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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY, 2017

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Green cash boost for eco projects

REPORT

by **HUGH BOAG**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Two environmental projects on Arran are this week celebrating a major funding boost.

Eco Savvy and Arran Community Land Initiative (ACLI) have both been awarded more than £115,000 of funding after their applications to the government's Climate Challenge Fund were successful.

They have secured 12 months' cash, starting in April, which will not only help Arran communities tackle climate change, it will also provide new jobs on the island.

Eco Savvy has been awarded £63,436 to create an island-wide network of reuse and up-cycling sites which will encourage local communities to come together to tackle waste and build a more sustainable future.

These micro hubs will be focal points for waste reduction – promoting up-cycling through skills sharing, reuse through swap shops and delivering educational events. Each hub will be located in an existing community space and by collaborating with established

groups, with the aim is that no-one on Arran will ever be more than four miles from an Eco Savvy hub.

The group's Barbara I'Anson said: 'We feel very privileged to have been awarded this funding, the first ever for Eco Savvy. Having a micro hub in each village should bring many benefits to village communities, as well as tackling climate change.'

'This is a great opportunity for Arran to make a lasting and significant carbon reduction and become a more sustainable island. We are looking forward to working with Arran Community Land and establishing Eco Savvy and hope everyone on Arran will join in and support these exciting projects.'

Arran Community Land will receive £52,430 for its Arran Fabulous Community Food project which aims to extend the use of the community land in Whiting Bay, greatly increasing the amount of food grown on Arran and to make this available for local consumption. There will be a new orchard, soft fruit plantation and heritage potatoes grown, as well as workshops and educational events to support and en-



Shiskine Primary pupils get behind Heather Beeton who won the annual Burns primary schools drawing and painting competition. P5 pupil Heather is seen here being presented with her prize by Lamlash Burns Club secretary Andrew Martin at the school. Full story and pictures on pages 6 and 7.

01_B08frontpage01

courage people to grow and cook locally produced food.

This food production will help to reduce the carbon footprint of food eaten by local people, give them local food options, encourage more local growing of food in the community, and enhance carbon reduction on Arran.

Pippa Downing of the ACLI said: 'I am delight-

ed the initiative has gained another year of funding to build on the tremendous work done this year to promote local food growing. The new project will add an orchard, soft fruit and potatoes cultivation to the site and provide a local food supply for years to come.'

This money forms part of almost £10m of funding to tackle climate

change across Scotland. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon made the announcement on Monday, saying: 'Scotland is making huge progress in delivering our climate change ambitions, but there is still much to achieve and the role of behaviour change and community action is crucial.'

'The Climate Challenge

INSIDE TODAY

Port decision expected soon

A decision will be made early next month on the preferred port for the Ardrossan ferry, transport and islands minister Humza Yousaf has told *The Banner*. Visiting Arran he said he was in the 'final straight' of the decision-making process and would make an announcement in early March.

It came as new claims were made today (Friday) that moving the ferry to Troon could delay the introduction of a new £48.5 million vessel on the route by up to a year, while port facilities are completed at the South Ayrshire port.

But Troon have not given up the fight yet and will be back on the island next week to listen to islanders feedback on their proposals.

For all the latest news on the port debate, turn to pages 4 and 5.

Poison plant found on beach

Poisonous Hemlock has been found on an Arran beach. Now parents and dog owners are being warned to look out for the toxic plant being washed up on the shore.

North Ayrshire Council has confirmed that Hemlock water dropwort, also known as poisonous parsnip, has been swept up onto Lamlash beach.

Full story page 2.

Continued on page 2



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Arran businesses breathe a sigh of relief after rates cap

Business owners on Arran and throughout Scotland are celebrating the announcement of a 12.5 per cent business rates cap for one year for the hospitality and licensed trade.

The Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA), the British Hospitality Association and the Scottish Licensed Trade Association have cam-

paigned heavily over the past few months to bring about a reversal in the proposal to increase business rates.

The proposed rates increase would have seen many businesses on the island facing serious financial challenges post-April with the threat of closures and the resultant loss of jobs.

The business rates cap, announced by finance minister Derek Mackay on Tuesday, will allow the Barclay Review group to report on its findings, and for a more equitable process for rates evaluation to be agreed and applied.

A spokesman for the STA said: 'We very much welcome the announcement and look forward to continuing our dialogue with Scottish Government, its agencies and tourism businesses over the coming weeks.'

'This is hugely encouraging news and will undoubtedly offer tourism businesses confidence to continue to deliver these quality, authentic experiences for visitors during what is set to be a busy year for our industry.'

Gift shop to close

The popular Friday's Child gift shop at Home Farm in Brodick has made an unexpected announcement that it is to close within weeks.

A closing down sale is already under way with heavily discounted goods available for bargain hunters.

Shop owner Sheila Barr, who has a young daughter Lucy, said in a Facebook announcement: 'We'd like to thank all our customers, staff and friends for their love and support over the past six years. We are moving on to new ventures and making way for brand new things at Home Farm.'

Hemlock warning after Lamlash find

Parents and dog owners on Arran are being warned to look out for a toxic plant being washed up on beaches.

North Ayrshire Council has confirmed that hemlock water dropwort, also known as poisonous parsnip, has been swept up on Lamlash beach and may be found on other beaches on the island, with an unconfirmed find on Kilpatrick beach.

Hemlock water dropwort is poisonous to both humans and animals. The plant is usually found in shallow waters and is most toxic in late winter and early spring.

A North Ayrshire Council spokeswoman said: 'Following our warning to dog walkers and parents of hemlock washing up on some of



Hemlock has washed up on local beaches and is poisonous for humans and animals.

our shores, we were advised that the plant had been spotted on Lamlash beach. Our Streetscene team went to investigate and found three pieces of the plant, which were collected and disposed of. No further reports have been made.

'Should any members of the public be concerned about any hazardous vegetation being washed up we strongly advise they contact us on 01294 310000 with details on the item and its location.'

Green cash boost for eco projects

Continued from page one Fund supports community projects that inspire people to care about climate change, consider what it might mean to them in terms of their everyday lives and enable them to take action.'

Arran's MSP, Kenneth Gibson, added: 'Eco Savvy and Arran Community Land Initiative are two excellent examples of this approach and I am delighted by their awards.'

'They work with people

spanning the whole community, from school children to elderly residents. Both organisations will make a real difference to Arran.'

'Scotland is ambitious for a circular economy, where we make things last for longer. This goes hand-in-hand with our world-leading commitments to tackling climate change internationally, nationally and locally.'

If you would like more information on the two projects, contact Eco Savvy at arran.ecosavvy@gmail.com or Arran Community Land at info@arranland.org.



Jenny MacDonald talks to local schoolchildren about growing at the joint Big Green Footprint event last autumn.

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Strictly Sarah

An Arran woman is putting on her dancing shoes for charity at a glittering event in Glasgow.

Sarah Kelso has been invited by the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice to take part in its (A Little Less) Strictly Come Dancing to support the 'Brick By Brick' appeal to build a new hospice in Glasgow.

This is the hospice's flagship fundraising event of the year.

It will take place on Saturday March 11 at a black tie gala dinner at the Hilton Hotel, Glasgow, where Sarah and five other 'amateurs' from the world of business in Scotland have been paired with professional dancers and will compete for the glitterball trophy.

Originally from Shiskine, Sarah, who now lives in Glasgow and works for Scottish Enterprise, will be dancing the salsa with Graham Fox, an ex-UK West Coast Swing Champion.

This is the event's eighth year and it is hosted by Carol Smillie and Bryan Burnett. The BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing's* Giovanni Pernice and his professional partner Luba Mushtuk will perform and will also be part of the judging panel.

All of the couples are fundraising and the amount of money they each generate will go towards the scores on the night. So far Sarah has raised more than £3,000.

She told the *Banner*:



Sarah and Graham get in some practice in at the Scottish Enterprise offices in Glasgow.

'The support I've received from colleagues, friends and family has been overwhelming and I'm delighted to have five tables of supporters coming along on the night to cheer me on - many coming from Arran.'

The Kinloch Hotel is

also holding a mackerel lottery to support Sarah's fundraising tomorrow (Sunday) at 5pm in the public bar.

Anyone who wishes to sponsor Sarah should visit www.justgiving.com/StrictlySarah.

Douglas Hotel lifts inaugural award

The Douglas Hotel has been named independent hotel of the year at the inaugural Prestige Hotel Awards.

The gala final saw nearly 500 guests from the breadth of the Scottish hotel industry come together to celebrate their fellow hospitality professionals at the Hilton in Glasgow last Sunday.

From Glasgow and Edinburgh, over the sea to Arran and as far as Aberdeen, the Prestige Hotel Awards independent judging panel toured the country to perform extensive and anonymous reviews of 80 hotels. Rooms were booked, cocktails sampled, service scrutinised and restaurant offerings put to the test.

Tables jumped to their feet in celebration as the first of the award-winners were announced with independent

hotel of the year going to the Douglas Hotel beating the East Haugh House Hotel in Pitlochry into second place.

Warren Paul, of award organisers Paramount Creative, expressed his appreciation

at the success of the inaugural awards. 'We have a fantastic platform from which to mould and grow Prestige Hotel Awards into a successful annual event. We're looking forward to next year.'

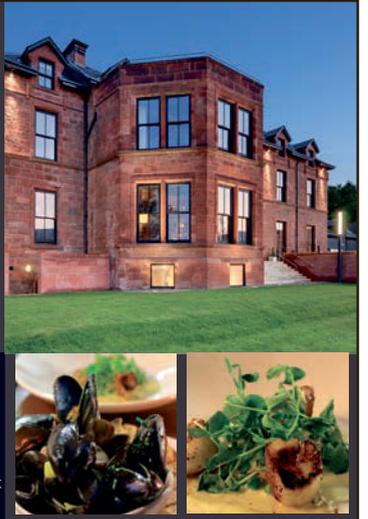
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Transport minister pledges port decision next month

'The buck stops with me'

A decision will be made by early March on the primary port for the Arran ferry, islands and transport minister Humza Yousaf has confirmed to the *Banner*.

The minister was on Arran last Friday to hear the final views of business and community representatives on the island. And he was given the loud and clear message that there is almost unanimous backing on the island for Ardrossan to be kept as the primary port.

He was met as he arrived at the Douglas Hotel and handed two petitions calling for the ferry route to be retained at Ardrossan. One petition raised more than 1,200 signatures from customers at the main Brodick Co-op in just three weeks.

Two young members of

staff from the mainland, Katie Beardsworth from Saltcoats, and Rowan McNairn from Ardrossan, came across to Brodick especially for the petition handover.

Mr Yousaf was also given an online petition of 2,555 signatures raised by T J Lambie of Brodick in support of Ardrossan since last October.

Final assessment

The minister spent several minutes with the petitioners and told them all views would be considered in his final assessment.

At the private meeting which followed with the minister, the Arran position was represented by the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee, Arran Community Council, VisitArran, Arran CVS and the Arran Eco-

nomic Group.

The meeting focused on three specific areas: reliability, connectivity and business impact. Based on this, the conclusion of the Arran representatives was that Ardrossan was the only credible option.

Afterwards, the chairman of the Arran Economic Group, Tom Tracey, who had outlined the island's position, said: 'On behalf of the group, I would like to thank the minister for his candour and his willingness to listen and test arguments. Also, I appreciated his statement that no decisions had been made regarding the route and would not be made until all the data was in.'

'We did not discuss the economic and social impact on Ardrossan if Troon was



Transport minister Humza Yousaf meets petitioners outside the Douglas Hotel.

01_A08humza01

chosen. We appreciate this has to be a serious consideration but can best be addressed by the Ardrossan community.'

Mr Yousaf told the *Banner*: 'It was made very clear

to me that the business and community representatives on the island see Ardrossan as their preferred port.

'We are in the final stages of decision-making progress and that is why I want-

ed to come back to Arran to hear the island views. In situations like this, one side is always going to be happier than the other, but the decision in mine and mine alone and the buck stops with me.'



The minister listens to the arguments of T J Lambie. 01_A08humza02



Ellen McMaster discusses the petition backing Ardrossan with Mr Yousaf.

01_A08humza03

Views sought on Troon option

The company behind a bid to take Arran's ferry service to the port of Troon is returning to the island to hear more local feedback on its proposals.

ABP is holding a drop-in session for local people at Brodick Hall on Monday February 27 between 7pm and 9pm. A second drop-in session is to be held at Shiskine Golf Club, Blackwaterfoot, on Tuesday 28 February between 7pm and 9pm.

A previous round of drop-in sessions proved popular

with islanders, who valued the ability to quiz Troon port management about the details of ABP's proposals for the Arran service. ABP has also written to all households on Arran with full details of its proposals.

The sessions are also an opportunity for ABP to explain further about proposals for free electric bus services to the station from the new £8m ferry terminal. ABP plans to construct to host the ferry at Troon.

Stuart Cresswell, manager of ABP's ports of Troon and

Ayr, said: 'A lot of misinformation has been put out around this proposal, which makes it very hard for people on the island to get a clear sight of the facts. We believe our proposal has genuine merit for local people and would have a beneficial impact on their quality of life. It has become clear the only way to discuss this without spin is to talk it over face to face.'

'That's why the team from Troon will be on hand to discuss whatever aspect of our proposal local people want to know more about. And there's plenty to discuss, whether that's reliability, onward connections, purpose-built facilities, charity donations, electric bus links or our record of investment in our facilities. I look forward to seeing people there.'

For those who can't make the dates, there's always the option to email a question to choosetroon@abports.co.uk.

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Troon move could delay new ferry by 12 months

A decision to shift the Arran ferry service from Ardrossan to Troon could delay the introduction of a new, £48.5 million vessel on the route by up to a year, it has been claimed.

The new ferry is scheduled to be introduced on the route in autumn 2018 but Ardrossan harbour owner Peel Ports has suggested the planning and construction timetable for the proposed facilities at Troon could delay completion until autumn 2019, leaving a 12-month gap.

Doug Coleman, Peel Ports' project director for Ardrossan harbour, explained: 'The Arran ferry

has sailed from Ardrossan for 180 years, so we have a full range of existing facilities, including a passenger terminal, adjacent railway station and car parking, which will all be upgraded as part of a £15 million investment programme if the minister's decision goes our way.

'It will be an intensive project to construct the modern passenger and marine infrastructure necessary to accommodate the new ferry, with very tight deadlines, but if our bid is successful, we'll definitely be ready to welcome the new ferry by the third quarter of 2018.'

However, Mr Coleman said: 'Troon harbour currently lacks suitable passenger facilities, with no passenger access system to disembark travellers, no terminal building and no car parking.

'Not only has their fendering system been condemned by their own engineers and requires to be replaced, it's also highly questionable whether their linkspan would be suitable for use with the new ferry, given its bulbous bow design.

'And what many people seem to have overlooked is that ABP's proposed design is to build out over the

water and erect their terminal building on piles driven into the seabed.

'That design simply cannot be started before a wide range of statutory environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are carried out to measure the likely impact of pollution and disturbance on sealife, whales and dolphins, molluscs, etc. The impact on the local roads network would also be considerable, with up to 500,000 vehicle movements through Troon every year, so a full traffic impact assessment would be required to assess traffic volumes, noise and air quality, which will also affect the delivery programme.

'Even with the most co-operative planning officials imaginable, and with no objections being lodged,



Doug Coleman of Peel Ports pictured last year in Brodick. 01_A08new01

EIAs normally require to be carried out over four full seasons, meaning you are realistically looking at the Troon construction programme not being able to start until second quarter of 2018 and finishing, even at an optimistic estimate, by the second or third quarter of 2019, leaving a gap of up to a year.'

Peel Ports has committed to a multi-million-pound investment in marine and

access works at Ardrossan if it wins the contract, but if the decision goes against it, that investment will not proceed, and Peel would be obliged to redevelop Ardrossan for other purposes. It insists this would mean the new ferry wouldn't be able to dock at Ardrossan while islanders, visitors and commercial traffic await the completion of Troon's planning and construction programme.

Ferry fares scheme boosts tourism

The Arran economy is reaping significant benefits from a Scottish Government scheme to reduce ferry fares, according to a new study.

The introduction of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) in October 2014 saw ferry fares on the Ardrossan-Brodick and Claonaig-Lochranza routes fall by as much as 55 per cent for passengers and 65 per cent for cars.

Key findings

The report was carried out over a two-year period, and involved engagement with ferry users, local households, businesses and hauliers. The key findings in the report include:

- Pedestrian and car carryings have risen significantly on both the Ardrossan-Brodick (pedestrians up 15 per cent, cars up 51 per cent) and Claonaig-Lochranza (pedestrians up 42 per cent, cars up 60 per cent) routes since the introduction of RET fares.
- 11 per cent of visitors questioned on

the Ardrossan-Brodick route and 17 per cent on the Claonaig-Lochranza said their journey had been wholly prompted by RET fares.

- Businesses report that the introduction of RET has significantly extended the tourist season on Arran.
- Local hotels and guesthouses have reported rises in occupancy, while visitor attractions have also seen increased footfall.
- The introduction of RET to Arran and neighbouring islands and peninsulas has enhanced the island/peninsula-hopping tourism market.

Speaking during a visit to Arran, the minister for transport and the islands, Humza Yousaf, said: 'The findings of this new report are very encouraging and show that Road Equivalent Tariff is doing exactly what it was designed to do – increase island tourism and help enhance local island economies.'

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The winning entry that won P5 Shiskine pupil Heather Beeton the top prize.



Above: Rosie Wilkinson, a P4 pupil at Whiting Bay had this charming and imaginative picture selected in the top nine.

Heather takes top prize in Burns drawing

There was a record entry in this year's Lamlash Burns Club annual primary school drawing and painting competition, showing interest in the national bard is alive and well on Arran.

The theme this year was 'a scene from *Tam o' Shanter*' and youngsters from all over the island put their imagination to good use in coming up with a total of 166 weird and wonderful entries.

Club secretary Andrew Martin visited Shiskine Primary School last week to award the winner with her prizes. Receiving a limited edition book and numbered medal, a certificate featuring her painting and the prize money was P5 pupil Heather Beeton who, true to the theme, painted Tam on his horse Meg being chased by a witch. Heather said: 'I thought my talented friend might win it. I never thought it could be me. I'm very pleased.'

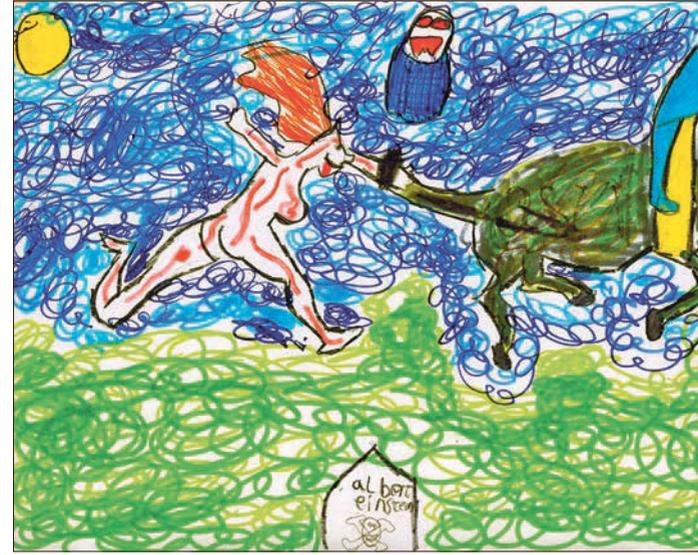
The selection of a winner was a difficult process as the selection panel had to select nine shortlisted finalists from all the entries, which was the biggest since the competition was introduced three years ago.

Mr Martin said: 'We received so many wonderful entries and it was a delight to see that *Tam o' Shanter* captured the imagination of the children as can be seen by Heather's vivid painting. Through our drawing competition and the poetry competition, which will be held at the community theatre on Wednesday March 29, we hope to keep the immortal memory alive and, if the amount of participation is anything to go by, interest in our national bard is certainly alive and well.'

Shiskine pupils celebrated the achievement with Heather, pleased that their school produced the winning entry. The prize was won by Lori Prescott of Whiting Bay Primary in 2015 and by Isla Agnew of Brodick Primary last year.



Andrew Martin presents Heather Beeton with her prizes along with a personalised certificate featuring her painting.



Jake McAllister, a P6 pupil at Lamlash, was joint runner-up with his colourful entry.

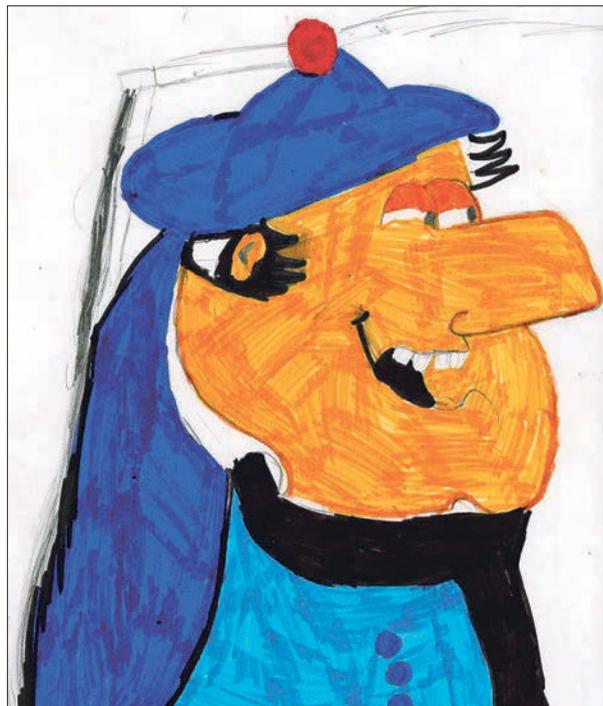


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Top prize drawing contest



P3 Lamlash pupil Ollie Townsend shared the joint runner-up position with a fellow Lamlash pupil.



Isla Agnew, a P6 Corrie pupil, drew the devil in the auld kirk.



P7 Whiting Bay pupil Alice Lockhart included a stanza from the poem.



Above: Aidan Hewie, a Brodick P5 pupil, was shortlisted with a colourful picture of Tam.

Left: A detailed entry from P5 Lamlash pupil Ross Currie, which was done entirely in pencil.

Right: P6 Shiskine pupil Abby Stewart had her detailed entry shortlisted.



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THE ARRAN BANNER

The greening of Arran

If one Arran environmental project had received funding from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund this week it would have been great. For two to get more than £115,000 for their projects is tremendous.

And the fact they were the only projects to get funding in North Ayrshire is all the more remarkable.

With £63,000 going to Eco Savvy, it is their first funding ever and means the groundwork that has been put in place since the little green man was launched two years ago can, at last, come to fruition.

Of course, Eco Savvy from his home in Whiting Bay has already been busy, but now he plans to go island wide.

The plan is to create a micro hub in each village where reuse and up-cycling of items will be developed and encouraged. There is an idiom that one man's junk is another man's treasure – and that is the ethos of this project.

And the £52,000 being given to the Arran Community Land Initiative (ACLI) could revolutionise the use of locally-grown produce on the island. It would also be great to see the re-introduction of heritage potatoes on the island and see the likes of Arran Pilot and Arran Banner potatoes widely on sale again. Fruit will also be grown in a new orchard on the hills above Whiting Bay.

All of which means exciting times ahead for these green island projects, with the likelihood of a few jobs as well.

Of course, there is a broader picture than just a boost to the community. The Climate Challenge Fund supports community projects that inspire people to care about the problem of climate change, consider what it might mean to them in terms of their everyday lives and enable them to take action.

With Eco Savvy and the ACLI, we are in safe hands on Arran. Let's hope everyone on the island will join in and get behind these exciting projects.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Who among the gods is like You, O Lord? Who is like You – majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?' (Exodus 15:11)

press policy

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Letters to the Editor



Quite disgraceful

Sir,
I was shocked at the scare-mongering tone of Councillor McNamara's message in last week's *Banner* (February 18) concerning the care of the elderly on the island should the ferry relocate to Troon. The welfare of the elderly, be it in care or in their own home, is of paramount importance and is not necessarily best served by relying on mainland staff.

It is my understanding that there were a number of well-qualified care assistants resident on the island who were released from their posts before being replaced by workers from the mainland. Why? Surely the use and expense of mainland workers should just be a short-term, stop-gap solution while more islanders are recruited and trained.

What happens at present when the ferry doesn't sail from Ardrossan? The elderly must be left without sufficient care. If mainland workers are being used, it is more important than ever that the island has a reliable ferry that can dock whatever the weather, at whichever mainland port the experts decide to be the best.

To threaten a reduction of residential places on the island, which are at a lower level than they were in 2011, together with the possible shipping off the island of the vulnerable should the ferry move to Troon, is quite disgraceful.

Yours,
Fran Hadden,
Whiting Bay.

Not adding up

Sir,
According to Arran Economic Group, there are 95 totally empty houses on Arran (see the *Banner* of Feb-

ruary 11). Where they are located should be made public. Every village on Arran has empty second homes leading to a situation which is disgraceful. Young people brought up here on Arran would like to bring their young families back to live here. The minimum rental in the winter for any house to let is £600pcm, plus council tax and heating. The average take home wage is £800pcm. Do the sums – it is not possible.

RET plus two ferries sailing – or not sailing, as the case may be – and a new terminal of monstrous proportions must surely equal many more visitors. North Ayrshire Council does not seem to be party to the vision of a future Arran. If all of the public toilets are dispensed with and not replaced – pity the visitors.

Restaurants, hotels and shops need extra staff but where are they going to live? A lot more thought should be considered. Potholes, narrow roads, parking, no toilets, high prices for everything ... I reiterate, high rents and low wages don't add up.

Yours,
Dorothy Harris,
Whiting Bay.

Cycle theft

Sir,
It was nice to read in the *Banner* of February 11, that the police are eventually taking cycle theft seriously.

I had two bikes stolen a year or so ago and, despite reporting the theft, I received no follow-up from local police at all. Nothing. We were lucky, we searched and found both bikes abandoned in the White House Woods, apparently none the worse for wear apart from damaged paintwork, but I subsequently discovered a severe fracture of the carbon frame which rendered

the £2,500 bike useless. If that had been a car or other property, would this case have been treated differently? I would expect so.

This island has always been one of the few places where you could leave your bike outside a cafe and not worry about it, where theft and house thefts were extremely rare. Let's keep it that way.

Yours,
Chris Davis,
Old Pier Cafe,
Lamlash.

Foot failings

Sir,
I have just received the ABP brochure lauding the merits of Troon as a ferry destination. However, and most important for Arran residents, no matter what ABP says, the Troon access for foot passengers is not good.

To say only four minutes by shuttle bus to the rail link is ridiculous and ignores the time to load and unload, not only passengers, but luggage, prams and pets and so on, plus the time to get to and from a bus at either end. It begs many questions – how close to the terminal would the bus stance be? How many buses would be required to transfer a full boat load of foot passengers? What is the actual distance from boat to train? How long would it take to walk?

Having endured the rigours of the new Brodick terminal, the last thing foot passengers need is more inconvenience at the mainland end of the journey.

The Troon set-up is not ideal, and the extravagant claims made by ABP would not provide the Arran residents with a better service in any way, and these residents are the ones being caught up in this ferry

snatching exercise. What ABP cares about is purely business for ABP.

Better the devil we know, hopefully, with a few improvements. Don't fall for it – stay with Ardrossan.

Yours,
Alistair Glen,
Brodick.

Imperfect service

Sir,
Ardrossan with a breakwater is a no brainer. Ardrossan without a breakwater is still the preferred route as the advantages of Troon do not outweigh the disadvantages. Ardrossan wins and those making the decision know this so there is no need to construct a breakwater to win the contract.

I did not sign the Ardrossan/Brodick petition because it is irrelevant. Peel Ports has us over a barrel and signing the petition helps to keep the barrel in place.

A few years ago, I appealed for the construction of a breakwater combined with a wind farm to help offset the cost. I received a reply saying my suggestion would not be considered meantime. Meantime seems to have become never but I still held out hope. What pressure is there on Peel Ports to improve the imperfect service when petitions are being signed for the status quo? If there was a petition pressurising Peel Ports to construct a breakwater, I would sign that. Troon is a distraction. Ardrossan is the reality but surely we can press for the obvious improvement that is required.

Yours,
Kerr Robertson,
Brodick.

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Glencloy embankment upgrade under way

A small area near the start of the Fisherman's Walk in Brodick has been cordoned off while contractors upgrade a 50-metre section of embankment at Glencloy Water.

The work, which has been sub-contracted to Murchie Sand and Gravel by North Ayrshire Council, started earlier this month with the removal of brush and immature trees along the em-

bankment. Large old wooden stobs, which previously secured the embankment, have eroded away leaving it unprotected and vulnerable to erosion on a bend in the river.

Rock armour, which has already been deposited on the site behind the play park near Brodick beach, will be used for the work to prevent the small pathway leading to Fisherman's Walk from be-



Eroded stobs show the amount of erosion that has taken place on the bed of the river. 01_B06armour01

ing washed away over time.

A diversion taking pedestrians off the path and over the beach leads walkers to the small bridge at the start of Fisherman's Walk.

A council spokesman said:

'As part of our ongoing improvement and maintenance works we are currently installing rock armour on a stretch of the embankment of the Glencloy Water. This will replace the old wooden

stobs and we are confident the rock armour will provide more resilient protection and reduce the threat of erosion. The work is scheduled to be complete at the end of this month.'



Signs indicate the diversion at the location of the embankment upgrading. 01_B06armour02

Residents urged to share their views on planning

Arran residents are being urged to have their say on helping shape key planning issues, including sites and locations where there could be potential new development.

North Ayrshire Council has published its Main Issues Report (MIR) which sets out options for change on key areas of planning policy and it is intended to generate discussions on local planning

issues, such as local affordable housing sites.

A consultation event is being held on Monday February 27 from 11am to 4pm in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, where the public will have the chance to air their views.

The consultation responses will help the council prepare a Proposed Local Development Plan, which will address the matters in-

cluded in the Main Issues Report. The final plan is due to be published in December 2017.

Long term vision

Councillor Alex Gallagher, cabinet member for economy, said: 'Our Local Development Plan sets out a long-term vision for growth – it will identify land and infrastructure for new homes and for businesses to locate and expand. I would encourage everyone to get

involved by completing the online survey and attending the consultation events to help shape North Ayrshire's future.'

The MIR can be found on the council's website, visit www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/MIR

Local communities and businesses are being encouraged to have their say by completing the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NACMIR>

MSP praise for Banner

An MSP has praised *The Arran Banner* for highlighting the important issue of house shortages on the island.

West of Scotland Conservative MSP Jamie Greene has underlined the need for a new housing strategy on Arran, following reports that there is currently a lack of affordable housing for the island community.

Two weeks ago *The Banner* highlighted that at least 200 affordable homes would be needed to accommodate the growing workforce required for Arran's business sector.

Mr Greene commented: 'A major study commissioned last year showed that the house-to-price earnings on Arran are 8:2, with only London being higher on 10:4. At this rate we are risking people being priced out of houses in their own community. We need to see a new housing strategy that is right for the island community.'

'What is essential is that we build new houses in a consensual manner which re-balances the market but is sympathetic to the surroundings. Naturally, increases in housing must be matched with sufficient local services such as school places, GPs and so on – so a well-structured strategy needs to be in place.'

Community council meet

The next meeting of Arran Community Council will take place on Tuesday February 28 at 6pm in the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick.

At last month's follow-up meeting to the AGM, various new roles were created in a bid by new chairman Bill Calderwood to spread the workload among the council members.

The meeting will receive progress reports on various matters under consideration. All meetings are open to all residents to come along.

Club draw

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 club January draw were: 1st prize Graham Gillespie, 2nd prize Jane Nichol.

Missing Brodick cat

A plea has been made for any sightings of Dougie, a black male cat, who went missing from Douglas Row in Brodick on Monday February 13.

If anyone knows anything about his whereabouts they can telephone 303738.



Dougie's owners are appealing for help.



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Arran youngsters make bid for youth parliament seats



Leigh Boyd.

Two Arran youngsters are bidding to become members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP).

Eilidh Macpherson and Leigh Boyd face an election fight with two other girls – Cadely Paton from Dalry and Denisa Laura from Ardrossan – for the two Cunninghame North seats. The winning candidates will represent the area in the SYP for two years from June 2017.

A profile on each hopeful is available to view on the SYP website, where you can read their reasons for wanting to become a MSYP, what issues they

care about the most and why you should give them your vote.

Over the coming weeks, each candidate will begin their campaign to win the vote of their peers, ahead of the public vote opening on March 3 until March 17. Young people aged 12 to 25 on Arran will be able to vote for the island candidates using their Young Scot card or an allocated temporary number.

The results will then be announced by North Ayrshire's Returning Officer, Elma Murray, at St Matthew's Academy on Friday March 17.

The Scottish Youth Parliament is the democratically elected voice of Scotland's young people. It represents young people all over Scotland and gives them a national platform to voice their issues, turn them into positive actions, and influence Scotland's decision makers.

In their role as an MSYP, the successful candidates will take part in local youth forums, consult with their peers on a range of issues as well as lobby senior politicians on the things that matter the most to young people in their constituency.

Mrs Murray, said: 'I am

delighted that these young people have taken an interest in championing the voice of their peers by becoming an MSYP for North Ayrshire. With so many great candidates fighting for the four seats, I'm sure our young people will have a tough decision selecting their winner.

'I wish them great success during their campaigns and I look forward to announcing North Ayrshire's new MSYPs in March.'

Find out more about each candidate by searching Cunninghame North on the SYP website: www.syp.org.uk/stand4syp



Eilidh Macpherson.

Lamlash Guild coffee morning supports Erskine



The impressive baking stall. 01_B08guild01

The Lamlash Guild held their annual coffee morning in aid of the Erskine charity in the church hall last Wednesday. Guild members provided an array of tempting home baking which those attending enjoyed with tea and coffee. There was also a large book stall and a jewellery stall.

Supporters gathered at the tables and enjoyed their tea and cake and conversation, giving the coffee morning a pleasant social atmosphere while also raising money for a worthwhile cause.



Supporters share a laugh at the coffee morning. 01_B08guild04

Spring flowers at SWI

Members of Corrie and Sannox SWI enjoyed yet another super flower arranging demonstration by their own Vicki.

This time, we learned how to wire a small spring arrangement using fresh greenery, gypso and hyacinth florets. The results were stunning.

Morag Munro won the Pennies For Friendship competition with her beautiful small vase.

Voting papers were distributed, to be returned at our AGM on March 9 when, after a bring-and-buy sale, it is hoped to have another beetle drive.

Forum holds winter lunch

Thirty-five older people came together for the Arran Elderly Forum annual winter lunch, held at Brodick Golf Club on February 8, thanks to a small grant.

Chairwoman Helen Kerr said: 'We are most grateful to Age Scotland for giving the forum £400 which allowed us to subsidise a most enjoyable lunch and a time of socialising together.'

Forum meetings are held in the Ormidale Pavilion on the third Wednesday of each month at 10.40am for an 11am start.



A visitor inspects some of the intricate jewellery for sale. 01_B08guild02



Visitors enjoy the home baking. 01_B08guild03



Euan Mitchell looks over the barley fields which are used by the distillery at Lochranza. 01_A08distillery07



Projects manager Gordon Cruickshank explains the work in the quarry. 01_A08distillery03



The ground is cleared for the bonded warehouses which will be on the lowest part of the site. 01_A08distillery10



The site of the car park with the construction site in the background. 01_A08distillery08



James MacTaggart cuts the first sod. 01_A08distillery02



On site are BHC Ltd owner Brian Hewitt, left, Richard MacTaggart and Euan Mitchell from the distillery

The dawn of a Construction work under

Words and pictures by
HUGH BOAG

On the windswept hills at the south end of Arran a new vision is rising on the site of the last legal distillery, which closed there 180 years ago.

The new £10 million Isle of Arran distillery may not look much yet, but in a few short months all that will have changed.

The distillery will produce a heavily peated malt whisky, in contrast to the present Lochranza whisky, but in keeping with the traditions of the stills at the south end of the island in the 18th and 19th century.

Contractors BHC Ltd have been on site since February 6 and work is progressing well on the first

phase of the distillery development. The 26-week contract will see the road infrastructure for the site put in place and the construction of the first three of six bonded warehouses, each of 1,000 square metres. The work will create 25 to 30 construction jobs.

Overlooking

The warehouses are being built on the lowest part of the site which overlooks Cleat's Shore, about halfway between Lagg and former Bennecarrigan Free Church.

Project manager Gordon Cruickshank said they had been pleased at the ground conditions on site.

He said: 'You can do all the tests there are, but un-



The site overlooks the former Bennecarrigan Free Church. 01_A08distillery13



Diggers at work on the site.



Richard Neilson of Quantum Solutions, James MacTaggart and Chris Benn from Denham Benn. 01_A08distillery01



Construction manager Craig Moffat on the site. 01_A08distillery09



A digger at work in the quarry. 01_A08distillery04



The visitors on the site of the new visitor centre. 01_A08distillery05

new distillery

way at Lagg site

until you put a spade into the ground you don't really know what you will find.'

The Carnwath firm, which specialise in structural steel installation, and works all over the UK and Europe, has already made steady progress in clearing the area.

The main feature of the sprawling land is an old stone quarry. In clearing it, the contractors hope to use dug-out stone for road bedding.

Local contractor Murchie Sand and Gravel is providing all of the plant hire for the first phase of the work. The second phase, which involves the building of the distillery, visitor centre and car park, is still in negotiation.

As reported in last week's *Banner* distillery boss Euan Mitchell and master distiller James MacTaggart were on site last week to see progress.

Mr Mitchell said: 'It is great to see work finally under way and while it is slightly behind the original schedule, we would hope to see it complete by the end of 2018.'

Delighted

The men were joined by Richard Neilson of quantity surveyors Quantum Solutions, Craig Benn of architects Denham Benn, and BHC Ltd owner Brian Hewitt. Mr Hewitt said: 'We are delighted to be involved in such a prestigious project which will be a huge benefit to the island.'



What will eventually be the main road junction. 01_A08distillery12



01_A08distillery11



This will be the view over the surrounding barley fields and the sea beyond from the visitor centre. 01_A08distillery06



Work goes on at the site of the old stone quarry. 01_A08distillery14

Lamlash biomass survey

An undergraduate student group taking part in a Glasgow University engineering project is appealing to Lamlash residents to engage with a survey looking at tackling domestic heating poverty.

The group is investigating if a biomass district heating scheme would be financially beneficial to households in Lamlash, while also being environmentally sustainable. The online survey, which can be found at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MJB2KGD, is aimed at Lamlash residents at the moment. However, if successful, the team would look at the viability of scaling possibilities across the island.

There are 10 questions to answer in the short survey, mainly dealing with the size of your home, heating types, and the insulation and roof type, and all answers are completely confidential.

Walk round Arran is charity warm up event

An Ayr man who goes on long-distance walks for charity is training for his next event with a four-day walk around Arran.

Diagnosed with spinocerebellar ataxia in 2015, a very rare genetic condition which affects communication between brain and body, Iain McGeachin will circumnavigate Arran with two of his friends. Karen Servadei and Graham Fryatt from Kent, who have already climbed Kilimanjaro with Graham's son, also named Iain, who suffers from Friedreich's ataxia.

Having completed many walks in major cities across Europe and having just recently returned from a 500-mile walk along the Mediterranean coast of Spain, Iain, who walks with the aid of a stick for balance,

is raising funds for Ataxia UK which helps fund the research that aims to find a cure for the neurological condition as well as providing practical support to existing ataxia sufferers.

Iain said: 'Raising funds is not the most important aspect of my walks though. Raising awareness is much more important, which is why I always wear a kilt on these walks. As well as attracting public attention, my very photogenic kilt also attracts quite a lot of media attention.'

Iain's exploits have been reported far and wide, having featured in a daily newspaper in Parma, Italy, and on a television news channel in Lille, France. He has also been featured in Scottish newspapers and recently appeared on STV.



Iain McGeachin wears his kilt as he walks in London at an Ataxia event.

The four-day walk around Arran, starting on Friday April 21, will be a precursor to his next walk which will either be across Canada which, at 3,900 miles,

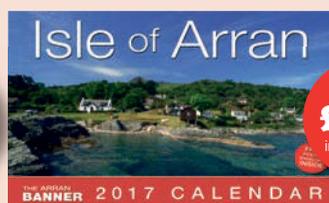
completely dwarfs his last walk through Spain or around Ireland, still over 1,000 miles but which can be done in much more manageable daily stints of just

eight to 15 miles. If you would like to keep up to date with Iain's walking exploits, his website can be found at www.kiltedwalker.com.

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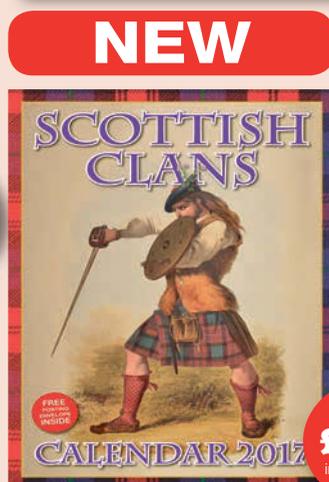
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Students get dug in at horticultural course

Arran's horticultural rural skills course has started and already students are rolling up their sleeves and preparing flower and vegetable beds ready for the coming season at the Community Land Initiative in

Whiting Bay. Cold but dry weather has enabled students to learn soil management techniques, stretch their muscles digging and drink plenty of tea around the fire.

The next three months will

see topics covered such as propagation, pruning, pests and diseases, turf care and plant identification giving learners a firm foundation in practical gardening at the site, as well as at Brodick Castle grounds.



Argyll College students get their hands dirty in the flowerbeds.



The students equip themselves with gardening tools.

A £700,000 refurbishment at Auchrannie

A major £700,000 refurbishment has given two of the Auchrannie's flagship restaurants a whole new lease of life.

The biggest changes are at Cruize bar brasserie, which has had its first significant makeover since it the resort's second hotel and spa opened in 2001. Gone is the open plan kitchen which has been refurbished to allow a better flow between the chefs, waiters and customers and in comes a new servery area, which will be used mainly for breakfast. The extended kitchen has

also been fitted with new equipment throughout.

The restaurant and large lounge style seating area have also been extensively refurbished with new tables, chairs, carpets and curtains and blinds. New grey wood panelling helps add to the neutral ambience and a new fireplace sets off the raised and plush looking lounge.

'Cruize has always been seen as a family area,' said business development manager Gordon Hay, 'and while we don't want to discourage children we want

to give it a more adult feel.' A new menu is expected to follow in the spring. All the public areas in the spa resort building have been re-carpeted, including the Glencloy Suite.

Over in the original hotel the traditional Brambles seafood grill has also had a modern, if more cosmetic makeover.

Everywhere has been lightened and new artwork adorns the walls, while new tables and chairs have been brought in, the place re-carpeted, the bar area wood panelled, in the same style as Cruize, and a new wood burning stove installed.

The Brambles kitchen has also been extended as kitchen staff were struggling with the volume of orders and the preparation area has been extended to provided more room to work.

All 12 bedrooms in the original hotel have also been refurbished with new soft furnishings and upgrades to the bathrooms and all rooms in the hotel estate have been refreshed.

For the first time the hotel was forced to close in two phases in mid December to allow the majority of the work to be carried out, with just the finishing touches to be put in place. However, given the capacity which the hotel now operates this will become part of the annual plan.

Gordon said: 'The hotel was running at more than 90 per cent occupancy in January, so there is just no way we can contemplate ongoing improvement



The new look raised lounge area in Cruize. 01_A07cruize03



The bar area has been transformed in Brambles. 01_A07cruize06



Brambles restaurant has had a makeover. 01_A07cruize05



Georgina Patinszki and Sean McKenna at the new servery in Cruize. 01_A07cruize04

works when there are that volume of guests around.' The hotel presently has around 175 staff which also now remains almost constant throughout the year. Gordon said he did not know if RET fares had

made a significant difference to hotel occupancy but said they had noticed a big increase in guests bringing their cars, but guest numbers could still, at times, put a strain on their shuttle ferry service.

'It is hard to accurately calculate the impact of RET. The island is better known thanks to VisitArran and businesses on the island are all working together for the common good and we are all the better for it.'

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Artists already preparing for Open Studios event

Art, unlike nature, does not hibernate, and nor do the organisers of the Arran Open Studios (AOS), who have been chivvying away all through this wet winter paving the way for this year's event in August.

To anybody new to the island, AOS promotes an open studios weekend where local artists and craftspeople open their workshops and studios to the public. This is a chance to have a privileged look into the engine rooms of the visual arts on Arran.

It is an opportunity to meet the makers, discuss their inspirations, their practice, the technical hurdles they have to overcome and their med-

itations over materials and subjects. It's an important showcase for the artists and makers and, importantly for all involved, makers and patrons alike, it is an opportunity to purchase arts and crafts directly from the studio. And, this year, AOS welcomes onto the island art scene a sister event – the Arran Art Trail, several of whose participants will also be showing at AOS weekend.

This is the sixth year of the event started by Josephine Broekhuizen and Sarah Cook. Last year's event had 36 participating artists and the organisers are constantly trying to build on this figure and to make

the event even more interesting and exciting. To that end, this is a call for those artists wanting to take part this year to register interest. This is very easily done by emailing Ruth Mae at ruthmae.nagare@gmail.com or phoning her on 820373. She will then let you have the relevant forms to welcome you into the event.

All art and craft forms qualify to take part. You need not necessarily even have your own studio as in the past several artists who have no studio collaborate to show in the studio of one who has. So a perceived lack of studio or workspace in the grand sense should not put off would-be exhibitors.

The dates this year are August 11 to 14 inclusive. Opening hours are entirely up to each artist. Artists or craftspeople new to the event can contact the organisers to see a past brochure or they can go to the AOS website at www.arranopenstudios.com or look at the AOS Facebook page. This event needs you to help to make it bigger and better.

Tim Pomeroy



Left to right: Ted Nevill, candidate for Kilbirnie and Beith in May's local elections; Councillor Gail Macgregor; Todd Ferguson, candidate for Dalry and West Kilbride; Jamie Greene MSP; Charles Currie; Tom McCammont, candidate for Stevenston; Richard Wilkinson, constituency association chairman and former Arran regional councillor; and Robert Forman.

Charles gives the Immortal Memory

Well-known Arran Burns enthusiast Charles Currie proposed the Immortal Memory at the recent North Ayrshire Conservatives' annual Burns Supper in the Seamill Hydro Hotel.

Amusing speeches

The main speakers all provided thought-

ful and amusing speeches, with Robert Forman, chairman of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party from Edinburgh, proposing the Toast to the Lassies while Councillor Gail Macgregor, Dumfries and Galloway Council, ably replied on behalf of the lassies.

Standing ovation for speaker Sheila

The Ayrshire Hospice once again held its annual Burns Supper at the iconic Brig o' Doon Hotel in Alloway recently, with Sheila Gilmore of VisitArran as their special guest.

It was an evening full of entertainment with Jim Nicol chairing the supper. Niven Rennie, one of the key speakers of the night, gave the Toast to the Lassies, followed by the Reply to the Lassies from comedian Jo Jo Sutherland.

Sheila addressed the haggis and gave a fabulous performance of *Tam o' Shanter* and *Kate o' Shanter*, earning her a standing ovation.

Stuart Smith, a BBC comedy writer, provided a very funny and informative Immortal Memory.

The night concluded with wonderful singing and recital performances from 15-year-old Sophie Craig from Alloway, 11-year-old Aimee Vallance and Amber Stevenson from Alloway



Sheila with other guests and performers at the Ayrshire Hospice Burns Supper.

Primary School including *To a Louse* and *To a Toothache*.

Tracey Corrigan, Ayrshire Hospice assistant fundraising manager, said: 'The night

was a resounding success and raised more than £15,500 for the hospice. Many thanks to all the attendees and sponsors who contributed to this amazing total.'

'Show-stopping.'

★★★★

The Herald

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Big rise in the sharing of bird records

I appreciate that these regular Bird Notes which have appeared in *The Banner* for more than 10 years rely on information being shared with me by a large number of people from the casual observer to the serious obsessive. All records from the familiar robin to the rare red-necked phalarope are equally welcome.

I am heartened by the fact that that message seems to have been taken up by residents and visitors to Arran alike. For the January notes I was astonished to receive over 1,700 records. To put that in context that is more than double what I received in January last year and in 2006, the year I started as bird recorder for the Arran Natural History Society, the total number of records that I got for the whole year was just over 2,000. That total has increased each year and for the 2016 annual report, which should be in

shops around the island before Easter, I received over 12,000 records. I would like to publicly thank everyone who has helped to build up the bird records for Arran.

I would also like to en-



The robin, a familiar bird on Arran. Photo by Brian Couper.

courage people who love Arran and its birds to further build on this because there are large parts of the island that are under-watched and under-reported. Look at the map. It is based on the records that I received for 2016. The dark squares

are one kilometre squares where more than 100 bird sightings were recorded. The palest squares are one kilometre squares where only one to nine bird sightings were recorded. The 'gaps' are where no birds were recorded all year. For 2017 let's see if we can have more dark squares and fewer 'gaps'.

In recent years all the Arran data that I have received has been loaded onto Bird Track. This is an excellent system for storing and sharing bird records. If you are not already familiar with Bird Track, I would encourage you to have a look at their website at www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/birdtrack/about. In Bird Track each Arran record has been allocated to the one kilometre square in which it was seen.

All this data has been processed using DMAP Distribution Mapping Software



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels

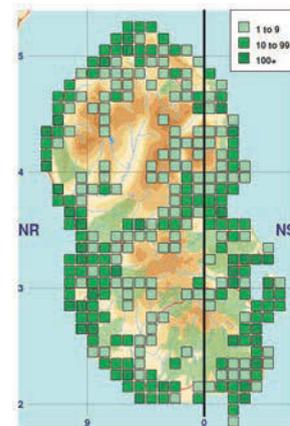
A rare bird on Arran, the red-necked phalarope.

Photo by John Fitzpatrick.

developed by Alan Morton. The base map was produced by Ian Andrews, a member of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club. The skill and experience of Phil Davis from Gloucestershire in using the software with the base map has produced this map showing the distribution of the 2016 records at the one kilometre square level.

Enjoy your birding.

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 I look forward to hearing from you.



The localised bird-sighting distribution map.

WIN

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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.

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What is the name of Douneside's Head Chef?**

To be redeemed by 30 June 2017

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Wyvex Media Ltd, Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 28 February 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY
YEARS AGO

Saturday 1 March, 1997

Clubhouse row

Dissension within Lamlash Golf Club is rife as things have gone from bad to worse. So bad that seven members have called for an extraordinary general meeting to discuss their lack of confidence in the committee and to protest at the lack of communication with its members.

The dissatisfaction centres around the proposal to extend the clubhouse at a cost of £250,000, a sum largely made up



Wilma Morton plays the actress in decline in *The Close*, which was performed by the Pirnmill Players at this year's drama festival. B08twe04

from a lottery grant but with a shortfall of £25,000. A majority of the members voted to raise the shortfall in membership fees which is not sitting well with many members who believe that the building might become a white elephant and that 'greed might be interfering with need'.

Spotlight on Arran

Operation Spotlight is a police initiative where they concentrate on one problem vigorously for a period of time and at the last community council meeting Superintendent Young of Saltcoats asked what should be spotlight on Arran.

Tom Campbell was the most succinct in expressing the concern of the people, which was mainly the vandalism, with one shopkeeper having his windows constantly smashed. Youth congregating and creating a threatening appearance was another.

On the west side of the island the problems cited involved frequent cases on tended land, with Machrie golf course, for example, constantly being churned up by young people driving at speed and doing handbrake turns.

Mobile cinema

Due to hit the road in July is a new £500,000 mobile cinema, a custom built articulated lorry paid for by HIE and the National Lottery. The mobile cinema will seat 107 people and may give a boost to the cinema when it visits the island as audiences in Brodick Hall are seldom very big.



Terry Crawley of Lochranza has become housebound after his Springer Spaniel died shortly after giving birth to nine puppies. Becoming the surrogate mother, he is now responsible for feeding the seven that survived by syringe every two hours. B08twe01



Around 40 enumerators of the 1997 census gathered on Monday to enjoy a cheese and wine evening. B08twe03



This may be an ordinary sight for the people of Lochranza, but for a visitor to witness the Monarch of the Glen near the sheltered housing, it is an exciting event, especially if just stands and stares at you snootily. B08twe05

Mrs Lavinia Gibb of Dougarie Lodge, who works for the local health council as the only person from Arran who sits on the board covering the three health trusts in Ayrshire, last week spoke to the community council about her work. B08twe02



What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

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

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

Scottish country dancing
Winter bowls
Arran Skinnymalinks

Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Auchrannie, 7pm
Lochranza Arran Distillery visitor centre 10am - 10.30am

Saturday February 25

Army Cadets
Over 21s disco
Family games
Fun in the pool
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Live music - Folk like us
Blackwaterfoot bowls Bowling Club,
Flow yoga
Women in black
Live Music - The Liftshaft Incident
Live Music - Scott MacDonald

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, Brodick from 7.30pm
Brodick, 1.15pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
Opposite the Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 1pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
The Douglas Hotel, 9pm

Wednesday March 1

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 10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30
RunArran
Yoga-Arran
Mixed hockey
Dog classes
Flow yoga
Knittnerly and Natterly
Quiz night
Bus pass club meal
Chair yoga St Molios
Chinese Night (eat in or take away)

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
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Auchrannie studio, 9.30am-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
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, 8.30pm
The PHT, noon - 2.30pm
Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am - noon
The PHT, Lamlash, 5pm

Sunday February 26

Family games
Fun in the pool
Open acoustic session at Fiddlers'
AA meeting
Celebration of young musicians on Arran

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

Thursday March 2

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
Brodick Embroidery Group

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
Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am - 11.30am
Lamlash green, 6.45am
Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Monday February 27

Over 50s badminton
Badminton
Morning fitness
Badminton
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Arran Junior Football Club
Circuit training
Lamlash Aerobic
RunArran
Tae Kwondo
Arran Bridge
Arran Citizen's Advice Bureau
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
Brodick Church Hall adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 11.30am - 3pm
Corrie - Breagha Holistic Beauty 5:00pm - 5:30pm
Shiskine Church Hall 5:15pm - 5:45pm
Brodick Church Kitchen 6pm - 6.30pm
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm

Friday March 3

Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Youth Foundations
Lochranza children's badminton
Lochranza adults' badminton
Quiz
Arran Vets
Arran Vets reception
AA meeting
Tae Kwondo
Live music - McRasta & Friends
Live music - North Country Winters

Auchrannie spa leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
Church Hall, Brodick 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
The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm - 10pm

Tuesday February 28

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
Brodick 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
Brodick 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



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Public Notice

FÈIS ARAINN AGM

Di-Ciadaoin 8 Am Mart 2017
(Wednesday 8 March 2017)

At 7.30 in

Ard Sgoil Arainn
Arran High School
Failte a-huile duine

All welcome

Fèis Arainn is a registered charity No. SCO21446



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Rachel Armitage trading as Armitage Groundworks Ltd, The Pier, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AU, is applying to change an existing licence to add an operating centre to keep 2no. goods vehicles at Home Farm, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DD.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations 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.

Brodick Early Years Centre Temporary Vacancy for Nursery Assistant

Mid March till end of June

08:30 - 12:30 Monday - Friday

Job Sharing considered

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TROON

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DROP IN SESSIONS

Your chance to discuss ABP's proposals to host the Arran ferry service at Troon with local members of the team.

Monday 27th February

4-8pm at Brodick Hall

Tuesday 28th February

7-9pm at Shiskine Golf Club,
Blackwaterfoot

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 26th February
11.00 am. Holy Communion.
Rev Adrian Fallows.
Coffee after service, followed by Annual Church Meeting.
There will be Taizé worship on
Thursday 2nd March
at 7.30 pm,
in St Mollios' Church, Shiskine.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran
Broddick, 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 26th February
Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches, 10.15am Morning Worship in Lochranza Church
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Broddick 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 26th February
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service. All welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 26th February
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory 10 am
Lamlash 11.30 am
In both churches:
Service of Praise
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 26th February
Sunday Mass 11am

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 26th February
Morning service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge
Glen Estate, Broddick.
Evening service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Broddick

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 26th 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)
Broddick 6pm
BACK IN THE CHURCH
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

DEATH

MILLIGAN. JAMES - Jimmy (77), originally of Whiting Bay and brother of Paul, died peacefully in the RAH in Paisley on Friday 17th February 2017 after a brief illness. The graveside funeral will take place on Wednesday 1st March at Kilbride Cemetery, Lamlash around 11.00 am (depending on ferry arrival time). No flowers please.



Winners of the Adam Morrison Trophy were Jean Barclay and Elizabeth McKellar.

Bridge trophy winners

The results of the Arran Bridge Club competition for the Adam Morrison Trophy played at Broddick on Thursday February 16 were: 1 Jean Barclay and Elizabeth McKellar, 2 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure, 3 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan, 4 Morag Gardner and Douglas Hamilton.

The results of the aggregate competition played at Lamlash on Monday February 20 were: N/S 1 John Baracough and Jim Peacock, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 3 Margaret Macgill and Elizabeth McKellar. E/W 1 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure, 2 Jan and John Beattie, 3 Douglas Chase and Jennifer Wales.



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday February 19, Friendly v Lamlash at Lamlash. The third of the winter series saw WBGC snatch a valuable away victory by three and a half to two and a half.

This makes the overall score seven and a half to six and a half in Lamlash's favour but with the final match to be played over Whiting Bay, the series is still wide open.

Will Lamlash hold on or will Whiting Bay astonish the golfing world by snatching victory with an epic comeback?

It's all to play for and a good turnout for both clubs in the final match will ensure an exciting day's golf.

Alan Smith won the Stableford sweep, repeating his January winning score of 38pts to pip Dan Bremner and Tom Paterson into second and third place respectively.

Fixture: Sunday February 26, sweep, yellow



Stewart Gray ahead of his challenge.

Stewart attempts golfing marathon

An Arran golfer plans to run a marathon while playing golf.

Stewart Gray from Blackwaterfoot, who now works for EY and lives in Glasgow, will attempt the challenge at Shiskine Golf Club today (Saturday).

He said: 'I have set myself the perhaps unprecedented challenge of completing a marathon of golf in one day in support of charity Children 1st. Kindly facilitated by my home club, I will tee off at first light (around 7am) and aim to complete

at least 180 holes in one day, while running and keeping score.

'This is part of a wider effort by our team at EY, formerly Ernst and Young, to raise more than £5,000 for the charity. Any donations would be greatly appreciated and spur me on to complete this ludicrous challenge.'

Spectators are welcome to urge Stewart on for the challenge and donations can be made at: <https://dragonsglenn.everydayhero.com/uk/ey-glasgow>.

tees. Sunday March 19, Whiting bay v Lamlash at WBGC.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday February 16, yellow medal, CSS 60, par 61. 1 I Bremner 65-8=57, 2 J Henderson 79-19=60, 3 Andy Smith 76-15=61. Magic twos, I Bremner, Andy Smith and A Wales.

Sunday February 19, Lamlash v Whiting Bay at Lamlash. Whiting Bay won 2.5:1.5.

Stableford competition. 1 Alan Smith 37pts, 2 Ian Bremner 36pts, 3 Tom Paterson 34pts.

With one more match to play at Whiting Bay the scores could not be much closer. Lamlash leads by 6.5:5.5.

Watch this space.

Fixtures: Sunday Febru-

ary 26, winter Stableford, 9.30am and noon. Thursday March 2, yellow medal, 11am.

Broddick Golf Club

Wednesday February 16, Wednesday Cup. 1 Don Rudge 84-21=63, 2 Jim Green.

Magic twos, Douglas Robertson, Bert McGunnigle.

Sunday February 19, winter cup/Clochendichter, Stableford. 15 played. Brian Smith (12) 38 pts, Bob McCrae (8) 38 pts, Donald McKinnie (10) 38 pts. Fixture: Sunday February 26, winter cup, 9am and 12noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday February 18, sweep. 1 R Mclean 86-23=63, 2 L Hartley 82-

17=65, 3 M Elliot 81-15=66. Monday February 20, Monday Cup. 1 R McLean 81-17=64, 2 A Smith 68-3=65, 3 J McGovern 77-9=68. Scratch A Smith 68.

Fixtures: Saturday February 25, winter cup, Stableford, ballots at 9am and noon. Monday February 27, Monday Cup, ballot at 12noon.

Arran Golfers' Association

Sunday March 5, winter league/Duncan Trophy 2016/17. Final round at Whiting Bay Golf Club. Shotgun start at 10am. Draw: Whiting Bay v Machrie, Shiskine v Lamlash, Broddick v Corrie. Please be sharp for tee off as quite a trek at Whiting Bay to get to the tees.

Ross gets young ambassador accolade

Ross Dobson, an S4 pupil and youth ambassador at Arran High, has been chosen as the school's first young ambassador of the month by sportscotland.

The young ambassadors programme, in association with the national agency for sport, sportscotland, is a lottery-funded programme to develop young people as leaders in sport.

Each year, two pupils from each secondary school in Scotland are chosen as young ambassadors to promote sport, and motivate and inspire other young people to get involved in sport in their schools, clubs and local communities.

The programme started in 2012 and since then more

than 2,500 young ambassadors have been involved in promoting sports, organising extracurricular games and forging links with community sports organisations while providing leadership opportunities for young people.

Every month sportscotland selects six young ambassadors from across the country for their young ambassador of the month, an honour that Ross achieved for himself and for the school for excelling in his role.

In his relatively short time in the role, Ross has achieved a great deal, ensuring that the pupil voice is strong in his school and that teachers are on board



Ross Dobson, centre, is congratulated by head teacher Barry Smith and active schools co-ordinator Archie McNicol.

with his ideas. Ross happily takes suggestions to senior management and he has

been the key to the new lunchtime sports clubs being created. He is very ap-

proachable and the school finds that other pupils often go to him in relation to

starting new clubs or asking for competitive matches, and he is in constant contact with the whole North Ayrshire Active Schools team trying to make things happen.

Ross said: 'I feel it is essential to show aspiring young ambassadors the difference they can make, not just in their school but in the whole community. By seeing the importance of my role, I have been able to increase the opportunities within sport through working closely with my head teacher and Active Schools co-ordinator.'

Head teacher Barry Smith said: 'Ross is a hard-working young man who has been central to the success of our extracurricular sporting programme. He is an inspiration to his peers and an excellent role model to our young students.'

Arran's young rugby players make inroads with Cartha Queens Park

Arran's young rugby players are making inroads on the mainland by playing for Cartha Queens Park RFC and even competing under their own name as Arran High.

In a local derby, Cartha competed against Glasgow Hutchesons' Aloysians RFC, with Arran's Cameron Logan making his debut while another Arran player, Euan Rains, was nominated as the man of the match. GHA are the defending champions and Cartha suffered a 34-0 defeat.

In a game played under



Arran High School players celebrate a 27-15 victory over Ardrossan High.

their own name as Arran High, Arran players secured a 27-15 victory over Ardrossan High and, based upon his performance, Trefor Goronwy was selected for the Cartha U18s cup game.

In the quarter-final of the Scottish plate against Kilmarnock, Arran featured heavily with players Euan Rains, Sam Hirschfield, Finlay Aherne and Trefor Goronwy taking part in the closely-contested match

which ended with a 41-12 defeat.

David Morrison of Cartha Queens Park RFC said: 'We now have eight Arran players playing for us this season, normally around four per game and the Cartha connection is working well for both teams. With the wealth of talented players from Arran joining our own players, we might even be looking into putting a team together for the rugby sevens in the spring.'

Memorial darts contest

The annual Donald and James Mackenzie memorials mixed doubles darts competition takes place in Kilmory Hall on Saturday March 4.

This will be the 29th successive year the event has been staged and any donations for raffle prizes would be appreciated by organiser Margaret Mackenzie.

This year all money raised will be going to ArCaS to help pay for the cost of transporting Arran cancer patients to hospitals on the mainland.

The social club will be open on the night and local transport can be arranged.

Names of those wishing to play to Margaret on 870309 or Andrea 870345 by Friday March 3.



Eight Arran players joined Cartha Queens Park RFC in a muddy match against Glasgow Hutchesons Aloysians RFC.



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Arran Ladies still on top despite first league defeat

**Arran Ladies 3
Rottenrow Blu Sox 2s 2**

The Arran Ladies hockey team played a double-header last weekend with a home game victory against Rottenrow Blu Sox 2s on Saturday and a narrow defeat away to Dumfries on Sunday.

In their first game, the Arran Ladies played return host to the ladies from Rottenrow Blu Sox 2s, having won the game when they met for the first time the previous weekend. Starting on a high note and less than five minutes into the game, Lorraine Hewie on the left wing scored the first of her goals.

With both sides battling for possession, the visitors pressed forward with a running attack and scored the equaliser in the 23rd minute. Their right wing passed the ball to her team-mate at the top of the shooting 'D' and she executed an unstoppable and perfectly raised strike at the goal. Applause came from

both teams for such a skilful shot.

With the score tied at half-time there was everything to play for in the second period. Lorraine Hewie wasted no time in scoring her second goal from a well-played short corner a couple of minutes after the restart whistle.

This was followed by a superbly passed ball by match captain, Anne Watts, into the 'D', giving Lorraine her hat-trick and putting Arran up 3-1.

The ladies from Rottenrow Blu Sox didn't give up, however, and came back to put another goal on the board. With the final score at 3-2 to Arran, the ladies continue to remain top of the division.

Man of the match, voted for by the visitors, was goalkeeper Alison Hollingworth, and sisters Susie Murchie and Helen Thomson were jointly voted dames of the game by their team-mates for their excellent contribution.



Lorraine Hewie scored within the first five minutes against Rottenrow Blu Sox 2s. 01_B08hockey01

**Dumfries Ladies 2s 2
Arran Ladies 1**

As the Arran Ladies were playing a double header at the weekend, it was an early rise on Sunday to catch the 8.20am ferry to Ardrossan to meet their coach and travel to Dumfries for their next match.

Just over an hour into the journey on the A76, the coach had to stop and turn back due to an accident which had closed the road. Adding another 10 miles onto a two-hour trip was certainly not helpful.

They were also unable to pick up team coach Phil Adams, who had arranged to meet them some 15 miles down the road from where they had been turned around.

The game started on schedule and both teams played strongly resulting in a 0-0 score at half-time.

Renewed after their break and team talk and with the home supporters shouting encouragement, the Dumfries attack managed to score their first goal shortly after the restart whistle. They increased their lead in the 18th minute with a second goal, but the Arran ladies were never ones to give up and match captain Anne Watts put Arran on the scoresheet before the final whistle was blown.

Man of the match went to Abbie McKelvie in midfield, and goalkeeper Alison Hollingworth received the dame of the game from her team-mates for an outstanding performance on the pitch.

Still remaining top of the division, but no longer undefeated, the Arran Ladies play away to the Western Wildcats in Milngavie on Saturday at 1.30pm.



With a low sweep, Kirstie Barton returns the ball into the opposition's half. 01_B08hockey02



Elyse Aitken leaves the opposition behind and is unchallenged as she drives the ball away from her teams D. 01_B08hockey03

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



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