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No. 2066 Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 10 MARCH, 2018

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Celebrate mum on March 11

Stuck for ideas? We've got some inspiration for Mother's Day. Turn to pages 10 and 11



Brodick beach gets beast of a battering

Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Beast from the East may have spared Arran the worst of the snow but it has left Brodick beach battered and bedraggled.

Days of strong easterly winds have directed powerful waves onto the shore which have eroded the structural defences and washed away tonnes of sand from the beach.

Now prominently visible, the geotextile bags are once again exposed as the sand, which was deposited for protection less than two years ago, has mostly all been displaced, leaving an abrupt embankment illustrating the extent of the missing sand.

Most of the damage was caused over a short period of three days last weekend with an extremely high tide and gusting winds.

Brodick resident John Baraclough said: 'I estimate that about half a me-

tre of sand has gone from an eight metre wide stretch roughly 750 metres long. This means that roughly 3,000 cubic metres (about 6,000 tonnes) of sand has disappeared over the course of three days.'

As previously reported in the *Banner*, Scotland's National Coastal Change Assessment, a two-year study of coastal erosion, has revealed that through climate change and the ill-advised removal of sand from Brodick beach in the 1970s and 1980s, that Brodick beach could face being eroded by another 100 metres in just 30 years.

The efforts to save and restore Brodick beach to its former glory has been a constant battle against time, tide and bureaucracy, as any efforts to make changes to the shoreline have to be undertaken with the strictest of conditions.

Thankfully owing to the

Continued on page two

Beth wins Burns painting contest



Shiskine primary pupils show their support for P7 pupil Beth McCarthy who took first place in the Burns primary school painting competition when she received a commemorative medal from Andy Martin, secretary of the Lamlash Burns Club. To see Beth's winning entry and some noteworthy contenders in the competition, turn to the centre pages. 01_B10front01

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Brodick beach battered and bedraggled

Continued from page one
 hard work of the Brodick Improvements Committee, groynes were placed on the beach which prevented some sand migration and

large geotextile bags have slowed down further erosion on part of the beach.

On the opposite side of the beach towards Cladach, shifting sands are also in

evidence with a build-up of a large sandbank near the old boathouse, while further down the beach protective embankments created by the Brodick Golf Club have been eroded, with some portions completely devoid of sand.

The most visible improvement came in 2016 with the building of the new ferry terminal across the bay when contractors George Leslie Ltd donated a significant amount of dredged sand which was used to cover the geotextile bags and restore Brodick beach.

Bill Calderwood, chairman of the Brodick Improvements Committee ad-

mitted the storms had been a serious setback to save the beach and said the majority of the gifted sand had now been washed away.

However, the fight goes on. He said: 'We had a meeting two weeks ago to discuss the ongoing issue of Brodick beach. We have already ordered a consignment of rocks which will be used to bolster the groyne and once a suitable grade has been sourced it can be placed in situ.'

'We are also investigating suppliers of suitable sand that can be used and, in con-



Geotextile bags are exposed and the varying sand levels visible. 01_B10beach03

junction with Marine Scotland and other governing bodies, we will continue to institute and oversee preventative measures and repairs to Brodick beach.'

Funding for the beach repairs in 2016 was raised through the Brodick Im-

provements Committee, who through their JustGiving page, raised £8,290 from 108 supporters, along with other donations, which contributed towards the maintenance and upkeep of the public amenity.



Vast amounts of sand has moved to Cladach where sandbanks have formed at the mouth of the Cnocan burn. 01_B10beach05



Beach erosion has also taken place at areas not protected by geotextile bags.

Picture: John Barraclough

Apartment plans for Kildonan

Plans have been lodged which would see the Kildonan Hotel turned into an aparthotel with 12 private apartments all with patios or balconies.

Mrs Anne Acuna of Harbour Havens Ltd has applied to North Ayrshire Council for a change of use of hotel bedrooms, staff accommodation and owners' apartment to form the 12 private apartments.

This would involve the partial demolition of the existing building, partial re-cladding and the formation of a dormer. The car park would also be extended.

Panoramic views

Built in the 17th century, the small, family-run hotel, is one of the seventh oldest licensed inns in Scotland. It is perched on the southern-most tip of Arran, with its seafront location providing panoramic views.

According to the plans the hotel would retain its bar, restaurant, shop and outdoor seating area.

Meanwhile, in Brodick permission is being sought for the erection of a new phar-

macy with upper residential flat at Lyndhurst by Arran Pharmacy Ltd.

The new pharmacy, which would be in the same building as the existing one, would be sited where there is presently a large storage shed to the rear of the property. This would be demolished.

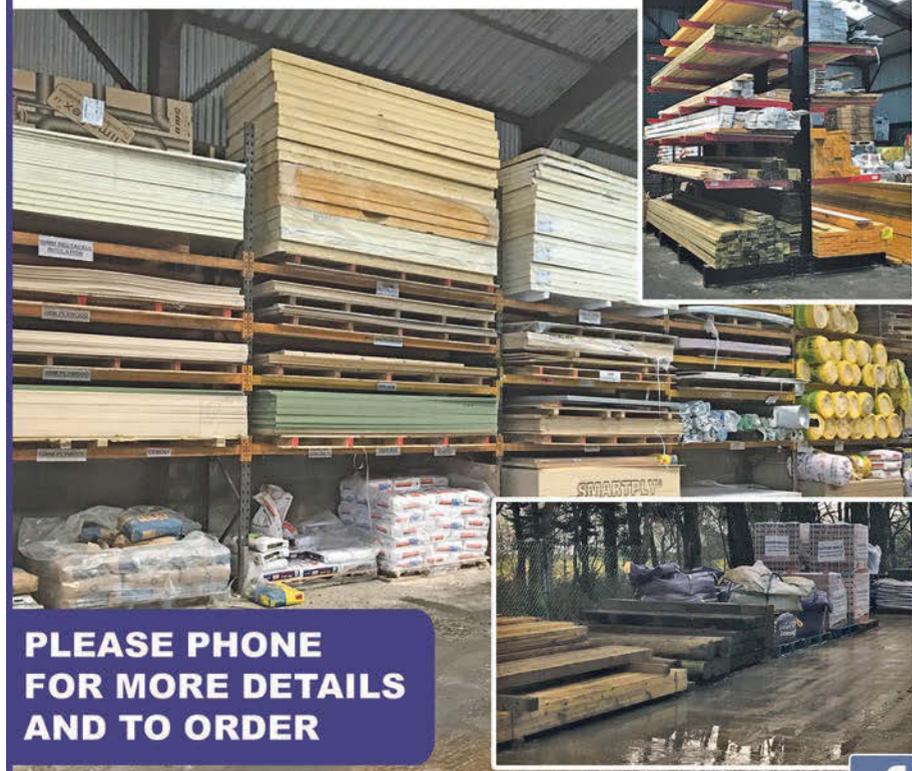
Also in Brodick, permission is being sought for the demolition of the existing single storey building at Lower Balmore, previously used as the vets surgery, and the erection of new single storey dwelling house.

In Lochranza an application has been submitted to convert the post office into an art gallery, including a two-storey extension to the rear, the erection of a porch and alterations to the existing front dormers.

All of the applications are currently under consideration and are available for detailed viewing on the North Ayrshire Council website where members of the public can search, view and track planning applications along with detailed site drawings and plans.

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Co-op gets a big new look

The Co-operative Food store in Brodick has had a big makeover.

The new store is barely recognisable after its first major revamp since it opened in 1995. Now, with only two weeks to go before the official opening, the 'Big Co' is gearing up to re-open on schedule with a large number of improvements already available to customers.

The works, which started in January, are scheduled to be completed by Friday March 23.

During the works – most of which has taken place during the night to allow the store to remain open throughout – disruption to customers has been kept to a minimum with the only difficulty being that items were taking longer to find owing to them being temporarily relocated.

Besides a cleaner and fresher look, the store now boasts five long-belt checkouts, four self-service checkouts, walls of efficient chillers and coolers, and a new heating system, along with an increase in product options. In addition, a new community space will be created where the previous cigarette counter once stood – it is now located on the opposite side of the store – and will be available for community groups and to accommodate the various community activities that take place in store.

Shop manager Liz Mclean, commenting on social media, said: 'I am delighted at the response, support and understanding and all of the positive comments that we have received from customers while the refurbishment takes place.'

The refurbishment is part of a £28 million investment by the Co-op in Scotland, which is upgrading 20 stores across the country and opening a further 18. The expansion is expected to create a further 275 jobs and will take the total number of Co-op employees to almost 6,000.

The expansion is expected to create a further 275 jobs and will take the total number of Co-op employees to almost 6,000.



The refurbished store now features modern chiller and frozen cabinets that run the almost the length of the shop. 01_B10coop02



Customers are already enjoying the benefits of the long-belt checkouts. 01_B10coop03



Store manager Liz Mclean and staff at the new long-belt checkouts. 01_B10coop04



Four self-service checkouts are available next to the cigarette kiosk. 01_B10coop01

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The new way to tackle potholes

Here is the new £65,000 machine which has been brought in by North Ayrshire Council to fix Arran's potholes.

As first revealed in last week's *Banner*, the Euro-Paver mobile asphalt machine will allow the island roads team to fix potholes more efficiently – as well as being more environmentally-friendly.

Road waste

The state-of-the-art machine recycles the current road surface, cutting down on the need for a large supply of asphalt and reducing the amount of road waste that goes to landfill.

It is capable of producing about one tonne of bituminous material within about 10 minutes which can then be used in road repairs.

A North Ayrshire Council



Councillor Ellen McMaster with roads officials Campbell Dempster and Russell McCutcheon.



cil spokesman said: 'We're delighted to have this machine based permanently on Arran which will allow us to respond quickly to pothole issues as they arise. We have been testing it for

The machine is loaded with road surface which will be recycled.

some time and are pleased with the results we have seen so far.'

The council encourages any resident who wishes to report a road fault to do so on its website at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk, by calling the customer contact centre on 01294 310000 or by using the iPhone or Android 'Report It App' for mobile devices.

Council pledge to preserve frontline services

North Ayrshire Council will continue to preserve its highest-priority frontline services after setting its budget for 2018-19 in the face of a challenging financial settlement.

Around £4.59million of savings required to be found in order to balance the £331.2million revenue budget, which covers the day-to-day running of council services.

But council taxpayers face a three per cent rise in their 2018-19 bills.

Since 2010-11, North Ayrshire Council has had to make savings of £80m from its revenue budget, due to funding not keeping pace with the rising cost and demand for services.

Despite these financial challenges, the council made a continuing commitment to support its lowest earners, those living in poverty and North Ayrshire's children.

Among the range of measures passed include:

□ Increased investment in the services that support the most vulnerable residents with additional funding of approximately £3.5million for the Health and Social Care Partnership.

□ A commitment to meet the increased costs of the Living Wage and staff pay increase.

□ A doubling of the roads budget from £16m to £33m following an unusually cold and wet winter which affected roads across Scotland.

Capital plan

The council also approved a 10-year capital plan with investment of £245.7m in school projects and for the expansion of early learning and childcare across the area.

Council leader Joe Cullinane said: 'I think it's fitting that this year – the Year of Young People – we're making a big commitment to our children and their education. We want to give our young people the chance to reach

their potential. By investing in our school estate, we are making an investment in their future.'

The estimated net impact of the financial settlement means that there is likely to be a reduction of approximately 50 whole-time equivalent posts, taking account of the planned expansion of early learning and childcare and the council's increased contribution to the Health and Social Care Partnership. The council will take all reasonable steps to minimise the impact of the budget on the workforce, including removing vacant posts, exploring opportunities for redeployment and responding to requests for voluntary early redundancy and early retirement.

The council anticipates further reductions in grant funding in 2019-20 and beyond, creating significant challenges in balancing its budget.

* See letters – page eight.

Putting Arran on the gin map

Arran is the latest name in an ever-expanding gin market.

Two young entrepreneurs have produced the first gin to solely carry the island's name - and it is already selling like hot cakes.

Just as well then that one of the men behind the project is baker George Grassie of Blackwater Bakehouse who, along with Stuart Fraser of Bay Kitchen and Stores in Whiting Bay, has formed the Isle of Arran Gin Company.

And it is already making something of a splash. Crafted from botanicals

hand-picked from the island, the first run of Arran Gin has almost sold out since its release last month.

With a punchy, distinctive flavour and an elegant bottle inspired by the sea and mountains, Arran Gin is the creation of Stuart, George and two others, George Laird from Largs and Ross Hamilton from New York.

It took the group 18 months to perfect their drink, foraging abundant, unusual botanicals, trying out different recipes and studying the craft of gin-distillation.

Arran is rich in wild bo-



Stuart Fraser and George Grassie who are behind the new Arran gin. 01_B10gin01

anicals and the lads teamed up with forager, and former Arran resident, Mark Williams and botanist Charlotte Karsemeijer to pick the cream of the crop, including fuchsia flowers, meadowsweet, noble fir, hogweed seeds and sea lettuce.

Stuart said: 'The taste evokes Arran - coastline and hilltop on the first nose, followed by floral and vegetal, honey, spice and citrus.'

'It's creamy, with a long, smooth finish.'

Taking advice from a

small group of local experts, the gin crew has worked independently to make what it calls a 'real' gin that looks and tastes beautiful by remaining true to the ingredients and the island where they were picked.

George added: 'Just as my bread has nothing in it besides water, salt, flour and ferment, so the gin has no cheats. It's made with real ingredients without shortcuts, yielding true and natural flavours.'

After experimenting with a pot still at home, the gin

makers took their final recipe and botanicals to the Glenshee Craft Distillery in Perthshire where larger volumes could be made by master-distiller Simon Fairclough. As business grows, the group hopes to build a distillery and visitor centre on the island, adding strength to the island's artisan food and drink scene of which both Stuart and George are passionate.

So far the gin is only available on Arran but, as production speeds up, the team will open an online shop and it is hoped bottles

will soon pour into shops and bars on the mainland.

So what's the best way to drink it?

'It's your gin. Get creative,' said Stuart.

'I like it with a chunk of ice and a wedge of orange to add sweetness. Cheers!'

Arran Gin retails at £37.99 and is available at Bay Kitchen and Stores, Arran Graphics and A C Cameron, with other outlets following soon.

It is also available in a growing number of bars and restaurants on the island.



Stuart and George discuss foraged seaweed on the shore at Blackwaterfoot. 01_B10gin02

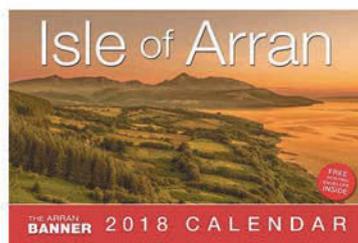
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Society celebrates The Glasgow Boys

The Arran branch of the Saltire Society recently held their penultimate event of the season at the Arran Lodge at Altachorvie. The Saltire Society celebrates Scottish culture in all its different manifestations.

A very healthy audience of some 40 people heard with interest local artist and Corrie resident John Inglis talked with authority and dry wit about the historical background to and the influences of The Glasgow Boys, that loosely affiliated group of Glasgow painters who defined a Scottish painterly style between the 1880s and the early 1900s.

In this slide-illustrated event, John talked about how the Scottish art collective were effectively re-

acting against a grandiose Victorian sentimentality and melodrama in painting. That in a way they wanted to reverse the old order of the high classical and the picturesque for a more intimate vision of life.

John told how The Glasgow Boys opted for less usual viewpoints, how they invited the spectator to be part of the narrative and not held at bay by the awe of the spectacular. John alluded, commenting on one particular painting *A Hind's Daughter* by Guthrie, to the matter of factness of the scene.

That Guthrie was 'telling it the way it is', opting for realism which made the labour being portrayed appear more dignified. Earlier John had shown a picture



John Inglis gives his talk on The Glasgow Boys to an attentive audience at the Saltire Society. 01_B10saltire01

of Millet's *Gleaners* citing it as one of the influences that the Glasgow Boys would have seen and absorbed in their European travels.

The audience had a chance to see an original Glasgow Boys painting by Alexander Ignatius Roche, generously loaned for the evening by Colin Milne.

Saltire Society are also grateful for the continuing support of Joni Keen and Altachorvie who support the society's endeavour.

Tim Pomeroy

Artist Avril is next speaker

Artist Avril Paton will speak about her work on Arran and in Glasgow at the Arran branch of the Saltire Society on Friday March 16.

As many readers will know, Avril lives in Glasgow but was brought up on Arran and comes from a line of well-known Scottish painters, daughter of Hugh Paton and granddaughter of Donald Paton, who were both landscape painters on Arran.

Avril's style is unique, some large-scale, intricate and painstaking in detail with precise architectural drawing, like her famous *Windows in the West* – but she cannot be pigeon-holed. Her work is incredibly varied, interesting and imaginative, her colours and characters drawing you in and some reflecting her personal, romantic and mysterious side.

An event not to be missed in the company of one of Scotland's most well-known artists. It will be held at the Arran Lodge at Altachorvie at 7.30pm.

Heather Gough

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Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (15) 115 mins

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The Greatest Showman (PG) 105 mins

Hugh Jackman stars in this feel-good drama about the life of P T Barnum which has become a box office sensation. "up-to-the-minute razzmatazz" Variety 15/03 at 5.30pm, 16/03 at 8.30pm

Darkest Hour (PG) 125 mins

In the early days of WWII, Europe's fate is in Churchill's hands. "Churchill's darkest hour is Gary Oldman's finest" Empire 15/03 at 8.30pm, 16/03 at 2pm

Black Panther (12A) 134 mins

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Bewitching Beauty leaves its customers spellbound

Advertorial

Bewitching Beauty Arran held the official opening of their new premises at The Old Haybarn in Lamlash last Saturday with a magical feast of taster treatments, reduced-price therapies and complimentary consultations which left visitors spellbound.

The business, which also has had a branch in Glasgow since 2004, combines the 'magical arts' of Wiccan owner and therapist, Pauline Reid-Adamson with beauty and holistic therapies.

With over 20 years' experience as a beautician and Wiccan, Pauline specialises in Gati-neau skincare solutions, waxing of all types and massage, including hot stone massage.

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Pauline Reid-Adamson of Bewitching Beauty is qualified to perform a host of relaxing and beneficial beauty and holistic treatments.



Spring show will soon be in bloom

Final arrangements have been put in place for the Arran Horticultural Society's spring show, which will this year be held on Saturday March 24 in Brodick Hall at 2pm.

As always, there is a wide range of sections and classes to choose from for entries, and while the season has been challenging so far, the blooms will burst forth and make a great show. The theme for the floral art is Royal Wedding, and for the photography Signs of Spring.

Chairman John Sillars said: 'As ever, we expect the usual extensive, colourful, imaginative displays from the primary schools and early years classes. The tea-room will have the now customary scrumptious home baking and the stage will be adorned with daffodil blooms by the

castle gardeners. This is an afternoon that enchants all visitors.

'Show schedules are now available from the usual outlets, and, if it's a first time for you, we will help in placing your entries.'

Club draw winners

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club February draw were: 1st prize Gillean Macleod, 2nd prize Ailean O'Brien.

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Editorial

Battered beach

How sad to see Brodick beach getting another battering.

As we watched the Easterly waves pounding the beach last weekend we knew what the end result would be – and it is worse than we feared.

Almost all the sand gifted by George Leslie Ltd when digging the foundations of the new ferry terminal has now been washed away, much of it over to Cladach.

The rock groyne which was built at the start of the Fisherman's Walk has done some good at retaining the sand and Brodick Improvements Committee, who work tirelessly and what seems a never ending task, have pledged to extend this and carry out other remedial works.

The government and North Ayrshire Council have plans in place to combat coastal erosion, but what is really needed is a long-term project, backed by a financial commitment, to spend the sort of money needed for proper sea defences, but we can't see that happening any time soon.

For now we can only hope that the worst of the winter storms are over.

Thought for the Week

'Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me – put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.' Philippians 4:8

Challenging decisions

Sir,
In the year since I was elected to represent the people of Ardrossan and Arran, it has been a steep and challenging learning curve, culminating with the full meeting of North Ayrshire Council last week at which the budget for 2018/19 was agreed.

The main budget features were a tiny increase in the grant from the Scottish Government, increasing demand for social care, rising wages and inflation, and the Scottish Government is requiring councils to provide more services with insufficient money to fund them (in particular, early years learning).

In the weeks prior to the council meeting, most councillors spent days with council managers and colleagues exploring where savings could be found, how income could be increased and what was the most appropriate apportionment of money across the council's services. A big positive is the doubling of the road repair budget.

At the council meeting the Conservative councillors proposed that the budget prepared by the council officers should be adopted, and while other councillors mostly agreed, they proposed some changes.

A significant proposal from Labour administration was a 12.5 per cent increase in council tax. The Conservative group voted against this massive increase, as a tax on homes bears no relation to the ability to pay, would cause further damage to the economy, and many people had a 23 per cent increase last year.

The SNP government

promised to review local taxation and link it to ability to pay. We are still waiting, and large increases of an outdated and unfair tax is not the way forward.

It was hugely disappointing that the SNP councillors voted to reduce North Ayrshire Council's proposed contribution for health and social care, which has been overspent for the past three years. Reducing the funding means that additional cuts to the service will be needed.

North Ayrshire Council's budget for 2018/19 does have challenging decisions that will become clearer as the weeks go on. However, North Ayrshire still has £331 million to spend, with which it provides a surprisingly large range of services in a (mostly) efficient manner. But where do we go from here?

As Councillor Gallagher said in last week's *Banner*, year after year the SNP Government has been cutting the proportion of its money it gives to councils. Add to this the increasing demand on social and health care caused by an increasingly aged population, councils will need to deliver services in new and creative ways – we need to be exploring these alternatives now, including how to pay for them.

Yours,
Timothy Billings
Conservative Councillor,
Ardrossan and Arran

Financial incompetence

Sir,
It is difficult to know how to respond to such a long, rambling, incoherent and repetitive letter as that from Labour councillor Alex Gallagher, published in the *Banner* last week.

Readers of the *Largs and Millport Weekly News* will be used to his embittered rantings. Sadly, they can now be read in the *Arran Banner* too!

He criticised me for supporting the SNP Government's budget, hardly a surprise, as no other party put forward a budget.

Cllr Gallagher claims that North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) grant from the SNP Government will increase by only £130,000 in cash from April 1, but cites no source for this figure. In fact, NAC's grant will rise by £6,285,000 (2.3 per cent) to a record £275,273,000 a higher increase than the UK Treasury deflator of 1.56 per cent used across the UK and accepted by all political parties as a measure of inflation in the public sector. The source of these figures is the independent Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICE).

I was amused at Cllr Gallagher having a pop at the SNP Government's nine year council tax freeze, from 2008-2017, a response to Labour increasing council tax by 75 per cent in the decade before the SNP came into office.

Why amused? Because four weeks after denouncing the freeze in the *Largs and Millport Weekly News* Cllr Gallagher backed it in the same paper and then denied he ever opposed it!

Islanders may now be aware that Labour at NAC on February 28 proposed a 12.5 per cent council tax increase for all council tax payers, which was voted down by opposition councillors. At that same meeting, Labour failed to stop an SNP motion calling for a police investigation into how Labour saddled NAC with a £380 million debt for the construction of four

schools, including Arran High School, that cost only £80 million when built a decade ago. This debt currently costs the council tax payers of North Ayrshire more than £13 million a year, a figure that will rise steadily until 2037. Labour's financial incompetence is clear for all to see.

Yours,
Kenneth Gibson MSP
Cunninghame North

New position wanted

Sir,
I have followed the trials and tribulations of the new ferry facilities at Brodick and it now appears that the opening is imminent.

For as long as I can remember there has been a member of the terminal crew at Brodick that has been first to greet us as we drive off the ferry and last to bid us farewell as we go back to the mainland.

I would appeal, through your newspaper, that CalMac find this chap a similar position at the new terminal. Regretfully I do not know the crew member's name but I did manage to grab a photo as we left after our last visit.

Yours,
Michael Smith
North Shields



The CalMac 'employee' looking for a new position.

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

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THE EDITOR welcomes letters for publication on this page. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, should also be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ. Fax: (01770) 302021. Email editor@arranbanner.co.uk
Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.

ARRAN DELIVERIES
We deliver the goods, not excuses

Daily collection throughout Ayrshire, Glasgow and surrounding areas

Check out our new website: www.arrandeliveries.co.uk

Glasgow Depot

c/o Hebrides Haulage
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Glasgow, G14 0HB
Call us on 01475 676255
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

We've been in our Glasgow depot for 25 years, our long time friends Hebrides Haulage operate it and provide a great service. We can accept all size of deliveries into Glasgow. Our trucks are available daily to collect all your goods from Arran.

Anything in before 1pm is guaranteed next morning delivery. Let us know your requirements as our service, we offer 2 man delivery and Tailift Service throughout the island. Forklift at depot.

We are open to accept all your deliveries large and small. A lot of companies won't deliver to Islands, why not use us as your mainland address and let us bring it to your home. We have all the national parcel companies and pallet networks calling in daily to our Parcelpoint. If you are ordering from a few different companies we can

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

Lamlash fair success

Parents of the Lamlash early years classes held a spring fair in Lamlash church hall last Saturday.

The day was well supported and featured a number of craft stalls, home-

baking and a host of raffle prizes.

There was also Easter drawing and paper cutting for the children.

All proceeds were for Lamlash nursery.



Some of the craft stalls at the fair. 01_B10fayre02



Ollie Gaw and Euan Fleming try their hand at paper cutting. 01_B10fayre01



The raffle and baking stalls. 01_B10fayre03

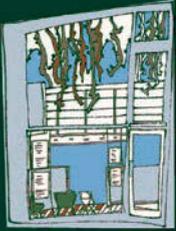
Special concert for Lochranza

The St Andrews chamber Orchestra will perform a special concert on the Arran as part of Music Planet, a unique project that brings together musicians, scientists and researchers at the University of St Andrews, next weekend.

The orchestra will perform on Saturday March 17 at Lochranza village hall in aid of COAST (Community of Arran Seabed Trust) beginning at 5pm. This family concert will include performances of Mendelssohn's Hebrides overture and Beethoven's pastoral symphony. Introductions to the music are provided by Rufus Sullivan from the university music centre.

Admission to the concert is £8 (£5 concessions) and is free for under-18s. Tickets are available at the door.

 Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/arranbanner



No Sixteen

The Wineport is delighted to welcome **Number 16 Restaurant** to Arran for an exclusive 'pop-up' dining experience.

Thursday 5th - Sunday 8th April, 6-9pm

Number 16 is one of Glasgow's best loved restaurants known for serving fresh, local produce with an international twist and will be offering a 3 course menu for £35 per person.

To reserve a table, please call Joel on 07957 423 615

The Wineport, Claddach, Isle of Arran KA27 8DE
www.number16.co.uk




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Arran's Largest Self Catering House



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Podcasts from the Isle of Arran by Joni Keen



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 Shore Road, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8LY

The tradition of Mothering Sunday dates back hundreds of years to Britain's early Christians, who celebrated a mothers' festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent in honour of the Virgin Mary. Some say that this festival replaced the pagan celebration of the Roman mother goddess, Cybele, which goes back thousands of years.

These days, Mother's Day is all about treating mum like the queen that she is, and there are lots of ways to make sure she has a wonderful time, from a special gift to afternoon tea at her favourite cafe.

Stuck for ideas? We've got some inspiration, and our advertisers are here to take the stress out of finding the perfect gift or experience.

One of the best ways to treat mum is to take on her chores and let her sit back and relax. You might be surprised how much she does on a daily basis, so let her off the hook and offer to tidy the kitchen, take out the rubbish, do the

laundry or weed the garden. Better yet, give mum an entire weekend off and let her have a much needed lie in.

Everyone knows that sometimes it is the little things that mean the most. Many mums appreciate a bouquet of flowers or a piece of customised jewellery that reminds her of how much you love her. If you feel like splurging a bit, consider planning a pampering experience together. That could range from a weekend retreat at a country inn or a spa day. Have the whole family pool their resources so that no one breaks the bank.

If you don't yet have a tradition for celebrating Mother's Day, why not start a new one? Take a family photo at the same location every year, go out for a picnic at a place she loves or make a reservation at her favourite restaurant. No matter what she chooses to do, make sure to keep your phone tucked away and give mum your full time and attention – after all, she deserves it!

ELEANOR'S FLOWERS

At Eleanor's Flowers we pride ourselves on having a large selection of the most beautiful and freshest of flowers. Receiving our flowers direct from Holland means that they are in our shop within 3 days of being cut in the fields. Customers are amazed at how long our flowers last. We

can deliver throughout the whole island or why not pop in to the shop to choose from our ready made selection of bouquets and quality plants. Give your Mum something a bit more special this year - give her Eleanor's Flowers!

Our Garden centre is also now reopened with new spring stock to brighten up the garden.

Eleanor's Flowers

Mothers Day Specials



Stunning selection of
Bouquets, arrangements
and plants.
Delivery or to go
01770 302587
1 Auchrannie Road, Brodick. Tues – Sat 9.30 – 5pm



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CAFE – BAR – BISTRO

FIDDLERS'

SINCE  MMXIV

Mother's Day

Treat your mum to a
Sunday roast and a
complimentary cocktail

Live music 1-4pm
Fatman and the Angel

Eat, Drink and Relax here at FIDDLERS'.
Shore Rd, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ

BOOKINGS T: 01770 302579 E: bookings@fiddlersmusicbar.com W: fiddlersmusicbar.com



mum on March 11



Kinloch Arran **Sunday 11th March 2018**
 Treat your wonderful Mum!

2 or 3 course lunch
 (including a glass of Prosecco for the mums)

£17.50 per person (2 course)
 £19.95 per person (3 course)
 12.30 – 2.30pm

To reserve your table,
 call us on
 01770 860444



ARRAN DISTILLERY

This Mother's Day weekend you may want to pay a visit to Lochranza and the award winning Isle of Arran Distillery where the team has been really busy over the course of January and February making some impressive changes in the reception area and gift shop. Tours run 7 days a week, every hour on the hour and can be combined with an extended tutored tasting with some of the whisky industry's friendliest and most knowledgeable guides for the ultimate treat. Why not try a dram of the Arran 18 year-old Single Malt which has just been awarded Gold at the World

Whiskies Awards 2018! You can also enjoy the views and wonderful hospitality of CASKS Café where light snacks, distiller's platters and a variety of delicious cakes and pastries are available every day. The newly refurbished gift shop will provide you with some great inspiration for gifts for your Mum, or a well-earned treat for yourself! Featuring a great selection of Arran Single Malts, including some distillery exclusive bottlings, you will also find souvenirs from all over the island to take home as a memento of your time spent on Arran. Enjoy the spirit of the island and spend some time at the Isle of Arran Distillery.



VISIT THE AWARD WINNING VISITOR CENTRE AT THE ISLE OF ARRAN DISTILLERY

DISTILLERY TOURS • SHOP • CASKS CAFÉ BAR



BRODICK BAR & BRASSERIE

OPEN MOTHER'S DAY LUNCH SUNDAY 11TH MARCH
 Lunch from 12.30pm - 4pm
 2 Courses - £20, 3 courses - £23
 includes tea, coffee and homemade shortbread.

.....

OPENING HOURS
 From Monday 26th March, we will be open Monday - Saturday
 for Lunches, snacks 12noon- 2.30pm
 Evening Meals 5.30pm- 8.30pm

BY POPULAR DEMAND WE WILL STILL OFFER OUR -
 2 COURSE LUNCH, plus 125ml wine, 1/2 beer or soft drink, tea, coffee for
 £14.50 every day.

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EARLY BIRD DINNER SPECIAL
 Daily from 5.30pm - 6.30pm
 2 courses - £18, 3 courses - £22.50

ALSO AVAILABLE CARRY-OUT PIZZAS, FISH AND CHIPS

PLEASE CALL 01770 302169 TO MAKE A RESERVATION OR TO ORDER YOUR TAKEAWAY



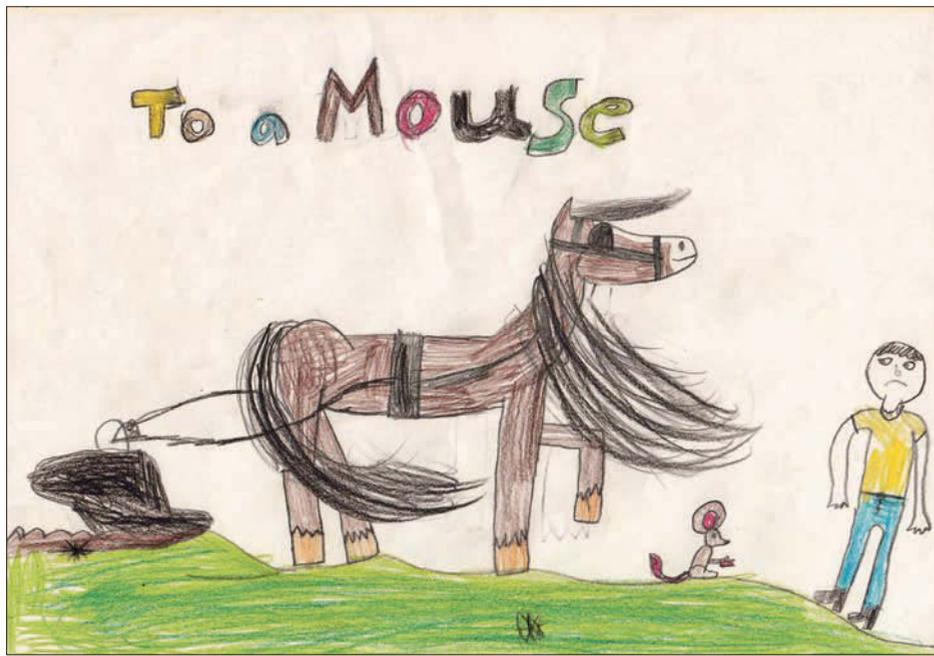
OPEN DAILY: MAR - OCT 10.00 - 17.15
 NOV - FEB 10.00 - 16.00

FOR **TOUR TIMES AND INFORMATION**
 PLEASE CHECK OUR WEB SITE

THE ISLE OF ARRAN DISTILLERY
 AND VISITOR CENTRE, LOCHRANZA, KA27 8HJ
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 EMAIL: BOOKINGS@ARRANWHISKY.COM

www.arranwhisky.com



P4 Kilmory pupil Kava Aspinall was highly commended.



Julia Kulis, a P3 pupil from Brodick, was highly commended.

OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 March 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

WIN

A LUXURIOUS ONE NIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT RUFFLETS, ST ANDREWS INCLUDING DINNER AT THEIR EXCITING NEW RESTAURANT – SEASONS



Located in the heart of the family-owned hotel and overlooking acres of beautifully manicured gardens, you are guaranteed an unforgettable dining experience. Taking inspiration from the ever-changing seasons the menus feature freshly picked produce grown in the

kitchen garden or sourced from a rich larder of Scottish produce and trusted local suppliers. One lucky reader will win a prize that includes dinner for two at Seasons restaurant, overnight accommodation and full Scottish breakfast.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:
What is the name of the new restaurant at Rufflets? a) Roots b.) Forresters c.) Seasons**

Package includes dinner for two at Seasons Restaurant (excluding drinks), overnight accommodation in a double or twin feature room and breakfast for two. Prize must be taken between 1 April and 31 May 2018. The prize is subject to availability and non-transferable or refundable and no cash alternative will be offered.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

Beth paints Burns conte

There was a record entry for this year's Burns primary school painting competition, which is now in its third year.

This year's theme was the poem *To a mouse* and the contest was won this year by Shiskine primary P7 pupil Beth McCarthy.

Medal

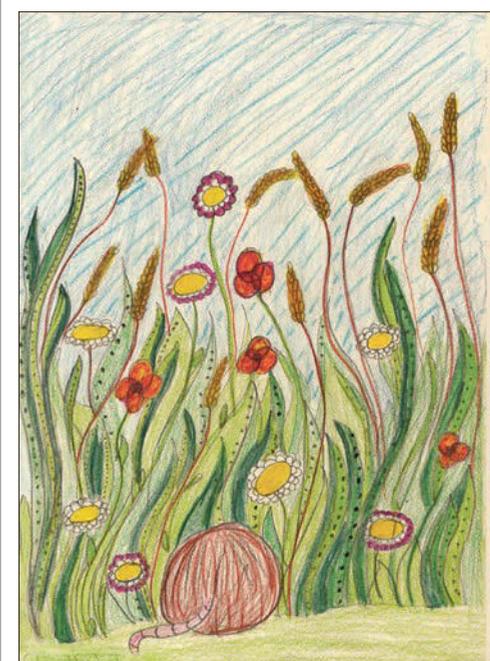
Lamlash Burns Club secretary Andy Martin made a surprise visit to school to present the winner with a limited edition commemorative medal and a gift token.

Beth's winning entry will now be used on the certificates presented to each participant at the Burns primary schools poetry competition.

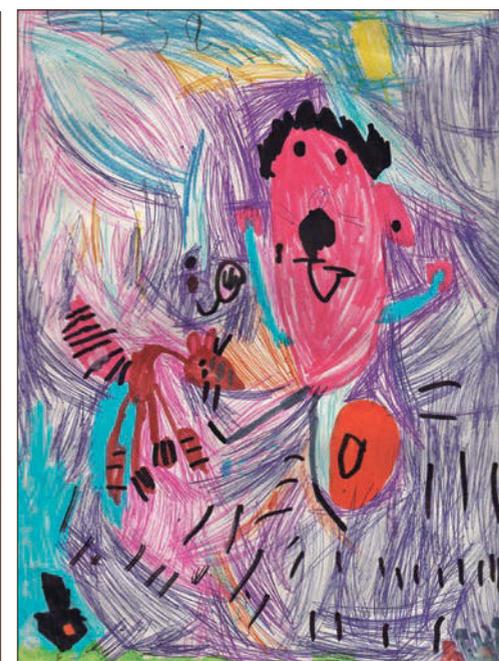
The painting competition, sponsored by the Lamlash Burns Club, which is affiliated to the Robert Burns World Federation, enjoys a friendly rivalry between school pupils on the island who compete to win the coveted honour of having their painting featured on the certificates at the poetry competition which



Andy Martin presents Beth McCarthy with her medal and prize. 01_B10Burns02



Joint runner-up Catie McArthur, a P7 pupil at Whiting Bay.



Joint runner-up Elsa Grassie, a P1 pupil also from Shiskine.

her way to est success

will be held at the Community Theatre at Lamlash on Monday March 19.

Encouraged

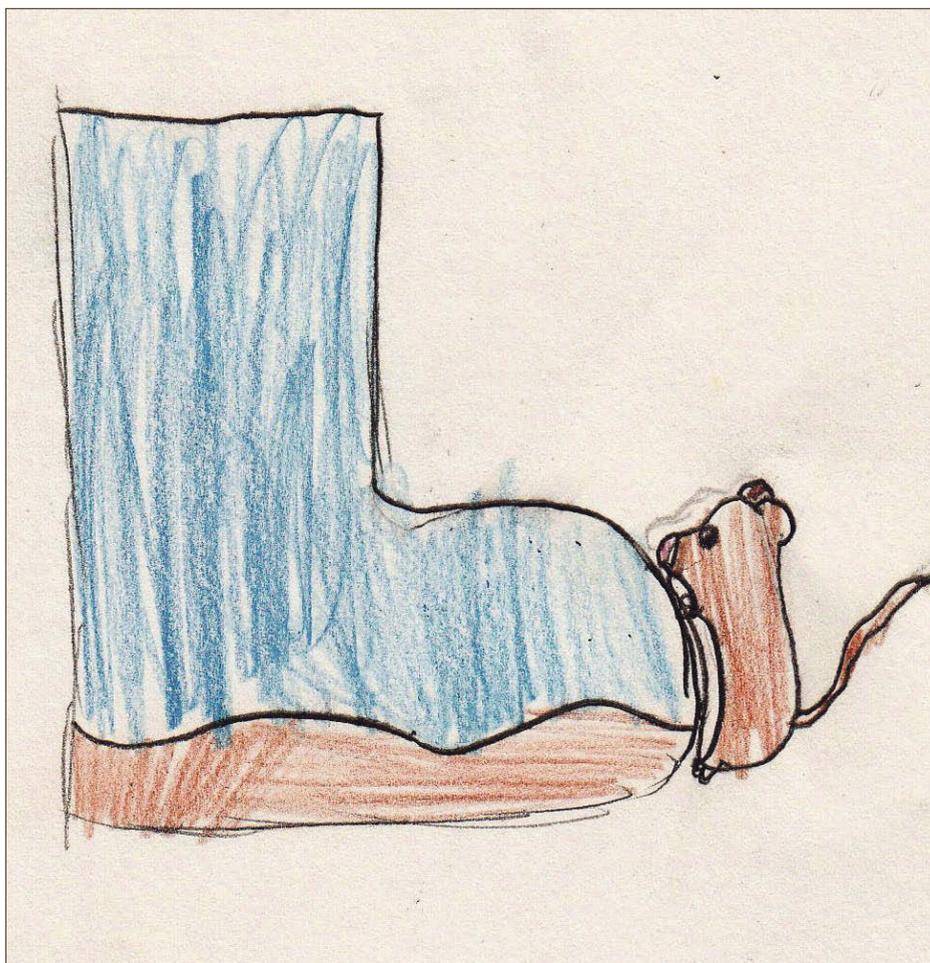
Mr Martin said: 'The Lamlash Burns Club is indebted to the head teacher Shirley MacLachlan and all her teaching staff who have encouraged so many pupils to enter the competition; and to the pupils themselves as, without their enthusiasm, we would not have a competition.'

'We received 199 entries in the competi-

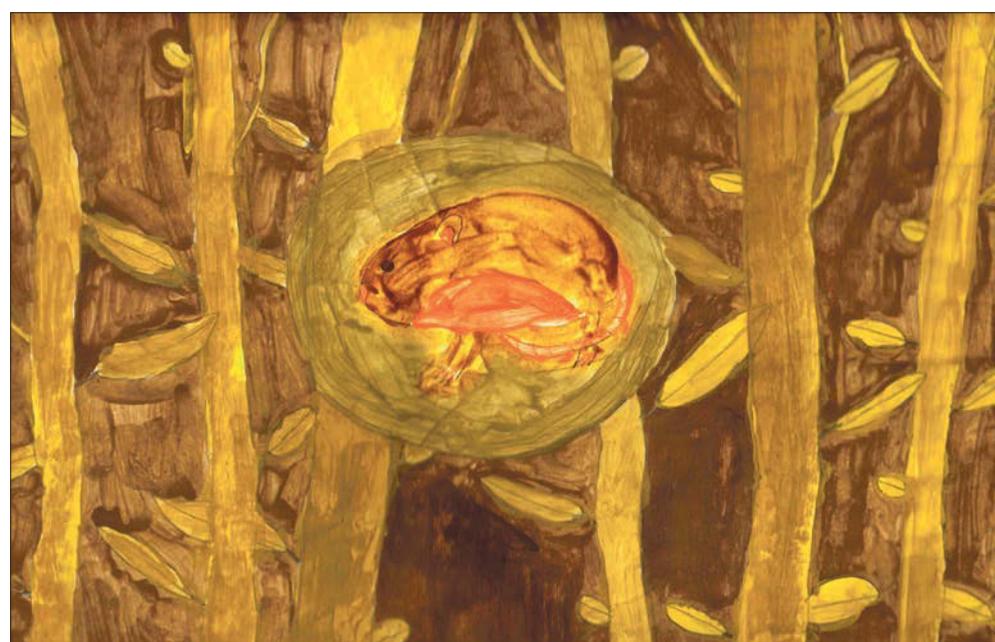
tion, which was 77 up on last year. A group of three independent artists selected a final shortlist of 10 entries which were then scrutinised by the Burns club committee, who took into account how the paintings reflect the contents of the poem, and the age of the children.'

Runners-up

The two runners-up were Catie MacArthur of P7 at Whiting Bay Primary and Elsa Grasse of P1 at Shiskine Primary.



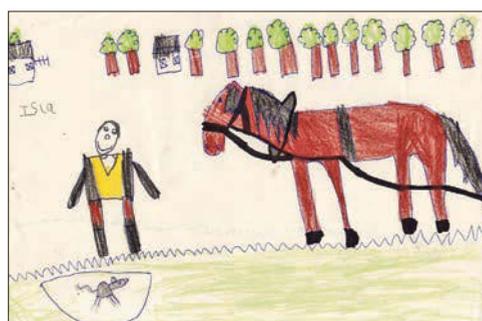
Kaitlyn Haddow, a P6 pupil from Brodick, whose simple but effective entry was highly commended.



The winning entry by Shiskine P7 pupil Beth McCarthy.



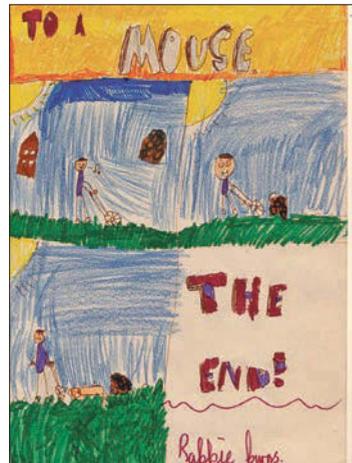
P5 Pirmill pupil Hanna Lord's entry was highly commended.



Isla McKinnon, a P2 pupil from Brodick, was highly commended for her charming entry.



A detailed entry from P4 Whiting Bay pupil Twyca Russell was highly commended.



Kayleigh Easton, a P7 pupil from Brodick, was highly commended for her colourful entry.



St Andrews Chamber Orchestra

Michael Downes and Bede Williams (conductors)

Family Concert in aid of COAST

A performance of Mendelssohn's 'Hebrides' Overture and Beethoven's 'Pastoral' Symphony with introductions by Rufus Sullivan.

Saturday 17 March at 5.00pm
Lochranza Village Hall
Admission: £8, £5 (concessions), FREE (U18s)
Tickets available on the door



Historical Society hear of Hamilton family history

Penny McWatters was the speaker at the February meeting of The Arran Historical Society held in Brodick Hall where she gave a talk on the Hamilton family from the year 1750 to around 1850.

Some of what she found was most entertaining – stranger than fiction. She illustrated her talk with portraits of the family members, as well as letters written by them and their officials from the Hamilton family archives.

Her final source was the archives of the Irish family of Baron Rossmore, called Westenra of Dutch origin.

Start with impoverished Irish beauties whose widow mother (Mrs Gunning) in-

veigled a government pension from the Governor of Dublin Castle. This enabled her to progress to London with her two daughters. The younger one's beauty and 'morals' were commented on by the Royal family, Walpole the Prime minister and other aristocrats. Many pursued them. The younger sister was guided into a rich but unconventional marriage to the 6th Duke of Hamilton in London before she would travel with him to Scotland – no banns were read.

Finish with the actress mistress of the 8th duke who gave birth to a daughter. He was divorced with no children. He gave her his name and a dowry con-



Speaker Penny McWatters in front of a portrait of the 6th Duke of Hamilton's wife Elizabeth Gunning.

sisting of the west coast of Arran, as well as the contents of his homes, including Brodick Castle.

She married Lord Rossmore and after she died the Hamilton family bought

back the land she had been given.

In between was a portrait by Gavin Hamilton (a relation) of a young 8th duke on the grand tour with his tutor and the tutor's son.

The tutor's son joined the army and is remembered as Sir John Moore of Corunna.

Boswell and Johnstone on their Highland tour were invited to Inveraray Castle. The Duke of Argyle's wife was a Hamilton who slighted Boswell (a lawyer) as he had represented the Douglas family in 'the great Douglas cause'.

This dispute started when the Duke Archibald Douglas died childless resulting in his estates falling to his nearest heirs the Hamilton. Suddenly his sister Lady Jane Douglas residing in France claimed the estate for her son. The dispute centred on the birth of her twins when she was

aged 50. She had married a swashbuckling spendthrift Colonel Stewart (a Jacobite) late in life. It was rumoured that the twins had been bought in Paris. The ensuing dispute went on for many years and was never really concluded.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to Penny for an excellent talk.

The next meeting will be at 2pm on Monday March 19 in Brodick Hall when Sue Mills of the National Trust will be back to speak further on the treasures in Brodick Castle. She will elaborate on some well-known and less well-known treasures in the castle and their relationship to the family and the castle.

Brodict Household Waste Recycling Centre



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

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

Pre-booking not required for householders

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

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

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



North Ayrshire Council
 Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Everyday

Trout fly fishing
Brodict Castle
Soap making and candle dipping Arran Aromatics
Arran Brewery

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

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

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

Saturday 10th March

Flow yoga
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Army Cadets
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Family games
Fun in the pool
Live music - Shenanigans
Live music - Happy Ever After, the very best sounds of the 1960s
Over-21s disco

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

Thursday 15th March

Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Morning fitness,
Chair yoga exercise class
Arran Skinnymalinks
Whiting Bay Thursday Club
Quilt Arran
Adult tennis
10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers
Arran ladies' netball
Ladies' hockey
Badminton
Arran Soul Choir
Arran Bridge Club
Brodict Embroidery Group
General knowledge quiz

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

Sunday 11th March

Mother's Day with Fatman and the Angel
Family games
Olivia's Mother's Day special - a beautiful repertoire of popular songs.
AA meeting

Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 2pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 12 noon
Brodict Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm

Monday 12th March

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

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

Friday 16th March

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

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

Tuesday 13th March

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

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

Wednesday 14th March

Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Yoga
Coffee morning
Hydrofit
Chair yoga exercise class

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 5pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am -10.30am
St Brides Church, Brodict, 10.30am - 12noon
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am

Saturday 17th March

Flow yoga
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Army Cadets
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Family games
Fun in the pool
St Andrew's Chamber Orchestra
Music Arran presents A Concert by Mary Reid
Live music - Tim Pomeroy and Mike Bailey
Blues Mama - blues songs from BB King, Etta James, Taj Mahal, etc
Over-21s disco

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



Obituary – Bernie Mitchell-Luker June 30, 1944, to January 27, 2018

Bernie was always larger than life

Bernard Mitchell-Luker began life in Chigwell, Essex, towards the end of the Second World War. He was the oldest son of Robert and Eileen Luker and big brother to Sandra and Patrick.

Bernie attended the local village primary school before starting at the legendary Grange Hill secondary in the mid-1950s. It may come as a surprise to many but Bernie hated formal education and would spend as little time as possible at school. His hobbies at this time predictably involved buses, and Sandra remembers regular visits from the truant officer when Bernie had again bunked off for the day and blagged his way on to a bus going in any direction. Bernie had memorised most of the local bus timetables by the time he turned 10. On arriving at his destination, he would simply walk into the nearest police station and be escorted home, even when he managed to get as far as Yorkshire.

Because of this, he was strongly encouraged to join the Royal Navy as a boy sailor aged 14, on the training ship HMS Arethusa. Bernie far preferred this to school and was particularly proud of how he looked in his uniform. On completion of his navy training, he joined London Transport, initially working as a ticket inspector but soon advancing to chief inspector.

In 1966, he met Ann and the pair married a couple of years later. Three children followed soon after, Vicci in 1969, Gavin in 1970 and finally Bruce in 1972.

Bernie had by this time had enough of the south of England and decided that the family would be better suited to a more gentle country life further north, first settling in Cumbria then moving to Bernie's beloved Arran in 1974. The

family's Arran journey began in Catacol, followed by a couple of years in Pirn-mill before being offered new house in Lamlash, where they settled.

Along with a new home, came a change in career for Bernie as he started work with the Northern Lighthouse Board and spent time in both the Pladda and Holy Isle lighthouses.

During his time on duty, Bernie became famous for being 'fully dressed' in lighthouse uniform, complete with collar and tie, which, given the remote locations he worked at, was highly unusual and often led to visitor to assume he

was the boss – known at the principal keeper. Bernie's enthusiasm for educating the public on all things travel was by now truly unleashed and he followed up the publication of his book with the launch of the Arran Transport Museum, located in Claddach boathouse. The museum was even featured on STV's Scotland Today programme.

Many Arran residents will remember Bernie's Albion Victor, which was parked up in the Anchor car park for several years but will probably be unaware that he drove this up to Arran from Nottingham in the middle of winter. At one point it was so cold the die-



Bernie Mitchell-Luker in his younger days. 01_B10obit02

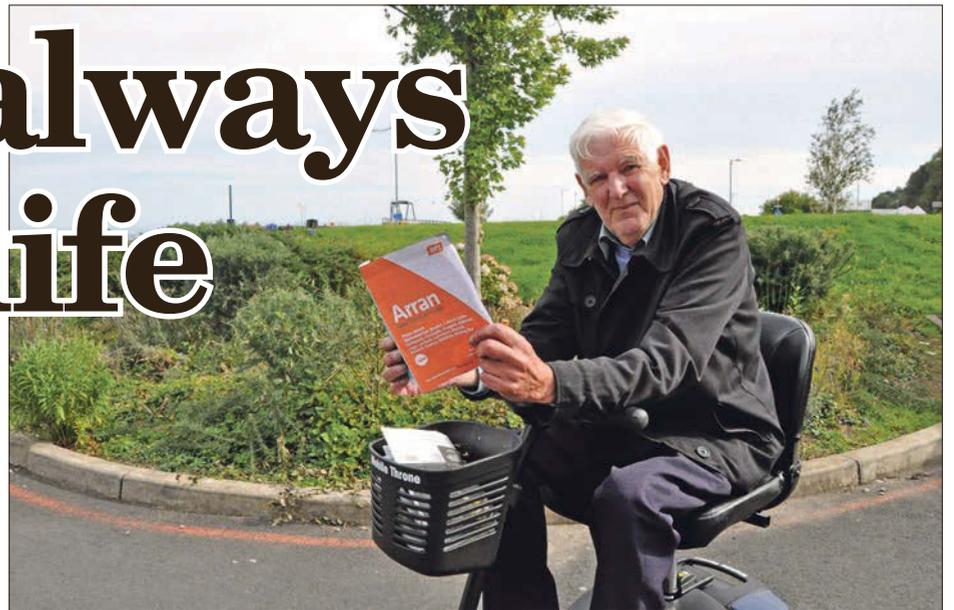
sel froze. We located the calor gas heater which they used to keep themselves warm stored in Bernie's attic a few days ago.

But Bernie's first claim to fame, before even the Albion Victor, was to arrive at Brodick Pier with a very large low-bed trailer carrying a complete railway carriage, which was parked prominently in the forecourt of the Piggery at Corriegills as the basis of his unique museum. Gavin remembers his dad's unusual culinary tastes, which included Weetabix spread with Bovril and topped with cheese, and his love of Fray Bentos suet puddings.

asked if he would step in at short notice to cover an absence. He thought at first that he was simply doing the company a favour and was genuinely surprised when he found out that he was actually being paid for doing it. He very happily continued with the job for several years and became a popular and valued member of the ferry crews, which made him very proud.

Over the past 29 years, Bernie and Margaret have enjoyed many holidays to favourite places, including Devon, Whitby, the Lake District and East Neuk. On arriving at their destination, Bernie's first interest was not to admire the spectacular view or even to inspect the accommodation, but to find the nearest bus stop so that he could familiarise himself with the times of the buses for that particular area. Then, over the next few days, he would make a point of informing any unsuspecting would-be traveller that the next bus would be along in so many minutes.

Antiques shops were a magnet to Bernie, and Margaret would try her best to steer him clear of them, but to no avail. She knew that inevitably he would see something that he 'just had to have' to add to one of his many collections or, even worse, something that would be the start of yet another.



Bernie Mitchell-Luker on his mobility scooter he was often seen out and about on.

01_B10obit01

In the early 1990s, Bernie tragically lost his youngest son Bruce while he was serving with the British Army in Belize. This was a particularly difficult time in his life.

Bernie met his next partner, Margaret, when she was on a coach tour to Arran with her son, David. The passengers were told by the coach driver that for the weekend they would be having the services of a local courier who had 'more fingers in pies in Arran than steak pies'.

Indeed, Bernie's encyclopedic knowledge of buses throughout the UK helped greatly in bringing coach tours to Arran from all the big bus companies such as Greenslades from Devon, Midland Red from Birmingham and Western National from Wales. In his retirement years, he worked for some time as night watchman on both the Caledonian Isles and the Isle of Arran, a job that he absolutely loved but, unfortunately, was forced very reluctantly to give up because of ill health. It was by sheer chance that he was

asked if he would step in at short notice to cover an absence. He thought at first that he was simply doing the company a favour and was genuinely surprised when he found out that he was actually being paid for doing it. He very happily continued with the job for several years and became a popular and valued member of the ferry crews, which made him very proud.

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He was passionate about his hobbies and his interests which were many. He had a ready wit and always enjoyed a bit of banter with his fellow human

beings. His encyclopedic knowledge of many subjects was well known.

Many a time, having asked him something about transport or military history, two of his favourites, the questioner would be subjected to a long and detailed explanation that would leave him or her thinking: 'Gosh, I wish I'd never asked!'

Bernie was also a very proud grandfather to Eleanor, Sophie, Jack, Eilidh and Roddy, taking his role as a grandad very seriously. He was diligent about ensuring his knowledge was passed on to Jack and Eilidh, which resulted in necessary field trips with himself and Margaret to Bowness and Leadhills railways. In recent months, Bernie even took time to teach Roddy how to drive his mobility scooter, and the pair enjoyed an afternoon screaming up and down Brodick's pavements, narrowly missing visiting tourists.

Bernie loved his home in Arran, named Fare Stage. Visitors were welcomed to view but not touch his many collectables. A recent inventory of these included 20 policemen's helmets – used, 24 ticket machines – 12 broken, 350 rolls of tickets – brand new, eight VCR machines, 10 typewriters, model buses – count ongoing, large station clock – all offers considered.

He was a one-off, a larger than life character who certainly made an impact on those whom he met. The happy memories of him will live on and will never fail to raise a smile.

World Book Day celebrated late in Brodick



Brodick's early years class celebrated World Book Day with Nickey Summer in Arran Library last Friday, March 2. The event was a day late as winter weather cancelled classes the day before.

House captains organise successful charity day

Pupils at Whiting Bay Primary School have been fundraising for the British Heart Foundation.

A charity day was organised by the school house captains Eden, Jesse, Greta, Rhys, Catie and Patryk.

They told the *Arran Banner*: 'As house captains, we choose which charities our school will raise funds for each term.'

'This term we decided to support the British Heart Foundation as heart conditions can affect any family.'

'We organised two events on Thursday February 15 - a sponsored ultimate dodgeball tournament in the morning, followed by a Valentine's disco in the afternoon.'



The winning Dodgeball team, the Cheetahs.

Pupils and parents baked heart-shaped biscuits and

cakes which were sold like to thank everyone for an amazing £483.20 and at the disco. We would their support. We raised everyone had a great time!'



Pupils enjoy the Valentine's disco.

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Chaffinch is the most common garden bird

The last weekend in January was the weekend of the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. Individuals, families and groups not only took part in the survey of garden birds but some shared their results with me.

This year there were 30 sets of results sent to me.

This was a few more than last year. Many participants commented on the negative impact of the unsettled weather on the number of birds and indeed the summary shows fewer species and fewer birds than last year.

Species not recorded

this year but recorded last year included great spotted woodpecker, goldcrest, song thrush and yellowhammer. Although more gardens were involved this year, the number of birds was down. For example, last year 339 chaffinch were counted and this year it was

274. Similarly, last year 158 house sparrow were recorded and this year it was 106.

This year chaffinch and robin were reported in every garden except one in the survey. Chaffinch had been recorded in every garden in six out of the previous seven years. Robin had been recorded in every garden in three of the previous four years. This year in the survey 30 species were recorded in Arran gardens.

From the collation from all the gardens, the top 10 birds this year in terms of the number of gardens in which they were seen are: chaffinch, robin, great tit, coal tit, blackbird, blue tit, house sparrow, dunnock, siskin and goldfinch. Nine of these have been in the top 10 in slightly different orders for the past four years.

The change this year is the first appearance of siskin in the top 10. This year it was reported in 50 per cent of the gardens. In 2017, siskin was reported in 20 per cent, 2016 it was 14 per cent and 2015 it was reported in no gardens during the survey. In contrast, greenfinch, which was reported in 40 per cent of gardens in 2017, was only reported in 17 per cent this year.

Other notable changes in the number of gardens in which species were recorded are: long-tailed tit went from two last year to five this year, sparrowhawk went from two last year to six this year and wren went



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels

Chaffinch, the most numerous bird counted, reported in all except one garden. Photograph by Carl Reavey.

from seven last year to four this year.

By far the largest total of birds seen was chaffinch with 274. House sparrow was the next most counted species with 106 and siskin was third with 84. For a collation of all the Arran data from the Big Garden Birdwatch for the past four years visit www.arranbirding.co.uk/files/RSPBArranBGBW2018.jpg

While this information is interesting, too much should not be read into these small samples. It is a fun survey to do but it only covers one weekend in the year.

If you enjoyed doing it, there is a garden bird watch that you can join which encourages people to record their garden bird sightings every week of the year – the British Trust for Ornithology Garden Bird Watch (GBW).

To find out more about the BTO Garden Bird Watch visit www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw

Finally, in Sweden, there is a similar survey to the RSPB survey. The most frequent bird table visitor

from the Swedish survey is great tit, with other species at the head of the list taken by tree sparrow, greenfinch, yellowhammer, blue tit and blackbird. (*Winter Birds* by Lars Jonsson published by Bloomsbury in 2017)

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk.

I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2016 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk.



Long-tailed tit, reported in more gardens this year. Photograph by Robert Lambie.



House sparrow, the second most numerous bird counted. Photograph by Carl Reavey.



Robin, reported in all except one garden. Photograph by Sue Archer.



Siskin, the third most numerous bird counted and the first time in top 10 garden birds. Photograph by Angela Cassels.

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

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

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

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

*The amount of assistance you will get is calculated from the figures shown in an Energy Performance Certificate for your property and based on 10.13p per kilowatt of heat produced by the heat pump

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Sparrowhawk, reported in more gardens this year. Photograph by Simon Davies.

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday March 7, 1998

Drama festival

For each of the four nights of the 1998 drama festival last week, Lamlash Community Centre was just about full. Most of the people had a season ticket and they were there every night to enjoy a varied programme of four youth plays and seven adult plays.

The one-act drama festival is a regular feature on the Arran calendar and has been for many years, the first large public entertainment event of the year. For the second year running, best play was a comedy by Lamlash Drama Club and, also for the second year running, the award for the best actor/actress went to Julie Nelson of Whiting Bay Drama and Music.

On stage there were relatively few male actors but that did not necessarily detract from the quality. In the 11 one-act plays there were 23 girls, 25 boys, 27 women, and just six men.

It's the cavalry

The emergency services make us all feel more secure and, while grateful for their service, sometimes their coming to our rescue can make us feel slightly embarrassed.

Steve Girbow is an expert shore fisherman. On Monday afternoon, he was fishing at the Fallen Rocks when he slipped and hit his head and chest. Feeling a little bruised, and with equipment to carry,

he called his wife Sue at Bay News. She called a friend who met Steve and helped him home with his gear.

Meanwhile, the local Coastguard, who were on their way home from a training exercise, called in at Bay News where Sue mentioned that Steve had fallen. Steve was just sloping off home quietly when, to his horror, the Coastguard vehicle appeared. This was quickly followed by a police Land Rover. Behind that was an ambulance and then, to complete the full set, a helicopter flew in.

Steve, feeling quite well by this time, just wanted to disappear as the emergency services loaded him into the ambulance and insisted on taking him to the hospital. He was eventually allowed home, feeling rather embarrassed, but knowing that it is better to be safe than sorry.

Red faced

There were a few red faces among the Arran lifeboat crew this week. They were bringing in their new lifeboat – driving into a net for rough weather recovery – when a senior helmsman drove too fast, went through the net and hit the recovery tractor, breaking the windscreen.

Lifeboat secretary Geoff Norris explained: 'It was probably due to inexperience with the new boat and the tractor came too far down. The damage has now been repaired and it will, no doubt, go down as a learning experience.'



Lamlash Junior Drama Club members enact an amusing scene in the production *Death by Murderous Means*. 01_B10twe02

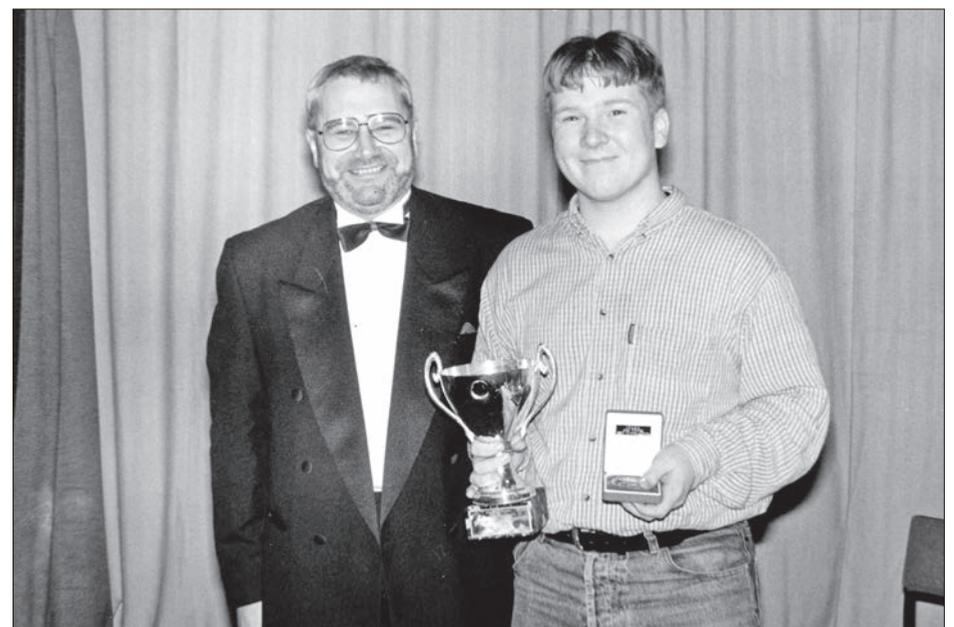


All of the trophy winners of the 1998 drama festival. 01_B10twe03



Prize-winners at the Brodick Golf Club ladies' end of season dinner last Friday. 01_B10twe01

Singles finalists at the Arran Ladies' Darts League at the Kinloch Hotel were winner Fiona MacDonald and runner-up Louise MacAlister. 01_B10twe05



Stuart Hutton receives the trophy for the best youth actor which was presented by adjudicator Ronnie Mackie at the festival. 01_B10twe04

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Public Notices

**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 30 March 2018. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

18/00151/PP; Kildonan Hotel, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Change of use of hotel bedrooms, staff accommodation and owner's apartment to form 12 private apartments, including partial demolition of existing building, partial re-cladding of existing building, formation of dormer and provision of car parking.

18/00174/PP; Site To South Of, Sandycroft, Blackwaterfoot, Brodick; Amendment to planning approval N/07/00993/PP to amend house types on plots 9 and 10

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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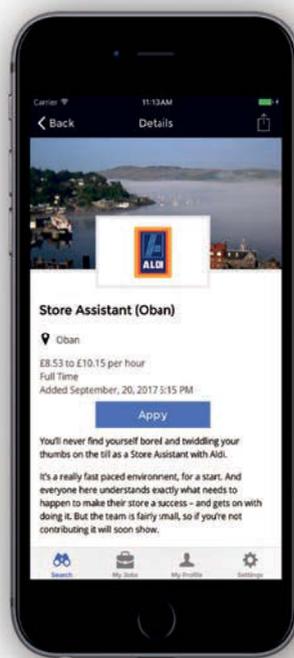
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A well equipped and recently refurbished kitchen awaits the successful applicant at this club, which is increasingly popular with visiting golf parties and locals alike.

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Brodick Golf Club
Isle of Arran
KA27 8DL

or email: secretary@brodickgolf.com

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Visitor Services Assistant – Catering Brodick Castle and Country Park

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Working as part of our established team, work would be varied and involve weekend work on a rota basis.

The National Trust for Scotland supports the Scottish Living Wage - min. £8.45 per hour

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LAMLASH GOLF CLUB CATERING.

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

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

Closing date 24th March 2018.

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OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at www.scottishfield.co.uk. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 March 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berrv Bros. & Rudd Islav Reserve whisky.**

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A LUXURIOUS ONE NIGHT STAY FOR TWO AT RUFFLETS, ST ANDREWS INCLUDING DINNER AT THEIR EXCITING NEW RESTAURANT – SEASONS



Located in the heart of the family-owned hotel and overlooking acres of beautifully manicured gardens, you are guaranteed an unforgettable dining experience. Taking inspiration from the ever-changing seasons the menus feature freshly picked produce grown in the



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One lucky reader will win a prize that includes dinner for two at Seasons restaurant, overnight accommodation and full Scottish breakfast.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:
What is the name of the new restaurant at Rufflets? a) Roots b.) Forrester's c.) Seasons

Package includes dinner for two at Seasons Restaurant (excluding drinks), overnight accommodation in a double or twin feature room and breakfast for two. Prize must be taken between 1 April and 31 May 2018. The prize is subject to availability and non-transferable or refundable and no cash alternative will be offered.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:

Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

Sunday 11th March

Pirmill and Lochranza Churches together, 10.15am Morning Worship at Pirmill Church.

Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.

Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.

Corrie Church, 11.30am

Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship and Stated annual meeting

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

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 11th March

Holy Communion, 11am.

Rev canon Simon Mackenzie, Priest-in-Charge.

Coffee after service.

Wednesday 14th March

Holy Communion, 12.15pm ALL WELCOME

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 11th March

Morning Service 11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen

Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6.30pm

5 Glen Road, Brodick

All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday Worship @ 11am

Brodick Library

Telephone 700346

Everyone Warmly Invited

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 11th March

In both churches

Mrs Valerie Brown, Church and Community Action

Manager (Christian Aid)

Kilmory - 10am

Lamlash - 11.30am.

In Lamlash: prayer time

10.45am.

All welcome, including

families; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Shiskine 11am (church on

road between

Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)

Brodick 6pm

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland, Charity Number: SC014005

Sunday 11th March

Worship will be conducted by Mrs Sharon MacLeod, Reader at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service. All most welcome.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 11th March

Service 11am, Ormidale Pavilion

Tea and coffee after the service

Wednesday at 7.30pm

Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.

Telephone 600222

Everyone warmly invited

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 11th March

Sunday Mass 11am

DEATHS

NOTEMAN: Janet (Shona)

Peacefully after a short illness at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Friday, 2nd March 2018. Shona, aged 83 years, beloved wife of the late Joseph, much loved aunt of the family and a dear friend of Teresa. Funeral service at Lamlash Church on Tuesday, 13th March at 11:30 am and thereafter to Brodick New Cemetery to which all are welcome. Family flowers only please donations if desired to Isle of Arran Hospital Supporters League.

HAMILTON: Peacefully on

Sunday, 4th March 2018 aged 87 years. Betty, beloved wife of the late David, dear mother and grandmother of the family. The funeral will take place at Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church on Friday, 16th March at 11:30am and thereafter to Lamlash Cemetery.

SCOTT: Sadly on 24th February,

Paul Scott passed away at Arran War Memorial Hospital. The funeral service will be on Monday 12th March at Whiting Bay Church and thereafter at Lamlash Cemetery.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Brodick end Lamlash grip to lift AGA Duncan Trophy



Arran Golf Association
Sunday March 4, Duncan Trophy. The final round of this year's Duncan Trophy saw old foes Brodick and Lamlash tied at the top of the league, on six points a piece and fighting it out for top spot. With the rest of the country covered in snow we were very lucky to be playing even though it was bitterly cold.

Brodick used home advantage to win over their great rivals with the games a lot closer than the final score suggested and the thawing out process taking longer than the game.

The result ends a three in a row win by Lamlash, and while one really wants the runners-up trophy, if anyone knows where it is we would be grateful for its return.

The results were: Brodick 4 Lamlash 0, Whiting Bay 3 Shiskine 1, Machine 2.5 Corrie 1.5.

The final league table: Brodick 8, Whiting Bay 6, Lamlash 6, Machrie 4, Shiskine 3, Corrie 2.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday March 4, Whiting Bay v Shiskine GC at Brodick.

The final round of this season's winter league campaign saw Whiting Bay play Shiskine.

A comprehensive Whiting Bay victory, coupled with a similar result for Brodick in their final match against Lamlash, would see WBGC secure the runners up shield. Well we got them both. Whiting Bay prevailed 3-1 against Shiskine while Brodick stormed to a 4-0 victory against Lamlash to secure the title and the Duncan Trophy.

Congratulations to Brodick on lifting the title and well done to the Whiting Bay team on recovering from a heavy fourth round defeat to secure second place. Thanks to all who



Victorious Brodick Golf Club members with the Duncan Trophy.

played and to those who made themselves available, and to Captain Wolfi for the teutonically efficient team selection and management. Well done all.

Fixtures: Sunday March 11, Winter Cup, one draw at 10am. Cards for games played outwith the draw to be handed in by 3pm.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday February 27, Winter Cup. 1 J Pennycott 76-11=65, BIH, 2 R Betley 90-25=65, 3 W Kelso 74-8=66. Saturday March 3, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 P Betley 33, BIH, 2 R Betley 33, 3 J Pennycott 32.

Fixture: Tuesday March 13, Winter Cup.

Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday March 4, AGA Winter League. Brodick beat Lamlash 4-0. So congratulations to Brodick Golf Club, winners of the 2017/2018 Winter League.

Fixtures: Sunday March

11, game with Whiting Bay, 10.30am. Thursday March 15, Yellow Medal, 11am. Sunday March 18, Glenburn Cup final day.

Brodick Golf Club

Many congratulations to the Brodick team on winning the 2017/18 Duncan Trophy.

Well done to all who

played in any of the five rounds. Fixture: Sunday March 11, Brandon Qualifier, 9am and noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Fixture: Saturday March 10, Eddie Rankin Memorial Trophy, open to all members of Corrie and Machrie Bay clubs, shotgun start at 1pm.



Arran Golf Association chairman Jock Kelso presents the Duncan Trophy to Brodick team captain Brian Smith (right) and runner up shield to Whiting Bay's Wolfi Kroner.

Big entry expected for Ultra Tour of Arran

As many as 500 runners are expected to take part in a two-day off-road running adventure which is to be held on Arran next month.

The event – dubbed the Ultra Tour of Arran (UTA) – will see the athletes descend on the island to scramble up peaks and race through forests, racking up 100km in 48 hours.

It is being held by Rat Race Adventure Sports, the UK's largest provider of adventure races, and will take place on Saturday April 14 and Sunday April 15. Half of the runners are from Scotland and the rest from elsewhere in the UK and beyond.

Day one of the fully way marked route will take participants through the villages of Brodick, Lamash, and Whiting Bay and feature quiet paths and forest trails. Day two steps up a gear and it is virtually all off-road, taking in some serious mountain sections including North Goatfell and Goatfell itself. Runners can choose from a one or two day option, with each leg covering 50km – around 31

miles a day and an overall vertical gain of 10,679 feet.

When signing up runners will have the option to take on the challenge of day one only or the full two-day 100km Ultra distance. There will be several scheduled pit stops interspersed on the route each day, for a quick rest and a refuel.

The UTA is suited to a range of athletes from elite to amateur sporting enthusiasts with a high level of fitness. It is an achievable step up from a marathon into ultra-running territory, for both solos and pairs, who have prepared well and put in the training miles.

As with all of their events, to ensure runners, their families and friends have the best weekend possible, Rat Race will operate from a central Basecamp for UTA, located in Brodick, just one kilometre from the island's ferry terminal. This hub will have all the quality trappings of a Rat Race event – good food and drink, great amenities, friendly and hospitable



Ross Brackley and Chiara Franzosi cross a bridge during their earlier recce on Arran.

staff and Saturday night entertainment. A complimentary shuttle service from the ferry, together with camping, fully-serviced glamping; and limited paid parking options will also be available.

Managing director of Rat Race Adventure Sports Jim Mee said: 'At Rat Race we do events differently which makes them all the more

appealing. And for The Ultra Tour of Arran, we love the notion of setting sail to a stunning location, 'over the water', where the myths, legends and island folklore fused with the rugged terrain will make runners feel that they are a million miles away, yet it is a mere 55 minutes from the mainland.

'We know everyone will love Arran, both Rat Racers and their clan support; and it's not just for the excellent running we have planned. The island itself has a lot to offer, with its own whisky distillery, brewery, craft gin, artisan cheese, aromatics, quality local food and drink, and that very special west coast hospitality.

The island's attractions will provide a magnificent long weekend for the family and friends who sign up for the Rat Race experience. We will also be helping supporters by pointing out the best safe and acces-

sible spectator locations on the route.'

Rat Race is partnered with Children With Cancer UK (<http://www.childrenwithcancer.org.uk>), the leading national children's charity dedicated to the fight against childhood cancer, in a pledge to fight the UK's biggest child killer.

Rat Racers have raised more than £1,000,000, across all Rat Race events, since the campaign began in 2015. If runners take part in the Ultra Tour of Arran 2018 and raise £750 through Virgin Money Giving for Children with Cancer UK before race day, Rat Race will return their entry fee.

Go to: <http://ratrace.com/uta/run-for-charity/>

All runners looking to tame the challenge of The Ultra Tour of Arran should head to the website for more information and to sign up: <http://ratrace.com/uta/>



The duo from the organisers recce the route at Lochranza.

Second ultra trail event will be held in June

A second ultra trail event is to take place later in the year. Find Your Adrenaline is hosting the Ultra Trail Scotland which will take place on June 16 after it was postponed last October. The event will include two race options: an ultra marathon and a 25km race.

Ultra marathon will start in the

early morning of June 16 and the race will be held over a gruelling 71km course with over 5,000m overall ascent, taking in some of the most beautiful and challenging ridgelines in Scotland.

Please note that registration for the main ultra marathon race requires appropriate prior ultra race

experience and entries will be vetted to ensure all athletes have this appropriate experience.

The 25km race has been dubbed the 'Tarsuinn Trail'. A classic loop taking in some of the main ridgelines and traverses on Arran. The 25km with 2,000m+ will take place during the early afternoon on

Saturday June 16 and will include some of the same technical elements of the main ultra race.

This is a Scottish Athletics Licensed Event, and held under UK Athletics rules. Additional details on the event, logistics and accommodation options are available via ultra-trails-scotland.com

Last home game for hockey ladies

The Arran Ladies will be playing their last home game of the hockey season at the Ormidale astroturf today (Saturday).

The team face a tough match against Uddingston Clinetix Ladies 2s who are currently sitting at the top of division three of West District women's hockey league.

The penultimate and final games of the season will be an away game against Stepps Ladies 2s on Saturday March 17, and the season finale, another away game against GHK Ladies 3s on Sunday March 25.

Arran Ladies who are currently sitting in fourth place in the league with 29 points are only one point behind GHK Ladies 3s with the remainder of the table separated by only single points.

Supporters, friends and family and those with an interest in hockey are encouraged to come along and support the team. The game has a 2pm passback.

Arran Bridge Club results

The Arran Bridge Club held an aggregate competition at Brodick on Thursday March 1. The results were: N/S 1. Jan and John Beattie, 2. Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3. Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan. E/W

1. Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2. Brenda Livingstone and Margaret MacGill, 3. Jean Barclay and Elizabeth McKellar.

The results of the aggregate competition at Lamash on Monday March 5 were: N/S 1. John and Jan Beattie, 2. John Baraclough and Jim Peacock, 3. Tricia Martin and David Campbell. E/W 1. Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson, 2. Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure, 3. Jennifer McArthur and Jean Barclay.

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SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Big entry expected for Ultra Tour of Arran

Julia takes on run challenge for mum

Mother's Day will be particularly poignant for Julia Harrison on Sunday as she prepares to run a half-marathon in memory of her late mum.

The teacher from Arran, who lost her mum through bowel cancer, is raising money for the charity and, in a personal victory, has also lost five stone while in training.

It was a devastating blow when Julia Harrison lost her mum to cancer. She was just 20 and her mum was only 54.

Ten years on, Julia will be pounding the streets of the London Landmarks half-marathon on March 25 with her mum's memory very much alive. She will also be raising money for the charity Bowel and Cancer Research.

The English teacher at Arran High School took up running a year ago because thought it might be a good way of losing a few pounds.

'I was watching some friends taking part in the Goatfell race. I'd never been a runner but I thought, if they can run up a mountain, surely I should be able to run for 20 minutes,' said Julia.

'I started by going from the couch to 5k - then I got addicted to pushing myself, and the distances got longer. At the same time, I lost five stone. A half-marathon just seemed to occur. I thought it would be good to run for a charity that would have meant something to my mum.

'Anyone who knows me will also know that my running journey has only started recently, and to run 13.1

miles is a huge challenge - but it's one I'm determined to achieve. It won't be pretty or quick, but I'm really excited.'

Julia's big challenge is a new half-marathon taking runners from Pall Mall through the City via St Paul's Cathedral, Trafalgar Square, the Gherkin, the Shard, the Tower of London and the London Eye.

On the day, friends will be there to cheer her on while her dad Doug is in Arran, looking after her running mate, her yellow Labrador Hayley.

Julia said: 'She's a great companion. She just runs at my side and keeps me going. The only trouble is that she's faster than me.'

As for her lovely mum, Angela: 'She'd be really shocked but pleased - about my weight and about the running.

'Her illness was my first experience of bowel cancer, and I realised how very little I knew about it before, despite it being an incredibly common cancer in the UK.

'I now know that weight is a contributory factor to bowel disease so my running has meant good news all round,' Julia added.

Chief executive of Bowel and Cancer Research Deborah Gilbert thanked Julia for her support. 'Our mission to ensure that no one should die of bowel cancer in future and we can only do that with the support of wonderful fundraisers like Julia.'

Anyone who wants to support Julia can do so at <https://www.bowelcancerresearch.org/fundraisers/jkh>



Julia, pictured with her dog, Hayley, will run the London Landmarks half-marathon to raise money for bowel cancer research.

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The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd), www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2015 for combined print and digital editions was 3,053.