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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 4 MARCH, 2017

No 2104 70p

All new Ardrossan

'The wider regeneration will also see improvements in public amenities and links to the town centre'

REPORT

by COLIN SMEETON
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The first images of how Ardrossan harbour could look after its £15 million makeover have been unveiled today (Friday).

The artist's impressions are of the new integrated ferry, road and rail terminal by 2018, if Peel Ports gets the go-ahead from transport minister Humza Yousaf to continue to operate the Ardrossan to Brodick route, currently being challenged by Troon. That decision is expected within days.

In addition to the proposed new state-of-the-art

Maritime Hub building, harbour owners Peel Ports and North Ayrshire Council propose to provide a new linkspan for vehicles to board the ferry, a new passenger access system and improved car parking facilities.

Inner harbour

The images also show a second inner harbour berth being used for the planned two-ferry year-round sailings when the new £48.5 million hybrid vessel starts operating on the route, along with the MV Caledonian Isles, in two years time.

Commenting on the images, council leader Joe Cull-



All the winners at the 2017 one act drama festival with their trophies following the presentation of prizes in the community theatre last Saturday night. A full four pages of coverage starts on page 11.

inane said: 'Seeing the vision of an Ardrossan of the future, brought to life in full

colour like this, is really exciting.

'The redevelopment of the old passenger terminal into the vibrant welcoming space of the new Maritime Hub will not only be a welcoming environment for travellers, it will offer local businesses the space to showcase their products and will also act as a meeting place for the whole community of Ardrossan.

'What's even better is that this development would also be the catalyst for a much bigger regeneration of the town, with a further £100 million of investment planned for the wider area

to deliver additional marina expansion, a new hotel and housing development.

'The wider regeneration will also see improvements in public amenities and links to the town centre, opening it up to visitors to the town. This will build on the massive pride Ardrossan folk have shown in their town through their passionate support for the Keep It A to B - Save Our Ferry campaign over the past five months.'

Doug Coleman, Peel Ports' project director for Ardrossan Harbour, said: 'We are hopeful that the

Continued on page 2

Residents hit by council tax rise

Householders on Arran face a three per cent rise in their council tax.

Councillors on North Ayrshire Council took the decision on Wednesday to end the nine-year national council tax freeze as they set their budget for the coming year.

Despite having to find savings of around £9.3million, the Labour led council has developed a £326m revenue budget which gives particular emphasis to two of the council's highest priorities - the Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), which is to get an extra £5.5m, and North Ayrshire's young people.

The three per cent council tax rise will result in £1.8m of additional resources to the council, which will be supplemented by a further £1.9m of additional income from the recent Scotland-wide legislative change to Bands E to H.

While the additional income from council tax and recently-announced additional funding from the Scottish Government of £3.484m will partially offset the £9.2m reduction in core grant, further savings of almost £3m will be required to deliver a balanced budget.

The council will also continue building for the future through its extensive £215m capital investment programme, which includes planned investment in new schools, economic growth and the environment.



The proposed new Maritime Hub showing the passenger access system to the left.



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Transport minister handed 6,970 petition signatures

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson met with transport minister Humza Yousaf at the Scottish Parliament last week and presented a total of 6,970 petition signatures collected by local SNP activists in support of keeping the ferry at Ardrossan.

Of these, 4,715 were collected on the doorsteps, in the streets and outside stores such as Asda in Ar-

drossan. The remaining 2,555 came in via an on-line petition set up by T T J Lambie of Brodick. An additional 1,300 signatures were collected in Arran and handed in to Mr Yousaf last Friday by Ellen McMaster whilst he was visiting the island, as reported in last week's *Banner*.

Mr Gibson said: 'I was delighted to hand the Min-

ister such a large petition, showing the strength of feeling in favour of retaining the ferry that serves Arran from Ardrossan.

'With the multi-million package of investment that will form the core of the Ardrossan bid now in place, I am confident that Ardrossan will remain the port of choice for Brodick and Arran.'



MSP Kenneth Gibson hands over almost 7,000 petition signatures to transport minister Humza Yousaf at the Scottish Parliament.



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New look for Ardrossan

Continued from page 1
Transport Minister, having taken careful consideration of all the hard facts and evidence that have been submitted to him, will find in favour of Ardrossan.

'As well as offering the shortest, fastest, cheapest route for Arran residents, a new Maritime Hub in Ardrossan will provide unrivalled levels of comfort for travellers as well as excellent onward travel options from a railway station right at the terminal's front door.



An artist's impression shows passengers disembark at Ardrossan harbour railway station near the front door of the Maritime Hub.

'These powerful images demonstrate just how impressive those facilities will be.'



An aerial view of the Maritime Hub, with the new passenger access system leading directly to the ferries.

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Don't let politics decide route, say British Ports

Associated British Ports guaranteed an improvement in the number of ferry cancellations at one of their two drop-in meetings on Arran this week.

The two meetings, one held in Brodick Hall on Monday, and the other at Shiskine Golf Club the following day, saw five mem-

bers of ABP available to answer any questions and provide information to anyone wishing to find out more about their bid to transfer the Arran ferry service to the Port of Troon.

Audio-visual

The events saw a steady flow of supporters and curious members of the pub-

lic putting their questions to port manager Stuart Cresswell and Captain John Munro, who, together with the assistance of various maps and an audio-visual presentations, worked at dispelling some of the 'in-accuracies that have been disseminated according to project fear'.

Mr Cresswell said: 'A large concern that visitors had is how politicised the whole thing has become.

'Don't let politics decide, let the technical details decide and listen to the consultants who will shortly provide an independent study by the University of Glasgow, requested by the Scottish Government, who are undertaking full vessel simulator trials of both competing ports.

'ABP can offer a 75 per cent improvement on ferry cancellations and we believe that we can offer a genuine win/win solution for ferry users, CalMac and the Scottish Government.'



A member of the public watches an audio visual presentation on ABP's proposal and what it can offer the travelling public. 01_B09ABP02



Port manager Stuart Cresswell, centre, and deputy harbour master Captain John Munro show visitors how the new ferry compares to the Caledonian Isles. 01_B09ABP01

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Planning success

North Ayrshire Council's planning team is providing a top-quality service for people and businesses across the region.

That was the verdict delivered by the Scottish Government following an appraisal of the team's performance over the last year.

The average time for local and household applications to be determined in North Ayrshire is around 5.8 weeks – less than half the national average of 12.3 weeks.

For major applications, the average decision time is 24.3 weeks, which is again much quicker than national average of 38.8 weeks.

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Evacuation after Brodick flooding

A Brodick pensioner had to be evacuated from his flooded house in Douglas Place last Thursday by firefighters attended to a localised flooding incident.

William Innes, who lives in one of the row of 20 sandstone houses which were originally built around 1850, was taken by his relatives to nearby Montrose House after four inches of water flowed through his living room and through his house.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service who attended, dealt with the source of the problem, a small four inch drainage pipe which was overwhelmed by the volume of rainwater during Storm Do-



Firefighters pump out a drain that was backed up with water. 01_B09douglas01

ris, which brought rain and snow across the island.

Pumping out a flooded gully connected to the drainage pipe they averted further disaster to the remainder of the residents by displacing hundreds of gallons of flood water.

A fire service spokesman said: 'The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service was alerted at 10.51am on Thursday February 23 to reports of flooding affecting a residential property at Douglas Place.

An appliance was immediately mobilised and firefighters pumped water clear of the building entrance. The crew left at 11.43am after ensuring the area was made safe.'



The water being pumped out dwarfs a firefighter. 01_B09douglas03

Last year three houses further down the row of semi-detached houses also sustained serious water damage after the drainage channel toward the rear of the properties could not cope with a particularly heavy deluge.

Eco Savvy jumble sale

Eco Savvy is backing Scotland's annual re-use week, which is the most fun, social and flexible environmental week in the calendar.

Pass it on Week runs from March 11 to 19 and is a fantastic opportunity to see that although you have finished with something, it can be still have a useful life with someone else.

Now Eco Savvy invites you to 'pass it on' at home to friends or family, at school, in your workplace or donate to Eco Savvy or ArCaS

In support of the week, Eco Savvy is holding a jumble sale, reviving an age-old traditional event which has almost died out with the growth of charity shops. If you have unwanted household items, fabric or clothing too good for the rag bag, bring them along to Whiting Bay Hall on Saturday March 11 by 10am or drop them into Eco Savvy. Sorry no furniture at this event.

A table top sale will be supporting the jumble sale for anyone looking to re-home lots of things. Tables are limited so please phone 700411 to book a £5 table.

iCentre closed for repairs

Brodick information centre has been closed for essential roof repairs.

Now known as the iCentre, the office will be closed for the next three to four weeks while work is carried out.

Visitor services have been transferred across the road to the ferry terminal's waiting area, although sales facilities are not available.

A VisitScotland spokeswoman said: 'We have had to close our iCentre at Brodick Pier to carry out essential repairs to the building. The work – which is expected to be completed in a matter of weeks – will involve the replacement of felt on the flat roof and the removal of leaking skylights, plus some additional improvements to the property's exterior and interior.'

VisitArran are still operating from their office in the building.

The Sandwich Station

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Chief praises local police and volunteers during visit

The new Ayrshire police chief visited Arran on Monday on a familiarisation visit to meet his staff, partners and members of the volunteer emergency services.

Offering praise for the many local volunteer organisations, he also sought to understand the issues faced by the organisation with regards to policing on Arran.

Looking at issues such as operational demands, staffing, particularly during times of peak demand and summer secondments, Chief Superintendent Paul Main said: 'Policing on Arran is bespoke and it works well. It is recognisable, visible and works closely with partners in the area. It is a model of the type of successful policing I would like to see across Ayrshire.'

Appreciation

The new Ayrshire local police commander met with representatives from the community council, HM Coastguard and the RNLI along with local police officers and he expressed an appreciation of the valuable work that the volunteer organisations undertake

in partnership with Police Scotland. The visit coincided with the launch of public consultation across Scotland on a new long-term strategy to deliver policing throughout the country.

Chief Supt Main said: 'I am very proud of the service that officers, staff, special constables and youth volunteers provide in Ayrshire and the strong partnerships we are part of.'

'Since I first walked a beat in Ayrshire as a new recruit things have changed. Hate crimes and domestic abuse were not priorities when I joined the job in the way they are now. As I look back over more than 20 years and see change in what the public expect from us it is inevitable the public will expect more change in the next five, 10 and 20 years.'

'The volume of contact we have from the public has changed as has the reasons they contact us. We should not be afraid to change too.'

'We must ensure we are a modern service, look to the future and deliver the services the public want and in a way that they need. It

is suggested that you are more likely to be a victim of crime on line than in the 'real' world and the public need to be protected from these risks.

'We should always deal with criminals who cause harm to communities and it is fantastic that violent crime in Ayrshire has never been lower. However only one in five of the calls the public make to us is about crime.'

Noticeable

'Since I returned to Ayrshire at the start of the year it is very noticeable how much time my teams spend searching for missing people, assisting people who may be vulnerable or isolated and require our help.'

'I hope people take the time to respond to the Policing 2026 consultation. I look forward to discussing Policing 2026 with people over the next 10 weeks and I am sure their views and opinions will be interesting.'

Consultations responses are invited until May 8 and can be submitted via <https://consult.scotland.police.uk/consultation/2026/>



Police Chief Superintendent Paul Main, in black, met with local officers and representatives of the community council, RNLI and HM Coastguard during his visit to Arran. 01_B09police01

Historical field trip

The Arran Historical Society will be making a field trip to Kilpatrick on Saturday March 11 with Angela Cassells and Ian Marshall, leaving at 10.30am.

Members should bring their own packed lunch and meet in the car park at Kilpatrick. They should also wear suitable stout footwear and bring poles to suit the rough path. Further information from Angela on 860316 or the secretary on 303577.

* See historical society report on page 16

It's a stitch up – Legend gets a knitted Oscar

In a week when the fiasco at the Oscars was making news around the world, here on Arran there was an Oscar delight of our own.

In a complete surprise to the makers of the *The Legend of the Ormidale Panther*, recently featured in the *Banner*, they received their very own Oscar through the post.

And to make it even more special – it had been hand knitted!

The Oscar has thrilled the men behind the film, Eric Dunn and Scott Clark, and now has pride of place on the bar of the Ormidale Hotel.

An investigation found out the Oscar was the hard work of Susan Marshall, also known as Min, and the previous owner of the Sandwich Station. A note

along with the award said: 'In recognition of a truly remarkable and moving motion picture. A truly magnificent bit of cinematography, deserved every stitch!'

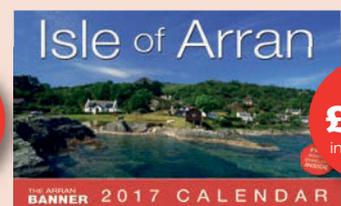


The hand knitted Oscar.

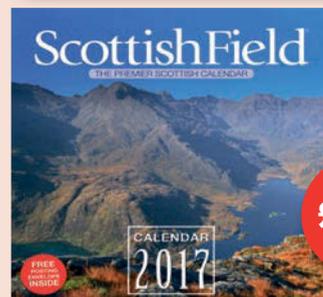
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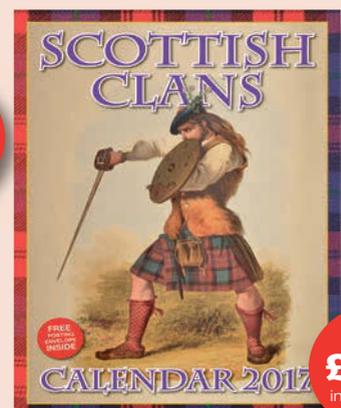


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Take a Fairtrade break this fortnight

Arran is taking part in this year's Fairtrade Fortnight which is currently under way.

North Ayrshire Fairtrade zone group is calling on everyone who lives and works in North Ayrshire to put Fairtrade into their break. Having the perfect cuppa or a snack is an important part of daily routines, yet millions of farmers who produce the treats we enjoy during our breaks are struggling to make a living.

Fairtrade breaks are taking place on the opening days of Brodick Library between 10.30am and noon until Sunday March 12. Several schools are also holding Fairtrade breaks.

North Ayrshire is a Fairtrade Zone and it is also encouraging churches and faith groups in North Ayrshire to host coffee morning breaks.

In Kenya's coffee and tea-growing regions one in three people live in poverty, while tea pickers in Malawi earn less than £1.46 a day. This is not enough to provide food, education or healthcare for their families or invest in improving their farms.

Joe Broussard, chairperson of NA Fairtrade Zone Group, said: 'The food on our tables, the tea and coffee in our mugs, all comes from farmers who work hard but are not paid what they deserve. When we reach for the cheapest products, we may be unconsciously feeding exploitation.'

For more information about the campaign and how to get involved, visit www.fairtrade.org.uk/fortnight or the local contacts Joe Broussard at joe@broussard.co.uk or Jan MacGregor at janmacgregor45@gmail.com.



The volunteers of Arran Sound enjoy a coffee and a chat.

Talking *Banner* is music to the ears of visually impaired

The dedicated volunteers who provide an audio version of *The Banner* have moved into the digital age with their recordings now being made on a computer and distributed by USB drives.

The group of 17 regular readers of Arran Sound meet twice a year for a coffee and a chat and to arrange

the reading schedule for the coming year. The volunteers take it in turns to record *The Banner* each week and make it available to the visually impaired and others who may have difficulty in reading a newspaper.

Copies of the recordings are then posted to users of the service, who can listen to it on a playback ma-

chine provided for them by Arran Sound.

If you are visually impaired, or have difficulty reading a newspaper for any other reasons and would like to take advantage of this free service, please call the chairman of Arran Sound, Kate Hesp on 01770 870367.

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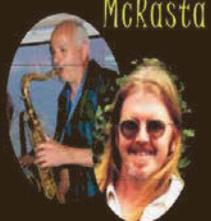
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THE ARRAN BANNER

Common sense prevails

In our modern-day world where fastidious bean counting and bureaucracy can sometimes seem to be the order of the day, isn't it reassuring to see that common sense can still prevail?

We refer to the letter (right) from Alistair Hamilton of Kildonan who has had public water leaking onto his land for eight years, but after an article in *The Banner* back in January, describing the waste and the complicated issue of responsibility, the situation has now finally been resolved.

From out of the murky depths of the convoluted issue of responsibility, a saviour in the form of Scottish Water has stepped forward to resolve the impasse and for that they deserve due credit. They knew full well that while the discussion over responsibility continued, so did the wastage. While having no obligation to remedy it at their cost, and even with having the power to enforce legal action, they curtailed the leak and after eight long years rectified the situation in the space of 24 hours.

Some might call it the power of the press, others might call it an avoidance of negative publicity, but what we all know is that somewhere in the upper echelons of Scottish Water, a sensible decision was made to put an end to the ridiculous situation.

We are pleased for Mr Hamilton and glad to have been of assistance in this matter as we are always pleased to help.

After all, that is one of the many perks of living on Arran, where we can enjoy a life relatively unshackled by the vagaries of bureaucracy and where familiar traits such as common courtesy, common sense and neighbourliness still do exist, and are valued and appreciated.

Well done Scottish Water for taking the initiative, resolving the issue and restoring our faith in common sense.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Because Jesus has Himself passed through the test of suffering, He is able to help those who are in the midst of their test.' (Hebrews 2:18)

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.

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Problem solved

Sir,
I would like to thank *The Banner* for highlighting the story about the water leaking into our garden since 2008, published on January 28. Two men from Scottish Water on the mainland came to the house on Wednesday, asked a few questions, and when finding the leaking pipe was redundant, made the decision to cut it off as it did not interfere with our supply. Two private contractors appeared on Friday and in a very short time the work had been completed.

Yours,
Alastair G Hamilton
Kildonan

Tech warning

Sir,
Don't say I didn't tell you! I use this quote as a warning as we seem to be walking to possible human extinction with regard to our seemingly unbreakable habit of relying on computers, and the vast unchecked development of computer AI.

Most of us have seen films such as *I Robot* and *War Games*, so we know the script. Yet we still seem to be being led, like lambs, into a possible abyss. In the summer time when Arran is busy, or you go to the mainland, stop for five minutes and just look around and you will see most folk using some sort of device. Scary isn't it.

Forewarned is forearmed.

Yours,
Gary Scott
Corrie

Toilet trouble

Sir,
Having proudly hosted the Cold Water Island Tourism Conference in 2016 Arran seem to be leading the way with a new initiative called: 'Tourism without toilets'.

I'm sure other islands will

soon follow this lead when they see the benefit of only targeting tourists who don't have to use public facilities!

Yours,
Peter Phillipson
Lochranza

Speeding vehicles

Sir,
I would be most obliged to utilise this forum to promote speed awareness on the island, in particular on country roads, a number of which do not have noticeable (if at all) speed restrictions/recommendations.

I am a part-time resident in Clachlands (Shore) Road, Lamlash. Predominantly a residential area, there are numerous holiday rental properties, frequently occupied by families with young children and/or animals, local residents likewise.

The speed at which vehicles, particularly commercial and farming vehicles, use this road is alarming. It is a popular walkway for pedestrians, often with children and/or pets.

I also experienced a near miss on Tennis Court Road recently when a lorry came along at ridiculously high speed. A colleague of the driver apologised, the driver seemingly unaware that he nearly flattened my dog!

I don't profess to know the exact statistics, but believe that in the case of an adult, when the impact is at 30mph there is a good chance of survival. At 35mph this reduces by half. At over 35mph, in the majority of cases, it results in fatality. Clearly dramatically different in the case of a child or much loved family pet.

If nothing else, I hope this article makes people stop and think for a moment.

Yours,
Name and address
supplied
Lamlash

Beggars belief

Sir,
Having been a regular holidaymaker in Arran for nearly 70 years, I find the possibility of Ardrossan losing the ferry to Troon to be ridiculous. The overruling factor is the train goes within metres of the Ardrossan harbour, whereas the Troon route would require transfer from the station to the terminus.

As a possible foot passenger, the thought of travelling to Troon with luggage and have to be bussed to the terminal from the station, would be a major disincentive. When you add that the journey time from Glasgow would be half an hour longer (including bus transfer) and cost more, it beggars belief that this is even being considered.

Yours,
John B Crawford
Clarkston

Narrow minded

Sir,
It's about time I threw my 10 pen'orth into the pot re Troon or Ardrossan. The only thing I can agree with is the accessibility for foot passengers not wishing to use the railway system. It is a long walk from the present linkspan on the eastern side of the pier to the gate, never mind the town centre. On the other hand, it's a long walk from Princes Street bus stop, especially if the wind is in the wrong direction as it's been this week.

Now, commenting on Mr Coleman of Peel Ports statements in the headlined article on page five of last week's *Banner*. Starting with the headline, where on earth does he get the idea that a move to Troon will delay the new running mate for the Cally Isles by 12 months? Is he so nar-

row minded that he thinks CMAL are building this boat solely for the Brodick/Ardrossan run? According to previous information given out this boat is going on this run until two purpose built ferries are build some time in the future. As for the current linkspan at Troon not being suitable for the 'bulbous bow' on the new ferry, well, excuse me, linkspans are above the water, bulbous bows are below the water, at least they were when I was at sea. Troon have no passenger access facilities. Did P&O not carry any passengers?

I cannot make any comment on ABP's tendering system as it is most likely commercial in confidence so he shouldn't really be able to make comment either.

Negative impact on the local road system re increased vehicle numbers can be considered an improvement for Ardrossan as their vehicle numbers will drop thereby reducing noise and pollution with 500,000 fewer vehicle movements through the town.

Finally to Peel Ports commitment to a multi million pound investment. Now why would Peel Ports consider redevelopments which would further reduce the chance of the Arran ferry using Ardrossan? Peel Ports have built a huge office/shop/restaurant adjacent to the marina which has stood empty for nearly two years and building a new terminal building will not make the harbour more accessible in inclement weather, look what happened on Thursday when the weather fooled everybody and four crossings were cancelled because the ferry could not leave Ardrossan.

Yours,
John Lawson
Catacol

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Ellen to fight Arran seat for SNP

Arran resident Ellen McMaster has been selected as an SNP candidate for the Ardrossan and Arran ward of North Ayrshire Council in the local elections on May 4.

She is taking up the mantle from Councillor John Bruce who is retiring and she is the second island candidate to be selected.

On completing her Archaeology degree in 1989, Ellen moved to Arran to work at Lochranza Field Centre. Later she married local farmer Jim McMaster and they run a small beef and sheep farm in Shiskine. Ellen and Jim have three sons, two work in engineering and the third completed a modern apprenticeship and works on Arran.

Having previously experienced the effects of the affordable housing shortage

on Arran, Ellen stood for and was elected as a community representative of Arran Homes, a sub-committee of Trust Housing Association. Ellen represented the community for 10 years, during which time more than 180 houses and flats for social rent were built on the island. If elected Ellen says she would continue to work to ensure that affordable homes are available to provide opportunities for young families to remain on the island.

After 12 years of being a carer Ellen has first-hand experience of the delivery of social care, and the challenges faced by service users, carers, and local authority providers. She also served as a voluntary counsellor, with survivors of abuse and bereavement in various NHS and health-

care settings while training for a diploma in person-centred counselling.

From working in retail and the hospitality sector over the years Ellen has also gained insight into the requirements and importance of small businesses to the Arran economy. Having supported her son through his modern apprenticeship Ellen believes in the fantastic opportunities this scheme provides to both employers and young Arran residents. Ellen is keen to work with local businesses and organisations to promote business investment and apprenticeship opportunities on the island to help develop the vibrant working communities essential to Arran's future.

Ellen has been involved in local community activities for many years, from



Retiring councillor John Bruce congratulates Ellen on her selection. 01_A09elect01

helping to fundraise for the first Arran Folk Festival, chairing and fundraising for Shiskine PTA and school council, lobbying successfully for the provision of a playing field at Shiskine Primary, and recently, organising a petition to enable Ardrossan favouring Arran residents to have their views heard regarding the mainland ferry port decision.

Speaking after the selection, Ellen said: 'I am delighted to have been selected to fight this ward. If elected, I will continue to fight to ensure that local people receive the best possible services from North Ayrshire Council.

She added: 'If elected I will promote the case for

Arran to achieve ward status, through the forthcoming Islands Bill, to ensure that our world-class island is always represented by at least one island-based councillor.'

Ellen joins sitting Councillor Tony Gurney fighting for the three seats in the Ardrossan and Arran ward.

He said: 'I am delighted to welcome Ellen to the local council campaign. Councillor John Bruce will be a hard act to follow, and everyone in the SNP wishes him well in his retirement, but in Ellen McMaster I am convinced that we have created a winning team for the ward.'

Timothy Billings of Lamash is fighting the seat for the Conservatives.

Horticultural Society in full bloom

At a meeting of the Horticultural Society, final arrangements were put in place for the Spring Flower and Bulb Show on Saturday March 25 in Brodick hall, and schedules will be available from the usual outlets from next week.

The society is in good heart with more than 80 members, while the garden club continues to flourish. Following a busy year, the 2017 programme is now available.

The society will again be running a coach to the Scottish Gardening event at Ingliston, Edinburgh, at the beginning of June, details of which will be available at the spring show. The show will feature the usual fantastic displays from the primary schools, as well as raffles, plant sale, an auction, and scrumptious home baking with teas and coffees. Could all cup holders ensure trophies are handed in before the show.

Betsy talk

There will be a free talk on a project celebrating the life of Betsy Miller of Saltcoats, the first Scottish female sea captain, at 2pm on Wednesday March 8 in Arran Library, Brodick.

It will be given by Arran's Bethan Remington, one of North Ayrshire Council's Team Betsy modern apprentices. There is also an exhibition on the same subject running for the next four weeks in the library. For more information call 302835.

Award-winning Ayrshire film given free screening in Brodick

Arran residents will be able to see an award-winning documentary, filmed in Ayrshire and made by an Ayrshire film director, on the Screen Machine on Monday March 13 at 1.30pm.

Entrance is free for this screening.

The Closer We Get is a bittersweet film that delves into an astonishing story of broken dreams, loyalty and, perhaps, redemption.

It is told by a reluctant dutiful daughter, Karen Guthrie, who was working as a film-maker in London when her mother Ann had a devastating stroke that saw Karen return to her Ayrshire hometown to care for her.

But Karen isn't the only one who returns in crisis.

Her father, the endearing but unfathomable Ian, also reappears after years of separation from Ann.

Reunited unexpectedly, Karen seizes her camera to go under the skin of the family story before it is too late to come to terms with the aftermath of the secret her father tried, and failed, to keep from them all, and, in the process Karen discovers that Ann's stroke has, in fact, thrown them a lifeline.

The documentary has won numerous awards and is highly acclaimed by critics.

It is 87 minutes long and has a PG certificate.

The Screen Machine will be visiting Brodick from Friday March 10 to Monday 13 March and will be parked at the Auchrannie Hotel.



Ayrshire film-director Karen Guthrie.

A

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Whiting Bay serves up a winning dose of Poison

Words and pictures by
**HUGH BOAG and
COLIN SMEETON**

There was high praise indeed for the 2017 one act drama festival when seasoned adjudicator Nat Little said it was the best festival he had ever judged.

Whiting Bay Music and Drama were the big winners with *Poison* taking the top prize and acting awards for the stars Dave Simpkin and Andy McNamara.

Just one point separated the top three plays at the festival, Mr Little revealed with Lamlash Drama Club squeezed into second place with the comedy *Present Slaughter*.

The winning play was a comedy drama, set in a dingy flat. It and featured just two actors and involved, as the title suggests, a case of mistaken poisoning, but with a delicious twist.

Mr Little described it as 'fabulous from start to finish' and Dave and Andy thoroughly deserved their acting awards for a perfor-

mance the adjudicator described as 'absolutely brilliant'.

The annual festival, which played to packed performances over three nights at Lamlash community theatre last weekend, saw 35 performers stage eight plays, which ranged from comedy to serious drama. There were also three youth entries, two from Shiskine and one from Lamlash.

High praise

Hailing from Kirkcubright, it was Mr Little's first visit to Arran but he had high praise for the plays and the organisation and the packed audiences on the three nights warmed to his light hearted, but incisive, adjudication.

He praised the Isle of Arran Drama Association for its decision to continue to award trophies for individual performances which had been outlawed some time ago by the Scottish Community Drama Association.

Turn over for more coverage of the festival.

The 2017 Isle of Arran One Act Drama Festival



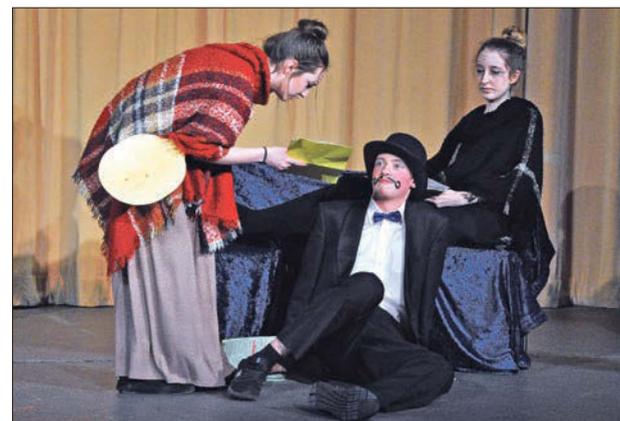
The winning Whiting Bay team: Joyce Kerr, Jill Gregory, Ann Luttrell and Dave Simpkin. Andy McNamara could not make the prizegiving. 01_A09awards10



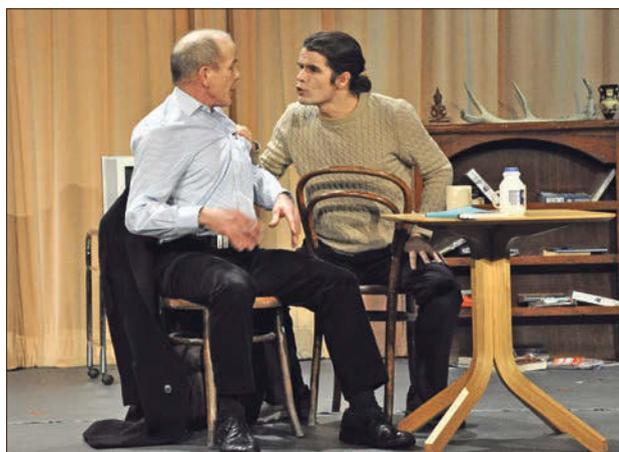
Pauline and Ted meet the newly-awakened Frankenstein. 01_A09play01



The receptionists of the Jilted Lovers Helpline. 01_A09play10



A scene from *The Little Foundling*. 01_A09play26



Dennis gets aggressive in *Poison*. 01_A09play08



The 'ladies' meet Countess Draculana in *Home at Last*. 01_A09play14



Antoine is completely unaware Oliver is bleeding profusely in *Present Slaughter*. 01_A09play29



Mrs Charles is surrounded in Home At Last. 01_A09play17



The final scene of Present Slaughter featuring all of the characters. The climatic ending culminated in the death of the main character.

01_A09play30



The full cast of the Shiskine Junior Drama who performed The Little Foundling. 01_A09play25



Kerry-Ann is found out in Checking Out. 01_A09play23



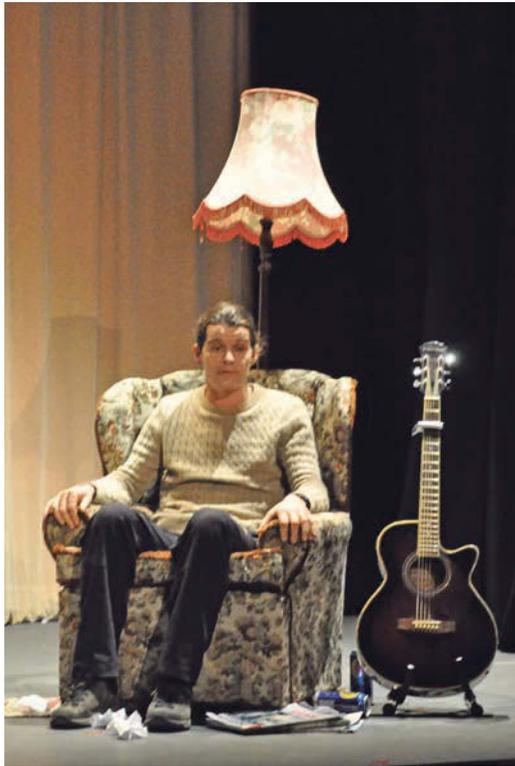
A scary Vampyra with Countess Draculana in Home at Last.

01_A09play16



Kerry-Ann and her mother Sandra in Checking Out.

01_A09play22



A distraught Dennis in Poison. 01_A09play05



Vampira holds court in Frankenstein Slept Here. 01_A09play08

A wonderful wee

The plays, over three nights, in

Frankenstein Slept Here

Performed by a 12-strong cast of talented youngsters of Lamash Junior Drama Club, this play is set in the present day in Castle Frankenstein where a host of ghastly and ghoulish characters live, apparently on borrowed time.

The adjudicator, Nat Little, was full of praise for the production which he said was 'exceptional'. He said the lead actor Baroness Frankenstein, played by Shannon Galbraith, was the 'rock of this play' and said Vampira, Zara Wilson, was 'absolutely fabulous'. He also had high praise for newly-weds Pauline (Ciara Wood) and Ted (Luke Wilson) who the audience had taken to their hearts and whom he described as 'wee sweethearts'. He added the costumes were great and the make-up good.

Poison

Performed as a stark double header, this play was a triumph for Dave Simpkin, as Archie, and Andy McNamara, as Dennis, of Whiting Bay Music and Drama Club. Set in a dingy flat in the present day, it is a dark comedy drama. The adjudicator said: 'This was fabulous from start to finish, a tremendous performance.'

The set, which had both an exterior and interior, made for a very good stage presentation, Mr Little said, and he described the fight scene as 'very realistic'. He added the death scene at the end was always hard to do but said Archie had 'brought it off'.

Summing up he said: 'These two were absolutely brilliant and I congratulate you on a superb performance.'

Jilted Lovers Helpline

This comedy was the offering of Shiskine SWI and was the second double header of the night starring Ruth Betley, as Mary, and Faye Hamill, as Jasmine, as receptionists at a helpline, not surprisingly, for jilted lovers.

The two spend almost the entire play at one end of

a series of increasingly bizarre telephone conversations. Mr Little said it was a difficult play to stage but said it had been 'edited beautifully' by the producer, Jerry Arthur

He said the play was nicely paced and there were good costumes. He said Ruth, as Mary, was the quieter and more naive and kept in character from start to finish.

He said Fay was a 'comedy supremo' and her delivery of her lines was 'absolutely fabulous'.

The Little Foundling

This comedy by Shiskine Junior Drama Club, was a well performed and witty offering using the confident acting abilities of James Smith playing the father, Katie Murchie playing the daughter and Rachel Brown accurately portraying the mother. Convincing performances of a woodcutter, squire and an ailing woman played by Innis Thorborn, Roray Morrison and Ellie Ewing respectively received praise from the adjudicator who applauded the club for taking on such a challenging play.

Special praise was given to James Smith who was described as 'Mr Personality' and a great expressionist along with Katie Murchie who was said to be an expert at the throw away line and for her use of pause for comedic effect. He said that all in all, it was a humorous, well acted play with strong characters and the expert-use of amusing word-play and confident acting abilities.

A Nice Cup Of Tea

A comedic offering set in the present day saw two accomplished actors, Val Waite and Dave Simpkin of the Whiting Bay Music & Drama group perform an amusing take on modern day health and safety culture.

This delightful modern day kitchen comedy featured good humour, sarcasm and good expression by both actors with a special mention going to Val who played Marion and who excelled at telling a complete story with her facial expressions alone.



A09play03

end of theatre order of performance were:

Harold played by Dave worked in perfect synergy with Val and together the performance was described by the adjudicator as: 'A wonderful play, well performed and with an elaborate and perfect use of the set and costumes, particularly Marion's boot. The accomplished and humorous performance was enjoyed by the audience who related to the subject matter very well.'

Present Slaughter

The period comedy set in the 1930s and taking place on an elaborately designed set depicting a luxury hotel terrace was very well received by the audience. The adjudicator was generous in his praise of the costumes, cast and performance of this runner up to the winning play. The beautifully researched nostalgic period piece saw the acting talents of Colin MacDonald and Jill McKillop being described as professional and superb by the adjudicator.

Unusually the performance included live music played by James O'Neil who, while providing the piano accompaniment, also provided a huge amount of laughs for his acting abilities in portraying a clumsy pianist. Colin was praised for his ad libbing when he expertly dealt with a minor set malfunction and included it into his repertoire.

Home At Last

Three teenage boys dressed as women was the main comedy element to Shiskine Junior Drama's production of Home At Last set in a castle somewhere in Transylvania in the present time.

And as the adjudicator remarked 'the boys were great'. The 'women' are from a coach party who find themselves stranded at the castle of Countess Draculana, played by Alice Kinniburgh, and her servant Vampyra, played by Amelia Robertson, who Mr Little said was 'exceptionally good'.

He said the supporting cast were 'sinister little madams' and said that the production was good and the costumes were fabulous.

He added that the play had a fantastic ending when

Mrs Adams, excellently played by Rory Morrison, is revealed as a werewolf. Mr Little said it was a wonderful play with a super cast.

Checking Out

The final play on Saturday night was the drama Checking Out by Shiskine Drama Club. Sheila Gilmore, as mum Sandra, took the lead role, ably assisted by Deborah Robertson as her daughter Kerry-Ann.

The adjudicator's first comment was: 'What a lovely play to end any festival.'

The play is set in a stark flat with just the two performers, but Mr Little was full of praise describing Sheila as 'a wonderful actress' and said Deborah, in her support, was an 'excellent actress in her own right'.

Mr Little said the play could have been performed on the radio as the actors had lifted the play by their voices alone and he said he applauded that.

'This was a wonderful performance,' he said.



Watch out there is a werewolf about as Ciara Wood and Luke Nelson discover. 01_A09play02



Archie collapses dead in Poison. 01_A09play09



Mary on the phone in Jilted Lovers Helpline. 01_A09play11



Jasmine helps another jilted lover. 01_A09play12



Marion takes health and safety to the extreme A Nice Cup of Tea. 01_A09play28



Val Waite and Dave Simpkin in A Nice Cup of Tea. 01_A09play27

Festival trophy winners

The following trophies were presented by adjudicator Nat Little at the end of the three day festival:

The Jean Bannatyne Tro-

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phy, for best supporting acting performance in the youth play: Katie Murchie.

The Douglas Sillars Trophy, for best acting performance in a youth play: James Smith.

The Mattie Gillies Trophy, for the best supporting acting performance in any adult play: Andy McNamara.

Best acting

The Monie Kelso Trophy, for the best acting performance any adult play, Dave Simpkin.

The Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music Golden Anniversary Trophy, for the best moment of theatre: Lamlash Drama Club for

the ad lib in Present Slaughter.

The Mary Stewart Orr Trophy, for the best youth team: Shiskine Junior Drama.

The Jane McBride Brown Bowl, for the best play entered by a SWI team: Shiskine SWI.

The Millhill Players Trophy, for the team gaining the highest total of marks in a play of contrasting type to that which wins: Lamlash Drama Club for Present Slaughter.

The Archie Kerr Wooley Trophy, for the team gaining the highest mark in the festival: Whiting Bay Music and Drama for Poison.



Dave Simpkin and Ann Luttrell receive the winning play trophy from adjudicator Nat Little. 01_A09awards09



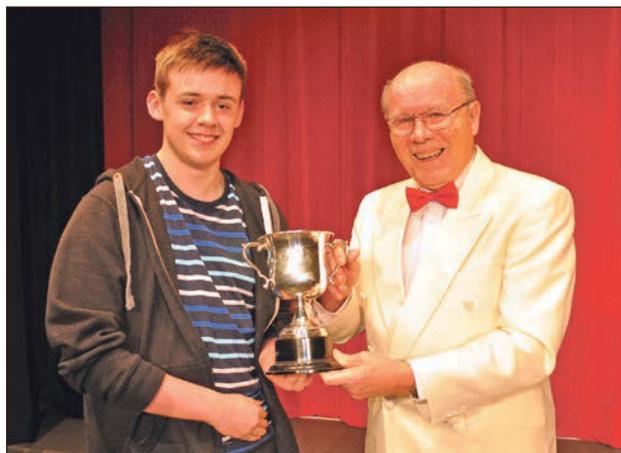
Katie Murchie with her supporting actor trophy. 01_A09awards01



Maureen Smith picked up two trophies for Lamlash Drama Club. 01_A09awards08



Producer Jerry Arthur receives the Shiskine SWI award. 01_A09awards07



James Smith with his best actor prize. 01_A09awards02



Dave Simpkin collects his best actor trophy. 01_A09awards04



Producer Ann Luttrell collects the supporting actor shield on behalf of Andy McNamara. 01_A09awards03



Shiskine Junior Drama and producer Sheila Gilmore pick up their best youth team prizes. 01_A09awards06

Skinnymalinks shed pounds for charity

£867 collected for Mary's Meals charity

Arran Skinnymalinks had a post-festive period weigh-in where members collectively lost 110lbs and raised £867.75 for the Mary's Meals charity. Weigh-ins took place across the island at Lamlash, Brodick, Corrie, Shiskine and Lochranza with the help of Alison Page, Joan Stewart, Faye Waterlow and Shona Dunsmuir.

The collective weight loss of 110 lbs - or seven and a half stone - was achieved in six weeks with enough money being raised to feed 62 starving children for a

whole school year through Mary's Meals.

Mary's Meals volunteer Alison Page said: 'Congratulations to every single person who has shed the pounds and who helped to raise funds for such an important cause.

'That is certainly a result in my book. Thank you all so very much for your donations as well as the donations of food/toiletries for the All Churches Together foodbank.

'A huge thank you must also go to Lamlash, Brodick and Shiskine churches,

Arran Active, Isle of Arran Distillery and Breagha Holistic Beauty for the use of their premises.'

In recognition and thanks of all of the hard work undertaken by the group, representatives from Mary's Meals will be visiting Arran on Sunday April 2 to meet some of the people who took part to say thank you for all their efforts and to encourage more people to get involved with the charity. Details of the visit can be obtained from Alison by email at: alison@routestoflourish.com.



Traditional musicians winners and runners up, left to right: Louise Foy, Scott Bryant, Bethany Walsh, David Todd and Connor McBlane with Provost Clarkson.

Bethany is traditional musician of the year

Arran fiddle player Bethany Walsh has been named North Ayrshire's traditional musician of the year.

The contest, organised by the council's music services team, aims to recognise and reward the exceptional musical talents in schools throughout the area.

Each school stages its own heat of the competition and only the winners from this leg go forward to battle it out against peers from other secondary schools in the area.

Bethany, who was representing Arran High School, won the award in the senior section for those in S4-S6 at the contest held on the mainland last month.

All winners were presented with a special trophy by Provost Ian Clarkson and runners-up were given a certificate recognising their achievements.

The young singer and musician of the year were also chosen on the night.

Speaking about the competitions, Provost Clarkson, said: 'I was completely blown away by how talented and skilled all of the finalists were. The competitions were not only a lot of fun, but a great way of showcasing just how spectacular they all are.'

'I'd like to congratulate them again on their achievements and hope they continue to pursue their chosen instruments.'

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The scandalous windows of St Bride's Church, Lochranza

More than 45 members of the newly renamed Arran Historical Society heard of two windows causing religious unrest in the early 20th century which would seem incredible to today's observer, writes *Norma Davidson*.

The speaker at the February meeting was Penny McWatters, who lectured at Strathclyde University and at Liverpool University, and was also a teacher before retiring. She holidayed on Arran, grew to love it and now divides her time between a home in Edinburgh and her house in Catacol.

St Bride's Church in Lochranza, in its lovely setting, is a plain and elegant building which houses some beautiful stained glass. The round window was installed in the 1830s in memory of the Rev John Colville and in its vivid hues features the Ship of Faith and the Light-house. The church celebrated its tercentenary in 2012, and a rectangular window was commissioned and the result by Richard Leclerc was recently installed in the roof. A third window by John Duncan, based on a painting in the Nation-

al Gallery of Scotland, depicts the legend of St Bride – an Irish Saint who journeyed to the Holy Land to give her cloak to the infant Christ and was transported back by angels.

However interesting these windows are, it was the two windows on either side of the round window behind the altar which were the focus of Penny's research. No one could really give an explanation of what the subject matter was and eventually Penny turned to the internet.

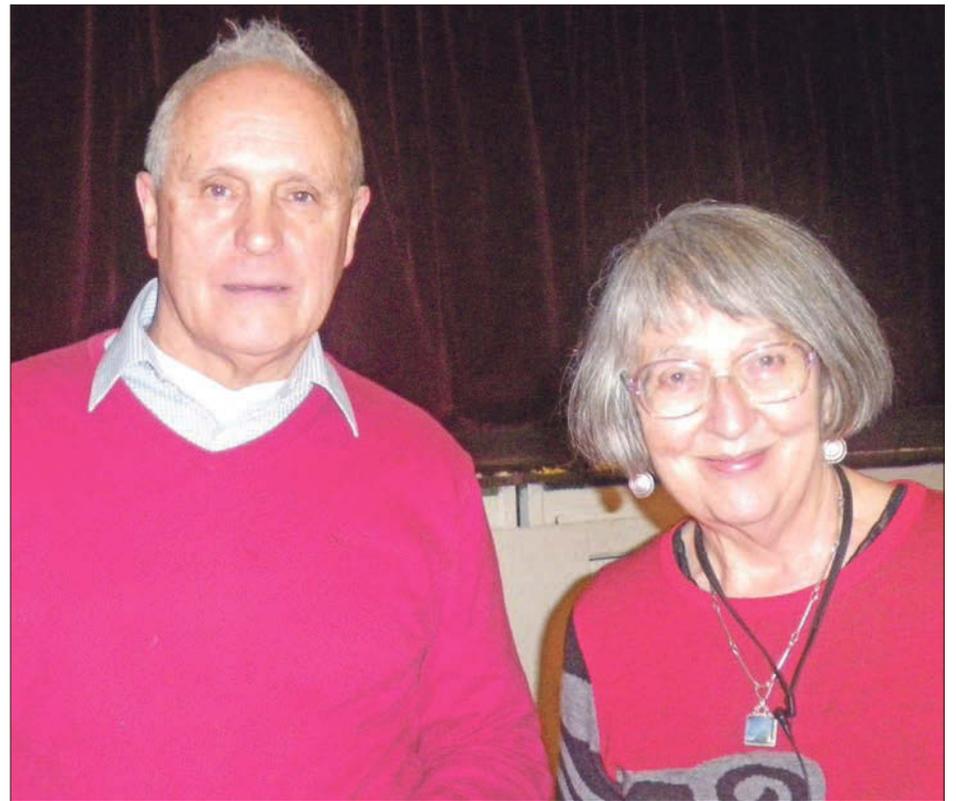
Surprisingly, there were references in the New Zealand press, The Singapore Gazette and the Glasgow Evening Times which revealed they were regarded as a scandal in their time. Staff from the Hunterian, Kelvingrove Museum and the Glasgow School of Art were all helpful in her research.

These windows were installed – although not in St Bride's – by Mrs Annie Kerr in memory of her late husband, Archibald Kerr. Living in the west end of Glasgow, they befriended the Guthrie's who owned the Caledonian Foundry in Maryhill. William Guthrie

was the leading partner of Guthrie & Wells, the premiere maker of stained glass and church furnishings in Glasgow. Some of their designers were renowned artists, some of the Glasgow Boys and even Charles Rennie Mackintosh. Archibald Kerr was one of the Catacol Kerr's.

He was a great philanthropist and on dying childless, much of his wealth went to the Arran Society of Glasgow, engineering bursaries to Glasgow University and funds to help 'the indigents between Coillemore and The Craw'. He had been a great benefactor to Lochranza over the years, even providing free piping to give the village the first piped water supply on Arran. Mrs Kerr commissioned Guthrie & Wells to make these two memorial windows for the United Free Church, now Castlekirk, little realising how much controversy they would cause.

Following the disruption on whether the civil powers or the congregation should name the minister, many members left the church and formed the Free Church. In 1900 the Gener-



Historical society chairman Colin Mackenzie meets speaker Penny McWatters.

al Assembly of the church voted on proposed unity with the United Presbyterian Church. A majority of 643 were in agreement and the 27 dissenters eventually became the Wee Frees.

At this time, Alexander Grant was minister at Castlekirk, a Gaelic speaker in a Gaelic parish. On a holiday in Moffat he met Ethel, an English girl, who he subsequently married and brought to Lochranza. Ethel was a High Church Angli-

can who later converted to Roman Catholicism. Many of the church deserted because the minister's wife was 'perverted'. The Presbytery met in Kintyre and Rev Grant had to resign. He was grief stricken, but had to retire. A footnote to this was that he, too, later converted to Roman Catholic.

Because of the split in the churches, arguments began over assets which went to law, ultimately to the House of Lords. Castlekirk and

Lenimore became Wee Free and church members at Castlekirk took against the two windows on grounds of blasphemy as they interpreted one of the figures as God or Christ.

By 1914 the General Assembly took up the issue of the Lochranza Church windows and again in 1915. This time they wanted the windows removed. The makers said the windows illustrated the parable of the talents and did not depict the Saviour. The windows were adapted – the King lost his crown and his sceptre to be replaced by a turban and a scroll and the angel was removed. The biblical tract from Matthew's Gospel was also omitted.

Over time, Castlekirk and Lenimore closed and the contentious windows were starting to decline.

They were moved to St Bride's, but in the installation the two were reversed. Richard Leclerc was going to re-position them but he died before he could do it.

The society's March meeting will take place in Brodick Hall on Monday March 20 at 2pm when Diana Maxwell will talk on the First World War and HMS Drake-mire in particular. Visitors always welcome.

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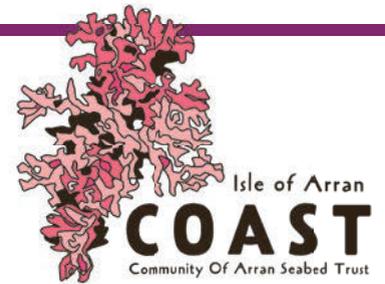
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Spotlight on sea life



Be on the lookout for puffing porpoises

Welcome to our new column. Each month the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) will be bringing our readers family friendly stories and facts about Arran's sea life. Here is their first report.

When David Nairn from the Clyde Marine Mammal Project sailed into Arran's waters a few months ago, he knew he was on to something: 'We never dreamt there would be so many porpoises around Arran. The Marine Protected Area could be so important for the conservation of this species in the Clyde'. A small pod has taken a liking to the waters off the Holy Isle lighthouse and a real 'porpoise soup' has been found off our south west coast, in the Kilbrannan Sound.

But it's not all fun and play for porpoises. They need to eat up to 10 per cent of their body weight every day to cope with our cold Atlantic waters.

These clever creatures make click

sounds that bounce off objects, allowing them to echo-locate sand eels, mackerel, shrimps or octopus to feed on. This also allows David's hydrophone to find out where and how many there are and explore their behaviour. But this also makes them highly vulnerable to noises from powerboats or military activities.

A female will give birth to one calf at a time, which is half her size. It is rushed up to the surface for its first 'puff', the sound it makes when breathing air, and then swims by her side to suckle. Sadly, chemical pollutants are passed from mother to calves through their milk.

Porpoises are shy animals and their triangular dorsal fins are difficult to spot in choppy seas. With a blunt rounded head and shape, they are smaller and chubbier than dolphins. One of the smallest cetaceans on earth, they are normally about the size of a small human adult.

Grab your binoculars and set sail or find a good vantage point on the shore on a calm day. Look out for diving seabirds like gannets as there could well be feed-



Go in search for porpoises. B09coast01NO

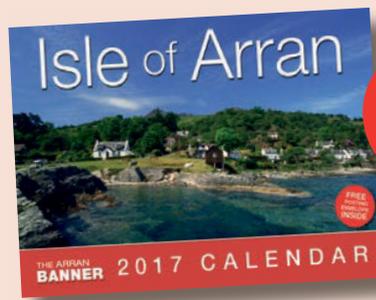
ing porpoises beneath the waves and remember to post your sightings to www.clydemarinemammalproject.org. Their sailing research boat, Saorsa (Freedom),

will be back to study porpoises in our Marine Protected Area in March. For more information contact: info@arrancoast.com

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YEARS AGO

Saturday 8 March, 1997

Faith rewarded

Lamlash Church, threatened with closure just last December, has been saved.

At a meeting of Ardrossan Presbytery on Tuesday, the church was deemed a 'necessary building'. Yet it was the same presbytery that, just three months ago, decided it should close. So adamant were they that an alternative proposal put by the Rev Bill MacMillan was unworkable that the church and presbytery were lining up for a heated debate at a hearing of the Property Commission later this month.

However, peace has broken out and Ardrossan Presbytery has had a complete change of heart. Refurbishment plans are now also able to go ahead with the first phase being for a new roof to be installed at a cost of £110,000 most of which is already in place with a grant from Historic Scotland and congregational funding.

Games go-ahead

Brodick Highland Games are on course to take place on August 9 on the new Ormidale sports field in Brodick. The games committee decided this after an inspection of the field on Monday evening and after assurances from the Sports Association it would be ready in time.

This was not a forgone conclusion because the field is still very soggy underfoot. Apparently this is because only deep drainage is in and surface drainage has still to be completed. Last year's Highland gathering had to be cancelled because the sports field was still under construction.



Drama Festival adjudicator Kenneth Barratt with the trophy winners at the conclusion of the festival. B09twe03

Ship contaminated

MV Pioneer, which often acts as a reserve ferry for Arran, has been contaminated by asbestos. In dock at Troon for her annual overhaul, the asbestos was distributed during modification work on the panelling in the ferry's deckhead.

Health and safety officials have been called in and 30 crew members have undergone health checks. Additional work costing around £100,000 has had to be carried out and she is unlikely to resume service for at least two weeks.



Brodick Golf Club ladies section enjoyed their centenary dinner and prizegiving last Saturday. B09twe04



A scene from the winning play *You're Looking Old Tonight* performed by Lamlash Drama Club at the 1997 drama festival. B09twe01



Shiskine Drama Club's Sandy Kerr, David Weir, Hattie Arthur and Rosalie Turbett perform in *Ernie's Incredible Illucinations* at the drama festival. B09twe02

What's on

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Everyday

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

Saturday 4th March

Army Cadets
Over 21s disco
Family games
Fun in the pool
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Live music - Folk like us
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Flow yoga
Live music - Storm Warning play the blues
MacKenzie Memorial Mixed Double Darts
Live music - Mic Clark

Sunday 5th March

Family games
Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm
Fun in the pool
Open acoustic session at Fiddlers'
AA meeting
Live Music - Storm Warning play the blues

Monday 6th March

Over 50s badminton
Badminton
Morning fitness
Badminton
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Arran Junior Football Club
Circuit training
Lamlash Aerobix
RunArran
Tae Kwondo
Arran Bridge
Arran Citizen's Advice Bureau
Arran Skinnymalinks
Arran Skinnymalinks
Arran Skinnymalinks
Scottish country dancing for beginners and improvers

Tuesday 7th March

Pop quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth club
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Rotary Club
Healthy outdoors
Blackwaterfoot bowls
RunArran run coaching
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
Lamlash Junior Drama Club
Flow yoga
Metafit
Pilates

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

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie spa pool, 4-5pm
9.30am - 11am
9.30am - noon
Fiddlers, Brodick from 7.30pm
Bowling Club, 1.15pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Kilmory Hall, 7.30pm
The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

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

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie sports hall, 7-9pm
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm
Arran High School dance studio, 6.30pm
Drift Inn, Lamlash 5.30pm
Brodick Church Hall adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 11.30am - 3pm
Corrie - Breagha Holistic Beauty 5:00pm - 5:30pm
Shiskine Church Hall 5:15pm - 5:45pm
Brodick Church Kitchen 6pm - 6.30pm
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Bowling Club, 1.15pm
Lamlash, 5.30pm
Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
Corrie and Sannox Hall, 6pm
Arran High School, 6pm
Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm

Scottish country dancing
Winter bowls
Arran Skinnymalinks

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

Wednesday 8th March

Rock an pop bingo
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass rehearsal
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service 10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30
RunArran
Yoga-Arran
Mixed hockey
Dog classes
Flow yoga
Knittnerly and Natterly
Quiz night
Bus pass club meal
Chair yoga St Molios
Italian Theme Night (take away or sit in)
Parkinsons support group
Coffee morning

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm adults-7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Auchrannie studio, 9.30am-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30
Auchrannie spa, 5.30pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
Auchrannie sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm
Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm
The PHT, 8.30pm
The PHT, noon - 2.30pm
Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am - noon
The PHT, Lamlash, 5pm
Lamlash fire station, 2pm - 4pm
Brodick Church hall, 10.30 - 12 noon

Thursday 9th March

Morning fitness
General knowledge quiz
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Ladies' hockey
RUNFIT
Burger and quiz night
Winter bowls
Arran Bridge
Quilt Arran
Flow yoga
Chair yoga
10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers
RUNFIT
Brodick Embroidery Group

Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash front green, 6.45am
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
Auchrannie, 7pm
Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am - 11.30am
Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm
Lamlash green, 6.45am
Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm

Friday 10th March

Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Youth Foundations
Lochranza children's badminton
Lochranza adults' badminton
Arran Vets
Arran Vets
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
AA meeting
Tae Kwondo
Open Mic & Karaoke
Live music - North Country Winters

Auchrannie spa leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
Reception
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Arran High School, Lamlash adults, 7pm - 8.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm - 10pm



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Leisure Assistant

Looking ahead to Easter and the Summer Season we are also recruiting for our Leisure Department.

This is an all-round role encompassing both of our Leisure facilities as well as Playbarn and Arran Adventure and would ideally suit someone with a keen interest in Leisure and Recreations.

Further details can be found at
www.auchranniejobs.co.uk or
 contact hr@auchrannie.co.uk

Property

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Retired couple currently living on Arran require unfurnished long let.
 any area considered, references available.

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Public Notices

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AGM

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 5th March
11.00 am. Holy Communion.
Mrs Janis Gallagher.
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran
Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza,
Pirnmill and Shiskine
Independent but working
together

Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson,
Parish assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:
Worship will be conducted in
the above churches at the
following times to which
all are invited.

Sunday 5th March
Lochranza and Pirnmill
Churches, 10.15am Morning
Worship in Pirnmill Church
followed by Stated Annual
Meeting.

Shiskine Church, 12noon
Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am
Morning Worship
Corrie Church, 11.30am
Prayer Meeting,

12noon Morning Worship
There will also be a Service of
Worship in Montrose House
at 1.30pm.

WHITING BAY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 5th March

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 most welcome.
There will be a service in
Cooredoon at 2.30pm to
which all friends are
warmly invited.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"

Sunday 5th March
Rev Lily McKinnon

Kilmory 10 am
Lamlash 11.30 am

All welcome, including
families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 5th March
Sunday Mass 11am

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 5th March
Morning service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All Welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 5th March

Service 11am
Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and coffee after the
service

Wednesday at 7.30pm
Home fellowship group for
bible study and prayer.
Contact phone no 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Shiskine 11am (church on
road between Blackwaterfoot
and Machrie)

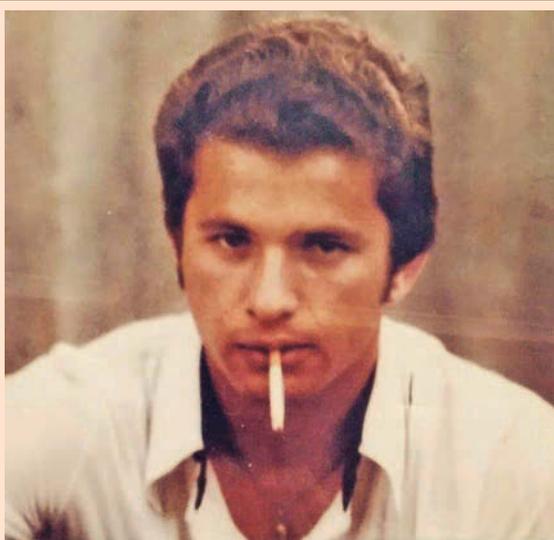
Brodick 6pm
BACK IN THE CHURCH
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

SAMS - Fiona
Bart, Jez & Sheila would like
to express their thanks to all
who sent cards and letters and
to those who joined us for
the lovely service at Brodick
Church followed by the recep-
tion at the Golf Club. The do-
nations will be split between
Arran Hospital Supporters
League and the Beatson. Spe-
cial thanks to Douglas & Trish
at the Golf Club and our very
sincere thanks to Rev Angus
Adamson and Clair & David
Hendry for their support and
assistance at a difficult time.

60TH BIRTHDAY

Grant Straiton
Happy 60th Birthday - 04/03/17
Love you now and always Carol xx



Lady prizewinners at Brodick Golf Club.

Ann lifts club championship trophy at Brodick prizegiving

A gathering of 22 ladies met in the Brodick clubhouse last Friday for the delayed annual prizegiving where Ann J May won the club championship and Susan Butchard took the runner up position.

Those attending all enjoyed a lovely meal, thanks to Trish and her helpers in their new kitchen. After a review of the year by the ladies captain, the prizegiving took place, followed by a know-your-course photo competition and a word

game which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The full list of prizewinners are as follows: Medal winners Silver: Ann May (2), Susan Butchard (2), Brenda Livingstone (2), Isobel MacDonald. Bronze: Gege Kroner (2), Aileen Latona (2), Heather Raeside (2), Lesley Murray.

The Birdie Tree: Susan Butchard. The Pear Tree: Jennifer McArthur. The Saturday best net round: Fiona Henderson. The Ecclectic: Ann J May. The Coronation Foursomes: Ann May and Aileen Latona. The Captain's Prize: Ellie Jones. The Thistle Brooch: Aileen Latona, runner up, Susan Butchard. The SGU Silver Medal: Ann J May. The SGU Bronze Medal: Lesley Murray. The Open Day Trophy and Hendry Trophy: Isobel MacDonald. The McKechnie Trophy: Susan Butchard.

Winter Trophy: Heather Raeside, runner up, Brenda Livingstone. Cloy Bridge Trophy: Jennifer McArthur. Club Trophy: Susan Butchard, runner up, Aileen Latona. St Elmo Cup: Fiona Henderson, runner up, Pat Reid. Lad's Trophy: Gege Kroner, runner up, Susan Butchard. Wilkie Trophy: Ann J May, runner up, Margaret Roxburgh. Stornach Cup: Isobel MacDonald and Fiona Henderson, runners up, Susan Butchard and Heather Raeside. Centenary Quaich: Susan Butchard, runner up, Ann J May. Wright Trophy: Ann J May, runner up, Margaret Roxburgh. Helen's Vases: Gege Kroner and Kay Kitson, runners up, Brenda Livingstone and Kate McAdam. Anniversary Shield: Vice-Captain Ann J May. Legion Trophy: Ann J May, runner up, Aileen Latona. Joyce Taylor Trophy:

Isobel MacDonald. Scratch Cup: Ann J May. Bronze Championship: Aileen Latona, runner up, Lesley Murray. Club championship: Ann J May, runner up, Susan Butchard.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday February 14, Winter Cup. 1 R Traill 81-18=63, 2 B Sherwood 78-12=66, 3 D Brookens 78-10=68 BIH.

Tuesday February 21, Lochranza Hotel Cup, CSS 63, 1 P Betley 39pts, 2 B Sherwood 33pts, 3 A MacDonald 28pts.

Fixtures: Saturday March 4, Lochranza Hotel Cup, 12noon. Tuesday March 7, Winter Cup.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday February 22, Wednesday Cup. 1 D Roxburgh 68-6=62. There was one magic two by Terry Raeside.

Arran Golfers Association

Fixtures: Sunday March 5, final round of matches in the AGA Winter League/Duncan Trophy at Whiting Bay Golf Club. Shotgun start at 10am. Draw: Whiting Bay v Machrie, Shiskine v Lamlash, Brodick v Corrie. Players are requested to be punctual for tee-off as it is a distance to get to the tees.

Bridge results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club Boyd Trophy, round five played at Brodick on Thursday February 23 were as follows: 1 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure, 2 Margaret MacGill and Jessmay Peacock, 3 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 4 Jennifer McArthur and Morag Gardner.

The results of the aggregate competition at Lamlash on Monday February 27 were as follows; N/S 1 John Baraclough and Jim Peacock, 2 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan, 3 Jean Barclay and Jennifer McArthur. E/W 1 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 2 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 3 Fiona Henderson and Maureen Cumming.

Runnin' Blue film is shot on location in Glen Rosa

Arran runners and the spectacular scenery of Glen Rosa played host to a group of filmmakers last week shooting their latest production.

Titled *Runnin' Blue* the film, which is based on a runner called Cathy, centres around the impact that music has on her and how it affects her bipolar disorder.

Produced by Molly Griffith of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and directed by Carina Haouchine, the filming involved the use of extras from the RunArran group who braved the cold weather and joined the throng of sound mixers, cameramen and gaffers near Glenrosa Water.

Director Carina said: 'Glen Rosa is such an

amazing location, between the forests and the mountains there is such a variety of beautiful scenery on Arran.

'Special thanks must also go to the RunArran group for joining us today and being part of this production.'

The film will be screened at Cineworld in July and will be shown at festivals throughout the UK.



Local runners from RunArran club are featured in the film as extras. 01_B08film03



Runners are filmed with a rear-facing camera being held aloft on the cameraman's shoulder. 01_B08film02



Action! Filmmakers start shooting a scene of *Runnin' Blue* in Glen Rosa. 01_B08film01

Riders on the storm . . .

Eleven members of the Arran Riding Club braved the inclement weather recently to enjoy an expedition to the Giants Graves and a blast on the beach as part of their February ride out.

The group, who try to get out for a group ride every few months during the winter and more often during the summer, have recently enjoyed a forest ride in the Roots of Arran forest and Glenclay as well as a well-attended event in the expansive grounds of Brodick Castle which saw more than 23 horses and riders taking part.

The Arran Riding Club also hosts a variety of events throughout the year



The group take time to pose for a group photo surrounded by mist and drizzle. Photos by PhotoGnick Arran

including a pony camp, junior and teen show and a jumping derby.



A rider enjoys a high speed run across the beach.



Horses and riders wade knee-deep into the sea water.

Arran students unleash their Warrior spirit in schools rugby competition

Pupils from Arran High School will be involved in a national schools rugby competition at Scotstoun Stadium later this month when more than 800 young people take part in the ScottishPower Warriors Rugby Championship.

The schools competition which promotes active, healthy lifestyles among young people will provide 20 schools from across Scotland with the opportunity to play against others at a professional club while also looking for the future stars of the game.

Each school will take part in qualifying events played at Scotstoun throughout March before the winners from each day progress to the semi-final stages. The winners of the semi-finals which are to be held in April will then face off at Scotstoun in the final of the tournament ahead of the 1872 Cup clash between Glasgow Warriors and Edinburgh Rugby on Saturday May 6.

Designed to encourage maximum participation

and teamwork, the competition format requires each school to field an S1 and S2 boys team, as well as an under-15 girls' team with matches between each school effectively becoming a 'best of three' where every game counts.

The champions will get the chance to meet their heroes with a team coaching session run by Glasgow Warriors stars, as well as getting their hands on the ScottishPower Warriors Rugby Championship trophy and brand new rugby kits for their school. Throughout the tournament, all schools participating will have the opportunity to learn from the Glasgow Warriors players within a professional environment at Scotstoun.

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Anne hits four hat-tricks as Arran tame Wildcats

**Arran Ladies 18
Western Wildcats 3s 1**

Arran Ladies hockey team racked up one of their biggest wins since the team reformed, putting 18 goals past their unfortunate opponents, with Anne Watts scoring four hat-tricks.

It was a windy and very wet morning when Arran Ladies hockey team set off with 14 players, coach Phil Adams and umpire Pauline Reid to play the Western Wildcats for the first time last Saturday.

They are a new team to the West District fourth division this year, based at Auchenhowie Recreation Centre, Milngavie, Glasgow. With a delay disembarking from the ferry because of low tides, and Saturday traffic running slowly into Glasgow, the Arran Ladies were pleased to get their start time put back to enable them to

warm up after another long coach journey.

From the very first whistle, Arran applied attacking pressure to the opposition who had decided to play with 11 field players and no goalkeeper, as they have been doing since the beginning of the season last September. This proved to be very costly as the Arran forwards, Anne Watts, Judith Ross and Lorraine Hewie all scored in the first half, with Anne finishing off an outstanding 10 of the 12 goals bringing the half time score to 12-0 to Arran.

The second half saw the Western Wildcats come back with a different team format, leaving their captain and sweeper in front of their goals which did prove to be more challenging.

However, Helen Thomson soon joined her teammate, Anne Watts, who had already scored again in the



Arran's Anne Watts scores another goal as part of her four hat-trick spree.

first minute, on the score sheet with a well-controlled collection in the shooting 'D' and a familiar rocket shot into the back of the goal.

Much to their credit, the

young ladies of the Western Wildcats did not stop trying and their efforts were rewarded with a goal in the 16th minute as a result of a short corner.

Left wing Lorraine Hewie

had added to her score total by then and match captain Anne took the team to their final 18 goals with her fourth hat-trick of the game.

Dame of the game

Western Wildcats nominated Anne Watts as their man of the match for the game and the Arran Ladies also voted Anne as their dame of the game.

Arran Ladies are away to the Loch Lomond 2s today (Saturday) at their home ground in Helensburgh, with a 1pm push back.

All supporters are very much appreciated and warmly welcomed.



The Western Wildcats made the tactical decision to play without a goalkeeper, relying instead on defenders.



The Western Wildcats scramble in the goal area to prevent Anne Watts from scoring again.

Californian cycle event for Arran

Grinduro, an American cycling event looking to expand across the continent, will make its first UK appearance on Arran during July in Lamlash.

The event, whose exact date is still to be confirmed, is likely to be on the weekend of Friday July 14 and is a combination of an endurance cycle race and a gravel road race along with a weekend of social events. Grinduro UK will include good food, live music and art and cycle exhibitions, among many others, some of which will be open to the public.

It is anticipated around 400 entrants will take part with most of the cycling taking place on Forestry Commission land.

Talks

Accommodation will be provided at Arran Outdoor Centre, local establishments and at campsites - a feature of the well-established Californian event which offers free camping in its Grinduro village in the picturesque Sierra Nevada mountains.

Organisers are currently in talks with various professional and governmental groups on the island, along with local businesses who will be involved in service provision, although medical staff, vehicles and marshals will be brought in to fully comply with health and safety and risk assessments.

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