

Then there is another book and it makes some fascinating reading.

Titled *Between Daylight and Hell: Scots who left a stain on American history*, it is the culmination of years of research into the lives of Scots who were guilty of dastardly deeds after leaving Scotland for America – in some cases they literally got away with murder.

These emigrants were rogues, con artists, charlatans and reprobates of the worst order, and their crimes are laid out in detail. For each character, the author relates their early lives in Scotland, family backgrounds and why they left to make a fresh start in the New World.

The author is Scots journalist Iain Lundy, originally from Ayrshire, himself now an exiled Scot living in Arizona, and a friend of *The Arran Banner*.

As he himself admits, the book has been a labour of love for longer than he cares to remember and in the credits he thanks his wife Be who he says 'never lost faith this project would one day reach completion'.

As he says, it was as he researched the Scots who had made an impact on the New World that he was again and again drawn to the 'bad-dies'. And for a book looking at the darker side of the 'Scots abroad', you won't find a better recent tome. Some were involved with scheming dastardly acts, others were bad, without some redeeming qualities,

others were militarily incompetent, others cruel and sadistic and some just evil.

Step forward, then, a roll of dishonour who include Lochaber man William Stewart, who butchered victims as they tried to flee a massacre perpetrated by members of a religious sect; conniving Charles Forbes, who fleeced brave First World War veterans to the tune of millions of dollars to line his own pockets; William Dunbar, a son of the Scottish Enlightenment who was only too happy to mete out brutal punishments, including hanging, to his slaves in the American south; or the hapless Adam Stephen, who led troops into a crucial revolutionary war battle while drunk as a lord – and attacked men fighting on his own side.

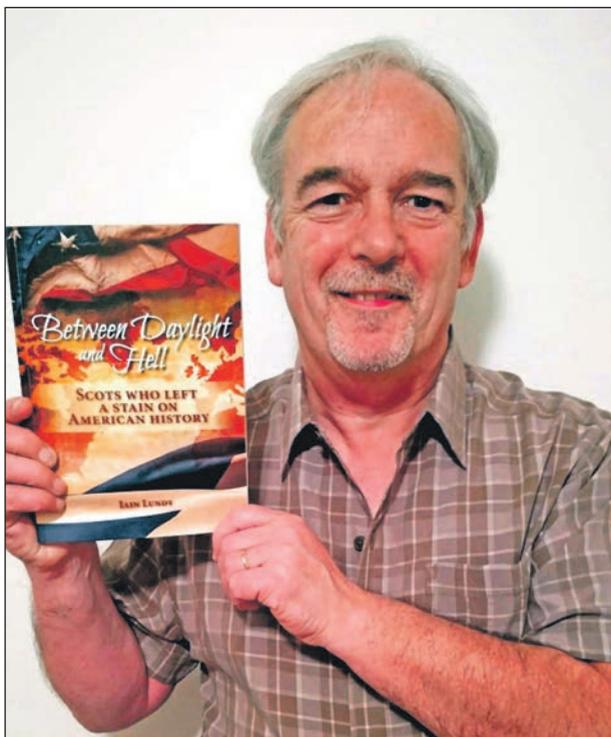
## Foul deeds

They came from all over Scotland and their foul deeds spanned a continent – colonial Virginia, the Mormon State of Utah, Chicago, Boston, the Texas hill country and the Pacific coast of California.

However, history has been relatively kind to this band of ne'er-do-wells. Their crimes may have made headlines for a brief time after the event but the vast majority of these scoundrels are 'unknown' instead of being cloaked in notoriety for their crimes.

*Between Daylight and Hell* is a well written and beautifully researched book that explores the lives of 16 Scots who settled in America and whose deeds earned them infamy rather than fame, along with dishonourable mentions for another seven.

As author Iain says: 'The book is not an academic study of the Scots diaspora in America, or an attempt to explain the multitude of reasons for Scots leaving their



Author Iain Lundy with his book.

native land for a fresh start in the USA. As a long-time journalist, my great love is telling interesting and gripping stories using the written word, and that is what *Between Daylight and Hell* is meant to be – a good read. I sincerely hope you enjoy it.'

Everyone loves a good 'baddie' and this book is full of them.

The book is available from Whittles Publishing at [www.whittlespublishing.com](http://www.whittlespublishing.com) or from Amazon, on Kindle and in all good bookshops, priced £18.99.

## Highlander who was at the heart of dreadful massacre

One of the most callous individuals featured in the book is William Cameron Stewart, who was originally from the Spean Bridge area of Lochaber. He was born around 1827 and, in his early years, worked on a farm and was something of a handyman before making his way to the central belt where he converted to Mormonism even before heading to the shores of the New World in 1853 making his way to the Mormon utopian state of Utah.

If America was finding it difficult to tolerate Catholics and the Quakers, the Baptists and the Methodists, it was convulsed with a frenzied hostility when a new and 'blasphemous' doctrine emerged in its own backyard attracting thousands of followers. The messages preached by the leaders of the Church of the Latter-day Saints, or Mormons, were seen as menacing and counter to traditional American values, such as the practice of polygamy among Mormon men.

One man attracted to the new movement was Scot William Stewart and he was going to enact savage revenge for the perceived intolerance of the Mormon faith.

By the mid-1800s, Mormons felt they had been so harshly dealt with that they had set up militia units to protect themselves from attack from outsiders.

Yet in a remote part of southern Utah, at least 120 emigrants on a west-bound wagon train were lured to their deaths by members of a Mormon militia. These members were armed to the teeth and many had their faces painted to make them look like native American Indians.

The Mountain Meadow Massacre occurred on September 11, 1857. It was America's first 9/11, an inhumane act of murderous violence, and at its heart was William Stewart. His actions during the killing were animalistic in their brutality. He went on a sadistic feral rampage that stands comparison with any American outlaw. Stewart showed his victims not a single ounce of mercy, even as they pleaded with him for their lives. Of around 70 who participated in the butchering of the defenceless homesteaders, multiple witnesses described him as the most bloodthirsty.

But Stewart was never tried for his crimes as the investigation into the killings was interrupted by the American Civil War, and the Highlander, who at one point had hoped to return to Scotland, finally fled to Mexico where he died in 1895.

## 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?

## THE ARRAN

## BANNER


 TWENTY  
YEARS AGO

Saturday 22 February, 1997

### Fallen Pride

Scottish Pride, owner of Torrylinn Creamery, went into receivership yesterday. The directors called in the receivers because the company was making substantial trading losses.

For almost a year Arran dairy farmers and the staff at the creamery have had to endure much uncertainty. This move increases that uncertainty over the future of both cheesemaking on Arran and the market for Arran milk. One secretary told us that when they heard at noon yesterday, they all felt disgusted.

Scottish Pride was directing all inquiries to the receiver, Blair Nimmo of KPMG, who said he hoped to keep the company in business and had every hope of selling it as a going concern. The main worry for Arran farmers and the creamery is whether somebody will buy Scottish Pride and what their plans will be.

### Access consultation

Scottish Natural Heritage, which is behind the Arran Access Initiative that deals with access to landowners' land, has prepared a consultation document for everyone to comment on.

The move comes after Charles Fforde of Arran Estates tried to charge geology students for being on his land, which came to a head when large signs went up limiting walkers' access to the hills.

The initiative is about reconciling the differences of landowners who want to use their land for deer stalking, conservationists who want to roam freely and hoteliers who see access to the hills as an added attraction for their guests.

The consultation document is available from the tourist office with one proposal being to set up an Arran Access Trust which would be a watchdog on appropriate access to Arran land.

### Garden party

Earlier this year, the Queen invited couples married in 1947, the same year as herself, to join her at a garden party in July. The Lord Lieutenant reports that 154 couples have applied from Ayrshire, of which two are from Arran.

Overall, the palace authorities have been astonished at the response, having 4,000 places and 34,000 applications. They appear to have underestimated the staying power – at both life and marriage – of those married in 1947.

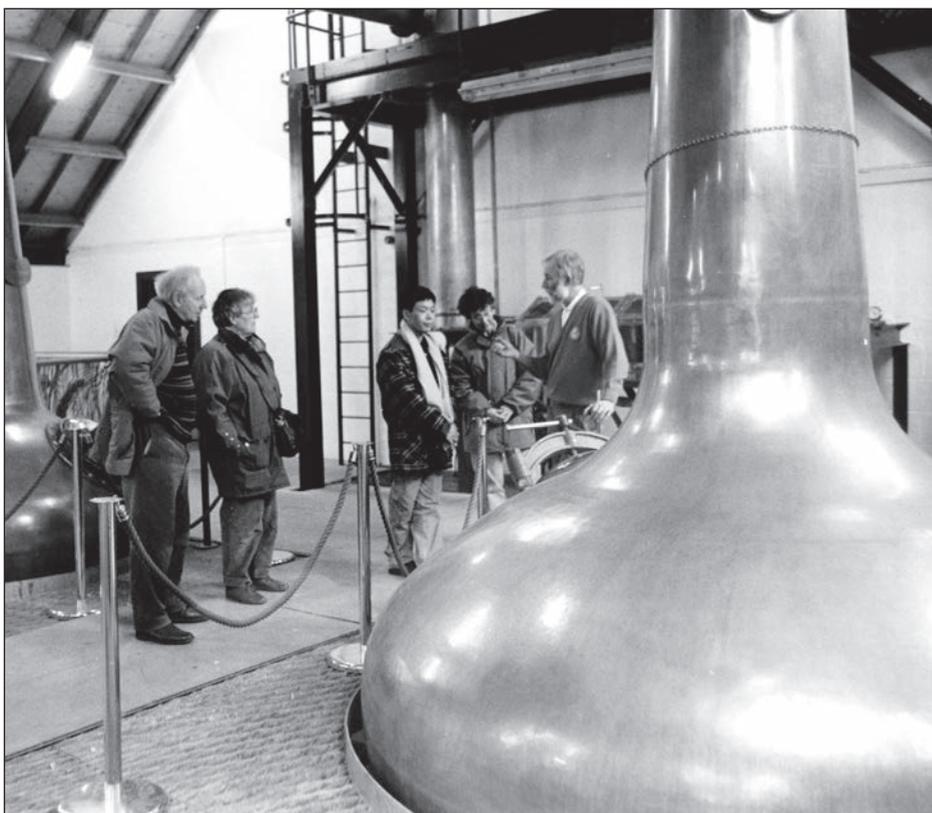


Sixteen budding journalists at Arran High School have set up a club to write a regular school news column for the *Banner*. Pictured are: Sarah Gillies, Shiona Murchie, Samantha McConnell, Lindsay Wheeler, Fraser Davidson, Colin Tinto, Iain Simpson, Morag Hannah, Craig Borland, James Primrose, Chris Kennedy, Alan Monteith, Laura Keeney, Laura Nicholson, Gabby Hannah and Peter Glew.

B07twe01



Scottish National Party candidate Kim Nicholl visited Arran last Saturday but found her first potential supporter did not have a vote. Shi Qiang from Tienstin in China was spending just two days on Arran but was happy to exchange pleasantries. B07twe03



The Isle of Arran Distillery at Lochranza will shortly be opening its visitor centre, which it hopes will be ready by Easter. With tours continuing over the winter and a planning application for a public house licence being considered, work is now in its final stages. B07twe04

Arran's food will take centre stage when it appears on *Wild Harvest* on BBC2 next week. The whole programme will be from Arran, presented by chef and gourmet Nick Nairn, who attempts to catch an elusive sea trout, visits Susie Currie's farm and visits Galbraith's butcher's shop.



# 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 18th February

Army Cadets  
Over 21s disco  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Live music – Buchanears  
Blackwaterfoot bowls Bowling Club,  
Flow yoga Ormidale Pavilion,  
Live music – George Lindsay Blues Band

Auchrannie Road 11am –1 pm  
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

## Sunday 19th February

Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Open acoustic session at Fiddlers'  
AA meeting  
Live Music – George Lindsay Blues Band

Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie spa pool, 4pm-5pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict 2.30pm - 5pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 3pm

## Monday 20th 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

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

## Tuesday 21st 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)  
Lamlash Junior Drama Club  
Flow yoga  
Metafit  
Pilates

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  
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm  
Corrie and Sannox Hall, 6pm  
Arran High School, 6pm  
Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm

Scottish country dancing  
Winter bowls  
Arran Skinnymalinks

Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm  
Lochranza Arran Distillery visitor centre 3:30 - 4:00pm

## Wednesday 22nd February

Rock an pop bingo  
Tae Kwondo  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Arran Brass rehearsal  
Arran Vets surgery  
Arran Vets reception  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service  
RunArran  
Yoga-Arran  
Mixed hockey  
Dog classes  
Flow yoga  
Knittnerly and Natterly  
Bus pass club meal  
Chair yoga St Molios  
American diner night  
Coffee morning

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  
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, 5pm - 9pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 10.30am - 12noon

## Thursday 23rd 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 Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm  
RUNFIT  
Brodict Embroidery Group  
Music Matters  
Drama Festival

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  
Lamlash green, 6.45am  
Brodict Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 2pm  
Arran High School, 7pm

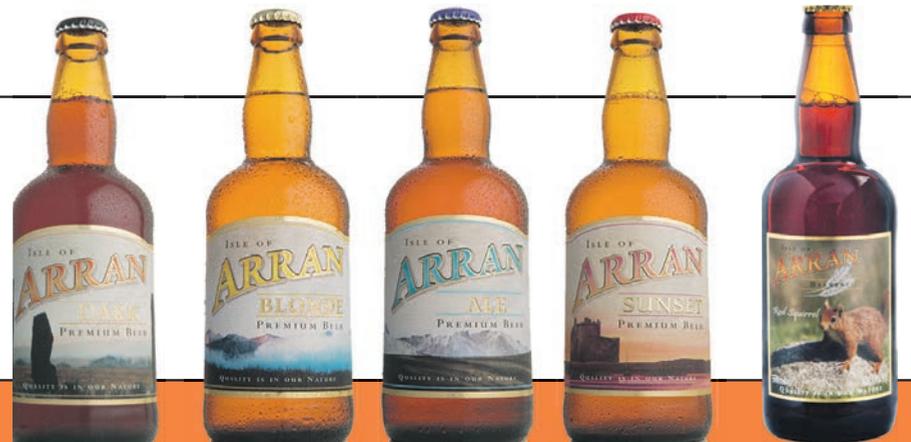
## Friday 24th February

Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Lochranza children's badminton  
Lochranza adults' badminton  
Quiz  
Arran Vets  
Arran Vets reception  
AA meeting  
Tae Kwondo  
Live music – North Country Winters  
Open mic and karaoke  
Coffee morning  
Drama Festival

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  
Fiddlers, Brodict, 7.30pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
Corrie & Sannox village hall, 10.30am  
Arran High School, 7pm



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



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e: [stay@arranholidayretreats.co.uk](mailto:stay@arranholidayretreats.co.uk)  
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To view further details of all our current vacancies, and details of how to apply, please visit our website at [www.calmac.co.uk/careers](http://www.calmac.co.uk/careers)

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## Property

### PLOT OF LAND FOR SALE

Lochranza  
with building permission  
Tel: 07913502782

## Public Notice

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Donald E Murchie trading as Murchie Sand and Gravel Ltd of Market Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AU is applying to change an existing licence to add an operating centre to keep 3 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at Market Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AU. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representation to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

**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.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE

### WANTED LONG LET (or longish!)

Hello - I am Murdo Harris with wife/5 yr old son recently returned from living/working in China. Nicolas, my son has now started attending W/Bay Primary School. 2/3 Bedrooms in preferably W/Bay, Lamlash or Brodick.

**Please, we want to return to Arran.**  
**Phone: 01770 700 413**  
**Email: [michael.1888@gmail.com](mailto:michael.1888@gmail.com)**

### Property to let

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 19th February**  
11.00 am. Holy Communion.  
Mr John Roberts.  
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 19th February**  
Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches, 10.15am Morning Worship in Pirnmill Church  
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.  
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship  
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship  
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 19th February**  
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.  
The service will include the ordination to the Eldership of Mrs Yvonne Brothers.  
Tea and Coffee will be served in the Transept after the service and there will be a sale of Traidcraft goods.  
All welcome.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 19th February**  
Rev Lily McKinnon  
Kilmory 10 am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
In both churches:  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Sunday 19th February**  
Sunday Mass 11am

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
**Sunday 19th February**  
Morning service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge  
Glen Estate, Brodick.  
Evening service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All Welcome

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 19th 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

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

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

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

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

**IN MEMORY**

In loving memory of Don McIntyre who passed away 20 years ago on the 23rd February 1997.  
Always in our thoughts, sadly missed  
*Myra and Donna*

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS  
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS  
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Sunday February 11, Winter Cup round five. The first competition of new captain Wolfi Kroner's term of office brought the coldest morning of the winter with a bitter easterly wind.

Nine players braved the conditions and every one of them was glad to reach the warmth of the clubhouse at the end. Thankfully, the coffee was on.

As for the golf, CSS went out to 64 and that was matched by Adam Kelso who pipped new vice-captain Andy Martin by two shots. 1 Adam Kelso (14) 64, 2 Andy Martin (11) 66, 3 Douglas Auld (26) 67.

Magic twos went to Stan Rainey @2nd and to Wolfi Kroner @17th.

Today's scores had no bearing on the cumulative scores for this season's trophy, no player bettering any previous score.

With one round to go, holder David Brookens is sitting on three under with John Dick and Graeme Crichton on three over and nine over respectively.

Fixtures: Sunday February 19, friendly v Lamlash at Whiting Bay, 10.30am rolling start. Just turn up before that to be make up pairings.

**Brodick Golf Club**

Wednesday February 10,

Wednesday Cup. Don Rudge won with a net 62. Runner-up was Derek Roxburgh with a net 64. No magic twos this week.

Sunday February 12, Brandon qualifier, 17 played, CSS 67, handicap RO. 1 Bill Donaldson 82-17=65, 2 Alistair Hume 80-11=69, 3 Jimmy Armit 82-11=71. Scratch Iain MacDonald 78. Winter Cup (Stableford, played concurrently). 1 Bill Donaldson 17, 36pts, 2 Alistair Hume 11, 32pts. Fixture: Sunday February 19, Clochendichter, 9am and noon.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Thursday February 9, yellow medal, CSS 61, par 61. 1 Q J Young 73-14=59, 2 Alan Smith 72-11=61. Scratch Alan Smith 72 BIH over A Wales. Magic twos, Alan Smith 2, Andy Smith.

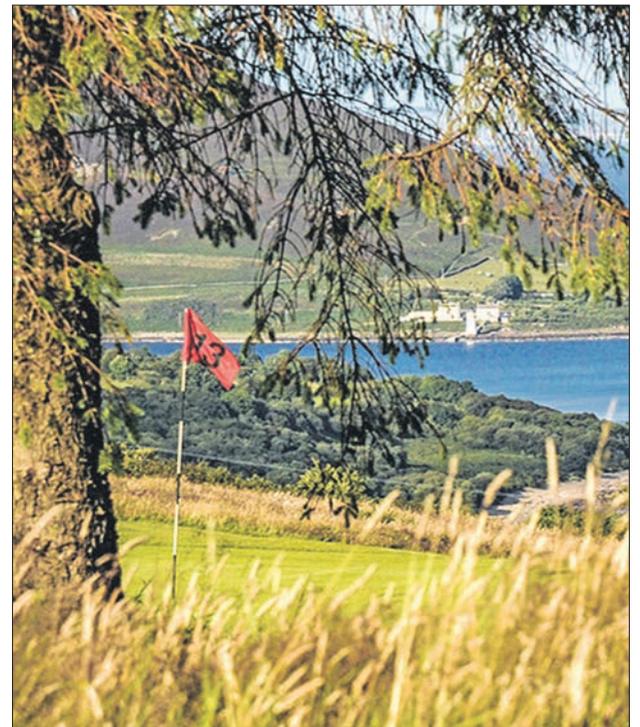
Sunday February 12, Glenburn Cup. 1 A Winship 83-15=68, 2 W O'Connor 89-20=69. Scratch M Harvey 82. No magic twos.

Fixtures: Sunday February 19, Lamlash v Whiting Bay at Lamlash, 10.30am. Thursday February 23, yellow medal, 11am.

**Shiskine Golf Club**

Thursday February 9, Ladies 12-hole medal, 13 played, par 44, CSS 45. 1 Pat Adamson 58-12=46, BIH, 2 and scratch, Alice Anderson 54-8=46. Congratulations Pat.

Saturday February 11, Gents 18-hole medal, six played. 1 Mike Hesp 90-19=71, 2 and scratch, Phil Betley 87-12=75. Magic



**Whiting Bay Golf Club.**

two at the 12th from P Betley. Well played Mike in tough conditions.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Saturday February 11, Winter Cup. After the poor weather of late it was a delight to play a course that was dry and in very good condition. 1 R McLean 39pts, 2 A Napier 38pts, 3 G Andrew 35pts BIH. Mag-

ic twos S Beardsley 2 and A Napier.

Fixture: Saturday February 18, sweep, strokeplay. Ballots at 9am and noon.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday February 7, Winter Cup. 1 P Betley 79-9=70, 2 B Sherwood 84-12=72, 3 C Laing 89-15=74. Fixture: Tuesday February 28, Winter Cup.

**Bridge results**

The results of the Arran Bridge Club competition held at Brodick on Thursday February 9 were as follows: 1 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 2 Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson, 3 Jennifer Wales and John Baraclough, 4 Jennifer McArthur and Maureen Cumming.

The results of the match points competition held at Lamlash on Monday February 13 are as follows; 1 Pat Adamson and Jane Davidson, 2 Margaret MacGill and Elizabeth McKellar, 3 John and Jan Beattie, 4 Jennifer McArthur and Jean Barclay.

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**



**MCCRONE**  
Happy diamond anniversary to Audrey and Robert McCrone from all the family

**THE ARRAN BANNER . . . on holiday**

**Ron meets Ronaldo on Madeira**

It looks like Ronaldo is catching up on his Arran news in a special sporting edition of The Banner on Holiday.

Ron Woods from Shiskine, who sent in the snap, said: 'I was reading the Banner outside Cristiano Ronaldo's hotel CR7 on Madeira last week, when I thought this could double up as good publicity for the walking football group.

'We have quite a healthy group of players now regularly meeting at the



Auchrannie. The next block of six sessions starts on Thursday February 23 at 7pm and anybody interest-

ed would be most welcome. Preferably aimed at the 50-plus age group, why not come and see what it's like.'

# Arran double gives ladies a narrow win

## Arran Ladies 2

### Rottenrow Bluesox 2s 1

Arran Ladies Hockey Club stay top of the league after a hard-fought win over the Rottenrow Bluesox 2s in Glasgow last Saturday.

The visitors travelled with 13 players, coach Phil Adams and umpire Pauline Reid to Glasgow Green on Saturday to play Rottenrow Bluesox 2s at the National Hockey Stadium. With the weather overcast and wintry cold, the ladies were pleased to see the

water-based pitch had not frozen.

From the very first whistle, Arran applied attacking pressure to the opposition, with the forwards having some fantastic attempts on goal, supported by passes from their midfielders.

Rottenrow had set up a very defensive team, anticipating Arran's strong attacking force.

Arran's constant pressure finally paid off, 24 minutes into the game, when Jenny Stark in right midfield made

a strong and accurate pass to Anne Watts at the top of the attacking 'D'. Anne then executed a skilful reverse stick sweep to score the first goal of the game.

With one minute left in the first half, Rottenrow made a running break after clearing the ball out of their defensive zone, leaving the full Arran team up high and giving Rottenrow the advantage of a direct two on one against Arran's goalkeeper.

The opponents' first



The Arran players tightly marked their opponents.



Elyse Aitken was nominated dame of the game.



Anne Watts was awarded man of the match.

goal shot was blocked by Arran's goalkeeper, Ali Hollingworth, but the second attacker caught the ball on the rebound and finished with an equalising goal, coming in from the goalkeeper's blind side.

At the half-time chat, coach Phil Adams encouraged the team to make passes faster and stronger and to be more vocal. Rottenrow came out in high spirits, having just equalised, and play was equally spread

across the pitch with both teams applying pressure in attack to score and the defence players blocking attempts on goal.

Lorraine Hewie intercepted a Rottenrow defensive clearance and finished with an on-target sweep at goal, putting Arran in the lead. The 2-1 score to Arran stayed the same to the end of the match even though many attempts were made from both sides.

Anne Watts, Arran's team

captain for the game, was awarded man of the match by the opposition and Arran Ladies voted their left back defender, Elyse Aitken, as their dame of the game for her excellent defensive performance on the pitch.

The Arran Ladies are playing the return home match against Rottenrow Bluesox 2s at the Ormidale Astro-turf today (Saturday) with a 2pm push back time. All supporters are appreciated and warmly welcomed.

## Motorcycle race team to compete at Glorious Goodwood



The TZ350E Yamaha is pictured at the Bob McIntyre Memorial Races at East Fortune last year where Rich Tambourine took fourth place.

Image by Lenny Hartley/Jingly Jangly Images.

Local motorcycle road race team Jingly Jangly Images Racing has been invited to compete in the prestigious Hailwood Trophy Race at the famous Goodwood Circuit in Surrey.

Only 30 teams from Europe have been invited and team owner, Brodick's Lenny Hartley, said that he was thrilled to receive the invite to what is one of the most prestigious races in Europe over some of the top classic teams in the UK.

'It's a real boost that our small island-based team has been invited to compete and some of the big boys have not,' Lenny said.

This is the second year of the Hailwood Trophy for grand prix racing machines at Goodwood and the winner of the inaugural event last year was Dalbeattie's Ian Simpson riding a Yamaha TZ350E engined machine with the

frame, tank and other components made by his father Bill Simpson. That machine is, in effect, a replica of the bike that Lenny will be providing for the race. Bill made a handful of the bikes in the late 1970s and early 1980s and with the rising popularity of classic races has built more than 30 modern versions, selling them to customers worldwide over the past few years.

Lenny added: 'My Bill Simpson TZ350E Yamaha was raced by Bill to success in Scotland, England and at the Isle of Man TT in the early 1980s. It is the only known original Bill Simpson TZ still racing.'

'The rider will be Mike Hawthorne from England who has had a very successful career and won multiple championships in England and Europe. The high point of his career so far was win-

ning the famous Daytona Classic Race in Florida USA.'

The Goodwood meeting will be held on March 18 and 19 and is a mixed meeting with F1 cars and vintage Bentleys among others taking to the track over the weekend.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available if anybody is interested, however small, to assist with the considerable costs of racing a classic two-stroke. Team Jingly Jangly Images Racing can be contacted at [Info@jinglyJangly.com](mailto:Info@jinglyJangly.com) and, in return for sponsorship, they will promote your business with stickers on the fairing and distribute promotional materials in the Home Counties and elsewhere where the team is competing such as races and shows in Scotland, England and Belgium.

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# Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

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## Charlie cleans up at Brodick Bowling Club

Members of Brodick Bowling Club and their guests enjoyed their annual dinner and presentation of prizes in the warm and welcoming surroundings of Brodick golf clubhouse last Friday.

Prize-winners for the 2016 season were presented with their trophies at the conclusion of an excellent meal and a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all. The full results of the prize-winners are as fol-

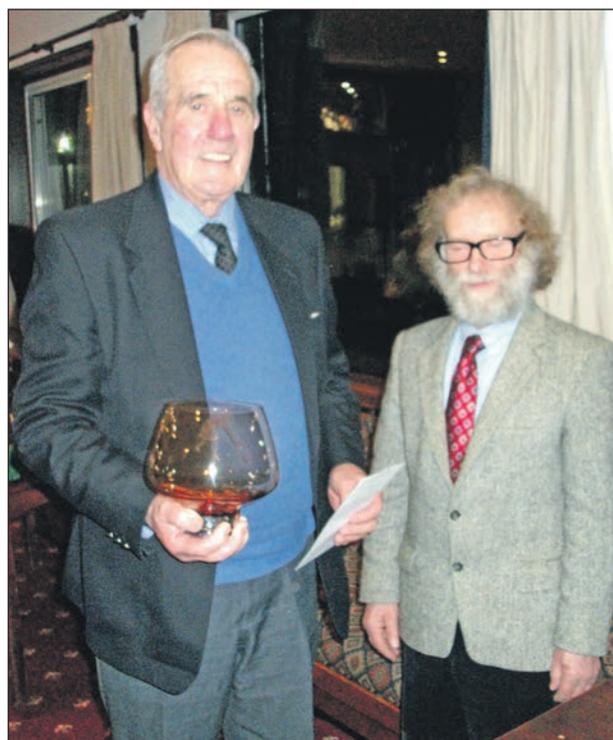
lows: ladies singles champion, Kate Nichols; gents singles champion, Charlie Weir; pairs winners, Charlie Weir and Kate Nichols; triples winners, John McConnachie, John Lauder and Lynne McVicar; Stewart Cup for highest total scores in the season, Charlie Weir; President's Trophy, Iain Hendry; George Watson Trophy, John McConnachie and Andy McCrindle; Arran Bowling Federation singles champion, Charlie Weir.



The two singles champions, Kate Nichols and Charlie Weir, also won the pairs competition trophy, which they received from Ian Leader.



John McConnachie and Andy McCrindle with the George Watson Trophy.



Trophy winners at Brodick Bowling Club's annual dinner and presentation of prizes were, left to right, Andy McCrindle, John McConnachie, Iain Hendry, Kate Nichols, Charlie Weir and John Lauder. Lynne McVicar was not present.

Iain Hendry won the President's Trophy.

## Rugby club pull out of BT league

Arran RFC have been forced to pull out of the BT West Division 3 league.

A shortage of players led to the decision ahead of the home game against Strathaven last weekend. The club have no plans to rejoin the league next season but hope to play friendly fixtures and organise a tour as they rebuild for the future.

Their last game was a 29-14 defeat to Bishopston at Ormidale Park last month.

Arran started the match with a squad of 17 and finished with just 12 on the pitch. 'Facing such an impossible situation, we had no choice - it was made for us. It's a long season and it just managed to get the better of us,' a club spokesman said.

Moving forward, the club will be open to friendly games while they rebuild and plan to hopefully make a start to some junior rugby again.

The club hope to stage the annual rugby sevens on Easter Saturday, which this year falls on April 15, but details have still to be finalised.

'Thanks for all the support this season and we hope to see you all at the sevens on the April 15,' the spokesman added.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.