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Early chance to bag a first taste of Lagg

£4.2 million boost from whisky sale

Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Residents of Arran and whisky lovers from around the world are being given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of single malt history as the Isle of Arran Distillery releases £4.2 million worth of cask whisky.

With the construction of the whisky-maker's second site on the south of the island at Lagg well under way, master distiller James MacTaggart is releasing for purchase 700 casks from the first production which will be filled at the new distillery before it opens next spring.

The casks, priced at £6,000 each, will contain approximately 280 70cl bottles of a new, heavily peated single malt that will be the style of whisky produced. The initial offer – which will not be repeated during the first 10 years of production – will raise an estimated £4.2 million for the company behind

the new distillery and visitor centre, which is costing £10 million to build. The firm already operates the distillery at Lochranza.

Each cask, once purchased, will remain at the distillery for a minimum of 10 years of maturation under the careful eye of the Lagg distillery team. The casks' owners will then have the opportunity to bottle the spirit, complete with a limited edition Lagg Cask Society label, or continue the maturation process until the desired age is attained. It is expected that the casks will be laid down later this year.

Every cask owner will also become a member of the exclusive Lagg Cask Society. Membership guarantees a bottle from the very first cask to be filled at Lagg, which is reserved exclusively for the society. In addition, each member will have their name displayed on the Lagg 'wall of fame' and receive an invite to the Lagg Cask Society mem-

The pride of the provost



Provost Ian Clarkson visited Arran High School on Wednesday where he congratulated the Active Schools young leaders and head teacher Barry Smith on being finalists in the Provost's Civic Pride Awards 2018. There is still time to vote to help them win. See full story on page 19.01_B08civic01

bers' day for a first look at the distillery and visitor centre before its official opening in the spring 2019.

The announcement comes as new artist impressions

are released of the Lagg distillery, including inside images of the proposed atrium and a reconstruction of an illicit still used historically in the south of Arran.

Mr MacTaggart said: 'We have incredibly exciting plans for the Lagg distillery, and the Lagg Cask Society offers people the chance to be part of

the journey from the very beginning.'

'To own one of the first casks from a distillery is a rare opportunity indeed and, Continued on page two.

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Council welcomes 60 more Syrians to North Ayrshire

Another 60 Syrian refugees are to be given the chance to settle in North Ayrshire and start a new life in Scotland.

Following a report on the success of the Syrian refugee programme, which so far has assisted 19 Syrian families – 34 parents and 59 children – the NAC cabinet agreed on Tuesday to accommodate a further 60 refugees by 2021.

Reaffirming their commitment to those fleeing persecution and war, the programme pledged to accommodate up to 100 refugees over a four-year period with the first refugees arriving in November 2015.

Having already accepted 93 people of a 100-person target in the first two years of a four-year programme, the proposal was submitted to extend the resettlement programme by a further 60.

Some of the families already in North Ayrshire live on Bute, but no decision has been made if any accommodation will be found for them on Arran this time.

Cabinet members considered the scheme a success, particularly the way in which they describe local communities in North Ayrshire welcoming the Syrian families. Reports show there have been numerous examples of local people offering practical and emotional support, including food, clothing, electrical items and access to wi-fi so they can contact family members abroad. Also highlighted was a church which provided access to their facilities for religious purposes and joint community events to take place.

Cabinet member for place Jim Montgomerie said:

‘What we have witnessed in Syria is one of the biggest humanitarian crises for decades. War, violence and persecution have forced millions of people from their homes, leaving families with nowhere to turn to.’

‘We have made it clear that humanitarian protection is a key principle for North Ayrshire Council and it is only right that we play a role in helping these people start a new life.’

Dealing with the resettlement and integration of the refugees, the council set up the Syrian Refugee Task Force which ensures that children of school age are engaged in education and adults receive language tuition. Another key focus is to enhance personal social development, aid refugee integration and improve employment prospects.



A new artist's impression of the Lagg distillery.

First taste of Lagg

Continued from page one

with my years of experience in the industry, I firmly believe the Lagg single malt will mature into something truly magical.’

Euan Mitchell, managing director of the Isle of Arran Distillery, added: ‘We

are proud to be bringing whisky production back to the south end of Arran. The area was a hotbed of distilling, both legal and illicit, during the early 19th century and the Arran “waters” were in great demand on the mainland.

‘The Lagg Cask Society is

the next chapter of the story of malt whisky on Arran. Their casks will be the first to be filled on the south of the island in more than 170 years – a continuation of a long and proud heritage of whisky making on Arran.

‘In releasing these casks, we are inviting people to join the Arran family and lay down an exclusive Lagg dram that they can call their own for a fee in line with prices currently being paid for individual bottles of rare single malt. Bottles from the Lagg Cask Society barrels will provide unique opportunities for gifts and investment, the ideal present to lay down for future generations, as well as the simple enjoyment of sampling the finest of spirits.’

Casks will be available directly from the Lochranza distillery and online from www.laggwhisky.com.



An image of how the new distillery atrium and the illicit still display will look.

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I'm here to stay, vows new police sergeant on island

Arran's new police sergeant has vowed to see out the rest of his career on the island.

But Dougie Robertson felt he was a man with no name when he first took up the full-time post in November, replacing acting sergeant Allen Gow.

'Are you the new sergeant?' was how Douglas found himself repeatedly greeted but he says: 'It is not really surprising that everyone wants to know who I am.'

Sgt Roberson has now been here three months and is gradually finding his feet. He describes Arran as 'a place I am really fond of' and has spent many holidays here hillwalking with his family over the years. He is still a keen hillwalker.

With more than 26 years of police service under his belt, much of it in the busy central belt, Sgt Robertson took a leap of faith to apply for the position of sergeant on Arran, where, he says, he intends to spend the remaining years of his Police Scotland career.

'Thankfully, I am enjoying it. It is every different from my previous service. I have a lot to learn but I have a good team at my back,' he told the *Banner*. That team are the five police constables who presently serve on the island.

'It is a very different role for me from my previous position as a detective sergeant.

'It is very much working with the community as well as a wide range of partner organisations.

'What is important is that we ensure that policing on the island is carried out to a high standard and that all the resources at our disposal are used to their optimum,' he said.

Professionalism

Sgt Robertson said he had found on Arran that there was a much greater reliance working with emergency service volunteers such as first responders, the mountain rescue team, volunteer firefighters and Coastguard, but said he found them all to have a high level of professionalism.

He joined Strathclyde Police in 1991 and was initially posted to uniformed duties at Alexandria and Dumbarton (L Division) and five years later was appointed as detective constable at Dumbarton.

Subsequently transferred from L Division, he was appointed to the crime division where he worked for several years in various specialised roles before being promoted to the rank of sergeant.

Thereafter, he worked as a uniform sergeant cover-

ing response policing in Glasgow before transferring back to the CID where he worked as a detective sergeant in Glasgow city centre, Partick and latterly Drumchapel, before taking up the post on Arran.

Sgt Robertson, who attended his first community council meeting earlier this month, said he is keen to listen to any policing concerns people on the island may have.

'Speeding and parking, particularly at the Brodick ferry terminal, are two issues I know people feel strongly about and these are areas we will be looking at.'

Last week Sgt Robertson had a visit from his immediate superior, Inspector Colin Convery. Based in Saltcoats, along with Arran, his area of responsibility covers the three towns - Largs, Cumbrae and West Kilbride.

He said: 'I am on Arran fairly regularly, but Dougie is the man on the ground here and I wish him well in his new post.'

Sgt Robertson confirmed that there are no plans to reopen Lamlash police office on a full-time basis and anyone looking to contact police on the island should do so using the 101 non-emergency number or 999 in an emergency.



Sgt Dougie Robertson, right, with Inspector Colin Convery outside Lamlash police office.
01_B08police01



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Double delight for Arran hotels at new awards

Two Arran hotels are celebrating after winning top titles at the inaugural Prestige Hotel Awards at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in Glasgow.

The Douglas Hotel can add to its long list of awards a Boutique Hotel of the Year award after beating The Dunstane Houses in Edinburgh to the title. While the Auchrannie Resort can add to its award cabinet the Best Country Hotel after they pipped the Dunalastair House Hotel Suites in Pitlochry to the post.

Gala ceremony

The awards, which are celebrating their first year, presented management and staff with their prizes at a gala ceremony, attended by more than industry representatives last weekend, aimed at showcasing and rewarding outstanding service within the hotel industry in Scotland.

Primarily aimed at four and five star hotels, the awards follow a nomination process where the public cast their votes for their favourite establishments.



Craig Lindsay, Kate Russell, Carolyn Lambert and Sharon Bell collected the Boutique Hotel of the Year award on behalf of all of the staff at the Douglas Hotel.

The top 100 are long-listed and visited by a mystery guest and the hotel with the highest score is then crowned as the award winners.

Elaine Campbell, manager at the Douglas Hotel, said: 'The Prestige Awards caught us off guard again. We hoped but certainly didn't expect to win Boutique Hotel of the Year after winning Independent Hotel of the Year in 2017.

The competition is fierce in this category, so we are absolutely delighted the hard work of the amazing team at the Douglas Hotel has been acknowledged.

'We're equally delighted Auchrannie won Country House Hotel of the Year. For a wee island we seem to do hospitality incredibly well. It's a tough time of year for Arran business, when the island is still fairly quiet, so this is an in-

credible boost for everyone and hopefully the start of great year.'

Linda Johnston, co-founder and managing director at Auchrannie Resort said: 'The whole team at Auchrannie is very pleased we have won Country Hotel of the Year at the Prestige Awards.

Delighted

'We are delighted our own guests took the time to vote for us and that the award judges, who visited our business, agreed Auchrannie was worthy of this significant award.

'The award is acknowledgement of the great job the Auchrannie team does in providing our guests with a fantastic holiday experience.'

The Prestige Hotel Awards is an independent, non-political platform that is free to enter and has no membership fee. There are 17 categories in which to enter including Best Spa Hotel, Best Small Hotel and an overall Hotel of the Year which was won by East Haugh House Hotel in Pitlochry.

Not National Poetry Day on Arran

Unable to celebrate National Poetry Day during October, Arran poets, keen to acknowledge the event, have organised an off-piste event next week called Not National Poetry Day day.

Spearheaded by David Underdown, Cicely Gill and Tim Pomeroy, the poetry readings will take place in The Brodick Bar on Tuesday February 27 at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Arran has a flourishing poetry scene which has revealed itself in several forms. The poetry world is becoming increasingly familiar with the Mclellan poetry competition which accompanies the Mclellan Arts Festival every year. The competition attracts up to 1,000 entries from every corner of the world.

A core of practising island poets will host the Not National Poetry Day day which they hope will contribute to Arran gaining a reputation as a place of thought, feeling and verse.

They are calling all poetry lovers and poetry writers to

attend what they promise to be an exciting event of poetry and song. An invitation is also extended to anyone who would like to read a poem - either their own or a favourite - to get in contact with Cicely on 700464 to register their interest to perform. A musical contribution, it is hoped, will be provided by local artist Josephine Broekhuizen.

One of the event organisers said: 'Don't let poetry be just for Burns Night or Valentine's day. Dust off your dactyls, polish up your pentameters and push out the ballad boat on the 27th.'

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Guild raises funds for Erskine care homes

The Lamlash Guild coffee morning, held on St Valentine's Day, has raised £215 for war veterans and their spouses at Erskine Care Homes.

The annual event, held in Lamlash church hall, welcomed supporters with tea and coffee and a large

array of tempting home-baking. While enjoying the sweet treats, there was also artwork, jewellery, books and hand-made cards for visitors to browse and purchase.

Organisers thanked all of the supporters and volunteers who helped to make

the day such a success. All funds raised from the event go to the Erskine Care Homes, which have been taking care of war veterans since 1916. Spread across Scotland, four purpose-built care homes provide 339 beds for respite and full-time care.



Organiser Mary Mackenzie with an enticing array of bakes, cakes and pancakes. 01_B08erskine03



Ravey Bulloch and Margaret Shaw manned the book and art stall which welcomed visitors to the coffee morning. 01_B08erskine04



Supporters enjoyed a cup of tea and cake, and a pleasant social chat. 01_B08erskine02



Margaret Fowler, Morag Campbell, Betty Dick and Jean Strachan ensured supporters were well taken care of with a table packed full of home-baked delights. 01_B08erskine01

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Joined up thinking needed to solve pothole problem

An MSP has vowed to keep up his fight to improve the crumbling roads on Arran, and across North Ayrshire, after discovering the problem was worse than he first thought, writes Colin Smeeton.

Conservative MSP Jamie Greene asked residents to send in examples of potholes in their area and within two weeks the post had received more than 350 comments and had been seen by more than 50,000 people online. As well as sending in pictures of potholes, residents also uploaded a

number of photos where their cars had been damaged by the decaying state of the roads.

West Scotland region MSP Mr Greene helped highlight the poor state of Arran's roads in the *Banner* last month, which council roads bosses blame on winter weather.

The poor state of Arran's roads at present has been the subject of much local debate with one long time road campaigner describing them as 'the worst he has ever seen'. He said the roads in the south end of the island were in a particularly poor state.



The road end at Sandbraes in Whiting Bay is pitted with potholes. 01_B08pothole01

Astonished

Mr Greene, who has previously written to North Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Government over this matter, said: 'I was aware that the state of many of North Ayrshire's roads was poor, but I was frankly astonished at the response I got. Hundreds of residents responded to my post with pictures of evidence of potholes and damage to cars. The issue is apparently much more widespread than I

first thought. Many people have written to me telling me horror stories of losing tyres and wheels on a regular basis. The photographs speak for themselves frankly. Potholes and flooding are not just an inconvenience, they cause damage to cars and actually make driving on our roads dangerous. The problem will only get worse if we refuse to take action. I hope by raising awareness of the issue something can be done in

the long term about our decaying roads.

He added: 'While I appreciate that local government budgets have been tight in recent years – judging by the outrage of local residents on the matter, it is clear this is a widespread problem that is not going away any time soon. It will require some joined up thinking between central government and local government to tackle it.'

* See also letters page.

Ferry concerns raised by MSP

An MSP has written to transport minister Humza Yousaf about the MV Caldonian Isles, following safety concerns raised by constituents over the vessel's ability to operate its route.

West Scotland region MSP Jamie Greene was recently contacted by constituents on the island who complained that since January the ferry has been subject to a number of delays and cancellations as a result of technical faults. One constituent noted that this was due a failure of the vessel's bow thruster.

In his letter to the transport minister, Mr Greene asked if he would look into the matter and take measures to ensure that delays and cancellations are reducing going forward. He also lodged parliamentary questions to the Scottish government on the matter.

The Conservative MSP said: 'This is a lifeline route for residents on Arran, who often need to use them ferry to visit their GP and receive treatment for illness. Unfortunately, they have been subject to a number of delays since January which are not just weather related.'

'I have asked the transport minister to immediately look into this issue and see what can be done to ensure that going forward, the ferry is more reliable. It's important that we get to the bottom of this, local residents have raised legitimate concerns and are right to ask questions about these types of faults.'

Last Wednesday the ferry made a return crossing to Gourock for the first time in many months when poor weather conditions prevented it crossing to Ardrossan.

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Sweet success for Shiskine scribes

Four Shiskine primary school pupils are enjoying the sweet taste of success after finishing runners-up in a nationwide poetry competition run by a biscuit manufacturer.

The *Sunday Mail* and Tunnock's Wafer competition invited primary pupils to write a poem on the back of a Tunnock's Wafer wrapper to be in with a chance of winning a class visit to the Tunnock's factory at Uddingston, Lanarkshire.

The idea for the competition came about after poet laureate Ted Hughes penned three poems on the back of Tunnock's wrappers in aid of a fundraising appeal. Tunnock's executives, keen to inspire



The Shiskine scribes who were runners-up in the Tunnock's Wafer Competition. 01_B06sweet01

the youth to emulate the poet and to be creative, invited all primary pupils across the UK to submit a poem about their school,

their friends, their teacher or anything else that inspired them.

The four runners-up – Lily Currie, Olivia McNiece,

David Anderson and Beth McCarthy – received a limited edition pencil case filled with Tunnock's branded stationery.

Arran groups urged to bid for share of awards pot

Community projects on Arran have less than a month left to enter an awards programme which could see them earn a share of a funding boost totalling £75,000.

The Clydesdale Bank Spirit of the Community Awards are open for applications until Monday March 19. Now in its sixth year, the 2018 awards will take the total donated to community groups across the UK to more than £1 million, with the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) winning a Spirit of the Community award last year.

The bank makes donations to recognise and support community projects which are going the extra mile. Registered charities and not-for-profit organisations are invited to enter their projects into the awards scheme under one of three categories: Projects which help people to have a healthy relationship with money, projects which help people to improve their local environment and projects which help people into employment.

The awards are open to a range of initiatives across the third sector which can demonstrate support for the local community. This could include projects helping to upskill people for the workplace, ventures promoting healthy relationships with money or schemes aiming to protect the environment.

Five projects will be selected in each of the three categories and all 15 winners will be awarded £5,000 each. Winners will be announced in summer 2018.

For more information about the awards or to enter, visit www.cbonline.co.uk/foundation or go any Clydesdale Bank branch for an application form.



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Editorial

Pothole solution urgently needed

There's no point beating about the bush: the state of Arran's roads is a disgrace.

One long-time road campaigner this week called them 'the worst he has ever seen', but the pothole problem is not going away any time soon.

We know the winter weather has played a big part in destroying road surfaces, as we see no point in simply blaming North Ayrshire Council for the problem.

The roads team on Arran is fighting a losing battle. It has admitted it is firefighting and trying to repair as many potholes as the team can, as quickly as it can – but it is often washed away in days.

What is needed is a long-term strategy and a financial commitment to get Arran's roads back in order. But that needs the council, the Scottish government and the Westminster government to get their thinking caps on as to how it is to be funded – joined-up thinking, as one MSP calls it this week.

The roads situation on Arran cannot be left as a patch-up job again. Residents are out of pocket all the time for repeat car repairs, but if visitors, on whom the island relies for much of its income, find the roads in this state of disrepair, they will simply not come back.

And that is not good news for anyone.

Thought for the week

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.' John 3:16

Forget the Winter Olympics – try the Arran pothole slalom

Sir,
I am certain that viewers of the Winter Olympics have, like me, been impressed with the courage and skill of the competitors. But their chosen sports are nothing when compared with Arran pothole slalom – a year long challenge.

This sport has three levels: entry, intermediate and expert.

Entry level is simply a 'dodge the pothole' game of skill, testing the ability to use the basic slalom skills of steering and weaving. Marks are awarded for minor suspension damage and the number of shaken dental fillings.

Level Two is more challenging – dodging water filled potholes – the challenge being to anticipate what is actually a pothole. Marks are awarded for correct pothole identification, tyre damage and some dental fillings shaken out.

Level Three is for experts. Pothole slalom in the face of oncoming traffic. The challenge is in the dilemma of whether to avoid the oncoming vehicle and hit the pothole or hit the oncoming vehicle. Marks are awarded for the amount of damage caused and dental fillings shaken free – and, as a bonus, no compensation will be paid to complainants by North Ayrshire Council.

Good fun, Eh ?!

Yours,
Brian Grindall Shiskine

Held to account

Sir,
This winter has seriously damaged Arran's roads and

I understand that many Arran people are complaining to NAC about the shocking state of some stretches which are crumbling along with deep potholes.

NAC is, according to my MP, entirely responsible for the Arran's roads. This is true but is not the only reason for the state of Arran's roads. It is true that NAC will need to take a long look at priorities and the allocation of more resources to improve our roads.

However, the truth is that the funding of local authorities has been decimated by national governments for the past 10 years to the extent that they are simply not able to fulfill their purposes as they would wish to do. They may want to improve the roads but have not the money to do so, and patching up is washed away and major improvements are unaffordable.

In Arran, you have the scenario of deteriorating infrastructure combined with dreams of cruise ships docking at the new multi-million pound terminal and their passengers being driven over third world roads. There is something wrong with prioritisation there – and it has nothing to do with NAC.

The Scottish and Westminster governments are more responsible for the state of Scottish roads than the local authorities and should be held to account. Write to your MP and MSP.

Yours,
John Cruickshank Whiting Bay

Taken to task

Sir,
I read with interest your article in the *Banner* of February 17 regarding North Ayrshire Council's reaction to the spoof video regarding road repair.

The council should hang

their heads in shame at the awful state of the islands roads. I have visited Arran regularly and on my recent visit last week was shocked at the deterioration of the roads, in particular at the south end of the island.

In addition to some significant potholes there are any number of stretches where the whole top surface has disappeared resulting in an uneven and rutted road surface. In other instances the edges of the road have crumbled with often just a cone to warn motorists. I noticed on my travels that motorists seem to have taken to travelling down the centre of the road to avoid the crumbled and potted edges, with resultant risks to road safety.

In Lamash village, I was concerned when walking with my two-year-old grandson at the amount of stones being thrown up from potholed roads by passing cars at his eye height, such that I felt compelled to carry him to minimise the risk. How anyone can contemplate riding a bicycle or motorcycle on the island is beyond me. In my opinion, they take their lives in their hands. In my opinion NAC are failing in their statutory duty to maintain the highway and need to be taken to task.

Arran itself was a good as ever and I will be back soon perhaps swapping my car for an all terrain vehicle.

Yours,
Michael Smith North Shields

Established use?

Sir,
Wow. At last a government report which lays the blame for the depletion of Brodick beach directly at the ill-advised removal of sand from the beach in the 1970s and 1980s. (See last week's *Arran Banner*).

Removal of sand during

these years was permitted following the issue of an established use certificate. This certificate was issued on evidence provided by Arran Estates that removal of at least 6,000 tons of sand per year had happened on average over a prolonged period of years, thus establishing established use.

Brodick Golf Club questioned these figures, but were never allowed to scrutinize the documentation used to back up the historical 6,000 ton figure. Rapid deterioration of the beach became apparent shortly after the large scale removal of sand commenced in the 1970s.

We (Brodick Golf Club) contested the continual removal of sand by appealing to Cunninghame District Council and calling in the ombudsman. We were brushed off by CDC and the ombudsman said we could do nothing owing to CDC's hands being tied by the condition of the established use certificate.

It was made clear to us that when an established use certificate with supporting evidence of historical use was applied for, CDC were in difficult position not to grant the certificate. In hindsight we should have insisted the ombudsman questioned the historical figure of 6,000 tons which was used as grounds for the issue of the established use certificate.

There is no way 6,000 tons of sand had been removed over a prolonged period prior to the issuing of the established use certificate.

Here's hoping something can be done to protect what remains of Brodick beach before it is too late.

Yours,
Kerr Robertson Brodick

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However, we realise that mistakes happen from time to time. If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the chief reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter.

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hold it until all your goods have arrived and deliver it all together to your home. If you're needing special arrangements for your delivery we can help. Just let us know your requirements when you book in. Forklift on site for pallets and as well as our speedy parcel services, we offer a 2 man and tailift service throughout the Island.

Plastic-free fight is now stepped up

A new steering group has been formed to help Arran achieve its aim to be Scotland's first plastic-free island and help clean up the coastline.

The move was kickstarted earlier in the month with the visit of pupils from Sunnyside Primary School in Glasgow to promote their #NaeStrawAtAw campaign, which has now been taken up by schoolchildren around the island.

Now a steering group has been formed to take for-

ward the Surfers Against Sewage plastic free coastlines campaign on Arran. The formation of the committee took place after a big audience of more than 50 people packed into the Old Pavilion in Lamlash to see the eXXpedition Round Britain film, a plastic voyage which saw Arran resident Sue Weaver take part last year. The film also features some Arran children when the expedition visited Lamlash last August.

Following the film, there

was discussion as to how Arran residents could work on reducing their own plastic footprint. To take the initiative forward, a committee has been formed which includes North Ayrshire Councillor Ellen McMaster, Mark Harwood from the Co-op, Hayley Woodroffe for COAST, Michael Gettins for Eco Savvy and sustainability Helen How of Carraigmhor B&B, as well as Sue herself.

Sue said: 'We expect to liaise closely with our or-



An eXXpedition crew member speaks to Arran High School pupils on the dangers of plastics in the sea during the visit to Lamlash last August. 01_B08plastic02

ganisations as well as the Arran Sustainability Forum, the Arran Economic Forum and VisitArran, all of whom have been most supportive of the launch.

'The aim of the whole project, which was so beautifully kicked off by the Sunnyside children's #NaeStrawAtAw campaign recently, is to get rid of single-use plastic and make suitable alternatives readily available across Arran. This

will not only help protect our natural environment from plastic pollution, both large and microscopic, but add to Arran's reputation as an island of great natural and unspoiled beauty.'

Earlier this month pupils from Easterhouse in Glasgow, who call themselves the Sunnyside Ocean Defenders, visited Arran where they spoke to pupils from all seven primary schools on the island as

well as community representatives and businesses about how Arran could do more to limit single-use plastic items.

Now pupils on Arran are drawing up schemes to encourage businesses across the island to get on board to support the campaign. North Ayrshire Council is already moving to remove plastic straws from its schools, cafes and other outlets.



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Entrepreneurial spirit flourishing on Arran

By Colin Smeeton



Laura Tulloch of Arran Pampered Pooches has established her mobile dog grooming service on Arran.
01_B08entrepreneur01



A customer enjoys the benefits of Taylor Smith's nail expertise at her well equipped and tranquil salon.
01_B08entrepreneur04

The next generation of young entrepreneurs on Arran are establishing themselves in the commercial marketplace with the creation of two small businesses that have started building a reputation for themselves.

Arran, like many parts of rural Scotland, has a long history of the young turning their back on the island and moving away, but two 20 somethings are bucking that trend and for Arran it is important others follow in their footsteps.

Providing a mobile dog grooming service Laura Tulloch, 25, of Whiting Bay has started Arran Pampered Pooches. The mobile dog grooming service

that will visit your house or premises and manicure and preen your canine companion to look its absolute best.

Laura who was born on Arran and whom understands local owners' needs - while perfectly happy and able to groom to breed standards - is delighted to tailor her service to meet the lifestyle of owners and their pets. She even offers an introductory grooming service for

puppies and other dogs to acclimatise them to grooming which will ensure they see the experience as positive and relaxing.

Having a lifelong passion for horses Laura pursued equine studies - which included horse grooming - but after breaking her back she decided to add dog grooming studies to her list of skills. Now qualified to groom dogs to a high

Arran Pampered Pooches

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standard she still grooms horses, as she has done for eight years, but has shifted focus towards her other love, dogs.

Laura's obvious connection with animals is very much in evidence through her work and also by the list of regular and repeat customers in her burgeoning appointment book.

In the future she hopes to expand her client list and to obtain a self contained mobile van which can be used out in the fields and that will house all of her equipment. Her services range from a basic wash to a full pampering which includes a bath, brush, blow dry, nails, ear cleaning and hair styling.

Across the island, and with a human clientele, Taylor Smith, 20, has started Taylor made Beauty, a mobile and in-salon beauty service. Offering a broad range of professional beauty treatments to discerning clientele, approachable and friendly Taylor offers tanning, nails and make up and is rapidly garnering a name for herself for her flawless bridal make up.

Located in Machrie in tranquil surroundings, she also offers massage, waxing, eyebrow threading and the islands only tanning facility using the Sienna X spray tan products.

Having always had an interest in beauty therapy and an unofficial client list of friends and family whose eyebrows she regularly maintains, Taylor decided to set up her own business after completing her training to be a beauty therapist.

Following a very busy festive period Taylor has firmly established herself as the person to visit for treatment and beauty needs. Her clients travel from all over the island to visit her cosy salon or she will travel to you and perform all of the treatments in the comfort of your own home.

While having no immediate plans to expand the business and preferring to keep all treatments intimate and personalised, she does hope to team up with a hair specialist in future to expand on her offerings.

And as to the secret to their success? Both young entrepreneurs cite a willingness to be flexible, both with the hours that they operate and the services that they offer. With individually tailored services at the location and time of your choice, customers keep returning, especially when the service is professional, friendly and works with the needs of the customer.



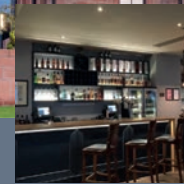
Taylor Smith's Taylor Made Beauty has already built up a steady client base after only seven months of operation. 01_B08entrepreneur02



Flynn the spaniel - a repeat customer - struggles to stay awake during his relaxing pamper session. 01_B08entrepreneur03

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CalMac is rewarded for customer service

Passengers using the MV Caledonian Isles are set to reap the benefit of Caledonian MacBrayne's commitment to first-class customer service.

Crew and port staff on the Brodick to Ardrossan route are the first in the company to be officially awarded WorldHost® Recognised Business status.

WorldHost is a suite of world-class customer service training programmes that have already been used to train over 10 per cent of Scotland's tourism workforce.

More than 50 per cent of the company's customer-facing staff have now completed the training, making them eligible

for the sought after WorldHost recognition status.

CalMac HR director Christine Roberts said: 'We are a customer focused business committed to providing the very best travelling experience possible.'

'The principles our staff have learned through WorldHost will help us keep up the high standards we set ourselves and make sure every journey with CalMac is memorable for all the right reasons.'

Staff completed two WorldHost modules: principles of customer service and service across cultures.

'The service across cultures module was particularly relevant for our staff given the number of over-



CalMac HR director Christine Roberts presents onboard services manager Craig Harkness and the crew members of the MV Caledonian Isles with their WorldHost plaque.

seas victors who use our vessels,' said Christine.

'The best marketing tool in the world is word of mouth recommendations. By providing a first class service to passengers, wherever they're from,

they are far more likely to return and tell their friends and family.'

'We are far more than a ferry company – we are a vital service in developing the West Coast tourism industry and this recognition

will help strengthen the West Coast's offering as a must-visit destination.'

The WorldHost plaques will now be rolled out and displayed in ports and on board vessels across the CalMac network.

Tax-free childcare

Working families in Scotland with children under 12 can now apply for up to £2,000 of childcare support per child, per year.

Parents, including the self-employed, can apply online for tax-free childcare by visiting Childcare Choices. Parents can also access the government's childcare calculator through Childcare Choices, which helps parents to choose which government childcare support is best for them. The support is worth up to £4,000 for disabled children.

More than 190,000 parents across the UK have successfully applied and now have a tax-free childcare account.

For every £8 parents pay into their childcare account, the government will add an extra £2. Once eligible parents have opened their new account, they can start paying their childcare provider straight away, using the government contribution.

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Everyday

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

St Bride's Church Coffee Morning
 Hydrofit
 Chair Yoga Exercise Class
 Bus Pass Club Free Soup
 Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service
 Knittery and Natterry
 Zumba Gold
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness)
 RUNclub - Mixed Ability
 Flow Yoga
 Tae Kwon Do
 Yoga-Arran
 Mixed hockey
 Burger and quiz night
 Tae Kwon Do
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Live Music - Cams Campbell
 Save the Children Cheese and Wine Evening
 Family Friendly Pub Quiz plus NEW MENU!
 Rock an Pop Bingo

St Bride's Church, Brodick, 10.30am - 12noon
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am
 The PHT, Lamlash, 12noon - 2.30pm
 10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 4.30pm - 5.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 5pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5.45pm - 6.45pm
 Dunfion, Brodick, 5.30pm
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm
 Arran High School, Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30pm - 9pm
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
 Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Brodick Golf Club, 8pm
 PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

Saturday 24th February

Flow Yoga
 Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Army Cadets
 Blackwaterfoot bowls
 6 Nations Rugby on the Big Screen
 Scottish CND Meeting, Arran Branch
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 One Act Arran Drama Festival
 Live Music - Seamus McKenna
 Live Music - The George Lindsay Blues Band,
 Over 21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 9.30am - 11am
 9.30am - noon
 Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
 Bowling Club, 1.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 2pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 2.15pm - 3.45pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Arran Community Theatre, Lamlash 7pm for 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Thursday 1st March

Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Morning fitness, Auchrannie Gym
 Chair Yoga, Exercise Class
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Music Matters
 Quilt Arran
 Adult Tennis
 10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers
 Arran Ladies Netball
 Ladies' Hockey
 Badminton
 Arran Soul Choir
 Arran Bridge Club
 Live Music
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 General knowledge quiz

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
 9.30am - 10.30am
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am
 Brodick Church Hall, between 10.30am - 12noon
 Lamlash Church Hall, 2pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm
 Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm
 Arran High School, 6 - 7pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
 Shiskine Hall, Shiskine, 7pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

Sunday 25th February

Live Music - Seamus McKenna
 Family games
 Live Music - The George Lindsay Blues Band,
 AA meeting

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

Monday 26th February

Morning fitness
 Arran Vets Surgery
 Arran Vets Reception
 Over 50s badminton
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Adult Tennis
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Circuit Training
 Lamlash Aerobix
 Badminton
 Badminton
 Arran Bridge Club
 Tae Kwon Do
 Live Music - Arran Dawn

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30am - 10.30am
 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
 Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm
 Brèagha Holistic Beauty, Corrie, 5pm
 Shiskine Church Hall, 5.15pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 6pm
 Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm
 Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 6pm - 7pm
 Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm - 9pm
 Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm
 Brodick Church Hall, Adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm

Friday 2nd March

Arran Vets
 Arran Vets
 Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Smart Recovery Meeting, all welcome
 Steak night - build your own steak from £9.99 for Rump!
 Lochranza Children's Badminton
 AA meeting
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Tae Kwon Do
 Charity Whist Drive
 Live Music
 Lochranza Adults' Badminton
 Friday Night Quiz
 Poker, Pool and Darts

Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
 Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 Lamlash High School, Lamlash, 6.00pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, from 5pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6pm - 8pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm - 9pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, adults, 7pm - 9pm
 Shiskine Hall, Shiskine, 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
 The PHT, Lamlash

Tuesday 27th February

Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Healthy Outdoors
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Blackwaterfoot Bowls
 Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
 Metafit Class
 Flow Yoga,
 Pilates
 Arran Community Council Meeting, All welcome
 Lamlash Junior Drama Club
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Youth club
 Fiona's FitSteps
 Arran Rotary Club
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Live Music - Mike Bailey
 Pop quiz
 Not National Poetry Day

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

Saturday 3rd March

Flow Yoga
 Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Army Cadets
 Bewitching Beauty Launch
 Blackwaterfoot bowls
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Donald and James MacKenzie Memorial Darts Competition
 Live Music
 Live Music - Jericho Hill a tribute to Johnny Cash
 Over 21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 9.30am - 11am
 9.30am - noon
 Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
 Old Haybarn, Lamlash 1pm - 3pm
 Bowling Club, 1.30pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 Kilmory Hall, 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Wednesday 28th February

Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Yoga

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



Tackling the myths of recycling

Arran Eco Savvy hosted an informative talk at Auchrannie when guest Geoff Green of material recovery experts UPM Shotton spoke knowledgeably about all aspects of recycling.

UPM Shotton has centres



Eco Savvy project manager Judith King welcomes delegates to the meeting.

in the UK, France, Germany and Finland and provides recycling solutions for councils, including North Ayrshire, and large organisations throughout the world. The talk covered how waste gets from blue bins to recycled products, sustainable methods of recycling and environmental responsibility.

Also on the agenda, and supported by two North Ayrshire Council waste awareness officers, Jennifer Burke and Lindy Floyd, Mr Green discussed the concept of waste hierarchy, ranking options according to what is best for the environment; circular economy and working towards zero waste.

Eco Savvy project manager Judith King said: 'Attendees gained an understanding of the past, present and potential future of recycling, the impacts of technology and

ideas around waste hierarchy and a circular economy. The impact of China's waste clampdown was discussed and the volatility of the industry outlined. The workshop was part of Eco Savvy's ongoing aspirations to work towards zero waste on Arran and a sustainable, circular economy. This works simultaneously with other initiatives targeting waste on the island and the recent push to reduce plastic waste. Workshop attendees gained valuable information and are now better educated on what should be put in blue bins, the state it should be deposited in and what happens after the waste is collected.'

Following the talk, visitors, guests and Eco Savvy hub managers – who will relay the information to their communities across Arran – clarified misconceptions about recycling.





Above: Guest speaker Geoff Green takes questions from delegates. 01_B07eco02



Right: Geoff Green of UPM Shotton impressed the audience with his commitment to re-using and recycling. 01_B07eco01

Important new information on Government support for Central Heating Systems: UPDATE NOV 2017

FACT 1
If you have electric storage heaters, an oil, electric or LPG boiler the Government will pay you up to £11680* to change over to an air source heat pump system which is more efficient, can be less costly to run and is kinder to the environment.

FACT 2
The Scheme called The Renewable Heat Incentive is available for home owners, landlords and businesses.

FACT 3
The Scottish Government in their Climate Plan 2017 have identified air source heat pumps as one of their favoured ways to reduce our carbon footprint. Want to find out more and see how much you could reduce your energy costs by? Simply give us a ring today and speak to one of our friendly, fully qualified Domestic Energy Assessors. We are an award winning specialised installer of the Mitsubishi Ecodan range of air source heat pumps throughout Scotland. Talk to qualified heating engineers and Domestic Energy Assessors who are passionate about their craft and not pushy sales people.

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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday February 21, 1998

Brothers bow out

It is the end of an era for William McNicol and Sons, one of Arran's oldest family firms.

The company was established as a plumbing business in Brodick in 1922 and, after William died in 1956, his sons took over. Now all three of them have decided to hang up their plungers and draining rods and, as Henry, Archie and Ian McNicol retire, one of the most traditional and idiosyncratic businesses will change.

It will continue under the next generation of sons, Henry's son Bill and Ian's son Alan but, although working under the same umbrella name, Bill and Alan will be doing plumbing, heating and roofing.

Grandfather Colin came to Arran from Ardsrossan at the turn of the century. His son William returned from the First World War and set up Wm McNicol. As Henry, Archie and Ian grew up, the roles evolved, with Henry looking after the plumbing and Ian the heating, while Archie looked after the accounts.

Over the years, Archie has been a tireless fighter to save Brodick beach, which was in danger of disappearing because of sand extraction.

Henry produced plays and was a favour-

ite speaker at Burns Suppers. Ian, Henry and Archie will keep an eye on the young ones while excited at the prospect of putting their feet up.

Red dust

Did anyone notice their car covered in a thin film of red dust last Sunday? Many did and Jane Sloan of Corrie was so concerned she phoned the Met Office in Glasgow and asked if there was an explanation.

There was. It was sand all right, but not from the Brodick sand plant. It was all the way from the Sahara, carried in warm rains from the south.

Jane said: 'I think what made me realise it was something odd was when I went to the Auchrannie and all the cars had a fine dust on them.'

Serious fall

To go over on your ankle is simply done and often painful but not serious. But it can be. And so it was for Moira Small of Brodick last Saturday when she stumbled while leaving Ormidale Hotel with friends. The simple slip caused such a serious ankle injury, she had to be airlifted to Cross-house Hospital where she was operated on immediately. It is understood Moira, who works at Brodick Pier, is now recovering.



Henry, Archie and Ian McNicol from W M McNicol and Sons are retiring and handing over the reins to the next generation. 01_B08twe01



Left: Entrepreneur Tony Morrow, founder of Arran Deliveries, has a new portable cabin at Ardsrossan ferry terminal. Tony has seven people working for him, three driving on the island and three on the mainland plus Gronya, who mans the cabin. Pictured with Gronya are Calum McConnell and two of the Arran drivers, Ewan McArthur and Martin Cawley. 01_B08twe03



Arran's Russian residents, Lev and Julia Atlas, at their new restaurant Cafe Cossachok in Glasgow. The picture shows Julia and staff and her daughter Maria, who speaks fluent Russian and fluent English with a Glasgow accent! 01_B08twe04



It was a nostalgic afternoon at Cooriedoon on Tuesday when Lamlash WRI invited Terry Stevens and Iain Lambert to perform old favourites for residents. 01_B08twe05



Peter and Debbie Paton with sons Matthew and Ben from Kilmarnock who will be leasing and running Pirnmill Stores and Post Office from Mike Paterson, back. 01_B08twe02

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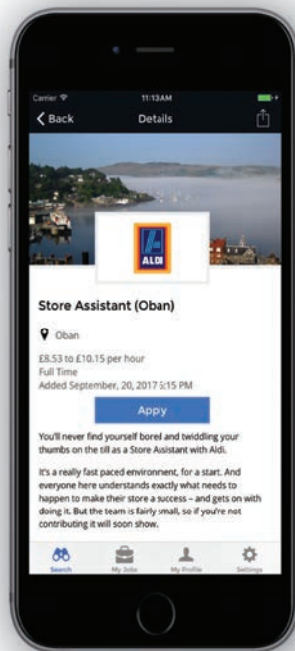
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Public Notices

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – GRASS CUTTING SCHEME 2018

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 or by telephone from Monday 5 March 2018 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 16 March 2018. 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 Tuesday 3 April and terminate Friday 28 September 2018.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



Arran Visual Arts Annual General Meeting

7.45pm in the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick
Friday 2nd March
Speaker Eileen Kerr Arts Co-ordinator, Arran
Refreshments ALL WELCOME
STOP PRESS.
Places available in Drawing Workshop 24th Feb.
Phone 600827

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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Sunday 25th February
Pirmill and Lochranza Churches together, 10.15am
Morning Worship at Pirmill 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.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 25th February
Holy Communion, 11am.
Rev Adrian Fallows.
Coffee after service.
Wednesday 28th February
12.15pm, Holy Communion
ALL WELCOME
Advance Notice:
Annual Church Meeting,
Sunday 4th March
after 11.00 service.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 25th February
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday Worship @ 11am
Brodick Library
Telephone 700346
Everyone Warmly Invited

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 25th February
Rev, Lily McKinnon
Kilmory - 10am
Lamlash - 11.30am
In Lamlash: prayer time 10.45am, Praise Service
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland, Charity
Number: SC014005
Sunday 25th 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.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 25th February
Service 11am,
Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and coffee after the service
Wednesday at 7.30pm
Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.
Telephone 600222
Everyone warmly invited

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 25th February
Sunday Mass 11am

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

Advance Notice:
Thursday 1st March
Taizé worship, 5.30 pm, in Holy Cross Church, Brodick.
All Welcome
Friday 2nd March
World Day of Prayer, St Molios Church, Shiskine. 2.00 pm. All Welcome

DEATHS

DICKIE: William Loos Dickie BEM, also known as Billie the Postie, passed away on 16th February 2018, after a long and arduous fight with dementia. Billy passed away peacefully surrounded by love and care in Cumber Lodge Care Home, Castlepark, Irvine. Billy was a true gentleman and his memory will be forever cherished in our hearts.

HAGGARTY: Jean (nee Hamilton). Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Saturday, 17th February 2018 surrounded by her family. Jean, aged 82 years will be sadly missed. Funeral service at Brodick Church on Friday, 23rd February at 11:30 am and thereafter to Lamlash cemetery to which all are welcome.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday January 25, ladies' 12-hole medal, 10 played, par 44, CSS 46. Silver: 1 Elizabeth Kelso 55-11=44, 2 Alice Anderson 55-7=48. Scratch Ann May 53. Bronze: 1 Esther Henderson 70-16=54, 2 Fiona Scott 71-15=56. Well done Elizabeth.

Thursday February 1, ladies' 18-hole medal, par 67, CSS 70. 1 Elizabeth Kelso 94-21=73, 2 Jenni Turnbull 95-17=78. Scratch Kema Genda 92.

Thursday February 8, ladies' 12-hole medal, 12 played, par 44, CSS 44. Silver: 1 and scratch Alice Anderson 48-7=41, 2 Ann May 49-4=56. Bronze: 1 Jessie Hutton 65-18=47, 2 Esther Henderson 65-16=49. Congratulations Alice, very well played.

Saturday February 17, Lochranza v Shiskine, 12 gents played on a lovely

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MITCHELL-LUKER: The family wishes to thank friends and neighbours for support before and after Berni's passing. A special thanks to Social Services and to the medical staff both on Arran and at Crosshouse Hospital who provided excellent care over the years. Finally to Mrs Liz Clarke for a lovely service, David and Clare Hendry for funeral arrangements and Glenisle Hotel for catering. £182.70 was collected for R.N.L.I.

MURCHIE: Cathie Murchie, Tigheanfraoch. The Murchie family were touched by the many expressions of sympathy, phone calls, cards and friendship following the death of our Mum. She was dearly loved and respected. Our grateful appreciation and special thanks to Care at Home, District Nurses and medical staff for enabling Cathie to stay in Tigheanfraoch. We thank Montrose House staff for their compassionate care during Cathie's respite stay. Thank you to Rev. Benjamin Van Rensburg for his meaningful words and comforting support, Clair and David Hendry for attending so proficiently to the funeral arrangements and Kinloch Hotel for their hospitality. Thank you for the generous donations raised for Arthritis Care Scotland, which amounted to £800.



Alan Leek celebrated wining The Bucket in the Lochranza v Shiskine game last week where he also won nearest the pin.

day. Alan Leek won The Bucket and nearest the pin. Colin Rutterford won the other nearest the pin.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday February 18, friendly v Lamlash GC. A healthy total of 15 played in the latest match in the winter series on a morning when the light drizzle at the start soon developed into full blown rain. Wet, wet, wet! For all that, scoring was not too bad considering the course was playing its full length off the white tees. In the individual sweep, Captain Wolfi continued his fine winter

form to win on 36 points. 1 Wolfi Kroner 15, 36pts, 2 Gus MacLeod 12, 34pts, 3 Jamie Macpherson 6, 33pts.

Dan Bremner bagged the only magic two of the day at the 17th and, after some mathematical wizardry on the team picking front, the inter club match turned out a tie at two points each.

Fixtures: Sunday February 25, Winter Cup, one draw at 10am. Cards for any games played outwith the draw to be in by 3pm.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday February 19, Monday Cup, four played

on a balmy winter's day. 1 L Hartley 59, 2 J Henderson 63, 3 I Taylor 64.

Fixture: Monday February 26 at noon.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday February 18, Brandon qualifier, 14 played, NC. 1 David Hendry 77-14=63 ACB, 2 Donald McKinnie 74-11=63 ACB, 3 Alistair Hume 74-11=63. Scratch Donald McKinnie 74 ACB.

Fixture: Sunday February 25, Winter Cup, 9am and 12noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday February 13, Winter Cup. 1 B Sherwood 78-14=64BIH, 2 R Betley 91-25=66, 3 K Genda 94-15=79.

Fixture: Tuesday February 27, Winter Cup.

Arran Golfers' Association

Fixture: Sunday March 4, Winter League/Duncan Trophy, fifth and final round at Brodick Golf Club. Draw: Brodick v Lamlash, Whiting Bay v Shiskine, Machrie Bay v Corrie. Shotgun start at 10am.

The table going in to this decider, after four rounds, is as follows; Lamlash 6pts, Brodick 6pts, Whiting Bay 4pts, Machrie Bay 3pts, Shiskine 3pts, Corrie 2pts.

Jan and John lift bridge cup

The Arran Bridge Club competition for the Adam Morrison Cup was held at Brodick on Thursday February 15.

This year eight pairs competed for the trophy. As usual, the cards were taken from a competition which had been previously played on the mainland and proved to be as difficult as ever.

The format played was match points and one of the club's most skilled match points pairs, Jan and John Beattie, won the trophy this year. Congratulations on their well-deserved win.

Here are the latest results in full: the Adam Morrison Cup match point competition. 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Fiona and David Henderson, 4 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan

Aggregate competition at Lamlash on Monday February 19.

N/S 1 Brenda Livingstone

and Gege Kroner, 2 John Baraclough and Jim Peacock, 3 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan. E/W 1 Janie

Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 3 Margaret MacGill and Elizabeth McKellar.



Jan and John Beattie were the winners of the Adam Morrison Cup.

Arran Ladies stay third despite defeat in Glasgow

The ladies are sitting third in West District League division 3 with four games left to play

Hillhead 4s	3
Arran Ladies	1

The Arran Ladies began the first of three away games last Saturday when they travelled to the Lower Windyedge pitch in Glasgow where they faced Hillhead Ladies 4s.

Despite being ranked significantly further down the league table, the Hillhead Ladies established an impenetrable midfield and a solid defence which only allowed a single opportu-

nity for the Arran Ladies to score.

At the other end, goal-line clearances from Alison 'Ninja' McKie and the energetic defensive work by Elyse Aitken prevented an even greater scoreline. However, the result by the final whistle was a narrow defeat of 3-1. For her uncanny ability to be in the right place at the right time and her lightning speed, Alison was nominated as dame of the game.

The Arran Ladies are cur-

rently sitting third in the West District Women's Hockey League division three table with 28 points and four games left to play.

Today (Saturday) the ladies will face Milne Craig Clydesdale Western Ladies 6s and, in the last of their away games, will take on GHK Ladies 3s on Saturday March 3.

The final two games will be played at the Ormidale Astroturf where they will face Uddingston Ladies 2s and Stepps Ladies 2s.

Lorraine 'Hurricane' Hewie outpaces her opponent.

Photos by Marbeth Nix



Arran's Jenny Stark blocks a challenging tackle from a Hillhead player.



Susie Murchie channels the ball down the sideline despite hot pursuit by the Hillhead wing.



Alison 'Ninja' McKie who was voted dame of the game, ejects the ball from her goal line.

Young leaders need your vote to help lift award

There is still time to vote for the Arran entry battling to win one of the Provost's Civic Pride Awards 2018.

Arran's Active Schools young leaders are among three finalists vying for the sports award and it is now up to the public to choose their winners, who will be announced next month.

Provost Ian Clarkson, who

visited Arran High School this week, said: 'It's going to be great evening for all our finalists and I'm already looking forward to it.

'I can't wait to find out who the public have chosen as their winners - I don't think anyone could predict who will win any of the categories.

'We have fantastic people and

groups across all our categories so I'm sure it will be a tough choice.'

Volunteer

The highly-dedicated team of Active Schools young leaders deliver more than 20 different sports opportunities a week within Arran High School, giving up their own time to volunteer and actively encourage the students

to take part in sport at lunchtime and during extra-curricular time.

They also run a sports club for local primary pupils on the island that sees 90 per cent of older primary pupils on Arran attend every Monday night, helping to break down the barriers of rural isolation through sport and activity.

Each of the finalists will join

Provost Clarkson at the prestigious awards ceremony at the Portal on Friday March 16, where the winners will be revealed.

To vote, or for more information about the Provost Civic Pride Awards, visit www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/provosts-civicprideawards. All votes must be received by noon on Thursday March 8.

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Arran Ladies stay third despite defeat in Glasgow

Wullie hopes to repeat his success at Scottish final

Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Wullie Stevenson of Whiting Bay has been selected to represent Arran and Kintyre in the Scottish National Sheep Dog Trials in Kintyre next month.

The team, made up of five members, will compete against eight other teams from across Scotland when they compete at Clochkeil Farm near Machrihanish on Saturday March 3 in the Scottish Inter District Nursery Final.

Wullie will be joined by Maid, the great-granddaughter of Molly, with whom he won the final at Glenluce in 2005.

Following a successful year on Arran in the nurs-

ery category, Wullie and Maid have achieved good results in the local sheepdog trials.

The results of the recent nursery dog trials held at Springfield, Kildonan, were: Nursery, 1 N McMaster with Gail, 81pts. Local, 1 G Brookes with Cap, 82pts, 2 N McMaster with Liz, 70pts.

The results of the nursery dog trial held at Birchburn, Shiskine, were: Nursery, 1 W Stevenson with Maid, 67pts. Local, 1 N McMaster with Liz, 70pts, 2 M McNeish with Pip, 67pts, 3 L Robertson with Jim, 60pts, 4 and best young handler, Donald Currie junior with Meg, 48pts. Nursery, 1 W Stevenson with Maid, 87pts.



Wullie Stevenson, with sheepdog Maid, hone their skills at Kildonan ahead of the nursery dog trails final. 01_B08dog01



Wullie with Maid herd a flock of sheep. 01_B08dog02

Memorial darts contest

Entries are still open for the annual Donald and James Mackenzie memorial mixed doubles darts competition, which will take place in Kilmory Hall on Saturday March 3 at 7.30pm.

It is the 30th anniversary of the contest in memory of Donald, who passed away on June 6, 1988, and James who died in 2004.

As always, all the money raised will go to local charities, which this year will be the Kilmory Community Bus, Kilmory Hall and the Arran services of Action on Hearing Loss Scotland. Any donations or raffle prizes would be most appreciated by organiser Margaret Mackenzie. The competition is open to over-16s only.

The social club will be open on the night and local transport can be arranged. The names of those wishing to play should be telephoned to Margaret on 870309 or Andrea on 870345 by Friday March 2. For transport, contact Phyllis on 870263.

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