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Council maps out £1m roads funding boost

'More funding was still needed for Arran's hardpressed roads'

Tony Black
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Nearly £1 million will be spent improving Arran's roads network, with most of the work to be finished over the next two years.

North Ayrshire Council has announced £990,000 of investment in its roads budget for the island during 2018/19.

The largest share of the funds - totalling £580,000 - will go on resurfacing the island's deteriorating carriageways.

In Lamlash, the A841 Clauchlands Road will get £150,000. The A841 in Sannox, Glen Cottage to reservoir, receives £85,000; and in Blackwaterfoot the C147 Anchorage to Blackwaterfoot Bridge collects £40,000.

A further £300,000 is ear-

marked for surface dressing, planned for 2019/20, but may be brought forward to 2018/19. The A841 Corrie Rubha Salach to Ferry Rock receives £85,000; the A841 Lochranza Millhill £45,000; and the A841 North Sannox gets £80,000.

Of the remainder of the funds, £80,000 will go to repairs on the Catacol Burn Bridge and £30,000 for footway resurfacing in Lamlash.

The cash boost was welcomed by Arran Community Council chairman Bill Calderwood, but he said more funding was still needed for Arran's hardpressed roads.

'Any spending on Arran's roads is to be welcomed when the network is in such a bad state but we really are

Continued on page two

Easter break



Sophie Scott, 3, Katie Furze, 1, and Hazel Price, 3, take an impromptu lunch break during an adventure-filled day at Brodick Castle where they joined scores of people enjoying the sunshine and Easter egg hunt at the castle.

Full report with pictures starts on page 12.

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CallMac boss warns of choppy waters ahead

CALMAC'S new interim managing director has forecast a testing summer season for the ferry operator's ageing fleet.

Robbie Drummond made his prediction just prior to the Easter weekend, when CalMac's ferry routes suffered widespread disruption due to the weather.

On the first weekend of CalMac's summer timetable high winds affected sailings of the Arran to Ardrossan ferry, which was suspended early on Monday afternoon.

Other routes were also suspended, causing inconvenience to thousands of Easter break holidaymakers.

Mr Drummond said CalMac was facing its busiest summer season on record.

'We ask a lot of our fleet, and indeed our people, at the busiest time of year on our network,' he said.

Anticipating

'I know everyone here is ready and eagerly anticipating another successful summer season, but I am also very conscious of the workload our boats will be undertaking and the strain that puts them under, particularly the older vessels in the fleet, eight of which are more than 30 years old now.'

The peak tourist period is always a test for the 32 ferries that serve 51 ports

on 49 routes. During 2017, CalMac carried more than five million passengers, nearly 1.5 million cars and 80,000 coaches.

Mr Drummond warned of 'issues on some routes' over the peak time.

'CalMac is investing in new ferries, with the Glen Sannox, launched in November, one of two new ferries that will join our fleet in the future,' he said.

'Until then, we will, of course, proactively manage as best we can with the current fleet, but I fear that it will, at times, cause issues on some of our routes.'

The average age of the ferries is just under 22 years old and CalMac's



Robbie Drummond and Martin Dorchester pictured in 2016 after winning the contract to operate ferry services on the west coast of Scotland.

fleet will be stretched to its full capacity over the summer months.

Any issues with a vessel on one part of the network will have knock-on effects

for other routes, as boats need to be diverted elsewhere to keep the network running.

The risk of mechanical failures and breakdown is

also significant. It takes longer to get older boats back into service when things do go wrong, often due to the difficulty in sourcing parts.



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Council maps out £1million roads boost

Continued from page one
still a long way from where we'd like to be,' he said.

£300,000 of this latest investment is not yet committed to a date and we're hopeful that will be spent this year but we just don't know.

'With the roads under increased pressure from tourism and business traffic we need a long-term funding package and would support North Ayrshire's efforts to identify further sources of funding.'

North Ayrshire Council has repeatedly come under fire for the poor state of Arran's roads with potholes attracting mounting complaints.

Fears were also raised by islanders about the impact of the deteriorating roads on the flourishing tourist trade, whilst a call was made for major cycle events to be banned as roads were considered too dangerous.

Last week Arran Community Council heard that there was a danger to life and limb for cyclists and if there was an accident North

Ayrshire Council 'has got to be culpable'.

West Scotland Conservative MSP Jamie Greene said he had been contacted by a large number of residents, many of whom have had to pay for repair work to their vehicles because of potholes.

'The current state of Arran's roads is simply not acceptable. Local residents too often have had to endure potholes, surface deterioration and flooding across the island.

'This causes damages to vehicles and has made driving on Arran increasingly unsafe,' the MSP said.

'This investment is welcome, however, if Arran's roads had been better maintained it wouldn't require such a sum just to make repair works.'

'We cannot allow Arran's roads to fall into such a state in the future.'

A North Ayrshire Council spokesperson said: 'The harsh, prolonged and severe winter has had an adverse impact on the road network across North Ayrshire.'

'The increase in traffic volumes, as a result of the introduction of Road Equivalent Tariff (RET), is also impacting on the condition of our road network on Arran.

'We have committed almost £1 million of our overall roads budget to Arran and have frontloaded the maintenance programme to ensure that the budget allocated has an immediate impact on improvements.'

'Most of the works will result in short periodic road closures of up to an hour with temporary traffic lights used on resurfacing in Lamlash and Whiting Bay between April and June.'

This is YOUR paper...

Send your photos and stories to editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Fill your own flower tubs or we'll take them away

Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

First the council took away the toilets, then the play-parks. Now it is threatening to remove the flower pots which brighten up each village in summer.

Villages on Arran have been told they will have to maintain their own flower tubs or they will be taken away.

North Ayrshire Council blames budget cuts for the decision to stop planting the tubs, which can be found all over the island. It says it cannot maintain them after the present spring bulbs bloom, as it

has fewer grounds staff on the island and the planting out budget for the whole of North Ayrshire has been halved.

The bombshell came at a recent meeting of Arran Community Council, which told members that it was now up to each village association across the island if they wished to take over responsibility of the tubs. If they do not, they will be removed.

Chairman Bill Calderwood said Brodick Improvements had already decided to take over the tubs which, after the first spring bloom, were previously

planted with summer flowers. Other associations, including Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Corrie and Shiskine, are considering their positions.

However, Mr Calderwood warned that it was not just the case of removing the spring bulbs and planting out the summer flowers. 'There has to be fairly regular watering and there is a fair degree of ongoing maintenance.'

He suggested there could be a collective approach with a joint bid for matched funding and a 'centralised point' of purchase. However, it would be up to each village to take on the responsibility for the upkeep of their own tubs.

Once each village has decided, a further discussion will take place at the next community council meeting later this month.

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'Following another challenging financial settlement, we have been required to make a number of savings, including a reduction in grounds maintenance and floral displays across North Ayrshire.'

'If any community groups are interested in taking on the maintenance of the flower beds or planters, Streetscene would be delighted to hear from them.'



The decorative flower pots line the shore at Lamlash.



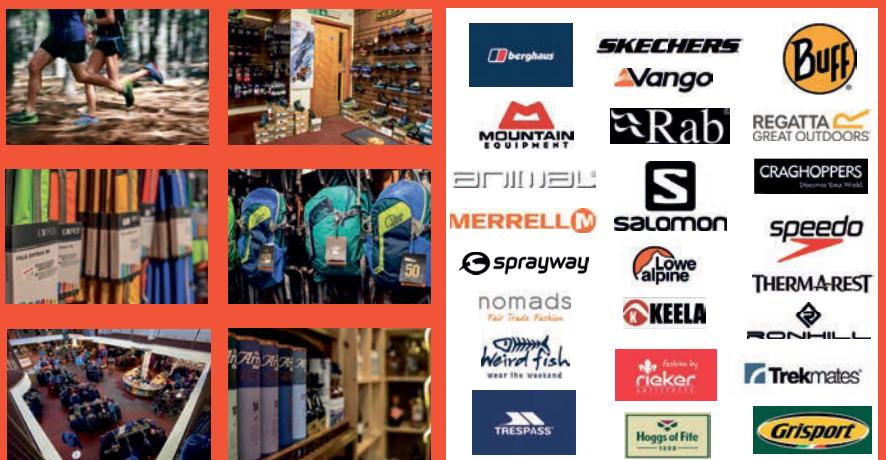
While not in full bloom yet, brightly coloured tubs welcome visitors to Brodick.



North Ayrshire Council will no longer plant or maintain the flower tubs on Arran owing to budget cuts

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Reception team leader and charity co-ordinator at Auchrannie Resort Kirsty MacQueen hands over the TV set to McKelvie Road resident Veronica Cranwell.

McKelvie Road residents given new giant TV

Residents of McKelvie Road Sheltered Housing Association were overjoyed after their fundraising efforts for a new television for their communal room were met with a single donation from Auchrannie Resort.

Appeal

After approaching local businesses and organisations in an appeal to upgrade their small, old television in a communal lounge, the group were gifted a 55-inch HD TV which is ideally suited for the 20 residents who reside in the sheltered housing complex.

General manager of Auchrannie Resort Richard Small said: 'When we heard about the proposed fundraising activity for a new TV, we were only too happy to step in to fund the purchase outright. Everyone here at Auchrannie recognises the value of supporting community projects such as one like this.'

Collecting the television on behalf of residents, Veronica Cranwell said: 'We were overwhelmed when Auchrannie offered to buy us a television. To say it has made a difference is an understatement. Everyone

just loves it. Auchrannie really did come to our rescue.'

Since taking delivery of the television – which is in use every day – there are now plans for film nights and gatherings, all of which have helped to give the communal room a new lease on life.

Charity team

Auchrannie has a dedicated charity team who meet monthly to consider the many requests they receive for donations and other support. They can be contacted via email at charity@ auchrannie.co.uk.

Marine pyrotechnic amnesty on April 28

Do you have any out-of-date marine pyrotechnics stored on your boat, at home or in a garage or shed? Not sure how to get rid of them safely?

HM Coastguard, as part of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, has no statutory responsibility to collect out-of-date marine pyrotechnics for disposal, but a one-off exception has been made due to information that there are a

large number of such items on Arran.

On Saturday April 28, from 10am-3pm, you will be able to take any out-of-date marine pyrotechnics you have to the tennis courts beside the Coastguard station in Lamlash where they will be taken from you for safe disposal. A spokesman said: 'We are only able to take marine pyrotechnics such as handheld rocket flares, hand-

held maroons, parachute red rocket flares, miniflare packs and buoyant smokes. These come from a variety of manufacturers, but as long as they can be clearly identified as a marine pyrotechnic – used for signalling at sea – they will be accepted, no matter how long ago they went out of date.'

'Once the amnesty is done, it will not be repeated. It is the responsibility of boat owners to ensure the safe disposal of their marine pyrotechnics and we would like to remind people that it is an offence to dump them at sea, on land or to let them off unless it is an emergency.'

The danger zone

A gaping sinkhole has appeared in Whiting Bay close to the Cooper Angus Caravan Park on the A841 coastal route.

The danger zone was quickly cordoned off after being discovered on a section of the road on Tuesday afternoon.

Prolonged rain and wind over the Easter weekend are thought to have contributed to the deteriorating road surface on the outskirts of the village, but concerns about the state of roads have been ongoing for months.

Whiting Bay residents have complained about the damage to roads including severe potholes and crumbling surfaces causing concern at numerous points on the A841.

The latest incident comes after recent resurfacing work was carried out in the centre of the village, where previous pothole repair work had been ineffective.

The road outside the main shops and cafés had been scattered with debris from the crumbling surface and poorly-filled potholes.

This latest large sinkhole is in an untreated section of road.

Last week Arran Community Council was urged to 'oppose in the strongest possible terms' any applications for major cycling events due to the state of the roads.

Fears had also been raised that there would be a 'danger to life and limb' due to the road conditions.

North Ayrshire Council has this week revealed a £990,000 funding package for immediate repair work to the island's roads. Work will begin this year and continue until 2020.

Picture: Craig Simpson



Corrie Film Club presents...

Cave of Forgotten Dreams

April's showing at Corrie Film Club is Cave of Forgotten Dreams, an awe-inspiring and thrilling documentary by Werner Herzog who takes viewers on an epic journey behind the frontier of an extraordinary place.

Overcoming considerable challenges, Herzog captures the stunning majesty of the Chauvet Cave in southern France where the world's oldest cave paintings have been discovered.

Herzog reveals a breathtaking subterranean world and, with his humorous and engaging narration, reflects on our primal desire to communicate, evolution and our place within it and what it means to be human.

This highly recommended film can be seen in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall on Sunday April 8 at 8pm. All welcome. Free entry but a small donation to the hall fund would be appreciated by non-members.

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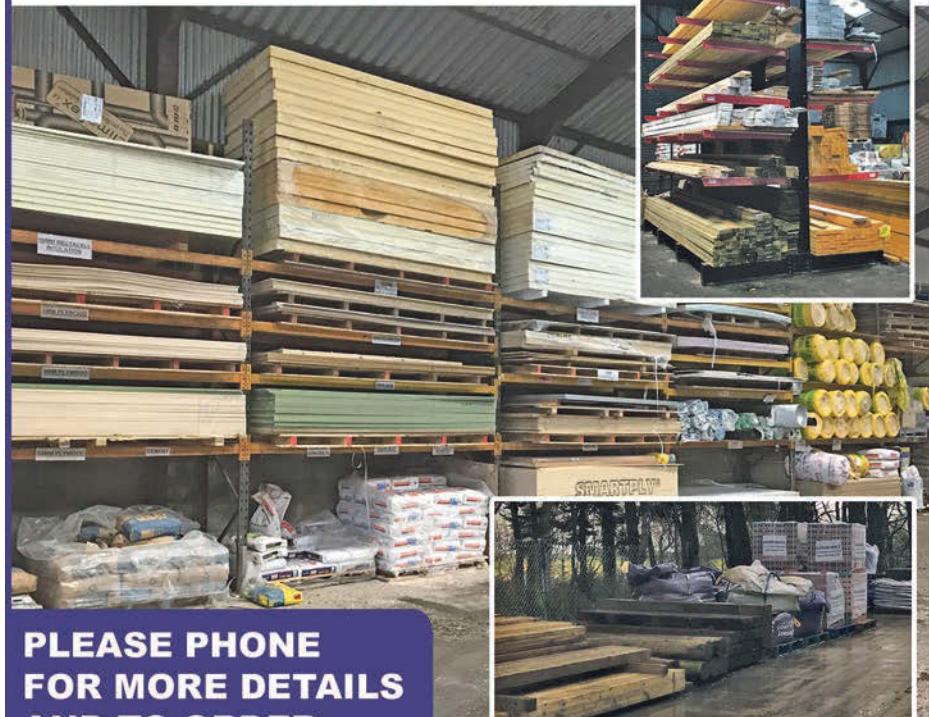
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New lease of life for the Sannox Bay Hotel

The future looks bright again for the Sannox Bay Hotel after it was bought by a Scottish company which specialises in bringing closed hotels back to life.

It is the fifth in a series of hotel purchases by property co-operative the Real Dragons' Den and member Russ McLean, who grew up on Arran, plans to return home to oversee its restoration.

Since 1999 some 27 closed-down buildings have been refurbished and reopened by the Real Dragons' Den team to date. The group completed the purchase of the Sannox hotel last month after seeing it advertised for sale in the *Banner* at the end of last year.

Refurbishment will begin as soon as it has the new lighthouse offices near

John O'Groats up and running.

The Arran project is scheduled to start later this month or early May and take a significant part of the season.

While the company says the timing is not ideal it hopes the hotel may reopen in time to catch some of the 2018 season, although it said it should be ready for the early shoulder season in 2019 when university geologists from all over the UK descend on Arran and give local businesses a welcome boost.

Mr McLean, who grew up at his parents Blackrock House B&B in Corrie, said: 'From experience, we know that the contemporary public house side of this type of business is dying off. So we shall be

concentrating more on the self-catering element – with residents having the option to eat in the tearoom if they wish.

'This is a fairly subtle change in the business model, but important if the future viability of these premises as a tourist facility is to continue.'

'In addition we shall be making efforts to increase the accessibility for people with disabilities.'

The new owners say the hotel has been kept in good condition during the period of closure, although a re-decoration plus new furniture and carpets will be part of the 2018 refurbishment.

There are other areas of the hotel requiring a significant amount of work and the conservatory is in need of repair and an overhaul.



The Sannox Bay Hotel is scheduled for refurbishment. 01_B13sannox01

Brodick's blooming rhododendrons on full display

Brodick Castle garden and country park will join the many gardens and estates across the country observing the two-month long celebration of the beautiful and diverse world of the rhododendron.

The Scottish Rhododendron Festival, now in its fourth year, takes place from the start of April to the end of May and consists of more than 90 events nationwide. The rhododendron collection at Brodick Castle is known throughout the

world and many examples have been internationally recognised, one hybrid in particular – known as Fortune and which has huge yellow flowers – has won the Best Hybrid in Show for the last two years at the Scottish Rhododendron Society's annual show.

Owing to historic plant hunters, sponsored in part by the family at Brodick Castle, the gardens have a huge variety of rhododendrons, particularly at the Lower Rhododendron

Walk which attracts visitors and aficionados from the world over.

The annual festival, which launched in 2015, is organised by national garden tourism group Discover Scottish Gardens, supported by VisitScotland, Glorious Gardens of Argyll & Bute and Scotland's Gardens Scheme which has organised open days at private gardens across the country to raise money for a selection of nominated charities.

The festival aims to encourage local audiences and tourists to enjoy

the wonders of Scotland's gardens during the rhododendron flowering period and highlight the diversity and plethora of rhododendron collections that can be found in Scotland.

David Knott, curator at Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, said: 'Rhododendrons provide fantastic displays in many Scottish gardens. They range in height from large tree-like plants, to dwarf alpine shrubs, and depending on the weather there will be rhododendrons in flower from February right through to August.'

Brodick Castle.

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Floral fun brightens the day of elderly residents

An enthusiastic gathering of residents at Montrose House residential care home met in the dining room last week to take part in a flower arranging activity.

The event, organised by The Friends of Montrose House, added a touch of colour to the communal areas and brought with it a floral scent that filled the corridors.

Residents eagerly took part and pitted their skills against each other in a friendly competition that saw Maureen McKellar, Sheila Roberts, Isabella Fullarton and Doreen Hodgkinson winning prizes for their arrangements.

All those who took part received a chocolate Easter egg and enjoyed tea and cake after the event.



Montrose House residents show off their handiwork in a flower arranging contest.

Charity fundraising night for David

A charity fundraising event is being held in memory of DC David Nisbet this month.

David grew up on Arran with his sister Elaine while his dad, Wilson, worked on the island as a police officer, and his mum, Fiona, worked in the Arran War Memorial Hospital. David followed in his father's footsteps and became a police officer based in Saltcoats then joined the CID. He passed away suddenly last year.

PC Scott Weir, who still works on Arran, served with David's dad and has organised the fundraising night, which is being held on Friday April 20 at the Ayr Ex-Serviceman's Club in Academy Street, Ayr from 7pm. Ayrshire's top live band Audioclass will be playing and a cold buffet will be provided.

This will be a ticketed event, due to restrictions on numbers. Tickets are £10 with donations going to British Heart Foundation, Miles Frost Fund. Contact Scott direct on: 01770 830262 or at: scott.weir@scotland.pnn.police.uk for function tickets or to donate any prizes.

Raffle tickets are also available at the Book and Card Centre in Brodick, at £1 a ticket or £5 a strip, with some fabulous prizes including: signed Glasgow Warriors top, signed Rangers top, signed Scotland rugby item, family ticket to Farm Park, £50 No 22 restaurant voucher, four ball East Renfrewshire Golf Club, signed Tiger Wood cap, four ball Brodick Golf Club, bottle Easan Biorach, Beauty Spot voucher, bottles of alcohol and many more prizes.



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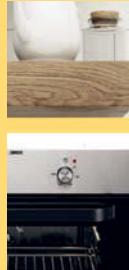
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Editorial

Roads cash boost

It's been a long road, winding and more than a little bumpy, but dare we hope it may soon be coming to an end?

North Ayrshire Council has this week announced a £1 million investment in Arran's crumbling roads network.

Subjected to the kind of pressure normally reserved for the shock absorbers of island vehicles, it seems, the council finally relented.

And not before time.

With the summer months just around the corner, the wheels were seriously in danger of coming off the tourist season altogether.

Arran can't afford to make do with potholed and scarred road surfaces.

After losing public toilets and children's play parks the island's reputation as a welcoming tourist destination is suffering.

And then there's the added inconvenience, and expense, for islanders.

Roads, in rural locations, are the essential arteries that keep the lifeblood of the community flowing.

Without a well-maintained roads network Arran, quite literally, grinds to a halt.

The extra cash is to be welcomed, as is the speedy schedule, but we shouldn't have arrived here at all.

Thought for the Week

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. 2 Cor 5:14

Terminal concerns

Sir,

Now that the new terminal is open, we have a chance to experience the pluses and minuses and, without question, even at this early stage, it is clear that the latter outweigh the former.

I have an interest to declare. A colleague and I, both experienced architects, together with a highly skilled friend and many others, opposed the terminal for years on several grounds, fighting for what we saw as sensible modifications and a better deal for foot passengers. Our suggestions were ignored. As anticipated, we have ended up with a building and access system which are far too large and severely penalise pedestrians.

They disadvantage, in particular, those who are disabled or encumbered by children and baggage, especially those with urgent hospital appointments. For the former, the level of stress caused by the long walk and often pain in walking has been dramatically increased. The building is well detailed and nicely finished and the contractors and project manager are to be congratulated on delivering a complex construction to a high standard and pretty much on time – apart from the long wait for CE approval. But nothing of this scale was necessary for a small island. It has cost not far off £30 million, part of which should have been spent on improving Ardrossan, where the uncertainty whether the boat will sail or not causes an equal amount of stress. Ardrossan is the real killer in the ferry jumble.

Despite the best efforts of the CalMac staff, endlessly

helpful as they are, it is going to be interesting to see what happens when traffic builds up in the summer.

The lifts, although nominally for 13 people, are too small. With a wheelchair and attendant, there is room for just three or four more people with baggage. They work smoothly, but during maintenance or breakdown, there will be no choice other than climbing the stairs or, if unable to do so, of missing the boat. The Adelte access bridge onto the boat is too narrow, with space wide enough for just one wheelchair. And, since this system is complex, having to move on three axes, what will happen when it develops a fault? Arriving passengers leaving via the down stairs are required to go outside and walk a long way to the buses, not knowing whether they are still on the stances or have already left; it is impossible to see the buses from the terminal, other than from the entrance area where there is no seating. Parking is inadequate, with just 40 spaces for general use.

There is not enough additional parking in Shore Road, especially in the season owing to RET, and it will take too long to walk from, for example, the Co-op to the terminal, struggling against wind and rain. Another worry, rumour has it, is that the new Glen Sannox will have difficulty docking in Ardrossan, meaning that the present facilities will have to be altered. If this is going to take a year and the boat sails to Troon, I suppose we shall have the opportunity to assess for ourselves the decision taken a year ago to stay with Ardrossan.

Yours,
Ian Ferguson,
Lamlash.

Litter poem

Sir,

The suggestion that CalMac might display litter notices to benefit Arran is a good idea.

It reminded me of a notice, in the form of a poem, I read at the start of a popular walk in the Drakenberg, South Africa.

'Friend, if perhaps in a year or ten,

You may want to walk this path again,

Then fail not to remove a trace,

Of synthetic foil, cans and other waste;

Plastics that no living thing can flourish on,

Or traps which others will not want to step upon,

Else in times which are soon to come,

Instead of beauty you will find a slum,

And, perhaps, then you will come to understand,

How the splendour of our land,

Was spoilt by litter from your hand.'

It had the desired effect as not one piece of litter was seen that could have spoiled the environment or endangered wild life.

Yours
David Lang,
Cordon.

Transformational titles

Sir,

It's good to see that NAC's department for the creation of pretentious job titles continues to maintain the highest standards.

Last week's zinger was the advert for a Chief Finance and Transformation Officer – although later on in the notice, it becomes Chief Finance and Transformation Officer. However, we will leave that nit unpicked.

Either way, would it be

too much to hope that a similar whiz kid might be appointed to the Roads Department?

Yours

Iain Auld,
Lamlash.

Sugar tax

Sir,

The introduction of the sugar tax is undoubtedly a positive move to help reduce the excessive quantities of sugar in everyday foods and drinks. However, for those who live with or care for young children with type 1 diabetes, quick access to a fizzy drink or sugary food can be a life-saver, and the change is likely to create a new challenge.

People with type 1 must regularly monitor their blood glucose levels. If levels drop dangerously low, they will experience hypoglycaemia (or hypo) and need sugar. For many, instantly reaching for a favourite fizzy drink can be what it takes to stop them going into a coma. They know the exact sugar content and exactly how much they need to drink.

All this changes as drinks manufacturers bring in new recipes and new cans of the same fizzy drink appear on the supermarket shelf alongside the old cans.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition which affects 30,000 Scottish adults and children. It cannot be prevented, and is not linked to lifestyle. Awareness of the challenges associated with type 1 diabetes is increasing and the impact on them of the new sugar tax needs to be acknowledged and tackled both with understanding and good communication.

Yours,
Catriona Morrice,
Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

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COAST spreads its tentacles to host the Eggtopus Trail

The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) helped spread its marine eco-message with an Easter-themed event called the Eggtopus Trail at their marine discovery centre known as The Octopus.

Offering children and adults a series of challenges which earned them an East-

er goodie bag, the event attracted a large crowd of visitors who completely filled The Octopus to capacity.

Outdoors, children enjoyed a host of energetic and fun challenges which included a ball throwing game – aiming for the gaps in an elaborately decorated octopus themed board

in order to achieve at least one direct hit. In a nearby tent children threw balls at a cup arrangement to knock over stacked cups which could also earn them a stamp on their challenge card which included seven events to take part in.

Indoors, the remainder of the challenges and exercises included a fascinating look into microscopic sea life under a microscope, as well as a popular Easter egg pouch-making exercise hosted by Eco Savvy. Reducing plastic waste while learning the useful reuse and recycling skills of sewing, children left with reusable pouches filled with Easter treats.

Continuing with the make-it-yourself theme, children also enjoyed an-



Howard Wood, Jenny Stark and Manuela De Los Rios hand out goodie bags to the children who completed the Eggtopus trail.

other creative venture by building their own toys using simple components, many of which can be recy-

cled and found in the average household.

COAST is a community organisation working for the protection and restoration of the marine environment around Arran and the Clyde.

One of their aims is edu-

cating and informing young people about the need for marine conservation which they accomplish by working with schools, universities, community groups and a regular series of events that are held throughout the year.



A popular event at the Eggtopus trail, children aim for the gaps in the board.



Visitors enjoy a fun activity creating crafty crawlies out of household items.



Children show off their reusable Easter pouches.

Dogtooth

Sat 7th April - 9pm

Sun 8th - 4pm

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Pub Quiz
Wednesday 8.30

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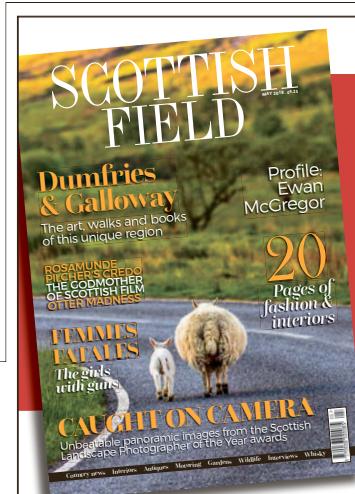
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Ross gets award from his footballing heroes



Arran High School pupil Ross Dobson has been awarded the Kilmarnock FC's Community Hero award for his altruistic work within the community, both in the football arena as well as with the youth on Arran in general.

Ross received the accolade prior to a Kilmarnock v Hamilton Academical match where he presented the ball to the match referee.

The nomination for the Community Hero award came from Graeme Johnston from Arran Youth Foundations who has worked with Ross on a number of projects.

Graeme said: 'I know

Ross through my work on Arran as Youth Work Project Manager for Arran Youth Foundations.

'As a member of our youth forum, Ross helped spray paint and renovate our youth cabins, successfully approached Stagecoach about free extra-curricular buses for the cooking club, arranged the group's visit to Arran Dairies, helped organise youth gigs, and has been involved in various fundraisers for the group.

'He volunteers his time to help coach Arran United, a local team for primary children. Having completed an SFA coaching course, he now leads coaching twice

weekly, and is involved in match day coaching at weekends.

'Ross, who is a youth ambassador at Arran High School, has also completed his Young Leader sports qualification which has allowed him to help lead sports sessions for primary children with the Active Schools Coordinator.

'There is hardly an activity or event on Arran which Ross has not been actively involved in, be it drama, sports or youth work. As part of his youth work with Arran Youth Foundations he has played an active role in assisting with the lunchtime drop-in, cooking, film-making, lacrosse,



Graeme Johnston of Arran Youth Foundations joins Ross Dobson, who received the Community Hero award.

youth forum, running, and the Friday night youth club. He has played his part in the community by planting flowers for the local elderly housing, painting the church railings and delivering Christmas cards to raise youth group funds.

'His involvement in community activity can be seen all over Arran – and further afield – making him a worthy candidate for the accolade. His characteristically humble response to receiving the award was to say thank you for the award and adding, 'It was a brilliant day'.'



Ross Dobson performed keepy-ups before passing the match ball to the referee prior to a Kilmarnock v Hamilton Academical match.

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



FACT 1

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

FACT 2

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

FACT 3

The Scottish Government in their Climate Plan 2017 have identified air source heat pumps as one of their favoured ways to reduce our carbon footprint.

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Tutor: Pablo Illera

Friday Mornings 11.30
Beginning April 6

T'ai Chi
with Sue Thurgood

Taster Session
LingoFlamingo
Thursday April 12, 2:30PM



LOTTERY FUNDED

Eco Savvy gets funding for carbon reducing energy challenge

'We see it as part of our work to make Scotland clean, green and sustainable'

Arran Eco Savvy has secured a Climate Challenge Fund grant which will see it deliver a new project, the Arran Eco Savvy Energy Challenge, aimed at tackling and helping to reduce local carbon emissions.

The funding, totalling £112,151, is part of the £15.3 million made available by the Scottish Government as part of its Keep Scotland Beautiful and Greener Scotland initiatives.

It will see the creation of two full-time jobs on Arran and has been welcomed by the environmental charity which will offer free sup-

port across the island to help people save energy and costs as well as supplying information on carbon literacy and climate change.

Eco Savvy project manager, Jude King said: 'We are delighted to hear that we have funding for another Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) project and can't wait to get started.'

Enhanced

'The Arran Eco Savvy Energy Challenge will really take things to another level in terms of cutting carbon emissions and will ensure that the community has an enhanced understanding and appreciation of en-

ergy savings, directly benefiting from the associated financial and environmental savings. Our previous CCF projects have been a huge success with phenomenal engagement in the Arran schools and across the villages at hub openings, skills-sharing workshops and events.

'With a new focus, but very much seeking to engage with the Eco Savvy network already established, our Energy Challenge project will empower households on Arran to become more energy efficient, make cost savings and look to advise on the feasibility of renewable en-

ergy options on a domestic level. We will also continue our carbon literacy and climate change education with a scheme that will seek to make one out of five people on Arran carbon literate.'

David Gunn, climate challenge fund manager at Keep Scotland Beautiful, said:

'We congratulate Arran Eco Savvy for securing funding from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund and encourage the local community to take advantage of support available through the Arran Eco Savvy Energy Challenge.'

'We look forward to supporting Eco Savvy as they implement their project and empowering many more communities to take action on climate change.'

'We see it as part of our work to make Scotland clean, green and sustainable.'



Eco Savvy project manager Jude King and Shiskine hub coordinator Elizabeth Muirhead at a previous Eco Savvy event. 01_B04eco03



ARRAN ECO SAVVY IS RECRUITING

ENERGY AUDITOR

CONTRACT Fixed Term until 31st March 2019
FULLTIME 40 hours per Week
SALARY £24,000
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 Application Closing Date: 10th April 2018






ARRAN ECO SAVVY IS RECRUITING

PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR

CONTRACT Fixed Term until 31st March 2019
PART-TIME 20 hours per week
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And they are off – children take part in the egg and spoon races.



Children go tumbling in all directions during the sack race.



Children add their entries to the Easter egg decorating contest.



Parents fare slightly better than the young children in the sack race.



Contestants aged between seven and 12 years show off their Easter bonnets.



Two young girls have a laugh during the three-legged race.

Sunshine adds to Easter at the castle

The largest Easter event on Arran also enjoyed the sunniest day of the year as crowds of families flocked to Brodick Castle on Easter Sunday.

The Easter at the Castle event, organised by the Friends of Brodick Castle, saw a record number of visitors enjoying the sunshine, games, competitions and parades and – in conjunction with chocolate manufacturer Cadbury – the Easter egg hunt.

Families scoured the grounds of the historic country park in search of clues hidden throughout the gardens which, once all were located, allowed them to collect a chocolate

treat. On offer for parents were craft stalls to browse while younger children, and some adults, enjoyed the egg decorating competition. There was also an adult and a children's tombola, along with various other fun activities, including duck fishing which earned children prizes.

Wacky races

With an equally liberal distribution of egg prizes, children and adults competed in the wacky races which attracted a huge crowd of participants and supporters.

Included among the traditional favourites such as the three-legged race and the egg-



Under sevens take part in the



Rosie O'Regan and Colin Miller with son Lucas spent an enjoyable Easter at Brodick Castle.



Having a blast at the castle are Sophie and Brodie Sutherland from W

tracts crowds at the Castle

and-spoon race was a dog race and a hilariously comical welly-boot race where contestants had to synchronise their running with four others whose boots were attached to a wooden plank.

Easter bonnet parade

By early afternoon, when the sun was at its highest, the visitors congregated for the popular Easter bonnet parade which saw a wealth of entries ranging from egg-themed bonnets to complete gardens and entire farm menageries.

The fun-filled day was rounded off with the traditional and somewhat unusual duck der-

by which saw hundreds of balls being thrown down the sandstone steps of the castle with the one travelling the furthest winning a prize – which three-year-old Hazel Price won, to her astonishment.

Upkeep

Easter at the Castle is the main fundraising event of the Friends of the Brodick Castle which, along with the Arran Ranger Service, works throughout the year to provide educational and informative activities all geared towards assisting with the preservation, maintenance and upkeep of the Brodick Castle and Country Park.



aster bonnet parade.



Hayley, aged 4, who dressed for the occasion, is with dad Oliver Glister.



The Gregg family seek out the clues on the Easter trail.



Ava and Cameron Russell and Erin surreal.



Dad Donald Roberts enjoys a day out with son Jensen.



Calum and Abbie McGregor of Uddingston concentrate on decorating their egg.



Adults join in the fun at the wacky races.

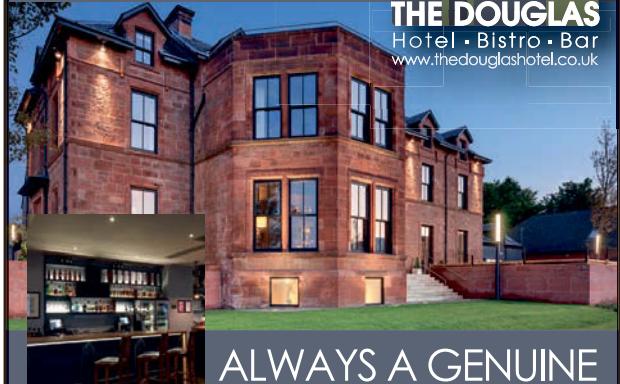


Contestants set off in the wheelbarrow race



An egg and spoon race contestant finds a method of preventing her egg from dropping.

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Easter at the Castle



An unusual duck derby – balls are launched off the stairs at Brodick Castle.



Young Hazel Price gets a boost to her savings by winning first place in the duck derby.



Visitors browse the craft stalls which were hosted by the castle for the first time this year.



Adults show off their creations during the Easter bonnet parade.



Isla and Tia McKinnon tuck into their chocolates after finishing the Easter trail challenge.



Children get to grips with the welly boot race.



Katherine Coyle shows off her winning egg in the egg decorating competition.



Luca Duncan took first place in the under-sevens Easter bonnet competition.



Kevin and Hazel joined mum Kelly Price donning their finest Easter bonnets.

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

Every day

Trout fly fishing
Brodick Castle
Isle be Wild
Soap making and candle dipping Arran Aromatics
Arran Heritage Museum,
Arran Brewery

Loch Garbad, bank fishing
Garden only open 9am-dusk
Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm
Brodick, 10am - 4pm
Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am to 4.30pm
Open Mon - Thursday 11.30am - 4.30pm
Friday & Saturday, 10am - 4.30pm, Sun - Closed

Lamlash Guild spring coffee morning

Coffee morning
Chair yoga exercise class
Bus Pass Club free soup
Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service
Knittery and Nattery
Zumba Gold
Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness)
RUNclub, mixed ability, qualified coaches
Flow yoga
Tae Kwon Do
Yoga-Arran
Mixed hockey
Burger and quiz night
Tae Kwon Do
Alcoholics Anonymous
Live music – Mike Bailey
Family friendly pub quiz
Rock and pop bingo

Lamlash Church Hall, 1015am - noon

St Bride's Church, Brodick, 10.30am - noon
St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am
The PHT, Lamlash, 12noon - 2.30pm
10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Brodick Church Hall, 4.30pm - 5.30pm
Brodick Church Hall, 5.45pm - 6.45pm
Invercloy Co-op car park 5.30pm
Shiskine Hall, 6pm

Saturday 7th April

Flow yoga
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Army Cadets
Brodick beach clean
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Family games
Fun in the pool
Live music – Mike Edwards
Live music – Dogtooth, mod rock and eclectic punk classics
Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
9.30am - 11am
9.30am - noon
Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm
Brodick beach, 11am - 1.00pm
Bowling Club, 2pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8.00pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Arran High School, Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30pm - 9pm
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8.00pm
PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

Sunday 8th April

Live music – Mike Edwards
Family games
Live music – Aimee Penman
AA meeting

Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 1pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Auchrannie Gym 9.30am -10.30am
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm
Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 2.30pm
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm
Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm
Arran High School, 6 - 7pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 6.30pm - 8.00pm
Shiskine Hall, Shiskine, 7pm
Arran High School, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

Monday 9th April

Morning fitness
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Over-50s badminton
JogScotland mixed ability running group
Adult tennis
Arran Junior Football Club
Circuit training
Lamlash Aerobix
Badminton
Badminton
Tae Kwon Do
Live music – Cams Campbell

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30am -10.30am
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Whiting Bay 5.30pm
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 6pm - 7pm
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm - 9pm
Brodick Church Hall, Adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8.00pm

Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 11.30am
Lamlash High School, Lamlash, 6.00pm
The PHT, Lamlash, from 5pm
Lochranza Hall, 6pm - 8pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Church Hall, Brodick 7pm - 9pm
Arran High School, Lamlash, adults, 7pm - 9pm
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8.00pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
The PHT, Lamlash

Tuesday 10th April

Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Healthy Outdoors
Alcoholics Anonymous
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Beginners and general queries information technology – Duan Bruce
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
Flow yoga,
Lamlash Junior Drama Club
Auchrannie winter bowls
Youth club
Fiona's FitSteps
Scottish country dancing
Pop quiz

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Bowling Club, 2pm
Corrie Hall, 6pm
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
Brodick, 7pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
Arran High School, 7pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
9.30am - 11am
9.30am - noon
Auchrannie Road 11am -1 pm
Bowling Club, 2pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Kilmory Hall, 7.30pm
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8.00pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Wednesday 11th April

Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Yoga
Hydrofit

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am- 2pm and 4pm -5pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am -10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am



www.arranbrewery.com





All of the P1/2 entrants.



P1/2 winner Charlie Gilmore of Brodick with Judge Dolina Rumbold.



Winner in the P3/4 category, Michael Innes of Pirnmill with judge Gillian Seaman.



Kirsty Hume of Brodick celebrates winning the P5 category with judge Jock Kelso.

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Bairns pro well versed

Primary pupils from across Arran proved that they are well versed in traditional children's poetry and the poetry of their national Bard at this year's annual Burns poetry competition at the community theatre in Arran High School.

The competition, which is now in its fourth year, is sponsored by the Lamlash Burns Club which is affiliated to the Robert Burns World Federation and was held on Monday March 19. A total of 73 children competed in one of five categories according to their class year and the winners were awarded a personalised framed Burns Club medal, together with

a quaich, which was donated by North Ayrshire Council Education Service. The quaichs are to be displayed in the schools.

All of the youngsters taking part were presented with a personalised coloured scroll which was designed by Arran artist Tony Van Breugel and depicted a background painting, which was the winning entry in the annual primary schools painting and drawing competition, also sponsored by the Burns Club. The winning entry was drawn by P7 Shiskeine pupil Beth McCarthy.

The winners in the various categories were: Primary 1/2 Charlie Gilmore, Brodick. Pri-



There was an impressive entry in the P3/4 category.



All of the P6 entrants.

Love to be kind in Burns

mary 3/4 Michael Innes, Pirnmill. Primary 5 Kirsty Hume, Brodick. Primary 6 Harry Gilmore, Brodick. Primary 7 Daisy Innes, Pirnmill.

The competition was judged by Jock Kelso, past president of Lamlash Burns Club, Dolina Rumbold and Gillian Seaman from North Ayrshire's professional learning academy in Stevenson, while Heather Gough was compere for the event.

Event organiser and club secretary Andy Martin said: 'In continuing to set ourselves the task of securing the future of the Burns tradition here on Arran, we are extremely

proud of all of the youngsters who participated in the competition and who showed such amazing talent.'

'The club would like to offer a special thanks to Shirley MacLachlan, head teacher of Arran primary schools, who has been a tremendous supporter in encouraging pupils to become involved in the competitions; Lamlash campus head teacher Barry Smith; to all of the island's primary school teachers, school admin staff; and club committee members, in particular Douglas Auld for acting as recorder and usher for all of the attendees.'

Photographs by Richard Fletcher



Competition official and artist Tony Van Bruegel presents P6 winner Harry Gilmore of Brodick with his quaich.



P7 winner Daisy Innes, Pirnmill with compere Heather Gough.



Past Burns president Jock Kelso with all of the P5 entrants.



All of the P7 entrants.


NATIONAL TRUST for SCOTLAND

What's on at Brodick Castle, Garden & Country Park

BRODICK CASTLE FROM THE OUTSIDE

Sun 8, Tue 10, Thurs 12 & Fri 13 10:30, 12:30 & 14:30pm

Mon 9 11:30 & 14:00

A guided historical tour of the exterior of the Castle. Stout footwear advised. Adults FREE with Garden Entry. Please book at reception on arrival.

ROUNDHOUSE OPEN **Wed 11 11:00 – 15:00**

Immerse yourself in Bronze Age life in our authentic roundhouse. FREE with Country Park entry; donations welcome.

No need to book, drop in between 11:00 & 15:00

BADGER WATCH FOR FAMILIES **Wed 11 Times TBC (evening)**

Find out all about our charismatic badgers' secretive lives, and hopefully, experience the thrill of watching them up closely!

Adult £10, u16 £5 (not suitable for under 6yr olds).

Booking essential, tel. rangers 01770 302462.

CASTLE TIME TRAVELLERS **Thurs 12 April 13:00**

A family tour journeying through time – dressing-up optional!

Stout footwear advised.

Adults & children FREE with Garden Entry.

Booking essential, tel. 01770 302202.

BUSHCRAFT for 8 - 12yr olds **Thurs 12 14:00 – 16:30**

Find out how to build a cosy shelter, light a fire, and see what food you can find in the woods.

£10/child Booking essential, tel. 01770 302462.

CASTLE closed 2018 for fire safety works & refurbishment

CAFE & "ISLE BE WILD" PLAYGROUND

open daily 10am – 4pm

Obituary:

Donald Johnston, 1953 Lamlash chandler 2018

It will soon be summer and, if the weather is being kind, Lamlash will be swarming with excited children fishing for crabs and cannonballing off the pier. Sadly one essential ingredient will be missing: Donald Johnston will no longer be behind the counter of Johnston's Marine Stores. Donald, often gruff, sometimes genial, ever erudite, died suddenly at the age of 64 in January after running the shop for 47 years.

Donald James Allan Johnston was born on August 2 1953 in Doncaster where his father was stationed with the RAF.

In time the family moved briefly to Devon and Donald started his schooling there with older brother Iain and younger brother Douglas.

However, on his father's retirement from the RAF in 1960 the family re-located to Arran and bought The Old Pier Café and adjacent shop in Lamlash and settled in a house on Bungalow Road. Donald's schooling in Devon must have been a success, be-

cause after his first day in Lamlash Primary School a class-mate complained to his mother: 'That Johnston boy can read with his eyes shut!'

In the 1960s, pupils who were expected to take Highers had to attend Rothesay Academy, but there was no school accommodation, just individual digs. Donald quickly became independent living away from home, and while he was a keen rugby player, playing for the Rothesay First XV, he could not wait to get away from the place.

At 16 he went to the University of Strathclyde and, although in his own opinion a 'genius at physics', he really couldn't be bothered with the maths. After his first year he returned to Lamlash, never to leave.

The time in Glasgow was not totally wasted, however. Strathclyde Union were unexpectedly flush with cash that year, and rock and blues fanatic Donald got to see all the major bands of the day either in the union or at Green's Playhouse.

Back in Lamlash, his fa-

ther had sold the café but kept the little shop. Donald and brother Douglas began to use it as a base for diving, catching and selling scallops and sea urchins, while older brother Iain ran the Holy Isle Ferry.

The brothers started up their own company, Vortex Diving, working on moorings, unsnagging propellers and at one time contracted to descale the legs of an oil rig which wintered one year in Lamlash.

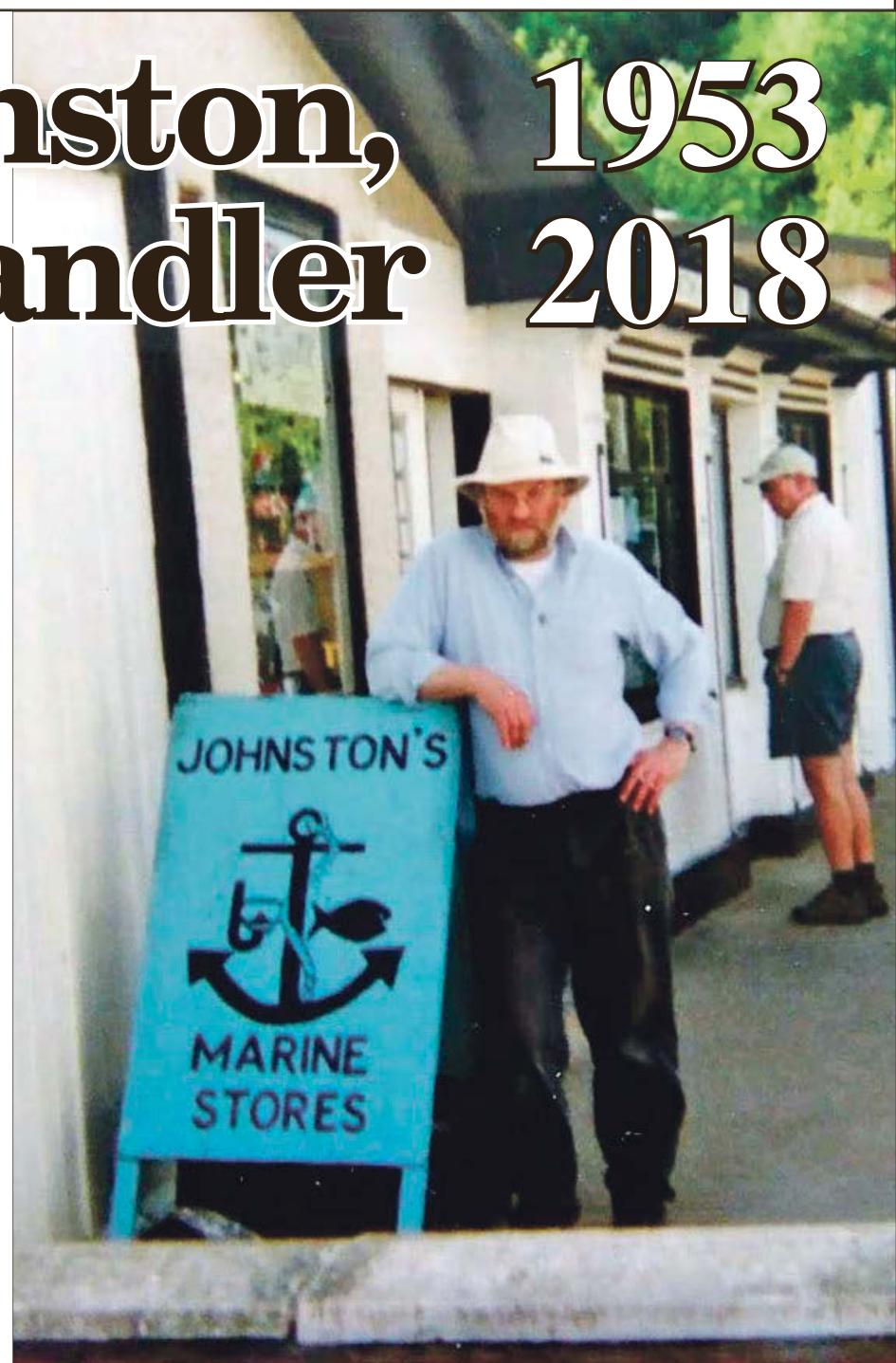
The diving also produced a fascinating collection of salvaged articles from the bay, and Donald began to curate a mini-museum in the window of the ever-expanding Marine Stores.

By the time Douglas left to pursue his own university education, the shop had almost accidentally become a chandlery, fishing and dive shop. Donald continued as a working diver, filling diving bottles with his compressor, hiring out rowing boats and working on his beloved Seagull outboards, often for seven days a week.

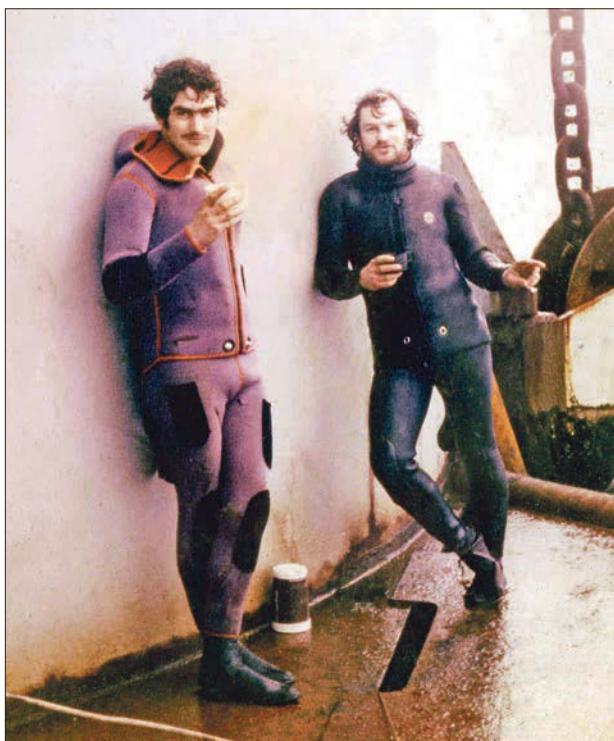
Due to Health and Safety regulations and his own health problems, he was forced to give up the diving and hiring of boats but he continued to diversify into other areas, especially out-of-print books, building up a wonderful collection of Arran and nautical material, both for his own collection and for sale in the shop and later online.

In 1994 he published his first book, *Arran Shipwrecks*, the result of years of research in The National Archives, the Public Record Office and the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. For the last few years he was working on a history of the convoys in Lamlash Bay during the First World War, a book that is currently at the editing stage and will eventually be published.

In 1999 Donald hatched



Donald outside his beloved shop at Lamlash Pier.



Donald (right) with his brother Douglas during their diving days.

a plot to hijack some of the Tall Ships heading for Greenock. Having discovered that the finish of the race was to be five nautical miles east of Pillar Rock Lighthouse on Holy Isle he instigated an invitation to all the skippers in the race to call in to Lamlash. No one had any idea if any of these magnificent vessels would turn up but in the end the bay was crammed with 20 spectacular ships.

There is little doubt that the subsequent Tall Ships visit and Lamlash's 2011 Marine Festival would never have happened without Donald's original dream and vision.

Donald married Heather, another music and book fanatic, in 1986 and the family was completed with the

arrival of son Matthew. He was a devoted father, encouraging Matthew's various obsessions from conjuring to film-making, but the tap dancing was a bit of a challenge. After years of trying to educate his son in the blues to no avail all changed the day Donald, inspired by B B King, acquired an Epiphone 335 electric guitar.

Within weeks, Matt was playing better than his father ever would and Donald was thrilled to follow and encourage Matt's musical career.

In the early 1990s Donald also rediscovered the joy of live gigs, the 1980s being in his opinion 'the decade music died', and he and Heather made numerous trips to Glasgow and Edinburgh to see blues legends both fa-

mous and obscure. They rarely managed longer holidays with Heather working in Arran High School and Donald working seven days a week during the tourist season. Donald hated leaving the shop for too long. It was more than just a business to him – it was his way of life and his passion.

He was as happy instructing small children in the art of catching crabs as he was selling expensive fishing tackle to adults or sharing obscure details of Lamlash and Arran history with interested customers.

Donald loved Arran, he loved the pub, he loved gardening and cooking and music. He loved his family. He will be greatly missed on Lamlash Pier by visitors and locals alike.

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday March 28, 1998

Donald to visit

The man almost certain to be Scotland's First Minister, Scottish secretary Donald Dewar, will visit Arran next week to chair a meeting of the Highlands and Islands Convention at the castle on Friday. This is the fifth meeting of the convention, a body set up to look at the problems of the Highlands and islands. It includes all MPs and MEPs from the region as well as representatives from tourist boards and local authorities. Jim Lees of Corrie represents the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board.

The agenda for the meeting includes: membership, European funding, transport co-ordination, the changing electricity market, the role of Gaelic and tourism and telecommunications. The last time Mr Dewar was on Arran was in 1987.

Permission at last

Planning permission for the Charters Towers development in Brodick has been passed at last. This concludes a long and weary journey for developer Celia Urquhart and for those who have protested against her plans. This is the fourth application that she has made and each previous one has been hotly contested. Each

new application has been toned down so that it has gone from a development housing more than 90 people, plus commercial premises, to a more modest four detached and ten semi-detached houses.

Throughout the applications there have been angry public meetings, many representations to the local authority and even a Scottish Office public local inquiry. The concern was always that the plans were far too large for such a small village and would increase its population by 10 per cent in one swoop. Asked if this was his most contentious application, planner Mick Lee said: 'For a development it's one of the longest I have ever dealt with, although, it is not unique.'

Clansman returns

The Clansman sails again. Long the Arran ferry, she was sold abroad and may be no more. But today (Friday) a new Clansman was launched by HRH The Princess Royal, who, in 1993, launched MV Caledonian Isles. MV Clansman was launched at Appledore Shipbuilders in Devon, the first CalMac ship to be built there. She is the fifth ship to carry the name Clansman and will serve on the Inner and Outer Hebrides runs.



Lesley van Bogerjen was the horticultural society's bulb show champion last Saturday. Lesley's mother Dorothy, right, said the judges loved Lesley's own bred narcissus. 01_B13twe04



All the riders who took part in the Cairnhouse Winter Points Championship which was won by junior Jenna Thomson and senior Mhairi Holmer. 01_B13twe05



Alan Bannatyne, Jean Murchie, Cecily Bannatyne, Charlie Murchie, Cathie Galbraith and Ethel Shaw stand on the new carpet which has just been replaced at Blackwaterfoot bowling rink after 17 years. 01_B13twe01



Learning to surf the net as part of the Argyll and the Islands Tourism (AIE) online initiative, Mr and Mrs Terry McManus of the Invercloy Hotel are watched over by Melody McKay of AIE and Diane Miller and Linda Johnston. 01_B13twe02



Third year pupils at Arran High School introduce members of Contact the Elderly to the computer age with lessons on how to use them. For many of the participants, aged up to 75, this was their first time using a computer. 01_B13twe03

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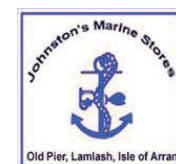
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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.

3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

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

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Childs Raleigh Cycle-suit 4-6 yr old £25. Childs Raleigh Cycle-suit 7-10 yr old £30. Tel 01770 600620.

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Lamlash Council Offices, Isle of Arran | Start 8am

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Public Notices

Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010

THE MARINE LICENSING (PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc a company registered in Scotland under number SC213460 having its registered office at Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3AQ plans to hold a pre-application consultation event regarding a proposed licensable marine activity at the crossing of the existing electricity submarine cable between:

Arran (Balliekin) Easting 186986 Northing 639052
and
Carradale Easting 181402 Northing 639107

The activity consists of the installation of an electricity submarine cable between Arran and Carradale which is critical for a safe and reliable supply of electricity to our customers.

Further information concerning the proposed submarine electricity cable installation between Arran and Carradale can be obtained from:

<http://news.ssen.co.uk/submarinecables/>

The pre-application consultation events will be held at:

| Date | Location | Venue | Time |
|------------|-----------|----------------------------|----------|
| 21/05/2018 | Arran | Auchrannie Hotel, KA27 8BZ | 2pm-6pm |
| 22/05/2018 | Arran | Auchrannie Hotel, KA27 8BZ | 10am-4pm |
| 25/05/2018 | Carradale | Carradale Hall, PA28 6QG | 12pm-3pm |

Persons wishing to provide comments on the proposed submarine electricity cable between Arran and Carradale can do so by writing to the prospective applicant at:

submarinecables@sse.com

Or by post marked for the attention of Submarine Cable Team to:

Inveralmond House, 200 Dunkeld Road, Perth PH1 3AQ, not later than 29/06/2018.

Comments should be dated and should clearly state the name (in block capitals) and full return email or postal address of those making comment. Comments made to the prospective applicant are not representations to the Scottish Ministers. If Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution submits an application for a marine licence to Scottish Ministers, an opportunity will be given for representations to be made to the Scottish Ministers on the application.



EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

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Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Neil Young, trading as Neil Young Joinery and Building Ltd. of Seabreeze, 5 Kinnel Park, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8JG is applying for a licence to use

MONAMHOR, LAMLASH, ISLE OF ARRAN, KA27 8NJ as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.

A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

WHITING BAY BOWLING CLUB

A.G.M.

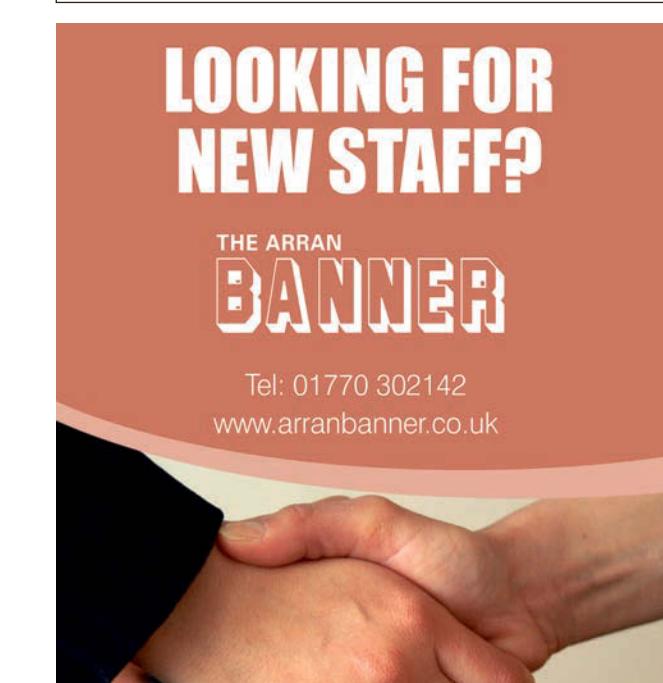
will be held at the Club House on
Tuesday 10th April 2018
at 7pm.

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CHURCH NOTICES**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

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

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

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

Sunday 8th April

Lochranza Church, 9.30am. Morning Service.

Pirnmill Church, 10.45am. Morning Service

Shiskine Church, 12noon

Morning Worship.

Brodick Church, 10.30am.

Morning Worship.

Corrie Church, 11.30am

Prayer Meeting, 12noon

Morning Worship

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

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 8th April

Holy Communion 11 am.

Rev Canon Simon

Mackenzie, Priest-in-Charge.

Coffee after service.

Wednesday 11th April

Holy Communion, 12.15pm

ALL WELCOME

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 8th April

Morning Service 11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6.30pm

5 Glen Road, Brodick

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday Worship at 11am

Brodick Library

Telephone 700346

Everyone Warmly Invited

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 8th April

Rev. Lily McKinnon

Kilmory - 10am

Lamlash - 11.30am

In Lamlash: prayer time

10.45am.

All welcome, including families; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Brodick 6pm

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**Sunday 8th April**

Sunday Mass 11am

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Sunday 8th April

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 and everyone is invited to stay and enjoy more fellowship afterwards.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 8th April

Service 11am, Ormidale Pavilion

Tea and coffee after the service

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.

Telephone 600222

Everyone warmly invited

DEATH**ALLSOP:**

Peacefully at Montrose House on Sunday 1st April 2018, Audrey, beloved wife of the late Bryan, and partner of David Hemming and much loved mother and grandmother. Cremation service at Masonhill Crematorium, Ayr on Wednesday 11th April 12 noon, followed by a funeral service on Thursday 12th April at Corrie Church 2pm. Family flowers only and retiring collection in aid of the SSPCA and Dementia Support Service, Arran. All welcome, colours preferred.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

BANNATYNE: Sheena and family have been touched and overwhelmed by the love and support received following Jim's death. Thanks for the kind tributes to Jim in the cards, flowers and phone messages. For the support of so many who came to the funeral and their donations which totalled £800 divided between Arran Hospital Supporters League and ARCAS. Special thanks to Angus for his uplifting service and piping tribute. Clair and David for their professional guidance throughout this difficult time. We are grateful for the help and support we received from doctors, nurses and staff at the hospital and Shiskine Surgery. Special thanks to Nurse Kate Jenks and Dr Greg for their support that enabled Jim to be at home for his last days. Thanks also to the carers at home support, especially Lou, Maggie and Alistair. To Robbie and staff at Kinloch for the lovely lunch provided.

**Lamlash Golf Club.****Brodick Golf Club**

Sunday March 25, Winter Cup, final round. Stableford, NC, 14 played. Iain Sillars 15, 42pts, Douglas Robertson 18, 41pts, Brian Smith 13, 39pts, ACB. Winter Cup, final result, Stableford, best five rounds total. David Hendry 194pts, Alistair Hume 190pts, Bob McCrae 185pts. Winter Eclectic, Iain MacDonald 55, Gordon Hendry 56, Alistair Hume, Ewan McKinnon and Bob McCrae, all 58.

Wednesday March 28, Summer Cup. 27 played, NC. Alistair Hume 77-11=66, ACB, Bruce Jenkins 73-7=6, ACB, Matthew Dobson 73-7=66. Scratch, Matthew Keir 73, ACB.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday April 1, The Roy Ure Tankard. A decent-sized field of 21 turned out for the popular season opener. Overhead conditions were beautiful and underfoot the course was clearly benefiting from a few days of dry weather.

CSS stayed at 63/36 points and the winner was Paul Robson with a fine 39 Stableford points. 1 Paul Robson 18, 39pts, 2 Jamie Macpherson 6, 38pts, 3 John Pennycott 13, 37pts, 4 Martin Foster 9, 36pts, ACB. Magic twos, Dave Hackett at 11th, John Pennycott at 17th.

Fixtures: Sunday April 8, The Tor Alvey Greensome. One draw for partners at 10am. Wednesday April 11, Summer Trophy. All day competition with optional draw at 5.30pm.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

PIERCE: An informal celebration of the life of Sarah Pierce will be held in Kilmory Village Hall at 2.30pm on Wednesday 11th April. Reverend Lilly McKinnon officiating. A cordial invitation is extended to everyone who wishes to attend. Refreshments will be served.

years of playing golf, Andy Smith had a hole in one at the 16th. Congratulations Andy. 1 Alan Smith 76-11=65, BIH, 2 Allan Winship 79-14=65. Magic twos, Billy O'Connor at 5th, Andy Smith at 17th.

Saturday March 31, Glenisle mixed fours. 1 June Richardson and Allan Winship 91-20=71, 2 Tricia Martin and Douglas Robertson 97-24.5=72.5.

Sunday April 1, Texas scramble, six teams played. The winners, with an impressive 55-5.8=49.2 were Frank Stewart, Iain Murchie, Alistair Ferrier and Alison Young. Runners-up, with a very good 61-8=53, were John O'Sullivan, Alan Short, Alistair Crawford and Ruth Hardy.

Fixtures: Sunday April 8, Carpenter Rose Bowl at 8.30am, 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday April 12, Summer Cup. Make up own games, see starter for times. Sunday April 15, Hugh Hutchison Greensome at 12.30pm.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday April 3, Peter Sutton Cup. 1 P Betley 72, 2 R Betley 75.

Fixtures: Tuesday April 10, Peter Sutton/Lady Mary, tee off at 12.30pm and 5.30pm. Tuesday April 17, Thursday April 19, and Saturday April 21, Ladies Kiscadale Salver. Saturday April 14, The re-arranged gents' Eddie Rankin at Corrie, shotgun start, tee off at 1.30pm.



Phil Betley, winner at Machrie Bay Golf Club.

Dinner and prize-giving winds up bridge season

The winter season of the Arran Bridge Club was wound up with a prize-giving and dinner at Brodick Golf Club where members were also celebrating the addition of seven new members joining the group.

The following prizes were presented: The Peggy Currie Cup (teams of four) - Fiona Crawford, Maureen Cumming, Trish Martin and David Campbell. Runners up - Jennifer McArthur and Jean Barclay, John and Jan Beattie.

The Adam Morrison Cup (prepared hands) - John and Jan Beattie. Runners up - Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

The Duncan Cup - Douglas Hamilton and Trish Martin. Runners up - Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure.

The Boyd Trophy (match points) - Jan and John Beattie. Runners up - Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure.

Adam Morrison Trophy (aggregate points) - David Campbell and Trish Martin. Runners up - Jan and John Beattie.

The McConnell Trophy - David Campbell and Trish Martin. Runners up - Jan and John Beattie.

Recent results prior to the end of the season included: The results of the aggregate competition played at Lamlash on Monday March 19: EW 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Ellie Jones and Alison Bilsland, 3 Jean Barclay and Jennifer McArthur.

The results of the Boyd Trophy round six played at Brodick on Thursday March 22 were as follows: 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Jan and John Beattie, 3 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 4 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan.

The results of the aggregate competition played at Lamlash on Monday March 26 were as follows:



All of the winners at the Arran Bridge Club prize-giving at Brodick Golf Club.

NS 1 Douglas and Margaret Bruce, 2 John Baraclough and Jim Peacock, 3 Pat Adamson and Fiona

Henderson. EW 1 Margaret MacGill and Elizabeth

McKellar, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie,

every Monday with the first meeting taking place on Monday April 16 at Arran High School at 6.15pm.

The summer bridge season will now commence

Arran rugby festival in focus



Arran hoists a player into the air to gain possession during a line-out.



Coach Euan Rains joins his young players for a team photograph.



Ardrossan Academicals featured a few Arran faces which helped to bolster numbers.



A large gathering of supporters who went along to support their team.



The next generation of young rugby players practise their ball control skills.

Blackwaterfoot bowls season starts

The new season starts today (Saturday) at Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club with the first jack at 2pm.

With the winter bowling season over, the club would like to thank all its friends from other clubs on the island for their support through the winter and hopes it will see them from time to time through the summer.

The club is always glad to welcome new members whether they are old hands or absolute beginners. Members are happy to give less experienced members tuition should that be appropriate and anyone interested should go along on rinks days and see them.

The first tournament of the season will take place on Saturday April 21, with the draw being made at 1.45pm.

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Dinner and prize-giving winds up bridge season

Arran shine at rugby festival

A re-formed Arran Rugby Club outshone their opponents during a hard fought friendly match at the annual rugby festival held at the Ormidale Park on the Easter weekend.

Traditionally known as the Arran Rugby 7s, the festival changed format this year to a 15-a-side tournament, owing to many opposition teams being unable to attend due to league fixture commitments.

A team of Arran players, some of whom have not played a competitive game since being unable to muster a full league team last year, re-formed to host a day celebrating and enjoying rugby.

Playing against Ardrossan

Academicals, who compete in the BT National League Division 3 team, Arran performed exceptionally well right from the start of the match and eventually dealt their opponents a defeat of 55 - 7 by the final whistle.

Ardrossan Academicals, who travelled over to Arran for the day, also experienced a lack of players which left two Arran players joining the team to even out the number of players.

Following the match a number of junior players took to the field to enjoy some rugby training under the watchful eyes of Scottish Rugby Union modern apprentice Euan Rains, who passed on tips about ball control passing, kick-

The re-formed Isle of Arran RFC pose for a team photograph prior to kick-off.

ing and teamwork.

Supporters who remembered to bring their boots, and many that were enthused by the day's play,

took part in a kicking competition and a ball passing accuracy game on the sidelines.

Visitors, guests and sup-

porters welcomed the return of seeing rugby taking place at the Ormidale Park, along with good food from Hooked and Cooked

and unlimited refreshments from the beer tent which stayed open until late into the afternoon.

See page 23 for more photos



Referee Mark Whelan keeps a close eye on players during the scrum

Arran's Jack McNally performs a textbook take-down while his team mates look on

Memorial darts contest

Entries are still open for the annual Donald and James Mackenzie memorial mixed doubles darts competition which will take place in Kilmory Hall on Saturday April 14 at 7.30pm.

It is the 30th anniversary of the contest in memory of Donald, who passed away on June 6, 1988, and James who passed away in 2004.

As always all the money raised will go to local charities, which this year will be the Kilmory Community Bus, Kilmory Hall and the Arran services of Action on Hearing Loss Scotland. Any donations or raffle prizes would be most appreciated by organiser Margaret Mackenzie. The competition is open to over 16s only.

The social club will be open on the night and local transport can be arranged. The names of those wishing to play should be telephoned to Margaret on 870309 or Andrea on 870345 by Friday April 13 at the latest. For transport contact Phyllis on 870263.

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