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New distillery to be built on south coast

'All going well, work could start on site in September with a view to the distillery being ready to open by mid to the end of 2018'

A new distillery is to be built on Arran. Plans have been confirmed by Isle of Arran Distillers Ltd that a second site is being proposed for Lagg.

The distillery, at the south end of the island, will produce a peated Scotch malt whisky in keeping with the traditional stills of the 18th and 19th century.

The news is a major boost to the island economy and comes exactly 21 years since the first distillery was set up on the island in Lochranza.

And in buoyant times for the firm, the news comes just weeks after *The Banner* revealed that production was to be doubled there, with the installation of two new stills.

A public information day on the new distillery will be held later this month, when full information about the proposal will be made available.

The distillery, which will initially have two copper stills, will also have its own visitor centre in a single building with spectacular views over Cleat's Shore and Ailsa Craig. The

EXCLUSIVE REPORT
by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

site will also have three new bonded warehouses.

The distillers have already had pre-planning application talks with North Ayrshire Council for the land west of Clachaig Farm, Kilmory, and propose to make an application by May. All going well, work could start on site in September with a view to the distillery being ready to open in the third or fourth quarter of 2018.

This week, Arran Distillers managing director Euan Mitchell confirmed the plans to *The Banner*.

He said: 'These are exciting plans for a new distillery producing a peated malt Scotch whisky in the south of the island. Production would be on a similar scale to Lochranza. Initially there will be two stills, hopefully building up to four in time.'

Mr Mitchell said that while the distillery would only

produce whisky in the first instance, other spirits would be considered in the future.

He added: 'We believe a new distillery will present new opportunities and new markets for our products, as well as add to the many attractions Arran has to offer, encouraging more tourists to visit the island.'

The public information event will be held at Kilmory Hall on Tuesday March 22 between 11am and 7pm.

Meanwhile, as the Lochranza distillery celebrates its 21st birthday, Arran Malt has reached maturity, with the first bottling of the year being the 18-year-old single malt.

A limited run of 9,000 bottles were produced last year which rapidly sold out and which has led to a very high demand for this year's run.

Master distiller James MacTaggart said: 'This is a very special bottling for us. As the most mature expression of the Arran Malt, it represents the very best of the distillery in this our 21st year.'



Helicopter rescue after Goatfell plunge

The Coastguard helicopter is guided in to land by a beacon on the beach in the shadow of Goatfell. 01_B11fall01

A 50-year-old woman had a miraculous escape after falling more than 400ft when she slipped and fell near the summit of Goatfell on Monday afternoon.

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team was called out after the emergency services were alerted by one of her friends. It was feared the woman may have fallen as far as 492ft (150m) sustaining various injuries.

The new coastguard search and rescue helicopter, Rescue 999, was scrambled from

HMS Gannet and winched the casualty off the hill. The woman was flown to Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock where she was treated for her injuries before being discharged the same night. The rest of her five-strong party were walked down off the hills by mountain rescue team members.

A spokeswoman for the AMRT said: 'Our hills are still very much in winter conditions and we advise anyone venturing to them to have an axe and crampons and adequate winter gear.'



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Protest at closure of hearing and support service on Arran

Supporters of Action on Hearing Loss, Scotland's Hear to Help service, held a protest in Brodick on Wednesday to highlight how the impending closure of the service on Arran will impact on the 150 islanders who are supported by the charity's volunteers.

Hear to Help, which provides free community-based and home support for 2,000 NHS hearing aid users across Ayrshire and Arran, is set to close at the end of March.

The protest was organised to stress to decision-makers in North Ayrshire the impact that the closure will have on the everyday lives of hundreds of people who have hearing loss. For people on Arran that will mean a round trip of up to seven hours for basic hearing aid maintenance at the audiology department in Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock.

There are an estimated 62,250 people with hearing loss across Ayrshire & Arran and the number is projected to increase by 50 per cent in the next 20 years. Ayrshire Local Integrated Sensory Services (ALISS), which included Action on Hearing Loss Scotland, submitted an evaluation report – which included details of the impact of Hear to Help service – to the Ayrshire Strategic Alliance, a group of senior executive

directors from the three Ayrshire Councils and NHS Ayrshire and Arran in April last year. The charity is very disappointed to be still awaiting a response.

Ayrshire & Arran Hear to Help was launched with two years of Scottish Government 'pump prime' funding and Action on Hearing Loss Scotland has managed to keep the service running with its own charitable funding since April 2015. Although the charity strongly thinks that it should be, Hear to Help isn't currently funded by NHS Ayrshire & Arran, North Ayrshire Council or North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (NAHSCP) Integrated Joint Board. The charity needs £17,000 to keep Hear to Help running on Arran and across North Ayrshire for 12 months.

Delia Henry, director of Action on Hearing Loss Scotland, said: 'Our service users on Arran – many of whom are elderly and have mobility difficulties – will be absolutely devastated and face a long, frustrating journey to the mainland for often quite basic hearing aid support when Hear to Help closes. Unfortunately, 10 months on from submitting our service evaluation to the Ayrshire Strategic Alliance, we have yet to even be given a date when they will consider the report.'

'We are very concerned about how the integration board can possibly make an informed decision about funding Hear to Help, if they don't have the opportunity to scrutinise details of the service's impact.'

'Time is running out for decision-makers in North Ayrshire to ensure that Hear to Help can continue running and reduce the real risk of isolation being faced by people with hearing loss across Arran.'

The charity is asking supporters to contact their councillors and MSP to seek their backing for the Save Hear to Help campaign.

For more information about Ayrshire & Arran Hear to Help, visit www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/hearto-helpSCO



Protestors gathered on the seafront to campaign against the closure of Hear to Help. 01_B11hearing01

Attendance encouraged at Arran cabinet meeting

The main decision-making body within North Ayrshire Council will be on Arran next week when the cabinet will meet in Lamlash council offices on Tuesday, March 15 from 2pm to discuss and make recommendations on a number of topics.

The first item on the agenda will have significant interest to people on Arran when the proposals for locality partnerships will be discussed. If approved by the councillors, six partnerships, including one in Arran, will be established in April.

Locality partnerships have already been the subject of extensive consultation, including public meetings on Arran.

Specific needs

They aim to bring together representatives of the community, community council's and public agencies to coordinate and target resources towards the specific needs of individual localities.

They recognise that delivering better outcomes for local people requires increased participation in local decisions, taking account of the needs, aspirations

and skills of local communities. Other items on the agenda include community benefits from wind farms, vacant and derelict land funding, the road maintenance programme for 2016/17 and the awarding of the contract for the council's debt collection service.

Speaking ahead of Tuesday's meeting, council leader and cabinet chairperson Willie Gibson said: 'Cabinet meetings are hugely informative and provide the public with the chance to hear from officers and councillors on key issues affecting their communities.'

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The Douglas bids for hotel award

The Douglas Hotel in Brodick will fly the flag for Ayrshire and Arran at Scottish tourism's equivalent of the Oscars later this month.

The four-star hotel will compete with tourism businesses from around Scotland in the Most Hospitable Hotel category at the national final of the Scottish Thistle Awards. Led by a panel of industry experts, the Scottish Thistle Awards celebrate tourism businesses or individuals across the country who have gone the extra mile to offer an outstanding visitor experience.

Hotel marketing manager Elaine Campbell said: 'We are all really thrilled to have won a regional Thistle Award for the Most Hospitable Hotel. All of the team work so hard and we do try to add an extra wee sparkle to our visitor's experience. If we were to come home with a National Award later this month we'd be fit to burst, but to be honest to even be in the running is tremendous.'

Scottish comedian Fred MacAulay will announce this year's winners during a glittering ceremony at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre on Friday, March 18.

Stephen Carter OBE, chairman of the awards industry panel said: 'I'm thrilled that Fred will be joining us at the Scottish Thistle Awards to celebrate the stars of Scottish tourism, including The Douglas Hotel.'

'Tourism is at the heart of the visitor economy in Ayrshire & Arran, generating economic success and growth opportunities by showcasing the very best of what the region has to offer. It is therefore only right that we take the time to recognise those who continue to go that extra mile for visitors.'

Bids submitted in fight for ferry contract

Both companies confident their bids will be successful

The two ferry companies vying for the £1 billion Clyde & Hebrides Ferry Services (CHFS) contract have both submitted their final bids to the Scottish Government.

Current operator CalMac Ferries Ltd is facing opposition from Serco Caledonian Ferries to operate the 26 services, including the two Arran routes, and ministers are expected to make a decision before the end of May.

CalMac managing director Martin Dorchester said he was confident their bid would make them the clear winner when a decision was made.

He said: 'I believe the bid we submitted last week is an outstanding piece of work and makes a compelling case for CalMac to win this hugely important contract. I'm confident we will be the clear winner when a decision is reached in May and, if so, I'm determined that we'll deliver our best service levels yet.'

'We're very proud of CalMac's rich heritage, but I'm even prouder of the internationally-recognised, customer-focused, ambitious, multi-award-winning company we've become. Across the network our staff and crews work tirelessly to provide an efficient, reliable, and modern service to the individuals and communities who depend upon us every day.'

'CalMac will always put the lifeline ferry services and the needs of the remote com-

munities we serve above any commercial concerns. Operating on the West Coast is our principal reason to exist. Nobody knows these routes better than us and providing 130,000 sailings a year in some of the most challenging waters in Europe is impressive by any standards. I believe that our vast knowledge and experience of these routes makes CalMac the best qualified and the only credible operator of them now and in the future.'

Equally confident

But Serco is equally confident that its transport expertise and communities-based approach to service delivery will make the quality of its bid stand out.

Commenting on the submission, Serco bid director Jonathan Riley said: 'After two years of eating, sleeping and breathing CHFS, I am delighted to confirm that we have submitted our communities-led ferries proposal.'

'My team have put their hearts and souls into this. I have worked in the UK transport industry for over 30 years, but I have to admit that I was humbled by the knowledge and passion from

the people who rely on these lifeline services. My team spent a great deal of time on hundreds of visits to the islands, sitting down and talking to people, and it was these conversations that inspired a great deal of our proposal. They know what they need, and it's up to us, the transport experts to collaborate and deliver a better service plan. So that's what we have done.'

'I am confident that our proposal will improve the services for the people.'

• Dugdale calls to keep ferry services in public hands. See page 10.



Bidding is under way in the packed Shiskine Hall.

01_B11auction02

Fundraising auction raises hall cash

There was a packed hall for the annual Shiskine Hall fundraising auction last Saturday.

With around 150 lots up for grabs, there was some fierce bidding during the afternoon with other lots going for a song, all under the hammer of auctioneer Sheila Gilmore.

The auction raised a terrific £1,064 for hall funds, with a £200 donation from the Kinloch Hotel's Mackerel Lottery, making the grand total £1,264 raised.



Sheila conducts the auction as the bidders are shown what is on offer. 01B11auction04

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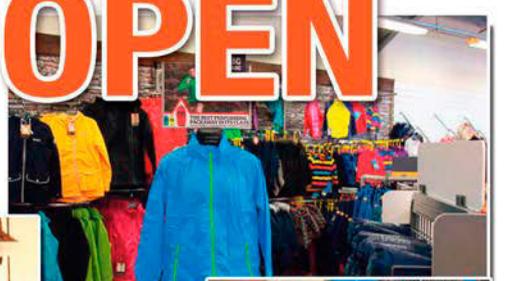
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Lifeboat station on the lookout for volunteers

Arran lifeboat station is recruiting for seagoing and shore-based roles.

To this end, the RNLI will be holding a recruitment day on Sunday March 20 from 11am to 3pm at Lamlash Pier.

Volunteers are one of the RNLI's most valuable assets, giving the charity not only time and support, but access to a huge range of skills and talents that would be beyond its reach in any other way.

Without all their volunteers the RNLI simply would not be able to operate the way it does today. The RNLI has over 42,000 volunteers, per-

forming over 200 different roles within the organisation.

On Arran, all the lifeboat crew of the *Rachel Hedderwick* are volunteers. As well as looking for new volunteer lifeboat and shore crew, the charity also needs a community safety officer, fundraisers, shop volunteers, event assistants, collectors and team members.

Volunteer press officer Amanda Hogge said: 'Our volunteers are special people who want to make a difference. Just like RNLI lifeboat crew, all our volunteers are ordinary people doing an ex-

traordinary thing – giving something back to their community for free.

'At the heart of our volunteer ethos is the RNLI volunteer commitment, which is a statement of the hopes and expectations between the RNLI and its volunteers. This commitment applies equally to our lifeboat crews, lifeguards, fundraising, communications and shop volunteers.

'Everyone volunteers for their own reasons, whether it be loyalty to the charity, time

on their hands, a chance to meet new people, a personal challenge, a need to make a difference or to put their valuable skills to good use.

'No matter what your interest or experience you have, we have something for you and anyone interested in volunteering to help Arran lifeboat will be very welcome.

'If you want to be involved with the RNLI then you should try your very best to make it happen. Being part of the organisation in any way is a unique opportunity. If this

is for you or to find out more, pop along to meet our current volunteers who will be available between 11am and 3pm to discuss more about the roles.

'Even if you feel this is not for you, we hope that you will still support Arran Lifeboat Station and the RNLI in some way, perhaps even visiting us at one of our open days in the future.'

To find out more or to keep up to date with the latest news visit the Arran lifeboat station pages on Twitter or Facebook.



The Arran RNLI inshore lifeboat, *Rachel Hedderwick*, is put through its paces in Lamlash Bay.

Photo RNLI/Arran lifeboat station.

Tony drops in on early years class

Arran-based author Tony Black recently visited the afternoon session children of Lamlash Early Years Class. The children had written and illustrated their own story about a boy who went to space, the things he needed to take for his mission and what he saw on his visit.

Senior early years practitioner Heidi Macfarlane said: 'Tony's son attends the early years class and as we like to involve parents in our service in anyway, we thought that he fitted the bill perfectly.

'Tony thought our story was rather good but promised he wouldn't breach copyright and pinch any of our ideas!'

Tony gifted *The Gruffalo in Scots* and *The Gruffalo's Wean* to the children of that session, which he read in perfect Scots dialect.



Tony Black reading a story to the early years class.

Arran Bridge Club results

The latest results from the Arran Bridge Club are as follows: Aggregate Competition at Brodick on Thursday, March 3.

N/S 1 Linda Trickett and Anne McKelvie, 2 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 3 Irene and Craig McMillan. E/W 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Margaret McGill and Jean Barclay, 3 Jennifer McArthur and Ellie Jones.

Match Points round 6 at Lamlash on Monday, March 7. 1 David Campbell and Tricia Martin, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 3= Brenda Livingstone and Morag Gardner 3= Jan and John Beattie.

In last week's matches the results were as follows: The Boyd Trophy (round 5) at Brodick on Thursday, February 25. 1 John and Jan Beattie, 2 David and Fiona Henderson, 3 Douglas and Margaret Bruce.

Aggregate competition at Lamlash on Monday, February 29. N/S 1 Morag Gardner and Brenda Livingstone, 2 Douglas and Margaret Bruce. 3 Margaret McGill and Elizabeth McKellar. E/W 1 Jean Barclay and Jennifer McArthur. 2 Tricia Martin & David Campbell, 3 Jan and John Beattie.

Time running out for entries

Entrants for an engineering competition, first announced in *The Banner* in December, have just one week left to enter their design for the contest which has a top prize of £500.

The competition is open to school children up to the age of 16, and the challenge is to design and build a cantilever support that is able to support a three kilogram weight.

It is being run by retired engineer Rory Cowan who can be contacted on 820603 for further details. Judging takes place at the Kildonan Village hall next Saturday, March 19, at 2pm.



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Warm reception for Cold Water delegates

Corrie Film Club to show *Girlhood*

This weekend, Corrie Film Club is showing one of the best coming-of-age films of recent years, *Girlhood* (Cert 15), directed by French director, Celine Sciamma.

Oppressed by her family setting, dead-end school prospects and the dominating 'boys law' in the neighbourhood, Marieme starts a new life after meeting a group of free-spirited girls. She changes her name, her style and leaves school in order to be accepted in the gang, hoping that this will be a way to freedom. As she falls further under the gang's influence, however, she begins to make foolish choices that could impact on her life forever.

Girlhood, winner of the Lux Prize at the Venice Film Festival, is an authentic portrayal of the undoubted complexities of adolescent life.

See this film tomorrow (Sunday) in Corrie and Sannox Hall at 8pm. All welcome.

Free to non-members but a small donation to hall funds is always appreciated.

Missing cat

The public are being asked to keep a look out for a tabby cat with a white bib and paws which went missing from the Cairnhouse Stables last Monday.

Answering to the name of Spizz the 10-year-old feline does not usually venture very far from home.

If you have seen Spizz, or have any information, please call Dawn on 07721 347756.

200 club winners

The winners of the February Lochranza and Catacol 200 club are as follows.

First prize went to Nigel Wells and the second prize was won by Andrew Allison.

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An international conference, which is set to generate more than £180,000 for the Arran economy later this month, is again receiving support from VisitScotland's Conference Bid Fund.

Following a successful inaugural year in 2015, The Cold Water Islands Tourism Conference (CWIT) is returning to the island, with around 150 tourism professionals from around the world expected to attend.

Tying in with the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design, the speakers include architects, artists, tourism experts, environmentalists and academics from across Europe and Scandinavia.

The conference aims to promote, celebrate and help develop tourism on small cold water island destinations around the world. Over the course of the conference, delegates will also enjoy a visit to the Isle of Arran Distillery and guided tours of the island.

Among the keynote speakers at the event, which takes place at Lamlash Community Theatre from March 14 to 16, are Claus Rex, tourism officer for Dragor in Denmark, Trine

Kanter Zerwekh, who is responsible for the promotion of the national tourist routes in Norway; Lars Olsen, former chief executive of the Knowledge Centre of Coastal Tourism in Denmark; and Zrinka Badurina, from the tourist board of Mali Lošinj in Croatia.

Delegates will find out more about the legacy of CWIT2015 from Sheila Gilmore, executive director of VisitArran, while other local speakers include Jacqui Gale, chief executive of Arran Aromatics, Manuela de los Rios from COAST and local MSP Kenneth Gibson.

Delighted

Rory Archibald, business development manager at VisitScotland, said: 'We are delighted to help bring the Cold Water Islands Tourism Conference back to Arran through the VisitScotland Conference Bid Fund. The fund has boosted the Scottish economy by more than £200 million, supporting business events taking place throughout the country up to the year 2022. I'm sure this year's event will be another great success as delegates

share their expertise and experience of marketing cold water destinations, while also enjoying the stunning beauty of Arran.'

Sheila Gilmore added: 'VisitArran is delighted to be welcoming back CWIT for a second year. Last year's event offered such a great opportunity for all involved and we shall be reflecting on this at the conference. The calibre of the speakers is once again excellent, and we are delighted to be welcoming back the enigmatic Julian Jenkins, who will be co-hosting. This highlights Arran's success as a business tourism venue. None of this would be possible without the support from VisitScotland and our other sponsors.'

The event is also supported by North Ayrshire Council, CalMac, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and VisitArran.

There is still time to register for the conference. For more details, go to www.cwit2016.com



Alzheimer Scotland fundraisers Nicole Bunyan, right, and Sheila Gilmore. 01_B11charity01

Zipslide to raise charity cash

Mum of two Nicole Bunyan from Lamlash is planning to zipslide across the Clyde to raise money for Alzheimer Scotland. She will be joined on the slide in Glasgow by Sheila Gilmore, who will also be raising money for the charity, which is close to both their hearts. The event is on Saturday April 2, which is also Sheila's birthday.

Nicole has already raised £90 towards her £400 target on her JustGiving page, which is open for donations. She is planning to run the Great Northern Run half marathon in September and is also hoping to take on a skydive.

Sheila, who also has a JustGiving page, is also taking part in a Great Wall of China Trek to raise money for the charity, but has postponed this until April next year.

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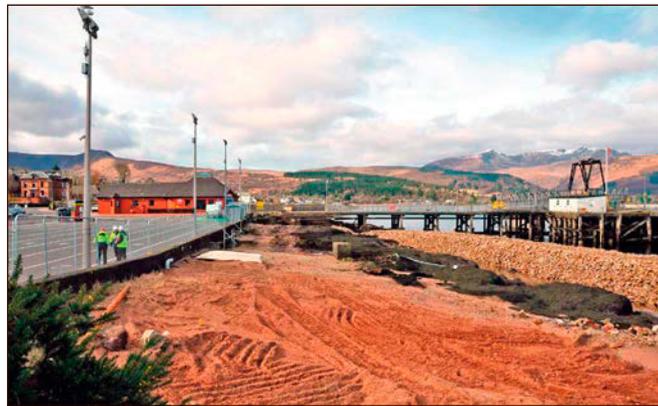


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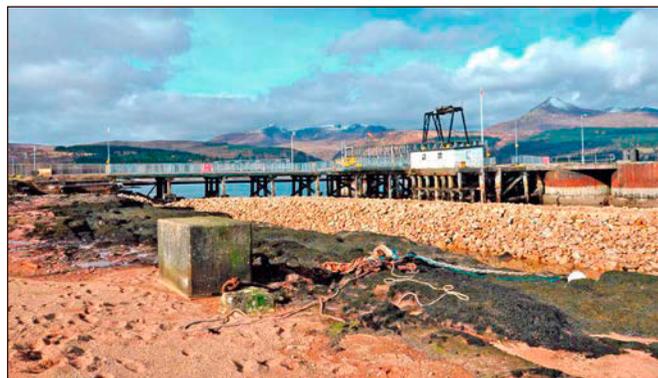
Local rock helps reclaim Brodick Bay as new pier begins to take shape



Holding back the sea. Land has been reclaimed beside the present car marshalling yard. 01_B11pier10



The rock core barrier is protected by the secondary armour as the new pier takes shape. 01_B11pier02



An underwater anchor point for the ferry now sits on dry land. 01_B11pier12

Major reclamation work is well under way which will be the bedrock of the new £22.2 million Brodick Ferry Terminal.

Contractor George Leslie Ltd has been hard at work on site for two months and the infrastructure for the new pier is beginning to take shape.

The Banner was this week invited on a tour of the site to see first hand how the work is progressing on the terminal and pier, which should be ready for its first passengers by June next year.

The first big task has involved the creation of a rock core barrier to reclaim land for the new pier, terminal building, car marshalling area and bus terminus. This will be protected by a secondary armour of larger rocks and all of this stone is from quarries on Arran. Only the primary armour rock, not available on the island, will be imported

SPECIAL REPORT
by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

from the mainland.

The pier is being built for Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) in five phases, and work on phase one will be complete in four or five weeks, with work on the foundations for the terminal building also starting within weeks. Piling work is also under way.

Phase two will see one of the few major changes for ferry passengers during the construction work, with the present car marshalling yard closed and transferred to a bigger temporary marshalling yard on the other side of the linkspan. The temporary yard will be in use until the end of phase four, which will be around Christmas, by which time the new linkspan, pier and fixed-ramp second berth

will stretch far out into Brodick Bay.

Early next year will see construction of the raised walkway, which is not part of the present contract, with the pier expected to be operational by June 2017, with the official completion date of July, when George Leslie Ltd will leave the site.

Director Neil Doherty said: 'At the height of the construction in early summer, we will have 50 to 60 workers on site. We already have a handful of local employees and we are keen to increase this number and use as many local tradesmen as we can who can provide the services we require.'

'We are very experienced at working on islands around Scotland and we always like to think we are not just delivering a final product, but contributing to the economy during the construction work.'



A JCB digger working on site. 01_B11pier16



The site of what will soon be the temporary car marshalling yard. 01_B11pier16

Scottish Field
THE HEALING HILLS
10 The coziest Scots dishes

APRIL ISSUE
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The Cornish artist who has captured the essence of Arran

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Tom Ballard on life in the Great Glen
Laurence Elephant: A toon for all seasons

www.scottishfield.co.uk



A pile of Arran sandstone rock which will be used for secondary armour. 01_B11pier05



Divers help lay the geotextile material being used in the foundations. 01_B11pier07



The yellow post in the foreground marks the cornerstone of the new ferry terminal building. 01_B11pier11



The core rock barrier can clearly be seen with a barge sitting where the pier will eventually extend from. 01_B11pier14

The temporary piling rods were filled with earth to stop otters making their homes in them. 01_B11pier06

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Danger on the hills

Another week, another rescue for the Arran Mountain Rescue Team, which at least had a happy ending. For someone to have fallen more than 400ft and be discharged from hospital the same day is truly remarkable.

But if there are to be any lessons learned from what seems to be rapidly becoming a more frequent occurrence, it is to never underestimate the mountains – they are unforgiving to the unprepared – and to know the limit of your own abilities.

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team has had a record number of call-outs this winter, but whether that is more people on the hills, or more carelessness, is open to question.

Goatfell, like many mountain ranges across the world, has a habit of catching people unaware. Even those with years of experience can find themselves in conditions that can change in a matter of minutes, with a gentle walk along a mountain path suddenly turning into a precarious climb over slippery and jagged rock faces, with precipitous falls and reduced visibility compounding these dangers.

At only 2,866ft (874m) high, it is easy to underestimate the challenges of Goatfell. The well-maintained paths can provide spectacular views of the dramatic jagged summits and ridges and by sticking to them you can be afforded the safety of knowing that you are not venturing into danger. Having the correct equipment to survive and adapt to the volatile weather will also stand you in good stead if you suddenly find yourself in unfamiliar and treacherous conditions, which is useful to keep in mind before even attempting a mountain adventure. Wearing crampons and having an axe and adequate winter gear is a prerequisite for mountain climbing at this time of the year, when the mountain peaks are covered in snow and icy conditions are more extreme at high altitudes than it appears from below.

Finally, on the subject of rescues, a great appreciation must go to the fearless mountain rescue team and the other emergency services who risk life and limb to help others in danger.

But climbers and walkers must take responsibility to keep themselves safe on the hills at this time of year.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Come to Me and listen to My words; hear Me and you will have life.' (Isaiah 55:3)

press policy

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

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

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

your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



False economy

Sir,

As one who holidays on Arran each year, it was rather disturbing to read in the national press that all public toilets on Arran are to be closed. Closures, I am sure the locals will be very much opposed to considering tourism is the mainstay of the island's economy and such action is sending a very negative message to visitors.

This is also in stark contrast to a recent statement issued on February 9 by Ayrshire and Arran Tourism, introducing changes from April 1, allowing individual Ayrshire Councils (East, North and South) to support local projects and tourism initiatives that have the biggest impact in their individual area. Closing public toilets will have a massive impact on locals, visitors and the local economy.

The statement goes on, 'by doing this, we can make the best possible use of the resources available to ensure Ayrshire and Arran is the destination of choice for local, national and international visitors'. Sentiments anyone who has visited this beautiful part of Scotland would agree. Yet the island's public toilets are to go on sale for £1, indicating the sentiments by Ayrshire & Arran Tourism are clearly being flushed away and are contradicting this statement.

Leaving no access for the visitor to the most basic of human requirement begs the question: Does hygiene on Arran come into this scenario?

More and more local authorities are going down the road of public toilet closure to save the pennies. However, this is a false economy as health experts have warned. Such policies by local authorities are leaving people prisoners, isolated and lonely in their own homes, unable to go out with any ease or assurance, a growing issue for our ageing population and especially on an island where there is a large retirement population.

But what about those with

health issues which require spending a penny frequently, are they being isolated and discriminated against, are we taking away their basic rights? What kind of holiday destination are North Ayrshire promoting for Arran with this action? And what kind of society are we creating when we can't even provide the most basic of human requirement?

Yours,

**Catriona C Clark
Banknock
Falkirk**

Motorcycle show

Sir,

Following on from the success of last summer's Classic Motorcycle Show at the Arran Heritage Museum, the organising committee is already working on plans for this year's event, which will take place at the museum on Sunday June 26. The show is now in its fourth year and attracts a large attendance of both locals and visitors to the island.

Many of the bikes on display come from the mainland, but we know that there are many classic and other interesting bikes on the island and it would be great if their owners could bring them along to the show this year. The bikes don't have to be in perfect, shiny condition. Bikes which are showing their age with some rust and bruises or are maybe in the process of being restored can be just as interesting as gleaming show-pieces.

We have included some classic cars and other vehicles in previous shows and it would be good if we could have some more this year. As with the bikes, they don't have to be in show condition, so long as they would be of interest to visitors to the show.

We know that there's plenty of interesting old bikes and other vehicles in sheds, barns, garages, gardens or even fields all over the island. Here's a chance to let folks see them and appreciate Arran's wonderful transport heritage!

If you've got a motorbike or

other vehicle you think would be of interest, or know someone who has, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact any of the organisers to let us know. Our email addresses are as follows: Ian Leitch: ian.leitch@btopenworld.com Ronnie Logan: ronald.logan1@ntl-world.com or Lenny Hartley: liquidlenny@hotmail.com

We can also be contacted via our Facebook page Arran Classic Motorcycle Show or by speaking to us directly. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours,

**Ronnie Logan
Cliff Cottage
Corrie**

Other options

Sir,

Given that Machrie will not be getting BT fibre broadband at all in the foreseeable future and some parts of Shiskine will be too far away from the green cabinets to gain any significant benefit, ConnectArran have been working hard investigating other options for Machrie and Shiskine telephone exchange areas, and a company called Broadway Partners www.broadwaypartners.co.uk will be hosting a public meeting on Wednesday March 23 at 6.30pm in Machrie Hall as an alternative broadband supplier.

Details about the company, the technical and cost details of the proposed broadband service will be provided at the meeting. In summary the internet connection will come via a combination of fibre and 'white space' - like TV signals, offering broadband speeds from 15Mbps to more than 50Mbps. There will be two transmitters to cover the whole of the Shiskine valley and Machrie. The monthly tariff is expected to be comparable to BT at about £25-30/month (including phone line tariff) with no upfront costs. Contracts will be for one year (renewable) but 'Pay as you go' is also potentially on offer, useful for holiday homes. The service could be up and running by end of June.

There will be ample opportunity at the meeting for questions. Please come along and find out what is available. Further information can be supplied by email and you can call David on 840267 or Neil on 860435.

Yours,

**David Price,
chair, Machrie
Improvements Committee
Neil Arthur, community
councillor for Shiskine
valley
Both members
ConnectArran
Steering Group**

Spectacular sight at Sannox

There were some spectacular displays of the Aurora Borealis across the UK at the start of the week, and reader Glenn Sloss sent this terrific photograph of the phenomenon on Arran, which was taken in the early hours of Monday morning at Sannox. He said: 'It was very bright but lots of cloud around blocked out some of it.'

Also known as the Northern Lights, the colourful displays occur when electrically charged particles from the sun enter the Earth's atmosphere.



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Work to covert old jetty on Holy Isle starts

Fundraising to convert the old stone jetty on Holy Isle into a meditation platform has successfully raised the £5,000 for its construction and work will now start next month.

As reported in *The Banner* last September, a collaboration between the Holy Isle Project, its parent company Samye Ling Buddhist Monastery and Re-Vitalise, a tai chi yoga and retreat company, will build a marine-grade timber platform that can be used for meditation, personal yoga or to simply sit and enjoy the views and to contemplate.

Denise Spragg of Re-vitalise, who has been holding retreats on Holy Island since 2006, thanked the volunteers, individuals and organisations that helped them turn their dream into a reality.

She said: 'Thanks to everyone's generosity and with support coming from over 90 individuals and organisations we have met and exceeded our target and we can now begin our work in the first week of April.'

A small team of 12 volunteers who have previously attended the Holy Isle retreat will start the building work on Sunday April 3 to April 10 and will be treated to tai chi and meditation to help relieve aching muscles.

Plans for the platform were drawn up by Ken Robertson and approved by structural engineer David Miller, both guests at the retreat who started the idea for the project. It is situated just outside the retreat centre and enjoys spectacular views over the bay towards Lamlash.

Green-fingered heroes sought

STIHL, the electrical garden machinery and hand tools company, has launched a competition to recognise and reward people who have helped regenerate and preserve their neighbourhoods. Nominations are open to anyone who has contributed to landscaping, gardening, clearing or cultivating within their community.

Robin Lennie, Managing Director at STIHL, said: 'We hope the public take the time to nominate these special people who take such pride in their communities.'

The winner will receive £2,500 of STIHL cordless products and six finalists will win prizes worth over £550. Visit www.stihl.co.uk/local-heroes. Entries close on Tuesday, May 31.

Round Arran relay ride to raise cash for charity

A round Arran relay horseriding event is being organised to raise money for a very special charity.

All the money raised during the three-day event will be donated to the Sports Driving Unlimited Charity set up by disability coach Amanda Saville, who died last month.

The event is being organised in memory of Amanda by her friend Janis Murchie and will involve a number of riders from the Arran Riding Club.

The event will take place on April 22 to 24 which is very fitting as Amanda's birthday would have been the April 24. It will take place on the main road round the island. Amanda ran the Chariots of Fire Carriage Driving centre in Boreland, near Lockerbie. Her inspiration and belief that anyone could, and even should push through their boundaries to a more exciting and fulfilled life led to the establishment of the Sports Driving Unlimited Charity and for eight years she led a team of coaches who trained disabled people to develop carriage driving skills with enormous life changing success. Sadly, Amanda lost her

three-year battle with a rare type of cancer last month.

Janis said: 'Amanda loved coming to Arran and her husband John and his family from Dalry supported the car rally for many years. Amanda came to Arran giving training clinics to the local riding club, to judge events, was guest of honour at the riding clubs annual dinner dance and brought her amazing stunt team the Chariots of Fire to the Arran Show to perform.'

Mentor

Amanda's professional achievements, in her too short life, include multiple national carriage driving champion, Coach of the World, National Carriage Driving, Sports coach of the year and mentor to many.

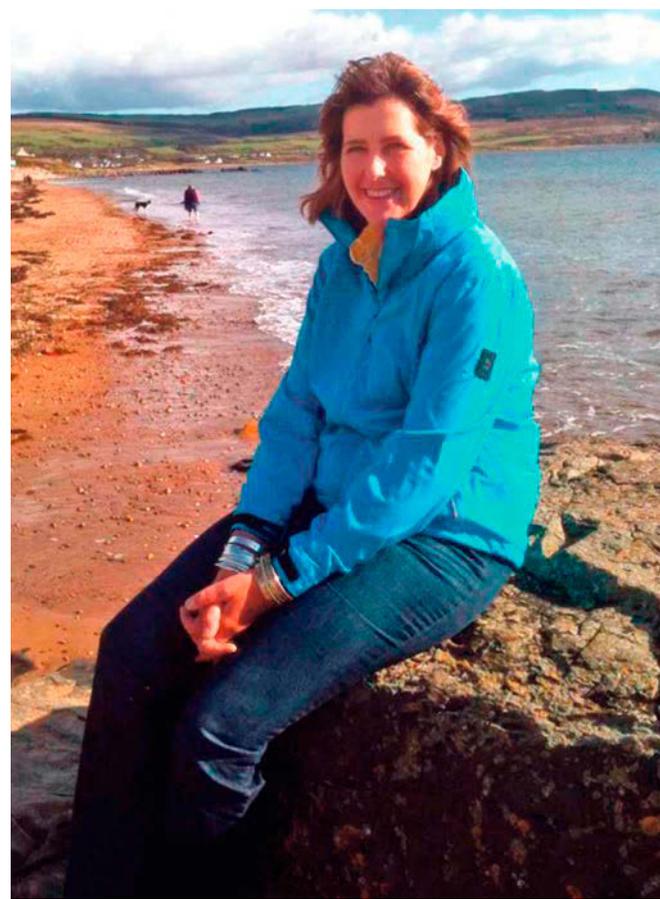
'Although Amanda is sadly no longer with us, one of her dearest wishes was for her work to continue in order to empower disabled people and those facing life's challenges. I not only worked and trained with Amanda but she was a very dear friend.'

'I visited Amanda a few weeks before she sadly passed away and made the decision then to do some-

thing to raise funds for this amazing charity but also to do something in memory of an inspirational lady who gave so much to others, even while going through treatment herself, she still competed in carriage driving events and teaching on a daily basis.'

As well as relay riding event, for which Janis said she had received 'fantastic support', there will also be a raffle and auction to raise money for the charity which has already been donated some great prizes.

These include a signed Scotland rugby top, a night's stay at the Galgorm Spa and Resort in Northern Ireland, lesson from showjumper Aileen Craig, Arran Aromatics products, a voucher from the Kildonan Hotel, a night's B&B for two people, and two carriage driving lessons at the Chariots of Fire Driving centre, a Weatherbeta cooler rug, two tickets to the Olympia Horse Show and many more.



Amanda, sitting at the seaside, loved Arran.



Amanda performs with her Chariots of Fire stunt team.



Amanda is all smiles teaching carriage driving skills.

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Dugdale calls to keep ferry services in public hands

Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale has attacked the SNP for failing to support the campaign to keep CalMac's Clyde and Hebrides ferry service in public hands. She also criticised SNP MSPs for their failure to sign a Scottish Labour motion organised by the RMT union,

whose members are employed by the ferry operator. Ms Dugdale made the comments during a visit to Arran last Friday when she met business leaders and toured a number of local businesses, including Arran Aromatics and the Isle of Arran Distillery. She was making her first

visit to the island and was joined by the North Ayrshire Labour candidate for the Holyrood elections in May, Johanna Baxter.

Speaking on the ferry issue Ms Dugdale said: 'We need a guarantee from the SNP Government that these vital services will remain in public hands. The ferry industry not only provides valuable jobs for people on the islands, they are a lifeline for local businesses bringing in goods and tourists.'

'CalMac doesn't just provide a ferry service they also engage with the local communities that they serve and that support for local events is worth thousands of pounds, money that would be at risk if the service was privatised.'

'Over the past two years they've also returned just under £4 million to Transport Scotland, which proves this is a profitable route.'

Ms Dugdale highlighted a report from the Fraser of Allander Institute which estimated that CalMac's support

for island tourism enabled 3,247 jobs, worth around £53.4 million in wages.

An economic impact study carried out by the RMT supported the claims that there was an economic benefit to the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Service staying in public hands.

Scottish Labour's Transport spokesperson David Stewart, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, has also exposed the SNP Government's failure to use European legislation which would prevent the need for the Clyde routes to be put out to tender.

Previous promises

The Scottish Labour leader added: 'Last November, the SNP voted against Labour's call to halt the CalMac privatisation process, despite previous promises they would not put the services out to tender.'

'Not one SNP MSP attended the briefing held by the RMT when they published their study in Parliament this week and not one SNP member has



Duncan Russell shows Kezia Dugdale (left) and Johanna Baxter how they make candles at Arran Aromatics.

signed Labour's motion. The SNP cannot pretend they are trying to save CalMac services when clearly they are not.

'It's not too late to act. The SNP Government could suspend the tender process while they investigate the European

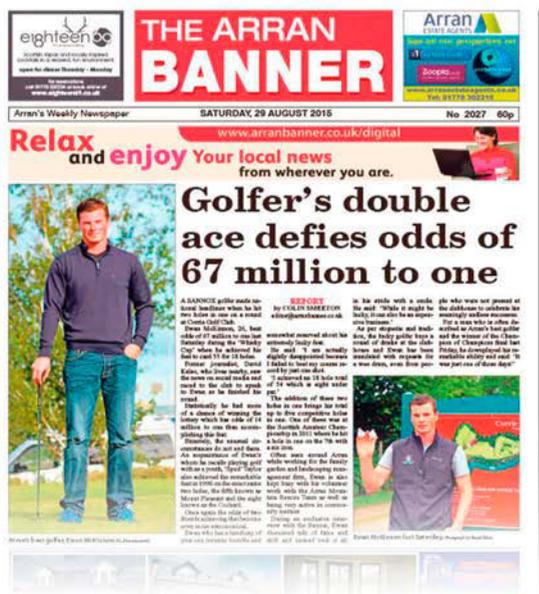
situation and they could guarantee the Clyde and Hebrides services will not be privatised.

'Those who live on Arran and the other islands deserve to know these vital services are safe.'



The Scottish Labour leader at the Isle of Arran Distillery.

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Arran's MSP welcomes rural home funding boost

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson has welcomed a new £25 million fund that will provide an estimated 500 new affordable homes in rural and island communities across Scotland.

The Rural Housing Fund will increase the housing supply over the next three years by assisting the building of new homes and refurbishing existing ones. The fund is open to a wide range of applicants, including long-established affordable housing providers, community-led

organisations and private landowners, enabling them to take a more active role in meeting the housing needs of their community.

Feasibility support

In addition to providing support towards housing capital costs, the fund will offer much-needed feasibility support to enable organisations to develop robust plans for their projects.

Mr Gibson said: 'I'm delighted that this new fund will enable an estimated 500 new homes to be built or re-

furbished in rural and island areas, including Arran. Good quality, affordable housing is essential to help attract and retain people in Scotland's rural and island communities.

'The SNP is committed to improving the lives of people in Arran and across Scotland by working to ensure homes are affordable, attractive, and warm. This is another step towards that goal.'

Further information on the Rural Housing Fund can be found at: <http://bit.ly/rural-housingfund>

Community awards available

Community projects in Arran being are invited to enter an awards programme which could see them share a funding boost of £75,000 to make a real difference in their local area.

Now in their fourth year, the Clydesdale Bank Spirit of the Community Awards 2016 is open for applications.

Clydesdale Bank will make donations to recognise and support community projects which are going the extra mile. Registered charities and not for profit organisations are invited to enter their projects into the awards scheme under one of three categories: projects which help people to have a healthy

relationship with money, projects which help people to improve their local environment and projects which help people into employment.

Selected

Five projects will be selected in each of the three categories and all 15 winners will be awarded £5,000 each.

For further information about the Clydesdale Bank Foundation's Spirit of the Community Awards or to enter, people can visit www.cbonline.co.uk/foundation.

The closing date for applications is Friday, April 8 and the winners will be announced during the summer.

George takes the helm for 180th Arran Farmers Show

Willie Robertson, chairman of the Arran Farmers' Society, welcomed members and friends to the annual meeting, which was held recently in the Kinloch Hotel.

He said that everyone had done their best at last year's show in the torrential down-pour, which was relentless all day long. He thanked all directors, members and volunteers who assisted not only on

the day itself, but also before and at the clear-up after the event. Also, the exhibitors for taking stock along and stance holders for turning out in such dreadful conditions.

It was with reluctance that the members accepted the resignation of their president, Lady Jean Fforde. Lady Jean became president in 1957 following the death of her mother Mary, Duchess of

Montrose – all-in-all for 59 shows! Mr George Tod, Balgowan, was proposed and seconded as president, which was a unanimous choice. Unfortunately George wasn't able to attend the meeting, but told secretary he was both honoured to have been asked, and delighted to accept. George holds the show very dear to his heart, and is the longest-showing member.

Despite the rain last year, Riders of the Storm performed magnificently in the main arena not just once, but twice – soaked to the skin, but still had a smile of their faces.

With this in mind the directors thought they deserved a second chance and are delighted that Kirsty McWilliam and her team will be storming down from Killecrankie to perform again with new routines and stunts, hopefully in the sunshine.

Judges confirmed for the show, which will be on Wednesday, August 3 are: Cattle – John Currie, Southhook, Kilmarnock. Horse Showing – Sheila Oaks, Creggan, Skipness. Working Hunters – Mugs Montgomerie, Titwood farm, Kilmaurs. Blackface/Leicester – Andy Woodburn Snr, Netherwood Farm, Cumnock. Texel/Suffolk/Other Breeds – Alan Campbell, Strawfrank Farm, Carstairs Junction. Dogs – Sheila Shearman, Murray Crescent, Lamdash. Sticks – George Mabon, Sorn, Mauchline. (Dog, Stick and Vintage Tractor classes are open to all.)

As ever, the society is running a grand prize draw once again to raise much-needed funds, and is very grateful to donors of prizes. This year prizes are courtesy of R & L Miller Ltd., Dalry, 2 x Best Western Kinloch Hotel, Island Meats, Mogabout, Hamilton Bros., Bishopton, Felicity's at Eden Lodge, and Arran Motors, not forgetting the 5 x £100 Cash Prizes donated by the Society itself. Tickets will be on sale soon, don't miss out.

If anyone would like to take a stance/advert, or would be willing to assist on the day please contact secretary, Christine on 820291.

Another date for the diary is the Dinner/Dance which will again be held at the Kinloch Hotel on Saturday, December 3, with music this year by Chris Traill.



George Tod with Princess Anne at the 175th anniversary show in 2011.



Lady Jean in 2011, the last year she presented the trophies.



Kirsty McWilliam of Riders of the Storm, who will be back this year.

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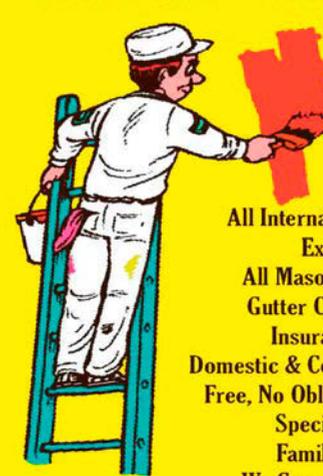
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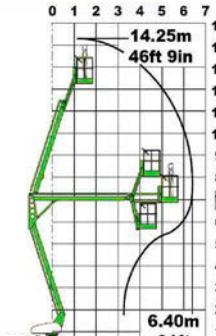
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Reflections of Arran

Part two of the personal recollection by David Pott of his time on the island

Among the highlights of our three-year stay on Arran was our involvement at the Sannox Christian Centre, which began with the very special six weeks we spent at Dundarroch from October to December of 2012, living there with Stuart and Alan Carr.

There was much fun and laughter and a good sense of community. Then there was helping with the restoration of Dundarroch and the pleasure of getting to know people in

the process. I have also thoroughly enjoyed researching the amazing history of Sannox Congregational Church. Some of our most memorable days involved leading students and staff from Youth With A Mission Seamill, who have come to Sannox for outdoor workshops on storytelling with Pam and exploring God's creation with me. The weather has always been kind to us on these occasions.

Hospitality is a great gift

and Ronnie and Barbara McNeice possess it in spades! Their hospitality opened the way for us to hear the call to come to Arran and we have enjoyed so many great meals and good fellowship with them at Carmahome in Kilpatrick.

I will particularly treasure memories of Easter sunrise gatherings on Sannox beach. We had amazing sunrises in 2013 and 2014 and then in 2015 we were looking hopefully eastwards through sea mist when suddenly someone said 'look behind you' and there was Chir Mhor in a gap in the mist bathed in glorious sunshine!

After breakfast of salmon and baps, some of us walked back along the coastal path to Lochranza and as pale sunshine started to filter through the mist, a remarkable white rainbow appeared ahead of us and led us on for a good 20 minutes until we finally emerged into bright sunshine.

Forest church: As far as Lochranza itself is concerned, we were especially glad to be next door to Lodge Farm where staff from the outdoor centre lived before it was put up for sale recently. Friendships with them have been very special and so has our friendship with Michal and Natalia at the youth hostel. Mike Daniels became a special friend and he helped us arrange a forest church on four Sundays in the summer of 2015.

We have been blessed with good neighbours on the Newton shore too in John and Anita Ford - Anita often took care of our hens while we were away.

We were glad to be part of the food co-op organised by Gus and Tessa Smith and Tessa introduced Pam to the Spinoff group, which was probably the group where she felt most herself.

Learning to gut fish was a new skill learnt thanks to the regular supply of superb mackerel from Terry Lord, who confesses that he is addicted to fishing. We are also so grateful that we have had such excellent landlords in Freddy and Stella Clarke. We had not been in rented accommodation since we were first married and we were unsure about what it would be like, but it has been a positive experience for us.

Our favourite place in Lochranza has been the Stag's Pavilion. The first time we went there was in April 2013



David Pott.

with Pam's 99-year-old mother and the way Val made sure she was comfortable and welcomed us and then Rino's superb cooking ensured that we soon came back for more... and more... and more!

With all our visitors, we have just been waiting for them to ask that special question, 'We'd like to say thank you for this special time with you - can we take you out somewhere?' The answer has always been the same - The Stag's Pavilion!

Looking back at major events during our time here, I treasure the memory of the weekend of walks and a ceilidh which we organised to commemorate the bicentenary of the birth of Daniel Macmillan, the publisher and grandfather of Harold Macmillan, who was born at Achog in Corrie on September 29th 1813. With the support of Rev Angus Adamson and members of St

Molios Shiskine, I also organised another bicentenary on Pentecost Sunday of 2014 remembering the use of the Preacher's Cave by members of Kilmory Church. It attracted 70 folk from a good variety of churches. The event was repeated in 2015 and I very much hope it will be a regular event on Pentecost Sunday which is so much about bringing God's people together.

Gospel singer: During our time on Arran, I have worked on a project called Flag Up Scotland Jamaica which was launched at the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce on August 1st 2014 during the Commonwealth Games. An event connected with this was bringing over a Jamaican reggae and gospel singer called Claudius England and he and I had a great time with some classes at Arran High School.

Claudius soon had the pupils and teachers dancing as he sang. Afterwards as we left, rumours had spread fast and other pupils and staff were saying they wished they could have been there too.

As I come to the end of these reflections, I have been thinking about the fact that one of the possible meanings of the word Arran is bread. Pam has said recently: 'Arran has fed me', and in different ways I too have been fed through the rich variety of experiences encountered here, so although our time here has not been without some trials, my overwhelming impression is that this experience has been a good one and for that I am grateful to God for leading us here. Arran will be a part of the richness of our life experience and we will of course keep a link both with the island and the good people we have met here.



A mini tornado at Lochranza.

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Students in Glen Sannox.

Spring approaches after one of wettest winters on record

While February was drier than January with a few dry, cold settled spells, this February was, nevertheless, 50 per cent wetter than February 2015, making this winter one of the wettest winters on record.

Winter visitors were to the fore including, a juvenile glaucous gull at the mouth of the Iorsa on 13th. This is the first Arran record of this Arctic-breeding gull since March 2012. Other winter visitors included: two purple sandpipers at Silver Sands on 12th, a merlin at High Whitefarland on 14th, a mixed group of around 50 fieldfare and redwing in Shiskine on 15th and throughout the month the long-staying greenshank at Clachlands.

Wintering wildfowl were present in numbers including: 14 white-fronted geese in Shiskine on 6th, 14 whooper swans flying over Brodick pier also 6th, 46 teal at Kilpatrick Point on 10th, 37 wigeon at Cosyden on 13th, 17

brent geese in Lamlash Bay on 15th, 450 greylag geese with 35 pink-footed geese in Shiskine also on 15th and a pair of goldeneye on Port na Lochan on 17th.

Other flocks included: 30 curlew at Clachlands on 6th, 150 lapwing at Clachaig on 8th, 80 common gull at Kilpatrick Point on 10th, 50 chaffinch at Auchencar on 13th, 500 herring gull in Whiting Bay on 23rd, 12 skylark in Auchenhew Bay also on 23rd and 19 turnstone in Blackwaterfoot on 27th. Some of these flocks may have included birds beginning to migrate north.

The occasional calm days were ideal for sea watching. Reports included: a male long-tailed duck off Blackwaterfoot on 11th - the first Arran record of this rare vagrant since March 2015. A total of 22 great northern divers off Blackwaterfoot also on 11th, eight black-throated divers in Loch Ranza on 14th, two red-throated divers in Whit-

ing Bay on 27th, two Common scoter at Machriewaterfoot on 24th and a slavian grebe off Cosyden on 24th. On the same date and in the same location there were some signs of approaching spring with 65 eider and six red-breasted merganser in full courtship display.

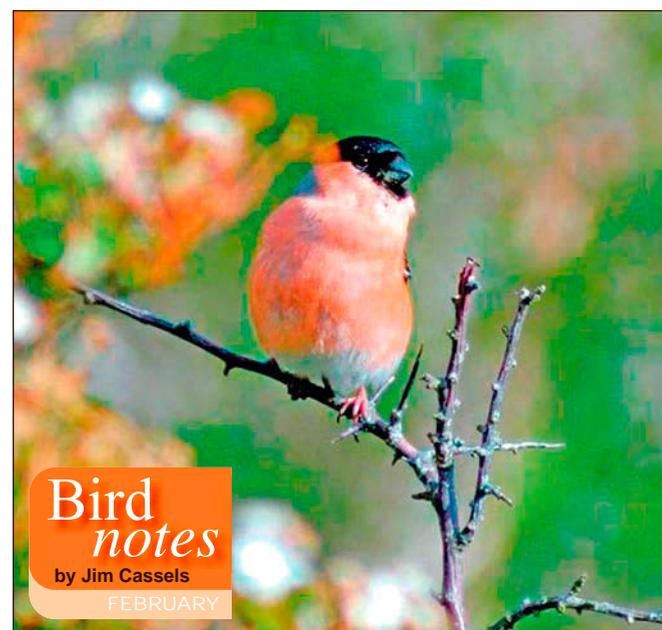
With sources of food for some species of bird becoming scarce, gardens were havens for many species. Among the many garden highlights were eight siskin in Lamlash on 16th, a male bullfinch in Brodick on 22nd, a pair of great spotted woodpecker in Lamlash on 24th, nine long-tailed tit in Whiting Bay also on 24th, six goldfinch at Kilpatrick on 29th and four yellowhammer in Shiskine also on 29th. Increasingly, numbers of siskin on their annual journey north began to appear at garden feeders.

Other sightings included: two dipper at Sliderrywaterfoot on 2nd, a short-eared owl

at the top of the String on 8th, two moorhen at Port na Lochan on 14th, two common crossbill at High Kildonan on 18th and seven little grebe in Loch Ranza on 22nd.

As well as displaying eider and red-breasted merganser on the coast, other signs of approaching spring included; a grey heron with nest building material in Lamlash on 15th, a pair of collared dove nest building in High Kildonan on 18th, 13 fulmars on the cliffs at Catacol on 20th, black guillemots in breeding plumage off Holy Isle on 25th and ten lesser black-backed gull at Sandbraes on 27th. In addition, in February there were reports of returning shelduck from 16 locations around the island.

Finally, March could see the start of the arrival of our summer visitors like wheatear, chiffchaff, willow warbler, sand martin, even swallow and house martin, but their arrival will be dependent on the weather. Keep an eye out



A stunning male bullfinch. Photograph: Brian Couper

for these migrants and let me know when you first see them.

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e-mail me at

jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2014 and visit this website www.arran-birding.co.uk



Long-tailed duck, another rare vagrant that breeds in the Arctic.



The Arctic-breeding white-winged glaucous gull between two herring gull. Photo by Angela Cassels



A dipper. Photograph: Dennis Morrison



Fulmars on the nest cliffs in February. Photograph: Carl Reavey



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Local Scotland Personal Finance

Thank you for agreeing to take part in the Scottish Weeklies Personal Finance survey 2016, please follow the instructions below.

Q1 - Please can you tell me, in which local newspaper did you find this survey? (Please write)

Q2 - Please could you tell me which Local Authority you live in?

Please select from the following and circle or write below;

Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Angus, Argyll & Bute, Scottish Borders, Clackmannanshire, West Dunbartonshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Dundee city, East Ayrshire, East Dunbartonshire, East Lothian, East Renfrewshire, City of Edinburgh, Falkirk, Fife, Glasgow City, Highland, Inverclyde, Midlothian, Moray, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Orkney Islands, Perth & Kinross, Renfrewshire, Shetland Islands, South Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire, Stirling, West Lothian, Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar

About you

Q3 - Thinking about your personal circumstances, what is your attitude towards your present household income?

Select one

- Comfortable On Present Income
- Coping On Present Income
- Finding It Difficult On Present Income
- Finding It Very Difficult On Present Income

Q4 - Which of the following most closely describes the extent to which you are involved in your household finances?

Select one

- I make all the decisions for the household
- I share the responsibility with my partner
- I have very little input as someone else in the household deals with them

Q5 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements (please select one per line).

	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	No opinion
I don't like the idea of being in debt	<input type="radio"/>				
I am more aware of personal finance than I used to Be	<input type="radio"/>				
Financial security after retirement is your own responsibility	<input type="radio"/>				
It is important to be well insured for everything	<input type="radio"/>				
I trust Banks/Building Societies to look after my money	<input type="radio"/>				
I look for profitable ways to invest my money	<input type="radio"/>				
I prefer to get paper bills and statements rather than access them online	<input type="radio"/>				
I usually consult a professional Financial Adviser before deciding on financial matters	<input type="radio"/>				
I'm interested in Financial Services advertising	<input type="radio"/>				
Price comparison websites have helped me reduce my household outgoings.	<input type="radio"/>				
I only take out loans when they are absolutely necessary	<input type="radio"/>				

Q6 - When do you think you will retire?

Select one

- I am retired
- I'll retire in the next 10 years
- I'll retire in the next 20 years
- I'll retire in the next 30 years
- I've got more than 30+ years before retirement

Retirement planning

Last year witnessed unprecedented changes to the retirement landscape and increasingly financial security after retirement is your own responsibility.

Q7 - How would you describe you current attitude to saving for retirement?

Select one

- I don't currently save anything towards retirement.
- I've embraced the idea of a pension and save a significant amount.
- I've embraced the idea of a pension and save an adequate amount.
- I've embraced the idea of a pension, but don't think that I save enough.

Q8 - Which of the following financial strategies have you adopted for you retirement

Select all that apply

- Invested in property with a view to equity release or rental income.
- My company has (had) a final salary pension scheme.
- Auto enrolled in a company pension
- A personal / private pension
- A Self Invested Personal Pension (SIPP)
- Save regularly in an ISA (either cash or shares)
- Rely on the State pension.
- None.

Q9 - Where will you go for guidance and advice about your pension when it comes to retirement?

Select all that apply

- Friends & family
- Paid-for professional adviser
- Internet search engine
- My current pension provider
- My employer
- Pension wise
- Other
- Don't know.

Q10 - When you are retired which of these options would be preferred for managing your finances?

Select one

- Taking some cash to spend in the early years of retirement, and using the rest to provide a guaranteed income for life.
- Investing in a pension plan and drawing income from it each year.
- Using all my money to buy a product that will give me a guaranteed income for the rest of my life.
- Taking all my money as cash and investing it how I see fit.
- Investing it in buy to let properties.
- Don't know.

Q11 - Thinking about the types of pension that exist, how well do you feel that you understand them?

(Please select just one option per line).

	I fully understand	I have some knowledge, but would like to know more	I've heard the terms, but I'm not interested	I've not heard of this
Annuity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Retirement income drawdown	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Workplace pensions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Individual savings pensions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q12 - The UK government has introduced the New State Pension, how well do you feel that you understand the following elements?

(Please select just one option per line).

	I fully understand	I have some knowledge, but would like to know more	I've heard the terms, but I'm not interested	I've not heard of this
How much state pension you are likely to receive when you retire.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The effect of having been contracted out of the state scheme at any working life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How the new state pension will be calculated	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How to top up your state pension	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you would prefer to fill in this survey online please go to this website:

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All entries must be received by 24 March.

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Banking

Q13 - Thinking about your bank; to what extent do you agree or disagree with the relative importance of each attribute in your choice of bank (please select one per line).

	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	No opinion
Locality (having a branch that is local to me)	<input type="radio"/>				
Company reputation (trust)	<input type="radio"/>				
Counter staff / Personal service	<input type="radio"/>				
Interest rates (on savings and or loan)	<input type="radio"/>				
Personal experience	<input type="radio"/>				
Telephone / internet banking facilities	<input type="radio"/>				
Range of services	<input type="radio"/>				
Overdraft charges	<input type="radio"/>				
Loyalty scheme	<input type="radio"/>				
Personal recommendation	<input type="radio"/>				
Reviews	<input type="radio"/>				
Advertising	<input type="radio"/>				
Introductory offers	<input type="radio"/>				

Q14 - And what is your preferred method for accessing your banking services?

Select one

Via the internet.

Via the telephone talking to someone

Via the telephone using an automated service.

In a branch

Via an ATM

By post.

Q15 - Increasingly banks are offering current accounts with a bundle of benefits, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the relative importance of each benefit that could be offered. (Please select one per line).

	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	No opinion
Cash back on utility bills or travel	<input type="radio"/>				
Cash back on direct debits	<input type="radio"/>				
Car insurance	<input type="radio"/>				
Travel Insurance	<input type="radio"/>				
Mobile phone insurance	<input type="radio"/>				
Home insurance (Buildings & contents)	<input type="radio"/>				
Enhanced ISA interest rate	<input type="radio"/>				
Extended warranty cover on white goods purchased in the last year.	<input type="radio"/>				
Access to a 24-hour home emergency service	<input type="radio"/>				

Q16 - Would you consider paying a monthly fee to your bank to access the benefits of a product bundle?

Select one

No - I would not

Yes - if the overall bundle resulted in my annual outlay on these products decreasing.

Yes - if it was a tiered approach that allowed me to select the benefits I wanted.

Q17 - Would you consider switching your bank account to another provider?

Select one

Yes

Maybe

No

Relationship with your local weekly newspaper

Q18 - To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements (please select just one option per line).

	Agree strongly	Agree slightly	Disagree slightly	Disagree strongly	No opinion
I rely on my local newspaper to keep me up to date with the latest offers from local shops.	<input type="radio"/>				
I trust what I read in my local newspaper.	<input type="radio"/>				
I find the adverts in my local newspaper are most useful in helping me make purchase decisions?	<input type="radio"/>				
I know that if something is advertised in my local newspaper, then it will be available in my area.	<input type="radio"/>				

Q19 - Which of the following have you personally done as a result of seeing something advertised in your local newspaper?

(please select all that apply)

	In the last 3 months	In the last 12 months
Researched a product in a shop.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Researched a product / service online.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visited a brand / advertisers website.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Visited / followed a brand / advertiser on Social media.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bought a product / brand / service in store.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Bought a product / brand online.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Talked about a brand either through word of mouth or via social media	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recommended a product / brand or service to someone.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
None of the above.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In order for us to analyse the information, please can you categorise yourself

Q20 - What gender are you?

Select one

Male

Female

Q21 - Which age group do you fall into?

Select one

18 to 24

25 to 34

35 to 44

45 to 54

55 to 64

65+

Q22 - What is your current employment status?

Select one

Working Full-time (30+ Hours per week)

Working Part-time (8 to 29 hours per week)

Working Part-time (less than 8 hours per week)

Not working - Retired

Not working - Long term Illness / Disabled.

Not working - Other

All details supplied by you are optional, except name, postcode and email address

Title.....

Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

Postcode
(mandatory field that must be filled in)

Email address

Home: Tel number.....

Mobile: Tel number

Please return completed survey by 31st March 2016 to:
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If you complete the survey in paper form, the form will be sent to Wyvex Media for processing only. Wyvex Media will process the form entering the data direct into the Local Scotland survey system. Wyvex Media will then securely destroy your paper survey. Wyvex Media will not retain any of the data you provide on this survey form.

The data collected in this survey will be anonymised and the results will be aggregated to understand the variances by local authority area. The insights from this data will be utilised to evidence why brands / companies should advertise within the Local Scotland portfolio of newspapers. The aggregated survey data will be retained in a SNAP file, although respondent count data will exist no individual respondent details will be contained within the SNAP file. The data set will be held by Local Scotland and shared with Mediaforce (Local Scotland's media sales representatives) who will provide data analysis. At no point will the data be transferred overseas.

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

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Everyday

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

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

Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
RunArran Run Coaching
Open Cricket Session
Non- competitive bridge
Lamlash Drama Club
Winter Bowls
Scottish Country Dancing

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

Saturday 12th March

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Arran Vets - Surgery
Live music
Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic
Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
WBay Bowling Club Rink Game
Ceilidh Dancing
Yoga
Live Music - The lift shaft incident
Live music from Michael Clark

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

Wednesday 16th March

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

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
Brodick, 9-10.30am & 6-7pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
Brodick, 5.30pm
Auchrannie Car Park, 7pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodick from 8pm
Lamlash, 9pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
Brodick Library, 4-6pm
Brodick Church Hall, 10.30am-noon
Lamlash Bowling Club, 6.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 11am

Sunday 13th March

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

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
Lucy Cartledge Jazz Trio PHT, Lamlash 2pm

Monday 14th March

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

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

Tuesday 15th March

Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Arran Vets - Surgery
Rotary club
Healthy Outdoors

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
9-10.30am
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am-1pm

Thursday 17th March

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

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

Friday 18th March

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

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

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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 16 March, 1996

Feudal first

Charles Fforde, often one to surprise, is moving into the insurance business. With some 1,200 feuars, those for whose property he is feu superior, he is sending out letters offering house insurance. Arran Estates is the first estate in Scotland to do this, the letter says he is conscious that feu superiors have come to be regarded as the hand of restraint.

Now, it goes on, he is able to offer some benefits to householders connected with the estate through the feudal system. Offering savings of up to 45 per cent on insurance costs and one month's building insurance completely free, Mr Fforde says he is getting a steady trickle of replies.

Tyson match

The Lagg Hotel is to give a public showing of the Mike Tyson vs Frank Bruno boxing match in the small hours of Sunday morning. This is significant because it is the first television programme in the UK for which viewers must specifically pay. Controversial in that it removes the 'free at point of use', the extra charge for coverage of this event is around

£10. The Lagg Hotel has paid over £200 for its licence which Anne Marie Cantrucci the general manager says is a 'good will thing' and that there will be no drinks licence at the 2am showing.

Rare bird found

A very rare bird was found dead in Shiskine last Sunday by Hugh Hamilton of Brodick and his cousin Alex. It is a bittern, an odd-looking creature described as a cross between an owl and a heron. Its distinctive feature is its loud booming call which can be heard up to one mile away. The last bittern seen on Arran was in 1835.

Frying again

That tempting aroma of fresh fish and chips was wafting around Brodick Pier again this week. The Ferry Fry, closed since September, has re-opened with new owners Andy and Wendy Ashley. Andy has run chip shops in Somerset and Gloucester and still retains a broad West Country accent. Andy says that he intends to open seven days a week until 10pm and that mushy peas and curry sauce are definitely on the menu.



CalMac's new operations manager Ken Duerden, left, was on Arran recently to attend the ferry committee meeting. Joining Mr Duerden was Mike Blair, the new marketing manager. B11twe01



Snow fell unexpectedly on Wednesday. The third snowfall of the year, it was the deepest yet. The high school was closed and the children, as always, made the most of it. In Brodick, children enjoyed snowball fights, while outside Ladeside Terrace the children of Shiskine enjoyed some sledding. B11twe04 and B11twe05



We have been following the voyage of Barry Fisher of Whiting Bay who has been on a sailing expedition, starting in Antigua. Being blown along by favourable trade winds, Barry has now arrived in the Caribbean where he can be seen sewing a new ensign for the vessel. B11twe02



New owner Andy Ashley and his assistant Cliff Miller serve their first customer Ian Small at the reopened Ferry Fry fish and chip shop at the Brodick Pier. B11twe03

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OVER £30

Sleigh style padded superking bedstead black/white check £200 ono buyer to uplift Tel: 303779

Black electric cooker 4 ring and fan oven £35 - buyer to uplift Tel: 07979 680305

Gents mountain bike, 18 speed £55, Hedge trimmer 2 stroke 14" blade £45, mobility scooter cost £1650 hardly used £1150, modern penny farthing bicycle new £70, Chest freezer medium size £55, vehicle top box £130, roof rack universal new £20 Tel: 07980671267

Cast horse's head, about 1foot high, £35. Tel: 820351

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Eight white pigeons suitable for garden doves and 1 bag of food Tel: 600240

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Recruitment



Guest House Staff Required

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

Good rates of pay.

Please email: alsadair@buttlodge.co.uk or call 01770 830 333 for more information.

MBS BUILDING & TIMBER SUPPLIES

Whiting Bay Seasonal Staff Vacancies
Sales assistants required for busy retail outlet.

Please email
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Apprentice Greenkeeper

Whiting Bay Golf Club wishes to appoint an apprentice greenkeeper to start immediately.

Letters of application should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary and sent by post to the Club or by email to info@whitingbaygolf.com, to arrive by Monday 21st March.

auchrannie resort auchrannie job vacancies

Maintenance Assistant

We are looking for an experienced multi-skilled individual to join our busy maintenance team. Some plumbing experience would be an advantage. This is a full time live out position working 5 days from 7 including weekends. Salary dependent on experience & skills. Additional benefits include family leisure membership, meals when on duty and various staff discounts. Please contact Alan MacAlister at amacalister@auchrannie.co.uk or call 01770303332

Breakfast Chefs

We are looking for full or part time breakfast chefs to work in Cruise or Brambles restaurant. Must be flexible to start at 6.30am. Previous experience of working in any busy kitchen is required.

Day Porter

We are looking for a full time day porter to be flexible to work any shift pattern between 9am and 10pm. Looking for someone who has customer service experience and must have a valid driver's licence.

All positions will benefit from free leisure club membership and various other discounts. Full descriptions can be found at www.auchranniejobs.co.uk or contact hr@auchrannie.co.uk

Recreations Assistant

Full time position available, who is flexible to work between 6.30am-9pm. Candidates must have customer service background. Full training will be provided.

Recreations Supervisor

Full time position available to supervise the day to day shift within the leisure and recreations department. Looking for someone who has an interest in sport activities and has supervisory experience.

All positions will benefit from free leisure club membership and various other discounts within the resort.

Full descriptions can be found at www.auchranniejobs.co.uk or contact hr@auchrannie.co.uk



Arran Community and Voluntary Services Community Development Officer

Salary: circa 19,000 pro rata

24 hours per week

Fixed term to March 2017

We are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic team member with the ability to establish, promote and develop community projects. Knowledge of Health and Social Care is desirable.

Applicants should also have experience of financial control and good IT, verbal and written communication skills are essential.

For a recruitment pack contact Vicki Yuill, Operations Manager on 01770 600611 or email vicki.yuill@arrancvs.org.uk

Closing date for applications

Friday 1st April 2016

Job Opportunity with North Ayrshire Council

The following are all temporary posts for 26 weeks:

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37 hrs per week £7.64 - £8.36 per hour plus Living Wage Allowance | Market Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran

Cemetery Gardener | Ref: NAY01194

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Closing date 20th March 2016.

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RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

Public Notices

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2013

Notice under regulation 7(2)(b) Pre-application consultation by the prospective applicant

Proposed development at land west of Clachaig Farm, Kilmory, Isle of Arran.

Isle of Arran Distillers propose to make an application to North Ayrshire Council for planning permission for three new bonded warehouses, a new distillery and visitor centre including landscaping, car parking and distillery fit out works including 4 new copper stills. A "proposal of application notice" (ref 16/00064/PREAPM) has been submitted to the Council.

A public event will be held at Kilmory Public Hall, Isle of Arran KA27 8PQ on the 22nd March 2016 between 11am and 7pm, at which information on the development will be available.

Further information may be obtained from Peter Brett Associates, 160 West George Street, Glasgow G2 2HG. Tel. 0141 352 2360

Persons wishing to make comments on the proposal should do so by 15th April 2016 to Peter Brett Associates, 160 West George Street, Glasgow G2 2HG.

This notice does not relate to a planning application. Comments should not be made North Ayrshire Council. Instead comments should be made to the prospective applicant via Peter Brett Associates at the address above. Any comments made to the prospective applicants are not representations to the planning authority. If a planning application is subsequently submitted to North Ayrshire Council, normal neighbour notification and publicity will be undertaken at that time and you will have the opportunity to make formal representations regarding the proposal at that time.

LAMLASH
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CLUB

AGM

**Wednesday
16th March,
6.30pm at the
bowling club**

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 13th March
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Rev Canon Simon Mackenzie,
Priest-in-Charge.
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

The offering at the World Day of Prayer on 4th March amounted to £200

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:

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

Sunday 13th March

Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches, 10.15am Morning Worship in Lochranza Church followed by Stated Annual Meeting.
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting,
12noon Morning Worship.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 13th March

Kilmory 10am

Lamlash 11.30 am

Rev Lily McKinnon

In Lamlash:

Ordination of Elders

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

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 13th March

Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate, Brodick
Afternoon Service 1.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

WHITING BAY AND KILDONANN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 13th March

Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.
All most welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 13th March

Morning Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 13th March

11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea and Coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30pm

Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.

Contact phone no 600222

Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 13th March

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

Brodick 6pm (Church behind post office)

Rev Benjamin von Rensberg

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BLACK - Anthony (Tony)

The family would like to thank all friends who were able to attend the Linn Crematorium, Glasgow on Thursday 3rd March 2016 to celebrate the life of Tony Black. Grateful thanks also go to friends and neighbours in Arran who supported Tony in recent years we would particular like to thank the staff at the Arran War Memorial Hospital, Lamlash who looked after him during his frequent visits.



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Arran Golfers Association

Sunday March 6, Winter League/Duncan Trophy. The final round of matches took place at Lamlash Golf Club, weather was stunning and a welcome break from all the rain. Thanks to Jim, Scott and Ryan the course was in superb condition considering the weather over the past few months, also to Jamie behind the bar and to Jim Henderson for starting everyone off. Finally to Ian McQueen who stood in at short notice to provide the catering, which was really appreciated by all.

Due to a shotgun start all teams went off at the same time, the wooden spoon battle was between Brodick and Machrie. The Brodick boys were determined not to lose this match and a battling display saw them edge out Machrie by 3 games to 1 and hand the dreaded wooden spoon for the year to Machrie.

Whiting Bay took on Corrie in the next match, Whiting Bay needed to win to keep the pressure on Lamlash at the top of the table and a great team effort



Liz Sinclair and Sally Brookes who took first and second place at the ALGU Drumadoon at Corrie.



The winning Winter League Lamlash team with the Duncan trophy.

saw them win yet again by 3 games to 1 to give themselves a glimmer of hope in the title race finishing the league on 8 points.

Finally, hosts and leaders Lamlash took on Shiskine. With the home advantage, Lamlash had a great opportunity to win for a second year in a row and didn't let themselves down with a convincing three games to one victory and a total of nine points in the league. Congratulations to Lamlash for yet another league title.

That's it for another year for the association; next up will be the spring handicap at Machrie Bay Golf Club on Sunday May 1.

Arran Ladies Golf Union

Sunday March 6, Drumadoon. We finally caught up with the backlog of competitions on a lovely dry day in Corrie. Liz Sinclair won with a nett of 65(17), Sally Brookes was second with 67(20) and Ann May, a new member this year, won the scratch with a 74. Thank you to Corrie for the courtesy of the course and to Claire for the lovely lunch.

Fixture: Saturday March 19, the next Drumadoon will be played at Lamlash at 10.30am, so please add your name to the list in your clubhouse or phone Susan.

Brodick Golf Club

There has been no Wednesday

match played on Wednesday March 2 due to the bad weather. Tee-off every Wednesday at noon, all welcome. Please note that the Wednesday Seniors dinner and prize giving is on Wednesday March 23 at 7pm for 7.30pm. Pay at the bar on the night.

Sunday February 28, Winter Cup, non counter, 1. David Hendry 41pts, 2. Bert McGunnigle 38pts, 3. John McKean 37pts. It was a day for some very good scoring the course having dried out, there were another four players on 37pts but all lost out on BIH. Well done, David, a first-class score, although it is master Hendry who is one of the leaders in the Winter Cup, but all is still to play for with Ian Macdonald and Terry Raeside on the same score of 174, with Jimmy Armit and Douglas Robertson only two behind. Will competitors please note the Summer Cup will start on Wednesday March 30.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday March 6, Winter League Round 5 at Lamlash. There we were again. Just like last year, the final round of Winter League matches for 2015-2016 saw us needing to win our tie against Corrie and hope that Lamlash came unstuck against Shiskine. We managed our half of the deal, beating Corrie by three matches to one, but Lamlash failed to co-operate.

They beat Brodick to retain the Duncan Trophy, leaving WGBC in the runner-up spot for the second year in a row. Congratulations to them on a fine performance and also to our own team in maintaining our unbeaten record that now stretches over three consecutive winter seasons. Well done all, with a special mention for Adam Kelso and Danny Head, five down on their 11th tee, against a strong Corrie pairing, they turned it round to win 1 up on the final green. Quite a performance. Now on to a blazing hot summer!

Fixture: Sunday March 13, Winter Cup final round. One draw at 10am, it's all to play for.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday March 5, Winter Cup, Stableford. 1 A Napier 37 pts, 2 M McDonald 35pts, 2s B Rooney. Monday, March 7, Monday Cup. 1 J Henderson 75-17=58, 2 I McMillan 75-13=62. Scratch, A Napier 67. Magic twos J McGovern and J McConnachie.

Fixture: Saturday, March 12, Winter Cup, Stableford, ballots at 9am and 1pm.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday March 1, Winter Cup. 3rd place was P Betley with 83-11=72. Saturday, March 5, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 B Sherwood 34 pts, 2 J O'Sullivan 32 pts, 3 P Betley 30 pts.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Congratulations on your 60th Birthday



Lots of love from all the family

Bakers' dozen for Arran in Giffnock rout

Giffnock Ladies 2s 0 Arran Ladies 13

Arran Ladies hockey team went on a goal-scoring rout when they visited Giffnock last weekend. They were 6-0 up by half time and scored another seven in the second half.

Top goal scorer was Lorraine Hewie with six, Anne Watts got five and Abbie McKelvie and Victoria McNicol got one a piece.

The opposition voted Ellie Wood man of the match and as a team Arran voted Abbie McKelvie dame of the game.

Captain Victoria said: 'They supplied two umpires whom I doubted vocally and was

reprimanded and told I would get sent off if I said another word.

'Anne Watts also doubted their decision-making and got reprimanded too and almost got sent off.

'Lesson learned; we will always bring an umpire if we can get one.'

Arran had been due to play Clydesdale Western Ladies today (Saturday) but they are unable to get a team together and will concede five goals to Arran.

On Sunday Arran are home to Uddingston Ladies 2s with a 2pm pass back and the team are urging home fans come and support them.

New Coastal Trail Run gains momentum with 200 entries

With more than 200 entries in already, support for the inaugural Arran Coastal Trail Run has been welcomed by organisers.

With space for 300 competitors, the run has attracted interest mainly from mainland competitors but also a num-

ber of Arran-based runners.

The 12km route around Blackwaterfoot is a large figure of eight that takes in Drumadoon Point and the Kings Cave, and is aimed at experienced trail runners due to its varied surfaces of forestry track, sandy beach and

rock footpaths. The trail run starts near the Shiskine golf course on Saturday April 30 at 12.30pm and ends on the Blackwaterfoot beach.

Entries are open until Thursday March 30 at www.q-buster.co.uk and race details can be found at www.rrancoastaltrailrun.co.uk



Billed as 'Run Scotland in miniature', the event takes place in April.



The trail will take in views of the scenic Drumadoon Point.

arrancoastaltrailrun.co.uk. Organisers are also looking for more marshals, so if you want to be involved and experience the atmosphere of the event, get in touch with Laura Aitchison on 303541 or Ra-

chel Sedman on 303926. Laura can also be contacted if you wish to take part in her trail run sessions to prepare for the race, or contact Rachel if you want to sponsor the event or provide products for a goodie bag that

each contestant will receive. Prizes will be awarded to the first male, first female and the first local runner at a prizegiving ceremony, which is to be held at the Kinloch Hotel at 3pm on Saturday April 30.

Is Arran ready for the walking football craze?

It is a craze which is taking over the nation and now an Arran resident is trying to find out if there is any interest in walking football on the island.

Primarily aimed at the 50 to 70+ age group, 600 groups have already registered for the game across the country.

Walking football is a slower-paced version of the regular game, although it more resembles five-a-side football than the 11-a-side game and can be played either indoors or outdoors on a smaller pitch.

Ron Woods of Shiskine is interested in trying to start up a group. Ron himself is 70 years old next birthday and gave up competitive foot-

ball at the age of 62. He said football was getting a bit too much playing against players who were 40+ years younger than him, so he decided to take up golf but still yearned to play football. With the advent of walking football he sees the opportunity to return to his beloved sport.

He said: 'It is a chance to play the beautiful game at a slower pace but in a safe and respectful, yet competitive environment. A way to continue to play the game you love and get the benefits.'

'It is a team sport which gives you a social aspect, meeting like-minded people and play your beloved sport after years of thinking your playing days were over.'

A quick digest of the rules are: no jogging, sprinting or running either on or off the ball. Low impact contact is permitted. Over head height restriction. Free kicks are all indirect except for penalties.

The goalkeeper is the only player permitted in the penalty area. Kick-ins replace throw-ins. Pass backs to goalkeepers are allowed. Goalkeepers must either throw the ball under arm or kick it out. Scoring may occur from any part of the pitch except goal areas.

Anyone who would like more information or would like to start up a group then get in touch with Ron on 860487 or email: ronwoods@sky.com



Mountain bike club riders in the rain

Pupils from Arran High School mountain bike club have been putting their winter riding plan into action, with funding from Cycling Scotland. They would like to thank Andrew Walsh of Arran Active for supplying the club with waterproofs, enabling the riders to enjoy their sport regardless of the rain.

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Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

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Battling performance but Arran go down to Clydebank

Isle of Arran RFC 10
Clydebank RFC 24

Arran Rugby Club were back in action on Saturday, and although producing a battling performance went down 24-10 against a strong and well organised Clydebank side at Ormidale Park.

Following the last-minute postponement of Arran's previous home game due to a waterlogged pitch, several tons of sand were spread on the playing surface making underfoot conditions somewhat treacherous despite the fine, dry weather. Arran fielded a strong team but were missing key players Stuart McMaster, who continues his recovery from a fractured cheekbone, and Aussie stand-off Lachlan Jones.

The home side started confidently in their first home match since a comprehensive home victory over Paisley, and Frazer Barr opened the scoring with a penalty after some good work by the home pack. Clydebank grew into the game and responded with a penalty of their own and

soon afterwards scored the first try of the match. The try was controversially awarded by the referee despite a blatant double by the Clydebank second rower in the act of scoring. Strong Arran protests were waved away by the mainland official and the Clydebank full back added insult to injury by slotting over a tough conversion, giving the visitors a somewhat fortunate 10-3 lead.

Reeling with a sense of injustice, Arran responded with a try of their own. Ian 'Keeno' Keen sent up a well placed up and under which was fumbled by the visiting full back just outside his own 22. Arran winger Jack Simmons pounced on the mistake and showing good composure kicked through and dotted the ball down under the posts. Barr added the easy conversion bringing the home side level.

Arran continued to pressurise the visitors in the lead up to the interval, pinning them back in their own 22, however they were unable to turn



Jack Barbour dodges a diving tackle to keep possession for Arran. 01_B11rugby06

pressure into points and the score remained 10 all at the half-time whistle.

Playing into the breeze in the second half, Arran started poorly and conceded a soft try following a line out, which was again converted. Arran battled back and managed to win two kickable penalties, unfortunately Barr was

off target with the first effort and when kicking responsibility was passed to Keeno he dragged his effort to the left of the posts, leaving Arran seven points adrift.

Midway through the second period the referee enforced uncontested scrums after deeming that scrummaging was becoming unsafe due

to the condition of the pitch which was cutting up badly in places. As the match wore on the home team started to tire and unforced errors started to creep into their play. This, coupled with the introduction of fresh replacements by Clydebank, allowed them to power over for their third converted try following sustained pressure on the Arran line.

In the closing stages Clydebank continued to press as they searched for another try which would give them a winning bonus point. However Arran defended courageously, making several last ditch tackles and denied Clydebank any further points, leaving the final score 24-10 to the visitors. The score line was somewhat harsh on the Arran team who played well

in large portions of the game and would have hoped to at least secure a losing bonus point after being level at half time. However, the lack of points in the second half as players tired will be a concern for the Arran team as will their lineout, which misfired throughout the match, denying them a good attacking platform and starved the backs of quality possession.

Otherwise, it was an encouraging display by the Arran team, particularly in defence, and it was good to see youngsters Reece Currie and Jack McNally getting a run out in the latter stages.

Next up Arran face a tough trip to McLaren RFC today (Saturday) followed by a home fixture against Stewartry RFC on Saturday, March 19.



Jack Simmons scores a try for Arran after he pounced on a loose ball. 01_B11rugby04

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Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran
Tel: 01770 302142 - Fax 01770 302021
E-mail: editor@arranbanner.co.uk



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

The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.