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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2016

No 2052 70p

Care in the community



Your guide to
community care
services on Arran

Pages 11-13

In for a penny, in for a pound

Villages on Arran are being offered the chance to buy their public loos for £1.

There has been widespread concern on the island after North Ayrshire Council announced last week it is to close all public toilets on Arran as part of their budget savings.

It emerged this week that some of them are to be given a stay of execution for one year to allow village associations to buy and operate them, but all the automated facilities on the island have now closed for good and will be removed before the end of next month.

That leaves six ageing brick buildings around the island

which are in varying degrees of condition and repair. They are sited in Brodick, Lam-lash, Whiting Bay, Blackwaterfoot, Lochranza and North Sannox.

The loos are seen as vital on a holiday island like Arran, although VisitArran has been pushing for sometime for commercial premises to open their toilets to all, not just customers buying food or drink.

The offer of a nominal £1 purchase fee for the loos was revealed by Arran NAC representative John Bruce at a

meeting of Arran Community Council on Tuesday night.

Councillor Bruce said that as public toilets were a 'discriminatory spend' they had been among the first things to be axed as the council tries to find £13.8 million of cuts, as reported in last week's *Banner*.

He said: 'The public toilets on Arran have been given a one-year grace period to allow any community groups interested to purchase them for the nominal sum of £1.'

He said it would be up to whoever took them over to have a care and maintenance plan in place, but with coin-operated doors, they could also bring in an income, as already happens in Largs.

Community councillor John Lamont said that Whiting Bay Improvements had looked into taking over the running of the automated loo but it would have needed a £19.50 subsidy every time it had been used.

However, he said they could be interested in taking over the brick-built facility.

REPORT

by HUGH BOAG

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Your winning Arran Banner

The Arran Banner has been named the best performing weekly newspaper in Scotland.

The official abc figures for the last six months of 2015 show the Banner sales fell by just 2.2 per cent, at a time when the average sales lost across the UK was 9.2 per cent.

So we'd like to say a big thank you to all our loyal readers and hope we can continue to count on your support.



Shiskine Primary pupils with the Festival Salver that they won in the choric speaking category. 01_B09music01



Cara Henderson receives the Bilsland Plate from adjudicator Jim Gibson for her recitation of *Cat and Mouse and Run, Run!* 01_B09music02

Youngsters are well versed

The 87th Arran Music Festival took place this week at the Arran Community Theatre in Lam-lash involving pupils from the early year classes, the primary schools and Arran High School. The three day event, which included music, song, dance and verse, ran until Friday afternoon.

For a full report and more pictures see next week's edition of the *The Banner*.



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Minister impressed with what he sees on whistle-stop tour



Councillor Marie Burns, Tourism Minister Fergus Ewing with Lorna Spencer and John Quinn of Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd at the new Brodick ferry terminal.

Scottish tourism minister Fergus Ewing has said that the shared purpose shown by businesses on Arran is a real benefit to the island.

He was speaking during a whistle-stop day-trip round the island which saw him visiting various local attractions as well as holding talks with the Arran Economic Group, VisitArran and other local businesses.

He was joined on his visit by North Ayrshire Councillor Marie Burns, cabinet member for economy and employment, and other offi-

cial. His day began as soon as he stepped off the Ardrossan crossing at the new £22.2 million ferry terminal now under construction at Brodick, where he saw at first hand the progress being made at the new Caledonian Marine Assets Ltd (CMAL) facility, being built by George Leslie Ltd.

Mr Ewing was then taken to the Auchrannie Resort where he saw a presentation on the bid to make Arran a World Class destination and held roundtable talks.

It was then on to the Arran Outdoor Education Centre in Lamash, which has been one of the island's real successes in recent years. Mr Ewing was given a tour of the council-run centre by manager Ian Staples and appeared impressed with the facilities.

Mr Ewing, who is also business and energy minister, also met the Arran Economic Energy group and discussed their community hydro project, and their exciting partnership with the council to take forward the community energy agenda. The minister heard about some of the challenges, including on-grid connections, before he headed north for a tour of the Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza.

Mr Ewing told *The Banner*: 'I was delighted to once again



Mr Ewing on the balcony of the Arran Outdoor Centre with Councillor Burns and centre manager Ian Staples.

visit Arran where I met business leaders, visited a number of local attractions, including the Arran Outdoor Centre and Auchrannie Resort, and saw first-hand the progress being made on the construction of the new Brodick ferry terminal. I was particularly impressed with the sense of shared purpose expressed by the businesses that I met. That sense of purpose was first class and a real benefit to the island.

'As one of Scotland's most beautiful year-round visitor destinations, Arran attracts tourists from around the world, which in turn supports around 10,400 regional jobs. The Scottish Government is committed to maximising tourism growth and drawing new visitors to Arran and Scotland more widely.

'Scotch whisky is famous and one of Scotland's most iconic products, with a global market worth more than £3.9 billion. I was therefore delighted to be able to congratulate the Isle of Arran Distillery on its achievements, including the launch of their

latest limited-edition bottle, the Bothy Quarter Cask, during a tour of the distillery.

'I also welcome VisitArran's decision to make a commitment to the Scottish Business Pledge. It is focused on boosting productivity, economic growth and fair work. I hope that other businesses in Arran will follow their lead.'

'The Scottish Government is fully-committed to delivering a more prosperous and fairer future for our island communities.'

Councillor Burns added: 'I'd like to thank the Minister for visiting and I'm sure he came away from his tour really encouraged by all the positive things happening on the island. I'm sure he was really impressed by the energy and passion shown by the businesses. I think he recognises they are working to boost the economy as a whole so that everyone across Arran will benefit.

'These are really exciting times for Arran. The introduction of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) has led to an incredible rise in the number of people using the service with over one million passengers using the ferry last year. We have to build on the momentum of that and hopefully with the backing of the Scottish Government we will do that.'

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It pays to advertise in the Banner

Arran Active is ready to open new flagship store

It is one of the most eagerly awaited shop openings of the year. And next week Arran Active will open a huge new store on Shore Road in Brodick.

Opening in the former Bilsands building the new owners Juliette and Andrew Walsh and hoping to build on the success of their venture at Cladach to turn the new store into an Arran institution with a real community feel.

The winter revamp of the shop, which closed in October 2014, has seen a number of island tradesmen wrestling with plumbing, electrics, flooring and repairs to give it a smart new look. It will have a soft opening for business on Tuesday, March 1.

The new shop has also created jobs and will have seven staff, including four new-comers.

Juliette and Andrew confess that it's going to be a steep learning curve for the whole team but that they hope to make a great success of it especially capitalising on their specialist knowledge of the outdoor trade.

Keeping half an eye on the success of their outdoor shop at Cladach, much of the focus will continue to be on outdoor clothing and footwear

retaining high-end brands such as The North Face and Merrell and adding in a wider quality range from Regatta and Hi-Tec as well as more wellies and workboots. The children's clothing range is extended so it will really feel almost like a department store.

There will also be a lot that is new and different with several more accounts opened including Hoggs of Fife countrywear, Rieker footwear, Weird Fish clothing, a specialist whisky, gin and ale section, as well as Arran souvenirs and a baby and toddler toy range.

Denise Bodie from Lamash has also opened up a wool and haberdashery shop within the store in response to customer demand.

'We are delighted that Denise came to us with a great idea for a business within the store and we feel sure that she will be very successful', said Juliette.

'One idea we had thought of achieving is a climbing wall but costs for the new store have been high and so this one will have to wait.'

For their first community event Arran Active will be hosting an Arran Mountain Festival 10th Anniversay



The sign is up and the shop is being stocked ahead of next week's opening.

01_B09active01

Photographic Exhibition in the upstairs space until May 31.

'We have had lots of conversations with charity groups on the island and many ideas have been bandied about. The Mountain Festival idea was easy to implement and the photos on display upstairs are sure to be fantastic,' said Andrew. 'We have loads of innovative ideas for the year ahead.'

Roadworks hit by bad weather

Road users and businesses at Cladach face further disruption next week as roadworks continue on the main Brodick to Corrie road.

North Ayrshire Council island officer Gus Macleod told Arran Community Council this week that because of bad weather the roadworks were more than 19 days behind schedule.

As a result resurfacing work has still to be completed meaning the roadworks will be continuing from Monday to Wednesday next week. He gave an assurance that the road will not be closed, but there will be traffic lights and the possibility of a convoy operating at times.

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Co-op home delivery service gets a brand new van boost

'Many elderly or infirm customers make use of our delivery service and they rely on it for their weekly shopping'

The main Brodick Co-operative is the first store in Britain to receive a brand new all wheel drive delivery van for its home delivery service.

The specially-equipped vehicle which has easy access doors and a freezer and cooler department, was delivered to store manager Liz McLean and deputy Carol Harwood last Thursday by Co-op fleet manager Steve Smith and home delivery manager James Hornsby, who also trained staff on its special features.

James said: 'With the delivery of this all-wheel drive

vehicle the communities on Arran will be better supported with a more reliable and capable vehicle which will be able to handle the roads and conditions on Arran. This will provide a better service for those using our delivery option.'

Delighted

Store manager Liz said: 'I am delighted to be able to receive this vehicle which will improve our service to so many people for whom, our deliveries can be a lifeline.'

'Many elderly or infirm customers make use of our delivery service and they rely on



Store manager Liz McLean and Carol Harwood and staff receive their new all wheel drive delivery van from Co-op fleet manager Steve Smith and home delivery manager James Hornsby. 01_b08Bus01

us for their weekly shopping.'

The Co-op delivery service

is free to customers spending over £25 in the store and is

also available to those who do not have transport or to

those who do not wish to carry heavy shopping bags.

Young singers perform Arran-written songs on new videos



Emily Devine who performed *Someone Else's Guy*.



Olivia Barker who performed *Isle of Arran*.

Two young singers have performed brand new songs written by an amateur composer on Arran.

Phil Ryder, who has a holiday home at Sandbraes in Whiting Bay, has written several new songs, one of which is called *Isle of Arran*, which has been sung by Olivia Barker.

Last summer Phil placed an advertisement in *The Banner* for a singer to sing some of his songs on video and Olivia, from Whiting Bay and Emily Divine, from Black-

waterfoot, replied. On separate occasions they both went to his house where he made videos of Olivia singing three songs and Emily one song, *Someone Else's Guy*, with a keyboard backing. They are now all on Phil's YouTube channel.

Childhood

The song *Isle of Arran* is about an adult recalling her childhood holidays on Arran.

Phil has included in the video several clips of video and photographs of Arran which he has taken, which are rel-

evant to the lyrics. Three of the songs were separately arranged for nine instrumentalists to perform in a studio in Edinburgh in October last year, which are also on YouTube.

Phil used to compose songs as a hobby but had stopped. However, after a 12-year-gap wrote *Deep as the Ocean* over Christmas 2013 on Arran and wrote *I Knew It Was All Over* on Arran last Easter.

Phil said: 'Now I am retired I have more time to focus on my song-writing.'



Composer Phil Ryder.

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Politicians urged to grow up

North Ayrshire and Arran MP Patricia Gibson has expressed her astonishment at the childish political sectarianism of the Tories and Labour at Westminster

It seems that no matter the issue, if an Early Day Mo-

tion is put forward by an SNP MP, Labour and Tory MPs will not sign it, even if it is a matter of importance to their constituents.

Mrs Gibson said: 'This is little more than childish political sectarianism. We all have our political differences but there are many issues MPs can work together on too. It is pathetic that issues of importance to constituents across the UK are ignored, just because they are raised by an SNP MP. The two Labour MPs and the one Tory MP who broke ranks on the important issue of embedded swaps and fixed rate swaps deserve praise for their independence of mind. The rest need to grow up!'

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ConnectArran projects bring fresh hope to broadband deprived areas

Community broadband campaign group ConnectArran has unveiled two new projects currently under development.

They held a public meeting in Lamlash last Thursday, and while the attendance was disappointing, the group say the plans are undeniably something to get excited about.

One of the plans announced is by the Broadway Partnership to provide a broadband service to everyone connected to the Machrie exchange at a cost no greater than the average BT charge for internet services of around £25 to £30 per month. This would involve a mixture of technologies including both fibre and white space transmission. Whether such a solution might be suitable for other areas on Arran is currently under consideration. If it is, community involvement would certainly be an important part of the development.

Additionally the roll-out of 4G connectivity which would include service to 2G and 3G mobile phones continues for Lamlash and Kilmory. Good feedback has been obtained from two mobile operators regarding a community owned mast at each location. Using a scheme first trialled on the Isle of Coll the masts, once established, would be owned and cared for by the local community while the electronics on them would be maintained by the mobile operators. It is possible that once the masts are established, all four UK mobile operators would eventually become involved.

For further information about these projects you can visit ConnectArran's webpage at www.connectarran.net or their facebook page at www.facebook.com/ConnectArran.



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Rare Arran Whitebeam trees planted in Whiting Bay

Despite the very wet weather a dedicated group of volunteers took delivery of 20 Arran Whitebeam trees to the community land site in Whiting Bay last Saturday.

Grown by Henry Murdo, these Arran Whitebeams, *Sorbus arranensis* and *Sorbus pseudofennica* of the *Rosaceae* family, are some of the rarest in the world and are the Whitebeams that are unique to Arran. The species is close to extinction in the wild, with only a few hundred surviving

in a handful of isolated glens.

During the tree planting, volunteers managed to plant five Whitebeams in a protective enclosure, to ensure they are not eaten by deer.

The other 15 trees have been put safely in the tree nursery on site and will be planted soon.

Together they will form the start of a woodland recreation area on the community land, just above the apple orchard.

Walkers are welcome to explore the site and to see the

Arran Whitebeams and the progress on site so far. If you would like to help, the next Volunteer Day will be on Saturday, March 5 from 11am, when they will be planting some of the remaining Arran Whitebeams and also some more fruit plants.

Everyone is welcome to join in working on the community land. Volunteers are requested to meet in the barn field at 11am, to wear sturdy shoes and children must be accompanied by an adult.



Pippa Downing, Juliette Walsh, Margo McLellan and Henry Murdo are pictured in front of the Whitebeams they have just planted. 01_B09ACLI01



Volunteers enjoy warm drinks and cookies after working in the fields. 01_B09ACLI02

Adult fitness dance classes

Arran Dancers is introducing an exciting new dance fitness class for adults which will take place fortnightly.

It will follow a day of classes from parent and toddler, through primary and high school children's classes on a Sunday at the Arran High School dance studio in Lamlash.

With a new teacher taking the classes, Hayley MacDonald, the classes now offer various styles for everyone to enjoy, from street and hip hop to ballet, tap and modern and even some of those slightly unusual ones such as musical theatre and glee and street pop. If you enjoy dancing,

there will be the style for you to enjoy and take part in.

Arran Dancers has been beset by the difficulty of retaining a qualified dance teacher as they have to travel from the mainland, after the local teacher left the island last year.

Jill McKillop of the Arran Dancers said: 'I am so determined to keep dance classes available for our Arran youngsters. Many of our dancers have been training for years and it would be a tragic loss if they had to give this up due to lack of support and the loss of a teacher. I would urge people to support us to keep our youngsters

dancing.'

The next class is tomorrow (Sunday) February 28.

For further information visit the Arran Dancers facebook page or Jill can be telephoned on 810666.

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Deirdre Mitchell working on an inventory of the china collection. 01_B09castle04



Gillian checks the condition of an old garment in the castle.



Deirdre, Jen and Gillian beside the Beckford cabinet on the Boudoir Landing. 01_b09castle07



Two of the dirks on show in a cabinet in the Red Gallery.



The display of china in the Red Gallery is only a small selection of the Hamilton ceramics collection.



Tea sets from the Beckford collection. 01_B09castle10



Jen, Dierdre and Gillian on the main castle staircase. 01_B09castle09

Counting t at Brodick

Archivists spend six mon

Every single item in the treasure trove collection at Brodick Castle is being detailed in the biggest ever inventory undertaken.

Four experts are painstakingly examining and marking everything in the castle from the largest of paintings, furniture and trophies to the tiniest of brooches and pins, both on display and in the castle vaults.

The ongoing Brodick Castle Inventory Project then sees each item being photographed, using highly specialised equipment.

The aim of the National Trust for Scotland is to produce the most thorough online collection catalogue as possible, which can be made available to academics and researchers to study any items of particular interest. It is also hoped a public version of the online catalogue will be available as well.

The process of inventorying all the objects at the castle, all 6,000 or so of them, started back in September and will

continue until next month. Undertaking the huge task are: Deirdre Mitchell from Dunfermline, Gillian Ramsay from Glenrothes and Jen Kelshaw who lives in Oxfordshire, but is originally from Seamill.

They have been joined by the castle's Pippa Downing on a six-month secondment to assist with the project.

All have a background in museum and archive work, with Deirdre's last job as the curator of the South Georgia Museum in the Antarctic.

Such a large project required a fair bit of prior planning, so they sub-divided the castle into five sections which also allows them to tackle manageable chunks of the collection at a time.

Each object needs to be located, both physically and on the database; its description updated and its condition checked, flagging up any damage or changes; labelled in a permanent, yet impermanent way, and then carefully

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Gillian Ramsay notes the contents of the fireplace in the Drawing Room including the two Japanese elephants. 01_B09castle06



Jen Kelshaw measures up the famous Goodwood Trophy of 1882 won by the horse Friday. 01_B09castle05

The collection Castle

the examining all 6,000 artefacts

photographed to capture all its features. No mean feat considering that each step needs to be completed for each of the 6,000 objects.

Jen said: 'The castle guides have been invaluable to us. They are crucial to the finer aspects of 'dressing-out' and telling the stories of each of the rooms.'

'They have knowledge of the history of not only the objects but where they've come from, when they came to the castle, and the stories associated with them, and they don't just help the visitors to understand the collections.'

'It's been hard work so far, occasionally frustrating, but more often than not very satisfying and rewarding.'

'They have found the collection at the castle is both varied and eclectic. The oldest artefacts are bottles from Medieval times and there is a stone collection with rocks that are even older. But the castle is, of course, most famous for hous-

ing the world-famous Beckford Collection of furniture, silver and ceramics as well as paintings by the like of Thomas Gainsborough, Alexander Nasmyth, J F Herring and Franz Xaver Winterhalter, an artist favoured by Queen Victoria.

They are presently working in three rooms going through the silver and ceramics collections. Deirdre said: 'As the resident tea addict on the team, it seems appropriate that I've spent the last week cataloguing some rather beautiful tea services from Brodick Castle's ceramic collection.'

'One of my favourites so far has been the beautiful service which was commissioned by William Beckford to mark the marriage of his daughter, Susan, to Alexander Hamilton. Alexander would later become the 10th Duke of Hamilton.'

They estimate two-thirds of the castle collection is on display which is quite a high amount. Every cupboard they open reveals another secret.

One of the most unusual finds was a stuffed turtle they have christened Francis.

All the archivists have a real passion for their work and a love of Arran with Deirdrie and Jen, whose parents still live in Seamill, regular visitors to Arran when they were young.

Each of them has their own favourite item they have found during the inventory, although, they admit this can change on an almost daily basis. Gillian's is a Victorian travelling writing set, Jen's is the sgian-dubh and dirk collection and Deirdre's is an intricate French board game set.

Gillian said: 'We are here to the middle of next month, when we will hand over all our research and work to the National Trust for Scotland.'

'We hope in the years to come our work will give academics, and the general public, easier online access to, and a better understanding of, all the wonderful works at Brodick Castle.'

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Letters to the Editor



A penny for your thoughts

The decision to shut down public toilets on Arran was a matter of real concern for a holiday island. But at least the loos have been thrown a lifeline with the council's offer to sell them to village associations.

Money is tight for councils but the argument is unconvincing that selling them off is the best way forward to provide vital facilities for the island. Handing over a quid for the nominal purchase of an island loo could well prove a particularly poisoned chalice to any community group, and they will have to be ready for a challenge.

Not that it can't work - as it appears to do so in other areas, with Largs being cited as a good example. But before groups start there has to be a clear care and maintenance plan, a clear cleaning structure and a contingency for regular repairs.

However, there appears to be willing on the part of village associations to get involved and it is hoped they can find the funding. Whiting Bay Improvements Committee seems keen to take over the running of the loos.

It had already thought about taking over the automatic facility which has been decommissioned in the village, but with a £19.50 subsidy needed for every use, the cost, obviously, proved prohibitive.

The other way forward, which has been long promoted by VisitArran is for hotels, pubs, restaurants and cafes to make their toilet facilities open to all. It is a scheme which already seems to work well in Lamlash, but it does have its detractors.

The issue of providing public loos has perhaps been highlighted even more by the big increase in visitors coming to the island.

The big rise in motorhomes on the island roads means more pressure on the existing facilities. Cheaper RET fares even more and making their way to the island. Be in no doubt, the clock is ticking on toilet takeovers.

The council may have given the loos a one year stay of execution but unless a solution is found they will close at the start of 2017.

Anyone got a £1?

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

WE AT the Arran Banner endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

your letters

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

Losing the loos

Sir,
North Ayrshire Council spent a huge amount of money last year in a pointlessly profligate 'rebranding' including a new logo which was no different from the last. And now they intend to deprive Arran of what is surely one of the primary determinants of a civilised society, our public toilets.

Is it the council's intention to supply human doggy bags and where would these bags be deposited? Do they intend to provide human waste bins around the island? We are a rural community with significant distances between villages so the islanders and our visitors rely on our present toilets.

This particularly applies to the campers at Sannox, the Lochranza ferry traffic, the customers of the Sandwich Station and all the people engaged in outdoor activities such as walking and cycling.

Close the toilets and many parts of Arran will become offensive feculent areas littered with toilet paper. Great. Just what Arran needs for its health and tourism.

Think again North Ayrshire Council. If it does come to human doggy bags then I know just the logo to put on them.

Yours,
**Colin Guthrie
Brodick**

Corporate vandalism

Sir,
It was with sadness that I learnt that the Forestry Commission is determined to go ahead with their Machrie development; having heard nothing for so long it seemed that these proposals had quietly gone into the bin for bad ideas.

In Arran we live on a beautiful island that makes its living, largely, from attracting visitors and to this end we need to keep making incremental improvements, and this has been happening.

Until now the Forestry Commission has played its part in this important part of

island life. How is it that they now seem to have lost their bearings so completely?

How can it be a good idea for this development to go ahead with all its noise and traffic, with a 300 metre frontage to a magical and unspoiled coast, in the centre of a village, between two beaches and, not least, in an area that is officially designated as of national scenic importance? And all this for infinitesimal gain.

Coming home on the *MV Caledonian Isles* and seeing the guide to the Arran Coastal Way with a photograph of Machrie Bay on the cover, this development seemed more than ever like an example of corporate vandalism than of holistic planning.

Yours,
**Iain Mackenzie
Machrie**

Campaigning hard

Sir,
Let me assure your recent correspondent, Chris Paton from Largs, and more importantly all those who vote Conservative or are thinking of doing so in May's Scottish Election that Jamie Greene, our Scottish Parliamentary candidate, and the Conservative Party have been campaigning hard since mid-January, in hail, rain, storm and wind to carry our message to the electors.

Indeed, we chose our candidate last August and have been campaigning ever since. Mr Paton provides proof of that himself by receiving and reading our candidate's leaflet as did a photograph in the Largs and Millport Weekly News a couple of weeks ago showing our merry band on the seafront for a photo opportunity, while dodging the waves on Largs seafront! Again, we were out last Saturday in the wind and rain and will continue to campaign, rain, hail or shine through to May 5.

The results we are getting from our canvassing and talking to electors is encouraging and in line with national trends which are seeing the Labour vote vanishing and all warm-hearted Unionists rallying to the call of Ruth

Davidson as the only credible opposition leader in the field.

Mr Paton raises the hoary old trick of attacking a candidate's residence. They used to try that on me when I was the Arran regional councillor (a long time ago!) and a Largs area Cunninghame District and North Ayrshire councillor and lived in that far-off distant community of Seamill.

Regarding Jamie Greene, when a man is born and raised in Greenock and then makes his way in the world, to me that means he is far better equipped to bring experience of real life and sound work ethic to the role of elected representative. Jamie has decided to give up his career and strive for a public role, standing up for what he believes. The idea that he inherited a seat is a nonsense one. Jamie works hard as a candidate and, as a result, was democratically elected by our party supporters to the regional list.

Finally, having accused Jamie of being confused in his leaflet between the recent referendum, which the SNP lost (55 per cent to 45 per cent, remember?) and election to the Scottish Parliament, he then goes on to attack the Conservative Government's record in Westminster. Who's confused now?

Could he think of nothing to say about the SNP government's record on waiting times in the NHS in Scotland, educational standards, lost college places for young people, the named guardian scheme and its attack on local government funding. It seems the SNP is feeling the pressure, being properly held to account and as always, resort to poorly judged personal insults.

Yours sincerely
**Richard Wilkinson
Chairman,
North Ayrshire and Arran
Conservative and Unionist
Association**

Lack of goats

Sir,
In response to Mr Ward's letter regarding the lack of goats on Goatfell, in last week's *Banner*, I must agree with

the feelings of disappointment that people experience when the name of the attraction does not meet one's expectations.

I have climbed Goatfell twice and on both occasions felt an overwhelming sadness at the lack of goats. This has detracted from the overall hike up the mountain and my general happiness and well-being when reflecting on the lack of namesake goats on the mountain.

I do hope this matter is addressed with the seriousness it truly deserves.

Yours,
**Ross Shepherd
Newcastle upon Tyne**

School Fundraising

Sir,
We organised and held a charity event on Friday, February 12 in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

We played Ultimate Dodgeball; had a non-uniform day and held a disco in the afternoon.

Many parents and pupils donated cakes and biscuits for a baking sale. All together we raised a grand total of £172.75.

We would like to say thank you very much to everyone for their support and to look out for our next fundraising event, our Daffodil Tea.

Yours,
**Lori Prescott,
Grace Crichton and
Curtis McConnell
Whiting Bay Primary
School House Captains**



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Isle of Arran

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BEST WESTERN Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot,
Tel: 01770 860444 www.bw-kinlochhotel.co.uk

Visitors enjoy first ever castle Wedding Fair

The first ever Wedding Fair held at Brodick Castle took place last Sunday.

More than 30 local businesses and suppliers had stalls set up in the castle tearoom.

They included florists, outside catering, transport, photography, pipers, musicians,

reception venues, accommodation, hair and beauty and marquees.

Upstairs in the Drawing Room there was music from the Arran Dawn duo of Heather Macleod and Stuart Farrar as well as a chance to meet the Arran registrars.

Plans to host some of the fair outside in the walled garden had to be abandoned due to the inclement weather.

The fair is part of a plan by the National Trust for Scotland to try to encourage more people to have their wedding at the castle



Eleanor from Eleanor's Flowers explains the wedding services she can offer
01_B09fair03



Visitors take a keen interest in the wedding fair stalls. 01_B09fair04

A spokesman for the National Trust said: 'Whether you're planning a small, intimate gathering or a larger celebration, Brodick Castle offers a number of options for your wedding. Exchange

your vows in the graceful Drawing Room beneath the magnificent plasterwork ceiling and surrounded by family portraits, before dining in the Servant's Hall Restaurant. Alternatively find the perfect

spot in the walled garden for an alfresco ceremony, before dining in marquee on the tennis lawn.

The castle is available for civil, religious and humanist ceremonies.'



Bryan and Louise Lewis from The Sandwich Station had a selection of their outside catering canapés for visitors to try. 01_B09fair02



Arran Dawn perform in the Drawing Room at the fair. 01_B09fair01

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TV campaign to keep drains clear

The latest phase of Scottish Water's 'Keep the water cycle running smoothly' campaign is aimed at reducing sewer blockages with a specific focus on bathroom waste.

The new national TV and radio adverts highlight the costly impact of disposing with personal cleansing and cleaning wipes, cotton buds and nappies down the toilet.

Customers on Arran are being advised this material does not break down easily when flushed, and can collect in large clumps in Scottish Water sewers, creating a blockage which can potentially make its way onto Scotland's beaches have an impact on the coastal environment.

Approximately 37,000

blockages in Scotland's drains and sewer network last year were attended by Scottish Water and around 80 per cent of these were caused by inappropriate items being flushed down sinks and toilets.

Scottish Water believes the best way to tackle blocked drains and sewer flooding is to work with its customers to prevent blockages that can clog up the cycle in the first place.

Scott Fraser campaign manager at Scottish Water, said: 'The majority of sewer blockages are entirely avoidable as they are caused by items such as wipes, nappies and sanitary items being put down toilets.'

'The waste water drain which runs from your house to the public sewer is usually only about four inches wide, which is less than the diameter of a DVD.'

'This drain is designed to take only the used water from sinks, showers and baths and the toilet. The message for customers is to put all bathroom waste items in the bin.'

'With the help of our customers, our campaign is helping to get the message across and we've made great progress, but there is still a lot more that can be done to tackle blocked drains and sewer flooding.'

'We thank customers who have responded to our campaign.'

Care in the community



The wealth of care in the Arran community

On Arran there is a real sense of care in the community with a wide range of services for those who may need just that extra bit of help. Here you can find out just what is on offer and where you can find it.

Wiltshire Farm Foods

For many elderly people, and those living alone, shopping and cooking can be a real chore and that is why thousands of customers are choosing Wiltshire Farm Foods frozen meal delivery service.

With a delicious range of frozen meals delivered directly to the front door. Wiltshire Farm Foods is here to help people eat well and look after themselves in their own home, whatever their circumstances.

They have now been delivering to Arran for two years and have built up an ever growing clientele served by the helpful and friendly Chris, their local driver who lives on the island, and is always happy to stack meals away neatly in the freezer.

Wiltshire Farm Foods award winning chefs and dieticians have cooked up a range of over 260 delicious dishes - from breakfasts through to lunch, afternoon tea and an evening meal. Each meal is prepared in the Wiltshire kitchens using quality ingredients that are selected from carefully approved suppliers, before being frozen straightaway to lock in the freshness.

Convenience is a big part of the Wiltshire Farm Foods service. All meals can be ordered over the phone, online or by post. Another big benefit is that the service is completely commitment free - customers can order as much or as little as they like, whenever it suits them. And with main meals starting at just £2.95 they offer good value as well as nutrition and flavour.

A spokesperson for the firm said: "Thanks to all our customers. It is our pleasure to deliver to such a beautiful place and friendly people, even if the weather can make it a challenge!"

Please call us on 01294 551734 or visit Wiltshirefarmfoods.com for a free brochure.

*There is also a Meals at Home Service available through North Ayrshire Council. If you think you might be interested please contact the local office on: 01770 600742.

Arran Care & Repair

Arran Care & Repair helps older people stay independently and safely at home, by assisting with essential repairs and adaptations, to their property Based at the North Ayrshire

Council offices in Lamash the free service offers independent advice, information and assistance to homeowners and private sector tenants, over 65 years of age, with essential repairs and adaptations to their home.

The service aims to enable older people to remain living comfortably and safely at home in their own community by assisting with all housing related issues. Advisers from the service will visit you at home to discuss your needs and options.

and, if required, will act on your behalf to organise any adaptations or repairs and help you to fill out paperwork. When appropriate they will refer you to other organisations and professionals who may be able to offer you specialised assistance. They can also check that you are receiving all the welfare benefits to which you may be entitled.

They also offer a small repairs service. For the over they can organise and pay a registered tradesman up to £100 to carry out small repairs. They can also be able to help with security issues such as fitting new locks, door chains, an outside security light or repairing window handles.

They can also fit grab rails, arrange other small adaptations and can assist with applications for Disabled Adaptations Grants.

Healthy Outdoors Team

The Healthy Outdoors Team is about 'conservation, exercise and well-being' and is all about healthy people and healthy places.

Organised by the Brodick Castle Ranger Service HOT has given many the opportunity to improve the local environment and, very importantly, have a bit of fun and made new friends. One member said: 'I feel much better, both mentally and physically because of my involvement.'

Since its start in 2012, some of the many projects the HOT has contributed to include: clearing Rhododendron ponticum and salmonberry along Wilma's Walk and the Castle drive, clearing and plant an area for hazel coppice, maintaining the wildlife garden; and building and managing a plant nursery growing trees to help regenerate woodland around the property.

Don't forget, everyone is welcome to HOT which meets every Tuesday at the Ranger Centre at 10am. Please invite any family and friends that you think might be interested.

Thistle Help Ltd

Thistle Help Ltd was founded in 2007 by George Ruddick and Laura Hays in order to provide a comprehensive range of assisted living aids that truly reflects the needs of those who require support with mobility and daily living aids.

The company have been supplying to the residents of Arran for eight years and bring their showroom to the Ormidale Pavilion twice a year. Their next scheduled exhibition is on Wednesday, April 27 from 12 noon until 4pm. Bring along the advert in this week's Banner on the day and receive a daily living aid, up to the value of £12 free,

on purchases above £75.

Thistle Help has a unique strength in that the Managing Director himself is disabled, and treating customers with honesty and integrity is the aim of each and every one of Thistle Help's staff.

If you are unable to visit them at the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, you can call them on 01294 313369/278916, email sales@thistlehelp.co.uk, click on www.thistlehelp.co.uk or visit their Irvine showroom at 15 Portland Avenue, Irvine. Wiltshirefarmfoods.com for a free brochure. There is also a Meals at Home Service available through North

Ayrshire Council. If you think you might be interested please contact the local office on 01770 600742.

Citizens advice

Provides free, independent, confidential, and impartial advice on a range of issues including debt and consumer issues, benefits, housing, legal matters, employment and discrimination.

The Arran Citizens Advice Bureau is open on a Monday from 9.30am to 1.30pm at Ormidale Sports Centre or get advice online at: www.nacasadvice.org.uk

Elderly Forum

The Elderly Forum meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the Ormidale Pavilion from 11am until 1pm and is attended by an Arran Community Council representative. The chairperson is Helen Kerr and the secretary is Jean Strachan. The meetings are open to all residents aged 55 and over.

Mary Davis Trust

Providing complimentary treatments and therapies, including Hot Stone Massage, healing CranioSacral Therapy, to people suffering from debilitating diseases and for carers. Money was left in trust to provide

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We are also open to ideas to help the community
so if you have any suggestions
please call Liz on 302515.



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for Scotland
a place for everyone

Healthy Outdoors Team

Tuesdays 10am to 1pm at Ranger Centre

A chance to meet people and help
with our conservation projects

We provide work gloves, tools, materials,
and refreshments

For more information call 01770 302462.

EVERYONE is welcome to **HOT!**



relief for people suffering and stressed carers. Idea is to make them feel special, valued and cared for. Needs referral from Dr Liz Guthrie at Arran Medical Group. Life advice is also given.

Umbrella Project

The Umbrella Project was set up by Arran Community and Voluntary Service to provide social activity to anyone who would like to be involved. Four different type of activities. Indoors on Mondays at Lamlash Fire Station working on creative projects. Outdoors working in gardens at Brodick Castle on Thursday's. A befriending service offering one on one activities and support. And a lunch club is held every second Monday from 12noon till 2pm at the Glen Estate sheltered house

in Brodick.

Parkinson's Support Group.

Offering information, friendship and support to local people with Parkinson's Disease, their family and carers. They also organise regular events and social activities. Meet at Lamlash Fire Station on the first Wednesday every month between 2pm and 4pm.

Music Matters

Started by Rev Lily McKinnon, professional and security vetted volunteers provide support for dementia sufferers. Meets on the last Thursday of the month in Lamlash Church Hall from 2pm - 3pm and is for those all over the island living with Dementia and for their carers. The afternoon starts

with tea and home baking, followed by a time of singing together. From 3pm - to 4pm there is an informal drop in for information and support from Alzheimers Scotland representatives and other related agencies.

Arran Churches Together Foodbank

Collection from all of the local churches for long life food items that are collected and placed together to benefit the needy people on Arran. When the larder is full they can be distributed to people on the mainland. Volunteers deliver food parcels to all area of the island and food parcels contain enough food to last between 3 and 5 days. They work with North Ayrshire

Foodbank, which is means tested and restricted to a maximum of three times, but there are no restrictions on the ACT Foodbank. Donations can be made to any church on Arran. Calls can be made in confidence to Helen on 302375 or Angus on 302334

Arcas

The Arran Cancer Support Trust has been helping cancer patients on Arran since 1989 with transport to and from the ferry to hospitals on Arran and the mainland. and all free of charge and in strict confidence. Their drivers, who are all volunteers, will meet you at Ardrossan, take you in a comfortable car to the hospital

where you have your appointment, wait there or come back for you, and take you back to the ferry. Transport can also be arranged on Arran to and from the ferry terminal. Telephone Keith Cheshire on 820600 to access this service. Leave a message on the answerphone if there is no reply and your call will be returned promptly.

Co-op

As well as providing value for customers the Co-operative is very much a company at the heart of the community in all their three stores. As well as assisting with many fundraising events they regular assist the elderly by providing transport as well as offering

help in store.

They have community notice board in store, and supporting local businesses and give sponsorship to small charitable organisations. And they also offer their free home delivery service to all.

Care and Support North Ayrshire (www.carena.org.uk)

Independent website for carers and individuals offering social care services and support in your own community. Information on news and events and leisure and activity groups. Provides help in a crises with a large amount of contact details for many types of situations including employment health and care and even faith, religion and belief.






Arran Care & Repair

Arran care & repair helps older people stay independently and safely at home, by assisting with essential repairs and adaptations to their property.

Information and advice
Arran Care & Repair offers independent advice, information and assistance to homeowners and private sector tenants over 65 years of age with essential repairs and adaptations to their home. The service aims to enable older people to remain living comfortably and safely at home in their own community by assisting with all housing related issues.

Small Repairs Service
If you are over 65 years old and worried about safety or security issues in your home Arran Care & Repair may be able to help you.

Christine McDonald
Care & Repair Officer
Arran Care & Repair
North Ayrshire Council Offices,
Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8JY
Tel: 01770 464961
Email: arrancareandrepair@trustha.org.uk

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have a problem or feel you could benefit from the service and want to find out more. We will be happy to talk over your needs and discuss the options available to you.





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Website gives VisitScotland global brand... but 'initial glitches' are still being ironed out

A new interactive VisitScotland website has been launched which gives the organisation one global brand and one universal identity for the first time.

It enables every tourism business and organisation in the country to contribute to the content and drive new business, helping tourism reach its ambition of £1 billion growth by 2020.

It has been welcomed as being far more engaging, but previously there have been concerns raised over a number of errors relating to the new Arran pages.

Some of these have been taken up by VisitArran and have been corrected, while VisitScotland admits there have been 'initial glitches' which they are working hard to rectify.

The new website has been launched hand-in-hand with a new #ScotSpirit social media movement.

The £4.25 million 'Spirit of Scotland' campaign is based on an innovative, creative approach which seeks to go beyond standard destination marketing, fundamentally changing the way VisitScotland markets and sells the country around the world.

Interactive

The interactive website promotes all regions of the country, including the new content on Arran.

The Spirit campaign is aimed at evoking emotion in all those who encounter it worldwide through TV, radio, print, digital advertising and social media.

It features inspirational, cinematic-style 'Scotland: A

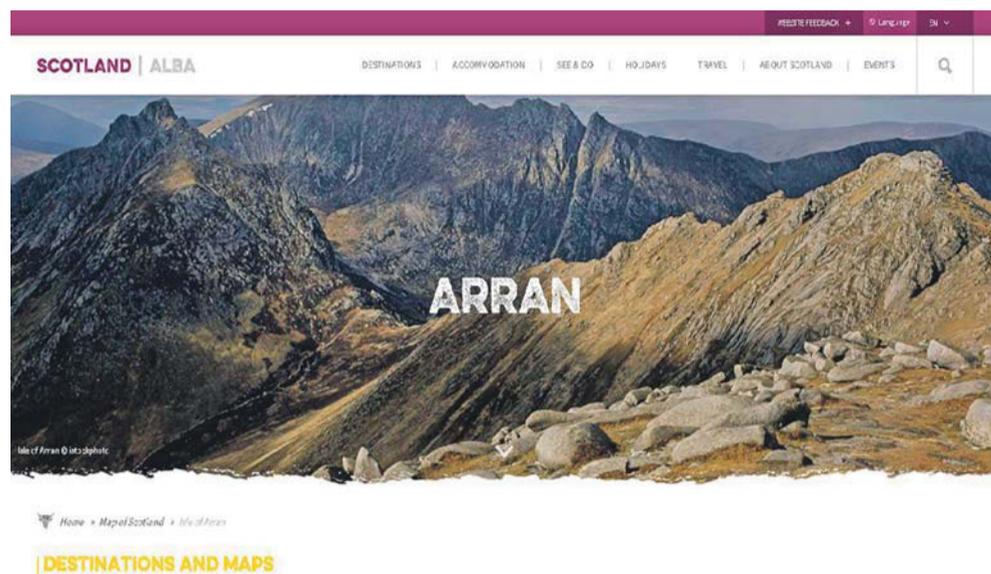
spirit of its own' TV advertisements - set to be shown across the USA and UK. This includes stunning time-lapse imagery, a specially-commissioned Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) soundtrack and a voiceover by *Game of Thrones* star Iain Glen and Perthshire-born actor and star of *The Good Wife*, Alan Cumming.

Spirit

In addition to the television ads, a series of 90-second online films have also been produced which capture the spirit of Scotland through the eyes of those that live and work here.

The Spirit of Scotland TV ads and a series of online films can be found on the VisitScotland's YouTube channel.

Another key focus of



The new VisitScotland website featuring information on Arran.

the new campaign is the #ScotSpirit social media movement, which has been launched with social, economic and charitable aims.

Designed to harness the power of the nation behind tourism, it has been created to encourage everyone to share their experiences of Scotland and to celebrate their feelings for it in order to raise the country's profile to its highest-ever level and create a strong emotional pull.

The people of Arran are being asked to get behind the #ScotSpirit movement and add their voice to the social media conversation.

To spark this off and inspire visitors, residents and those who just love Scotland are being asked to reveal what the Scottish spirit means to them.

A VisitScotland spokesman said: 'Following the launch of our new visitScotland.com website, there have been some initial glitches and issues in terms of content.'

Resolve

'We have been working hard to identify and resolve any inaccuracies or omissions as quickly as possible.'

'We want to ensure the website is informative and inspirational, encouraging visi-

tors to explore our country's regions and experience the spirit of Scotland, from the of magic of our landscapes to the warmth of our people.

'We are actively encouraging everybody to feedback to us through VisitScotland regional representatives and directly through the feedback form on the website itself.'

It has been agreed by many users though, that the new website is far more engaging and graphically impressive than the previous one.

To find out more about The Spirit of Scotland campaign go to: www.visitscotland.com/ScotSpirit.

Fish Farmer

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New artists sought for the Arran Open Studios event

Art, unlike nature does not go to sleep for the winter nor do the organisers of the Arran Open Studios event who have been chivvying away all through this wet winter paving the way for this year's August event.

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 practise, the technical hurdles they have to overcome and their meditations 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.

This is the fifth year of the event started by Josephine

Broekhuizen and Sarah Cook. Last year's event had 34 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.

Qualify

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 together 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 Friday, August 12 to Monday, August 15 inclusive. Opening



Ruth Mae at work in her studio at Southbank Farm.

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 and/or look at the AOS Facebook page. This event needs you. Both as maker and patron. Help to make it bigger and better.

Tim Pomeroy

A night to remember at the 23rd Kildonan Burns' Supper

There was an impressive turnout at the Kildonan Hall at the start of February for the 23rd annual Kildonan Burns' Supper.

Once the grace was said by John McDonald the haggis was piped in and the address was given by Gordon Kinniburgh.

William Robertson gave the Immortal Memory and Max Worthington provided a very

entertaining Toast to the Lassies.

Later there was then a reading by Liz Kennedy before the musicians, Jim Flemming and the Rev Angus Adamson, entertained the crowds with the accordion and the pipes.

It was at this stage that Judy Worthington issued a riposte to her husband's Toast to the Lassies which was as equally entertaining as the toast.

Organiser Alastair Yates thanked everyone for attending and especially to the pipers, Alastair Hume and Murray Boal, who have been performing at the Kildonan Burns' Supper for the past 21 years.

Judith Cook received thanks for providing the meal and after *Auld Lang Syne* was sung, the assembled company parted their own ways.



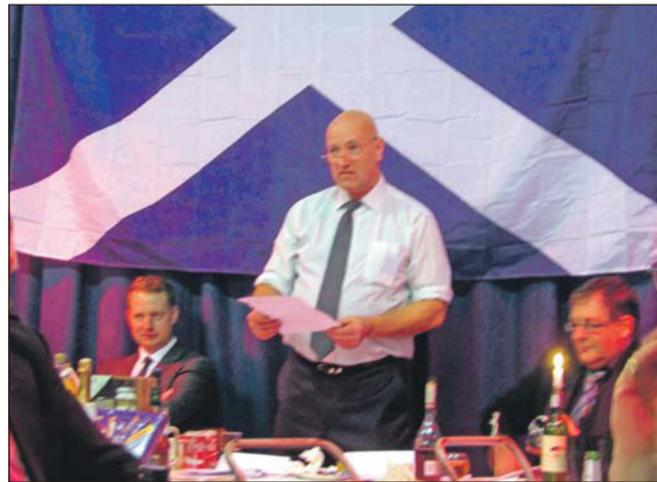
Gordon Kinniburgh addressing the haggis while the pipers look on.



Jim Flemming entertained on the accordion.



Judith Worthington gave the reply to Toast to the Lassies.



Chairman John McBride welcomes the guests.



Angus Adamson played a tune on his pipes.



Organiser Alistair Yates gives the vote of thanks.



The chairman and speakers were seated at the top table.

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The Heretics entertain at Saltire Society

The Altachorvie in Lamlash rang to the words and song of The Heretics, an eclectic group of Scottish wordsmiths and musicians who had been invited to entertain by the Arran branch of the Saltire Society at their February meeting. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening with 11 Heretics and four Arranachs sharing

their work in poetry and song, through much laughter and some serious contemplation. A night to remember. **Meetings** This was the seventh meeting of the recently formed Arran branch of the Satire Society. Previous meetings have included Arran residents such as sculptor, Tim Pomeroy,

writer, Cicely Gill and Ann Bruce talking about her work as a translator of Norwegian noir. In addition, there have been three meetings with notable Scots from beyond Arran's shores: Alan Riach, writer and Professor of Scottish Literature at Glasgow University; a joint evening with the McLellan Arts Fes-



The Heretics perform at the Altachorvie.



tival with artist Sandy Moffat, Dolina McLennan, singer and writer and Andy Scott, creator of The Kelpies. These evenings, in the company of talented and inspiring people have been a joy. They are also free and open to all. It is not necessary to be a member of the society to come along and all are welcome. The Saltire Society itself was founded in 1936 with the aim of promoting the under-

standing and celebration of the culture and heritage of Scotland. The society is based in Edinburgh but has branches throughout Scotland and is completely non-political, encompassing as it does people of all political sympathies and none. One of its most important functions is the making of annual awards for literature, arts and crafts, civil engineering, architecture and

music. In fact, Robert McLellan was the recipient of a Saltire Award for Literature in 1939. Anyone who is interested in Scottish culture will enjoy these meetings so look out for the next meeting which will be in Corrie Hall on Wednesday, March 9 at 7.30pm, and will feature Peter Alexander Wilson and friends in an evening of music and verse. *Hazel Gardiner*

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A wet and wild January and winter is not over yet

The unsettled weather of December continued into January with regular, sometimes storm force Atlantic fronts sweeping across the island. While it was a little milder than January 2015, it was wetter and windier.

The sightings of a juvenile puffin close to Largymore on 7th, a little auk washed ashore at Laggan on 8th, and another in Lamlash Bay also on 8th, were almost certainly a result of this stormy weather. Other highlights included a red kite in High Kildonan on 12th and a Slavonian grebe in Machrie Bay on 16th.

Wintering wildfowl numbers included: 12 pink-footed geese in the Shiskine Valley on 11th, 50 teal on Sliderry shore on 14th, eight whooper swan at Silver Sands on 17th, 14 wigeon at Kilpatrick Point on 19th, three golden-eye at Clauchlands Point on 20th, 400 greylag geese in the Shiskine Valley on 27th and six white-fronted geese also in the Shiskine Valley on 30th. Other winter visitors included nine purple sand-

piper in Kildonan on 13th, a greenshank at Clauchlands on 17th and 43 fieldfare with 83 redwing by Loch Garbad on 20th. In addition, there were a number of reports of wintering woodcock, snipe and jack snipe, including groups feeding at night in appropriate fields in Sliderry on 8th.

Other noteworthy records included: seven moorhen at Port na Lochan on 6th, eight black-throated diver at Clauchlands, six great northern diver at Cosyden and a merlin at Balliekin all on 20th, 88 lapwing at Kilpatrick Point on 24th and two little grebe in Loch Ranza on 30th. The consecutive cold winters of 2009-2011 had a detrimental impact on a number of birds including stonechat. It was, therefore, encouraging to receive 16 sightings of this species in January including six birds at Clauchlands on 20th and four birds at Kilpatrick on 24th.

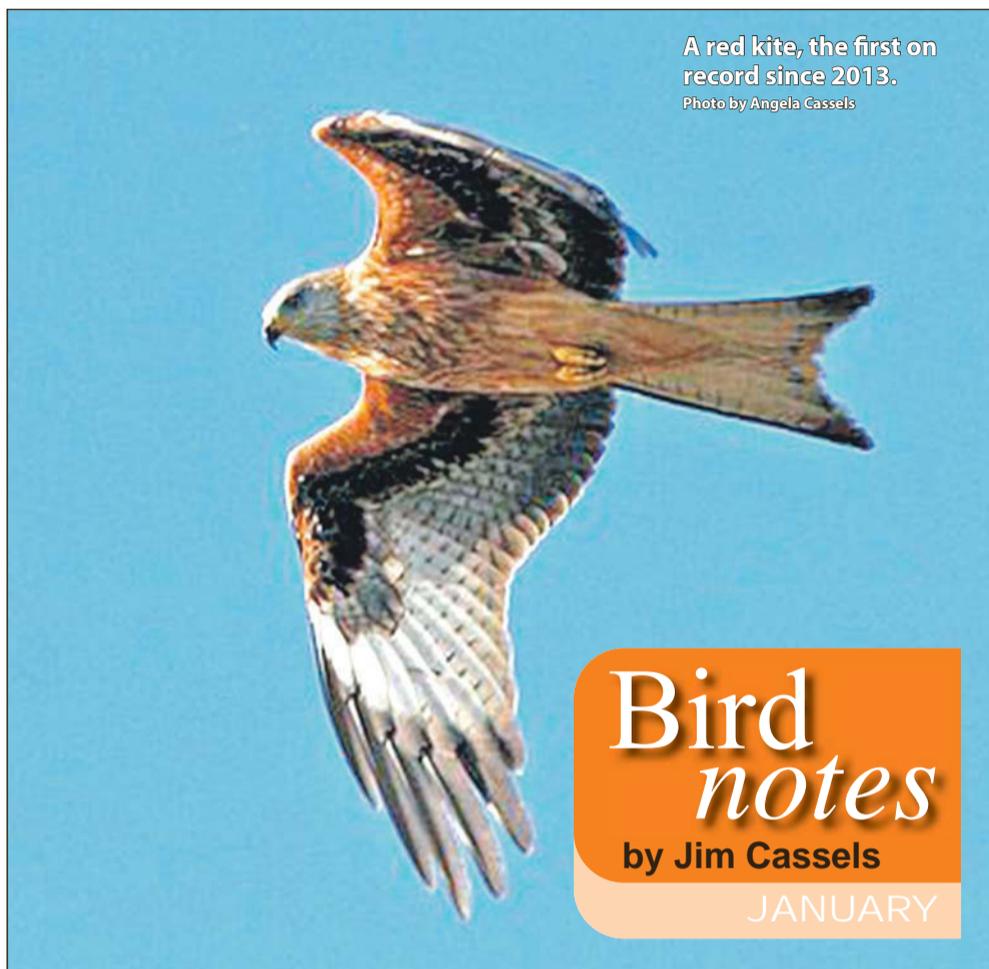
Interesting garden birds included: a male blackcap in Alma Park on 2nd, a male

bullfinch in Lamlash on 7th, three yellowhammer in Shiskine on 10th, 10 long-tailed tit in Whiting Bay on 14th, two goldcrest in Corrie on 30th and a pair of great spotted woodpecker in Lochranza also on 30th.

There were some signs of approaching spring with a pair of mistle thrush mating in Lamlash on 16th, 26 eider courting off Cosyden on 20th, a golden eagle display-flying over High Whitefarland on 22nd and a pair of collared dove nest building in Whiting Bay on 30th. But the winter is not over yet.

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e-mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2014 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

A red kite, the first on record since 2013.
Photo by Angela Cassels



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
JANUARY



Recent storms have driven this little auk inshore.



A woodcock that has arrived from the continent.

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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY
YEARS AGO

Saturday 2 March, 1996

Musical treats

This weekend two of Scotland's most talented performers will be appearing on Arran this weekend.

At Whiting Bay Hall tonight (Saturday) Ricky Ross will introduce his new band to the public. Ricky is best known as the lead vocalist and songwriter for Deacon Blue and has been rehearsing this hand-picked collection of top players for some months now in preparation for a new assault on the charts.

Meanwhile, Glaswegian Bert Jansch will be performing at Lochranza tomorrow (Sunday). Bert has been acknowledged by Neil Young and by Jimmy Page of Led Zeppelin as their greatest influence on acoustic guitar.

This is the third visit of the blues/folk legend to Arran and since the release of his new album, *When the Circus Comes to Town* he is attracting a whole new legion of fans.

Driver stoned

An Arran bus driver this week took refuge in

a telephone kiosk at Sannox while his pupil passengers pelted him with stones.

It was on the northend bus taking pupils home from the High School that the driver had been experiencing abusive language and constant ringing of the bell.

Asking the pupils to tone down their language only made it worse and he then decided it had gone far enough.

He climbed off the bus and while he tried to phone the Stagecoach offices some pupils began pelting the kiosk with stones. Police were notified but when they arrived on the scene the stone throwers had disappeared.

Council budget

Council Tax for North Ayrshire will be announced next Tuesday. Although council tax charges are expected to range from small decreases to large increases it is likely that the North Ayrshire charge will be an increase of a little under 10 per cent.

The council has had to make savings in its budget of £6.6m.



Pool winners at the end of the season singles championships at the Arran Hotel last Thursday. From left: John Copperheat, doubles runner up; Alan Campbell and Bobby Sloss, doubles winners; Eddie Picken; Lagg league champions; Crawford Duncan, singles champion; Martin Kingstree, singles runner up; Gordon Davidson, Drift Inn knock-out champions. B09twe02



The lady members of Brodick Golf Club held their annual prize giving and dinner at the Brodick Bar last Friday. Pictured are all of the trophy winners. B09twe03



Volunteers clean away the shrubs, stumps and thorns in the undergrowth at Corrie Primary School. After a £500 donation was received from the Corrie Capers Committee it is hoped that the area will become an outdoor area suitable for learning. B09twe05



Arran High School pupil Kelvin Aston receives his best youth actor award from Mr Barron the adjudicator for his performance in *I Spy* at the drama festival. B09twe06



The Whiting Bay production of *In by a Half* was performed by Zoe McGovern, Sheila Nicol and Julie Nelson at the annual drama festival. B09twe04

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

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

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

Saturday 27th February

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Arran Vets - Surgery
Live music
Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic
Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
Ceilidh Dancing
Yoga
Live music with Scott MacDonald
Drama Festival
Atea Wind Quintet
Eco Savvy public meeting

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
Brodick, 9.30am - 11am
Fiddlers, Brodick from 7.30pm
arranphysiotherapy.co.uk 9-noon
Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm
Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am - 10am
The Douglas Hotel, 9pm
Arran Community Theatre, Lamlash, 7.30pm
Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
Brodick Hall, 1.30pm

Sunday 28th February

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

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm

Monday 29th February

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

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

Tuesday 1st March

Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Arran Vets - Surgery

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
9am - 10.30am

Rotary Club
Healthy Outdoors
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club rink game
RunArran Run Coaching
Open Cricket Session
Non- competitive bridge
Lamlash Drama Club
Winter Bowls
Scottish Country Dancing

Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.15pm
Lamlash, 5.30pm
Brodick Astro Turf 7pm-9pm
Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm - 9pm
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
Auchrannie, 7pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 2nd March

Rock & Pop Bingo
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Arran Vets - Surgery
Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
RunArran Mixed Ability
JogScotland Beginners
Yoga-Arran
Live music
Drift Inn Quiz
Mixed Hockey
Dog classes
Knitting & Crochet drop in group
Coffee Morning
Parkinson support group

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
Brodick, 9am - 10.30am & 6pm - 7pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
Brodick, 5.30pm
Auchrannie Car Park, 7pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm
Lamlash, 9pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
Brodick Library, 4pm - 6pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon
Lamlash Fire station, 2pm - 4pm

Thursday 3rd March

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

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

Friday 4th March

Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Youth Foundations
Live music
Lochranza Kids Badminton
Lochranza Adults Badminton
Quiz
Arran Vets - Surgery
AA Meeting
Live music
Tae Kwondo
Casino Night

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



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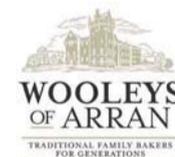
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Public Notices

Brodick Highland Games AGM
Mon 7th March
at 8pm in Ormidale Hotel

ECO SAVVY
PUBLIC MEETING
Saturday 27th February
1.30pm Brodick Hall
 Registered Charity No. SCO45785

REVIEW OF NORTH AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY COUNCIL SCHEME

Notice is hereby given, in terms of Section 53 of the Local Government, Etc. (Scotland) Act 1973, of the third and final period of public consultation in respect of the Council's review of the North Ayrshire Community Council Scheme.

At a Special Meeting on 17 February 2016, the Council considered consultation responses received during the second 8-week period of public consultation which ended on 5 February 2016. After agreeing to approve the uncontested amendments which had been proposed for inclusion within a revised Scheme, the Council agreed to take forward to a third period of public consultation (i) the proposal to change the number of community councils serving the wider Irvine area from four at present (Irvine, Dreghorn, Girdle Toll and Springside) to three (Irvine East, Irvine West and Irvine South) and (ii) the option of allowing postal and/or electronic voting.

Details of the two proposals which are the subject of this consultation, including boundary maps, will be available for public inspection from the date of this notice:-

- in Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE
- at North Ayrshire Council's website (www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Any submissions should be made in writing to the undersigned no later than Friday 25 March 2016.

Elma Murray
 Chief Executive
 Cunninghame House
 IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
 Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

ARRAN RUNNERS AGM
Monday 29th February
 7.30pm at Ormidale Hotel, Brodick
 All runners, community bodies or anyone interested in supporting running on Arran please attend or phone in your support to **Tommy at 302246 or Mike 302286**

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

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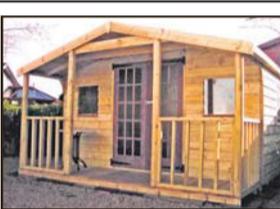
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Based in Lamlash, Arran. All website projects considered from small websites to Ecommerce websites. All websites are ipad and mobile friendly.
Recent Arran clients include: Lamlash Bay Hotel, PHT, Drift Inn, Felicity's, Hunters Guest House, Wooleys, Arran Artists, County Carpets Arran, Island Cheese Company, Isla Baits.

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Classified

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 28th February

Holy Communion, 11.00 am.

Mr John Roberts.

Coffee after service.

ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

There will be Taizé worship on

Thursday 3rd March

at 7.30 pm, in St Molios' Church, Shiskine.

All welcome

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

This year's World Day of Prayer

(Cuba) will be held at 2.00 pm

on **Friday, 4th March** in

St Molio's Church, Shiskine.

ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran

Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza,

Pirnmill and Shiskine

Independent but working

together

Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson

Parish Assistant:

Mrs Jean Hunter:

Worship will be conducted in

the above churches at the fol-

lowing times to which

all are invited.

Sunday 28th February

Lochranza and Pirnmill

Churches

10.15am Morning Worship in

Lochranza 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.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a

fellowship to share"

Sunday 28th February

Kilmory 10am

Lamlash 11.30 am

Rev. Lily McKinnon

All welcome, including

families; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF

SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Morning Service 11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen

Estate, Brodick

Afternoon Service 1-30pm

5 Glen Road, Brodick

Sunday 6th March

as above except no

Afternoon Service

Evening Service 6.30pm

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 28th February

Worship will be conducted by

Mrs Sharon MacLeod,

Reader of the Church of

Scotland at 10.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served in

the Transept after the service.

All welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 28th February

Morning Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 28th February

11am Morning worship

in the Ormidale Sports

Pavilion, Brodick

Tea and Coffee after the service.

Wednesday at 7.30pm

Home Fellowship Group for

Bible Study and Prayer.

Contact phone no 600222

Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF

SCOTLAND

Sunday 28th February

Shiskine 11am (Church on road

between Blackwaterfoot and

Machrie)

Brodick 6pm (Church behind

post office)

Rev Benjamin von Rensberg

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRINEDS, QUAKERS

Quakers meet every Sunday at

11am. For meeting venue ring -

830622, 820223

DEATHS

BLACK - ANTHONY

(TONY) - Peacefully at

Lamlash Hospital on Monday

22nd February aged 77. Father,

Grandfather, brother and

friend. Funeral arrangements

will be notified in the Herald

(Glasgow) or by contact with

son Fraser 0777 9223543

JAMES COWAN MACMILLAN (JIMMY) -

Peacefully on 22nd February

at Croftbank House, Ud-

dingston. Previously Afton

Cottage, Lochranza. Church

Service and burial beside late

wife, Maybelle. Lochranza

Church on Wednesday 2nd

March at 11.45am. Family

flowers only. Collection will

be for Alzheimer's Scotland.

WARD BRIAN -

Passed away on 12th February

2016. Surrounded by those he

loved. Beloved husband of

Cath Ward and dad to Dawn

and Steven.

DEATHS

NORRIS - JACQUELINE JANE NEE GABB

Suddenly after a prolonged

illness bravely borne Jacky

dearly loved wife of Geoff,

daughter in law of Gilbert and

devoted mother of Graeme,

Andrew and daughter in

law Elaine, died at home on

Thursday 18th February.

Funeral at Lamlash Parish

Church on Monday 29th

February at 11.30pm and

thereafter to Lamlash Cem-

etery. Immediate family

flowers only and no letters

or cards please. Donations

if desired to The William

Quarrier Scottish Epilepsy

Centre, Govan or to Ar-

ran War Memorial Hospital

Supporters League.

BROWN - PETER

Peacefully at Quayside

Nursing Home on 22nd Feb-

ruary 2016. Peter passed

away aged 68 years. Be-

loved husband of Lorna and

loving father of Graham.

Funeral service on Wednes-

day 2nd March at 12 noon at

Holmsford Bridge Cremato-

rium.

SLOAN - PETER SENIOR

of Bonnyton, Kilmarnock

(Lamlash and Holy Isle Ferry

during 1980's) passed away

peacefully on February 14th,

aged 81. Sadly missed by his

family and friends.



Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday, February 17,

Wednesday game. A nice

sunny day enjoyed by seven

players. No magic twos so

pot rolls over. Winner Jim

Green 85-20=65. In addition

the Norman Peach salver

Stableford competition was

won by Jim Green with 36 pts.

The weather stuck again,

wet and windy, so bad it

forced the cancellation of the

Clochendichter. It has been

decided to share the points

and the last round will be

played on Sunday, March 27,

this decision will enable more

players to achieve five rounds

in the Winter Cup as it too has

suffered from cancellations.

Fixtures: Next Sunday, Feb-

ruary 28 is a Winter Cup. The

penultimate round will be on

Sunday, March 20 and the fi-

nal round on Sunday, April 3.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

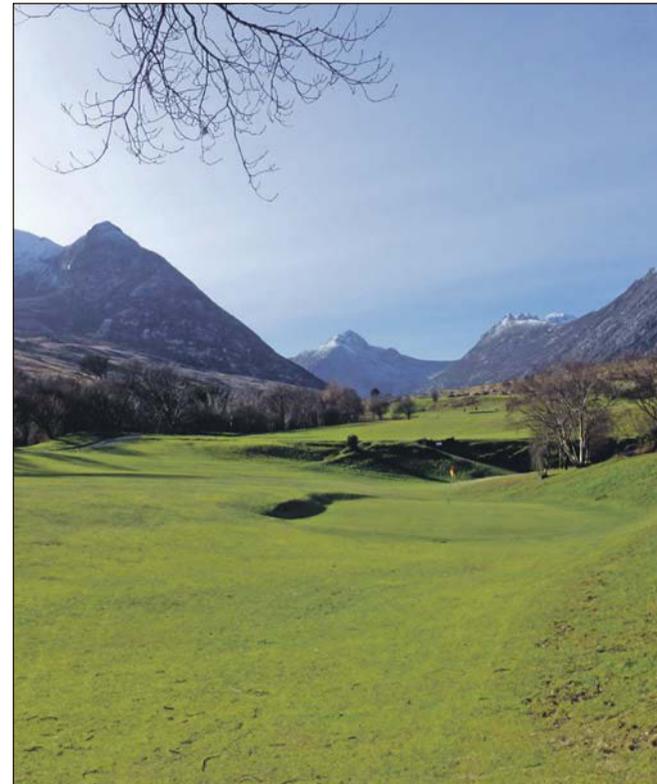
Fixture: The friendly against

Lamlash postponed last week

will now take place this

Sunday, February 28. Same

arrangements as last week,



View from the second fairway at Corrie Golf Club.

b08golf02NO

10.30am rolling start. Just

turn up to be paired. Soup

and rolls in the clubhouse

afterwards.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday, February 22, Mon-

day Cup. 1 I McMillan 73-

14=59, 2 J Adams 69-9=60,

3 M McDonald 76-13-63

BIH. Magic twos J McCon-

nachie, R Burke, I McMillan

(2) and J Adams (2).

Fixture: Saturday, February

27, Winter Cup. Ballots at

9am and 1pm.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday, February 16, Yel-

low Medal. CSS 61, Par 61.

1 Alan Smith 71-11=60,

2 John O'Sullivan,

77-17=60. 2s Alan Smith

and John O'Sullivan both at

16th.

Sunday, February 21, winter

friendly v W/Bay at W/Bay

was postponed due to bad

weather.

Fixture: Sunday, Febru-

ary 28, rescheduled winter

friendly vs W/Bay at W/Bay

10.30am starting time.

THANK YOU

HARRY DAVIDSON

We wish to thank everyone involved in Harry's medical care - the Island GPs and social services, ambulance and ferry staff and both Arran and Crosshouse Hospitals.

A big thank you to all our good friends and neighbours for their cards, phone calls, visits and offers of help.

At long last he is now at home to recuperate.

Norma and Harry

DIAMOND WEDDING

HAPPY GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Love from all the family xx

21ST BIRTHDAY

HAPPY 21st BOYS



Love from all the family x



Groundsmen and players try to drain the waterlogged pitch. 01_B09Rugby01

Waterlogged pitch is latest blow to Arran's rugby season

Just when Arran Rugby Club thought their badly disrupted season couldn't get any worse - it did.

With both teams stripped warmed up and ready to play on Saturday the game was called off by the referee who deemed Ormidale Park to be waterlogged and unplayable.

For more than an hour groundsmen were seen frantically trying to drain the waterlogged pitch. As the

weather deteriorated the condition of the pitch worsened and the groundsmen, realising they were fighting a losing battle, retreated to the sidelines hoping for a break in the weather. But with another deluge of rain, and with no hope of an immediate improvement, the referee from the mainland eventually called off the game after much deliberation.

For opponents Waysiders

Drumpellier RFC it was a double blow since they had travelled all the way from Coatbridge for the rearranged fixture only for it to be called off.

It was some consolation that some of the players had planned to stay on Arran for a night out after the game.

The next scheduled game for Arran is a home match against Clydebank RFC on Saturday, March 5.



With the game cancelled it's time to clear up.

01_B09Rugby03

Memorial darts challenge

A memorial darts challenge is being held for the 28th year next month.

The annual Donald and James Mackenzie memorial mixed doubles darts competition takes place on Saturday, March 5 in Kilmory Hall.

Anyone wishing to take part should give their names to Margaret Mackenzie on 870309 by Friday, March 4.

All money raised will go to Kilmory School and Kilmory Church fabric fund. The social club bar will be open and donations of raffle prizes would be appreciated.

The competition is open to everyone and local transport can be arranged by calling Margaret or 870263.

New equipment for Arran Campus fitness suite

Users of the fitness suite at the KA Leisure Campus on Arran are to benefit from an investment in state of the art fitness equipment that has been upgraded as part of a joint partnership with North Ayrshire Council.

The campus located at the Arran High School

has seen a range of Star Trac cardiovascular equipment, Impulse resistance equipment and a range of Origin loose equipment installed, to improve facilities.

Well used

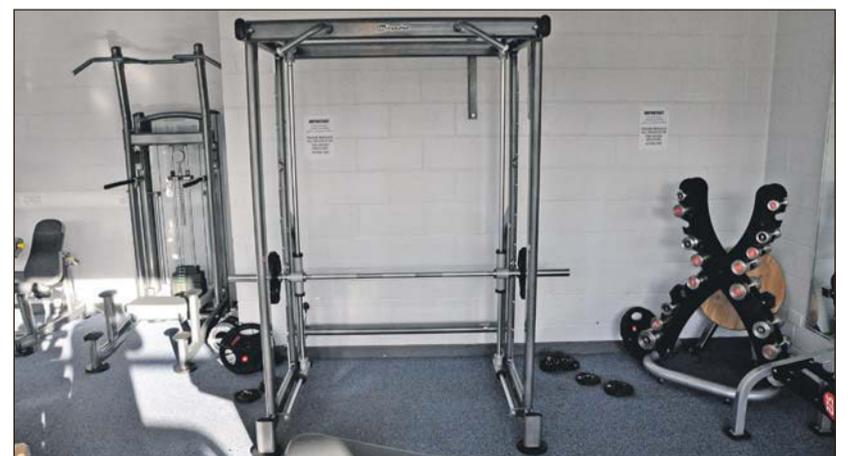
The gym now also features a larger range of free

weights and spin cycles which are reported to be well used by existing members.

KA Leisure encourages residents and visitors to Arran to become more active, more often. Visit www.kaleisure.com or call 0844 7360077 for more information or to join the KA Campus.



The new state of the art equipment at the KA Leisure Campus. 01_b08gym01



The Impulse resistance machine which has been purchased. 01_b08gym02

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Arran show fighting spirit against two tough teams

Arran Ladies 2 Glasgow University Ladies 3's 4

Arran Ladies gave a good account of themselves but went down to a superior team last Saturday. The game was played during heavy down-pours, which may have seen the rugby cancelled, but didn't stop the hockey girls on their synthetic surface.

The home side had to use their own players to umpire, and with Anne Watts absent with flu, Arran did not have their strongest team available.

The team of young university students were relegated from the second division last year to division four for player violations and they proved too strong for Arran going in 3-0 ahead at half-time.

The home side came out fighting in the second-half though and Judith Ross scored the first goal and Victoria McNicol the second to put them back in contention. But as the half progressed the visitors scored again to make the final score a 4-2 defeat.

Arran Ladies 1 Garnock Ladies 4

Arran faced another tough match on Sunday when they took on Garnock, who are in



Saturday's dame of the game Ellie Wood.

the top division in Scotland, in the quarter final of the West District Plate.

The coach wanted the home side to play all the girls who were available, but instead the home side played their strongest team for the first 25 minutes when Lorraine Howie scored the opening goal and the team were delighted to be winning 1-0 against a first division team.

Arran then subbed off and on and unfortunately lost a goal with just a minute of the first-half left to make it 1-1 at the interval.

In the second-half Garnock had at least 12 short corners and scored a further three goals, but Arran put up a stout

defence to prevent a heavier defeat with goalkeeper Alison Hollingworth giving a superb display in goals.

Ellie Wood was dame of the game and man of the match on Saturday and Alison was awarded both plaudits on Sunday.

Captain Victoria said: 'It's a fine line to play to win it and make sure everyone gets a fair crack at a game.'

Arran have two home games this weekend both with an 11.30am pass back. Today (Saturday) they play Ardsan Ladies 2s and on Sunday are up against Dumfries Ladies 2s, who both sit below them in the league. They are urging everyone who can make it along to come and support them.



Arran get numbers back to defend an Glasgow Uni attack.
01_B09hockey03



Pauline Reid keeps a close eye on a Garnock attacker.
01_B09hockey05



A Glasgow Uni player has a heavy collision with Arran goalkeeper Alison Hollingworth on Saturday. 01_B09hockey01

Club in urgent umpire plea

An emergency meeting is being called to discuss the future of the Arran Ladies Hockey Club.

The club have an umpiring crisis and they are urging anyone with any knowledge or interest in umpiring to come forward if they can assist in any way.

Captain Victoria McNicol said: 'Sally Brookes umpired on Saturday which was great but she has now officially hung up her whistle leaving us with no one, except a few players, to step in. This is not good for the future of our club.'



Captain Victoria McNicol hits a fierce strike which led to the opening goal against Garnock. 01_B09hockey04

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The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 2nd January 2012 and 30th December 2012 for combined print and digital editions was 3,307.

The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.