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No. 2065 Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 3 MARCH, 2018

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New equipment will help tackle potholes

Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Roads chiefs have new equipment in their fight against the pothole menace on Arran.

A £65,000 EuroPaver has been brought to Arran to help repair the island's crumbling roads. It is able to hot mix a wide range of environmentally-friendly materials to produce a 1,000kg batch of material in under 15 minutes.

The mobile unit can also accept up to 100 per cent recycled asphalt without reducing the quality of the final product. And the ability to use hot asphalt means that repairs will be more robust than the cold tar which is being used to fill the majority of Arran's potholes at present.

And there is more good news after island officer Gus MacLeod revealed to the Arran Community Council this week that he had secured additional funds of £40,000 to repair a number of areas of road surface.

That will see the imminent repair of three sections of road with serious potholes – two outside Brodick at Corriegills – and the main road in the centre of

Drama festival winners take a bow



All the winners at the 2108 drama festival show off their trophies at the end of this year's two-day event last Saturday night. A full four pages of coverage starts on page 10. 01_B09award09

Whiting Bay which is badly rutted. Tenders for the work have already gone out, with the repairs requiring to be completed by the end of the financial year.

North Ayrshire Council set its budget on Wednesday, and Whiting Bay representative John Lamont said ahead of the meeting that the Arran councillors had to emphasise the need

to divert resources from the mainland to help the island's crumbling roads.

He said that while the arrival of the new machinery was welcome, the island needed six of them to make any real difference. But Mr MacLeod said he would not have the staff to operate them, were this the case. Chairman Bill Calderwood said it was good to have

the equipment since it 'improved the quality of the repair'.

Mr Lamont said some of the pothole damage around the island was on roads which had been resurfaced in the past year or two and asked if there was any comeback on the contractors. However, Mr McLeod considered this unlikely.

The meeting heard that

both Arran NAC councillors Timothy Billings and Eileen McMaster had met council officials to discuss the road conditions on the island and to press for additional funds.

Mr MacLeod later told the *Banner* that, following the budget, the council hoped to have money to carry out much of the pothole repair

Continued on page two.

The Arran Banner is a big success

The Arran Banner was the best performing weekly newspaper in Scotland last year by achieving a rise in sales.

Your *Banner* was the only paid-for title in Scotland to record a year on year sales increase among those using the industry recognised ABC figures for the 12 months to December 31, 2017.

Not only was the *Banner* the best in Scotland, it was the second best performing weekly in the whole of the UK.

The new figures show the total average net circulation for the *Banner* in that time was 2,930 copies per week – a small increase on the 2016 figure. It means the *Banner* outsells titles in much bigger centres, including Irvine, Ayr and even Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven.

News editor Hugh Boag said: 'I am delighted we have been able to achieve this remarkable success. It shows the hard work and dedication which is put in by the small team at the *Banner*.'

'I can only thank our readers for staying so loyal week in, week out and welcome our new growing family of online readers, who have helped us increase our circulation in these challenging times.'

* See also page eight.

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Arran dodges Beast from the East

Arran has been one of the few places in Scotland to have dodged the worst of weather conditions known as the Beast from the East which have caused major travel disruptions across the rest of the country.

With only occasional light flurries of snow that quickly melted, Arran remained bitterly cold with sub-zero temperatures, but avoided the levels of snowfall that caused the cancellation of train and bus services and the closure of airports and other public services across central Scotland.

As a precautionary and preventive measure, schools across North Ayrshire, including Arran, were shut on Thursday after the Met Office issued its first red warning due to the extreme weather conditions. There was some disruption to ferry sailings and this was likely to continue.

New ferry terminal will be open soon

Brodick's new £30 million ferry terminal and pier could still be open in time for Easter, it emerged this week.

Caledonian MacBrayne

staff are now working in the new terminal building ahead of the official hand-over by owners Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) later this month.

However, work also continues on the passenger access system, which has caused much of the delays, and still needs final clearance before it can be brought into use.

Berthing trials

The first indication of significant progress came last weekend when the MV Clansman spent the weekend carrying out berthing trials both aft and stern at the new pier.

A CalMac spokesman said it was part of an ongoing audit across the fleet to find out which vessels fit in which ports. CMAL said this week that everything was on track for the hand-over of the terminal build-



The MV Clansman berthed at the new pier last weekend.

01_B09pier01

ing to CalMac by the end of the month.

The official opening of the terminal was postponed

twice at the end of last year, before the passenger access system problems caused further delays.



Not seeing double. The MV Caledonian Isles leaves from the old pier with the MV Clansman at the new pier.

01_B09pier02

New equipment to fix potholes

Continued from page one work in May and June, before the main summer holiday season.

Meanwhile, drivers in Brodick can expect further disruption on the roads as scheduled works by various contractors are set to continue for another week.

During the past week, motorists have experienced traffic disruption near the main Co-op in Brodick while Scottish Water attended to repairs.

Council road repairs have also been taking place on the carriageway between Market Road junction and the Corriegills junction.

Medium impact works by Openreach, that were started last month, will continue to affect road users and in particular, parking provision along the stretch from Alma Road leading to near the Royal Bank of Scotland until Wednesday March 7.

High impact works af-

fecting the stretch of road from the bridge near Brodick Golf Course, extending all the way to Brodick Primary School, will continue for six days until Thursday March 8.

In other major roadworks affecting Arran motorists, the resurfacing works on the A841 between Ballarie Bridge and North Sannox Bridge continues to close the Bogullie from 9.15am to 4.30pm daily until Friday March 23.

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Animal fun on the island



Gillian has been posted missing. 01_B09hen02

Why did the cow cross the road? To get to the udder side. It may be an old joke but these 'coos' were using Brodick's new zebra crossing at the ferry terminal to get to the Auchrannie.

They and the other members of the hen party for Gillian Aitken may have been spotted last weekend with teams in stylish animal ponchos running through the village on a scavenger hunt.

Gillian and her cousin Heather are the third generation and have been coming to their granny Jean Aitken's caravan in Corriecravie since they were children so it is a very special place for them and full of family memories. Granny Jean recently celebrated turning 89 on the island.

The hen party enjoyed a three-day stay in the Auchrannie Lodges from Friday to Sunday. Gillian now has plenty of time to recover before getting married on Saturday March 31 at Gleddoch Hotel in Langbank.



The gang's all here for Gillian's hen party. 01_B09hen01



Why did the cow cross the road? To get to the Auchrannie. 01_B09hen03

Call for police probe into schools deal

Arran High School in Lamash could inadvertently be dragged back into the ongoing and controversial saga of North Ayrshire Council's Public Private Partnership (PPP) project after a motion to call in police to investigate was passed by the full council.

Procurement

SNP councillor Tony Gurney and Independent Ronnie McNicol have asked councillors to instruct the current chief executive, Elma Murray, to invite Police Scotland to carry out a new investigation into all aspects of the North Ayrshire PPP procurement process, which was signed in 2006 by the then council chief executive, Ian Snodgrass.

The contract, with a value at the time of £80m to build and maintain four lo-

cal schools, of which Arran High School is one, is now costing North Ayrshire Council more than £1m every month and will eventually cost local taxpayers over £400m.

The move follows revelations in a documentary, *The Only Game In Town*, which contains interviews with two former senior detectives, in which it is claimed an original police investigation, carried out at the time, lasted just two weeks and failed to even interview the complainants.

Ardrossan and Arran Councillor Gurney, who moved the motion at the council meeting, said: '*The Only Game In Town* raises some very serious questions that require answers.

'I believe those answers will only be forthcoming if a new, full and thorough

police investigation is carried out into all aspects of the procurement process that led to the council signing up to a contract now costing taxpayers more than £1m every month.'

'I hope all councillors will recognise that local people are angry about what *The Only Game In Town* has revealed.

'People want action on this matter and are looking to their councillors to provide that action.

Ensuring

'By instructing the chief executive to call in Police Scotland, and by ensuring everything is done at council level to cooperate fully with a new police investigation, then hopefully we will finally get to the bottom of what actually happened in the North Ayrshire Schools PPP project.'

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Angus is given a f



A mix of hospital and ambulance colleagues who attended the ceilidh celebration.



Angus with current GP partners, Graeme Thompson, Faye Hamill, David Hogg, Angus Campbell, Liz Guthrie and Greg Hamill.



Angus and Arran Medical Group staff.

Dr Campbell retires after

More than 100 current and past colleagues of Dr Angus Campbell met at the Whiting Bay hall last weekend for a ceilidh to wish him a happy retirement.

The well-known and popular GP was joined by retired doctors with whom he worked over 36 years, along with ambulance crew and medical and reception staff at the hospital and surgery branches. A number of old colleagues returned to the island specially for the celebration.

Friends from the many other pursuits and interests that Dr

Campbell is involved in also attended the celebration, where they had the chance to dress up as they danced the night away.

Dr Campbell, who retired in December last year, first moved to Arran with his wife Yollie and his family in 1981. An equally familiar face in the sailing community, he has also played a long-serving role in the Arran RNLI and helped established the Arran Coastal Rowing Club, who have built two skiffs and who are regularly seen competing in rowing competitions.

Colleague and friend Dr Da-



Angus is joined by the original Arran GPs whom he worked with right, Graham Tinto, Frank MacVicar, Libby Grassie and Alistair Gray.

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ond farewell

er 36 years

vid Hogg, speaking on behalf of the partners, said: 'Angus has been an absolute privilege to work with, and has clocked up an impressive amount of experience and stories throughout his time here. We will miss his "wise owl" advice and are grateful for the contribution of Angus, Yollie and the Campbell family to healthcare on Arran. It was great to see such a fantastic range of colleagues come out on Saturday to give him the send off that he deserves, and to wish him a very happy retirement.'

Pictures by Dr David Hogg



Angus Campbell and his wife Yollie.



Kay Stout, Ailsa Weir and Erica West share a laugh with Angus.

When he moved to Arran, left to right.

SNP budget delivers £6.3m funding boost for council

North Ayrshire Council (NAC) is set to receive a significant funding boost as a result of this year's Scottish budget, with local services benefiting from an additional £6,285,000, according to the SNP.

The SNP said the government's 'progressive reforms delivers a tax cut for 70 per cent of Scottish taxpayers and 55 per cent of all taxpayers will pay less in income tax than if they lived in the rest of the UK'.

It added: 'This has been achieved while delivering a 2.3 per cent rise in NAC's resource budget, providing extra funding for schools, roads and housing. The budget also provides an additional £4,413,960 paid directly to North Ayrshire schools as part of the Pupil Equity Fund, to help tackle the attainment gap.'

'The Scottish budget also delivers £11.3 million more for NHS Ayrshire and Arran to help protect our health service from UK Tory austerity.'

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'This extra funding for NAC means its grant from the SNP government will rise to a record £275,273,000 from April.'

'Despite the UK Tory government at Westminster cutting Scotland's grant by a further £211 million, Tory regional MSP Jamie



Kenneth Gibson.

Greene had the cheek to write to me on January 21 demanding an additional £5 million for NAC.

'In fact, we have delivered £6,285,000 extra in grant to NAC, plus £4,413,960 directly to North Ayrshire schools. It is therefore disappointing that Mr Greene joined with Labour MSPs to vote against the budget. Had it been voted down as he wished, there would have been no grant increases for NAC and no additional funding for the NHS.'

'This progressive budget also provides more money for broadband, our economy, research and our environment too, as well as protecting free university tuition, free personal care for the elderly, free school meals and free prescriptions.'

'The ferry budget has also been increased from £181 million to £251 million, a rise of almost 40 per cent, showing the importance we place on continued investment lifeline ferry services.'

'While the Tories tried to con folk by demanding additional spending in every area of the Scottish budget, they also suggested cutting over £556 million from public services in order to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest. Meanwhile, neither they nor Labour proposed an alternative budget.'

'While other parties posture, the SNP government delivers, helping to protect vital local services for Arran, even in these challenging times.'

* See letters – page eight.

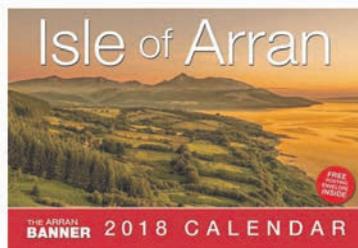
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A heavenly harp recital

An Arran audience will be treated to the international flair and heavenly sounds of harpist Mary Reid when she visits the island later this month

Mary, who is now located in London, grew up in Edinburgh, and began learning the clarsach here in Scotland, but as a teenager she moved with her family to America, and continued her musical studies in Los Angeles and Chicago. She then graduated with distinction back in London from the Royal Academy of Music.

In her subsequent career, she has played a great variety of classical music as a soloist on various occasions in many countries, including Canada, Russia and the USA, as well as venues all over the UK. She has also played with orchestras such as the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, the Hallé, Northern Ballet, Opera North and the Royal Opera House and has toured Moscow with the London Sinfonietta.

Mary is a passionate participant in chamber music too. She loves to perform

for audiences who normally miss out on classical music, and gives workshops in special needs schools and dementia care homes. In the course of her outreach work, she has played at the UCH Macmillan Cancer Centre many times as a Concordia Foundation artist.

Mary's Arran Music Society solo recital will take place on Saturday March 17, at 7.30pm in Brodick Hall where she will be playing music by, among others, JS Bach, Benjamin Britten and well-known



Harpist Mary Reid will be performing a solo recital for an Arran audience when she visits Arran later this month.

Scottish composer James MacMillan.

Seating will be in the popular café style and you are welcome to bring a bottle if you like. Tickets will be available at the door on the night, in advance from Inspirations of Arran in Brodick, or online from www.arranevents.com. As usual, children are admitted free, together with an accompanying adult.

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It pays to advertise in the Arran Banner

Arran's happy campers celebrate their success

Arran was well represented at the AA Caravan and Camping Awards at the Caravan, Camping and Motorhome Show in Birmingham last week.

Taking the national honours, as previously reported in the *Banner*, Seal Shore

camping and touring site were there to receive their small campsite of the year award, and Runach Arainn lifted the glamping site of the year prize.

Seal Shore manager Teresa Deighton said: 'We are overwhelmed to receive

this national award for a small island campsite. It is great because we are family run, and to get this recognition from the AA is a great reward for all our hard work.'

Delighted

Pippa Downing, marketing director at Runach Arainn, said: 'We were delighted to be awarded the AA glamping site of the year award – a real surprise for our small site on Arran.'

'We are especially proud to receive such an accolade, having worked hard to develop the glamping in an eco-friendly way, so holidays can be sustainable as well as loads of fun. With log burners and solar lighting in the yurts, posh

compost loos in the private bathrooms, and orchard and forest garden to explore, being green goes hand in hand with a luxury glamping experience on our beautiful Scottish island.'

As well as receiving their awards, all winners across the 12 categories will feature in the 50th anniversary edition of the AA Caravanning and Camping Guide. Each of the 800 sites included in the guide has been visited by one of the AA's experienced campsite inspectors, grading sites from one to five pennants, based on their facilities and hospitality.

Simon Numphud, managing director at AA hotel and hospitality services,



Glamping Site of the Year Award winners Andrew and Pippa Downing of Runach Arainn.

said: 'The winning caravan sites have all stood out for demonstrating an extremely high standard of customer service and experience, combined with hard work and dedication, making them worthy winners of

the AA's prestigious Caravanning and Camping Awards. Caravanning and camping are key to the British hospitality industry, and it's important that we continue to support the sites located throughout the UK.'



Teresa Deighton from Seal Shore campsite with her AA Small Campsite of the Year Award.

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Editorial

Raising the Banner

We don't like blowing our own trumpet at the *Banner*, but this week we are making an exception.

In 2017 the *Arran Banner* sold more copies than it did in the previous 12 months, which in this day and age is unheard of in either the national or the weekly press. Newspapers are haemorrhaging readers left, right and centre as they battle alternative internet outlets and social media.

So for the *Arran Banner* to be the only Scottish paid for weekly newspaper to show a sales increase in 2017 is a remarkable achievement by any standard.

We pride ourselves in providing week in, week out the news and all that is happening on Arran, be it in the busy summer or the quieter winter months. We are always out and about because we think you appreciate that we take a sincere interest in all island life.

Of course we could not have done it without you and for that we give heartfelt thanks to all our loyal readers, and our new online family, who have helped us to achieve this success.

You can be assured in 2018 that the *Banner* will continue to be the champion for the people of Arran.

Thought for the Week

'I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength.'
 Philippians 4:12

Time will tell

Sir,
 Your readers will have seen claims from the SNP that North Ayrshire Council is set to receive an increase in our budget this year. I have even seen a claim from one of our MSPs, Kenny Gibson of the SNP, of a £6.5m increase. This is pure fantasy. It's so inaccurate as to be laughable. The final budget out-turn for North Ayrshire is a tiny £130,000 cash increase on a £330m budget. Bear in mind that, with inflation currently at three per cent the council would need around £10m increase just to stand still.

It's worth noting that, on Wednesday February 21, in Holyrood, the same Kenny Gibson voted, with all other SNP and Green MSPs, to make North Ayrshire poorer. I'm sure he didn't put that in his election leaflet – vote SNP and we'll make you poorer – but that's what he did. He did it last year too. And the year before. In fact Kenny Gibson has voted to reduce council budgets and therefore cut vital North Ayrshire services every year since 2007/8: first through a prolonged council tax freeze and flat-cash settlements, then for SNP cuts on top of Conservative cuts from Westminster. That's 10 years of cuts to social care that Kenny Gibson has voted for. And cuts to elderly services, children's services, schools and education, roads, public toilets, public libraries, community groups and services and other vital resources. Not to mention the hundreds of jobs lost. And while Kenny Gibson has cut these services every year, he has never issued a word of apology or explanation to the people who voted for him.

Here is some informa-

tion for Kenny Gibson and his fantasy £6.5m increase: North Ayrshire Council has made £80m of savings (ie cuts) since 2010. Add the 10-year Council Tax freeze and annual flat-cash settlements from the SNP. Add also Tory and SNP austerity and the ring-fencing of monies for SNP (not NAC) priorities and it is no surprise that some excruciatingly difficult decisions will have to be made in our 2018/19 budget. No organisation can absorb cuts on this level over such a prolonged period without painful consequences.

The people of North Ayrshire will remember that, last year, facing a £10m deficit, SNP councillors ran away from their responsibilities and Labour stepped in and saved the day. This year, even after the so-called 'extra' money 'won' by the Greens, NAC faces a £15m hole in our budget. On Thursday March 1, the Labour administration set the budget for next year. We know that Kenny Gibson MSP doesn't care about local services. But can we expect to get some support from our SNP councillors in opposing the SNP's cuts and balancing the budget? Or are they, like Kenny Gibson, determined to put the interests of SNP party unity before the interests of the elderly, the young, the vulnerable in North Ayrshire, and ignore the needs of the people who voted for them? Time will tell.

Yours,
Alex Gallagher
 Labour councillor
 North Coast and
 Cumbranes

Community spirit

Sir,
 Could we use your letters page to pass on our thanks to the Lochranza loos com-

mittee for keeping the public loos open. We've just had three days on Arran, and after watering several shrubs and trees on our walks around the island, it was a pleasant surprise (or should we say relief) to come across your public toilets. We read the notice and left a small donation toward upkeep. Maybe enough to buy a toilet roll but it all helps.

We found Arran to be a very beautiful island and very friendly. The locals are rightly proud and it was good to hear they are looking after visitors in this way. It's unfortunate the councillors see fit to cut services that seem essential to us. Mother nature will have her way and I'm not sure where they expect ferry travellers in Lochranza to go when they need do what comes naturally.

I notice other Arran villages are also taking on the running of their loos and wish them all well. It's this kind of community spirit that makes Arran the island it is. A great place to visit, we'll be back. Thanks again

Yours,
John and Joan Flett
 Edinburgh

Volunteers sought

Sir,
 On behalf of Whiting Bay Improvements, I would like to say a big thank you to all volunteers who have helped to keep our village public toilets open.

To all the people who have helped with maintenance which has included everything from unblocking drains to painting and roofing. Our merry band of cleaners deserve a big thank you. Despite a few setbacks we still have toilets at Sandbraes and the village centre. I am now

making out a rota for the next few months and will be in touch with all volunteers shortly.

If anyone would like to help and join our team I can be contacted on 700666.

Yours,
Janette Head
 Whiting Bay
 Improvements

New Sergeant

Sir,
 With regard to your article on the appointment of Sergeant Roberson to island duties, I wish him well and hope he succeeds in his wish to remain.

It is hoped he can restore confidence in the police which the residents of the island deserve.

Yours,
Donald Cowan
 Lamlash

Burning issue

Sir,
 Could I appeal to anyone who burns waste to instead dispose of it responsibly. Waste is being burned regularly with pungent smoke spreading over Lamlash.

This practice affects the whole of Lamlash, including the waste burners and their families, the medical centre, the school, and the hospital. I am sure the waste burners want to be good neighbours really.

Yours,
Carl Bush
 Lamlash

Litter solutions

Sir,
 When I am cycling around Arran I depressingly notice an increase in the rubbish ending up in the verges. Mainly plastic, with the odd can. Any thoughts on a solution to this problem?

Yours,
Carol Vella-Boyle
 Lamlash

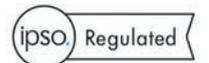
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Rescuers enjoy winter training in Glencoe

Members of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team strayed from their usual training areas recently to hone their skills in somewhat unusual surrounds with fresh challenges.

The annual winter trip, which takes place in February, saw rescuers spending an extended weekend exploring and training in Glencoe, the mountainous Highland area known for its stunning views and home to the iconic Buachaille Etive Mor.

On their first day, the team enjoyed a day of training at the world's biggest ice climbing wall at the National Ice Climbing Centre, where 500 tonnes of snow and ice are used to create a formidable



Team members stop for a quick break and a group photo high in the mountains.

12-metre wall that climbers use to practice on.

The following day was spent exploring the scenic School House Ridge high above Ballachulish, while the Saturday was spent on the Buachaille Etive Beag in Glencoe, where a route had to be carefully chosen owing to the high avalanche risk on some of the slopes

Members enjoyed the challenging conditions, new training grounds and spending an entire weekend practicing their winter skills in stunning surroundings.

Photographs by Ewan McKinnon and Darryl Urquhart-Dixon



Climbing skills and equipment are put to use on the 12-metre high climbing wall at the National Ice Climbing Centre.



Icy conditions with high winds made for a challenging but enjoyable climb.



AMRT members negotiate a pathway in a steep section of the mountain above Ballachulish.

Market report from Stirling

United Auctions had forward 1,050 store cattle, 126 cast cows and 1,882 store sheep at their sale at Stirling on Wednesday February 21.

The leading prices were: LimX Blks £1250, 250p, Craigview. AAX Blks £730, 254p, Glenkiln. LimX Hfrs £1195, 234p, Craigview. CharX hfrs £930, 232p, Moor.

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Two little witches, Rosie McNamara and Tilda Lytton, prepare a secret concoction in the *Super-Secret Surprise Casserole*. 01_B09drama02



Chairwoman of the Isle Of Arran Drama Association Jerry Arthur welcomes the audience to the drama festival. 01_B09drama01



Bickering sisters, played by Daisy McNamara and Greta Lytton, realise that they have been trapped in a cage. 01_B09drama03

Fewer plays to quality shine

Words and pictures by Hugh Boag and Colin Smeeton

There was a lighter than usual offering at the drama festival this year. But what it lacked in volume was easily made up for in the depth and breadth of the plays on offer.

In a probable first in the long history of the Isle of Arran Drama Association one-act drama festival, the number of junior plays outnumbered the adult plays. And with Whiting Bay Junior Drama performing at the festival for the first time, adjudicator Dr Paul Dougall said it was good to see that the lifeblood of theatre was 'growing and developing' on the island.

An enforced change to the programme meant there were just two plays on Friday night with the remaining three performed on Saturday.

Platform Party

The festival kicked off with the Lamlash Junior Drama Club performance of *Platform Party*. Remarkably, the same play was performed at the drama festival 20 years ago.

The play, by Alan Richardson, is set at a prize-giving ceremony at a drama festival and to say not all goes well is something of an understatement. Shannon Galbraith gave a strong performance as Madge Davenport, the compere for the ceremony, who has a very trying time.

It proves trying too for the long-suffering 'adjudicator', Gilbert Hamnell, well played by James Smith, who eventually loses the plot completely. The talented young cast certainly kept the play moving along nicely and

the adjudicator said they had coped extremely well with a 'very, very challenging piece'.

He gave some constructive criticism of the staging of the play but said that when the action started it 'bowed along very nicely' and said the laughs came through.

Happy Deathday

Second up were the Lamlash Drama Club with the Isabella C Rae play *Happy Deathday*.

Set in eternity, Lance, played by the always excellent Allan Little, gets a bit of a shock at the start of the play by discovering he is dead. Now at the gates of Heaven with his mother, played by an almost unrecognisable Nickey Summer and his still loving second wife Emma, well played by Cecilia Paul, he has some explaining to do.

Despite the subject matter, the play has a lot of laughs as the plight of Lance descends deeper into crisis, particularly after the surprise arrival of his friend Dave, Steve Garraway, on stage, in a strong supporting role, and his first wife Aileen, played in nonsense style by Jill McKillop.

Mr Dougall praised the strong performance of the players throughout the performance but had some issues with the staging and lighting saying it was 'all a bit static', but the play went on to win the adult prize the following night.

The second night featured three plays, the adjudication and the presentation of awards. In store for the audience were two plays by the Whiting Bay company, one from regular members and another from the junior section.

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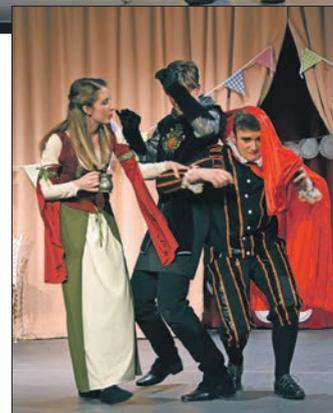
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Lab assistant Andy McNamara and physicist David Simpkin deliver a warning about the danger of the proliferation of automobiles. 01_B09drama06



David Simpkin, playing the physicist, addresses the audience. 01_B09drama05



This year but s through

The trio was completed with the Shiskine Drama Club whose junior members, slightly older than their Whiting Bay counterparts, performed their version of a Shakespearean play.

During the adjudication, Dr Dougall praised the productions for how well he thought they were managed and how enjoyable he found the wide variety, noting in particular the youth teams, who he said excelled in three main criteria – timing, tempo and transitions.

Super-Secret Surprise Casserole

This charming comedy written by Christine Harvey and Jennifer Waugh – performed by the Whiting Bay Junior Drama Club – featured some of the youngest actors of the festival and who, under the directorship of Allan Little, earned the best moment in theatre award from the adjudicator.

Eliciting many laughs from the audience, the adjudicator singled out the performances of the witches, Tilda Lytton and Rosie McNamara, for their confidence, while praising the remainder of the cast of Daisy McNamara, Greta Lytton and Page Crosley-Wood for their excellent delivery of lines and complimentary casting.

The fast-paced performance, with subtle and laugh-out-loud humour, was not only enjoyable but also provided the audience with a taste of the high quality of the next generation of future Whiting Bay actors.

Autogeddon Revisited

As the name alludes, this original drama,

written by David Simpkin, is based on the campaigning narrative poem by Heathcote Williams, detailing and discussing the devastating effects of the motor vehicle on human lives. The polemic, performed by David Simpkin and Andy McNamara, was described by the adjudicator as ‘fresh and new’ and ‘well-ordered’ but that it ran the risk of being overly detailed and lengthy.

Set in a laboratory, in the present day, it not only conveyed a large amount of information but also engaged the audience and kept them in a state of suspense, which gradually built up throughout the play.

Receiving the second highest total of marks, the production received the Millhill Players’ Trophy for the actors and producer Ann Luttrell.

Catch As Catch Can

Taking on what the Shiskine Junior Drama company describe as a ‘sort of Shakespearean’ play, the young cast of *Catch As Catch Can* by George Freek, earned the admiration of the adjudicator and the Mary Stewart Orr Trophy which is awarded to the best youth team in the festival.

While believing that the cast could have ‘loosened up a bit’, the adjudicator praised the props and set as being good, and the expanse of the stage being used to good effect.

Produced by Sheila Gilmore and Euan Kinniburgh, the entire cast, comprising Ross Dobson, Rory Morrison, Innis Thorborn, Ellie Ewing, Rachel Brown, James Smith and Erin McNiven, all performed their parts with well-rehearsed and natural skill and flair.



Dave and the women of Happy Deathday show some ballet moves.

01_B10drama17



Fighting over Lance are his first and second wives Emma, Celilia Paul, and Aileen, Jill McKillop, in Happy Deathday.

01_B09drama18



Lago, played by Ross Dobson, and Cassio, played by Rory Morrison, discuss their troubles with Othello, played by Innis Thorborn. 01_B09drama09



Madge, Shannon Davenport, gets the prize-giving in Platform Party under way, before the mayhem. 01_B09drama10



Adjudicator Gilbert Hamnell, James Smith, has had enough and walks off with the giant teddy he won in the raffle. 01_B09drama12

Othello, played by Innis Thorborn, tries to avoid the advances of Bianca played by Ellie Ewing. 01_B09drama08



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Innis Thorborn receives the Jean Bannatyne Trophy for his best supporting acting performance in *Catch As Catch Can*.
01_B09award01



Shannon Galbraith receives the Douglas Sillars Trophy for the best acting performance in the youth play *Platform Party*.
01_B09award02



Steve Garraway receives the Mattie Gillies Trophy for best supporting acting performance in the adult play *Happy Deathday*.
01_B09award03



Allan Little receives the Monie Kelso Trophy for the best acting performance in the adult play *Happy Deathday*.
01_B09award04

Young actors of the show

The wealth of talent exhibited by the junior actors won high praise at this year's drama festival.

In their first outing at the festival, the Whiting Bay Junior Drama Club picked up the prize for the best moment of theatre during their performance of *Super-Secret Surprise Casserole*.

Meanwhile, Shiskine Junior Drama Club were awarded the best youth team, and the best acting performance in a youth play went to Shannon Galbraith in Lamlash Junior Drama Club's *Platform Party*.

Taking the top honours, and the Archie Kerr Wooley Trophy for the highest score in the festival were Lamlash Drama Club with *Happy Deathday*, which also scooped up the best supporting adult actor award.

The second highest points achieved by an adult company came from the Whiting Bay Music and Drama company with the original play *Autogeddon Revisited*, written and performed by Dave

Simpkin with another familiar actor, Andy McNamara, whose children featured prominently in the youth plays. Mum too was involved, but from behind the curtain assisting the actors as a prompt.

Adjudicator Dr Paul Dougal, summing up the two days of drama before the prize-giving, said that selecting one play over another with their various merits was a difficult task, but without falling into the trap of pandering to the junior actors, he felt that their performances were up to a high standard and he looked forward to possibly returning one day and seeing how the talented youngsters had developed their skills.

The following trophies were then presented:

The Jean Bannatyne Trophy, for best supporting acting performance in a youth play: Innis Thorborn, *Catch As Catch Can*.

The Douglas Sillars Trophy, awarded to the best acting performance in a youth

play: Shannon Galbraith, *Platform Party*.

The Mattie Gillies Trophy, awarded to the best supporting acting performance in any adult play: Steve Garraway, *Happy Deathday*.

The Monie Kelso Trophy, awarded to the best acting performance in any adult play: Allan Little, *Happy Deathday*.

The Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music Golden Anniversary Trophy, awarded for the best moment in theatre: *Super-Secret Surprise Casserole*.

The Mary Stewart Orr Trophy, awarded to the best youth team: *Catch as Catch Can*.

The Millhill Players Trophy, awarded to the team gaining the highest total of marks in a play of contrasting type to that which wins the Archie Kerr Wooley trophy: *Autogeddon Revisited*.

The Archie Kerr Wooley Trophy, awarded to the team gaining the highest mark in the festival: *Happy Deathday*.

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The witches prepare to add their special ingredient, two children, to the cauldron. 01_B09drama04



Marge (right) with sponsor Miss Ca Party. 01_B09drama11



Brabantio, played by James Smith, about to face the wrath of his formidable wife Mary, played by Erin McNiven. 01_B09drama07



Dave, Steve Garraway, gives Lance 01_B09drama16

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The cast of Super-Secret Casserole receive the Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music Golden Anniversary Trophy for the best moment in theatre. 01_B09award05



Cast and crew of Autogeddon Revisited with The Millhill Players Trophy. 01_B09award07



Maureen Smith receives the Archie Kerr Wooley Trophy on behalf of the cast and crew of Happy Deathday for the highest scores at the festival. 01_B09award08



rtwright, Zara Wilson, in Plaform



a fright in Happy Deathday.



Director Sheila Gilmore and cast of Catch as Catch Can receive the Mary Stewart Orr Trophy for the best youth team. 01_B09award06

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

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FACT 2
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Residents get their say on erosion plan

There was a steady flow of people who took the chance to have a closer look at the new Ayrshire shoreline management plan last week.

A series of consultation events are being held to give people a chance to have their say on the draft plan to protect the shoreline of Ayrshire and Arran.

One of the events was held in Arran Library in Brodick last week where details of the plan were available to view and representatives from environmental consultants RPS Ltd and North Ayrshire Council were on hand to take residents' views and questions.

As highlighted by the

Banner two weeks ago, Arran faces the prospect of serious coastal erosion in just 30 years with Brodick and Lamalsh beaches predicted to be particularly badly affected.

The draft plan has been prepared by North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire councils and presents a large-scale assessment of the risks to the people of Ayrshire and its historic and natural environment from coastal flooding and erosion, and identifies suitable policies for the management of these risks.

Consultations will run until April 20, so people on Arran still have the chance to comment on the plan and



Patricia Rowley of North Ayrshire Council and Danielle King of RPS Ltd at the Arran consultation event. 01_B09shore01

accompanying reports before they are finalised. A final shoreline management plan will be created and adopted following the consultation. This is intended to ensure the future sus-

tainable management of the Ayrshire shoreline and the plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary every six years.

Councillor Jim Montgomerie, cabinet member for

place, said: 'The Ayrshire coastline is a hugely important asset and it's crucial that we have a proper plan in place to ensure it remains that way.'

'This draft plan looks at the potential risks we face in years to come – everything from tidal flooding to erosion – and how we can best place ourselves to meet those challenges.'

You can view a hard copy of the draft plan online at North Ayrshire Council offices at Cunninghame House, Irvine, during office hours, or view it online at <http://www.northayrshire.community/2018/01/29/draft-ayrshire-shoreline-management-plan/>

Entry to historic sites for just £1

Young people can now get into Brodick gardens and country park for just a £1.

It is just one of the historic sites in Ayrshire and Arran which are lowering their drawbridges and opening their gates to young people for the knock-down price to celebrate the Year of Young People 2018.

The offer will also be available at the Robert Burns Birthplace and Museum, Alloway, the Batchelors' Club, Souter Johnnie's Cottage and Culzean Castle and Country Park.

Historic Environment Scotland, the National Trust for Scotland and the Historic Houses Association are working with Young Scot to offer a historically low discount to young people who want to explore over 100 breathtaking paid for historic sites across Scotland.

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 9.30am - noon
 Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, Lamlash, 11am - 2pm
 Old Haybarn, Lamlash 1pm - 3pm
 Bowling Club, 1.30pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 Kilmory Hall, 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Sunday 4th March

Family games
 Live music - Jericho Hill
 AA meeting
 Live music - Arran Dawn

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm

Monday 5th March

Morning fitness
 Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Over 50s badminton
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Adult tennis
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Circuit training
 Lamlash Aerobix
 Badminton
 Badminton
 Arran Bridge Club
 Tae Kwon Do

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

Tuesday 6th March

Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Healthy Outdoors
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Blackwaterfoot bowls
 Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
 Metafit class
 Flow yoga,
 Pilates
 Arran Community Council meeting, all welcome
 Lamlash Junior Drama Club
 Auchrannie winter bowls
 Youth club
 Fiona's FitSteps
 Scottish country dancing
 Live music - Cams Campbell
 Pop quiz

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

Wednesday 7th March

Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 5pm

Yoga
 Coffee morning
 Hydrofit
 Chair yoga exercise class
 Bus Pass Club free soup
 Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service
 Knittery and Natterry
 Parkinson's Support Group
 Zumba Gold
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness)
 RUNclub - mixed ability
 Flow yoga
 Tae Kwon Do
 Yoga-Arran
 Mixed hockey
 Burger and quiz night
 Tae Kwon Do
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Family friendly pub quiz
 Rock and pop bingo

Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am -10.30am
 Lamlash Church, Lamlash, 10.15am - 12noon
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am
 The PHT, Lamlash, 12noon -2.30pm
 10.30am -12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 4.30pm - 5.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 5pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5.45pm - 6.45pm
 Dunfion, Brodick, 5.30pm
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm
 Arran High School, Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30pm - 9pm
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
 Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

Thursday 8th March

Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Morning fitness, Auchrannie Gym
 Chair yoga exercise class
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Music Matters
 Quilt Arran
 Adult tennis
 10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers
 Arran ladies's netball
 Ladies' hockey
 Badminton
 Arran Soul Choir
 Arran Bridge Club
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 General knowledge quiz

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

Friday 9th March

Arran Vets
 Arran Vets
 Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Smart Recovery meeting, all welcome
 Steak night - build your own steak from £9.99 for rump!
 Lochranza children's badminton
 AA meeting
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Tae Kwon Do
 Live music - Mike Bailey
 Lochranza adults' badminton
 Friday night quiz
 Poker, pool and darts

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

Saturday 10th March

Flow yoga
 Arran Vets surgery
 Arran Vets reception
 Army Cadets
 Blackwaterfoot bowls
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music - Shenanigans
 Live music - Happy Ever After, the very best sounds of the 60s
 Over-21s disco

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



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Spring Home

From windows that sparkle to a clutter-free garage, spring is a great time to do those things you've been putting off all winter.

Having your home's gutters and downspouts cleaned (and repaired if necessary) is one of the first important tasks to schedule this season. Clogged gutters during a rainy spring can cause water to pool, potentially damaging the roof and siding.

Using a regular garden hose, attach a siding cleaning kit (available at home improvement stores) to clear away winter grime from your home's siding.

Inspect paths and driveway. Repeated freezing and thawing can take a toll on asphalt and

concrete. Check your driveway and paths for cracks and schedule repairs as needed.

Create more space in your home by clearing out unloved items. If you have a lot to get rid of, set a date to hold a boot sale. Or contact a local charity to schedule a pick-up - some will send a truck free of charge if you're donating large items such as furniture.

Can you park your car in your garage? If not (or if it's a tight fit), it may be time to make some more space. Clear out the junk, and schedule time to take unused paint, motor oil and other hazardous items to a recycling centre that accepts them.

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Home & Garden



Spring garden

March brings some sunny days to tempt gardeners back into the garden. This is the month for sowing seeds and getting the garden ready for the summer months, which includes a general tidy up and some essential pruning.

Pruning is not only therapeutic for plants, but gardeners as well – getting rid of all that dead wood and preparing for new growth and flowers. You need to remove dead, diseased or damaged stems from roses. Shrubs and climbers will also need pruning to encourage good, healthy growth. Seed-sowing should be at the top of your 'to do' list at the moment.

Give seeds soil that is wet and warm enough and off they go, and the bigger the seed, the deeper it needs to be in the soil to germinate. Some seeds can be sown direct into the ground, such as vegetables, while some prefer to be in seed trays and a slight warmer environment to be given a good fighting chance.

For a bit of instant colour, think about a hanging basket. A simple garden solution for March is to create your own hanging basket in the colour scheme of your choice, mixing hardy annuals with small evergreen shrubs for all-year-round interest.

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Discovering the rule of three

At the February meeting of the Shiskine Women's Institute, members enjoyed an informative talk about photography from island photographer Jackie Newman of Arran in Focus.

Jackie, who started her career as a forensic photographer, based her talk around the photography rule of three. Using examples of her own work, she demonstrated the concept of dividing the planned image into three – horizontally and vertically, and how that rule serves to focus the viewer's attention, give the subject movement and altogether improve the whole picture.

However, Jackie explained that there are exceptions to every rule so

she also demonstrated when not to use the rule. Jackie's talking style was described by audience members as warm, engaging and encouraging, and the amateur photographers among them were inspired, with their camera trigger fingers itching, to have a go using the simple but effective rule of three.

The competition was, appropriately, a photograph of Arran and the winner was Jan Crawford with a picture of Arran stags. The runners-up were Angela Cassels and Sheila Gilmore. The exhibition for the evening was postcards and this provided an eclectic collection of members' favourite cards. The winning postcard belongs to



Jan Crawford won the Shiskine Women's Institute photography competition with her picture of Arran stags.

Susie Thompson and was a very poignant card sent home from the battlefield during the war. Runners-up were Angela Cassels and Janet Rutterford.

The next meeting of the Shiskine WI is on Wednesday March 7, and is the last

of the season. The competition is for an Easter bonnet and the exhibition is an egg cup.

As this will also be the business meeting everyone is reminded to bring their completed voting forms.

Jenni Turnbull

Exhibition features the father of Arran printing

Stephen Gill, who set up the island's first printing press – undertaking all of Arran's printing needs from his press in Whiting Bay – will be posthumously featured in the exhibition space at the Arran Library in Brodick.

Letterheads, brochures, Christmas and business cards, all bearing the imprint of St Columba's Press, were the main focus of Stephen's work but he also produced paintings, sketches, pastel drawings and watercolours among other mediums, and exhibited at local galleries and art shows.

Inspiration

Arran's rocky mountains and coastline were to be Stephen's main inspiration throughout his career. The seashore, cliffs and soaring birds became a regular feature of his artwork, scenes that he had seen and sketched as he enjoyed

regular walks through the Arran landscape.

Stephen, who died two years ago, was a founder member of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team, was a keen walker and hiker, and he also loved amateur dramatics, being a long-time member of Whiting Bay Players.

Stephen's son, Simon Ross-Gill, said: 'Stephen's family is very pleased to have the opportunity to display this selection of his work at the Arran Library, where he was a regular visitor in his later years to use the internet.'

'This exhibition is a small portion of the extensive repertoire of prints and paintings that my dad left behind, and his work provides a fascinating insight into the art of printmaking.'

The exhibition at the Arran Library will take place from today (Friday) until Thursday March 29.

Brodick Household Waste Recycling Centre



Opening hours:
Mon - Fri 9am - 3pm
Sat 9am - 12noon
Sun CLOSED
Last entry 15 minutes before closing

Remember to recycle all of your garden waste at the Recycling Centre.

Pre-booking not required for householders

Residents now have more recycling opportunities and can deposit the following materials at Brodick Household Waste Recycling Centre:

Disposal of business waste is charged through a pre-paid permit. Please contact Arran Local Office on **01770 600338** for advice.

- Cans/tins
- Paper
- Cardboard
- Electrical appliances such as TVs and white goods
- Glass bottles and jars
- Garden waste
- Household batteries
- Household general waste
- Light bulbs (fluorescent & energy saving)
- MDF/Wood
- Cooking oil
- Motor oil
- Plastic containers
- Rubble/soil
- Scrap metal
- Textiles/shoes



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday February 28, 1998

Road recycling

Juggernaut roadbuilding machines have been churning up the String Road this week. By the weekend the brow of the hill should have one of those quite smooth surfaces which have been popping up in short stretches here and there over the last few years.

This one is unusual because, as roads engineer Geoff Norris says, the road is being recycled. This has not only been made for less disruption, but less cost, and the 520 metre stretch will cost a mere £45,000 – cheap by roadbuilding standards. Instead of bringing in new materials the machines are churning up the existing road. What was Tarmac then becomes soft. It is then levelled and bonded with cement and a surface is laid over the top. This precludes the need for bulky materials being shipped and great mounds of old tar to be disposed of.

Geoff said it is the first time this recycling method has been tried on Arran and is therefore experimental from his point of view. It is hardy and especially suitable for, at 235 metres, the highest road on Arran.

Blooming marvellous

With March approaching we are told to expect colder weather but until now this has been the mildest of winters and what

better way to identify that but with trees and plants. Many people will have unseasonably early buds in their garden but Isobel Miller of Lamash has flowers on a tree in her garden which should not be growing here at all. It is an Acacia Mimosa whose natural habitat is the Mediterranean.

This tree is even more unusual in that it was taken from a cutting at the castle just eight years ago. She was told then that it would not survive.

It has not only survived but thrived and is now a fine strong tree of about 20 feet tall. It is also covered in small, scented yellow flowers and could be living proof of global warming.

Platform party

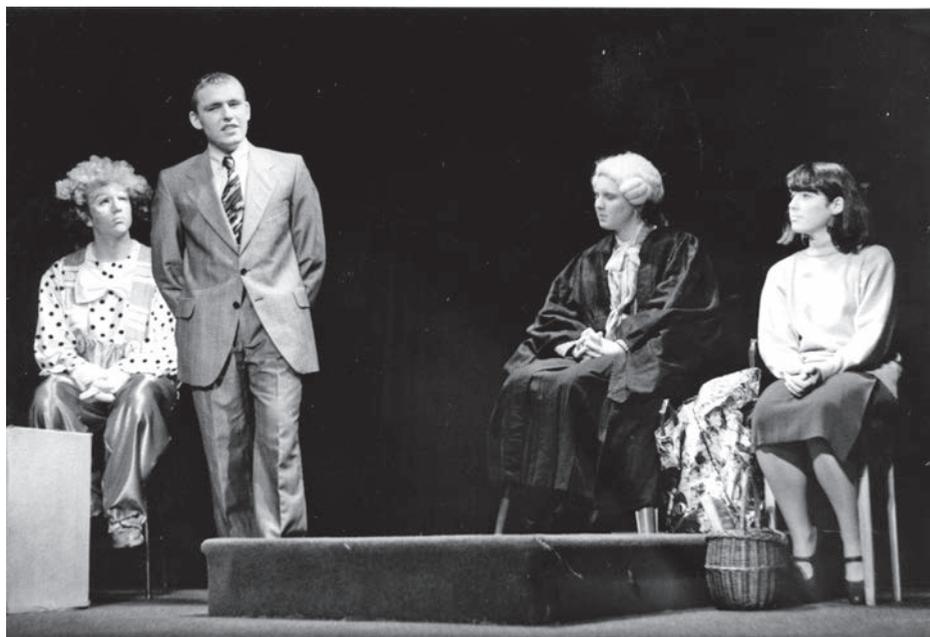
The last night of the Arran Drama Festival will begin tonight (Saturday) with a one act comedy performed and part directed by pupils from Arran High. The play is *Platform Party*, by Alan Richardson, and is set in present day Scotland, on the last night of an amateur drama festival.

The play portrays all too clearly the many ways in which the presentation ceremony can be painfully drawn out, and how frustrating it can be, not only for the players, but for organisers and adjudicators too.

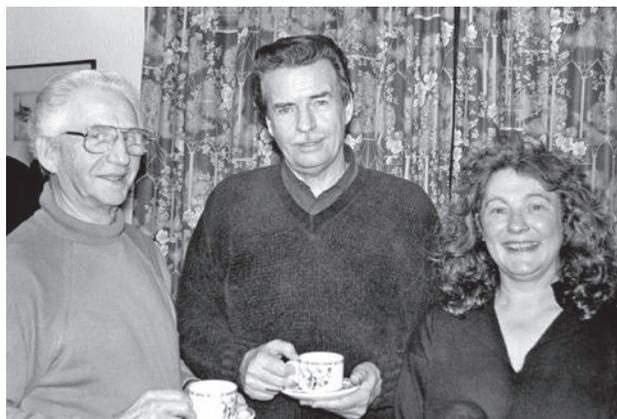
This year 11 different drama groups have rehearsed and prepared plays to, hopefully, entertain and perhaps even win a trophy.



Pictured at Balgowan Farm last Saturday, the Arran team which will compete in the sheepdog trial finals at West Kilbride next weekend. On the right, Tony Brookes with Jill, centre Willie McConnell and Jess, and left John Clarke with Spot. 01_B09twe01



Tonight concludes the week-long Arran Drama Festival which started with the youth play *Red Box*. Performing in the production were Lamash Junior Drama members; Andrew Young, Lee Little, Eilidh Struthers and Fiona MacLellan. 01_B09twe04



One of Scotland's most successful writers, William McIlvanney, visited the Arran Gaelic Society to perform a reading from his own work at the Ormidale Hotel. Joining him for a cup of tea afterwards were Ailsa McNicol and Alex Clark. 01_B09twe05



On the steps of the Kilmory Hall last Monday, five-year-old Raiann Sim and 11-year-old Sandy McMaster, respectively the youngest and oldest pupils of Kilmory Primary, present a cheque for £140 to four-year-old Bobbi Adamson, the oldest member of the Kilmory Playgroup. The schoolchildren raised the money with a sponsored silence. 01_B09twe02



Perhaps the largest roadbuilding machines ever to visit Arran are working away on the top of the String Road this week. The resurfaced road will be open to traffic by this weekend. 01_B09twe03

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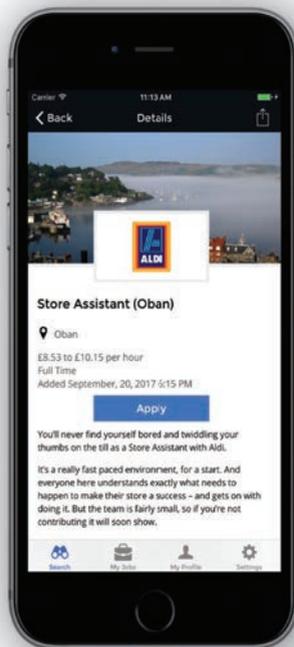
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LOST

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We are looking for a friendly, out-going person to join our team in the shop.

This job requires working Saturday and Sunday and occasionally, covering for holidays and absence, where possible.

Some shop working experience would be of great benefit but the main qualifications for this position are honesty, reliability and a genuine desire to work with the public.

If you are interested, please give Lesley Jameson a call on 600 606 during normal working hours or email: ljameson@paterson-arran.com

Housekeeper Required for Arran Holiday Retreats

King's Cross, Whiting Bay: 4 bedroom modern bungalow (sleeps 7). This is an established holiday let with regular Saturday changeovers. Car driver essential. Experience preferred.

May suit 2 people as a job-share.

Please contact us or call in at Arran Art Gallery in Whiting Bay.

e: stay@arranholidayretreats.co.uk
t: 01770 700250 (10am-5pm)

Childcare Position

Brodick mother looking to return to work, requires a caring and responsible nanny for two boys.

20 hours per week over two and a half days Term time only

Experience with young children essential
Clean driving licence required

Call 07915 605053 for more details

LAMLASH GOLF CLUB CATERING.

The lease of the club restaurant and kitchen, fully equipped, is now available.

For further details of the lease please contact the club secretary by phone 01770 600272 or email secretary@lamlashgolfclub.com

Closing date 24th March 2018.

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Enthusiastic and committed office assistant required for busy office. Good typing, organisational skills and computer literacy are essential

Applications in writing please to:
John Thomson Construction Ltd., Park Terrace,
Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8NB
email: mail@thomsonconstruction.co.uk

LAMLASH GARAGE

Experienced Motor Mechanic required.

Email:
mail@thomsononconstruction.co.uk
Tel: 01770 600242

Public Notices

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – GRASS CUTTING SCHEME 2018

North Ayrshire Council is now accepting applications to the Council's Grass Cutting Scheme, which is limited to grass and hedge cutting.

The scheme covers cutting grass of an area no bigger than 150 square metres and hedges where they border a path. No weeding or planting is provided for. However, we will maintain gardens to an acceptable standard. Due to the limited number of gardens to be included on the scheme, applications will be accepted on a "first come first served basis".

To be eligible, the applicants must permanently reside at the property and meet the following eligibility criteria:

Be aged 75 and over.

Or

Aged 65 and over and in receipt of Attendance Allowance (higher rate) or free personal care.

Or

Aged under 65 and in receipt of DLA mobility (higher rate) or care (highest rate).

Or

Aged under 65 and in receipt of PIP mobility (enhanced rate) or daily living component (enhanced rate).

To apply contact the Council online at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/grasscuttingscheme or by telephone from Monday 5 March 2018 on 01294 310000. An assessment of eligibility will be made during the application process and payment for the scheme will be taken.

Applications will close on Friday 16 March 2018. Applicants from previous years are not automatically re-enrolled on the scheme and are required to re-apply. The grass cutting scheme will commence on Tuesday 3 April and terminate Friday 28 September 2018.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 9am–4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 23 March 2018. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)

18/00031/PP; Glen Askaig, Lochranza, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Change of use of post office to class 10 Art Gallery including 2 storey extension to rear, erection of porch and alterations to existing front dormers.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE


 North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

FÈIS ARAINN AGM

Wednesday 14th March 2018

7.30pm

The Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick

ALL WELCOME

 BANNER BANNER
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT
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CHURCH NOTICES

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 4th March
Pirnmill and Lochranza Churches together, 10.15am
Morning Worship at 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.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 4th March
Holy Communion, 11am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service, followed by Annual Church Meeting.
ALL WELCOME
Wednesday 7th March
NO SERVICE (DUE TO DIOCESAN SYNOD)

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 4th March
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

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

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 4th March
Rev, Lily McKinnon
Kilmory - 10am,
Lamlash - 11.30am.
In Lamlash: prayer time 10.45am.
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland, Charity
Number: SC014005
Sunday 4th March
Worship will be conducted by Mrs Sharon MacLeod, Reader at 10.30am
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service. All most welcome.
There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm to which all friends are warmly invited.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 4th March
Service 11am, Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and coffee after the service
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.
Telephone 600222
Everyone warmly invited

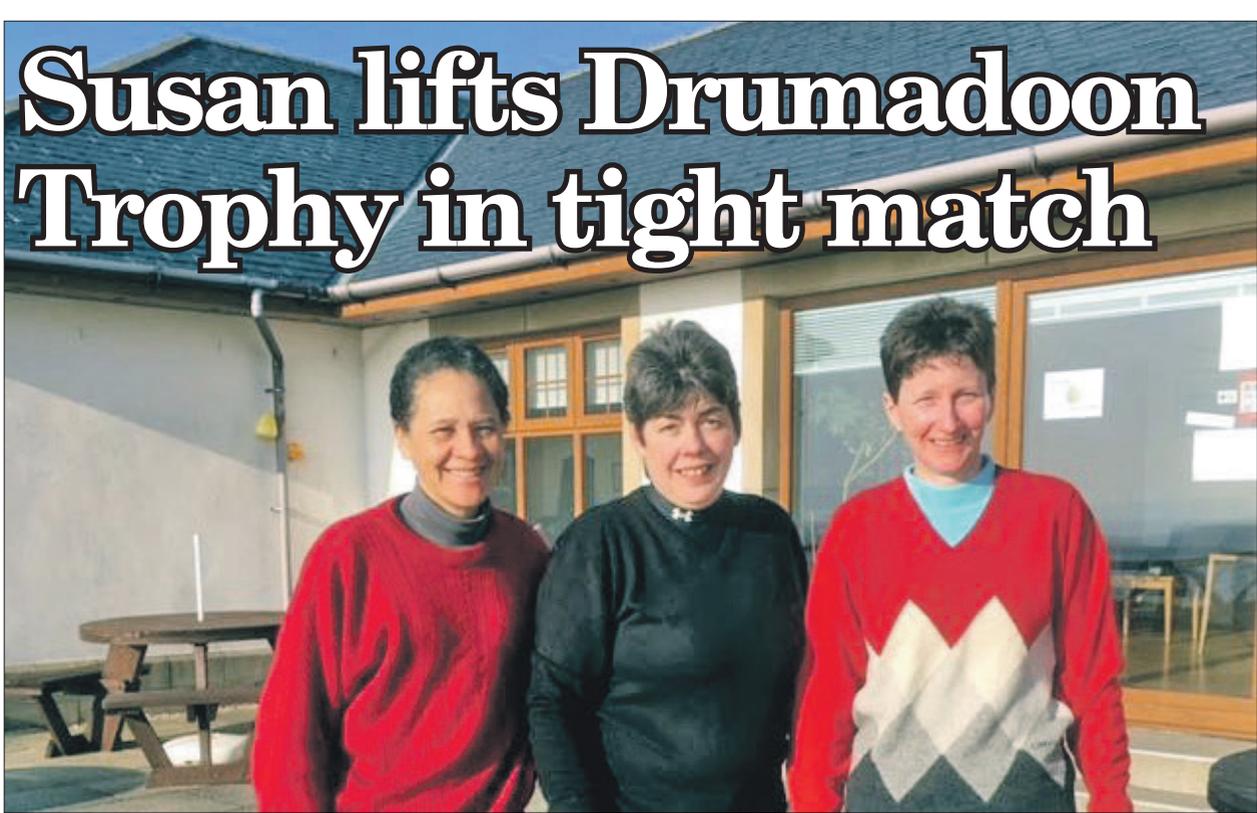
HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 4th March
Sunday Mass 11am

ENGAGEMENT

KELSO - POMFRET: Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Sarah, daughter of Jock and Aileen of Shiskine to Joel, youngest son of Neil and Pam, formerly of Kilmory.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Susan lifts Drumadoon Trophy in tight match

DEATHS

LAMMIE: Isabella Peacefully at Redburn, Ayrshire Central Hospital on Friday, 23rd February 2018. Isabel, aged 84 years, beloved wife of the late George, dear mother and grandmother of the family. Funeral service in Lamlash Church on Tuesday, 6th March at 11:30 am and thereafter to Lamlash cemetery to which all are welcome. Family flowers only please, donations if so desired to Isle of Arran Hospital Supporters League.

PIERCE: Sarah Pierce of Kilmory Farm passed away peacefully on Friday 23rd February after a long illness. She was with family at home in Crich, Derbyshire. The funeral will take place at Amber Valley Crematorium, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Date to be advised, please contact the funeral directors, Archway Funeral Service on 01773 749028 for further information. A memorial in celebration of Sarah's life will be held on Arran in the next few weeks. The family invite all of her many friends on Arran to attend. We would love to see you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

PICKEN: The family of Edna Picken would like to express their thanks and appreciation to everyone who attended the funeral on 21st February. To those many who sent cards and letters, good neighbours, District Nurse, hospital staff and Home Helps, especially the Stick Man. Thanks to Clair and David Hendry, the Rev. Lily McKinnon for such a moving service and Kilmory Hall for providing the catering just as Edna would have done. The generous donations raised £1225.00 for the RNLI

ALGU Drumadoon winner Susan Butchard with runner-up Mary Jo Tod and Kema Genda, who was third.



A total of 15 ladies played in the Arran Ladies' Golf Union Drumadoon competition at Shiskine on Saturday February 24 on a cold but dry day with some sunshine.

The top three players all scored 73 but, after the countback calculations were worked out, Susan was the winner. 1 and scratch Susan Butchard 83-10=73 BIH, 2 Mary Jo Tod 97-24=73 BIH, 3 Kema Genda 85-12=73.

Our thanks go to Shiskine for courtesy of the course, to Alan and his team for the catering and to Dougie for all his help.

Fixture: Saturday March 10, Brodick at 10.30am. Please contact Susan 600555 or Carole 860530 if you would like to play.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday February 20, Lochranza Hotel Cup, CSS 62. Non-qualifier due to shortened course. 1 J Pennycott 39pts BIH, 2 R Betley 39pts, 3 C Laing 34pts.

Fixtures: Saturday March 3, Lochranza Hotel Cup. Tuesday March 6, Winter Cup. Saturday March 10, Eddie Rankin Memorial Trophy at Corrie at 1pm. All gentleman members welcome.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday February 21, Wednesday Cup. With an improvement in the weather and on a good day for golf, the scoring was also much improved. 1 D Roxburgh 28pts, 2 R McCrae 26pts. Magic twos D Roxburgh, J Armit, R McCrae and D Robertson.

Sunday February 25, Winter Cup, Stableford. NC, 17 played. 1 Alistair Hume 11, 41 pts, 2 Bob McCrae 8, 39pts, 3 Stuart Brodie 16, 38pts.

Fixture: Sunday March 4, final round of AGA Duncan Trophy, shotgun start at 10am. Brodick v Lamlash, holes one to four, Whiting Bay v Shiskine, holes five to eight, Machrie Bay v Corrie, holes 15 to 18. No Sweep due to shotgun start.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday February 25, Winter Cup, round three. On a glorious morning, 12 competed which, in true WBGC style, was played six weeks after round four. After a few days of dry weather, the course was playing well although tricky greens resulted in CSS going out to 66, reductions only. The winner on that score was David Brookens, who pipped Jamie McKechnie on the better inward half. 1 David Brookens 11, 66 BIH, 2 Jamie McKechnie 7, 66, 3 John Pennycott 13, 67, 4 Ronnie Mann 13, 70. After four rounds, the overall leader is Graeme Crichton with a three-

round total of 199. There will be two rounds to be played in March. Keep an eye on the website, Facebook and the club noticeboard for further details.

Fixtures: Sunday March 4, AGA Winter League v Shiskine GC at Brodick.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday February 22, yellow medal. 1 John O'Sullivan 83-21=62, 2 Billy O'Connor 87-23=64. Magic two by Billy O'Connor @4th.

Sunday February 25, Winter Stableford. 1 Andrew Wales 30pts, 2 Frank Stewart 28pts. Scratch Drew Wales 23 pts.

Fixtures: Sunday March 4, Winter League final. Brodick v Lamlash at Brodick. Shotgun start at 10am. Thursday March 8, Yellow Medal, 11am start.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixture: Saturday March 3, sweep. Ballots at 9am and 1pm.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday February 25, gents' 12-hole medal/Winter Cup, 14 played, CSS 45. 1 and scratch, A Shaw (non-member) 45-2=43, BIH, 2 W McNally 52-9=43, 3 I Shaw (non-member) 49-3=46, BIH. Magic twos, B Paton, D Logan and I Shaw. Fixtures: Thursday March 8, ladies' 12-hole medal, 10am tee-off. Sunday March 11, gents' 12-hole medal/Winter Cup final, 1pm tee-off.

Depleted Arran team earns a plucky draw

‘The penalty flick was outstanding, perfect angle, perfect height and even an international keeper could not have stopped it’

MC Clydedale Western 6s 2
Arran Ladies 2

With less than a full squad, Arran Ladies travelled to Hutchesons' Grammar School in Glasgow to play Milne Craig Clydesdale Western 6s on a beautiful and bright Saturday afternoon.

Milne Craig, with a full complement of 11 players and five substitutes, began their play demonstrating well developed set pieces and positioning. With coaches on both sidelines directing proceedings, the home team eventually pushed into the Arran shooting 'D', taking a shot which deflected off an Arran defender's stick and into goal, putting the home side 1-0 up.

Arran batted down the hatches and resorted to playing a strongly defensive game while waiting for their break to come, and come it did in the last minute of the first half. Pressure from Arran forwards Helen Thomson, Lorraine Hewie and Hannah McCartney produced the visitors' first short corner. Vice-captain Lorraine fired in the ball which was received by captain Anne Watts at the top of the 'D'.

From there, Anne fired a powerful shot which passed the Milne Craig goalkeeper but was blocked by the feet of a Milne Craig defender positioned behind the goalkeeper. The foul, having prevented a goal, saw Arran umpire Pauline Reid award a penalty flick.

Team captain Anne Watts stepped up to take the penalty, successfully firing the ball into the left hand corner of the goal with deadly accuracy taking the score line to 1-1 just as the half-time whistle was blown. Dame of the game Kirstie Barton – who gave a superb performance in midfield –



The Arran Ladies hockey team who earned a draw in Glasgow. 01_B09hockey01

said: ‘The penalty flick was outstanding, perfect angle, perfect height and even an international keeper could not have stopped it.’ Having had a goal disallowed in the 20th minute, this was a welcome boost to the Arran team.

As the second half progressed defender Elyse Aitken and sweeper Cat Galbraith stopped many a charge by the opposition into the Arran defensive zone. Any balls that did manage to power through were quickly swept aside by Ali ‘Ninja’ McKie, Arran's acrobatic goalkeeper. Such was the determina-

tion of the depleted, and by now exhausted, Arran team, they were able to repel wave after wave of attacks.

Eventually, however, after a constant barrage on their goal, a breakthrough pass and some skilful dribbling by the Milne Craig right wing saw the home team successfully bag their second goal. Undeterred, midfield players Hazel Malakoty, Mia Walker and Kirstie Barton saw the Arran team press forward again, resulting in a shot on goal from Lorraine Hewie. The Milne Craig goalkeeper managed to repel this first attack,

but Arran's Hazel Malakoty was able to capitalise on the rebound, collecting the ball at the top of the 'D' and firing it into the back of the net to bring the score back to an even 2-2, which is how the score remained until the final whistle blew. MCCW led the three cheers for their plucky visitors at the final whistle, and captain Anne Watts led the Arran Ladies in reply. Both teams retired to the nearby clubhouse for an enjoyable post-match tea hosted by the home team.

Arran Ladies would like to say a very special thank you to the supporters who

came along to cheer them on, so very much appreciated.

The team would also like to extend a huge thank you to Pauline Reid for her continued support of the club, for without her umpiring they would be unable to compete at this level. Captain Anne Watts said of the girls that their effort on the pitch was nothing short of heroic especially given that the team played with less than a full squad.

Arran Ladies are playing GHK 3s today (Saturday) at Old Anniesland in Glasgow, pass back time is 1.30pm.

Change of venue for nursery sheepdog trial

The Scottish Inter District Sheep Dog Nursery Trials final, which will take place today (Saturday), has been relocated to Coylton near Ayr owing to unforeseen circumstances.

Wullie Stevenson of Whiting Bay, who is representing Arran and Kintyre, will be competing against eight other teams from Scotland as reported in last week's *Banner*.

Initially destined to be cancelled, dog trial enthusiasts on both Arran and Kintyre and the surrounding areas have hastily re-arranged the venue to ensure that it goes ahead.

The final will take place at Bargenoch Farm, Coylton and not at Clochkeil Farm near Macrihanish as originally planned.

Arran Bridge Club results

The results of round five of the Boyd Trophy played at Brodick on Thursday February 22 were: 1 John and Jan Beattie, 2 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure, 3 John Baraclough and Jennifer Wales, 4 Margaret and Douglas Bruce.

The results of the aggregate competition played on Monday February 26 at Brodick were: N/S 1 John and Jan Beattie, 2 Jean Barclay and Jennifer McArthur, 3 Douglas Chase and Jennifer Wales. E/W 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan, 3 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

This is
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Send
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and stories to
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banner.co.uk

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Depleted Arran team
earns a plucky draw

Get on your marks for 30th Ormidale 10K

Dozens of runners, both from Arran and the mainland, will take to the roads of Brodick next month for the 30th anniversary Isle of Arran Ormidale 10K race.

This year it will be held on Sunday April 22 and, as usual, the race is based at the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick, with a noon start and organisers are hoping to beat last year entry of 59 runners.

The race started in 1987, and, as the race was cancelled one year, this will be the 30th anniversary race. After numbers fell for a few years to a near critical level, more recently numbers have risen again. This was helped, in no small way, by the *Arran Banner*, which, in 2014, ran a weekly training programme for novice athletes, leading up to the race.

Last year the winner was Steve Daye, of Irvine. Second was Billy Richardson, also Irvine, who won the first race 30 years ago. First local man was Dave Black, followed by Mike Mellor, so there is obviously some good karma in the CalMac office or its surrounds. First local lady was Fiona Clarke.

The course is very flat and takes a scenic route out to Merkland Point at the north end of Brodick Bay, and



Jean and Gordon McInnes with some of the regular runners at the Monday night Jogscotland group which meets in Whiting Bay. 01_B09jog01

back, with a short diversion up the Knowe road to make the distance exact. The eight weeks remaining to the race are certainly enough time to train to complete the six-mile course, although to be com-

petitive, a higher level of fitness would be preferable. Novices, or seasoned runners, may want to join one of the Jogscotland groups on the island.

One is held on a Monday night at 5.30pm in Whiting Bay by Jean and Gordon McInnes. See Jogscotland – Isle of Arran on Facebook for details of meeting point. And a second has just restarted in Brodick on a Wednesday meeting in the small Co-op car park at 5.30pm. See Arran Run Coach Facebook page.

Day-tripping

The race is timed to suit runners who are day-tripping from the mainland. The 9.45am ferry from Ardrossan (8.40am train from Glasgow Central connects) leaves plenty time to walk to the sports pavilion (15 minutes), change and warm up. There is a choice of three ferries for the return journey.

Organiser Tommy Gilmore said: 'It would appear that, around the island, there are more and more joggers/runners, of both sexes, hitting the road. Hopefully, some of these will target the Ormidale 10K this April, and use it to improve their times and general fitness.'

Entries and information online at Sientries website.

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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 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2015 for combined print and digital editions was 3,053.