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# 'Big ideas' for ambitious Eco Park are unveiled

## Community centre would be powered by biomass plant

Ambitious plans have been unveiled for an Arran Eco Park and Centre.

The community project would see a centre of excellence created for leisure, learning, health and recreation and while the plan may still be in its infancy, with fundraising underway for an

**REPORT**  
by COLIN SMEETON  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

extensive feasibility study, it could well become a reality.

A site has also been identified for the project which would be have at its heart a CHP biomass plant. This would be used for the power of the multi-functional community space, which could include a swimming pool.

The 'big ideas' were announced at a public meeting hosted by the local environment charity Eco Savvy in Brodick Hall last Saturday, which was attended by more than 40 community representatives and members of the public. At the meeting, the Eco Savvy team were quick to ally any concerns over the proposal of a biomass plant.

It is less than two years since islanders saw off a plan for a biomass plant at Dyemill, not far from the site of the proposed Eco Park on eight hectares of forestry about half way between Whiting Bay and Lamlash.

Eco Savvy treasurer Barbara I'Anson said: 'We don't wish to step on any toes, this is a project by the community, for the community, which we want to use to help reduce

waste, educate the public and to provide much-needed facilities and eco-based opportunities. While there has been opposition to biomass proposals previously, we have addressed these concerns and hope to use these types of technologies to provide a place where green technology and a sustainable lifestyle can be embraced, helping make Arran a greener and more sustainable island.

'The CHP plant is to significantly smaller than that rejected by Arran two years ago. At around just 10 per cent of the size, it would be designed to primarily produce heat for use onsite.'

While generating more power than can be used, the plans are for some of the excess to be used to heat a 20-metre swimming pool which would be specially adapted with a large walk-in ramp to cater for people of all abilities, something that Barbara says is missing on Arran. Any excess power could also be sold to the National Grid, allowing it to be self sufficient.

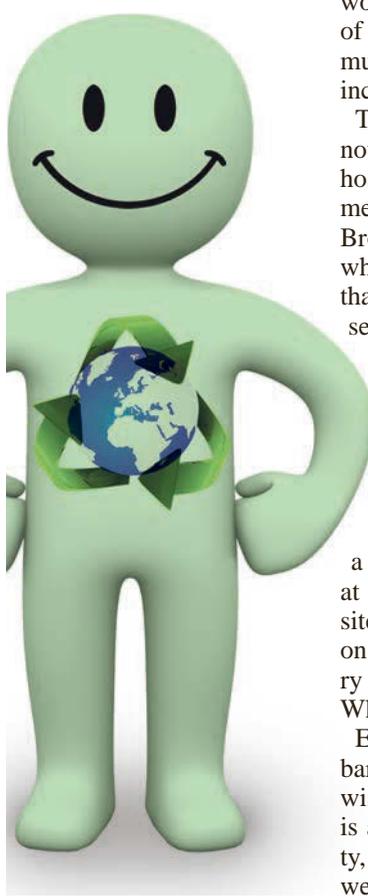
The building itself would be designed as a multi-functional community space that would showcase sustainable building techniques and which could be used by



## Treading the boards to success

Meet the trophy winners at this year's Arran One Act Drama Festival, held over three nights last week. Audiences enjoyed a total of nine plays, with Shiskine SWI the biggest winners. A full four pages of coverage starts on page 11.

01\_B10drama17



community groups, with educational facilities playing a large part in its design. An eco-library and study area would feature prominently, as would space for workshops and classes. Aligned to the building would also be a cafe and catering function which could provide healthy meals and be an outlet for local producers and for those seeking to purchase food whose provenance is known and local.

In keeping with the community ethos of Eco Savvy, the building and its cafe would all be available to rent out and be used by the community which will allow it to be self sustaining.

Envisaged as being able to create employment for 17 people, plans also include having space to carry out some of Eco Savvy's other ventures which include a location for their green waste composting and heated poly tunnels which could provide fresh produce for the cafe and space for commercial letting.

**Continued on page 2**

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## Labour leader in visit

Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale will be visiting Arran today (Friday) to meet with local businesses and tour the Isle of Arran Distillery.

During her visit, Ms Dugdale will also be talking about the importance of CalMac to the island's economy.

Speaking ahead of the trip, Ms Dugdale said: 'I'm really looking forward to the visit. It is important that an island like Arran maintains proper transport links. CalMac provides that vital lifeline service and does much more besides. I'm also keen to learn from local businesses about their experiences of trading from an island.'

## Fairtrade coffee morning

Monday was the start of Fairtrade Fortnight, and six of the Arran primary schools are either having an assembly or enjoying a Fairtrade breakfast. This year's theme is 'sit down to breakfast and stand up for farmers'. Arran Fairtrade is hosting a tea and coffee event in the Brodick Co-op on Thursday March 10 between 10am and noon. All are welcome either during or after they have done their shopping.

One of the organisers said: 'Many thanks to the Co-op who has supported all the schools by donating Fairtrade bananas and chocolate, and for being great supporters of Fairtrade.'

# Eco Park plan could become a reality

Continued from page 1

Key to the project is the location of the proposed building, which will have specific requirements, such as being on a main access route that can be reached by car, bicycle or joined to local paths, to facilitate the green waste composting.

The meeting heard a site has been identified north of Knowe Farm and south of the Heights, which is seen as being ideal for the project

and which might be available to buy through a community acquisition. The site could be screened off with earth to provide a sheltered area that would minimise any noise concerns.

### Feasibility study

Member Ester Brown told the meeting: 'The next step in the process will be raising funds for a feasibility study, something which Eco Savvy has never done before, having being completely self-

sufficient since its inception in 2013.

'Eco Savvy has funded its activities through the community shop in Whiting Bay and through the hard work of its volunteers, who have ensured that every Eco Savvy event, including the skill sharing days, upcycling workshops and auctions, have been completely free.'

Eco Savvy will be touring its presentation around the island and would welcome

invitations from interested parties who wish to host such an event.

For more information on joining Eco Savvy, which has

more than 400 members, or for more information on the project, visit [www.ecosavvy.org.uk](http://www.ecosavvy.org.uk) or email [arran.ecosavvy@gmail.com](mailto:arran.ecosavvy@gmail.com).



Eco Savvy member Ester Brown addresses the audience at Brodick Hall.

01\_B10eco01



Treasurer Barbara l'Anson and renewable energy consultant Beverley Walker outline their plans for an Eco Park.

01\_B10eco02

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# Sheriff warns carer she must repay all the cash she stole

An Arran carer, who stole £9,000 from an 80-year-old woman she was looking after, has been told she must repay the money before being sentenced.

However Anne McConnell, 51, of Montrose Terrace, Whiting Bay will not receive any cash help from her brother, the former First Minister Jack McConnell, a court heard this week.

McConnell could still face a prison sentence for stealing her victim's bank card and withdrawing the cash, in an offence branded 'despicable' by a sheriff.

When she appeared for sentencing at Kilmarnock Sheriff Court on Monday, it emerged the money had not been refunded, leading Sheriff Elizabeth McFarlane to demand: 'So when is this old lady being repaid?'

Peter Lockhart, defending, said the bank had refunded the elderly victim but McConnell had only paid back £1,650 to the bank, forcing her to sell her home on the island and move to the mainland.

Mr Lockhart added: 'There was a suggestion her brother or family would effectively bankroll this. That is not the position.'

The lawyer said that a police interview suggested McConnell

would get the money back from her brother, when in fact she only said she would ask. The officer had said: 'So you haven't spoken to Jack about it?' to which McConnell replied: 'Not yet, no.'

Mr Lockhart went on: 'Although the family are sympathetic of her, it's not for them to pay. Ultimately, it's for the accused to pay.'

Jobless McConnell, who blamed the offence on her menopause, hoped to raise between £13,000 and £15,000 from selling her home on the island, the court heard.

Her lawyer said her mortgage was in arrears and there was a risk the bank would repossess and sell the house at a loss.

Mr Lockhart added: 'She accepts nothing in mitigation can be said about this offence. It's a despicable offence. She was in a position of trust and the report notes she was wracked with guilt.'

McConnell earlier admitted stealing the card and money then withdrawing cash from ATMs while employed as a private carer between February and August last year.

She had originally been charged with taking nearly £18,000, but the amount was reduced in an agreed plea with prosecutors.

McConnell, who the court heard, had health problems and suffered a number of tragedies in her life, planned to move her 15-year-old daughter to a mainland school.

'She accepts she has to make amends,' Mr Lockhart said, adding McConnell was a good, caring woman and the crime 'beggared belief'.

'The impact of a prison sentence would probably be greater on the daughter than the accused,' the lawyer said.

Sheriff McFarlane said the background report mentioned a loan that fell through and added: 'It seems to me she says the first thing that comes into her head to better herself. She said she would borrow the money from her brother and that fell through.'

Turning to McConnell in the dock, Sheriff McFarlane said: 'You will repay the money before I see you next time, is that clear?' McConnell replied: 'Yes'.

Sentence was deferred until



Author Angela Proctor presents Aiden Hewie with his award for being a runner-up in the national art competition. 01\_B10drawing02

## Author Angela admires Aiden's winning entry

Aiden Hewie who is a P6 pupil at Brodick Primary School has received a very special visit from well-known children's author Angela Proctor, after being named as one of six runners-ups in a national school drawing competition.

The competition which was judged by the Glasgow School of Art required entrants to draw a picture of a character from the Thumbie Tumble series of books which tells the story of a little witch who lives on the Isle of Arran.

There were over 3,500 entries with the winner coming from Mosshead School in

Bearsden and the six runners-up who were awarded trophies at a glitzy event on the mainland. Unfortunately due to ferry cancellations Aiden was unable to attend the prize-giving ceremony which led to author Angela deciding to visit Brodick Primary School and present a proud Aiden with his trophy and an enlarged print of his artwork which might, if the publishers agree, be used in a future book or promotional material.

At the ceremony head teacher Susan Kelly praised the pupils for their hard work and effort that they put into their entries and wished Aiden a heartfelt well-done.

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# Motorhome parking problem is not just confined to Brodick

A move to encourage motorhomes to park overnight in the main Co-op car park in Brodick has sparked a row.

The Co-op insists it is only trying to alleviate the increasing problem of vans parking on Brodick shorefront and also on grass at the beach. But residents are concerned that the move could lead to noise and nuisance from the motorhomes with the Co-op offering them free use of the picnic area, public toilets, baby changing facilities and tap water.

There is growing anxiety over the number of vans coming to Arran as a result

of cheaper RET fares. Many residents are concerned as a result of, sometimes, indiscriminate parking and the lack of facilities island wide to support them.

The move was discussed at last week's meeting of Arran Community Council where members heard that Brodick Improvements Committee had already said it would not welcome such a move.

Shiskine representative Maryln Woods also said: 'I am not particularly keen on this idea, but it perhaps demonstrates the desperate need for more resources for motorhomes.' She said an

ideal location would be at Brodick Castle and Country Park adding: 'I think the National Trust is missing a big trick.'

Another member said: 'I think the Co-op car park could become a real mess if motorhomes are allowed the run of it. They already take up two and three spaces when they use the shop.'

Councillor Neil Arthur said: 'This is a consequence of RET without the infrastructure. I personally don't like the idea.' He said in some islands motorhomes were referred to as 'white ghosts' as they came fully stocked up and drifted through the area without contributing anything to the economy.

The meeting heard that on Colonsay motorhomes were only allowed with proof that they had overnight accommodation booked.

Lochransa representative Hazel Gardiner said: 'This is an island-wide problem that needs the right bodies to sit down and find a solution.'

Members agreed that vice chairman Bill Calderwood, who has already met the store manager, should have further discussions with the Co-op regarding the move. They also said they would check for any limitations on the use of the car park when planning permission was granted more than 20-years-ago.

Store manager Liz McLean said: 'Motorhomes used the car park last year without any difficulties. I will monitor the situation as I do with the cars using the car park when they go to the mainland, which I also have to manage, due to the closure of the car park at their pier.'

## Arran Active is open for business



First look inside the new Arran Active shop in Brodick. 01\_B10active02

The eagerly-awaited new Arran Active store on Brodick seafront opened its doors on Tuesday to a warm welcome from shoppers and well-wishers alike.

Sited in the former Bilsland's shop, the new store that specialises in outdoor clothes and footwear has a large range of top-end and well-known brands. It also features a haberdashery and wool store and a large toddler and baby selection.

Upstairs, in the gallery area is a camping equipment section and a exhibition space which houses an interesting selection of local photographers' works. En-



The enticing window display. 01\_B10active04

ting people inside is a fantastic window display with a full-length sea kayak and a tent set-up complete with beach sand and driftwood on the ground.

Owner Andrew Walsh said: 'The opening has gone far

better than I could of imagined. There has been so many people visiting and supporting us and plenty of people who have wished us well in our new venture. It really has exceeded all expectation.'

## Saltire Society on song

The Arran branch of The Saltire Society is holding the last event of 2015-16 in Corrie Village Hall on Wednesday, March, 9 at 7.30pm.

Organisers are delighted that Peter Wilson and friends will entertain members with an evening of performance in song and verse.

They say thanks must go to everyone who has supported them on this first and quite adventurous year, especially the many guests and those who have worked tirelessly in the background to support the organisation of each event.

All are welcome for what promises to be a terrific evening of traditional entertainment.



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## TV talk at Arran Gaelic club

Arran's Gaelic Club, Na h-Arainnich, is to host a talk by one of the crew of the popular television series *Outlander*.

Àdhamh Ó' Broin, who is Gaelic consultant on the series, will recount some of his experiences teaching the star-studded cast Gaelic words and phrases which pepper the dialogue and add to the authenticity and atmosphere of the story. Àdhamh himself is fast becoming a

star of the Gaelic speaking world, where he is also known for talents as story teller, poet and song writer and makes regular appearances on radio and television.

Àdhamh will also discuss his work on collecting and preserving Gaelic dialects, particularly the dialect of neighbouring Argyll. The talk will be at Corrie Village Hall on Friday, March 11 at 7.30pm.

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# Children serve up a treat at annual Arran Music Festival

Words and pictures by Colin Smeeton

The annual Arran Music Festival that took place at the community theatre in Lamash last week saw a phenomenal amount of young Arran talent on display over the three-day event.

With various categories from choric and verse speaking to musical instruments, song and country dancing the festival drew participation from early years classes to primary schools and up to the senior pupils at the high school. The adjudicators at the 87th festival were Derek Norval, who judged the vocal and instrumental categories, and Jim Gibson, who adjudicated over the speech and drama categories. James Hill adjudicated the Scottish country dancing while Lorna Buchanan was the official accompanist.

Throughout the three days of the event local schools were bussed in to compete in the various categories with some sessions drawing large crowds of spectators while the teachers, who rehearsed the performances, nervously watched the culmination of the fruits of their labour.

The winners of the categories were as follows:

Wednesday: Class 80, Cara Henderson. Class 81, Michael Innes. Class 90, Shiskine Primary. Class 82, Kirsty Hume. Class 83, Jack Popplewell. Class 84, Daisy Innes. Class 85, Erin McNiven. Class 86, Sam Reid. Class 91, Kirsty Hume and Daisy McNamara. Wednesday afternoon: Class 15, Beth McCarthy. Class 16, Rory Currie. Class 13, Annie McKelvie and Harry Gilmore. Class 6, Charlie Hodgart. Class 22, Alice Lockhart. Class 23, Lucy Walsh. Class 36, Sophie Clark. Class 39, Freya McNicol and Jessica Reid. Wednesday evening: Class 24, Lucy Walsh. Class 51, Lois Ashley and Finlay Elliot. Class 106, Lucy Walsh. Class 12, Ellie Ewing. Class 17, Finlay Elliot. Class 110, Bethany Walsh.

Thursday morning: Class 37, Megan McCartney. Class 3, Brodick Early Years. Class 1, Lamash Primary. Class 50, Whiting Bay Primary. Class 37, Mhari Thomas. Class 8, Emily Devine. Thursday afternoon: Class 34, Lamash Primary School brass band. Class 32, James Macus and Thomas Copperwheat. Class 29, Ruaridh Lindsay-Smith. Class 30, Lois Ashley and Gabrielle Allison. Friday morning: Class 4, Brodick Primary school. Class 70a, Shiskine Primary A. Class 70b, Shiskine Primary school. Class 70c, Whiting Bay Primary and Brodick Primary. Class 70d, Shiskine Primary (girls). Class 38, Megan McNicol. Friday afternoon: Class 52, Whiting Bay Primary school. Class 7, Ellie Ewing. Overall winners: Best vocal solo, Emily Devine. Best junior verse, Shiskine Primary. Best solo piano, Finlay Elliot. Best choir, Lamash Primary. Best Scottish county dancing team, Whiting Bay Primary and Brodick Primary. Highly commended children's singing group, Brodick Primary. Specifically commended SCD team, Whiting Bay Primary.



The Jean Marriot Trophy was shared by Brodick and Whiting Bay Primary in the mixed Scottish country dancing category. 01\_B10musfest13

29, Ruaridh Lindsay-Smith. Class 30, Lois Ashley and Gabrielle Allison.

Friday morning: Class 4, Brodick Primary school. Class 70a, Shiskine Primary A. Class 70b, Shiskine

Primary school. Class 70c, Whiting Bay Primary and Brodick Primary. Class 70d, Shiskine Primary (girls). Class 38, Megan McNicol. Friday afternoon: Class 52, Whiting Bay Primary school.

Class 7, Ellie Ewing. Overall winners: Best vocal solo, Emily Devine. Best junior verse, Shiskine Primary. Best solo piano, Finlay Elliot. Best choir, Lamash Primary. Best Scottish county dancing

team, Whiting Bay Primary and Brodick Primary. Highly commended children's singing group, Brodick Primary. Specifically commended SCD team, Whiting Bay Primary.



Shiskine Primary (P1-P3) proudly display their trophy for winning the Scottish country dancing category. 01\_B10musfest11



The Corrie early years class perform in the action songs category. 01\_B10musfest04

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# Young talent on show at 8



Representatives of the Brodick early years class receive the Nancy Cooper Memorial Cup from Jim Gibson on behalf of their class. 01\_B10musfest05



Lamlash Primary School receive the Ormidale Cup in the vocal ensemble category. 01\_B10musfest08



Kilmory Primary pupils perform Puss in Boots in the primary 1



Michael Innes receives the Alice Geddes Memorial Cup in the verse speaking Primary 2 category. 01\_B10musfest02



Gabrielle Allison and Lois Ashley share the McLeod Cup for their performances in the brass solo section. 01\_B10musfest09



Jim Gibson adjudicated the Speech and Drama section with his wife. 01\_B10musfest01

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James Smith performing the Imperial March with Lorna Buchan accompaniment. 01\_B10musfest10

# 7th Arran Music Festival



to 7 category. 01\_B10musfest07



Brodick Primary School competes for the Festival Salver in the primary choric speaking category. 01\_B10musfest03



Shiskine Primary (P3-5) took the Association Shield for their Scottish country dancing. 01\_B10musfest12



James Hill who adjudicated the Scottish country dancing praised the dancers for being 'Light on their toes'. 01\_B10musfest14



s assistant Elisabeth Lang.



Bethan Remington provided some of the compering for the event. 01\_B10musfest06



man providing the piano

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## The greening of Arran

He may have started life as a little green man with a recycling message, but this week Eco Savvy has come of age.

It has taken just three short years for him to grow from boy to man as the proposals, unveiled by the Arran charity this week, have revealed.

He, of course, still cares about recycling, upcycling and working towards a greener and more sustainable island. But he also now has bigger and bolder ideas.

The plans for an Arran Eco Park and Centre are ambitious, but they haven't been drawn on the back of a cigarette packet.

No, during the past two years the Eco Savvy trustees and working group have spent many hundreds of hours researching, planning, consulting and working towards this Eco Savvy vision.

And the proposals have considerable merit. A sustainable Eco Park and Centre with a supporting renewable energy project. A centre of excellence for leisure, learning health and recreation. An all-ability venue for the benefit of the Arran community and visitors alike. A place where new technology and sustainable lifestyles can be embraced – and where you can even have a nice swim.

Of course, there is a long way to go and many hurdles to cross. But the fact that the Eco Savvy team have put their big ideas out there, and are already fundraising for a feasibility study, shows just how serious and determined they are. Eco Savvy has certainly come a long way in just three short years.

Perhaps the community shop in Whiting Bay is the best known aspect of the project. Funds raised from the shop have been used to further Eco Savvy aims – skills sharing days to auctions, upcycling workshops, composting talks with guest speakers, to creating the first of an annual Zero Waste Week for Arran are to name just a few.

But the team has entered a whole new territory with talk of community land acquisition to build a centre of excellence with a supporting renewable energy project.

The Arran Community Land Initiative has already proved that raising money to buy land for the common good can be done and we wish the Eco Savvy team well with all their big ideas.

We hope, at the end of it, other islands will be green with envy.

### 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

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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](mailto: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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## Letters to the Editor



### Goat troubles

Sir,

Tom Ward of Kilmarnock writes that Goatfell is 'of course named after' goats, and recommends that the mountain should therefore be restocked with them. Books have been known to get things wrong, but two seminal books on Arran have this to say on the topic: 1. Scottish Mountaineering Club, "The Islands of Scotland", 1952, p. 29: Goat Fell (Gaoth Bhein = the hill of the wind). 2. W.M. Mackenzie, "The Book of Arran", vol. 2, 1914, p. 214, notes that after 1815 on the Hamilton lands: ...goats were banned 'as troublesome and unprofitable,' and so a distinctive feature of the island life disappeared.

I would favour the view that the 'goat' in Goatfell is a corruption of the original Gaelic word. Furthermore, there's a pithy saying in Persian that runs: If you don't have any problems, buy a goat.

Yours,

**David Pendlebury**  
Corriegills

### Witch sighting

Sir,

I read Mr Ward's comments about the lack of goats on Goatfell and Mr Shepherd's response in last week's edition of the Banner and I feel moved to respond as a mountaineer, rock-climber and noted tongue in cheeker.

It is with sadness and disappointment that I report that I have not seen anything remotely resembling Caliban (Caliban's Creep, Cir Mhor) or any thing resembling Prospero (Prospero's Prelude and Prospero's Peril, Cir Mhor), nor Minotaurs – all climbs on Cir Mhor – but I did once catch a glimpse of someone looking remarkably like a witch one misty day on the Witches' Step. Funny old world, isn't it?

On another matter, notwithstanding the generous reprieve given to the public lavatories on our wonderful island home, I would like to put it to North Ayrshire Council that the proposed closure of these facilities would soon

result in piles of human excrement being deposited across the island.

Can the authority imagine what would happen if the body responsible for such facilities in Glasgow decided to shut them down? I leave it to your readers' imagination.

Yours,

**Brian Grindall**  
Torbeg

### No fences at sea

Sir,

I was lucky to be born in a small fishing village and grew up exploring the rock pools down to low water, and every nook and cranny in between. The lure of the sea was strong so I learned to fish, each haul of creel or net underlined the variety of marine life our waters hold.

This grounding makes me best placed to understand why a collection of misguided 'greens' would like to share this wonderment. They offer it protection...from what?

The very men who know best what it holds and how it ticks, the fishermen. Granted there may be greedy men at sea who fish like there's no tomorrow, but for each one like that there are a hundreds who accept finite stocks need management.

They endorse sensible conservation measures, minimum catch sizes, gear restrictions, limits on vessel size and horsepower, curfews, weekend bans and much more all adhered to already.

Arran's MPA is too extensive, making COAST the greedy man. The permanent closure of areas needs to be mutually beneficial – whilst juvenile fish may flourish and mature venturing out to be caught, Clyde fishermen have little or no quotas to land them for market, but they will be weighed against national quotas.

Scallops live in a 30-metre

radius and so will only leave the MPA in an hobby divers bag. In the first week of closure, registered and licensed scallop fishermen were forced out of the Clyde to endure heavy weather, heightening the risks they already take to make a living. The only benefit this MPA offers these fishermen is unemployment benefit! Why does their human lives have lesser value to COAST than a sea urchin or a starfish?

A series of small well-placed no-take zones agreed through mutual consultation may have been tolerated, but this MPA can't be allowed to stand. Fishermen must unite to take these waters back, whatever it takes, diplomacy, piracy or something in between. Remember what we all know – there are no fences in the sea!

Yours,

**Malcolm McGuire**  
Isle of Whithorn

## Straight down to business for Arran's new MSYP

North Ayrshire's two newest members of the Scottish Youth Parliament got down to business when they took their seats at the latest joint cabinet meeting.

The newly-elected pair, including Arran's Eilidh Macpherson, representing Cunninghame North, along with the current Cunninghame

South MSYPs, joined members of the Youth Council Executive and North Ayrshire Council's cabinet for a meeting at Kilwinning Academy.

As reported in *The Banner* last month, 14-year-old Eilidh, from Whiting Bay, was elected as an MSYP along with Emily Eadie from Selmorlie following a by-election.

At the meeting, a host of items from the new youth citizenship and participation strategy to electoral registration were discussed, with the young people getting a chance to have their say on a range of issues that affect them and their peers.

After the formal debate, councillors, chief executive Elma Murray and other senior officers joined pupils at a selection of tables – each with a different theme for discussion – for a question and answer session.

North Ayrshire's youth champion, councillor Ruth Maguire, said: 'This was yet again another fantastic meeting, proving how useful this joint approach is. By working collaboratively with our young people we can realise and resolve some of the issues they face.'

The joint meeting was one in a series organised by the council's youth services team as part of their ongoing work to encourage participation and citizenship.

It allows pupils to learn more about how their local authority works, while forming an important part of the council's approach to give local young people a voice.

The meetings are held regularly in venues throughout North Ayrshire – the last one was in Kilbirnie and the next one is due to be held on Arran.



**Eilidh Macpherson**

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# Conservative candidate in high spirits on distillery visit

Jamie Greene, local Conservative candidate, was given a tour of Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza last week as part of his programme of visits to various businesses on the island.

The MSP candidate for North Ayrshire was on a fact finding mission to learn more about the effect of RET to island business and importance of Arran to tourism, local job creation and exports to the world.

He met with distillery manager James MacTaggart for a tour of the production area, but also to discuss a number of issues that affect the well-known business.

They discussed RET and the effect it has had on visitor numbers to the site, which have increased by around a third since its introduction, though concern was raised at the meeting that the scheme has not been extended to commercial vehicles.

Mr Greene was told that the shipping costs of getting produce on and off the island continues to be a major factor and influence on the operating costs of having a whisky distillery on an island. Calls have been made for the Scottish government to seriously consider requests to do more for haulage and businesses shipping to and fro our island communities.

In addition to learning more about the target markets and expansion plans of the business, the local Tory candidate was given a frank account of the ins and outs of running a business on Arran.

Commenting on the vis-



Mr Greene in the distillery warehouse.

it, Mr Greene said: 'Arran whisky is not only a fine product to be proud of – and I am looking forward to the 18-year-old malt due out this week – but also an important part of the economy of Arran. It continues to grow in capacity, production, employs many local people and is an integral part of 'brand Arran', which exports the world over. The Chancellor of the Exchequer last year announced a reduction in excise duty on spirits and I will continue to support this important Scottish industry.'

'Arran Distillery is heading in a positive direction, I was impressed by the provenance of the product, the passion of the people who work there and its plans to

increase production. If elected to the Scottish Parliament in May, I will be a huge proponent of Arran business and local employers can expect to see a lot more of me, doing what I can to facilitate making life easier for them and growing the North Ayrshire and Arran economy. I have also promised Mr MacTaggart that I will hold surgeries on the island if elected.'

A red graphic with white text. The top part says 'This is YOUR paper...' in a stylized font. Below it, in a smaller font, it says 'Send your photos and stories to editor@arranbanner.co.uk'.



Conservative candidate Jamie Greene meets distillery manager James MacTaggart.

## MP calls for end to excessive delivery charges for islands

North Ayrshire & Arran MP Patricia Gibson has called on the UK Government to end excessive delivery charges in rural areas.

Mrs Gibson called for a parliamentary bill to ensure distance sellers provide purchasers with the lowest possible cost option; for a fair delivery quality mark for responsible retailers and penalties for vendors who advertise free delivery but subsequently impose charges or conditions.

Mrs Gibson said: 'Consumers shouldn't be penalised

because of where they live. Residents of Arran and other island and rural areas are still paying excessive delivery charges and are effectively finding themselves penalised simply because of their geographic location.'

'As shopping trends continue to move online, more and more families in Arran will find themselves having to fork out much higher rates to have everyday items and essentials delivered to their homes.'

'That is why I have called

for a 'peoples delivery guarantee' that pulls together all the various aspects of delivery charges and guarantees to ensure consumers are not misled on claims of, for example, 'free delivery' only to be told during or after purchase that this isn't true.

'Consumers, regardless of where they live should have the right to the lowest possible delivery cost and I have called for that right as standard. This situation has to change and the UK government needs to take action.'

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# New sealife website shows what lies beneath the waves

Many people have welcomed the creation of the South Arran Marine Protected Area.

It will, they say, at last provide a degree of protection for the sea beds and the ma-

rine life that depends on it, allowing them to recover after many decades of destructive dredging, trawling and overfishing. But how many of us have had the chance to

really experience the amazing beauty and diversity that can be discovered beneath the waves?

Of course it isn't as easy as normal bird or wildlife watching, and unless you're a diver or are brave enough to go snorkelling in our chilly waters then you've probably never seen the marine treasures that lie all around us.

But now there's a comfortable opportunity for everybody to discover Arran's underwater life, by taking a virtual dive with Gus Robson.

Gus, 76, who is a marine photographer and has been an Arran resident for many years, said: 'It's a shame there's not much young blood involved underwater at present,' but he is thrilled that there is now so much interest in and traffic on his website: [www.arransealife.co.uk](http://www.arransealife.co.uk).

Since the new website, created by GreenMan Web Design, went online last September, nearly 10,000 visitors have enjoyed his stunning

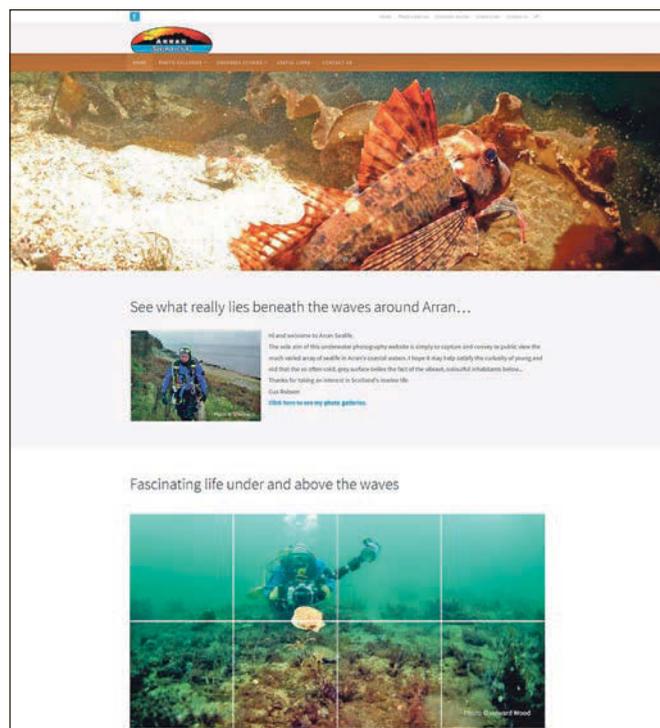


Gus Robertson in his diving gear. Photo: Sean Ferris

underwater photography. Gus is a real enthusiast and the sole aim of his website is simply to capture and let the public see the rich variety of sealife in Arran's coastal

waters. He added: 'I hope it helps satisfy the curiosity of young and old, and shows that the often cold, grey surface hides the vibrant, colourful inhabitants below.'

And his work proves more than anything else that the waters around Arran are worth protecting, so our magnificent sealife can thrive and be around for years to come.



A screenshot of the home page of the new website.

## Women's Institute reports

### Lamlash treated to the adventures of a dramatic society

The February meeting of the Lamlash SWI started with a warm welcome from the president Alison Thompson, followed by a short business meeting and a discussion on fundraising for the next village Christmas children's party.

The number of members present was sadly diminished due to holidays, illness and other circumstances, but those present enjoyed a wonderful evening with speaker Heather Gough, who gave attendees an insight into the development of amateur dramatics on Arran. With the help of photographs and posters from early productions, the ladies found out about how the staging of plays began, entertaining and involving those at the military hospital in the former Lamlash village hall.

This was very much the brainchild of the Duchess of Montrose and eventually led to the Arran Dramatic Society and the drama scene on Arran as we know it today. With her usual verve and infectious enthusiasm, Heather held her audience entranced and en-

tertained with her reading of extracts from the *Humorous Adventures of a Dramatic Society*, a journal compiled by the Duchess using recognisable pseudonyms for those involved. This fascinating manuscript is now in the care of the local museum and after learning about it, SWI members believe that it deserves to be more widely known. Alison thanked Heather on behalf of the Lamlash SWI for a immensely enjoyable and informative talk.

A delicious supper, provided by Anne and Rosemary, followed, giving members time to socialise before the raffle and the judging of the competition and exhibition took place; the winners of which were Hilary and Anne respectively.

At the next Lamlash SWI meeting there will be more information on the Spring Fair fundraiser which takes place at the church hall on Saturday March 26, where funds will be raised for the village Christmas party.

Janet Mair

### A postcard tour for Corrie ladies

The February meeting of Corrie and Sannox SWI took

place in the Corrie and Sannox Village Hall on Thursday February 11 at 2pm, when a happy collection of ladies was welcomed by President Morag Munro to the meeting.

The business largely consisted of discussing their show entries and some progress has been made on this front. The voting papers for the committee next year were distributed and have to be returned to next month's meeting.

The speaker was introduced by the president and Stuart Gough gave a really interesting talk and slide show on his favourite hobby – postcard collecting. He had some very old and original postcards, and finished by putting sheets of postcards round the hall of Arran, through the ages and round the island. A good and interesting subject engendered quite a discussion and Stuart was thanked for his talk by Vicki Milne.

The competition for a postcard was won by Morag Munro, and after a welcome tea and cake interlude while the raffle was drawn, the meeting closed with a reminder of next month's agm on Thursday March 10 at 2pm in the village hall.

Anne Pringle

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# Shiskine shine at Arran One Act Drama Festival

## Act Drama Festival Sheila and Deborah help take trophy haul to four

Shiskine SWI were the biggest winners at this year's Arran One Act Drama Festival last week, lifting four trophies including the top prize. Their two handed play *Daisy Markham* was awarded the trophy for gaining the highest marks of any of the plays, the Women's Institute prize, as well as best acting and best supporting acting for Sheila Gilmore and Deborah Robertson respectively.

A total of nine plays entertained packed audiences at

the Lamash community theatre over three nights ending last Saturday. The organiser, the Isle of Arran Drama Association, was delighted to see an increase in entries this year, against the national trend including five youth plays, a situation remarked on by adjudicator Ron Nicol, a well kent face on the island, who came out of retirement to come to the Arran event.

He said: 'It is great to see how healthy the drama festival is on Arran and good



The winning actors and back stage team from Shiskine SWI. 01\_B10drama16

to see so many young actors involved, who will hopefully continue that into adulthood.' He praised the organisa-

tion of the event and said the standard of all the plays had been very high. Mr Nicol, who is also a playwright, said

it was great to see a locally written play featured in the festival. *Seize the Day* was written and directed by Wil-

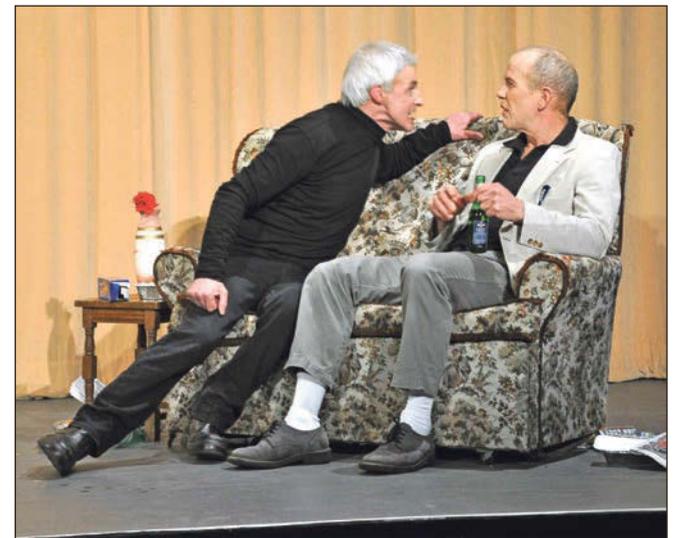
ma Morton of the Pirmill Players who were performing at the festival after a break of five years.



Sheila Gilmore playing Daisy Markham speaks to a photo of her late husband. 01\_B10drama06



Billy (Andy McNamara) has been accidentally shot in the leg by Frank the main protagonist in *Armed Robbery for Dummies*. 01\_B10drama30



The comedy *Armed Robbery for Dummies* saw comedic interactions between Allan Nicol and Dave Simpkins. 01\_B10drama29



Director Ann Luttrell with the Millhill Players Trophy won by the Whiting Bay Club for comedy *Armed Robbery for Dummies*. 01\_B10drama18



Sheila and Deborah Robertson in *Daisy Markham*. 01\_B10drama07



Ross Dobson playing as Theodore recites the scriptures to Fred played by Innis Thorborn. 01\_B10drama27



Claude Vole played by Steve Garraway murders Lily Ann played by Nickey Summer. 01\_B10drama24



Roisin played by Jerry Arthur is about to give birth in the Wilma Morton comedy *Seize the Day*. 01\_B10drama28



Jacky and Fran (Rachel Brown and Ellie Ewing) enlist the help of a medium played by Katie Murchie. 01\_B10drama26



Gabrielle Allison playing the maid and Iona Summer, the butler have a discussion as the body count increases in David Welsh's comedy *Death by Murderous Means*. 01\_B10drama22



The entire cast of Shiskine Primary School's Pantomime. 01\_B10drama19

# Heady mix of comedy delights audiences

## The plays presented over the three nights

### Pantomime

This production written by Douglas Jackson featured the entire Shiskine Primary School and the cast of 31 gave an unusual take on the story of *Little Red Riding Hood* which included various characters from popular nursery rhymes.

The sets were elaborate and the costumes innovative, especially the spider who was played by Gary Lindsay who had the audience in fits of laughter every time that he appeared on the stage. Erin McNiven gave a well-rehearsed performance as Red Hood and delivered her lines expertly, prompting adjudicator Ron Nicol to single out her performance in his summing up after the play.

### Death by Murderous Means

The comedy written by David Welsh and performed by the Lamlash Junior Drama Club is set in the drawing room of a country manor house and featured some of the top characters like Lady Hortense played by Fi Rennie and Wendel Tewksbury, a womaniser played by James Mutch. With excellent performances by Gabrielle Allison as the maid and Iona Summer, playing the butler, the production was praised for its music and sound effects and the good stage presence of its actors.

### Sequence of Events

This drama presented by the Lamlash Drama Club and written by George MacEwan Green was a powerful story of murder, grief and the ultimate hanging of the murderer played by Steve Garraway.

With three sets all on the same stage the play takes place in short sequences which used lighting to move from one set scene to another to tell the story of the murder of a prostitute, imaginatively played by Nickey Summer.

With experienced actors such as Allan Little and Colin MacDonald and Jill McKillop this period drama saw the audience drawn into the rich storyline and the theatre dead silent and listening with rapt attention to hangman Allan Little's every word.

### Knock, Knock, Knock

A lively performance from the Shiskine Junior Drama club brought this Bob Eccles comedy to life with a talented cast of only five members including Ross Dobson who played three parts.

The story takes place in Fred and Jacky's living room where cynical Fred played by Innis Thorborn witnesses a séance involving his sister and a neighbour and a medium played by Katie Murchie.

Proceedings are continually halted by the interruptions of Ross playing the part of Marshall, a religious man and the neighbour's son before the final twist in the tail brings the play to a close.

### Seize the Day

A comedy performed by the Pirnmill Players and written and directed by local talent Wilma Morton takes place in a recording studio which tells the story of the characters on a train that has become weather bound while Roisin played by Jerry Arthur gives birth to her baby with the help of the other characters. Wilma, herself, expertly played the part of Morag voicing the



The cast of *All by Myself* enjoying themselves on stage. 01\_B10drama01



Mr and Mrs Hood played by Morgan Bell and Julie Hamill pray for their daughter Red Hood's safety. (Red Hood was played by Erin McNiven) 01\_B10drama20

All photographs by Hugh Boag and Colin Smeeton

# Comedy and drama at drama festival

Shows, in order of performance were:

character of Chantelle, a nine-year-old girl with her mother on the train. Described by adjudicator Ron Nicol as 'absorbing and fun' he also noted that the cast were 'experienced' and related to each other very well.

## Armed Robbery for Dummies

This comedy written by Paul Roman and performed by the Whiting Bay Club of Music and Drama had the audience in stitches of laughter at the interactions of the three main characters who find themselves in a situation becoming more ridiculous and amusing with every attempt at resolving their dilemma; the dead body of Mr Peterson, the fourth and remaining cast member, in a tenement flat.

A loud and captivating performance that elicited shrieks of laughter from the audience was praised by adjudicator Ron Nicol for its timing, excellent acting and for being a well-thought-out play that showed little sign of any obvious acting.

## All by Myself

This play by Robert Scott and performed by Shiskine Junior Drama, takes place in the present day and sees the five actors stranded on a desert island. The play opens with a single character Larry, played by Rory Morrison, as the only survivor of a terrible shipwreck, but he is soon joined on stage by Pemberton, played by James Smith, the only survivor of a different terrible shipwreck and so it goes on, with hilarious results.

Mr Nicol said the play was 'lots of fun'. He said that young actors had made him feel that he had genuinely enjoyed meeting the cast and that they had blended well.

## Reunion on Gallows Hill

Written by Tim Kelly and performed by Lamlash Junior Drama Group, was hit by a setback on the night with an illness to the lead character Nancy, which should have been played by Sarah Van Rensburg. Instead Shannon Galbraith had to step into the breach reading the part.

It was a situation Mr Nicol said 'no group would want to find themselves in', but he said the group made a 'brave attempt' staging it.

A dark play it is set in the present in an old warehouse on Gallows Hill, Salem in Massachusetts and sees the ghosts of the Salem Witches, hung in 17th century, returning to haunt a descendent of their trial judge.

## Daisy Markham

This drama written by Janis Simpson and performed by just two actors from Shiskine SWI, all takes place in the modest kitchen of Daisy's home.

We quickly realise that the lead character is 102, but still resisting care help. Ron Nicol, said Sheila Gilmore playing Daisy, gave a 'solo performance masterclass' in her portrayal.

He said both she, and Deborah Robertson playing carer Jenny produced some 'excellent acting' and first-class characterisation.

He also said the relationship built up during the play in which the two characters discover they have more in common than they thought was also well executed.

It was the last play and Mr Nicol said: 'It was a marvelous end to any festival.'



The cast of *Reunion on Gallows Hill* point a guilty finger at 'witch' Nancy, played at the last minute by Shannon Galbraith. 01\_B10drama03



Mr and Mrs Vole, played by Colin MacDonald and Jill McKillop, are an Edwardian couple in the drama, *Sequence of Events*. 01\_B10drama23

# All the trophy winners from the Arran Drama Festival



Director Ann Luttrell collects the Millhill Players Trophy for the Whiting Bay Club's performance of *Armed Robbery for Dummies*. 01\_B10drama14



Director Jerry Arthur receives the winners trophy from adjudicator Ron Nicol. 01\_B10drama15



Shannon Galbraith receives the best supporting youth actor trophy from adjudicator Ron Nicol. 01\_B10drama08



Innes Thorborn lifts the best youth actor prize.

01\_B10drama09



Deborah Robertson with her best supporting actor shield. 01\_B10drama10



Wilma Morton receives the best moment in theatre award on behalf of the Pirrmill Players. 01\_B10drama11



Death by Murderous Means director Mary Young collects the best youth team prize on behalf of Lamlash Junior Drama Club. 01\_B10drama12

The following trophies were awarded at the end of the three-day drama festival.

The Jean Bannatyne Trophy, best supporting acting performance in the youth play: Shannon Galbraith.

The Douglas Sillars Trophy, best acting performance in a youth play: Innes Thorborn.

The Mattie Gillies Trophy, best supporting acting performance in any adult play: Deborah Robertson.

The Monie Kelso Trophy, best acting performance in any adult play: Sheila Gilmore.

The Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music Golden Anniversary Trophy, awarded for the best moment of theatre: Birth sequence from the Pirrmill Players', *Seize the Day*.

The Mary Stewart Orr Trophy, awarded to the best youth team: Lamlash Junior Drama.

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

The Millhill Players Trophy, awarded to the team gaining the highest total of marks in a play of contrasting type to the overall winner: Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music.

The Archie Kerr Wooley Trophy, awarded to the team gaining the highest mark in the festival: Shiskine SWI.

## Photographs for sale

All the drama festival photographs are available to buy at the reasonable price of £4.41 for A5 size and £6.75 for A4 size from The Banner Office. Tel: 01770 302142 or e-mail: adverts@arranbanner.co.uk

# My life in just 15 minutes . . .

## Antiquarians hear four life stories

The February meeting of the Arran Antiquarians saw 55 members hear four of their fellow members talk about their lives before they came to Arran.

Tom MacLeod, kindly deputising for chairman Harry Davidson again, was a strict timekeeper and all the speakers were truly against the clock.

### Iain Hendry

Iain was first and spoke of his happy childhood in Glen Rosa, which saw no traffic except for the many travelling shops, including the Cop van, which delivered the paraffin oil as there was no electricity. The children of the glen hitched lifts in the vans and liked to open all the gates.

The Davidsons at the farm were the largest steading. There were three bachelor sons, two maiden sisters and one other son in the Highland Division. Children were sent to the village for tobacco, papers and other messages.

Entertainment was a battery radio and they all had chores after school, filling the lamps, setting the fires and the like. Summer visitors arrived with new playmates and the war brought evacuees too.

As they grew older they walked to school in Brodick receiving lifts on council lorries when possible. The journey home was slow, visiting the smiddy, pumping the bellows and visiting Gran Davidson's cottage daily to sample the day's baking.

During the Second World War several men from the glen went to war. One served with the Dambusters and one suffered on the Burma railway. The Minister of Agriculture arrived around this time and mechanisation arrived in the glen.

Iain ended by showing slides of the glen, the farm house with its thatched roof, and picnics in the glen, the 1936 Jubilee and one of him working at Sannox Farm with a favourite heavy horse named Prince.

### Stewart Lambie

Stewart was the youngest of three children and his elder two sisters went to Kilmory School. Obviously, education was taken seriously as thier mother had won a gold medal in 1903. When he was three,

the family made the move to Glen Sherrraig and his tales of the flit were very amusing.

In 1937 he started at Brodick Primary School where Joe Dodds was headmaster. Apparently, the Big Wooden House was built around that time and, with the timber coming from Scandinavia, was a great source of interest to the children.

The school gardens were very good and the boys helped to tend them. Stronach Woods behind were out of bounds but, nevertheless, were a favourite playground where dams were built causing, on one occasion, the girls' toilets to flood!

There were no school meals and the children took their own pieces. He reminisced about local characters, one of whom, Jenny who lived near Rowanbank, kept several milking cows. By 1939 the overspill from the school were taught in Brodick Hall.

He remembered a tank landing craft beaching and a classmate, Toucan, suggested that they should all investigate a plane which flew over and seemed to land near Home Farm. The boys did just that and returned later to find Toucan the only boy left in class and all the adventurers had to line up for the belt.

In summer they would bathe in the burn, watch the Punch and Judy show and he remembered as a small boy entering a talent competition and singing *Daisy, Daisy*. Also remembered was a local family who lived on a tramp steamer.

As a footnote to the school days, his previous headmaster, Joe Dodds, retired to Largs and returned each year to Brodick for the Highland Games.

### Grace Small

It is very hard to condense 88 years into 15 minutes. Grace was born at Villa Latona, Douglas Row in 1927. Her grandmother, Grace Ferguson McEwen, had 10 children and died at the age of 50. Grace went to Coatbridge to live with granny until the age of 12 because her mother had three children in two and a half years.

She loved her life in Coatbridge. She remembered the Empire Exhibition, loved Uncle Phil's Punch and Judy shows as Stewart Lambie did.



The speakers l to r: Stewart Lambie, Grace Small, Iain Hendry and Jim Cassels.

Grandpa Latona died in 1933 and the family left Villa Latona, moving into Saint Elmo two years later.

Aged 15, Grace started work at the bank in Brodick in 1942, staying there until she married Verner in 1948. The Smalls decided to emigrate to Australia. So, with small son Murray, they sailed via the Suez Canal to their nominated place in Sydney. After moving to Victoria and the New Borough they were joined by 'a little bundle of joy' – Ian – Grace's own words!

The family came home in December 1961 via the Panama Canal. In subsequent years they lived and worked in St Elmo, Belvedere, Alma Road, returned to St Elmo and then the Allandale, where they ran walking holidays. On retiring, they moved to Alma Park and finally to TighGriannach were Grace still lives after the sad death of Verner in 2015.

She was thankful for a happy life full of memories. Her pictures showed a young Grace in the Girls' Association, as Brown Owl, at the youth club in the Legion Hall, a photo of their wedding send off at a crowded Brodick Pier and as a proud young mother with her boys.

### Jim Cassels

Jim was adamant that he would much rather talk about birds. He was born in Irvine and spent childhood holidays in Largs. A picture showed him sporting his first bird watching binoculars, a sandy coloured pair which was a Second World War trophy from North Africa.

Probably the most important bird discovery of his life was a certain Angela, then reading for a degree in Norwich, so, obviously, he took a teaching post in Norwich. They married and three nestlings duly arrived, their three daughters.

Over the years, he gained qualifications and degrees

from Strathclyde University, Jordanhill College and Glasgow University. Career moves were from Norwich via Drumchapel, Clarkston, Paisley and Newton Mearns to eventually become head-teacher at Bellahouston Academy – he was never bored.

By the 1980s family holidays were on Arran and in 1980 he was awarded the Royal Society of Chemistry award for Language and Learning. An exchange trip to North West Pakistan in 1987 made him realise how much he missed, not just the family, but the sea.

Memorable events were: March 1991 when someone burned down the school and, as the flames raged, the school football team played on. The Academy's motto was "AlereFlamman" (Feed the Flame) – very apt. For 15 months the school shared with a Roman Catholic school in the Gorbals. The new academy grew up as a result of great planning on both sides of the M8 motorway.

In 1992, the family bought a 'bolt hole' caravan on Arran. And 1998 was the year he helped to set up the Glasgow

School of Sport at Bellahouston, which is still thriving. In 2004, one of his pupils was abducted and murdered and another took her own life. These events had a profound effect on him and made him decide to move on, although he much enjoyed his time there. That year he became a researcher in multi-racial ethnic education for a year.

The family bought Kilpatrick Kennels in 2000. Jim retired in 2005 and Angela one year later. Jim is now the very famous bird recorder for the Arran National History Society.

He finished with an anecdote of when he was a four-year-old in the prefab in Irvine.

The minister was visiting and asked Jim what he wanted to do. A thoughtful young James said 'sit at the fire and look up the lum'. Perhaps so, Jim, but not for a long time yet.

The next antiquarians meeting will be on Monday March 21 in Brodick Hall when Graham Chappell will give a photo workshop demonstration entitled, Don't Believe Your Eyes. All welcome.

Norma Davidson



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### Da Vinci Piano Trio concert

Isle of Arran Music Society will be presenting a concert by one of Scotland's most distinguished piano trios in Lamlash community theatre on Saturday, March 19 at 7.30pm.

The group consists of three brilliant musicians, Tony Moffat, violin, Robert Irvine, cello, and Scott Mitchell on the island's excellent grand piano. Each of them is a soloist in his own right, and they have all played with top orchestras. Yet they know what chamber music is all about: no battling for prominence, nor any showy arrogance or bravado, just an exemplary display of teamwork and empathetic musicianship. They are also known for introducing their music in a relaxed and witty way.

The Da Vinci Piano Trio's programme will include music by Beethoven, Schubert, Mozart and Brahms. Tickets can be obtained on the door on the night; at Inspirations of Arran in Brodick or online from [www.arranevents.com](http://www.arranevents.com), and in accordance with Music Society policy, students and children accompanied by one adult are admitted free of charge.

# Time running out to vote for Arran finalists

Arran voters have less than a week to vote for their finalists in the Provost's Civic Pride Awards as online voting closes at noon on Thursday, March 10.

The awards recognise the contributions made by individuals and groups who have promoted or demonstrated civic pride in North Ayrshire. The two finalists in the five categories are Bethan Remington who is a finalist in the Young Citizen of the Year category, which is for a young person who is under 25 years old and who has made a positive contribution and promoted civic pride in their community.

#### Endeavour

In the arts and culture category, for an outstanding contribution to the field of arts and culture, either through artistic endeavour, or by encouraging and supporting others, are the members of the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust.

Voting is a simple process on the North Ayrshire Council website where you can



Members of the Arran Theatre and Arts Trust who are seeking your vote.

vote for your finalist in each category, which will be chosen by Provost Joan Sturgeon and her team of judges

Each of the finalists will receive the red carpet treatment as they join Provost Sturgeon at a prestigious awards ceremony at Seamill Hydro

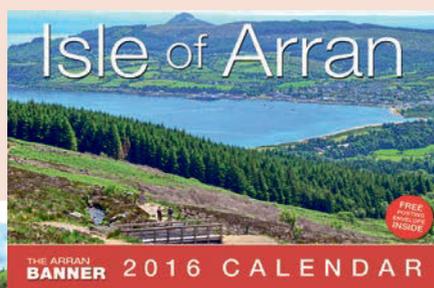
on Friday, March 18, where Scottish actress and comedienne Elaine C Smith will entertain the audience as the guest speaker at the awards.

To vote for the Arran entries, or for more information about the awards, visit: [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/provostcivicprideawards](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/provostcivicprideawards)

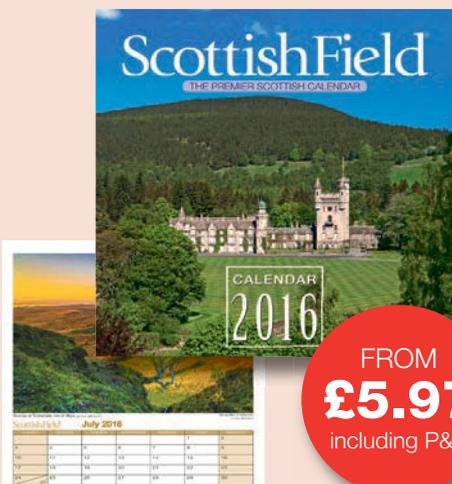
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# Amanda gets inspiration on Arran for ancient novel

It might seem far removed from Imperial Rome, but for author and retired GP Amanda MacKenzie, Catacol has provided the inspiration for her ancient world novel.

Described as a historical romance, Amanda's latest book, *Scorpio*, is set in the time of Julius Caesar during a period that saw a clash of the two mighty civilisations of Rome and Gaul, which irrevocably changes the lives of its four main protagonists in the midst of war.

The novel is for adults only as it contains graphic descriptions of real events as reported by Caesar during the

Gallic Wars. Amanda said: 'The Ancient Romans, the interrogators at Guantanamo Bay, and Isil have a lot in common.'

Amanda still lives in Bearsden, but explained her Arran connection and source of inspiration, saying: 'I fell in love with Arran when I was aged 18 and on a youth hostelling holiday.'

### Astounded

'Having been brought up in London, and having never seen mountains before, I was astounded at the beauty of the place and the friendliness of the people.'

'In the year 2000, for our

own Millennium Project, my husband and I were fortunate to be able to buy one of the Twelve Apostles in Catacol.

'There, I have been able to write my books. I can be guaranteed peace and quiet, and when stumped for inspiration I go and walk outside.'

'Then more ideas pop into my head. If I wish to write about the sea, the mountains, rolling hills, and tiny villages I merely have to describe what I see in front of me.'

*Scorpio* is available from the Amazon website, and costs £5.98 for the Kindle version, and £13.99 for the paperback.



Author Amanda MacKenzie who gets inspiration in Catacol.

## Members say farewell to Carol after another successful year for Save the Children branch

The Arran Branch of Save the Children reported another successful year at their annual meeting in the Auchrannie Spa Resort on Monday, February 15.

Carol Burge, chairwoman, welcomed all present, especially the two speakers, Susan Searle, volunteer representative on the community volunteer group and Morag Smith, the west of Scotland fundraising manager. Carol was delighted to welcome two new committee members Carol King of Kildonan and Elizabeth McDonald-Leonard of Brodick.

In her report, Carol expressed her thanks to the committee for their hard work which enabled the branch to maintain its successful fundraising.

She praised Margaret Shaw, secretary, for diligently performing her secretarial duties and Myrna Boal, treasurer, for her meticulous care of the finances.

### Reminded

Carol reminded the members that 89p in every £1 goes to help children, while 11p goes to raising the next £1.

She also provided some interesting facts. In 2014, 17.4 million children were helped through the charity's work on the ground, 5.5 million people, including 2.6 million children, were helped during emergencies and in the UK 53,000 children benefited from Save the Children's education programme and

families were provided with basic needs. Carol concluded by reminding us to encourage more people to become involved.

Margaret Shaw gave a resume of the year's activities which, with one unavoidable exception, were all very successful. Once again the charity departed from the house to house collection during Save the Children week allowing each village to arrange its own fundraising event. This proved very worthwhile and will be repeated this year. Margaret concluded by thanking everyone for their support.

### Brief account

Myrna Boal, treasurer, gave a brief account of the finances for 2015. Receipts were slightly down due to bad weather necessitating the cancellation of the Texas Scramble. In spite of this the Arran branch were able to send £6,700 to London.

Unfortunately for Save the Children, Carol Burge is leaving the island and is resigning as chairwoman.

Margaret Wright was elected to take her place with Fiona Henderson as vice-chair. Margaret Shaw remains secretary and Myrna Boal the treasurer.

Carol King has taken over as press officer from Jean Robertson. Kath Turner remains collection agent and Vivienne Haigh as trading officer. Schools representatives are, Claire Underdown, Irene

Rollo and Sheena McLean.

With the conclusion of business Susan Searle gave the meeting a brief account of her role on the community volunteer group. This involves meetings with other groups, sometimes in London, to share ideas and problems.

West of Scotland fundraising manager Morag Smith, was delighted to inform us that the work in 2015 had shown an improvement in every sphere – more money had been raised, more children had been reached and more volunteers had come forward.

Morag has been invited to join a group going to Myanmar shortly to see work in progress and looks forward to sharing her experiences with the group in the future. She also said a few words of appreciation to Carol for her support.

### Tribute

Before closing the meeting Margaret Wright paid tribute to Carol who has been an outstanding leader. Carol has demonstrated amazing commitment and enthusiasm attending conferences in London, Edinburgh and Ayrshire and promoting the cause of Save the Children. Carol was presented with a small token of their appreciation.

Finally, Auchrannie was thanked for generously providing the comfortable venue for the branch meetings during the year.

Jean Robertson

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# Reflections of Arran

## A personal recollection of his time on the island by David Pott

As we leave Arran, I want to record what has been particular highlights during our three year-stay on the island.

Arran is a most beautiful island, so I'll begin with my highlights from this amazing part of God's creation.

The walk I have done most frequently – certainly more than 100 times – is the Fairy Dell walk. I will never tire of it. Most often I do it anti-clockwise, starting up the Newton track. I enjoy the views across to the castle as

you pass Ashcraig and Reg at The Whinns craft shop and then, after Windy Gowl, everything spreads out in a marvellous fashion – you see the long reach way up into Loch Fyne ahead of you and the Kilbrannon Sound and Kintyre reach southwards. As you turn the corner, you get more wide vistas over Bute and the Cowal peninsula, with Ben Lomond and other mountains beyond. After the final houses, it's the walk over to Fairy Dell itself. Most often it's a descent into stillness as it is sheltered from the prevailing winds. Then it's back along the coastal path, passing Hutton's Unconformity and enjoying the views over to Skipness and its castle.

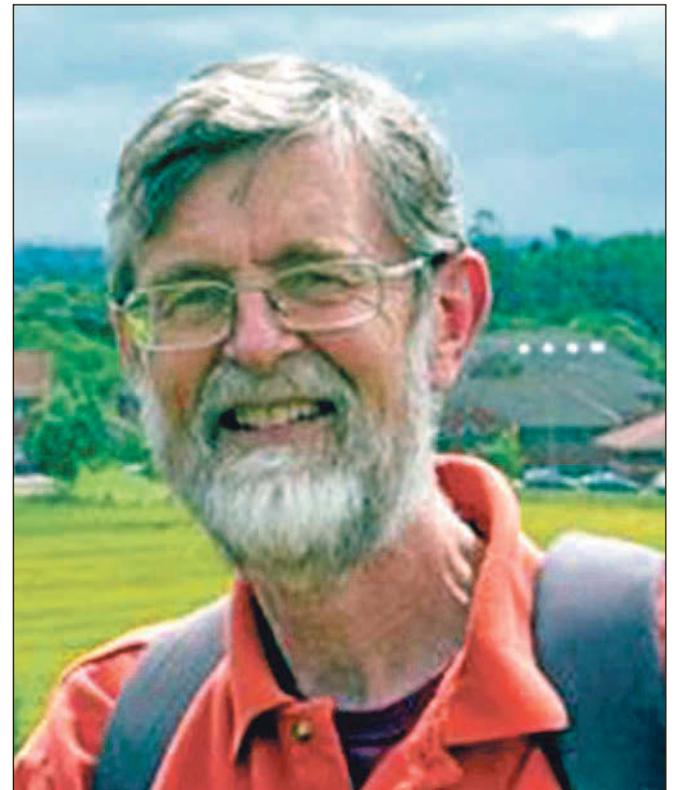
I remember the first time I turned the corner into the mouth of the loch and the stunning views up to the mountains beyond took my breath away. Of course the mountains of Arran are

magnificent. Until I came to Arran, I had thought the Snowden horseshoe was without parallel, but after a day completing the Sannox horseshoe, I decided that this one was the best! I will take away memories of many wonderful climbing days, but if I were to choose just one, it would be a walk with my brothers Jonny and Tim and a German friend Steffan on Easter Monday 2015.

We started in thick mist at High Corrie, but it was a day with an inversion and we soon ascended into the most stunning bright sunshine with cloudless blue for the rest of the day. We ascended Goatfell and had our picnic there before enjoying a scramble over the Stacach ridge. Then it was on up to north Goatfell before descending steeply down to the Saddle and then equally steeply up my favourite Arran mountain Chir Mhor. Down once again and then the weary slog up to Caisteal Abhail (The Castle). All this time the thick mist remained over the sea and down below at the eastern end of Glen Sannox.

We continued on with a tricky descent and then the exhilarating scramble around the Witches Step before the easy ridge walk up to the final summit of Suidhe On the Sannox horseshoe with views of Chir Mhor and The Castle Fearghas before the final descent to the car park in North Sannox. That was certainly a lot more climbing than a walk up Ben Nevis - and a whole lot more rewarding!

Of course I love all the other



David Pott

famous walks, such as King's Cave, Machrie Stones, to the seals at Kildonan and Glenashdale Falls, but I've enjoyed so much the less well known surprises such as the wonderful contorted rock formations on the shoreline by the Hiccups just north of Thunderguy, an astonishing variety of caves between Machrie and King's Cave itself and the secret 'real' Fairy Dell, which is like entering another Tolkien-like world.

I have enjoyed walking into the teeth of a gale and especially remember a day when mini tornados about 30 feet high whipped across the loch and collapsed on reaching the shore – one of them spraying me. I also saw the amazing sight of a wee rainbow within one of them. Ah, rainbows! There have been plenty memorable ones during our time on Arran, often coming when we needed a reminder of God's faithfulness to us.

We have also had countless glorious Lochranza sunsets like this one. In terms of an-

imals, the red deer and red squirrels have been a constant delight. Sometimes I have been Skyping someone and I have been able to turn my laptop round to show my friend the stag grazing just outside the window!

My best otter moment was as I was walking near Ossian's Cave. Just beyond a stone wall I heard this strange twittering mewling sound and then I saw two otters tumbling around in a play fight. When our dog Diola thought it might be fun to join in, one of them ran within a few feet of me to reach the shore.

Bird highlights include watching a big eagle chick flapping its wings in readiness for its first flight, seeing a red-throated diver bring an eel to its chick on a quiet lochan, flushing a short-eared owl in Glen Catacol, enjoying several black guillemots close by as we had a picnic near Imacher Point and an unmistakable nightjar flashing by beside the burn above Lochranza – the only Arran sighting of nightjar in 2015.

We have very much enjoyed showing people the delights of the island. In particular, friends from overseas have had great times over here. Monette, a friend from the Caribbean island of Martinique – an exotic enough island – was blown away by the beauty of Arran during fortunately sunny April days.

I remember the great delight of Jamaican visitors at their first-ever sight of seals and similar delight at both seals and red deer from Omani and Malaysian students visiting Lochranza. Hungarian Georg and Lithuanian Lina decided to get engaged while staying at our home.

\*See part two of David's Reflections of Arran next week.



Monette enjoying the water in North Glen Sannox.

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Boomerang Rock, Chir Mhor and the Castles.

# THE ARRAN

# BANNER

# TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 9 March, 1996

## Theatre plans

The Arran Festival Theatre proposed for St George's Church in Lamlash, may not be built there after all. Flush with lottery and Objective One money the Theatre Trust is now under pressure to build a 'bigger and better' theatre than originally envisaged. At the same time the planning department has expressed anxiety about the parking arrangements at St George's. Next week the Theatre Trust is to have a meeting to consider six alternatives and, most interestingly, we understand that one of those is the Cora Lynn/Charters Towers site in Brodick.

## Early mail

Islanders can look forward now to early, or earlier, mail, which a proposed morning delivery service by noon. The one-day trial of a month ago has been judged a success and is being put into practice.

The Arran mail will now leave Glasgow by mail van around 3am and will be driven around Loch Fyne to Tarbert and then shipped from there to Lochranza. The trial worked well and this, together with assurances from the owner of the mail boat that he can cross in almost any weather, has led the Post Office to proceed with the plan.

## Internet project

Arran internet users are trying to expand their network. They have produced a booklet, Dalriada Internet Project, which is available in public places and puts forward details for establishing a full internet connection based on Arran.

The internet is a multiple of computer networks allowing users to tap into them, as and when they required. It arouses strong feelings in people both for and against and the ease with which information can be transferred has let to criticism from those feeling it can be misused.



Anne MacLean was given a present on her retirement by her colleagues at the social work department. Pictured with Anne are: Penny Hamilton, Diana Turbett, Barbara McNeice, Colin Turbett, Tricia Sloss and Margaret Stewart. B10twe04



The new administrator at Brodick takes over her new post in April. Mrs Veronica Woodman has been with the NTS for 16 years and has held a number of posts, including two years' secondment to the National Trust in London as their events organiser and fundraiser. B10twe02



Lesley Kelso from Shiskine is one of 32 yachting enthusiasts being considered for selection to the Scottish team of 12 which will be chosen next weekend for the month-long Teachers Round Britain Challenge yacht race. B10twe01



A mural made by members of the Arran Arts Workshop is to be installed on MV Caledonian Isles and is seen here being presented by Councillor David Sanderson, Strathclyde's chairman of arts and culture to Ken Duerden, CalMac's operations manager. B10twe05



John Ennes shows the plans to some prospective buyers at the Royal Observatory Corps observation post above Kildonan. About 70 similar bunkers have been sold in Scotland with prices ranging from £15 to £3,000. B10twe03



The Old Free Kirk in Corrie has been up for sale for more than a year and future plans for the building will be discussed at the Corrie and Sannox village committee meeting on Friday. Pictured at the door of the church is minister James Gracie. B10twe06

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

[www.arranbrewery.com](http://www.arranbrewery.com)



## Everyday

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

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

## Saturday 5th March

Army Cadets  
Over-21s Disco  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Arran Vets – Surgery  
Live music  
Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic  
Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club Rink Game  
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game  
WBay Bowling Club Rink Game  
Ceilidh Dancing  
Yoga  
Live music – Big Black Taxi  
Mackenzie memorial darts

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

## Sunday 6th March

Family games  
Fun in the pool  
AA Meeting  
Open Session – All musicians and singers welcome  
Live music – Heather McLeod on harp

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4-5pm  
Brodick church Hall, 5-6.30pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 2pm

## Monday 7th March

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

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
9-10.30am & 3-4pm  
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am-1.30pm  
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm  
Whiting Bay, 5pm  
Whiting Bay, 5.30pm  
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse, 7.15pm  
Corrie Hall, 2-4pm  
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 6-7pm  
Brodick Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7-8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall 3.45-4.30pm  
Brodick Church Kitchen 6.30-7pm  
Kildonan Hall, 7.30pm

## Tuesday 8th March

Pop Quiz  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Youth Club  
Arran Vets – Surgery  
Rotary Club

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
9-10.30am  
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm

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

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

## Wednesday 9th March

Rock and pop bingo  
Tae Kwondo  
Alcoholics Anonymous  
Arran Brass Rehearsal  
Arran Vets – Surgery  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service  
RunArran Mixed Ability  
JogScotland Beginners  
Yoga-Arran  
Live music  
Drift Inn Quiz  
Mixed Hockey  
Dog classes  
Knitting and crochet drop-in 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  
Brodick, 9-10.30am & 6-7pm  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45-10.45am  
10.30am-12.30pm & 1.30-3.30pm  
Brodick, 5.30pm  
Auchrannie Car Park, 7pm  
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm  
Lamlash, 9pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
Brodick Library, 4-6pm  
Brodick Church Hall, 10.30am-noon

## Thursday 10th March

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

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

## Friday 11th March

Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Live music  
Lochranza Kids Badminton  
Lochranza Adults Badminton  
Quiz  
Arran Vets – Surgery  
AA meeting  
Live music  
Tae Kwondo  
Casino Night  
Na h-Arainnich talk with Adhamh O' Broin

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



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## WEB DESIGN



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email@paragon-solutions.info

**Graphic Design**  
www.paragon-solutions.info

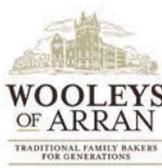
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- A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

# Recruitment



## Full Time Manager

Wooleys of Arran are looking for full time manager to run our busy takeaway shop in Lamlash. 5 days a week but some Saturday. shifts are required for holiday weekends.  
Good rate of pay

Apply to join the wonderful Wooleys team by phoning 01770 302280 or email info@wooleys.co.uk



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## CLEANER REQUIRED

Shore Lodge Bunkhouse and Country Park  
Twice weekly changeovers and cleaning duties within the Country Park.

For further details please contact  
Head Ranger, Kate Sampson on  
01770 302462 or brodickcastle@nts.org.uk

# WANTED

Part time gardener required for Dougarie. Some knowledge an advantage. Year round work.  
Apply Mrs. Gibbs 01770 840 229



## Guest House Staff Required

We are looking for full and part-time guest house staff to help with breakfast service, cleaning and various other tasks.  
Good rates of pay.

Please email: [alsadair@buttlodge.co.uk](mailto:alsadair@buttlodge.co.uk) or call 01770 830 333 for more information.

## The Black Grouse Restaurant

at Blackwaterfoot Lodge is looking to recruit for a number of part-time positions both front and back of house for the upcoming season.  
Please contact David or Gordon on 01770 860 202 or email us at blackgrousearran@gmail.com

# Properties

## Looking for commercial premises for rent

Lamlash or Brodick  
Tel: 07796332575 or  
email: [sandynickbuckle@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sandynickbuckle@yahoo.co.uk)

## Part Time Optical Assistant

Required for  
**McAlister Opticians**  
Brodick

Please apply in writing with CV to;  
A McAlister, McAlister Opticians,  
182 Battlefield Road, Glasgow G42 9JT

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## Housekeeper Required

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## APPRENTICESHIPS

We have vacancies for young persons to train in various trades

Applications to: John Thomson Construction Ltd, Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8NB  
Tel: 01770 600242 or email: [mail@thomsonconstruction.co.uk](mailto:mail@thomsonconstruction.co.uk)

# Public Notices

## MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 Installation of a Shellfish Farm, Lamlash Bay, Arran

Notice is hereby given that Hebridean Mussels has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of installation of a shellfish farm at:

Location	Latitude Co-ordinates	Longitude Co-ordinates
Lamlash Bay, Arran	55°31.530' N	05°06.830' W
	55°31.430' N	05°06.580' W
	55°31.280' N	05°06.810' W
	55°31.360' N	05°07.070' W

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Arran Library, Main Street, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DL.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference:

**MCMS/05791**  
**Hebridean Mussels**

KILDONAN HALL AND VILLAGE  
IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
MONDAY March 7, 2016  
7.30 VILLAGE HALL  
PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND  
ALL WELCOME  
Registered Charity No.SCO16974

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Small touring caravan in good condition - can collect. 820 314

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Schreiber Verona cherry

**BANNER CLASSIFIEDS**

**UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?**  
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## 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 25.03.16. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

16/00127/PP; Site to North West of Sliderry Bridge, Sliderry, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Establishment of new camping and caravan site with administration block, toilet & shower facility, storage shed, waste water treatment plant and access road.

16/00117/PP; Site to South East of Rubha Airigh, Pirmill, Brodick; Installation of a long sea outfall to dispose of trade effluent from the Isle of Arran Distillery, associated works and improved access to an existing car park.

## NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 COUNCIL TAX

As required by paragraph 96(1) of the above Act, North Ayrshire Council give notice of, in terms of paragraphs 70 (1) and 93 (1) of the same Act, the amounts of Council Tax payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band for year 2016/17.

Valuation Band	Full Council Tax (£)	Council Tax discounted by 25% (£)
A	768.00	576.00
B	896.00	672.00
C	1,024.00	768.00
D	1,152.00	864.00
E	1,408.00	1,056.00
F	1,664.00	1,248.00
G	1,920.00	1,440.00
H	2,304.00	1,728.00

The above figures exclude water and wastewater charges. Scottish Water is responsible for setting its own charges for household water and wastewater services, which are subject to scrutiny by the Water Industry Commission for Scotland. North Ayrshire Council is required by law to include water and wastewater charges on its Council Tax bills and to collect the sums due on behalf of Scottish Water.

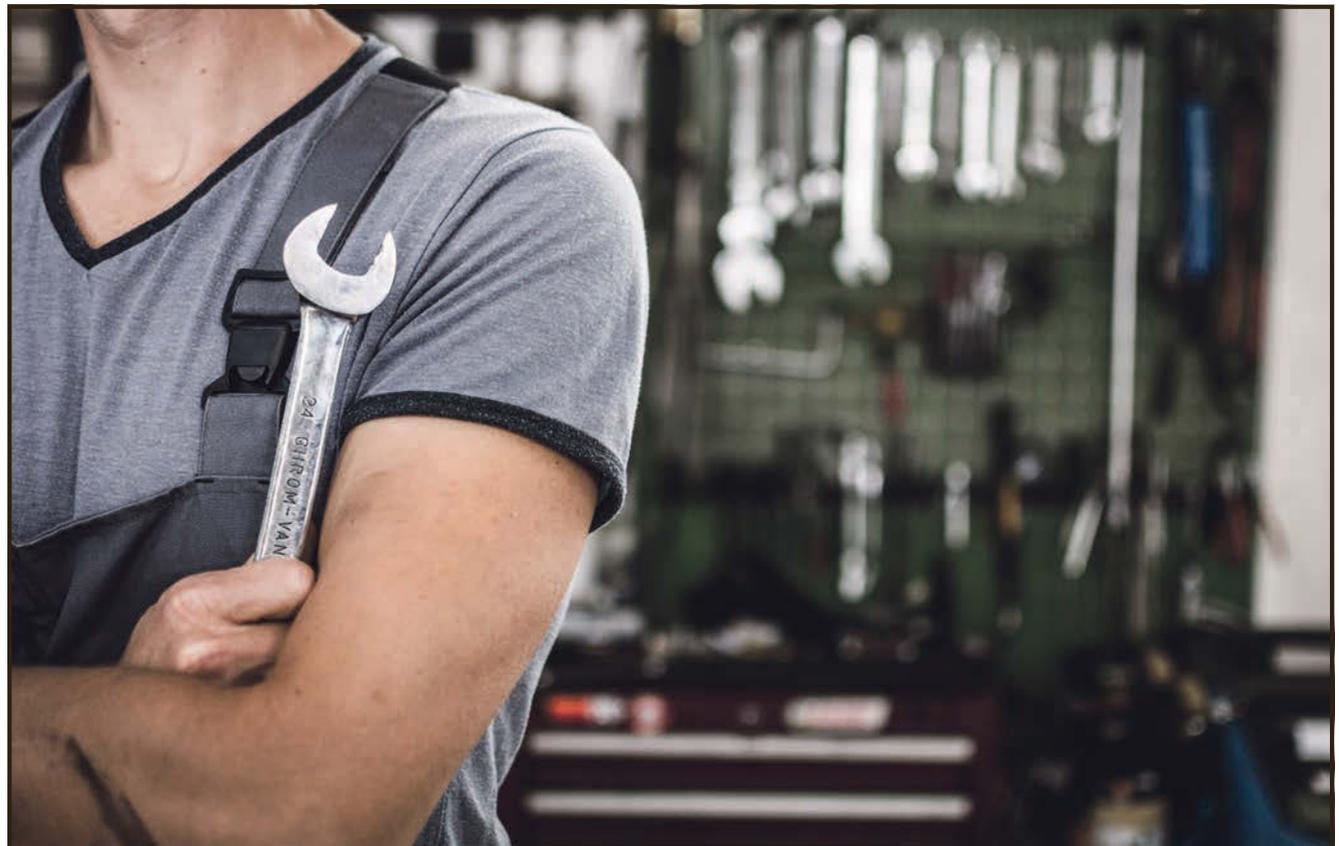
The level of discount on unoccupied properties for up to 12 months is 10% and 150% levy for greater than 12 months unless actively marketed for sale or let for up to 24 months; second homes discount is 10% in accordance with the Council Tax (Variation for Unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Regulations 2013.

The 2016/17 annual Council Tax Notices will be issued in March 2016.

L. Friel  
Chief Financial Officer



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath



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### CHURCH NOTICES

#### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 6th March**  
(Mothering Sunday)  
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.  
Mrs Janis Gallagher.  
Coffee after service.  
ALL WELCOME

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together  
Minister:  
Rev Angus Adamson  
Parish Assistant:  
Mrs Jean Hunter:  
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.  
**Sunday 6th March**  
Lochranza and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am Morning Worship in Pirmill Church.  
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.  
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship followed by Stated Annual Meeting.  
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship followed by Stated Annual Meeting.  
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 6th March**  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
Rev. Dr. Ian MacLeod  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge,  
Glen Estate, Brodick  
Afternoon Service 1.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All welcome  
Sunday 6th March, as above except no Afternoon Service  
Evening Service 6-30pm

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**Sunday 6th March**  
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm (Church behind post office)  
Rev Benjamin von Rensberg

#### WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 6th March**  
Worship will be conducted by Mrs Sharon MacLeod, Reader of the Church of Scotland at 10.30am.  
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.  
All most welcome.

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

#### HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 6th March - Morning Mass 11am

#### ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 6th March**  
11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick  
Tea and Coffee after the service.  
Wednesday at 7.30pm  
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.  
Contact phone no 600222  
Everyone warmly invited

#### RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

### DEATHS

**SWINDALE** - Tessa Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Thursday, 25th February 2016. Funeral service in Brodick Church on Tuesday, 8th March at 11:30 am and thereafter to Sannox Cemetery. All Welcome.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**NORRIS** - Geoff and family wish to thank everyone for their kind messages of support and cards following Jacky's sudden death on the 18th of February. We were overwhelmed by the large number who attended her funeral and can only say how grateful we were for the understanding and support on the day.

We must also say thank you to all the Doctors, District Nurses and the Staff of the Arran War Memorial Hospital who cared for her on what became her regular visits. Also to the staff who cared for her at The William Quarrier Scottish Epilepsy Centre in Govan where she had just returned from.

Thanks go to the Rev. Angus Adamson for the lovely service, To the Rev Lilly McKinnon for the moving tribute to Jacky which she had written, to David and Clair Hendry for all the funeral arrangements and finally to Ian McFadzean for the refreshments after the service.

# Pupils get to grips with basketball training

The Banner group at Lamlash Primary School keeps readers up-to-date with all that is going on at the school. Here Connah Wright and Emma Girbow give us the latest sports news.

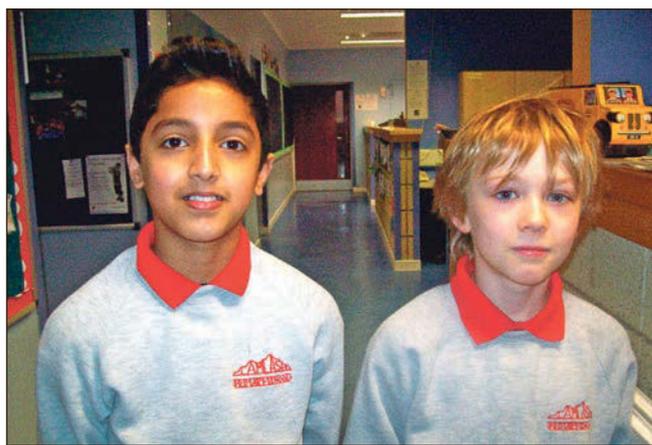
'Last month there was supposed to be a practice basketball session but all the bad

weather cancelled it. A man called James O'Neill came and visited the school and did a practice session with us. After that we had a basketball match and we played a game called Attackers and Defenders.

Also we played a game called the Clap Game; every



Lamlash pupils take part in basketball training.



Cross country runners Albin Robin and Ruaridh Lindsay-Smith.

time James dropped the ball we had to clap, it was great fun. I can't wait until the next one. There is a basketball tournament on the mainland later this month. There was also a basketball tournament at the high school sports hall, where there was lots of training and lots of passing and exercise.

Meanwhile, Ruaridh Lind-

say-Smith and Albin Robin have taken part in the North Ayrshire schools cross-country running competition.

Albin has been in two races and came 4th each time while Ruaridh came 2nd in his first race. Ruaridh's time was 3 mins 42 secs for 1,000metres. Albin's time was 6 mins 43 secs for 1,500 metres.

## Victory for Kildonan at island pool contest

Kildonan lifted the Team Knockout Shield for the first time after winning the Arran pool league competition at Lamlash Golf Club recently. The team, captained by Dave Nicholson, won the final despite there being only five players in the team who competed in the six team tournament. The Second Chance Salver was won by the Shiskine Valley Nomads. The Arran Pool League is run and organised by Eddie Picken and has been going for more than 30 years.

**Pool league winners Team Kildonan, left to right, Ryan Hughes, Stuart Robinson, Rebecca Lacey, Phil Ward and captain Dave Nicholson.**



#### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday, February 23, Winter Cup. Ten played in glorious sunshine. 1 A MacDonald 70, 2 C Laing 72, 3 B Sherwood 73.

Fixtures: Saturday, March 5, Lochranza Hotel Cup at noon. Tuesday, March 8, Winter Cup at noon.

#### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday, February 24, Wednesday game. Three played on a nice sunny day resulting in a win for Derek Roxburgh 72-6=66. There were no magic twos so it

is another rollover. Tee-off every Wednesday noon. All welcome.

#### Corrie Golf Club

Saturday, February 27, Winter Cup-Stableford. 1st A MacDonald 40pts, 2nd G Hendry 39pts BIH, 3 R McCrae 39pts. Magic twos S Beardsley (2), E McKinnon (2), A Smith and A McDona-

ald.  
Fixture: Saturday, March 5, Winter Cup- Stableford, ballots at 9am and 1pm.

#### Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday, February 25, Yellow Medal CSS. 1 Alan Smith 73-11= 62, Par 62.

Fixtures: Sunday, March 6, Winter League Team Game. Lamlash v Shiskine at Lamlash at 10am, shotgun start. Thursday, March 11, Yellow Medal, 11am start.

#### Arran Ladies Golf Union

Saturday, February 27, Drumadoon Tray.

At the second attempt and on a stunning day, probably the best of the winter, 14 ladies enjoyed a lovely round of golf on the course which had dried out amazingly thanks to Keith and his greenkeeping staff.

Thanks to Brodick for courtesy of the course, Dougie in the bar, Trish for her wonderful coffee and sandwiches and Ewan the new pro, for starting us off. 1 Viv Parks 88-17=71, 2 Yvonne Brothers 90-18=72, on last six holes from Piet Johnston 72, Heather Raeside 72, Scratch Viv 88.

Fixture: Sunday, March 6, Drumadoon. Anyone wishing to play and not already in draw, please phone Susan on 600555.

#### Arran Golfers Association

Fixture: Sunday, March 6, Duncan Trophy, final round at Lamlash Golf Club.

Draw: Lamlash v Shiskine, Machrie v Brodick, Corrie v Whiting Bay. All matches start at 10am shotgun start, please be there early as there will be a bit of a walk to some of the tees. When at the tees start as close to 10am as possible providing fairway is clear.

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# Sport

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## Six of the best as Arran win both games in double header

### Arran Ladies 6 Ardrossan Ladies 2nds 2

Arran Ladies hockey team knocked an impressive six goals past their Ardrossan opponents from just across the water in their first of their home double header on Saturday.

The home side got off to a flyer when Lorraine Hewie scored in the first minute-and-a-half, followed by two goals from Anne Watts, another by Lorraine Hewie, and then a cracker from the top of the D from Helen Thompson. Ardrossan managed just one goal in reply during the first half making it 5-1 at half time.

#### Hat-trick

Ardrossan scored a second goal after the interval and Lorraine Hewie managed a hat-trick before the end of the game, to make the final score to 6-2.

Man of the match was awarded to Susie Murchie and joint dame of the game went to Helen Thompson and Anne Watts.

Captain Victoria McNicol said: 'We had brilliant team spirit and all played well together in a great team effort.'



Arran on the attack against Ardrossan. 01\_B10hockey01



Arran race back in numbers to foil a Dumfries break. 01\_B10hockey06



The outstanding Ellie Wood in action. 01\_B10hockey08

### Arran Ladies 1 Dumfries Ladies 2nds 0

Lorraine Hewie scored the only goal of the game on Sunday in the first-half against a tough Dumfries side.

The away team kept fighting and were desperate to score, but the home side proved solid in defence and held them at bay. Ellie Wood was voted both man of the match and dame of the game.

Captain Victoria said: 'She was outstanding and it was thoroughly deserved. It is amazing how good she is for

her age. A massive thanks to Calum McNicol for umpiring and to Pauline Reid, but we still desperately need umpires if anyone is interested.

'They were right moaners Dumfries and moaned about everything from the pitch to the ball.'

Today (Saturday) the Arran Ladies are away to Giffnock at Eastwood High School 2pm. Arran are sitting third in their division and if GHK beat Glasgow Accies today Arran will go up to second place.



Cat Galbraith makes sure there is no way through for the Dumfries player. 01\_B10hockey07

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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.