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SATURDAY 15 APRIL, 2017

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## Easter fun

Egg-citing weekend in store at castle



## Flying high

Arran's Red Baron chalks up final triumph



## Victory

Ardrossan named winner in port battle with Troon

# End of an eyesore

## New hope for rundown McLaren Hotel site in Brodick

**Hugh Boag**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

There was high hope this week that new life is about to be breathed into a rundown site in the centre of Brodick.

The McLaren Hotel, just yards from the ferry terminal, has been lying abandoned and derelict since it closed two and a half years ago.

Former owner Billy McLaren closed the hotel in November 2014 after it had been in continuous operation for 76 years. He said then it had been bought by a developer.

However, in the months and years that have followed, nothing has happened at the site, which has become more overgrown and unsightly as time has passed. The hotel is now little more than a shell.

Attempts by various organisations, including the Arran Civic Trust, to identify the owner of the site have failed.

But this week it is reported that a mystery new owner has emerged who is said to be in talks with planning officials at North Ayrshire Council for what is being described as a 'major hotel development'.

The hotel has had just three owners to date, with the Dun-

can family operating the business for 58 years.

It was originally built in 1938 for Hugh McWalter, who previously owned what is now Dunvegan. The Dunvegan was previously called the Kingsley and he took the name with him to the new hotel.

Dick and Christine Duncan bought the Kingsley in 1944 and ran it alone until the mid-1960s when their son Robbie, who had trained as a chef, joined them. Around this time the chalet extension added more bedrooms. Robbie's wife Elaine started working there in the late 1960s.

It was then decided to open a bar, with the couple's other son, Russell, and his wife Jan, opening Duncan's Bar in 1973.

In the mid 1980s, a swimming pool was added and the new extensive beer garden proved a great success. The hotel had many guests who returned every summer, some for more than 40 years.

The family sold the hotel to Mr McLaren in 2002, and he renamed it and ran it and the adjacent Mac's Bar with wife Janie until 2014.

In 2009, Mr McLaren applied for planning permission



The eyesore McLaren Hotel on Brodick shorefront, left, and, below, the hotel in happier times when it was the Kingsley, hosting a vintage car rally in the 1980s.

to build 24 flats beside the hotel but the proposals were rejected after considerable local opposition.

Russell Duncan said: 'The family are very sad to see it in its current very dilapidated state.'

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'We have provided pre-application advice to the owner of the site and await the submission of an application for planning permission.'



## Bar doubt for new boat

There are doubts about whether the new £48.5 million Arran ferry will have a bar.

The news emerged at the Arran Ferry Committee this week when a CMAL official told members that the new boat, due to come into service later next year, had no 'bar space'.

It comes after a row two years ago when it emerged that the new MV Loch Seaforth, which serves the Caledonian MacBrayne Stornoway route, did not have a separate bar area, although alcohol is available to buy in the cafeteria.

Sources say this could be the situation on the new Arran ferry, although there is still hope a bar area may be provided, but it is unlikely there will be any draught beer.

CMAL, which made the original announcement, directed our inquires to CalMac but it declined to confirm or deny the situation with the bar.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'The specifications

Continued on page 3



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## NEWS In Brief

## Lost walker found by police

Arran Mountain Rescue Team was called out last Saturday night to search for a walker who had intended walking over the Saddle in Glen Rosa but had become lost.

The alarm was raised at 6.30pm but the team was stood down a short while later after the man was found by police in the Monyquill area.

## Hustings to be held in Brodick

Ahead of the North Ayrshire Council elections, the Arran CVS is holding a hustings to which all Ardrossan and Arran candidates are invited.

Seven candidates will contest the three ward seats.

The hustings will take place in Brodick Hall on Monday April 24 at 7.30pm.

# Toilet closures do not sit well with visitors

Colin Smeeton  
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The row over the closure of public toilets across Arran shows no signs of abating.

As the island gears up for what could be one of the busiest Easter weekends on record, the closure of six toilets on the island is still causing serious concern in all communities.

Heated debate continues on the *Banner's* letters page and on social media where the topic has divided public opinion.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that the closure of facilities is already having a negative effect on tourism after a busload of visitors were reportedly turned



A sign of the times...  
 01\_B15toilets02

away from an establishment wishing to use their facilities. Other premises report being inundated with visitors making use

of their toilets. These include the Corrie Tea Room which posted on Facebook that paying customers were having to queue to use the toilets because of the numbers of people using them.

At the Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash, owner Jane Howe said she was at her 'wits end' as staff were being diverted to clean the toilets continually due to the numbers using them.

The additional footfall and use has already required remedial plumbing work to be undertaken due to the additional demands.

While some establishments initially supported allowing the public to make use of their facilities, the reality of the consequences of 'Toilets for customers' use only' have started to appear.

One visitor to the island, Ethel Craig from Kirkin-

tilloch, said: 'As a regular holidaymaker to Arran at least three times a year, I think the council policy of closing the toilets on the island is the most ridiculous piece of decision making I have ever heard of.'

'Spending a day out with a dog does not always include a refreshment break in premises with customer toilets. Are we all going to be in danger of prosecution for urinating in public?'

'We stay in Lochranza when on the island and I can already see this will have an effect on The Sandwick Station's custom.'

'I have even seen the bus stop so that the driver can have a comfort break.'

An anonymous source who spoke to *The Banner* has also suggested council workers themselves have found that they are left without facilities while

on the road and that complaints have been made to their superiors.

But a spokesman from North Ayrshire Council said: 'We have received no complaints from staff regarding the availability of facilities on Arran.'

'A number of facilities have remained in operation as a result of transfer to local communities.'

The same source stated that council workers have been told to make use of facilities at island schools when out on the road, something the council say it does not advise its staff to do.

Retiring councillor John Bruce believes there is still adequate toilet provision on the island and in a letter to *The Banner* this week states that the majority of Arran villages: 'have agreed to either an asset transfer, to adopt and maintain their own existing public toilets, or to create and maintain their own facilities'.

This includes Whiting Bay, Kilmory, Corrie and Sannox and Kildonan, not all of which were council facilities.

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In Brodick, the public are being redirected to an alternative location following the closure of the toilets. 01\_B15toilets01



Corinna Goeckeritz welcomes guests and, inset, Arran Dawn perform with Bethany and Imogen. 01\_A15mountain03

## Exhibition showcases mountain work of artists

A new exhibition featuring local artists' paintings and textiles of the Arran mountains has opened in Brodick.

As part of the 2017 Arran Mountain Festival, organisers asked local artists

to showcase their Arran mountains related work in a special exhibition taking place upstairs at Arran Active until the end of May.

The exhibition features a variety of works and styles by Heath-

er Macleod, John Knox, Jim Mackintosh, Ronnie McNeice and textile artist Tessa Smith.

Invited guests enjoyed a preview last Friday when there was also live music from Arran Dawn,

featuring Heather Macleod and Stuart Farrar, as well as fiddle music from Bethany Walsh and her friend Imogen Reeves from Edinburgh. The artwork is available for sale.

## New ferry may not have bar facilities

Continued from page one

for the catering and retail elements of the two new ships is still to be finalised so it would be premature to speculate about the layout and nature of onboard services at this stage.'

The second boat is being built for the 'Skye Triangle' route.

Meanwhile, CalMac gave the island an Easter boost with the news that the MV

Isle of Arran is providing additional sailings on one of the busiest weekends of the year.

The extra sailings started on Thursday and will run until Tuesday, with at least three extra sailings from each port per day, and more today (Saturday) when there will be seven additional sailings to cope with demand.

■ Also see page four.

## Brodick pier centre re-opens after repairs

The iCentre at Brodick pier re-opened in time for Easter on Monday after being closed for six weeks for essential roof repairs.

The work involved the replacement of felt on the flat roof and the removal of leaking skylights, plus

some additional improvements to the property's exterior and interior.

During the closure, iCentre's visitor services had been transferred to the ferry terminal's waiting area where a limited service was available.

# Relief over port decision

Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

There was a welcome relief on Arran as confirmation came, as expected, that Ardrossan would remain as the mainland ferry port.

The decision to continue 182 years of services between Arran and Ardrossan has been welcomed both on the island and in Ardrossan after a failed bid to take the ferry to Troon.

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'Having lobbied hard for the retention of Ardrossan, I am delighted that SNP ministers made the sensible choice of retaining Ardrossan as the Ayrshire mainland port for the Arran ferry service.'

'Doug Coleman, from Peel Ports, will present details of the Ardrossan harbour project to Isle of Arran Ferry Committee next month.

'Peel Ports and NAC will now work to deliver the £15 million of improvements before the new £48.5 million

state of the art ferry now being built at Port Glasgow joins the Ardrossan to Brodick route next summer.'

North Ayrshire Council chief executive Elma Murray said: 'The minister has reached the right decision following lengthy and detailed consideration of the technical data gathered during the assessment of both mainland berthing options. 'Today's announcement will reassure Arran residents and the wider travelling public that Ardrossan genuinely offers the best location for the new generation ferry being introduced in 2018.'

Doug Coleman, project director for Peel Ports, said: 'We were always convinced that the benefits of retaining the ferry service on the shortest, fastest and cheapest route were overwhelming. Now we have been given a long-term commitment by the Scottish Government, we are able to start on the biggest investment pro-

gramme Ardrossan Harbour has seen in recent years.

'The new passenger and marine infrastructure – combined with the new £48.5 million ferry, which will come into service in the autumn of next year – will be of enormous benefit to the people of Arran and Kintyre – and to the hundreds of thousands of visitors who use the service each year.

'From my many meetings with local people and other ferry users over the past few months, they have enthusiastically backed retaining the ferry on its traditional route, but they also made it clear that they wanted major investment in Ardrossan to meet the standard of the new vessel. That's what we're now going to deliver.'

Making the announcement cabinet secretary for economy, jobs and fair work Keith Brown said: 'We have decided that retaining Ardrossan as the mainland port is the best option.'

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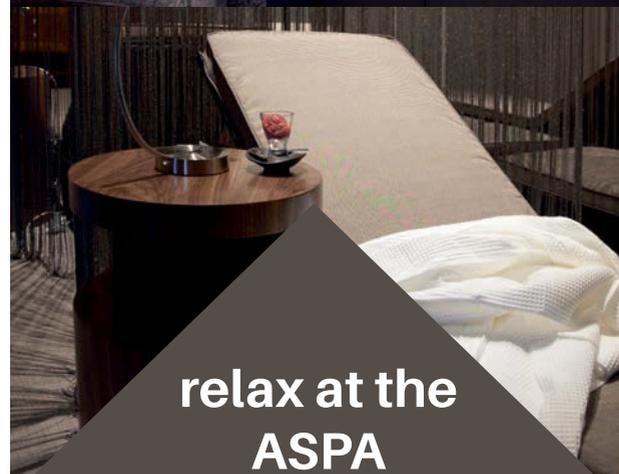




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Comic book artist Gary Erskine provided pupils with comic book workshops. B14library01  
 Author Caighlan Smith reads excerpts from her book *Children of Icarus*. B14library02

## Pupils inspired by school literary visits

Arran High School pupils enjoyed a series of literary events in March when they received visits from young adult author Caighlan Smith and comic book artist Gary Erskine, writes modern apprentice Bethan Remington.

Monday March 13 brought a visit from Canadian author Smith, who is currently studying at the University of Glasgow where she is doing a Masters in Fantasy Literature.

In the morning Smith spoke to S1-S3 pupils about some of her pub-

lished works and how she started writing. Twenty-two-year-old Smith inspired the Arran students with her talk.

She also read from two of her books, the latest being *Children of Icarus*. After reading from her books, Smith sat down with a handful of S1-S3 pupils to go through some creative writing tips, hoping to inspire them for the future.

On Wednesday March 29, the school welcomed comic book artist Gary Erskine, who over the years

has worked for Marvel Comics and many other companies across the globe.

Gary gave a 50-minute workshop to the S1-S3 pupils and, after school, another to the senior art students.

This was a great opportunity and addition to the academic curriculum which grabbed the attention of many students.

Comic books are a wonderful example of literacy and art, and Gary's work was exciting and relevant to many students.

## New ferry layout revealed to committee

Members of the Ferry Committee, who met last Monday, received a presentation on the layout of the new CMAL vessel by company representative Jim Anderson.

Although larger at 102.4m, with the current MV Caledonian Isles at 94m, there will be an open deck to the rear.

With increased demand for car deck and haulage space, Mr Anderson highlighted the difficulties in fitting in additional lifts and stairwells, whilst still maximising the internal seating areas.

Mezzanine decks will be split into two, offering greater flexibility, and the car deck should also offer easier access for most vehicles. Internal accom-

modation will offer an enhanced passenger room, lounges fore and aft, one incorporating the cafeteria, increased socket points, areas for children's play, dog owners, visitor information, games, toilets – including a facility for the disabled with hoist – and luggage storage. There are two serving areas – fore and aft. On deck six, which can be accessed by a lift, there is an observation lounge with a quiet area and access to the outer decks.

The natural gas tank will take up considerable room inside the vessel, but it will offer less omissions and overall be better for the environment. Details of the new ferry are available on the CMAL website.

## Call to nominate your local health hero

People from across Arran and Ayrshire are being asked to share positive experiences of their local NHS by nominating staff and volunteers for an Ayrshire Achieves award.

Ayrshire Achieves 2017, funded by NHS Ayrshire and Arran's charity fund, gives local people and staff the chance to recognise the positive contribution of health workers and volunteers to the NHS and health and social care partnerships.

The awards aim to celebrate success, applaud excellence and innovation, and demonstrate continuous improvement in the quality of care.

Any member of the public, employee of NHS Ayrshire and Arran and partner

organisations can nominate an individual or local team for an award. You can also nominate a volunteer, voluntary group or charity for the volunteer's award.

There are nine award categories this year: building relationships, caring for people – incorporating the Isabella Kimmett compassionate care award, caring for our staff, light bulb moments – creativity and innovation, behind the scenes, leading by example, rising star, volunteer of the year and team of the year.

The closing date for nominations is Friday May 19.

For a nomination form telephone 0800 169 1441 free or visit the website [www.nhsaaa.net](http://www.nhsaaa.net) and click on Ayrshire Achieves.

# Brodick backs slipway for the 'greater good'

## Village committee says road safety would be improved

**Hugh Boag**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The battlelines have been drawn in the fight for the Machrie slipway after Brodick this week came out firmly in favour of the plan.

As reported in the *Banner* last week Machrie residents are united in opposition to the building of the slipway and timber transfer station on the west coast.

But Brodick Improvements Committee hit back this week saying it supported the move for 'the greater good of the island'.

In a statement, chairman Harry Davidson said: 'We read with interest and disappointment of the apparent objections to the Forestry Commission's proposal for a slipway at Machrie which would make a significant contribution to the road safety for the island.'

'As we understand the proposal, it is intended to be the best and most cost-effective solution to get timber to the market.'

'Current facilities do not have the capacity to extract the volumes forecast.



The *Red Princess* making her first visit to Brodick last month.

Brodick is accommodating an ever increasing number of vehicles visiting the island, which we accept as good for the island.

'They will inevitably use the String and coastal road, yet a solution to remove large heavy lorries from the String and through Brodick appears to be unacceptable to the protesters.'

At present timber felled on the west coast is hauled

over the String and through Brodick to the recently refurbished slipway in Market Road which can now accommodate the vessel the *Red Princess*, which started work on the route to Troon last month, as well as an old tug-barge.

### Spent

In his statement Mr Davidson went on: 'While your article last week claims significant cost

for roads upgrades, the Machrie Moor road costs of £1.2 million will require to be spent regardless of where the timber is extracted.'

'We see no reference to the costs of improving and maintaining the String over the many years these heavily laden timber lorries would be using it.'

'Residents of Shiskine and the west coast regu-

larly highlight their dissatisfaction of this road when road funding is discussed. Why would they not welcome an opportunity to reduce the traffic thereon and subsequent damage?

'On behalf of the residents, businesses and visitors in Brodick and other parts of Arran, we would encourage everyone to support the Forestry Commission Scotland in its plan to develop an alternative method of shipping the timber rather than damaging key roads we all rely on, and introducing heavy traffic into a small and crowded village.'

'Over the last 20 years much has changed in the villages of Arran, often against the will of the people, but sometimes things have to change for the greater good of the island.'

'Until planning applications have been lodged it would seem appropriate that strong parochial responses should be reserved and adverse publicity deferred until the facts are clearly and comprehensively presented to us.'

## Arran products up for awards

Taste of Arran has had two of its products shortlisted for prestigious honours in the Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards.

In the dairy category, Arran Blue is one of three finalists and in the fiercely contested food service product of the year category Arran Dairies traditional ice-cream is competing against three salmon products, Loch Duart Salmon and the Scottish Salmon Company's Hebridean salmon and Salar Smokehouse.

The awards recognise businesses and individuals in Scotland who lead the way with innovation, enterprise and quality.

Scotland Food and Drink is a not-for-profit organisation created in 2007 to guide food and drink companies towards increased profitability. It is supported by the Scottish Government and is tasked with growing the value of Scotland's food and drink sector, making it more profitable and delivering greater global success in a challenging and competitive environment.

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony and dinner in the Edinburgh International Conference Centre on Thursday May 18.

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## Drop-off area opens at hospital

A new improved drop-off area at University Hospital Crosshouse, Kilmarnock, opened this week.

The upgraded area has six designated drop-off spaces, three of which are wheelchair accessible.

Parking in this area is strictly limited to 10 minutes, after which cars must be moved to the main car park.

The work has also created walkways to ensure pedestrians and vehicles are separated.

Previously, the drop-off area at the hospital, widely used by patients on Arran, was used inappropriately, leading to congestion. The alterations have made better use of the space available and created a new drop-off area in front of the main entrance.

The work also provides the Scottish Ambulance Service with controlled access to a designated area, by means of an automatic barrier system. This will help improve patient pick-up and drop-off. Drivers are asked to adhere to the new signs to ensure the area works effectively and safely for everyone.

# Terminal work almost complete

**Colin Smeeton**  
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Construction of the new Brodick ferry terminal is nearing completion.

The final phase of its redevelopment by George Leslie Ltd should be finished by the week beginning Monday May 29 and, although this is slightly behind schedule, the project is still due to be completed by August this year.

The completion of phase five will see the bus terminus shelters being fully lit and the completion of a host of other projects for the final phase.

The new terminal building's external and internal construction will be completed to allow CalMac Ferries Limited (CFL) and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) to internally fit out the building.

The east berth fixed ramp on the new pier will be completed and the linkspan on the west side of the new pier will also be completed and commissioned.

The pier deck and roundhead will be completed and the remaining five fender piles, fenders and deck furniture will be completed, making the pier ready for the Adelte passenger access system (PAS) installation.

The new fire escape will be completed and the fixed bridge walkway between it and the new terminal building will be completed.

The coach drop-off, taxi ranks and new car park to the south of the new terminal building will also be completed and will be used for additional marshalling until the new final marshalling layout comes into use in early August. Installation



**Above: The terminal building is almost ready for its internal fit-out.**

01\_B13terminal02

**Right: Once completed the roundhead, along with five fender piles, is all that is required to begin the installation of the passenger access system.**

01\_B13terminal03



of the PAS will be completed by the contractors by late May, weather dependant, but they are likely to retain a presence on site while completing minor works and assisting with an internal fit-out of the building with CMAL and CFL equipment.

By July it is hoped the new pier can be opened for trial berthing before coming into use the following month. The existing pier and causeway will be retained as backup until the

new berthing and marshalling operation has been proven to operate as intended for a period of approximately four weeks.

George Leslie Limited will return to complete part two of the project after CFL confirms that the new berthing and marshalling is operating as planned and access for vessels to the existing pier and linkspan is no longer required.

The firm will complete the final section of works on the existing pier and cause-

way provisionally at the beginning of September 2017.

A CMAL spokesman said: 'We will share any changes to passenger information in early July 2017. We are very grateful for the continued understanding and patience of the public throughout the project. In the interests of safety, passengers and vehicle owners using the facilities should adhere to guidance provided by the ferry and bus operators.'

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# Valuable experience for college students

**Hugh Boag**

editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

Twenty student volunteers from Ayrshire College's uniformed services course recently took part in a three-day residential stay at Lochranza Youth Hostel.

This was part of SYHA Hostelling Scotland's youth and colleges partnership programme, established last year.

With classes on the Irvine campus course including hillwalking, citizenship through volunteering, teamwork and event organisation, this volunteer experience took the students into a 'real world' environment.

The students were able to learn key skills to assist them with their course, while also supporting SYHA in their essential maintenance of the hostel network.

The students were split into two groups taking it in turns to carry out maintenance around the youth hostel site.

Supported by lecturers and SYHA staff, they prepared fencing for painting, painted feature walls in bedrooms and went on hillwalking expeditions.

From the outset all the students were very keen. Some students had never travelled to Arran before and many had never been youth hostelling.

Their residential stay at the hostel also gave the

youngsters the opportunity to take responsibility for their own food preparation and, through this, they learned how to rely on one another and how to work together towards achieving a common goal.

Cailean Hargreaves, a uniformed services student who attended the residential volunteer programme, said: 'I loved the trip to Arran. Some of the group had never been there before, and, although I had, I've never stayed at the youth hostel.'

'The hostel in Lochranza has great views over the bay and we were really lucky to see seals and deer from the window. The staff were really nice and made us feel very welcome.'

'We all worked together in the hostel one day and went hillwalking the other day - both days were really fun.'

'The evenings were good too - everyone chipped in to prepare meals and wash up. I'd love to go back.'

SYHA chief executive Keith Legge said: 'It has been great for our employees at Lochranza Youth Hostel to work with young people on another live project.'

'It has been a valuable experience for all involved and the students were a fantastic support, enthusiastic and dedicated from the off.'



Three of the students preparing to paint a feature wall in one of the hostel bedrooms.

'SYHA's youth and volunteering programmes form an integral part of our ongoing commitment to youth development initiatives and we look forward to working with Ayrshire College on similar projects in the longer term.'

'The SYHA and Ayrshire College both appreciate support from Caledonian MacBrayne with this project.'

**Talk to us**

Send your news and photographs to  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

## Arran Blonde in Scottish Ale top ten

The Scottish ale market grew by 8.9 per cent in 2016 compared to a rather flat 0.6 per cent in the lager market, according to Nielsen ScanTrack research reported in the *Scottish Grocer* magazine.

The explosion in the Scottish market has largely been the result of extraordinary growth in the craft beer sector, with brands such as Brewdog's Punk IPA and Dead Pony Club more than doubling sales, while Arran Blonde's sale

grew by 10.4 per cent making it the sixth fastest-growing brand in Scotland's top 15 ale brands.

Of the independent breweries (SIBA members) brands, Arran Blonde took second place after William Brothers Joker IPA, which chalked up an impressive 74 per cent growth.

Managing director of the Arran Brewery Gerald Michaluk said: 'Arran is doing rather well at the moment, our Arran Dark winning Scottish CAMRA

champion mild, while its keg version won a gold medal in the UK national awards.'

'Arran Blonde is an outstanding ale and is getting wider listings and is rapidly becoming a must-stock brand.'

'Considering all our beers are made on an island, Arran is doing fantastically well and I can only thank the Scottish consumers for their continued and growing support.'

## Dyslexia support on offer

Dyslexia Scotland will hold a roadshow on Arran next month to raise awareness of the condition and discuss the impact that it can have on people's lives.

The roadshow will take place at Arran High School from 2-7pm on May 17, and at the Auchrannie Resort from 10am to 2pm on May 18. In addition, there will be a talk on 'What is dyslexia?' at noon on May 18.

Parents of a child with dyslexia, or adults who struggle with reading and writing difficulties, are invited to attend.

There will be staff on hand to talk about practical methods that might help and practical information for teachers, employers and students will be available.

For more information, call 0344 800 8484 or visit [www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk](http://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk).

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## Editorial

### Renewed hope for the McLaren

We are delighted that, at last, something seems to be happening at the McLaren Hotel.

For the thousands of visitors pouring off the ferry this Easter weekend, it will be one of the first things they will see – and what a sorry sight it is.

Ugly metal fencing blocks off the entrances to the hotel, which appears to have been stripped of all its fixtures and fittings. The grass, which was once a lush lawn where guests enjoyed alfresco dining in the sun, now lies unkempt and overgrown – and, love it or hate it, we think that even the bouncy castle is still in there somewhere.

When then owner Billy McLaren closed it in November 2014, he said he had sold it to a developer, but, two and half years on, nothing has happened except deterioration of the site.

Now a new owner is said to be on board with big plans and that can only be good news.

The hotel has a proud history, starting in 1938, and was run for 56 years by the same family – the Duncans – as the fondly remembered Kingsley Hotel.

It would be great to see a new hotel rising from the ashes and making the Brodick seafront complete again.

#### Thought for the week

‘Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy, He has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.’  
(1 Peter 1:3)

## The great toilet debate continues ...

### Island hygiene

Sir,  
I read with great concern of the closure of so many public toilets on Arran, especially on the west and south of the island.

What on earth does the council expect your visitors to do about answering the call of nature?

There are so many elderly people visiting the island whose bladders (and worse) are not as good as they used to be. It is truly unacceptable for an island that wants to be a tourist area to close most of its toilets.

I have two holidays booked this year and they will most likely be my last if I experience the difficulty that I am expecting.

Has the council considered families and where the dirty nappies will end up? Probably in the sea and rivers. There will be obvious results of the lack of toilets in all the popular walking areas and that is for the lucky ones who are able to walk far enough to make use of the quiet areas.

Perhaps if the council employed one less well-paid executive, it would be able to maintain an acceptable level of hygiene on the island.

**Stuart Whiston,  
Cheshire.**

### Please don't 'loos' them

Sir,  
We take a holiday every year  
On Arran – a lovely isle.

*It builds us up for all the year  
And leaves us with a smile.*

*But this time, when we're due to go,  
A shadow looms across.  
They're closing all the island loos!  
Could anything be worse?*

*Some years ago, as I recall,  
My health it took a flop.  
I couldn't last for many miles  
Without a water stop.*

*Across this well-loved island  
There must be many, many  
Desperate people, just like me,  
Who need to spend a penny.*

*Thank God, now I am better,  
I rush around no more.  
But I am not the only one  
Who looks for symbols on a door.*

*And sometimes, when the weather worsens,  
Then the wind, around, it reeks.  
Must I then squat behind the gorse  
And drop my tartan breeks?  
**Dick Heath.***

## Community scheme

Sir,  
Like so much else, the answer to the closure of Arran's public toilets probably lies in the hands of local people and businesses rather than in the deliberations of distant council bean-counters.

A number of communities across the world successfully run community toilet schemes at a fraction of the cost of council-provided

facilities. In such schemes, local hotels, bars, cafes and restaurants agree to make their own toilets available not just to customers but to tourists as well, displaying a scheme window sign to indicate this.

Often the local authority provides them with a cash sum to compensate for the extra disturbance. But sometimes local business groups encourage members to join the scheme, realising how important tourists are for the community. Indeed, some businesses see the merit of welcoming in tourists who are in need of a toilet, knowing that they may later return as grateful customers.

And since many businesses already have disabled-access facilities, this is also a solution to the cost of a council upgrading old public toilets to modern standards, highlighted in the recent letters from Neil Arthur and Roderick C MacKay.

If NAC provided local businesses with just a tiny part of the money it was formerly spending on Arran's public toilets, I am sure many Arran businesses would establish and join such a scheme. And if no money was forthcoming, well, they may still think it worth considering, given how vital tourism is to the whole island. I would like to think they would at least give it a try.

**Dr Eamonn Butler,  
Lamlash.**

## Turnstile solution

Sir,  
I am so disappointed to see that Arran is shying away from being a world-class holiday destination, as the past week leads us to be-

lieve it could be one of the most beautiful destination in the British Isles.

However, the lack of public toilets relegates Arran to the second division of destinations, which is such a surprising under-achievement. We went from Arran to the English lakes and saw 20p turnstiles as their solution to the continual challenge of financing public facilities.

Please sort this out as we would love to recommend Arran to our friends.

**Kevin Gilbraith,  
Wiltshire.**

## More, not less

Sir,

As a frequent visitor to Arran, over many years, I was appalled on arriving here to find that the few public toilets on the island are closed or closing. It was bad enough to have no public toilet between Blackwaterfoot and Lochranza but this situation is surely unsustainable with the increased numbers now visiting the island.

The Pirnmill community is to be praised for making the toilets in the community hall available.

If North Ayrshire Council is serious about making Arran a desirable destination, its position on this must be reversed. Indeed there needs to be more provision of public toilets, not less.

Has the environmental impact – I leave this to your imagination – been taken into account?

**Janet Tytler,  
Blackwaterfoot.**

## Tory backing

Sir,  
It has obviously been lost on Conservative candidate

Timothy Billings that the current, and sole Conservative representative on NAC these past five years, Councillor Tom Marshall, fully endorsed and supported the 2016/17 NAC budget proposals.

At the special meeting of North Ayrshire Council on February 17, 2016, the 2016/17 budget was approved by a substantial majority of the elected members, including Councillor Marshall.

With regard to the closure of all public toilets in the North Ayrshire Council area, Councillor Marshall supported the budget proposal but linked his name to the amendment to keep open the public toilets at the Braes and Melbourne Park, Saltcoats, and on the seafront in Ardrossan – the estimated cost of £35,000 to be found by removing the revenue budget expenditure requirement for webcasting of council meetings and from reductions of £11,500 to council catering provided to members, officers and at events, and to keep open the public toilets on the seafront in Largs, the estimated cost of £35,000 to be found by increasing fees and charges by £10,000 and by £25,000 from the Largs car park fund.

An opportunistic amendment, certainly, but one eventually accepted by a minority administration to get the budget passed. These are the facts of the matter. Mr Billings, as a candidate, should have been fully informed of the matter. Councillor Marshall undeniably supported the closure of Arran's public toilets.

Mr Billings should also have been informed that the outgoing Labour adminis-

**Continued on page 9**

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**Continued from page 8**

ministration had their 2017/18 budget, sans public toilets, approved at full council in March this year. With revenues already allocated, there is no way Mr Billings, if elected, can alter that set budget. On this issue Mr Billings is not exactly flushed with success! For the benefit of Mr Billings, let me reassure him, contrary to certain misinformation and rumour, that the Isle of Arran will not be bereft of toilet facilities for the use of the general public.

Following a year of discussion with the council, the majority of Arran villages have agreed to either an asset transfer, to adopt and maintain their own existing public toilets, or to create and maintain their own facilities.

Guaranteed good quality toilet provision will therefore be available in the following villages:

Brodick – at Brodick ferry terminal, at Brodick Hall, at Brodick Co-op, and various hospitality outlets.

Corrie – at Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, new external multi-use facility 24/7.

Sannox – adjacent to Sannox beach, open 24/7, existing but improved toilet provision will continue.

W/Bay, Kilmory and Kildonan – existing toilet provision will continue.

Lamlash – at council offices, and hospitality outlets have agreed to allow general public use of their toilet facilities.

As I write, no agreement has yet been reached with Lochranza and Blackwaterfoot communities.

Chemical waste disposal sites for campervans, motorhomes etc will be maintained by council at both Blackwaterfoot and Whiting Bay sites.

The above information is accurate and endorsed by the present administration and full council at the March budget meeting.

Current (place directorate) savings across the entire North Ayrshire Council area will be invested in the sustained provision of the core services, which are not discretionary, eg health and social care, education, roads and infrastructure, housing.

In conclusion, I would invite you to take a look at Corrie's multi-use facility,

maintained by the Corrie and Sannox village communities and open 24/7. A very positive example of community empowerment.

**Councillor John Bruce, Corrie.**

**Jetty asset**

Sir,  
I don't live in Machrie but I'm surprised that the good people who do live there aren't using more vision about the proposed forestry operations and jetty.

Forestry is an indigenous industry and an integral part of the Arran economy. It is industrial 'lite'.

After the woodlands around Machrie have been cleared it will be left with a jetty some would see as an asset. It will still be a beautiful place.

The alternative to this jetty, as I understand, would be the movement of logs by lorry to Brodick pier. Instead of crossing the road at Machrie, a few metres of the C147 (not the A841 here, I think) 40,000 tonnes per annum would traverse a longer section of the Machrie Moor road, across six miles of the String and then arguably, along the busiest street on Arran from one end of Brodick to the other, with associated risks to traffic and pedestrians in this already congested area.

Has the *Banner* editorial not considered this side of the argument? Has no-one in Brodick got an opinion on the matter?

I don't like the term 'no brainer' but in this situation, it fits.

**Margie Currie, Sandwood, Blackwaterfoot.**

**Tireless work**

Sir,  
The Arran Golf Pass committee would like to publicly thank Jim Henderson and Fiona Crawford for their tireless work over the past 17 years, for voluntarily executing the roles of chairman and secretary respectively.

They leave the group at a point where pass sales have doubled from previous years and their tenure has delivered digital sales, exhibition and event attendance, website, data collection, media scheduling and, most important-

ly, good counsel. They will both continue to attend pass meetings in an advisory role, with Nigel and Kathy Wells at Lochranza Golf Club taking over from Jim and Fiona.

Thank you from all of Arran's seven golf clubs.

**James Taylor, Whiting Bay.**

**Montrose art**

Sir,  
We would like to thank the pupils and staff of the Arran primary schools for their hard work in producing lovely pictures of Arran landscapes for the residents of Montrose House to enjoy.

The winners are: Brodick – Wiktor Jablonski; Corrie – Lucy Blair; Pirmill – Hannah Lord; Shiskine – Lisa Henderson; Kilmory – Roisin Ballantyne; Whiting Bay – Tilda Litton; and Lamlash – Chloe Hemming.

Each winner will receive a £20 gift voucher for the Book and Card Centre.

Thank you to the Friends of Montrose House for providing the vouchers and the picture frames.

The pictures are displayed in the main corridor and look fabulous.

**Lesley Wood, Montrose House relatives support group.**

**Well reminded**

Sir,  
As we near resolution of the ferry port debate, it is sad to see Conservative list MSP Jamie Greene contrive an opportunity in your pages to criticise transport minister Humza Yousaf.

ABP has, correctly, been given the chance to comment on the STAG report.

Following 'due process' will minimise the risk of a legal challenge from ABP or Conservative-led South Ayrshire Council.

This issue was not of the Scottish Government's making.

Indeed the root of the problem goes back to 1993, when a Conservative government foolishly privatised Ardrossan Harbour, selling a strategic port asset to property developers.

In drawing attention to his party's role in all this, however, Jamie Greene provides a timely reminder that voting Conservative

makes no more sense now than it did in 1993.

**Malcolm Kerr, Brodick.**

**Untold damage**

Sir,  
As a resident of Machrie for the past 20 years and with a Machrie connection for more than 50 years, I would like to make known my objections to the removal of timber on the Machrie Moor road.

I can't understand the Forestry Commission's reasons for using this road. It is completely unsuitable and will cause untold damage and disruption on this very necessary route to and from the String road. As for the idea of a commercial timber yard and a loading quay on the main road, this is ludicrous, especially as there is an existing exit in Brodick.

Machrie is one of the most desired villages on the island, and we would like to keep it that way.

**Hugh McClelland, Machrie.**

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## Arran's Legion members move into new home

The newly-revived Arran branch of Legion Scotland has been meeting each month since November and the branch now has a regular meeting place thanks to Brodick Golf Club. They will now meet there on the first Wednesday of each month, except when outings have been arranged.

The last two meetings have taken place in the Kinloch Hotel, with grateful thanks from members.

At last week's meeting members were entertained with a talk from Peter Randall, an RAF veteran.

During his 16-year career he worked as an engineer on many different aircraft, but upon leaving the RAF, he

went on to achieve many more things, including becoming the mayor of Tewkesbury borough and later Tewkesbury town, and gaining his private pilot's licence.

At previous meetings we heard from retired Captain James Murchie about his 41-year career in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, and from retired Major John Clarke about his time as a Russian interpreter.

Future events include a tour of the Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza, a trip on a puffer on the Crinan Canal, and a visit to Dumfries House and aircraft museum.

New members are always welcome. A military background is not necessary, just an interest in the work of the Legion.

# Community cafe is open for a wee bite

**Hugh Boag**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A community cafe called A Wee Bite has opened in the Kilmory hall to raise funds for the upkeep of the hall and for community events.

The cafe will be open from April until October from 10am to 3pm, and it will serve the public along with the Bunkhouse and members of the local community.

Also in the hall, the local craft corner shop is now selling locally-made crafts and Arran Pantry goodies along with various other items.

The 1934 Social Club, a licensed club which meets in the hall, is a great place for parents to unwind and



Clockwise from left: Louise Milroy and Andrea Picken behind the counter of the new cafe; The Kilmory hall is a community owned enterprise; Margaret Mackenzie and granddaughter Brooke take in the new surroundings.

enjoy a chat while the children explore the nearby fairy woods.

A spokesman for the Kilmory hall said: 'Everything we do from the Kilmory hall contributes to the upkeep of the hall and the local community, so we would like to give a big thank you to everyone who visits us for their continued support.'



## Kilmory mast will help boost mobile coverage across area

Kilmory Hall has lodged a planning application for a 20-metre telecommunications mast in Shannoachie which will drastically improve the issue of poor mobile coverage and connectivity in the area.

The lightweight lattice design, which incorporates two antennae as well as transmission dishes, will be situated next to the existing Scottish Water facil-

ity which already has an Airwave mast.

The co-locating of the masts is required as the masts cannot be shared and the grouping will be less visually intrusive.

Owing to the proximity of the nearest property at Bennan Smithy, pre-application correspondence was sent, although no neighbour notifications were required.

The only correspondence received in return was from the Arran Community Council, which expressed initial support for the application.

The application includes six associated ground-based cabinets and a boundary fence on the 10-hectare site and is currently under consideration by the North Ayrshire Planning department.



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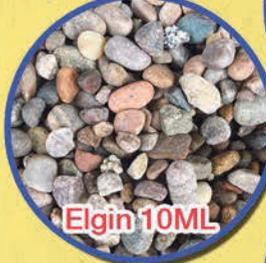
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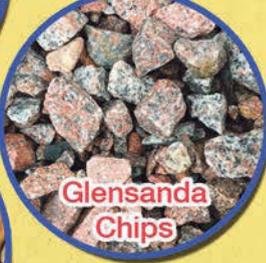
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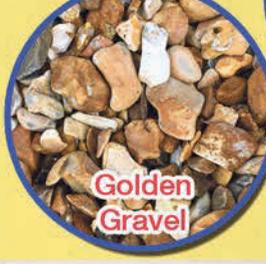
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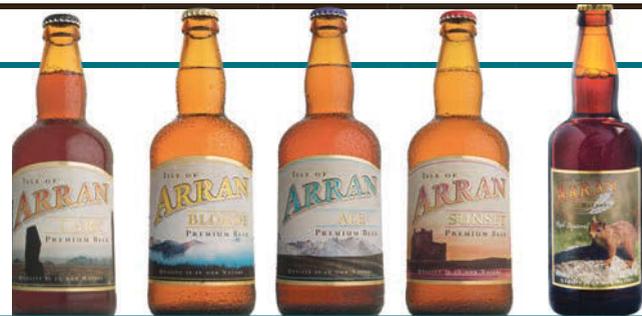


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# Brodick Castle all set for Easter fun and games

Brodick Castle and Country Park will mark the start of the 2017 visitor season this weekend when it takes part in one of Scotland's biggest Easter events – the annual Cadbury Egg Hunt tomorrow (Easter Sunday).

Forty-seven locations across Scotland have taken delivery of more than 36,000 Cadbury chocolate treats for children in readiness for what is expected to be the National Trust's largest visitor weekend of the year.

Easter at the castle will also see the annual Easter bonnet competition, egg painting, stalls and the famous castle steps duck derby.

This year's egg hunt marks the 10th anniversary of the National Trust for Scotland's partnership with the confectionery brand – a venture that provides fun-filled family days out and also helps to fund vital conservation work to protect special places right across the country.

In Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, the egg hunts also help the trust to showcase to families the wealth of the natural, built and cultural heritage in its care. The organisation looks after more than 100 special places all over the

country, ranging from grand castles, country houses and humble cottages to imposing mountains, wild islands, a working mill and Victorian printing press.

Stuart Maxwell, Ayrshire and Arran general manager for the trust, said: 'We're expecting thousands of children to join us this Easter to enjoy a fun-filled, family adventure at one of our sites. As well as helping us to raise vital revenue to continue our conservation work, our unique partnership with Cadbury means we have the perfect opportunity to introduce our wonderful locations to many thousands of families up and down the country and show them what an amazing family day out a visit to one of our properties makes.'

Hortense Foults-Rothenburger, senior brand manager at Cadbury, said:

'We know how important Cadbury is at Easter. We are very excited to partner with National Trust for Scotland for our 10th year and organise Cadbury egg hunts across Scotland.'

Discover how to get involved at [Cadbury.co.uk/easter](http://Cadbury.co.uk/easter).

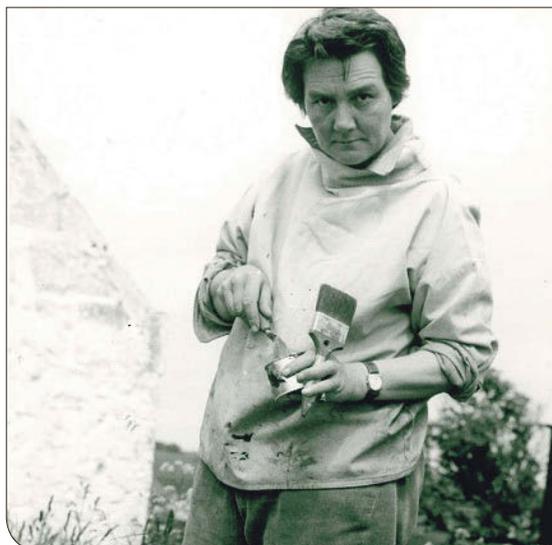
The fun starts at noon.

\* Visitors should note that the castle is closed at present for repair work but the gardens and country park are fully open.



Children get ready for the egg hunt.

## Joan Eardley 'returns' in interactive promenade



Joan Eardley was an extraordinary painter who, quite simply, died before she had finished.

As an artist, she remains unsung. She is best known in Scotland where she was not born but is rarely heard of in England, where she was.

Heroica Theatre Company – with the support of National Galleries Scotland and Stellar Quines Theatre Company – is creating a new journey for Joan Eardley: one which brings her back to new life and follows her as she makes her way through joys and frustrations, friendships and solitary stretches, disillusionments and disappointments – as

well as passions and triumphs. This interactive promenade piece by Anna Carlisle – directed by Marilyn Imrie and starring Alexandra Mathie – will take you, quite literally, along with 'Joan' as she paints, ponders and pursues her very unusual lifestyle.

Meet her 'children', her friends and her lovers, hear the sounds of the streets and the Catterline coast, and become a living part of her painting day.

This production of *Joan Eardley: A Private View* will be performed in association with Arran Theatre and Arts Trust in Corrie and Sannox Hall on Wednesday May 10 at 8pm. It is supported by

both Arts Council England and Creative Scotland.

In addition, a drawing workshop will take place at 2pm the same day in Corrie and Sannox Hall. The workshop called *After Eardley* will explore the joy of drawing portraits of children at speed. Simply bring a photo of a 'wee one' to inspire you and an old shirt or apron to wear.

The 90-minute workshop is free and all the materials will be provided.

There are 15 places available. To book your place, please contact Heather Gough by calling 01770 302670 or email: [gough.carlo@btinternet.com](mailto:gough.carlo@btinternet.com).

## Going Dutch

There are still tickets available for a concert by a group of young Dutch musicians next weekend. The 12 string players, called Nescio after the pen-name of a famous Dutch writer, will be performing with the Isle of Arran Music Society in the community theatre at Arran High School on Saturday April 22, beginning at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at the door on the night, from Inspirations of Arran in Brodick or online from [www.arranevents.com](http://www.arranevents.com). Children will be admitted free with a paying adult. Nescio will visit Lamlash High School on the Sunday morning to work with young Arran string players, and in the afternoon, at the PHT from 4pm to 6pm.

## In search of style

Former TOWIE star Jessica Wright has teamed up with Stagecoach to launch a nationwide search for a 'style squad'. To enter, passengers are invited to send videos, flipagrams or photos of themselves via social media. Using the #SquadOnBoard hashtag, customers can enter via Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. For full details, visit [www.stagecoachbus.com/jessica](http://www.stagecoachbus.com/jessica).

# A final triumph for Arran

**Colin Smeeton**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

It was a sad day last year when 86-year-old Jim Marsden, known to many from his Corrie Capers days as the Red Baron, decided to give up his lifelong hobby of building and flying radio-controlled model aircraft.

Little was he to know that one year later, one of his creations would win him an accolade from the Scottish Aeromodellers Association, despite having given up the hobby and not having entered any competitions.

Several decades ago Jim and his two friends, Roy Beddows and Bob Brown, formed the Arran Model Flying Club and the three of them, plus other members who came and went over the years, were a familiar sight at weekends flying their models from an airstrip in North Sannox, or, when the wind was too strong, just sitting in chairs with their flasks in the middle of the field – Arran's own Last of the Summer Wine.

Passing visitors would often stop their cars and bus drivers were even known to pull in to allow passengers to watch the action. And, of course, they entertained everyone at Corrie Capers for many years until new health and safety regulations made it impossible to

give public displays. When Roy gave up flying and Bob left the island, Jim carried on for some years, but the effort of clearing and mowing the airstrip every time he wanted to fly became too much for one person and the flying wasn't nearly so enjoyable without the social element.

Jim also put on a static display once a year at the castle – always well attended and very enjoyable, especially talking to veterans who would turn up to reminisce about flying the actual machines, but it was hard work and increasing age and infirmity eventually ended that too.

So, after the difficult decision was made, Jim enlisted the help of Bill Grimsley, the then chairman of the Scottish Aeromodellers Association (SAA), to find new homes for his models and Bill duly made several trips to Arran and transported all the models to the mainland, including Jim's pride and joy, his fifth-scale Supermarine Spitfire.

Bill, who flies and judges model aircraft all over the world, did a marvellous job in finding new homes for the models and soon happy new owners were contacting Jim to thank him, even sending video footage of the models flying.

But there is a final twist to the story. Because Bill was



so impressed by the superb quality of Jim's models, unbeknown to Jim, Bill entered the Spitfire in one of the SAA's shows and this week presented a surprised and delighted Jim with a trophy for winning the Model Making Open Class and a huge silver cup, the David Guild Memorial Trophy, for best in show.

A fitting final accolade for 70 years of model-making excellence.



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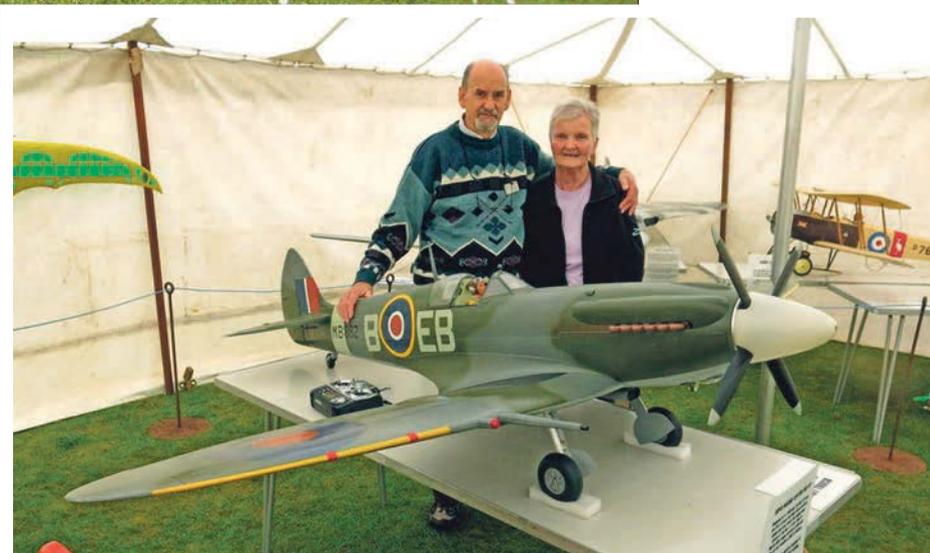
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# Jim's Red Baron



Clockwise from left: A selection of the aircraft models that Jim has built over the years; Jim with his two loves, the Spitfire and partner Marianne, at a display at the castle; Jim was surprised to receive the David Guild Memorial Trophy for his Spitfire, which won the best in show, after Bill entered the aircraft in one of the Scottish Aeromodellers Association's shows.



David and Paula Lang from Cheshire admiring the range of paintings, drawings, and woven items on display at the exhibition.

01\_B15AVA01



## Easter art exhibition

The Arran Visual Arts Easter exhibition being held in Arran community theatre, Lamlash, has seen a steady stream of visitors.

The exhibition opened on Wednesday and continues over the weekend until Monday, when family workshops and children's art activities will also be held.

The artworks, by members of the Arran Visual Arts group, are available to buy and a People's Choice vote is also being held, where visitors can vote for their favourite artwork on display.

Exhibits represent the broad range of artists on Arran, with oil paintings and line drawings blending seamlessly with experimental 3D artworks and wood-carving, alongside woven items and creations sculpted from driftwood.

Arran Visual Arts has more than 140 members who exhibit and promote their art at the exhibition while also hosting workshops throughout the year.

Entry to the exhibition is free, although a donation can be made towards the work of the arts group.

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### The World Famous Lochranza Daffodil Tea

Saturday 15th April

2pm – 4pm in Lochranza Hall

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## EASTER at Brodick Castle



### What's on this Week.....

**Easter Day at the Castle** Sun 16<sup>th</sup> April 11 - 15.30

Easter fun for all the family, including the  
Cadbury Egg Hunt (12 – 15.30pm), egg decorating,  
an Easter bonnet competition and wacky races!  
Normal entry rates apply, Cadbury Egg Hunt £1

**Brodick Castle from the Outside** Sat, Mon, Thurs, Friday

11.00 12.00 13.00 14.00 15.00

A walk around the Castle exterior and gardens highlighting it's  
history – stout footwear required and weather dependent  
£2.50 with garden entry

**Red Squirrels & Bacon Butties** Tues 18<sup>th</sup> April 8-10.00

An early morning breakfast with the Country Park's resident red  
squirrels with the Rangers on hand to answer any questions  
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**Roundhouse Open** Wed. 19<sup>th</sup> April 11 – 15.00

Find out how our prehistoric ancestors lived in our authentic  
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FREE with Country Park entry

# WHAT'S ON

## Everyday

Trout fly fishing Loch Garbad, bank fishing 9am-dusk  
 Brodick Castle, garden open  
 Arran Brewery Mon, Wed, Sat 10-5pm, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sun 12.30-5pm  
 Soap making and candle dipping Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am - 4pm  
 Arran Heritage Museum, Rosaburn, Brodick Daily 10.30am to 4.30pm

## Saturday 15th April

Army Cadets Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm  
 Over 21s disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Family games Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie spa pool, 4-5pm  
 Arran Vets surgery 9.30am - 11am  
 Arran Vets reception 9.30am - noon  
 Blackwaterfoot bowls Bowling Club, 2pm  
 Live music - The Joni Keen Trio Fiddlers, 7.30pm - 10pm  
 Live music - Mic Clark The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, 9pm  
 COAST Eggstraordinary Sea Life Lamlash green (tennis courts), 10am  
 Junkyard Dawgs Kilmory Hall, 8.30pm  
 Arran Rugby 7s Ormidale Pavilion, 11am  
 Arran Rugby 7s Dance Brodick Hall, 9pm  
 Live music - Hot Love The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
 Jazz cafe band Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
 Lochranza Daffodil Tea Lochranza Hall, 2pm - 4pm

## Sunday 16th April

Family games Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie spa pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Open acoustic session at Fiddlers' Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm - 5pm  
 AA meeting Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm  
 Easter at the castle Brodick Castle, 11am - 3.30pm

## Monday 17th April

Over 50s badminton Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
 Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
 Morning fitness Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Badminton Auchrannie sports hall, 7-9pm  
 Arran Vets surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 Arran Vets reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Arran Junior Football Club Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
 Circuit training Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm  
 Lamlash Aerobix Arran High School dance studio, 6.30pm  
 RunArran Drift Inn, Lamlash 5.30pm  
 Tae Kwon-do Brodick Church Hall adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm  
 Summer bridge tournament Arran high School, 6.30pm - visitors welcome  
 Arran Citizen's Advice Bureau Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm  
 Adult tennis Shiskine golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
 Live music - Mike Bailey Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm - 10pm

## Tuesday 18th April

Pop quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Youth club Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
 Arran Vets surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 Arran Vets reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Healthy outdoors NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm  
 Blackwaterfoot bowls Bowling Club, 2pm  
 RunArran run coaching Lamlash, 5.30pm  
 Bridge class (beginners/improvers) Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm  
 Lamlash Junior Drama Club Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm  
 Flow yoga Corrie and Sannox Hall, 6pm  
 Pilates Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
 Scottish country dancing Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Live music - Rudi Hunter Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm - 10pm  
 Sannox cricket AGM Ormidale Hotel, 7pm

## Wednesday 19th April

Rock an pop bingo Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm  
 Tae Kwon-do Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm adults-7.30-8.30pm  
 Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Arran Brass rehearsal Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
 Arran Vets surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 Arran Vets reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Yoga Auchrannie studio, 9.30am-10.30am  
 Hydrofit Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
 Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service 10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30  
 RunArran Auchrannie spa, 5.30pm  
 Yoga-Arran Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
 Mixed hockey Auchrannie sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
 Dog classes Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
 Flow yoga Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm  
 Knittnerly and Natterly Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
 Quiz night The PHT, 8.30pm  
 Bus pass club meal The PHT, noon - 2.30pm  
 Chair yoga St Molios Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am - noon  
 Burger and quiz night Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Guild Spring Coffee Morning Lamlash church Hall, 10.15 - 12noon  
 Live music - Folk like Us Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm - 10pm  
 Brodick Church coffee morning Brodick Church Hall, 10.30am - 12noon  
 Roundhouse open Brodick Castle, 11am - 3pm

## Thursday 20th April

Morning fitness Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 General knowledge quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Arran Vets surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 Arran Vets reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Ladies' hockey Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm  
 RUNFIT Lamlash front green, 6.45am  
 Winter bowls Auchrannie, 7pm  
 Arran Bridge Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm  
 Quilt Arran Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm  
 Flow yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm  
 Chair yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am - 11.30am  
 10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm  
 RUNFIT Lamlash green, 6.45am  
 Adult tennis Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
 Live music - Arran Ceilidh Band Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm - 10pm

## Friday 21st April

Yoga Auchrannie spa leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
 Hydrofit Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
 Arran Youth Foundations Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
 Lochranza children's badminton Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
 Lochranza adults' badminton Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
 Arran Vets Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 Arran Vets Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 AA meeting Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
 Tae Kwon-do Arran High School, Lamlash adults, 7pm - 8.30pm  
 Open mic The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
 Live music - Buchaneers Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm - 10pm  
 Live music - North Country Winters Coast, Lamlash, 8pm - 10.30pm

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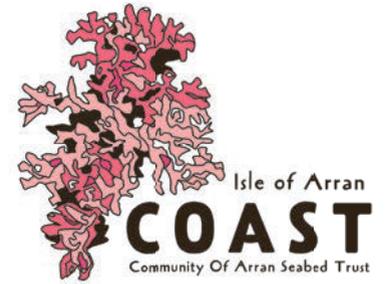
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# Spotlight on sea life



## Is seaweed Arran's new superfood?

Each month the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) brings our readers family-friendly stories and facts about Arran sealife. Here is the latest report.

Seaweed brings our shores to life, providing shelter and food for hundreds of sea creatures. Shags, for example, make messy nests with it, while kelp forests and maerl beds – a hard pink coralline seaweed – are great nursery areas for fish and shellfish.

But there was a time when seaweed was an important part of coastal people's everyday life and diets. And COAST has looked into how Arran foodie pioneers are encouraging the comeback of sea greens.

Around the coast of Arran you can find at least 12 kinds of edible seaweed, including laver, sea spaghetti, sugar kelp and carrageen. Arran mesolithic youngsters probably chewed on dulse while gathering periwinkles for tea.

Nowadays seaweed can be found on supermarket shelves, its vitamins and minerals packed into smoothies, salads

or soup seasoning, pudding and soup thickeners or even as crunchy crisps.

Whiting Bay chef gardener Robin Gray started using seaweed as a child: 'When we came to Arran on our holidays we would help my father plant potatoes in lazy beds using seaweed as a fertiliser. You can still see the track where over a century ago horses would cart kelp and wracks up to the high fields.'

Robin's 'truffle of the sea' salad marinates pepper dulse – a small red seaweed that can be found at low tide – with Chinese cabbage, ginger, garlic and chilli. The result is delicious.

He explains that to eat raw seaweed it is wise to collect it away from houses and pollution and adds: 'The Marine Protected Area is great as it means we can recover healthy seas while taking from it in a sustainable way.'

On the other side of the island, George Grassie runs the Blackwaterfoot Bakehouse. Asked about his success using seaweed for some of his acclaimed breads, he said: 'I regularly use it for its taste and texture, and after exploring Arran's coast I am very excited about the diversity of sea greens we have.'

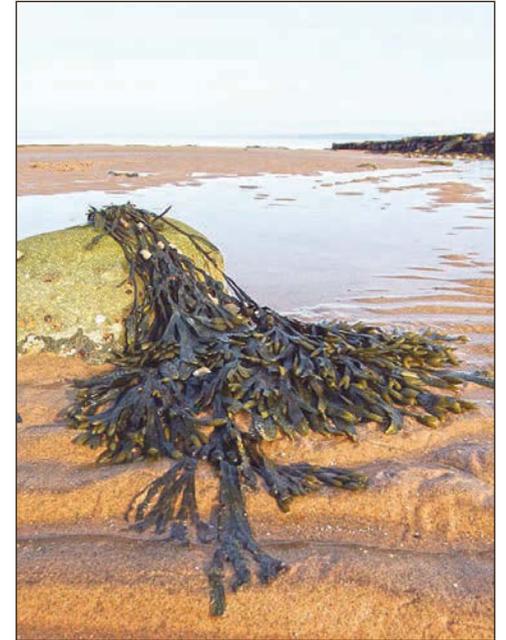
'It would be very interesting to explore ways of harvesting seaweed off our coasts at a small scale.'

And is there anywhere to taste seaweed locally?

'The Black Grouse restaurant is a good place.'

'Its chefs have recently been experimenting with Arran's local seaweed and they incorporate as much fresh and wild local produce as they can in their dishes,' George added.

The sustainable seaweed revolution has just begun.



Fucus spiralis, a type of seaweed found in Whiting Bay.

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## Tax-free childcare scheme

Families on Arran will be eligible for tax-free childcare when a new government scheme begins later this month.

The tax-free childcare scheme starts on Friday April 28, with parents of children under two invited to enter first.

The scheme will be gradually rolled out and, by the end of 2017, all eligible parents will be able to receive government top-ups of £2 for every £8 a parent pays into their tax-free childcare account, cutting childcare costs for working families by up to £2,000 per child per year, or £4,000 for disabled children.

Parents can pre-register at [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk), where they can also sign up for email alerts on when to apply, as well as find information on existing government childcare offers.

The website includes a childcare calculator to help parents compare all the government's childcare offers and check what works best for their families.

This scheme is open to all working parents with children under 12, or under 17 if the child is disabled.

# An appreciation of Dr Ivor Brown

It is with regret that Dr Ivor Brown passed away in his 80th year after a short illness. He was the second son of the late Donald and Catherine Brown who farmed at the Mayish during the mid course of the last century.

Ivor spent his formative years in Brodick, attending the primary school, known then as Brodick Public School, and was prominent there as a member of the school choir and as a soloist at the musical festival, which was enthusiastically supported at that time by headmaster Mr Fred McIntosh.

Ivor's education was



Ivor is second from right in the middle row at Brodick Public School around 1947 or 1948.



Ivor singing a duet with May Sillars in the school concert in Brodick Hall around the same time.

continued at Denny High School, birthplace of his mother, and completed at Stirling High School before he obtained an honours degree and PhD in pharmaceutical science at Glasgow University.

After a short period in Canada, Ivor spent his entire working life with ICI/

AstraZeneca in Cheshire and Berkshire, specialising in the development of drugs, being latterly patents manager at their Jellots Hill facility.

A keen golfer, being at one stage a member of the prestigious Wentworth club, Ivor's interests were otherwise many and vari-

ant, principal among these being motor car restoration and a Burns enthusiast, with his rendition of the immortal memory at Burns suppers in the heart of England greatly appreciated. Ivor is survived by his wife, Rosalind, his son Andrew and daughter, Helen.

*Norman Brown*

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# Society visits abandoned settlements of Kilpatrick

The Arran History Society enjoyed a field trip to learn about the history of two abandoned settlements in the Kilpatrick area near Blackwaterfoot by the forestry plantation.

The excursion was led by Jim and Angela Cassels and Ian Marshall, who have researched the subject and published their findings with the Association of Certified Field Archaeologists. Their paper covers the history of Cul an Dro-ma, the back of the ridge, and Cor an Beithe, the hollow of the birches, in English.

Members met at the car park at Kilpatrick and, despite wet and misty weather, it was decided to push on up the hill using the hollow way – a track recessed below the level of the surrounding ground. This partly overgrown track was the roadway up to Cul an Dro-ma and beyond.

At the remains of the settlement which is now a rubble mound facing south, Ian and Angela explained that it was a long house with several rooms built from local stone. The roof would have been thatched and it is unknown if chimneys and windows would have existed due to the state of the remains. Bauchop's map of 1808 showed five buildings on the site and the Ordnance Survey map of 1856 showed only one remaining



Members of the Arran History Society who visited the abandoned settlements of Kilpatrick.

building, the orientation matching the ruined structure. The guides referred to Burrel's proposals of 1772 which indicate that the old Kilpatrick communal farm should be split into three farms with a tenant on each of the farms.

The farm reform proposals were implemented slowly as there were still five buildings on the 1806 map. Anecdotal evidence points to boatmen or fishermen or possibly even a sailor staying there well into the 20th century.

After an informative talk, the group continued up the hill eastwards to Cor an Beithe leaving the old trackway which was the old high

road across to Corriecravie Moor. They had an adventure crossing the Allt Eion which had risen due to the recent rain and, after climbing to the edge of the forestry, they reached Cor an Beithe.

Ian pointed out the outline of several buildings on the site with some walls still standing up to near eaves level and gable walls up around two metres. The outline of the buildings were explained as far as was known: the most northern being two U-shaped structures of unknown purpose. Then a long house with five compartments split level on the slope and a further shorter structure

with three compartments and possibly an open shed. Further east was a large enclosure with a very low wall remaining and two structures built into the enclosure wall. One of these appeared to include the only window sill found on the sites.

Angela explained that the 1808 map showed few buildings on the site but the later Ordnance Survey maps indicated more structures.

The census of 1841 indicated an extended family living at the site and that by 1861 there were four families but this had dropped to one by 1881.

The population would appear to have grown up as

the Burrel proposed farm reforms of 1770 were implemented. Cor an Beithe might have increased as part of the reforms, being a stock farm rather than an arable farm, but by the end of the 19th century they had been abandoned, unable to support the people.

In the 20th century, the settlements were incorporated into one large farm but there are still smallholdings in the vicinity which were part of the original Kilpatrick communal farm.

Members of the society thanked the landowner for the access to the site and Ian Marshall, Jim and Angela Cassels for an interesting and informative day out.

## New heritage tourism award

The Scottish Government has praised the work of the Highlands and Islands tourism awards for helping to raise standards of excellence in the industry as this year's search begins to find the industry's leading stars.

This year, in line with Scotland's themed Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, there is a new category – best heritage tourism experience.

Tourism secretary Fiona Hyslop declared her support for the awards when

she said: 'Tourism is a vital and growing economic mainstay of the Highlands and Islands, supporting some 30,000 jobs and generating vital substantial revenue, and the industry's reach into every corner of the area means that tourism is everybody's business.'

'The Highlands and Islands tourism awards highlight the very best businesses and individuals who go beyond normal standards to ensure superb visitor experiences, whether

through hospitality, catering, events, activities or other pioneering industry work.'

Nominations and entries can be made from today via the HITA website at [www.highland-tourism-awards.co.uk](http://www.highland-tourism-awards.co.uk).

Nominations close on June 23 and the entries deadline is June 30.

The event will culminate in a grand ceremony for finalists at the Drumossie Hotel, Inverness, on November 3.

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## MARKET PRICES

United Auctions at Stirling had forward 1,868 store cattle, 148 cast cows and 1,610 store and feeding sheep.

Bullocks: Char X £870 (280p) Hawthorn, Sim X £920 (272p) Bellevue, Lim X £800 (299p) Balgowan, £700 (304p) Craigview, AA X £770 (256p) Glenkiln. Heifers: Char X £800 (248p) Hawthorn, £870 (226p) Moor, Sim X £980 (257p) Bellevue, £620 (254p) Craigview, Lim X £1005 (238p) Clauchlands, £735 (244p) Balgown, £620 (254p) Craigview, AA X £730 (243p) Glenkiln, £875 (213p) Bellevue.

Cast cows: Lim X £1270 (168p) Birchburn, Sim X £1070 (148p) Bellevue, Hol £905 (145p) Clauchlands.

Cast ewes: Char X £70 & Mule £66 Ceither Gaoithie.

# Brodick joins festival to celebrate the 'rose tree'

Brodick Castle Country Park is taking part in a nationwide celebration of Scotland's second national flower – the rhododendron.

Organised by Discover Scottish Gardens, and supported for the first time this year by VisitScotland, the Scottish Rhododendron Festival will run until the end of May. It will incorporate a number of existing festivals and events as well as highlight other public spaces where visitors can enjoy the spectacular blooms.

Coming hot on the heels of the increasingly popular Scottish Snowdrop Festival, the Scottish Rhododendron Festival will include public gar-



Brodick Castle Country Park which is taking part in the Scottish Rhododendron Festival is in full Rhododendron bloom at the moment. 01\_B15flower01

dens, castle grounds and estates across the country.

The festival was launched by the Glorious Gardens of Argyll and Bute in 2015. After a suc-

cessful first year, Discover Scottish Gardens extended the festival across the country and, this year, nearly 60 Scottish sites. They will be offering hor-

tical events, guided tours and exclusive openings in celebration of this exotic Asian spring shrub that thrives so well in Scotland.

From the ancient Greek for 'rose' and 'tree', there are more than 1,000 species of rhododendron, which are famous for their vibrant colours. More than half of the participants are opening their gardens to raise money for national charity organisation Scotland's Gardens.

Annie Armstrong, regional director at VisitScotland, said: 'Given the enormous popularity of the Scottish Snowdrop Festival over the last decade, it is only natural our magnificent public gar-

dens should celebrate the rhododendron. We hope people of all ages will be inspired to get out and about to enjoy these colourful, vibrant flowers around some of our most stunning gardens.

'Many of the Scottish Rhododendron Festival locations are within the grounds of some of Scotland's most historic buildings. Such buildings are a perfect fit for Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. From World Heritage sites to ancient monuments, cultural traditions to our myths, stories and legends, the year-long programme will shine the spotlight on our greatest assets and icons, as well as our hidden gems.'

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Competition closes for entries September 1, 2016.

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# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday 19 April

## Queen to visit

The Queen is to visit Arran on Saturday August 9. She will land at Brodick from the Royal yacht on what will be the last, possibly even the final, voyage of the Britannia. She will then go to Lochranza and rejoin the yacht. The Queen last visited Arran 50 years ago, shortly after her engagement to the Duke of Edinburgh. Now 50 years later and after 44 years on the throne The Queen is to return to the island where she will open the new distillery visitor centre and attend the Brodick Highland Games where she will officially open the new Ormidale sports field. The Duke



Paul Ford of Hair by Paul has added an art gallery in his Brodick salon exhibiting his work as a sculptor. B14twe03

will not be joining her on the visit which should be an enjoyable trip down memory lane for her as she will meet up with Lady Jean Fforde again.

## Opening deferred

Coopers shop in the centre of Brodick stands empty and no work is going on. Ar-Cas have moved out and relocated their charity shop to St Elmo. The new shop at Coopers was scheduled to open by Easter as an upmarket premises but there has been no sign of work having started.

Iain Russell of Arran Aromatics who had grand plans for the shop said that the plans will now be shelved for at least a year after the landlord Charles Fforde discovered wet and dry rot which will need to be taken care of before the new tenant Iain can move in. Mr Russell said: 'We felt it would take two months to fit it out and in the uncertainty of gaining access we felt we should defer the entire project for a year.'

## Individual enterprise

It is only a couple of years ago since Cuninghame District Council was going to build a Discovery Centre at Machrie. Amid much opposition their justification was the need for a visitor attraction on the west side of Arran and to that end they were happy that it should be set up entirely from public money and without any local input. Just two years later after putting the centre on hold it is interesting to consider that there are now two new visitor attractions on the north and west of the island; the distillery visitor centre and Balmichael visitor centre. Both are grant aided but nevertheless spring principally from individual enterprise.



Jim and Eunice Williamson have always dreamed of opening a gallery once they retired. This dream has come true as the couple have now started a new gallery at Torbeg where they exhibit their own work as well as that of other artists. B14twe05



Butcher Joe Miller, who has had his shop opposite the high school for 11 years, and staff Gillian and Nikki take hygiene extremely seriously following the Wishaw E.coli epidemic. B14twe01



Jessica Kerr and Rachael McLean enjoy playing with the springer spaniels which Terry Crawley of Lochranza hand reared after their mother died when they were just one day old. B14twe02



Jim Brodie or Brodini the magic clown, entertained his young friends at the Arran Dial-A-Creche funday last Friday which saw over 100 youngster taking part. B14twe04

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

# Public Notices

**Lamlash Moorings Association**  
**AGM**  
Wednesday 26th April 2017  
at 7pm  
Glenisle Hotel  
All members welcome

## NAC Elections

### Hustings

**Brodict Hall**  
**Monday 24th of April,**  
**2017**

**7.30 pm**

If you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact  
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## BRODICK GOLF CLUB

An assistants position is available at Brodick Golf Club professional shop. It would suit any age group, ideally someone who enjoys meeting the public and who has some basic IT skills. Also available is a position in the Club House. Both positions are part time, hours negotiable. Applications considered for both jobs separately, or as one. Full training will be given for both positions.

To arrange an interview phone Brodick Golf Club after 11am on  
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## Gardener

### Arran Community Land, Whiting Bay

There is an exciting opportunity for a full time Gardener for the Community Land in Whiting Bay to extend the growing activities on site, run educational sessions and manage the site for users. The role is a fixed term 11 month contract paying equivalent to £20,500 per annum, including 23 days paid holiday, with possible extension thereafter depending on available funding.

Candidates should be skilled in gardening, teaching groups and basic site management. You will also need to be a good communicator, IT literate, collaborative and good at working both independently and in a team. For a full job description contact [development@arranland.org](mailto:development@arranland.org)  
To apply, please send CV and covering letter to [development@arranland.org](mailto:development@arranland.org)  
Applications close on 21st April with interviews the following week.

Job share would be considered for this post and a start date of 1st May is preferred.

This position is funded through the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund and European Regional Development Fund.



## Property



## ARD CUAN, TORBEG LODGES

Ard Cuan is situated in the Torbeg Lodges development of high specification holiday lodges built to exacting standards in a beautiful, rural location enjoying stunning views across the Shiskine Valley. The site owners began the development in 1999 and have subsequently sold over 10 lodges with another 3 still to be completed.

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday, 16th April**  
(Easter Day)  
11am Holy Communion.  
Mr John Roberts.  
Coffee after service.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine  
Independent but working together  
Minister:  
Rev Angus Adamson  
Parish Assistant:  
Mrs Jean Hunter:  
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.  
**Easter Sunday 16th April**  
Lochranza Church, 9.30am  
Morning Worship  
Pirmill Church, 10.45am  
Morning Worship  
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.

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(Charity Number: SC014005)  
Sunday 16th April  
Easter Sunrise Service at 6.05am, for an expected sunrise of 6.13am, there will be a short service to celebrate Christ's resurrection down on the beach at Sandbraes. Breakfast will be served in the Church Hall immediately afterwards.  
Family Worship for Easter Sunday 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 very welcome to celebrate this most wonderful of days.  
There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm to which all friends are welcome.

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**

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

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 16th April**  
**Easter Day**  
Kilmory 10 am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Holy Saturday:  
Polish blessing of food 11am  
Easter Vigil Service 9pm  
Easter Sunday morning masses 9.30am & 11am

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
**Sunday 16th April**  
Morning service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge  
Glen Estate, Brodick.  
Evening service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All Welcome

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 16th April**  
Easter Service 11am  
Ormidale Pavilion  
Continental breakfast being served from 10am Tea and coffee after the service  
Good Friday 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.  
Contact phone no 600222  
Everyone warmly invited

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm  
**BACK IN THE CHURCH**  
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

**DEATHS**

**CRAIG** - Lorna Kathryn Margaret. Peacefully at Arran War Memorial hospital on Monday, 10th April 2017 after a long illness bravely borne. Lorna, aged 61 years, beloved wife of Andy, dear mum of the late Kenny and Bryan, mother-in-law of Toni and Gran of Liam and Sean. Funeral Private, donations in lieu of flowers to Isle of Arran Hospital Supporters League.

**CUTHBERTSON** - Andrew John. After three months of severe illness we lost Andy in the early hours of Thursday, the 6th of April in Crosshouse Hospital. Andy passed away in my arms, surrounded by prayers and thoughts from home, from his children Maggie and Samuel, his mum Jo and sisters Angela and Lesley, Agnes and Konrad, Haley, neighbours, friends and colleagues. We will take Andy to rest on Wednesday the 19th of April at 12:00 noon at Lochranza Church. Everyone is most welcome to the service and the wake afterwards at Lochranza Field Centre.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**CHAPPELL** - The family of Peter Chappell would like to express their sincere thanks to friends and acquaintances for their continued support not only following Dad's passing but for the many months previous. Dad's care on Arran benefitted from so many people "keeping an eye on him" and the considerable efforts by social services and medical services on Arran who all contributed to make Dad as comfortable as possible. Our thanks also to the staff at Templeton House Care Home (Ayr), Rev. Angus Adamson and staff at W.M. Tyre and Son Funeral Directors for their assistance in recent weeks.



All of the bridge club winners with their trophies.

# Bridge club enjoys prize-giving evening

The Isle of Arran Bridge Club dinner and prize-giving recently took place at the Brodick Golf Club, where Tricia Martin and her bridge partners Douglas Hamilton and David Campbell reaped the rewards of a very successful year. Between them, they won five of the eight trophies.

A dinner followed the prize-giving and a shortened game of bridge was enjoyed by the members.

The winners of the evening game were: N/S Margaret Bruce and Elizabeth McKellar. E/W Alison Bilsland and Anne McKelvie.

Organisers thanked Trish Spence and Douglas

Robertson of the clubhouse for the excellent meal and for going the extra mile to be helpful and obliging.

The full list of prize-winners were: The Peggy Currie Cup (teams of four): winners, Margaret Bruce, Douglas Bruce, Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton. Runners-up and winners of The Ann Cook Tray, Brenda Livingstone, Morag Gardner, Pat Adamson and Jennifer McArthur.

The Adam Morrison Cup (prepared hands): winners, Jean Barclay and Elizabeth McKellar. Runners-up, Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure.

The Duncan Trophy (aggregate points at

Brodick): winners, Douglas Hamilton and Tricia Martin. Runners-up, Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure.

The Boyd Trophy (match points at Brodick): winners, Douglas Hamilton and Tricia Martin. Runners-up, Margaret and Douglas Bruce.

The Adam Morrison Trophy (aggregate points at Lamlash): winners, Tricia Martin and David Campbell. Runners-up and winners of The Millband Tray, Jan and John Beattie.

The McConnell Tray (match points at Lamlash): winners, Tricia Martin and David Campbell. Runners-up, Jan and John Beattie.

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## Fast-flowing rugby sevens in Brodick

Twelve teams will today (Saturday) battle it out at the Arran Malt Rugby Sevens.

Now in their 32nd year, the event is always a big crowd puller and spectators can look forward to a day of fast-flowing rugby action. The tournament is be-

ing held at Ormidale Park in Brodick with the action getting under way from 11am.

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# June lifts the Lamlash Drumadoon in fine style



**Arran Ladies' Golf Union**  
Saturday April 8, Lamlash Drumadoon.

After three postponements owing to rain, the Drumadoon was finally played on a warm sunny day.

A total of 25 ladies played and the winner, with a great score of 64, was June Richardson. Second was Carole Stewart, with 68 BIH, and scratch was Susan Butchard 80.

Thank you to Lamlash for the courtesy of the course and to Sarah for the catering.

Fixtures: Saturday May 6, Flockhart Trophy at Whiting Bay at 12.30pm. Please add your name to the sign-up sheets on the club notice boards. Tuesday April 18, the Kiscadale Salver, which will continue on Thursday April 20 at 4.45pm and on Saturday April 22 at 1pm. Good luck to all the teams. Spectators welcome.

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**  
Wednesday April 4, Summer Trophy round one.

The first Wednesday of the season brought out a respectable field of 20 competing in the first round of the Summer Cup.

Conditions were good with the course drying out nicely and with greens improving after a few cuts and other TLC.

Completing his round at lunchtime, John Dick must have thought his net 59 would be a winning score.

Coming in an hour or so behind him on 58, Dougie Auld certainly thought his would be a winning score. But after blowing the field away on Sunday and playing with a three-shot reduction in his handicap, Stuart McGregor did it again to come in with a net 57.

1. Stuart McGregor 20,



57. 2. Douglas Auld 26, 58, 3. John Dick 14, 59, 4. Danny Head 5 61 and lowest gross. There were no magic twos and, perhaps surprisingly, CSS stayed at 63.

Sunday April 9, The Tor Alvey Greensomes. Another fine spring morning greeted the 12 golfers who turned out to contest the 2017 playing of this popular greensomes competition.

Oncourse conditions matched the weather with dry fairways and freshly mown greens, still a bit of a novelty, albeit a very welcome one, after the wet conditions endured throughout the winter.

Stuart McGregor continued his fine run of recent form, only this time he needed John Dick's assistance in winning the trophy.

1. Stuart McGregor and John Dick 14.4, 57.6, 2. Stan Rainey and David Morrison 8.8, 58.2, 3. John Pennycott and Danny Head 8.6, 59, 4.

The winning pair of Stuart and John also managed to bag the only magic two of the day at the fourth hole.

Fixtures: Sunday April 16, medal, draws at 9am and 11am. Wednesday April 19, Summer Trophy.

**Brodick Golf Club**  
Wednesday April 5, Summer Cup.

Thirty-eight played, CSS 67. 1 Angus Raeburn 75-11=64, 2 Greg McCrae 71-6=65, 3 Lindsay Keir 84-17=67. Scratch Greg McCrae 71.

Sunday April 9, British Legion 36 holes, 13 played, CSS 67. Round one – 1. Matt Dobson 72-8=64, 2. Matt Keir 71-4=67, 3. Bill Donaldson 86-17=69. Scratch Ewan McKinnon 70.

Round 2 – 1. Bill Donaldson 81-17=64, 2. Matt Keir 72-4=68, 3. Matt Dobson 77-8=69. Scratch Matt Keir 72.

Thirty-six holes result – 1. Bill Donaldson 69/64=133 (better second round), 2. Matt Dobson 64/69=133, Matt Keir 67/68=135.

Sweep, seven played, CSS 66. 1. Alistair Hume 75-11=64, 2. Lindsay Keir 87-17=70, 3. Jimmy Armit 81-11=70. Scratch Alistair Hume 75.



**Clockwise from top left: June Richardson, winner of the ALGU Lamlash Drumadoon, with scratch winner Susan Butchard and runner-up Carole Stewart; Jack McNally shows his delight at winning the Daniel Ferguson Trophy at Shiskine; Tor Alvey Greensomes winners at Whiting Bay, John Dick and Stuart McGregor.**

Fixtures: Saturday April 15, TBA, 9.30am. Sunday April 16, British Legion Cup, draw at noon on Saturday or, in a change to previous format, enter on the day of the competition by turning up before start times of 8.30am and noon. Tuesday April 18, fun game, 9.30am, Kiscadale at Shiskine.

Ladies section: Tuesday April 4, medal, 14 played, CSS 70, RO. Div 1: 1 Margaret Roxburgh, 2 Ann J May. Div 2: 1 Aileen Lato-na, 2 Pat Adamson.

Tuesday April 11, St Elmo Cup, 11 played, CSS 69 – 1. Susan Butchard 80-12=68, 2. and scratch Ann J May 76-06=70, 3. Margaret Roxburgh 87-14=73.

Well done, Susan, for managing to cut your handicap when it was so windy.

Fixture: Tuesday April 25, Medal final and CCQ2.

**Lamlash Golf Club**  
Thursday April 6, Summer Cup, CSS 65, Par 64 – 1. I Bremner 72-7=65, BIH, 2. D Currie 79-14=65, 3. N MacIntyre 74-8=66. Scratch, D MacFarlane 70.

**Shiskine Golf Club**

Sunday April 2, gents 12-hole medal, 13 played, CSS 42 – First Class: 1. A Kerr 48-7=41, 2. B Sherwood 52-6=46 BIH, 3. D Logan 52-6=46. Second Class: 1. and scratch, P Betley 47-8=39, 2. G Kennedy 53-8=45, 3. W McNally 54-9=48.

Magic twos, A Kerr, G Kennedy, W Kelso, A Napier and G Smith. Well done Phil.

Wednesday April 5, Daniel Ferguson Trophy, eight played, CSS 41 – 1. J McNally 48-7=41, BIH, 2. M Hesp 52-11=41, 3. B Sherwood 49-6=43. Scratch, J McNally 48.

Magic two, B Sherwood and J McNally. Jack wins the Daniel Ferguson Trophy.

Friday April 7, ladies 18-hole medal, 17 played, CSS 67 – Silver: 1. Sue Biggar 80-12=68, 2. Elizabeth Kelso 90-20=70, BIH. Scratch, Mairi Pollock 79. Bronze: 1. Fiona Scott 94-27=67, 2. Piet Johnston 90-21=67. Very well done, Fiona.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Saturday April 8, sweep – 1. S Beardsley 68-7=61, 2. R Burke 74-11=62. magic twos, G Hendry, x2, I Keen, R Burke.

Fixture: Saturday April 15, sweep. Ballots at 9am and 1pm. Members are reminded that the Wednesday evening medals have started featuring the mega-money draw for those who score a two at any par three. Go along and enjoy the fun.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday April 4, Peter Sutton, CSS 65 – 1. P Betley 80-13=67, 2. B Sherwood 81-12=69, 3. I Buchanan 86-16=70. Lady Mary, CSS 68 RO. 1. S Brookes 96-20=76, 2. E Ross 109-23=86.

Fixtures: Tuesday April 18, Arran Grouse foursomes qualifier (gents) 12.30pm and 5.30pm. Ladies will be at Shiskine GC for the Kiscadale Salver.

# SPORT



## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Jack McNally's delight at Shiskine trophy win

# Ross is flying high

## Arran driver enjoys strong finish in Scottish rally championship

Arran driver Ross Auld had a great result at Ingliston in round two of the Dunfermline Car Club Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship.

Along with first time co-driver Richard Stewart, he picked up first in class three and eighth position overall, completing eight stages and 45 competitive miles in a very strong field of 80 cars.

This was only Ross's fifth event, starting the day seeded at 50 out of the 80 cars, making the trophy win all the more appreciated.

Richard said: 'After two stages we got re-seeded to car 21 as we were catching so many slower cars, and this cost us a lot of time in the first loop of stages. The higher seeding meant we were no longer catching any slower cars, allowing us to push on and make some time back.

'We finished the morning stages third in class and 13th overall.

'Knowing it would be a tough challenge to claw back the lost time, Ross drove superbly.

He put in some very quick top 10 stage times and top of his class stage times on nearly every stage, beating



The car driven by Arran's Ross Auld takes to the air during the Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship.



Driver Ross Auld and co-driver Richard Stewart with the Ford Escort which took first place in its class.

much faster and more expensive cars.

'While our other competitors unfortunately fell by the wayside, after a great battle all day, we were there to pick up first in class three and eighth overall which we are ecstatic about.

'It was great sitting in

with Ross for our first event together. He is an excellent driver and hopefully we can replicate this result in future.'

Ross added: 'Thanks to all the organisers and marshals for a great event. Massive thanks also to Gavin Faulkner

for keeping the car running in perfect condition. We are really looking forward to the next event.'

As a youngster, Ross was only involved in sport if it burned petrol, made a racket and annoyed his neighbours. He got interested in

competing through Arran Car Club. He then decided to build a rally car to compete on the mainland.

As well as competing in the Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship, he has also completed the Tour of Epynt rally in Wales, finishing 24th overall and seventh in class.

The next round of the Scottish Tarmac Rally Championship is at Leuchars in Fife next month.

Running a rally car is a massive expense, so if any local businesses would like to advertise on the car, Ross would be delighted to accept any sponsorship to help support him as he represents Arran at national events.



Richard celebrates with the first place trophy.



Lifting onto three wheels, the rally car corners at high speed. All photographs: West Coast Photography

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