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# Castle to stay shut for another year

**Hugh Boag**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Brodick Castle will not re-open its doors to the public again until 2019, the *Banner* can reveal.

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has confirmed that the castle will remain closed for the remainder of 2018, which has led to 21 job losses.

The castle has been undergoing a £1.5 million refit designed to safeguard the structure and its world-class collections of art and artefacts from the threat of fire. However, these extensive works to create new fire walls have badly over-run.

## Decision

However, the NTS's general manager for Ayrshire and Arran, Stuart Maxwell, said: 'The works will be completed by May but we have taken the decision to keep the castle closed until the new season in 2019.'

The castle first closed at the end of the 2106 season and was originally due to reopen in time for Easter this year but that date had already slipped to July, as reported by the *Banner* last year.

The lengthy closure of the castle led earlier this year to all 25 staff being told that their jobs were 'at risk' of redundancy, with those who wished to stay having to reapply for their posts.

That process is now nearing completion after nine

roles were made redundant with another 12 staff taking voluntary redundancy. Several of the existing staff are staying on, but a new general manager is expected to be appointed.

But Mr Maxwell said: 'This disappointment is

tempered by the fact that the spectacular gardens and grounds of the castle remain open, as well as the presence of our brand-new, spectacular, natural heritage-themed Isle be Wild adventure play area.

'But there is actually

very good news for Brodick Castle and the people of Arran behind our decision – the castle is to be the proving ground for our fresh approach to interpretation and presentation of the Trust's properties.'

See also page two

## Creamery is up for sale

Workers at an Arran creamery which has been put up for sale face an uncertain future.

First Milk has put the Torrylinn Creamery on the market and warned that any potential buyer would require to make 'significant investment' in the plant, which first opened in 1946.

The Kilmory factory is the home of the Isle of Arran extra mature cheddar which scooped the best cheddar title at the World Cheese Awards 2013.

The six employees had been summoned to a meeting in Campbeltown on Tuesday but were unable to attend after bad weather disrupted the Lochranza ferry service. They were instead told the shock news by phone, although First Milk bosses have now visited Arran. The Campbeltown Creamery is also up for sale.

First Milk CEO Shelagh Hancock said: 'Following a strategic review, we have determined that our branded consumer-facing businesses in Campbeltown and on Arran are not a strategic fit for First Milk moving forward.'

'The review identified that there is undoubtedly a market for the premium Mull of Kintyre and Isle of Arran brands but capturing the opportunities would require significant investment for activity that is not core to our strategic direc-

Continued on page two

## Rat Race runners are off



And they are off ... 250 runners taking part in the Rat Race Ultra Tour of Arran snake their way around the putting green at the start their gruelling 27.6-mile run in Brodick early on Saturday morning. See page 23 for a full report and more pictures.

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# Dramatic new look for Brodick Castle collection

There will be a dramatic new look to Brodick Castle's world-class collection when it finally reopens after two years in 2019.

Dr David Hopes, head of collections and interiors policy, has recently completed a major review and this will inform the way in which the objects held in the castle will be displayed.

Dr Hopes, who was previously based at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway, said: 'Our new approach is not about the importance of these objects and the artwork in our care – we already know how valuable these items are to Scotland's cultural heritage – but how we

manage and utilise them to tell our collective stories.

'One of the key words used in the review was "drama" – we are going to find new and exciting ways to tell these stories and Brodick Castle will be our pathfinder in doing so.

'We will be investing £3 million over the next five years improving the condition of our collections and enhancing visitor understanding and enjoyment.'

Over the rest of 2018, research will be undertaken to help prepare the new displays in the castle. A new team will also be recruited in order bring the new visitor experience to life.

General manager Stuart Maxwell added: 'We are going to use the time to make sure we get this right. By next year we will have a new visitor experience in place that will do justice to the magnificent collections in Brodick Castle. It will again take its rightful place as a must-see destination that attracts more visitors to Arran and engages locals and visitors in compelling stories from the island's long history.'



Dr David Hopes, who has undertaken a collection review. Photo: Reuben Paris



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## Uncertain time for workers

**Continued from page one**  
tion. However, we are confident that with the right focus and investment under new ownership the businesses would prosper.

'A sale would enable us to continue with our focus on developing our major creameries in Haverfordwest and the Lake District, creating value through broadening and strengthening our strategic partnerships and delivering best value for our members' investment.

'Campbeltown and Arran creameries will continue to run as normal during this sale process and we will be working closely with prospective buyers to ensure a smooth transition. We appreciate that this decision will affect some of our colleagues, but we hope that under new ownership the sites will thrive, offering good employment prospects for the future.'

Built by the Scottish Milk Marketing Board in 1946 to make a cheddar-type cheese known as Arran Dunlop, it is today still made by hand and in open vats, using traditional methods. It was opened by King George VI the following year and has been mak-

ing cheese ever since. The creamery was acquired in 1997 by First Milk, initially as a joint venture, with the business being purchased outright in 2007 by Britain's largest dairy farmer co-operative.

The move not only affects the creamery workers but the two remaining dairy farms on Arran, which supply the creamery with milk. NFU Scotland said milk producers for both creameries were 'shell-shocked' by the announcement.

Milk committee chairman John Smith, who supplies milk to the Campbeltown creamery, said: 'While producers supplying these creameries are shell-shocked at the announcement, the most important thing to keep in mind is that, in Mull of Kintyre and Arran cheddar, both creameries are making world-famous, award-winning high quality cheese and both sites should be hugely attractive to potential buyers.'

'In the short term, however, farmers supplying these creameries will be frustrated, justifiably worried but not completely surprised by the announcement. They have built their businesses with a view to con-

tinuing to milk cows and have stuck with First Milk through thick and thin.

'However, these are local family farms who have also successfully invested in building and promoting their brand locally and nationally, and we must now look to the future.'

'For a relatively small investment, potential buyers or partners have an opportunity to take the Kintyre and Arran brands into higher value specialist markets backed by a story with real provenance and great tasting cheese,' he added.

Paul Grant, chairman of the Scottish Dairy Growth Board, said: 'There is a real opportunity here for someone to tap into a market with potential to grow.'

'The model at Orkney Creamery is working well and we would be keen to support any potential buyer for Campbeltown or Arran based on the experience and knowledge the board has built up over the last three years.'

□ The sale will have no effect on the Isle of Arran Cheese Shop in Brodick or the Bellevue Creamery, which are owned by island businessman Gordon Kinniburgh.

# Trevor is Ormidale Masterchef

## Trevor won the blind tasting vote with his signature dish of teriyaki salmon to take the title against four other dishes

Brodick held the final of its very own Masterchef competition last week and it was as nailbiting as anything its TV rival could serve up.

Regulars at the Ormidale Hotel have been cooking up a storm over the long winter months taking part in the Ormidale Masterchef 2017/2018.

And 25 weeks of com-

petition came down to the wire on the final day with the hotel's Trevor Helliwell and Ian Small tied on seven wins each. However, Trevor won the blind tasting vote with his signature dish of teriyaki salmon to take the title against four other dishes.

It is the second year of the competition which started back in October

last year and the weekly rounds have included risotto, mince pies, kebabs and sherry trifle. However there has been controversy along the way with Trevor winning the savory flan round with a flan which had no pastry.

Trevor said: 'I am already looking forward to defending my title later in the year.'



Trevor with his winning dish and trophy. 01\_B16chef02

## Military vehicles are on display

Visitors to the Arran Heritage Museum at Rosaburn, Brodick, will this weekend have the chance to see a unique display of restored military vehicles.

On Sunday, from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, the Scottish Military Vehicles Group are making their first ever visit to the island to show off their machines, which will be lined up on the museum lawn for your inspection. Any owners of such vehicles on the island are invited to bring their machines along on Sunday morning to join in the fun.

This is the first in an exciting programme which the museum has lined up for the summer season, and is an event not to be missed.



Contestants taking part in the final round were, left to right, Karen Ferguson, John Murchie, Trevor Helliwell, Harry Anderson and Ian Small. 01\_B16chef01

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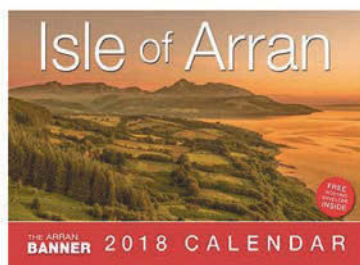
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## Lamlash roadworks are delayed

Roadworks which were due to take place in Lamlash this week will not now go ahead until Monday.

Serious disruption is expected by the closure of the main A841 road from Clauchlands Road to approximately 700 metres north of the entrance to Lamlash Golf Club.

The road will be closed for single durations of one hour maximum between 9am and 7pm daily, from Monday April 23 until Friday May 4, excluding weekends.

North Ayrshire Council, which is carrying out the essential road repair on the badly potholed stretch of road, blamed 'operational reasons' for the delay. Part of the road is too narrow to allow the works to be carried out using traffic lights.



A badly rutted section of the road which is to be repaired in Lamlash. 01\_B16roadworks01

## Major military exercise to start in the Clyde

Arran will get a bird's eye view of one of the largest tri-service and multinational military exercises of its kind in Europe when Exercise Joint Warrior gets under way at the weekend.

Running from today (Saturday) until May 4, the

UK-led exercise is linked directly into the NATO military training exercise programme and provides NATO allies and partners with the opportunity to improve the tactics and procedures vital on today's battlefield.

Thirty-nine naval units from 13 nations will take part, with many of them using maritime exercise areas off the west and northern coasts of Scotland.

Vessels from Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Fin-

land, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the UK and the US practicing maritime skills such as anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare and anti-air warfare in the Firth of Clyde with air support from HMS Gannet at Prestwick Airport.

Exercise Joint Warrior has been designed, planned and delivered by the Joint Tactical Exercise Planning Staff (JTEPS) based at Northwood in London who will deploy to HM Naval Base Clyde to coordinate events during the fortnight.

Further information on the exercise, including notices to mariners, details of GPS denial operations and impact statements, can be found by visiting Queen's Harbour Master Clyde's page on the Royal Navy website: [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/clyde/joint-warrior](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/qhm/clyde/joint-warrior).



International warships gather at HMNB Clyde ahead of a previous Exercise Joint Warrior.

## Elephant is damaged

An elephant which has stood in a Brodick courtyard for many years has been left badly damaged.

The large wooden elephant has for generations been an attraction for children in Duchess Court at Home Farm near Brodick, but has never come to any harm.

However, during the busy Easter weekend it was knocked over by some over-enthusiastic children and left with a broken trunk and ear. The elephant, which belongs to the Duncan family, is now on its way to Marvin Elliot who has offered to repair it.

## Mountain art exhibition

A new exhibition by Arran artist Gordon Davidson, entitled World Mountains, opens next week in the upstairs gallery at Arran Active in Brodick.

It is being staged to raise funds for the Arran Mountain Festival and will be officially opened on Thursday April 26 at 7pm. The exhibition will run until Friday June 1.

This year's hillwalking and mountaineering festival takes place from May 18-21 and is opportunity to meet like-minded people and have unforgettable days in the safe hands of experienced local leaders.

# Demand to improve rail link in Ardrossan works

A national campaigning organisation has demanded that the rail connection to the Arran ferry be an integral part of the multi-million improvement works planned for Ardrossan harbour.

As reported in last week's *Banner*, the government-led Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce has chosen its preferred design option for the harbour upgrade which will see the current Arran ferry berth realigned and a new terminal building constructed.

Railfuture Scotland has written to transport minister Humza Yousaf welcoming the upgrade, but urging that the opportunity be taken to right the wrong done over 30 years ago when the then Ardrossan Winton Pier station, adjacent to the ferry berth, was closed and a new rail terminus, Ardrossan Harbour, constructed some 200 yards further back up the line, meaning a longer walk for foot passengers from train to boat.

Jane Ann Liston, secretary of Railfuture Scotland explained: 'The justification for this was apparently to ensure no conflict between the electric overhead wires and lorries revers-

ing off a proposed new ferry from the Isle of Man or Northern Ireland, though ironically this new service never actually materialised.

In the 1980s it seemed that the convenience of foot passengers was very far down the pecking order, if indeed it was considered at all.'

'Railfuture Scotland hopes that things are different now and that everything will be done to make using the more environmentally-friendly options as easy as possible to encourage modal switch from private cars.

## Balance

'As Arranachs are only too aware, the otherwise-welcome RET fare reduction has resulted in significantly more cars being brought over to Arran, which suggests that the balance has been tilted in favour of cars rather than foot passengers using public transport.

'There is concern that Arran roads cannot cope with this heavier traffic, for which they were never designed.'

Ms Liston pointed out that the initial designs for the upgraded Ardrossan terminal published a few months ago depicted a brand-new



Railfuture Scotland want to see the station much closer to the new maritime hub as shown in this artist's impression.

'maritime hub' conveniently down by the boat, close to the location of the former Winton Pier station, which was to be the 'arrival point' for passengers. However the railway station was still shown marooned way back at the Ardrossan Harbour location.

'Will this set-up encourage travellers to opt for rail and sail rather than a car?' she asked. 'What about visitors with mobility problems who can usually manage very well by train but might not relish being decanted 200 yards from the arrival point?'

She concluded: 'One does get the idea that foot pas-

engers were then and still are seen as an afterthought at best and at worst an irrelevant inconvenience. It doesn't quite sit with encouraging travellers to opt for environmentally-friendly options when everything seems geared to make life for car users as easy as possible at the expense of those who walk, cycle or use public transport.'

Railfuture Scotland hopes that, while the design is still fluid, the Scottish Government and Transport Scotland can ensure that the rail terminal be incorporated into any 'passenger hub/arrival point' and be as close as possible to the ferry.

'Now that would really be integrated transport,' Ms Liston added.

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# Council's new development plan is published online

A draft of North Ayrshire Council's local development plan (LDP) has been published online and is available for viewing ahead of public consultations which are to be held.

The LDP is a collection of policies and plans which are to be used to map out and provide guidance when considering planning applications within North Ayrshire, including Arran,

in the future. It also sets out how and where investment will be directed over the next 10 years.

## Comments

Councillors will discuss these plans before they are formally published and put to the public, who will be invited to consult on the plans and provide comments during a two-month period.

After the consultation period, amendments will be made, if re-

quired, and after another slighter shorter consultation period, the document will be passed to the Scottish Government.

It, in turn, appoints a reporter who examines the plans and provides recommendations to the council and the government for any changes that need to be made. Once these changes have been effected, the plan is put into place and accepted.

Of particular interest to Arran residents are the various sections interspersed throughout the 178-page document that deals with strategic development areas on Arran – proposed housing and settlement plans, environmental policies and digital connectivity.

## Encouraged

Anyone with an interest in local development planning and land use is encouraged to have

a look at the document on the council website under the planning section.

Once the entire five-stage process of preparing the LDP – two of which have already been achieved – has been completed, the LDP will become a legal document and implemented in 2019 where it will direct the future policy for North Ayrshire for the following 10 years.

## Whiting Bay dog classes to resume

With the current run of Whiting Bay dog classes having just finished, the new season is set to begin at the start of May.

The summer classes, which run for 10 weeks, will start on Wednesday May 2, and every following Wednesday at 12.30pm at the Whiting Bay hall.

The proposed evening classes which were recently discussed will unfortunately not go ahead due to insufficient numbers.

If you are interested in reward-based training for your dog, Margaret Kay can be contacted on 01770 600858.



## Lamlash Guild lunch gathering

Lamlash Guild recently held its annual lunch in the Brodick Bar and there were smiles all round. Photo Cams Campbell

## Community council meets

The monthly meeting of Arran Community Council will take place in Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick on Tuesday at 6pm.

A full agenda will be discussed, including updates on the toilet and playpark situation on the island, a police report, the ferry committee, elderly forum and the Locality Planning Partnership. There are also expected to be reports from Arran's two North Ayrshire councillors.

Any interested members of the public are welcome to attend, but cannot participate in the discussions except with the prior approval of the chairman.



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# Libraries get in tune with technology

With major technological changes to the way that we listen to and purchase music, North Ayrshire libraries are moving with the times and embracing modern technologies.

Having evolved from vinyl, to CDs, to MP3s, North Ayrshire libraries will now be adopting digital technologies and will offer a free online music streaming service.

With the decline of the number of CDs being borrowed and because of the transition towards digital music, all libraries, includ-

ing Arran, will no longer update their CD collection and will instead focus on their online offering.

Music in their current catalogue will still be available for members but new purchases in CD format will no longer take place.

Councillor Louise McPhater, cabinet member for communities, said: 'The way we listen to music has changed dramatically in recent years, particularly with the explosion in online music streaming services.

'Our libraries have to move with the times too

so this change reflects how people access their favourite music.

'Although we will no longer buy CDs, we will still have a small collection of CDs in the library and it is still possible to request discs from other branches.

'Best of all, our library members can also access music through our free downloading and streaming service, Freegal, which gives you access to more than 13 million songs. Pop into a library or visit [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries/](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries/) for more details.



## Gin backing for Arran Trust

Stuart Fraser from Arran Gin Company presents Sheila Gilmore with a cheque for £200 for the Arran Trust. This money was raised at the recent official launch of Arran Gin, at the Drift Inn, where a first edition bottle of the new product was the top prize.

The Arran Trust is the island's visitor gifting scheme which supports environ-

mental and conservational projects on Arran.

With Arran Gin using locally foraged botanicals, this seems an ideal charity for the company to support.

For more information on the Arran Trust, to offer support, or to apply for funding, contact [info@arrantrust.org](mailto:info@arrantrust.org) or visit [www.arrantrust.org](http://www.arrantrust.org)



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## Editorial

### Cheese for sale

It is disappointing news indeed that First Milk is to put the Torrylinn Creamery up for sale.

Uncertain times too for the six employees at the Kilmory site as well as the two dairy farms on the island who supply the creamery with its milk.

However, it cannot be said to be totally unexpected. Concern over the future of the creamery has been raised on many occasions as it changed hands during the past 40 years.

Worrying too is the warning from First Milk that the plant needs 'significant investment'. That could put potential buyers off the factory, which opened in 1946.

However, we are sure that there is an entrepreneur out there who could breathe new life into the Torrylinn Creamery and put Arran Dunlop back on top of the pile.

### Rat Race

We at the *Banner* believe that credit should be given where credit is due. And this week the credit goes to the organisers of the Rat Race Ultra Tour of Arran.

Their planning and organisation were a credit to them as was their appreciation of the island and the islanders. They will be welcome back next year.

#### Thought for the Week

Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Cor 5:20

### Education advice

Sir,  
This letter is not directly concerned with Arran but sometimes you come across something that impresses you so much you want to share it – even if you're not on social media; so I decided to ignore, for the present, the potholes and CalMac and mention something a bit more uplifting.

If I'm the last person to discover the words of Ken Robison, the educationalist, my apologies, but if you haven't come across him and you're at all interested in children's education, please check him out. I've not yet read Mr Robison's books but so far have only listened to his TED talks on the web. Some of the talks include 'How to escape education's Death Valley', 'Bring on the education revolution', 'Do school's kill creativity?' and 'Changing education paradigms'. Each talk lasts for about 20 minutes, and are highly entertaining with some fascinating comments on things such as academia, ADHD and much more. I was prompted to check out Mr Robison when I saw him on television responding to a statement by a cabinet minister who had stated that all children should aspire to go to Oxford or Cambridge. Mr Robison said that he reckoned that the politician 'had lost his mind'. I immediately liked this guy.

Yours,  
**Mark Head,  
Whiting Bay.**

### Politicians' plea

*This is a copy of the letter sent to North Ayrshire and Arran MP Patricia Gibson and Cuninghame North MSP Kenneth Gibson.*

I write this as a resident in

High Corrie on the Isle of Arran and I write as a person who has suffered multiple spinal injuries going back seven years. Daily living is problem enough when what's going on in my back can make even walking across a room a painful experience.

However, the really big problem comes when I am forced to drive the car. On Friday I was obliged to take the car for its MOT in Lamlash – a 20-mile return journey. With my back injuries, this means enduring absolutely agonising jolts at every rough bit of road, let alone the potholes which are everywhere. I can drive easily even up to 45mph when the road surface is what any road surface in this country should be. But these stretches are very few and very far between. I now know the road well enough to know where all the very many bad bits are. On these I will have to crawl, even down to 5mph, clinging for dear life to the wheel as the jolts hit or threaten to hit my back and send it into spasm.

It is not always possible to let cars behind overtake so they must be left wondering what is going on as my speed alters all the time and as I weave from side to side of the road to find the least degraded surface to drive on.

I am due several visits to the dentist also in Lamlash, and believe you me, the thought of the journey there and back is far worse than the thought of anything the dentist might have to do.

That could look like a joke, but it is definitely no joke. Driving on Arran's roads is a living nightmare for me – and no doubt for many others with back problems.

I am quite sure both of

you are very well aware of the condition of Arran's roads. I know the South End roads are just as bad if not worse than the roads at this end. They are worse than a disgrace, as you both must know if you have ever had to drive on them. Of course, if you don't have serious back conditions you, like many others, might not notice anything too much although it is hard to see how anyone could drive here without noticing anything. Usually the complaints will be about what the roads do to people's cars. Cars are one thing. You can live with that. With a permanently injured back, you cannot.

The question I really want to shout to both of you is: why have the roads here been allowed to get into this state with absolutely no one taking any responsibility and nothing being done about them for all the 17 years I have already lived here?

This may not be the direct responsibility of either of you, but you were both elected to look after the interests of the people here in your respective ways. These interests in this regard have been woefully disregarded for years.

There can be no excuse for this. You have the responsibility to get onto the backs of the people who are responsible for roads and to stay on their backs month on month until they do what they are paid public money to do. It would be good to know the name of the person with overall responsibility for our roads, even though it should not be my task to make sure they start doing the work they are paid for.

We have a new ferry about to come into operation and, with RET on the

ferris, every effort seems to be being made to get more and more cars and huge tour buses onto the island. So there should be every economic incentive to provide Arran with roads fit for the ever-increasing and ever-heavier traffic – traffic that is going to make roads at present impossible for me to drive on in a very short time will be impossible for anyone to drive on. Indeed, they may soon cease to exist.

For myself, however, it is just a matter of how an elderly disabled person can live on this island and, incidentally, if you think an ambulance could help me out, the answer is never. I have had journeys in ambulances and they are without exception the worst-sprung vehicles I have ever been in. Total agony for my back as they bounce and sway and rattle over every bump and bit of unevenness there is.

What is the present plan to give Arran the roads it needs? When are the works going to start? When will the whole operation be completed by? And, as for the funding, apart from education and health (and as you can see this is part of health), what is more important than this?

Please do not trouble to reply to this unless you are seriously going to do something about it.

Yours,  
**Peter Finlay,  
High Corrie.**



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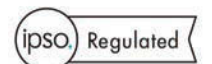
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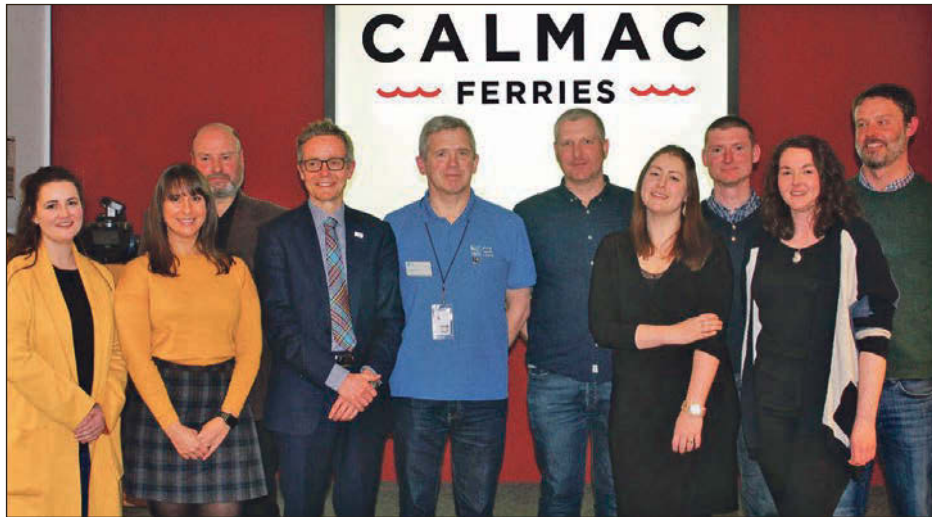
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# CalMac to promote marine awareness



**Caledonian MacBrayne**  
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries



Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne has teamed up with 14 conservation bodies in a bid to better protect the environment it sails in and to boost marine awareness.

The company's new marine awareness programme outlines specific actions it

**CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond (fourth from left) meets with marine awareness partners at the launch event in Oban.**

will take to help passengers get the most from the environment they are travelling through and to understand better the wildlife in its area of operations.

Speaking at the launch of the programme, CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond said: 'Knowledge is a major part of protecting the environment for future generations. By finding out what wild resources we have, we are in better position to take steps to help conserve them. Our commitment to the monitoring, education and information sharing activity outlined in this programme will help ensure we continue to build knowledge about the seas we sail.'

'The marine environment we work in is among the most diverse in the world, supporting more than 6,500 complex and 40,000 single-cell species of plants and animals.'

'Our seas are among the richest in Europe for marine mammals. Scotland

holds about 70 per cent of Europe's population of grey seals and 35 per cent of common seals along with numerous species of whales, dolphins and porpoises and seabirds.'

Actions outlined include using CalMac vessels to undertake marine biodiversity monitoring, passenger engagement and education to raise marine environment awareness with visitors and locals and to facilitate better information sharing between conservation agencies.

Mr Drummond added: 'CalMac understands how important the environment we work in is to our communities. The natural environment and the wildlife within it are central to attracting visitors and helping to grow the economies within the areas we serve.'

Further details of the programme can be found on the CalMac website at [www.calmac.co.uk/calmac-ferries-marine-awareness-programme](http://www.calmac.co.uk/calmac-ferries-marine-awareness-programme)

## Three-month reprieve for elderly fund cuts

Funding cuts to elderly care on Arran have been given a three-month reprieve.

At a meeting last week, plans by North Ayrshire Council to cut more than £20,000 in funding to the Trust Housing Association for Arran were put on hold until the end of June.

As previously reported by the *Banner*, the cuts would hit both the Glen Estate sheltered housing complex in Brodick and the McKelvie Road Housing Association in Lamlash, with the potential loss of the elderly co-ordinator.

### Clarified

Lynn Ross, of the Glen Estate Tenants' Association, said: Nothing was clarified at that meeting apart from the fact there is a three-month extension to the proposed cuts. We are

now waiting for the Trust to meet with North Ayrshire Council to see what the options are for providing the services we need in sheltered housing, not the least the daily co-ordinator, who acts as a vital first responder to problems among residents, avoiding the cost of hospital admissions and other avoidable expenses.

'I, for one, was left with the impression that the council is indifferent to our needs as older people in the community. The amount of the proposed cut is minuscule compared to other decisions which are made on spending and the value for money of that amount spent on the sheltered housing has been well recorded and is very much in line with government guidelines for the care of older people in rural and island areas.'

'We can only hope that common sense will prevail and a way forward will be found to continue to provide the services for which we pay our rents and to show the respect we deserve in the community.'

### Support funding

Jennifer Wallace, head of housing and support services for Trust Housing, said: 'We received notice from North Ayrshire Council that housing support funding for our two sheltered developments on Arran will not be continuing after the end of June 2018.'

'We appreciate this is a difficult time for our staff, tenants and their families, and have had initial meetings with tenants to consider how this could impact them and their services going forward.'



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# Arran poets to read at Leek festival

Arran poets David Underdown, Cicely Gill and Tim Pomeroy have, of recent years, been organising exchanges with poets from other areas of the country by way of nourishing and celebrating the healthy poetry scene on Arran.

By bringing in other voices and by exporting the local timbre, the local poets hope to create a healthy coming and going of poetical voices.

Already, David, Cicely and Tim have read in Lan-

caster and London and, in return, Lancashire and London poets have read on Arran. In August last year, two moorland poets, Pam Brough and Roger Elkin, came from the Peak District near the town of Leek in Staffordshire to headline a successful reading at Altachorvie.

In return, the Arran three travel to Leek to headline an evening of poetry and music as part of the Leek Arts Festival. The evening will take place in the Fox-

lowe Arts Centre in Leek on Thursday April 26 at 7.30pm. Tickets are selling fast and Arran residents are encouraged to inform friends and family in or around the Peak District. Another great Arran export.

Poets Tim Pomeroy, Cicely Gill and David Underdown, who will be reading in Leek.



## Important new information on Government support for Central Heating Systems:

### UPDATE NOV 2017

#### FACT 1

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

#### FACT 2

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

#### FACT 3

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

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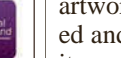
\*The amount of assistance you will get is calculated from the figures shown in an Energy Performance Certificate for your property and based on 10.13p per kilowatt of heat produced by the heat pump

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## New art initiative to say Something of the Sea

This summer sees an exciting collaboration between two of the increasingly visible community bodies working on and for Arran.

Arran Open Studios (AOS), which is now in its seventh year promoting the work of makers and artists on Arran, and the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) want to celebrate the opening of the new COAST hub in the Old Pavilion tennis courts building in Lamash. There is proposed a collaborative exhibition which will be both part of the AOS weekend and also the grand opening of the COAST office.

The idea, designed to raise profiles of both groups, also plans to raise funds for COAST in a rather imaginative way.

Artists and makers are invited to submit, anonymously, an artwork based on the subject 'Something of the Sea'. These artworks will be mounted and hung by COAST in its new premises. Members of the public will be invited to purchase these pieces

for a minimum of £25 but not discouraging a voluntary maximum. All money goes to the community seabed trust.

This is not only a great way of acquiring original artwork but, because the artworks will be by unknown authors, there is a fair chance that purchasers might manage to acquire an



artwork by one of the several better-known island artists. All artworks will be authenticated. All exhibited pieces will be signed on the back so there will be a provenance for those purchasers wanting to take a gamble on turning up a bankable artist.

Ann Hume of AOS and COAST provides the fol-

lowing submission guidelines.

COAST will provide a simple card mount for each piece. There is no need for you to mount or frame the work.

Specifications: 2D work, A4 (296mmx420mm) or A5 (148mm x 210mm). 3D work, small of a comparable size to A5/A4

2D work should be on a surface suitable for mounting and hanging – eg, water-colour paper, cartridge paper of a good weight, card or thin board. Delivery of work to the COAST office from Monday June 11 to Friday June 22. Office is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4pm.

Ann asks that any artist wishing to take part confirms with her before Monday April 30 at annhumejewellery@hotmail.co.uk Any further details can be had from Ann on 07975 589432.

The exhibition will run from Monday August 6 through the weekend of the Arran Open Studios which is August 10 to 13 inclusive.

# It's official – Brodick is ready to welcome the world

Brodick's new ferry terminal and pier were officially opened at the third time of asking last Thursday.

As reported in last week's *Banner*, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution Derek Mackay opened the £30 million infrastructure upgrade project, which has transformed the harbour area. He was joined by Kevin Hobbs, chief executive at Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL), which led delivery of the project.

The official opening had twice previously been postponed, with the first date coinciding with the funeral of Lady Jean Fforde last October. The project then hit months of delay, due to faults with the passenger access system, before finally opening for business last month.

The official opening finally went ahead last week, with hardly a hitch – apart from a fire alarm which saw guests evacuated from the post-opening lunch. It was a false alarm.

Work to transform the harbour began onsite in January 2016 and has delivered a new 110-metre, two-berth

pier, designed to accommodate the new dual-fuel vessel MV Glen Sannox when it enters service, with a dedicated berth for PS Waverley that can accommodate other commercial vessels, including cruise ships.

The modern two-storey terminal building houses

**Continued on page 12**



Kevin Hobbs speaking at the opening ceremony. 01\_B16open07



Ramsay Muirhead and Kevin Hobbs of CMAL with Derek Mackay and port manager Colin McCort with the opening plaque. 01\_B16open16



Finance minister Derek Mackay is welcomed back to Arran by port manager Colin McCort. 01\_B16open01



Mr Mackay meets ticketing staff and shakes hands with Alan Reid. 01\_B16open04

# New ferry is official

Continued from page 11 the ticket office, toilets, harbour staff offices and a 120-seat departure lounge. Outside, there is an increased marshalling area featuring six lanes, offering a combined 895 metres for cars, HGVs and service vehicles; six bus stances with two modern shelters; and parking for up to 65 cars.

It is the single biggest port infrastructure construction

project delivered by CMAL, which received funding support from Transport Scotland, North Ayrshire Council, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and the Coastal Communities Fund to deliver full-scale redevelopment of the terminal.

### Delighted

Speaking at the opening ceremony before a large crowd, Mr Mackay said: 'I'm delighted to officially

open the new terminal and pier at Brodick harbour, a project that has transformed the facility and will bring real benefits to ferry users.

'The upgrade will strengthen the harbour's resilience, allowing a broader range of vessels to berth, and the new terminal building will improve the overall experience for passengers.

'This project underlines the Scottish Government's com-



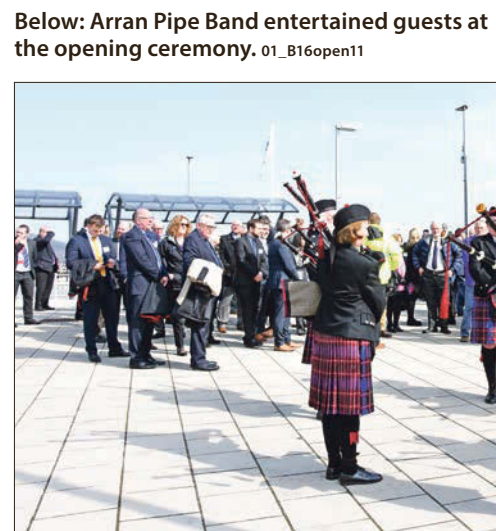
Best of friends Derek Mackay and Colin McCort. 01\_B16open15



Councillor Timothy Billings, Neil Arthur and Dr Sally Campbell at the opening. 01\_B16open18



Kenneth Bone and Charles Fforde enjoy a cup of tea at the post-opening lunch. 01\_B16open17



Below: Arran Pipe Band entertained guests at the opening ceremony. 01\_B16open11



Mr Mackay still chatting to staff after the fire alarm evacuation. 01\_B16open13

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# FESTIVAL GUIDE 18



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YEAR'S FESTIVALS  
AND EVENTS  
THROUGHOUT  
THE WEST  
COAST

*Inside*  
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You will hear it here on the west coast and the islands. What you should also remember is that many, many of the talented singers and musicians will be home-grown. When it comes to food and drink, we have something to show the world: lush Kintyre and island pastures filled with dairy herds to give our cheese makers the finest raw ingredients. Our hills and upland pastures are full of sheep and beef cattle being raised as nature intended. Oban has claimed the throne of seafood capital of Scotland, need we say more?

Then there is the whisky . . . our distilleries are legendary. People come from all over the world to visit them, so it is only right that we put out the welcome mat and throw the odd festival or two.

The rise of the book festival is a recent phenomenon, with authors coming from all over and heading to the remotest of locations as people enjoy the written word together.

And all these events take place in some of the most stunning and unspoiled countryside in Europe. You will find countryside festivals taking place this summer and even one for star gazers on the dark-sky designated Isle of Coll.

Special mention has to go this year to Campbeltown and its newly renovated Picture House - one of the oldest in the world - as it holds its first film festival.

This festival guide is just the beginning - our guides to all the Highland games and gatherings and agricultural shows will be published in coming weeks.

So start planning your good times!

Nicky Murphy,  
The Oban Times.

A Wyvex Media publication  
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# It's festival

## MÒD-FESTIVALS

**Get to the heart of the West Highlands with Gaeldom's finest**  
*From Victorian beginnings to today's computer age, An Comunn leads the way*

THE bedrock of Gaelic culture in the Highlands has to be An Comunn Gàidhealach.

Founded in Oban in 1891, the organisation has been at the heart of the promoting and keeping alive of Gaelic culture through its teaching, lobbying and the famous network of Mòds.

It has also developed many international links and friendships not only with other Gaelic speaking countries but around the globe.

Apart from being a great social and cultural event, there is a place in the Mòds for everyone from the tiniest tots and beginners in the language to fluent Gaelic speakers.

Competitions include singing, all kinds of music-making through to drama, recitation and the written word.

The 'provincial' Mòds are smaller local events in communities throughout the Highlands and also towns and cities that have Gaelic-speaking populations. They all build towards October and the annual Royal National Mòd - a glorious event lasting for more than a week, full of the finest that Gaeldom has to offer, not to mention some very impressive parties.

Those in the know make their way to Mull for its Mòd only weeks before as many of the top choirs and soloists use this as their final 'warm-up' performances before the big event.

This year the Royal National Mòd takes place in Dunoon, from October 12-20.

### The provincial Mòds

Lochaber, 11-12 May

Uist, 25-26 May

Skye, 30 May - 2 June

Harris, 31 May - 1 June

East Kilbride, 1-2 June

Oban, 1-2 June

Sutherland & Caithness (Bettyhill) 2 June

Lewis, 5-8 June

Glasgow, 8-9 June

Perth & Angus (Aberfeldy) 8-9 June

Ardnamurchan, Friday 15 June

Inverness, 15-16 June

Islay, 23 June

Mull 8-9 September

Mòd Loch Aillse

Barra

● This list was compiled with the best available information at the time of going to press. Always check the event's own website or with the organisers; circumstances can change.



Front page image: We Banjo 3 performing at Oban Live 2017

# time

## Fèis-inating!

*If you want to discover the future Gaelic stars of tomorrow, look no further than a local Fèis.*

COME and visit the world of the fèis where a love of Gaelic arts and performance is celebrated and instilled through a network of tuition and events.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is the National Association of Scottish Gaelic Arts youth tuition festivals.

The organisation was founded in 1988 to expand and support the organisation of local Gaelic arts tuition festivals and develop these community-based festivals throughout Scotland with immersive teaching courses, specialising in traditional music and culture.

You might end up taking part; if not, each fèis usually ends with a concert where the participants showcase all that they have learned.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is currently putting the finishing touches to its programme for this year's Blas – a nine-day celebration each September of the music, language, song and culture of the Highlands, taking place across a number of venues.

Also eagerly awaited are the details of their year's ceilidh trails, cèilodhean air chuairt, which show case the talents of young performers aged 16 to 25 in a professional summer tour in their local area, with the support of their tutors and teams of professional musicians. Check the Fèisean nan Gàidheal website for the final details.

These events give the young musicians incredible experience to help them develop as performers at the same time creating fantastic evenings for everyone to go along and enjoy. The Scottish music scene is packed full of musicians who will tell you they got their first taste of performing in front of live audiences at these events.

### Fèis

Fèis Ghallaibh – Thurso High School – April 21

Fèis na h-Òige – Inverness Gaelic Primary School – April 28

Fèis na h-Apaine – Strath of Appin Primary School – April 28

Fèis Thiriodh – Isle of Tiree – 2-6 July

Fèis Tìr an Eòrna – Sgoil Uibhist a Tuath, North Uist – 2-6 July

Fèis Eilean na Hearadh – Tarbert, Isle of Harris – 2-6 July

Fèis Chataibh – Golspie High School – 2-6 July

Fèis na h-Òige – Inverness Gaelic Primary School – 2-6 July

Fèis Eige – Isle of Eigg – 4-6 July

Fèis An Eilein – Isle of Skye – 6 July – 24 August

Fèis Tìr a' Mhurain – Iochdar School - South Uist – 9-13 July

Fèis Bharraigh – Castlebay Community School, Isle of Barra – 9-13 July

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan – Acharacle Primary School – 9-13 July

Fèis Gleann Albainn – Fort Augustus – 16-20 July

Fèis Thròndairnis – Staffin Primary School – 23-27 July

Fèis Eilean an Fhraoich – Stornoway, Isle of Lewis – 23-27 July

Fèis an Rubha – Sgoil an Rubha, Isle of Lewis – 30 July-3 August

Fèis Lochabair – Lochaber Gaelic Primary School Caol, Fort William – 6-10 August

● This list was compiled with the best available information at the time of going to press.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is still putting the finishing touches to its programme, so always check the event's own website or with the organisers; circumstances can change.

## A feast of festivals !

Start planning your good times and come join in the fun

Loch Shiel Spring Festival	various locations	19-22 April
Mull Music Festival	Tobermory, Isle of Mull	19-23 April
Gintyre	Campbeltown	20-22 April
Fiddlers' Rally	Oban	28 April
Carradale Music Festival	Carradale	28-29 April
Colonsay Book Festival	Isle of Colonsay	28-29 April
Colosay Spring Festival	Isle of Colonsay	30 April-20 May
Highlands & Islands Music and Dance Festival	Oban	4-6 May
Kintyre Songwriters' Festival	Campbeltown	4-6 May
Scapa Yoga Fest	Ardkinglas, Loch Fyne	4-6 May
BikeFyne	Loch Fyne Oysters	5 May
Ullapool Book Festival	Ullapool	11-13 May
Coll Bird Festival	Isle of Coll	18-20 May
Scottish Comedy Film Festival	Campbeltown Picture House	11-13 May
Fyne at 40 Food Fair	Loch Fyne Oysters, Cairndow	12-13 May
Gig in the Goil	Lochgoilhead	11-13 May
Campbeltown Malts Festival	Campbeltown	23-25 May
Skye Accordion & Fiddle Festival	Portree, Isle of Skye	24-26 May
Bluebell Music Festival	George Hotel, Inveraray	25-27 May
Islay Festival of Music & Malt	Isles of Islay & Jura	25 May-2 June
Mhòr Festival	Balquidder, Perthshire	25-27 May
Oban Festival of the Sea	Ocean Explorer Centre, Dunbeg	26-27 May
FyneFest	Glen Fyne, Inveraray	1-3 June
Oban Live	Oban	8-9 June
Arran Folk Festival	Brodick, Isle of Arran	8-10 June
Eigg Anniversary Celebrations	Isle of Eigg	9 June
Skye Food & Drink Festival	Portree, Isle of Skye	13-14 June
MidFest Music Festival	Campbeltown	15-16 June
Scottish Rally Championship, Round 4	Dunoon	23 June
Arran Malt & Music Festival	Isle of Arran	29 June-1 July
Gigha Music Festival	Isle of Gigha	29-30 June
Ceòlas Uibhist	South Uist	1-6 July
Mendelssohn on Mull	Isle of Mull, and other locations	1-7 July
Tarbert Seafood Festival	Tarbert, Loch Fyne	7-8 July
Cantilena Festival	Isle of Islay	8-13 July
Tiree Music Festival	Isle of Tiree	13-15 July
Heb Celt	Stornoway, Isle of Lewis	18-21 July
Tarbert Traditional Boat Festival	Tarbert, Loch Fyne	20-22 July
Bute Studio Tour	Various open studios across Isle of Bute	21-22 July
Tarbert Fair	Tarbert, Loch Fyne	26-28 July
Eilean Dorcha Festival	Benbecula	27-28 July
ButeFest	Isle of Bute	27-29 July
Belladrum	Beaul, Inverness	2-4 August
MOKfest, Mull of Kintyre Music Festival	Campbeltown	8-12 August
Art Map Argyll	Various open studios across mainland Argyll	24-27 August & 1-2 September
Blas	venues still being confirmed	7-15 September
Skye Book Festival & Antiquarian Book Fair	Portree	6-8 September
Best of the West Festival	Inveraray	7-9 September
Ceòl Cholas	Isle of Colonsay	12-16 September
Lagavulin Jazz Festival	Isle of Islay	14-16 September
Tarbert Music Festival	Tarbert, Loch Fyne	14-16 September
Coll Home Coming	Isle of Coll	15-22 September
Hebrides International Film Festival	Lewis, Harris, Uists & Barra	19-22 September
Cowal Open Studios	Various open studios across Cowal Peninsula	21-24 September
Three Lochs Books and Arts Festival	Sunart Centre, Strontian	21-22 September
Jura Music Festival	Isle of Jura	21-23 September
Bookends Festival	Benderloch	22-29 September
Islay Book Festival	Isle of Islay	27-30 September
Loopallu	Ullapool	28-29 September
Callender Jazz & Blues Festival	Callendar	28-30 September
Ullapool Guitar Festival	Ullapool	5-7 October
Coll and the Cosmos	Isle of Coll	6-7 October
CowalFest	Cowal Peninsula	5-12 October
Colonsay Autumn Food & Drink Festival	Isle of Colonsay	10-23 October
Tarbert Book Festival	Tarbert, Loch Fyne	26-28 October
Mallaig Book Festival	Mallaig	9-10 November
Oban Winter Festival	Oban	16-25 November

● This list was compiled with the best available information at the time of going to press. Always check the event's own website or with the organisers; circumstances can change.

# Fyne Ales gets ready for biggest FyneFest ever!




**FyneFest**  
1-3 JUNE 2018 CAIRNDOW, ARGYLL

**3 DAYS**  
**2500 PEOPLE**  
**250 BEERS**  
**12 FOOD VENDORS**  
**25 BANDS**

**ONE AMAZING WEEKEND**

**DISCOUNT LOCAL TICKETS AVAILABLE!**

**ON SALE NOW:**  
**[www.fynefest.com](http://www.fynefest.com)**

Argyll brewery Fyne Ales have revealed that they are anticipating that this year's FyneFest, their annual, family-friendly festival of beer, food and music, will be the biggest in the event's nine-year history.

This year's festival, taking place at the Fyne Ales brewery estate near Cairndow from 1-3 June, will see almost 3,000 thirsty festival-goers visit scenic Glen Fyne to sample beers from the award-winning host brewery and over forty guest breweries from the UK and Europe.

'The response to FyneFest 2018 has been incredible - we've been blown away by the enthusiasm for this year's event,' commented Fyne Ales MD, Jamie Delap. 'We've increased capacity for this year's festival to meet demand and we're on course to sell out of tickets for the biggest FyneFest ever!'

Several changes have been implemented for the 2018 festival to allow for additional capacity, with a second campervan field available, a super-sized main marquee to house additional seating and dancefloor space, and more staff on hand to pour beer to excited festival attendees. Over 30 guest breweries are already confirmed for FyneFest 2018, with the best of UK brewing set to be showcased at the Argyll event - among the familiar faces including Cloudwater, Magic Rock, Beavertown and Fierce Beer, there are several festival debutants including South coast breweries, Vibrant Forest and Unity, Scotland's Top Out and Natural Selection breweries and Burnt Mill, recently named the UK's best new brewery by popular beer tracking website, Ratebeer.

'It's important to mix up the brewery list each year - not only so festival-goers get to try new beers, but also to give young breweries a platform to reach new people,' offered Iain Smith, FyneFest beer curator. 'Of course, Fyne Ales will have a few new and special releases on offer too!'

FyneFest, runner-up for Best Outdoor Festival at the 2017 SOLA awards, also offers kids activities, tours, talks, tastings, Glen Fyne walks and food from twelve street-food vendors including Loch Fyne Oysters. A full weekend of live music designed to get festival attendees on their feet and dancing is headlined by Glasgow's Colonel Mustard & The Dijon 5 and Brighton's Holy Moly & The Crackers.

Tickets for FyneFest 2018, including discount tickets for those local to the brewery, are on sale now and selling fast. Under-13s and dogs go free, visit [www.fynefest.com](http://www.fynefest.com) for all the info and to book!





# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Best of the West Festival

7-9 September 2018

On the 7th, 8th and 9th of September 2018 the gates to the grounds of the iconic Inveraray Castle will open for the 8th annual Best of the West Festival. The festival is now arguably Scotland's finest boutique festival, one where music and food lovers from the world over gather to celebrate the very best in Scottish music, food and drink. The marquees all will be bigger and the beer bars longer for the biggest BOWFest yet.

Music headliners include: Tide Lines and Seven Nations (Friday); Donnie Munro Band, Heron Valley and Dr Hip and the Blues Operation (Saturday) and Skipinnish, Bwani Junction and The Hur (Sunday).

Three days, three stages, 22 Bands, 100+ musicians, six local Celebrity Chefs, one amazing castle, lots of children's activities, no mud and all under canvas.

Whether you're a gourmand who relishes in the intricacies of fine dining, or a

regular foodie excited about tucking into Argyll's local food, the award winning Food from Argyll and friends will be serving regional specialities, you'll definitely enjoy the gastronomic offerings The Best of the West Festival showcases. There will be also the opportunity to discover your favourite west coast malt or gin in the Loch Fyne Whisky Marquee. [www.bowfest.co.uk](http://www.bowfest.co.uk) Facebook, Twitter, Instagram: @BOWFestArgyll



On the back of their new album release and UK tour, Tide Lines will close the Friday evening at BOWFest 2018 - It's sure to be fantastic!

## Loch Fyne Oysters celebrates 40 years with its Fyne at 40 weekend

In 1978 local landowner Johnny Noble and marine biologist Andy Lane began farming oysters in the clear waters of Loch Fyne and selling them from a shed beside the A83. On the evening of Friday 11 May this year a ceilidh will take place followed by a spectacular fireworks show over the Loch. This will be followed by a special 'Fyne at Forty' weekend festival to mark the company's 40th anniversary.



Early days at the Oyster Bar - Founders Johnny Noble and Andy Lane

competition or practise your navigation with our treasure hunt amidst the fantastic Loch Fyne scenery.

Children can get their faces painted before being entertained with musical activities and grown-ups can unwind with demonstrations from top chefs as well as wine and whisky tastings. There will be great food available, and great music to enjoy in the entertainment beer marquee.

Over the two-day 'Fyne at Forty' event, festival goers will be given access to areas normally closed to the public, such as the oyster sheds where every oyster is graded, purified and hand-checked for freshness before being despatched to customers around the world.

There will be tours of nearby historic Ardkinglas House, and you can test your chef skills in our oyster shucking

On Saturday evening (12 May) join us for an unmissable evening with iconic Scottish duo Hue and Cry. With a limited number of tickets available this is a rare opportunity to enjoy an intimate gig in a truly stunning location at the Loch Fyne Oyster Bar.

Your ticket includes Loch Fyne buffet with an array of dishes to suit all.

More details at [www.lochfyne.com/news-and-events](http://www.lochfyne.com/news-and-events)

# Best of the West

## FESTIVAL

### INVERARAY CASTLE

#### 7 - 9 SEPTEMBER 2018

FRIDAY

**TIDE LINES**

SATURDAY

**DONNIE MUNRO BAND**

SUNDAY

**SKIPINNISH**

3 DAYS OF LIVE MUSIC • FOOD FROM ARGYLL  
WEST COAST WHISKIES • WEST COAST CRAFTS  
CELEBRITY CHEFS • CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

## Tickets now on sale!

Visit [www.bowfest.co.uk](http://www.bowfest.co.uk) for more info  
[#bowfest](https://twitter.com/bowfest)

Don't Miss The Loch Fyne Oysters  
**40TH ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION WEEKEND**  
**12 - 13 MAY 2018**

GREAT FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY  
ONLY 1 HOUR FROM GLASGOW

LOVE SEAFOOD




For More Details Visit:  
[www.lochfyne.com/news-and-events](http://www.lochfyne.com/news-and-events)

**ISLAY BOOK FESTIVAL**  
**27TH-30TH SEPTEMBER**  
**FÈIS LEABHRAICHEAN ÌLE**

**CRIME – STORYTELLING – POETRY**  
**ISLAND FICTION – WORKSHOPS**  
**CONTEMPORARY FICTION – WWI**  
**MARITIME TALES – CHILDREN'S STORY TIMES**  
**LOCAL HISTORY – GAELIC SONGS – AND MUCH MORE**

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**BERNARD MACLAVERTY**  
**IAN STEPHEN - BRIAN JOHNSTONE**  
**JANIS MACKAY - CHRYS SALT**  
**MALACHY TALLACK - CIARA MACLAVERTY**  
**CATRIONA BLACK - TREVOR ROYLE**  
**LIN ANDERSON - LES WILSON**  
**LYNN MACDONALD MCLEAN - ALAN DAPRÉ**  
**MIKE NICHOLSON - MICHELLE SLOAN AND MORE**

**#IBF18**  
**@IslayBookFest**

[www.islaybookfestival.co.uk](http://www.islaybookfestival.co.uk)

## Loose yourself in a good book at Islay festival



## Cantilena Festival on Islay



Cantilena is a week-long festival of classical chamber music on the beautiful and romantic island of Islay. Along with five professional players Cantilena selects gifted students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to perform and learn alongside musicians who have all worked with Britain's major Orchestras. This is a rare and highly sought-after privilege for these young professionals and Cantilena is the only opportunity for Islay residents and visitors to hear music which ranges from Italian Renaissance to the present day. The festival was established in 2001 and now attracts audiences from as far afield as Germany and Italy, thanks to the intimate and informal atmosphere of the venues which include some of the island's famous malt whisky distilleries.

The 2018 Festival runs from Sunday 8 July to Friday 13 July. The programme includes music by Vivaldi, Brahms, Bridge and Shostakovich. Some of the works have been chosen to reflect the commemorative events taking place on Islay marking the loss of the SS Tuscania and HMS Otranto during WWI.

Tickets are available from the Celtic Shop, Bowmore from 1st June, or by contacting [admin@cantilenafestival.co.uk](mailto:admin@cantilenafestival.co.uk).

<b>Sunday 8 July</b>	<b>Columba Centre Bowmore</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
Opening Concert with music by Haydn, Mozart and Brahms		
<b>Monday 9 July</b>	<b>Laphroaig Distillery</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
Student Showcase featuring young musicians from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland		
<b>Tuesday 10 July</b>	<b>Lagavulin Distillery</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
Purcell, Handel, Elgar and Frank Bridge's Lament, a piece which reflects the WW100 ISLAY commemorations		
<b>Wednesday 11 July</b>	<b>Columba Centre Bowmore</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
An evening featuring Havilland Willshire, piano, and works by Shostakovich and Bridge, again with the theme of commemoration		
<b>Thursday 12 July</b>	<b>Ardbeg Distillery</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
Telemann, Rossini, Schubert and Mendelssohn		
<b>Friday 13 July</b>	<b>Bruichladdich Village Hall</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>
Final concert including Vivaldi's Four Seasons and the usual Classical Ceilidh		

During the last weekend in September on Islay you'll hear the waves on the shore, the wind in the trees and the rustle of pages being turned at the island's annual book festival.

This is one of the first of the literary events launched in the area and its reputation and ability to attract a wide range of authors continues to grow each year.

This year participants will include Bernard MacLaverty, Ian Stephen, Brian Johnstone, Janis MacKay, Chrys Salt, Lin Anderson and Les Wilson and many more.

The programme has a good blend of fiction, maritime tales, local history, crime fiction, poetry, contemporary work plus workshops and children's story times.

The festival will also feature work on the the First World War, which ties in with other events on the island. Islay is hosting one of Scotland's major commemorations for the centenary of the war; every community on the island lost men serving during the conflict and there was the torpedoing of a troopship and a collision at sea off the Islay coast which cost many more lives. Events are being held throughout 2018.

**A week of chamber music in venues across the island**

  
*Cantilena Festival on Islay*

**8 – 13 JULY 2018**

**Sunday 8 July** Columba Centre  
**Monday 9 July** Laphroaig Distillery  
**Tuesday 10 July** Lagavulin Distillery  
**Wednesday 11 July** Columba Centre  
**Thursday 12 July** Ardbeg Distillery  
**Friday 13 July** Bruichladdich Hall

Visit [CANTILENAFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://CANTILENAFESTIVAL.CO.UK)  
 for more information and details of our pre-Festival recital in Portnahaven

**All concerts start at 7.30pm** Tickets £12  
 (Senior £10, £5 with Student Card, free for schoolchildren)  
 Season £60 (Senior £50) available at the Celtic House, Bowmore from 1 June and at the door on the night.  
 Advance orders from [admin@cantilenafestival.co.uk](mailto:admin@cantilenafestival.co.uk)  
 Cantilena Festival on Islay Ltd is a Scottish Registered Charity No SC033071



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 42 Main Street, Bowmore  
 Isle of Islay PA43 7JJ

Now in its 25th year, The Isle of Jura Musical Festival is a well-established favourite for lovers of the traditional music scene. From the locals Friday night ceilidh right through to the Sunday night concert in the distillery cooperage, enjoy a weekend packed with fantastic performances, stimulating workshops, spontaneous sessions and great craic.

Over the years the Festival has seen many great performances and this year to celebrate our 25th Anniversary we have a star studded lineup which includes Scottish Music Festival scene favourites

**Fred Morrison, Blazin Fiddles and Skipinnish.**

Also

**The Jura Ceilidh Band, Rhuvaal, Pete Smoke and the Roaches, Travelling Jukebox, The Cumbrae Pipers, Ian Douglas story teller and much more!**

There will be various workshops throughout the weekend. A final fling ceilidh dance in the marquee on Sunday evening with Rhuvaal.



**JURAMUSICFESTIVAL  
21ST-23RD SEPTEMBER**

Phone: 01496 820362

E-mail: [juramusicfestival@gmail.com](mailto:juramusicfestival@gmail.com)

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



## How to get to the Isle of Jura Music Festival

Getting to Jura could not be easier. For the very rich: charter a sea plane or pilot your jet into Islay Airport. Super yachts should anchor off-shore and passengers use one of the motor launches; helicopters can be accommodated on the island with advance notice or use Islay Airport.



For the rest of us heading to Jura for the music festival, who aren't yachties, or don't have some handy cousins who own a fishing boat, the secret is to get yourselves to Tayvallich to catch the Jura passenger ferry to Craighouse.

You can arrive at Port Askaig by CalMac ferry or by flying into Islay Airport on a scheduled service and booking a taxi.

CalMac's most frequent sailings are from Kennacraig to Port Askaig or Port Ellen; if you catch the boat for Port Ellen, then it's the bus or a taxi for you.

But once on Jura, whatever your bank balance, whatever the weather and whether you are young or old, a good time is guaranteed. See you there. And don't forget the Jura Hotel offers a camping package.

## Jura Passenger Ferry

The spectacular Isle of Jura is less than an hour away from Tayvallich, on the Knapdale peninsula

	Departs Craighouse	Departs Tayvallich
Monday	08:45 17:00	10:00 18:00
Tuesday	~ ~ ~ ~ ~	~ ~ ~ ~ ~
Wednesday	08:45 17:00	10:00 18:00
Thursday	08:45 15:15	10:00 16:30
Friday	08:45 17:00	10:00 18:00
Saturday	08:45 15:15	10:00 16:30
Sunday	17:00	18:00

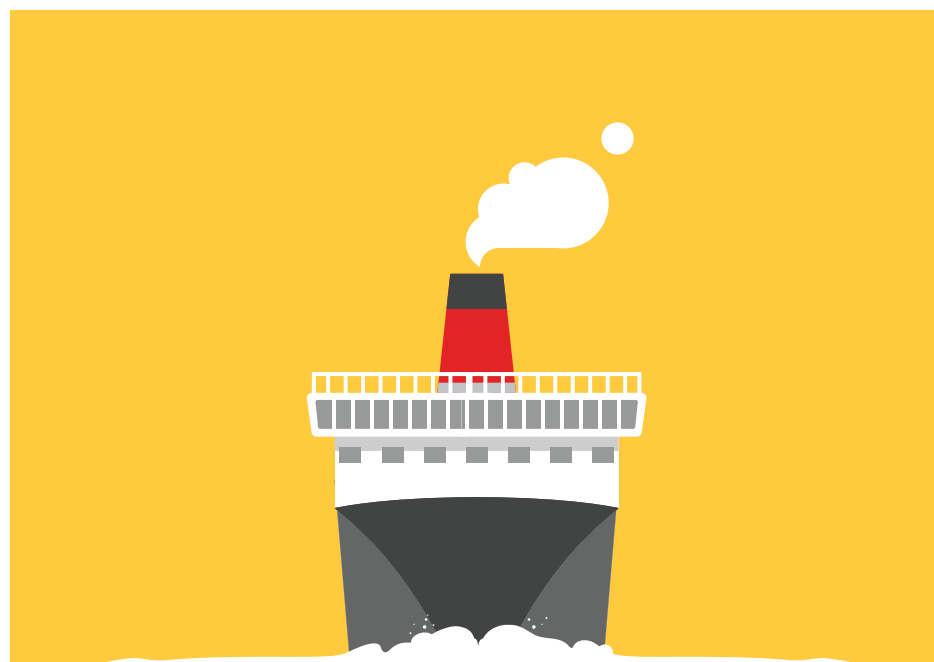
March to September

Please book by calling Nicol on

07768 450000

or BOOK online

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



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## Mendelssohn on Mull Festival



Monday July 2nd  
|  
Saturday July 7th

Concerts of chamber music in Oban, on Mull and on Iona

For 30 years the Festival has celebrated the visit of the composer Mendelssohn to this part of the world with a week of classical music.

This year we welcome as our Artistic Directors the world-famous Doric String Quartet.

Concerts include music for strings by Mozart, Haydn, Brahms and, of course, Mendelssohn himself.



Details on our website:  
[www.mendelssohnonmull.com](http://www.mendelssohnonmull.com)

# Mendelssohn on Mull Festival 2018

The Mendelssohn on Mull Festival was founded in 1988 by the revered violinist Leonard Friedman. It celebrates the composer's visit to this part of the world in 1829 with a week of music-making specialising in the chamber music for strings that was so important to him.

The Festival presents a dozen concerts, between Monday July 2nd and Saturday July 7th, in venues all over the Isle of Mull, on Iona and in Oban, but its focus is on training. This year nine gifted musicians who are starting in the profession will collaborate with the world-famous Doric String Quartet in a variety of groupings. Not only are the concerts generally admission free but this year it will be possible to attend open rehearsals, introductory lectures, and an award-winning film about Mendelssohn.

This year is the first of four in



which the Doric Quartet will be Artistic Directors. They visited Mull and Oban last autumn and they are looking forward to inspiring their younger colleagues and making wonderful music at the traditional time of year. They have selected musicians of great promise and the standard of their performances will be

the equivalent of any in the great concert halls of the world. The chance to be present in an unassuming venue on Mull and witness this magic at work is what makes the Mendelssohn on Mull Festival unique.

Details are available on the Festival's website - [www.mendelssohnonmull.com](http://www.mendelssohnonmull.com)

# Three days of fine whisky and music await you on Arran



## The Arran Malt & Music Festival 2018

EVENTS HELD 29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE - 1<sup>ST</sup> JULY



FESTIVAL DAY  
SATURDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
[www.arranevents.com](http://www.arranevents.com)

## DISTILLERY TOURS & TUTORED TASTINGS

### Lochranza Distillery Tours £8.00 45mins & 2 tastings

Seniors 60+ and student concession £7.00, children 8 to 17 Free. On the hour at 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm & 4pm

### 'Drop Inn' Tour £4.00

15mins duration including a short film and a dram in our Bothy. Ideal if you're short of time and for young families with children under 8 years old. Subject to availability between tours, please ask for details.

Combined Tour & Tasting Discount Ticket £20.00

### Tutored Whisky Tastings £15.00 45mins including a choice of 4 whiskies

Over 18's only. Also includes a £5 off Malt Whisky Voucher. Tastings at 12pm, 2pm and 3pm

### Whisky Tasting 'Flights'

5 different 'Flights' of 4 Arran Malt Whiskies are always available to taste in Casks Café Bar. These are presented with tasting notes, water and Arran oatcakes. Various prices, please ask for details.

Every year, the annual Arran Malt & Music Festival is held in the grounds of the Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza. This year it will take place from Friday 29th June to Sunday 2nd July. The weekend has become an important date in the calendar for whisky and Arran enthusiasts, bringing together some of the best island food producers, local musicians and bands from the mainland in a celebration of all things Malt and Music! On Saturday 30th June, the Festival starts at 11am and features whisky masterclasses where you have the opportunity to get really involved, chat to the people who make the whisky and hear about their experiences in the industry. This year there will also be the opportunity to take part in a whisky and food masterclass, matching some of the

best Arran produce with Single Malts from the distillery. A real gourmet experience! There will also be the chance to taste rarely available limited expressions of The Arran Single Malt Whisky by the dram.

Their annual special Festival Single Cask Release will be available to purchase on the day – a small batch bottling which is chosen each year by the participants of their Ultimate Masterclass. The festivities are set to continue long into the evening with a celebratory ceilidh led by popular band 'Tide Lines' and the official Arran Distillery band 'James and the Staves'. Entry to the festival Saturday 11am – 5pm is free. Masterclass and Saturday evening ceilidh tickets can be purchased from [www.arranevents.com](http://www.arranevents.com).



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



# Tarbert – a whole world of festivals!



**T**HE CHARMING fishing village of Tarbert, photographed above by the world renowned, late, great Dennis Hardley, plays host to several festivals this season that celebrate its rich heritage in sea, food, music and literature.

The excitement begins May 25-28 with The Scottish Series, Scotland's premier annual yachting regatta. The Clyde Cruising Club organises this long-running event, in which keen sailors enjoy passage racing and Olympic triangles in Loch Fyne.

This year's programme includes the opening 'Clyde Challenger Race' from Largs for white sail, family class and cruisers.

The laid-back atmosphere and good craic of this event have sailors and non-sailors alike coming back year

after year. All visitors, whether into sailing or not, will love the spectacle and everyone is welcome. The Tarbert Harbour Authority, whose facilities are ever improving, provide a warm welcome for all competitors from the Harbour Master and staff.

The Seafood Festival, which is held in July 7-8, gives visitors the opportunity to sample Tarbert's culinary delights. The harbour bustles with food stalls, cookery demonstrations and tastings.

A highlight of the weekend is the crowning of the Seafood Festival

Queen and her princesses, who arrive in a flourish by sea and parade through the village led by the Mid Argyll Pipe Band.

Live music and kids' activities at this wonderful family-friendly festival.

The Tarbert Traditional Boat Festival, 20-22 July draws beautiful vessels of all kinds from across Scotland and Ireland over the weekend, providing a spectacle in the harbour for on-lookers. Visitors enjoy boat tours, stalls, live music, demonstrations and family activities.

Tarbert Fair has been held since 1705 and is one of the oldest fairs in the Highlands. It starts every year on the last Thursday of July (26th-29th) and continues

the festivities over the weekend. Originally a cattle fair, it's now about live music, amusements and fairground rides.

One of the longest- running music festivals in Argyll, the Tarbert Music Festival has been celebrating song and food for 28 years.

Held the weekend of September 14-16, it features a full programme including the popular Fèis for children in the morning and adults in the afternoon plus concerts by local talent, turning out everything from rock to reggae to traditional music. Impromptu sessions are encouraged and attract musicians from far and wide. Visitors will enjoy the relaxed vibe and fantastic local seafood in the hotels and restaurants.

This lovely book festival in the pretty fishing village of Tarbert is a cracker. Hear book readings by a selection of authors and meet the people behind the characters. There's lots to enjoy for adults and children across various venues from the 26th-28th October

Camping is available in the shadow of Robert the Bruce's castle and scenic walks along the Kintyre Way make Tarbert an ideal destination weekend for the whole family, so pack a tent and come along! [www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk](http://www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk)

And also remember the Tarbert Christmas Fair with crafts stores, Santa's Grotto and the switching on of the village Christmas lights - date to be confirmed.

## TARBERT FESTIVALS 2018

Tarbert is an enchanting and beautiful fishing village sitting on the west shores of Loch Fyne.

There are several festivals held during the year which encompass Tarbert's fishing heritage and its affinity with the sea.

Come to Tarbert and experience life on Scotland's west coast - you will be made most welcome.



**Scottish Series**  
25-28 May



**Tarbert Seafood Festival**  
7-8 July



**Tarbert Traditional Boat Festival**  
20-22 July



**Tarbert Fair**  
26-28 July



**Tarbert Music Festival**  
14-16 September



**Tarbert Book Festival**  
26-28 October 2018



[www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk](http://www.tarbertfestivals.co.uk)

# scoff

THE SCOTTISH COMEDY FILM FESTIVAL  
at  
CAMPBELTOWN PICTURE HOUSE  
FRI 11 - SUN 13 MAY

Live performance, vintage comedy shorts and features, free workshops, brand new Harry Potter and more.

TICKETS, TIMES AND FULL DETAILS  
[WWW.CAMPBELTOWNPICTUREHOUSE.CO.UK](http://WWW.CAMPBELTOWNPICTUREHOUSE.CO.UK)

#### PROGRAMME INCLUDES:

**The Wind in the Willows**  
Encore Screening captured live at the London Palladium

**Desert Island Films with Dave Johns and Vladimir McTavish LIVE**  
Dave Johns shares his top movie moments

**The Giant Custard Pie Splat FREE**  
Everyone is invited to throw a pie or two – check online for details!

**Animation & Comedy Workshops FREE**, book in advance

**Bunkered! Big Screen Comedy from the Archives LIVE**  
Hand picked vintage Scottish films featuring some of our best-loved comics accompanied by live performance from the BBC's Jamie MacDougall

**I, Fillum Star - Dave Johns LIVE**  
The award-winning star of I, Daniel Blake returns to his stand up roots to share his hilarious rollercoaster ride along the red carpet in his hit one-man show

**Spontaneous Potter LIVE**  
The Spontaneous Players present an entirely new improvised Harry Potter adventure with live musical accompaniment - a magical hit!

Screenings include: **The Man in the White Suit, Walk Like A Panther, Toni Erdmann, That Sinking Feeling, Blazing Saddles, Hunt for the Wilderpeople, The Divine Order (Glasgow Film Festival on Tour) and more.**

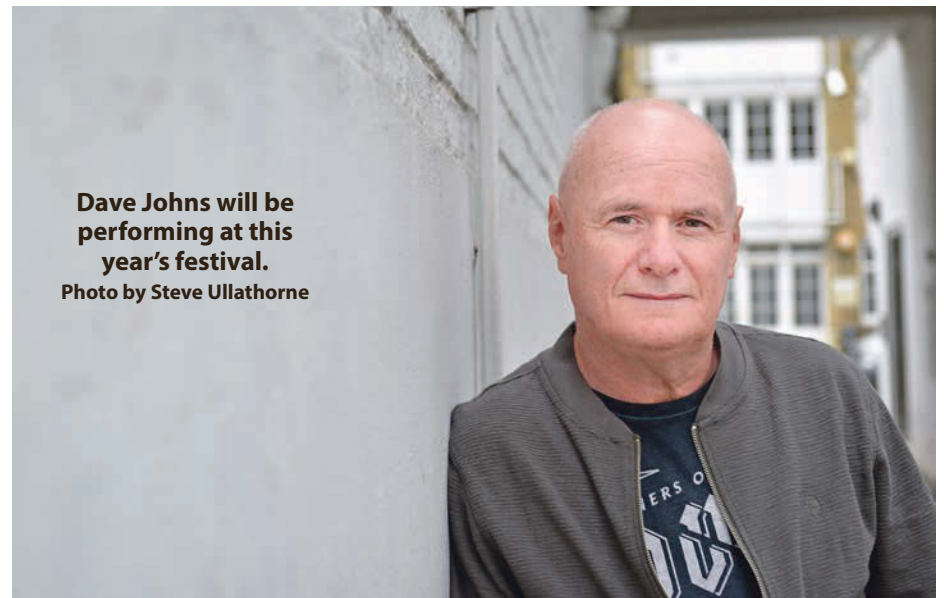
Spontaneous Potter is an unofficial show that is not endorsed by or affiliated with Warner Bros., JK Rowling or her publishers. All rights to the 'Harry Potter' books and associated trademarks are the property of JK Rowling/her publishers. All film/image rights associated with the film series are property of Warner Bros.

The Scottish Comedy Film Festival (SCOFF) is supported by the Local Film Festival Challenge Fund, devolved by Regional Screen Scotland on behalf of Creative Scotland. CCB Ltd is a Scottish Charity (SCO09499) and is a company limited by guarantee (SC106763).

Funding raised by  
**The National Lottery**  
and awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund



## SCOFF - Scotland's newest and funniest film festival



Dave Johns will be performing at this year's festival.

Photo by Steve Ullathorne

**SCOFF**, the first edition of Scotland's only comedy film festival, will take place at Campbeltown Picture House from Friday 11th – Sunday 13th May 2018.

The newly restored cinema, with its second screen, café bar and education room will host screenings, live events, workshops, a pop up bar and more during SCOFF.

Dave Johns, stand up comic, writer and star of award-winning I, Daniel Blake will headline the live programme with his hit one man show I, FILLUM STAR about his extraordinary experience in the film world. He'll also share his DESERT ISLAND FILMS with fellow comedian Vladimir McTavish.

**BUNKERED!** features handpicked films from the archives featuring Scottish comedy favourites from Harry Lauder to Francie & Josie, with live performance from world-class singer, BBC presenter

and Lauder expert, Jamie MacDougall.

A sell-out wherever it goes, **SPONTANEOUS POTTER** will see a brand new adventure magically improvised on the spot with live music.

Two free workshops will help people make their own comic shorts and animations. The first custard pie was thrown on film the same year as the Picture House opened, and organisers are inviting people to join a giant custard pie splat during SCOFF too.

Screenings will include new and vintage comedy, including Singalong Moana, Blazing Saddles, The Man in the White Suit, Bill Forsyth's zero budget debut That Sinking Feeling, international hit Toni Erdmann and more, along with an **ENCORE** screening of musical Wind in the Willows starring Rufus Hound.

Tickets and full info at [www.campbeltownpicturehouse.co.uk](http://www.campbeltownpicturehouse.co.uk)

MULL OF KINTYRE  
**MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
08 - 12 AUGUST 2018

**THE TIME FREQUENCY**  
**ALY BAIN & PHIL CUNNINGHAM**  
**GROUSE CEILIDH BAND • HECLA**  
**KIM CARNIE & INNES WHITE**  
**EDDIE SEAMAN & LUC MCNALLY**  
**DARREN MACLEAN • DJ RANKIN • RHUVAAL**  
SLAINTE DAVAAR ALLSTARS • DEEP UNDER GULLION  
SCOOTER MUSE (USA) • CIARAN MULHOLLAND (NI)  
IAIN MACPHERSON • GILCHRISTIANS • SESSION A83  
PLUS MANY MORE ARTISTS ACROSS THE FESTIVAL

FOR INFORMATION ON TICKET AVAILABILITY FOR THIS YEARS FESTIVAL  
CONTACT: [MOKFEST.COM](http://MOKFEST.COM) • [MOKFEST@HOTMAIL.CO.UK](mailto:MOKFEST@HOTMAIL.CO.UK) • 01586552034

#MOKFEST2018 #CRADLEOFTHE NATION

## Rave Legends to Headline MOK Fest 2018

The 26th Mull of Kintyre Music Festival or MOK Fest as it is more commonly known runs from August 8th – 12th. The Saturday night concerts on Aug 11th promise something for everyone. The MOK Fest welcomes the return of rave legends The Time Frequency (TTF) headlining the Victoria Hall all standing concert with DJ Rankin and Gullion also performing. The Traditional concert the same night in Campbeltown Heritage Centre will headline with Aly Bain & Phil Cunningham who will be supported by young four piece folk band Helca.

The Grouse Ceilidh Band is guaranteed to get everyone dancing at the Festival Ceilidh Night on Aug 10th Campbeltown band Rhuvaal along with The Dalriada Connections Band will also perform with Kintyre Schools Pipe Band getting the night started in their usual rousing style. The Mitchell's Glengyle Dalriada

Connections concert on Aug 12th will have another great line-up with Eddie Seaman and Luc McNally who will be joined by Darren MacLean, Western Sound, Ciaran Mulholland and Scooter Muse, don't forget to pick up your free sponsors whisky miniature at the door.

The Festival Gaelic Night on Aug 8th features Kim Carnie and Innes White plus many more and the Young Folk Night on Aug 9th promises another great selection of young performers from across Kintyre.

The Festival ends on Aug 12th with Survivors Night which sees the return of Slainte Davaar Allstars to headline plus the debut of Deep Under Gullion. Also performing will be Alex & Archie McAllister, Gilchristians plus a few special surprise acts across the night.

There's also loads of free open air events and music in the hotels and bars around the town.

For further information visit our website at [www.mokfest.com](http://www.mokfest.com) or email [mokfest@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mokfest@hotmail.co.uk)



# Woomble, Welsh and hip-hop legend for Kintyre Songwriters Festival



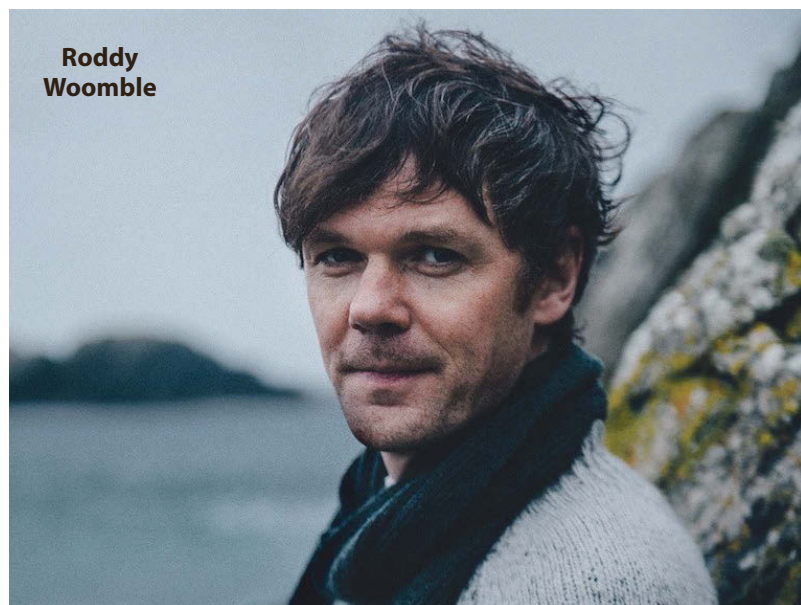
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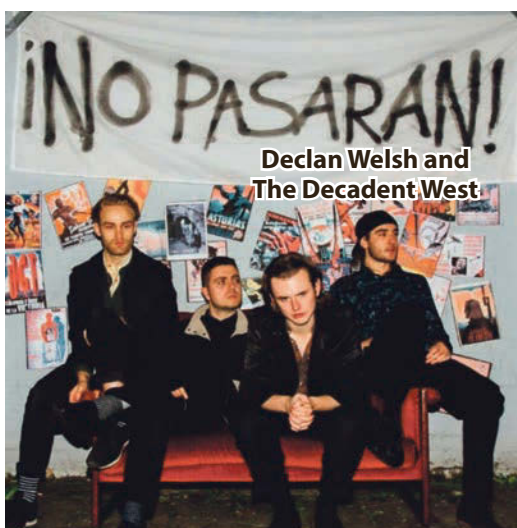
Josephine Sillars



Simmons Is Old



Roddy Woomble



Declan Welsh and The Decadent West



Carly Connor

This year is the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kintyre Songwriters Festival and over the past decade the event has earned a national reputation as the place to see the stars of Scottish music in an intimate setting. This year is no exception and the holiday weekend of 4th-6th of May will see local talent joined by some of the best live performers from across the country. Headliners on Friday night at Whisky Macs are Scottish rock-rap sensations Simmons Is Old. Probably the most respected voice in Scottish hip-hop, frontman Mog has released several critically-acclaimed albums and performed at the opening ceremony of the 2014 Commonwealth Games. Also performing are rising Glasgow new-wave pop-rockers 100 Fables, recent winners of the Hard Rock Cafe European Battle Of The Bands competition. Support comes from local acts including The Twisted Melons, Sleeping With The Enemy and The Dubious Blues Band. Saturday headliners at Campbeltown Town Hall are Declan Welsh and The Decadent West whose politicised pop-punk has seen them compared to The Clash. A star very much on the rise, Declan's new single 'Shiny Toys' has been playlisted by Spotify and the Premier League. Main support comes from Easterhouse's answer to Janis Joplin, the incredible Carly Connor who has toured with Paolo Nutini and performed at the Montreux Jazz Festival. Another guest performer is Rhona MacFarlane, a Royal

Conservatoire graduate who has recently performed at Celtic Connections and on the Janice Fosythe show on BBC Radio Scotland. They are joined by Campbeltown's own Matt MacAllister who will be performing at the festival for the first time since the viral success of his 'Scottish Winds' video, festival favourites Gullion, newcomer George Hackett and many more. Sunday headliner is Idlewild singer Roddy Woomble, returning to Campbeltown for the first time since headlining the Mull of Kintyre Music Festival in 2006. Roddy will be performing an intimate acoustic set suited to the unique songwriters festival atmosphere. Support comes from Josephine Sillars and the Manic Pixie Dreams. Originally from the Highlands, Josephine has toured internationally after a string of sold-out performances at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. Sunday also sees the return of the original lineup of local band A New Hope? plus festival favourites The Gilchristians performing the music of festival founder Kenneth Campbell Gilchrist. There will also be some very special guest performers for the 10th anniversary. With over six hours of music each night, plus the famous open stage at Whisky Macs in the afternoon, the festival has something for everyone. More information at [www.kintyresongwritersfestival.co.uk](http://www.kintyresongwritersfestival.co.uk)

Friday 4th May	Saturday 5th May	Sunday 6th May
<b>SIMMONS IS OLD</b>	<b>DECLAN WELSH AND THE DECADENT WEST</b>	<b>RODDY WOOMBLE</b>
<b>100 FABLES</b>	<b>CARLY CONNOR</b>	<b>JOSEPHINE SILLARS AND THE MANIC PIXIE DREAMS</b>
<b>THE TWISTED MELONS</b>	<b>RHONA MACFARLANE</b>	<b>THE GILCHRISTIANS</b>
<b>GULLION</b>	<b>MATT MACALLISTER</b>	<b>A NEW HOPE?</b>
<b>SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY</b>	<b>GULLION</b>	<b>ACOUSTIC BUTTERFLY</b>
<b>THE DUBIOUS BLUES BAND</b>	<b>ROSS MACINNES BAND</b>	<b>THE TWISTED MELONS</b>
<b>ROSS MACINNES BAND</b>	<b>DEEP JOY</b>	<b>GARETH CROLL</b>
<b>UNDER SMOKE</b>	<b>THOMAS JORDAN</b>	<b>THE DUBIOUS BLUES BAND</b>
<b>THE STRUNTS</b>	<b>THE STRUNTS</b>	<b>DONALD MACNEILL</b>
<b>NATIONS</b>	<b>SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY</b>	<b>DAVID BISSET</b>
Whisky Macs, Campbeltown Doors 7pm Free before 11:30pm, £3 after	<b>COLIN CAMPBELL</b>	<b>SWANFACTORY</b>
	<b>GEORGE HACKETT</b>	<b>CHRIS ANNETTS</b>
	<b>HOPE STRANG</b>	<b>ALAN ANDERSON</b>
	<b>UNDER SMOKE</b>	
	Campbeltown Town Hall Doors 7pm Tickets £17.50	Campbeltown Town Hall Doors 7pm Tickets £17.50
	Tickets available from: A.P. Taylor, Campbeltown Whisky Macs, Campbeltown Campbeltown Town Hall Online at <a href="http://Ticketweb.co.uk">Ticketweb.co.uk</a>	
	Open stage Saturday and Sunday afternoons at Whisky Macs	
	<a href="http://www.kintyresongwritersfestival.co.uk">www.kintyresongwritersfestival.co.uk</a>	

# The 27th Skye Festival, Fèis an Eilein, takes place between 6 July and 24 August.

A celebration of island culture and performing arts, the popular festival is showcased over two summer months at venues in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Sleat, and around the Isle of Skye.

Although the festival's roots are firmly planted in the Celtic music tradition, events in theatre, dance, comedy, children's shows, circus, literature and world music are also lined up for summer audiences.

This year's trad events include concerts by Charlie McKerron, Saltfish Forty, Fergie MacDonald, Adam Sutherland, Anzo Lorenzo, Alastair McCulloch, Skip Gorman, Routes Quartet, Mary Ann Kennedy and the Kaela Rowan Band.

Other highlights include concerts by the Scottish Ensemble; the National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland present Rush Hour;

Alasdair Fraser's Mammoth Fiddle Night; Alan Bissett and his hilarious Moira Monologues and a murder mystery evening with three of Scotland's most popular crime writers.

As well as the Fèis, there are many other events and exhibitions around the Island during the months of July and August and the festival atmosphere continues with a number of lively fringe events in Sleat. These include exhibitions of local arts and crafts, cèilidhs, house parties and concerts, charity cafés, as well as folk clubs, Scottish step dance and Gaelic classes, and open music and survival sessions.

For full details of times, venues, local information and to book tickets, pick up a programme from outlets across the Island, contact SEALL on 01471 844207, [info@seall.co.uk](mailto:info@seall.co.uk) or visit [www.skyefestival.scot](http://www.skyefestival.scot)



## FÈIS AN EILEIN THE SKYE FESTIVAL

6 JULY TO 24 AUGUST 2018

at Sabhal Mor Ostaig Sleat and various venues around Skye

Charlie McKerron | Saltfish Forty | Alasdair Fraser | Fergie MacDonald | Alan Bissett | Adam Sutherland | Anzo Lorenzo | NYJOS | Skip Gorman | Routes Quartet | Mary Ann Kennedy | plus circus, workshops, children's shows, cèilidh dances, house concerts, roadshows, exhibitions, sessions, charity cafés and a lively festival fringe

[www.skyefestival.scot](http://www.skyefestival.scot)

Fèis an Eilein  
THE SKYE FESTIVAL



## Mhor Festival 2018 welcomes

This May some of Scotland's hottest up and coming stars will take to the stage on the bonnie banks of Loch Voil, some for the very first time.

Taking place between the 25th and 27th of May the regional Thistle Award winning Mhor Festival returns for its seventh year and unfolds in the fields of one of the UK's most renowned hotels, described by Conde Nast Traveller as the 'Daddy Cool of the Trossachs'.

Featuring everything from boat trips to bush craft and paintball to pony rides Mhor Festival is the perfect blend of great food, live performances, outdoor activities and celebrity chefs. Set against the stunning backdrop of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park this one-of-a-kind celebration of all things fun and funky has thousands of visitors coming back year on year.

Euan McPherson of

Shoogle Nifty will be playing with Balquhidder's Callum Convoy, the All Ireland Bodhran Under 18 Champion 2017, Finn Moore and Mike Vass in the first live performance from The Travelling Junipers.

Mhor Festival is proud to be hosting world class DJ Jon sa Trinxha for his Scottish debut, alongside Andy Carol and live music from Ray Harris. They will join up-and-coming home-grown talent, Inverness's Dylan Tierney and Glasgow's 100 Fables, to feature in a folk to funk line-up guaranteed to tickle every type of musical taste bud.

In 2018 Mhor Festival will add to the interactive experience with live talks and demonstrations covering a wide range of topics. Whether you have the itch to stich and want to learn to upholster, or you've always wondered the best way to chop and stack wood, prepare to learn a new skill.



Back by popular demand Disco Yoga will bring some funk to the 16th century farm hotel's front lawn and the raft race will see 'Young at Heart' festival goers descend upon, and sometimes into, the clear waters of Loch Doine. Trapeze taster workshops, silent disco, cake competition and interactive classes will also be returning to this year's festival.

And in typical trend setting style, the Mhor Festival will also be introducing a brand new, interactive app designed to keep festival goers updated and connected with who, what and when.

So, if you can't wait to find out which childhood favourite won the cake competition, or you don't want to miss a minute of the silent disco, make sure you upload Cadence from the app store in time for it going live on 18th May.

And if you are worried about getting online, fear not, thanks to the tireless efforts of Balquhidder Community Broadband, the Mhor Festival will also feature the UK's fastest broadband, so you can use the app's interactive functions to ensure you don't miss any of your favourite acts or activities.



# Ceòlas School of Music and Dance

Unbeatable tuition in Gaelic music, dance and language from the best traditional musicians in Scotland and Canada; guided walks, house cèilidhs and village-hall dances in the strongest Gaelic-speaking community in the world; authentic Hebridean culture alive in its heartland.

The Ceòlas summer school is an experience like no other. For a week in July, the Isle of South Uist is alive with an amazing buzz and electricity, Gaelic music, dance, language, a

returning diaspora and over a hundred summer school students of all ages and backgrounds. Experience the essence of Gaeldom – the warm hospitality, the rich heritage and culture, the return home of family.

Thig crìoch air an t-saoghal ach mairidh gaol is ceòl.

Price: £250 (full-price); £175 (Western Isles-rate); £75 (Youth Fee: 14-17 yo); £10 drop-in rate per class (Western Isles).



*ceòlas*

1-6 JULY, 2018

Gaelic language, song, fiddle, piping and dance in South Uist

ceolas.co.uk | 01878 700 154

info@ceolas.co.uk

Cathranas: SC031179; Companaidh: SC216090



## home-grown talent

Another new addition to the ever-expanding programme is the Glengoyne Supper Club which will take place in the festival's newest venue; the Fire Hut. Join the world renowned whisky experts for a seven-course dinner, cooked over an open fire accompanied by some of the world's most mouth-watering drams. By day the Fire Hut will be home to the Malt Master experience, allowing you to go home with something other than just a sore head.

Tom and Lisa, the Festival founders will be launching their exciting new gins, Dr Osbourne's No. 46 and No. 99 this year, made in conjunction with The Old Curiosity Distillery and featuring botanicals grown and distilled at the Secret Herb Garden, Edinburgh.

To book a room at Monachyle Mhor, camping pitch, day ticket, or a yurt go to [www.mhorfestival.net](http://www.mhorfestival.net)



**MAY MHOR FESTIVAL 2018**

MONACHYLE MHOR FARM BALQUHODDER FK19 8PQ

FRI 25TH • SAT 26TH • SUN 27TH

FOOD MUSIC THEATRE DANCE

ANDY CARROLL | DAFT FUNK | JON SA TRINXA  
 DIRTY HARRY | 100 FABLES | RAY HARRIS  
 COLIN BARR | THE SOUL FOUNDATION | JOSHUA  
 AL KENT | THE TRAVELLING JUNIPERS | MASH  
 DIZZY GLITTER SIX | SOUL JAZZ SUNDAY | DIXIE LANG  
 DYLAN TIERNEY | BEN SUNDERLAND | STEVIE CORBETT

AND MORE...

FOR THE FOODIES: FRIDAY NIGHT FEAST, THE OMELETTE CHALLENGE, MHOR BAKE OFF...

LIVE MUSIC - DJS ALL WEEKEND ENJOY... ARTISAN MARKET

COMPETITIONS - RAFT RACE - WORK SHOPS - CINEMA - SILENT DISCO - KIDS ENTERTAINMENT

MINI MANOEUVRES - WATER TAXI - PONY RIDES - ARCHERY - PAINTBALL - FOOD DEMOS

TALKS - CRAFT BEERS OYSTER & CHAMPAGNE BAR - COCKTAIL GARDEN

CEILIDH - CAMPING - SPECTACULAR LOCATION

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR FULL DETAILS & LINE UP. WHY NOT BOOK YOUR WEEKEND TICKETS ONLINE?

[WWW.MHORFESTIVAL.NET](http://WWW.MHORFESTIVAL.NET)

# Welcome to the Oban Winter Festival!

Image by Sheila McIntyre



## oban WINTER FESTIVAL

Award winning festival returns this year

Friday 16th November - Sunday 25th November

- Parades / Ceilidhs • Markets / Shopping
- Food & Drink / Competitions
- Live Music / Street Parties
- Art Exhibitions / Fireworks



Image by John Gibb

Back in 2011, a small group of locals decided that the start of winter was a great excuse to have a festival. They organized a Victorian Market to run alongside the Reindeer parade, ice rink, Comedy nights, music workshops for children, cocktails for the grown-ups, and a ceilidh or two – all of which made the festival a great success. News spread quickly and the next year people came from further afield to join the festivities.

Festival action takes place mainly in town and getting from place to place is very easy. Oban is quite compact and walking is a fantastic way to get around. Discover the great shopping, bars and restaurants that make this town tick; take a tour of the local distillery and sample our national drink, or a relaxing coffee in one of our many cafes, soaking up the beautiful view of the bay.

Events vary each day from family favourites like the Reindeer parade and Christmas light switch-on to the ceilidhs and light shows.

There is all manner of accommodation options for your stay here, from apartments in the town centre, to hotels and intimate bed and breakfasts, along with some of the finest food and wine establishments that this town boasts.

Last year, 2017, saw a phenomenal foot-fall of 21,500 people with an estimated economic impact for the town of over £1,900,000. Douglas Scott, Chief Executive of the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders Associations said: 'The Golden Haggis Awards has grown into the most significant, second only to our own Championship which happens every two years.'

- So why not come and join the biggest winter party in the West.



Image by Colin Cooper



# Oban Live: Argyll's largest live music event back for third year

There's a new kid on the block that's standing out on Scotland's list of impressive events. We are talking about Oban Live, the biggest open-air live music concert in Argyll. 2018 will be the event's third year, taking place at Mossfield Stadium, Oban, on June 8 and 9, and there's a whopper of a line-up in store too.

Thousands of visitors are expected to flock to Mossfield Stadium to see a stream of incredible acts including Skerryvore, Skipinnish, Blazin' Fiddles, Heron Valley, and Sharon Shannon Band (featuring Michael McGoldrick and Susan O'Neill).

Acoustic folk-rockers Hermitage Green, one of Ireland's hottest bands, are heading over to Oban Live for their first outdoor festival in Scotland. The band has fans across the globe thanks to their captivating and unforgettable live sets. Also heading over from Ireland are the hugely popular folk duo Hudson Taylor. They have recently released their brand new EP 'Feel it again' and are not long back from touring the US having already completed a sold out European and UK tour earlier in the year.

An all-star line-up of 24 top names in the Scottish traditional music industry will also come together in an exclusive collaboration named 'Sons of Argyll'. Performing on Friday June 8, the project will pay homage to late inspirational figures from the region that played a key role in the lives and music of the performers involved.

The collaboration will include musicians from Tide Lines, Skipinnish, Skerryvore, Blazin' Fiddles, Trail West and Gunna Sound, as well as Mòd Gold Medallists, world-class pipers, Oban Gaelic Choir and many more.

Local Oban talent will be hitting the stage too including Chunks, who celebrate their 20th anniversary this year, Oban High School Pipe Band and the winning act of the local Oban Unsigned competition.

All this, plus an entertaining Fringe Programme in the town certainly makes Oban the place to be June 8 and 9, 2018.

More acts still to be announced. For tickets and more details visit [www.obanlive.com](http://www.obanlive.com).



## Seventy on stage for the 74th fiddlers' rally



The Oban and Lorne Strathspey & Reel Society members are busy practising for the next Annual Fiddlers' Rally. This will be the 74th consecutive rally since the society started in 1944 under the baton of well known Oban musician, Charlie Hunter. Their current conductor is also a well known Oban musician, Helen Jordan. Guest artists are Paul MacCallum, accompanied by Hamish Menzies, together with Rachel and Emma Deans. Paul is a Mòd Gold Medallist while Rachael and Emma are TV and Mod favourites and will add to the enjoyment of the evening. This year's rally will not only include current members but also fiddlers from several Strathspey & Reel Societies across the length and breadth of Britain; from as far north as Caithness to as far south as Wales There will be a total of 70 musicians on the Corran Halls stage on Saturday, 28th April 2018. The concert will start at 7.30pm and for further information please see our Community Notice Board in this issue.

OBAN AND LORNE STRATHSPEY AND REEL SOCIETY

74th Anniversary

### FIDDLERS' RALLY CONCERT

Saturday, 28th April 2018  
Corran Halls, Oban 7.30pm

Guest Artistes  
**PAUL MACCALLUM**  
Mod Gold Medallist  
accompanied by Hamish Menzies

**RACHEL & EMMA DEANS**  
TV and Mod Favourites

Conductor: Helen Jordan      Chairman: Dugald Cameron

Tickets: £10.00    Concessions: £9.00    Family Ticket: £26.00  
available from Corran Halls Booking Office only Tel: 01631 567333

# Your festival home

## *Camping out is part of the fun and so is finding a great place to stay off site*

THE first and biggest decision has been made: which festival you are going to. Now comes another important one; where are you going to stay?

We should say that there is another important move to make if you are going to the islands: get the ferry booked now! You will be far more certain of the sailing times you want if you go online or pick up the phone and book with CalMac now. [www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk)

### **To camp or not to camp? That is the question.**

Once again, the secret is book early. Every location will have a mix of high-end accommodation, down to B&Bs and hostel or backpacker accommodation.

Have you considered making a festival the highlight of a bigger holiday and booking a holiday cottage or other self-catering? That way you get to enjoy the buzz of the build-up to the festival, watching the stage and equipment arrive, hearing the sound checks – it can all add to the festival-going experience.

If you are bringing a caravan or motor home, remember that pitches can fill up fast so once again, book early.

- Camping at a festival is just like ordinary camping, but magnified. Everyone's stories of festivals include having to rescue someone who had never been camping before. Don't let that be you.

- Do practise pitching your tent beforehand and using your kit, even if it is only in the back garden. This will save you a lot of heartache.
- We have weather, lots of it. Sometimes several different weather systems in one day, often within the hour. So your camping equipment should be able to cope with this and so should your clothes: think layers, lots of them.
- There is a reason why people wear wellies at festivals, remember to bring yours. (See above).
- Not only do we have a lot of weather, it has a sense of humour: bring sunscreen and a hat. We kid you not. First-aiders deal with more cases of severe sunburn, dehydration and heatstroke than they do hypothermia, because no one was prepared. Never mind what the national weather forecast says, the islands, sea lochs and mountains create crazy little weather micro-systems.
- Bring water, lots of it to keep hydrated, also non-perishable food. You will want to eat at some of the amazing food trucks but keep the budget balanced with some cheaper meals in between.
- We have midges, lots of them, they are hungry and you look tasty. Bring along midge repellent. Don't say we didn't warn you.
- At 4.30am you will wish you had spent more money on a good quality sleeping bag and sleepmat. You might not be planning on getting much sleep but when you want to, you will want to be warm and cozy.
- You've got the power: because you have remembered to bring batteries and a power bank to recharge your mobile phone.

Security: keep valuables with you but keep your tent unlocked. Sounds crazy but a locked tent says 'we have something worth stealing'. Thefts are rare and all events have good security but it pays to be aware and not leave yourself open to an opportunist thief.

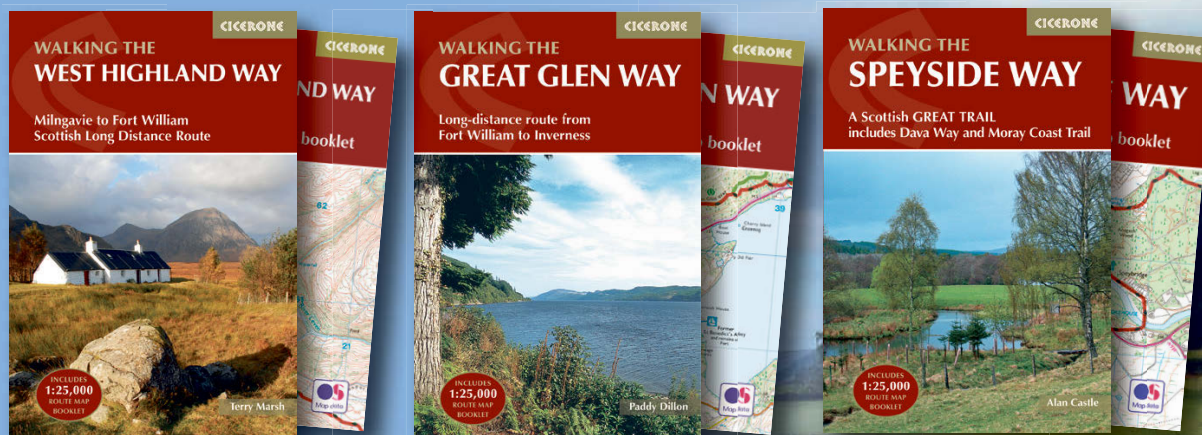


# from home

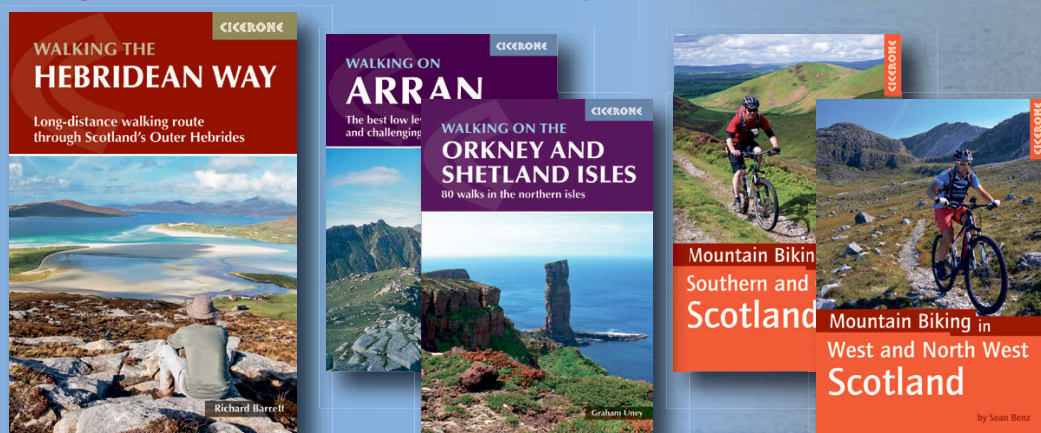


Take the opportunity to cycle the beautiful landscapes many of the festivals call home.

## SCOTLAND – walking and cycling explore with CICERONE guidebooks



Scotland's Great Trails  
new guidebooks with an OS 1:25,000 map booklet included



Over 30 guides to Scotland

**CICERONE**  
[www.cicerone.co.uk](http://www.cicerone.co.uk)

# Have kids, will party!



## BLUEBELL MUSIC FESTIVAL 2018

FRIDAY 25th - SUNDAY 27th MAY

### 3 DAYS OF FREE LIVE MUSIC

The Bluebell Festival is a three day **FREE** music festival held in The George Hotel, Inveraray every May since 2010. Following the huge successes of previous years we are looking forward to welcoming you at the 9th annual event, 2018 promises to be bigger and better than before!

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In association with...  
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### *Family-friendly festivals are a great way for you all to be together having fun*

A WELL-RUN, friendly festival is a Godsend for a family holiday. Parents can get to relax, children can run free and be entertained by someone else.

The definition of a good family holiday is that everyone gets the chance to do something they wanted to as well as doing something together they all enjoy and a good festival does just that.

Any parent will tell you getting out of the front door with a small child or toddler is a well-planned campaign, so getting organised for a camping trip or big day out or is just more of the same.

It can be reassuring to know that extra pack of baby wipes or disposable nappies, loo roll or bottled water is tucked away under the seat or the back of the car boot.

Stock up on favourite snacks, kid-sized cartons of juice and smaller bottles of water. You will be surprised how much energy your kids will burn off.

Remember the words of the great Scottish philosopher, Billy Connolly: 'There is no such thing as bad weather, only the wrong clothes.' So bring layers, lots of them and every wee festival goer need their wellies just as much as the grown-ups. Likewise, sunscreen and sun hats.

## Hearing safety

Make sure your child goes home with happy festival memories and a fully-working pair of ears.

Action on Hearing Loss says sounds over 80 decibels (dB) can cause hearing loss that may leave your child with permanent damage or ringing in the ears.

Ordinary spoken conversation is 60dB and shouting is 80dB, so if you have to shout to make yourself heard, then your kids should be in ear defenders.

You have got the car seat, the safety gate, the catches on windows and cupboards and your kid is covered in SPF 50+ so make sure they have ear safety as well.

# Be an eco-friendly festival goer



- Litter – just say no. The biggest single threat to the environment from a festival will be litter. Don't be the cause of it.
- Make new friends, get an eco-vibe going and help by having a bin bag with you and offering folks the chance to drop their litter in.
- Look out for recycling points around the festival grounds and use them.
- If you take extra batteries for torches and gadgets remember to take them to the right recycling point or take them home to dispose of carefully.
- Reuse plastic drinking bottles or better still invest in your own reusable water bottle.
- Likewise own a reusable coffee cup.
- How about taking along your own plate and giving it to the food truck staff along with your order?
- Remember the 4Ps – only pee, poo, paper and puke should ever go down a toilet.
- When you buy baby wipes to take with you, buy a bag of nappy sacks as well – use them for disposing of the wipes and everything else that isn't going down the loo. (See above).



- Conquer your addiction to plastic drinking straws and cotton buds and as many other types of disposable plastic as you can. You know you can do it, be strong!
- If your cans of drink come with plastic loops keeping them together, then snap open the loops before disposing of them safely. Birds, fish and other wildlife can get caught in them.
- Don't launch sky lanterns – they may say the paper is biodegradable but the wire falls to earth threatening wildlife and farm livestock.

## Welcome to the Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival

4th - 6th May 2018

The Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival has developed into one of Scotland's major cultural festivals, and takes place annually in Oban, Scotland.

The event has developed to include new special events and competitions, and the festival now offers over 1,100 participants 125 competition classes in eleven disciplines including piping, accordion, fiddle, clarsach, piano, recorder, singing, woodwind & brass, highland dancing and choreography.

The 35th Festival is going to be our biggest year yet with new venues, over 1100 participants, 125 competition classes in eleven disciplines and new Outdoor Showcase for new talent on Saturday 5th May this year.



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# ... terminal ... opened

mitment to providing the best possible ferry services for the communities that rely on them and ensuring that our islands remain an attractive and accessible destination for visitors.'

Mr Hobbs said: 'The new Brodick Ferry Terminal is a fantastic addition to the island's transport and tourism infrastructure, offering islanders and visitors a more resilient ferry service and a

more comfortable and safer travel experience.

### Milestone

'The opening of the new terminal marks a key milestone in our investment programme for Arran. The new ferry for the Ardrossan to Brodick route, the MV Glen Sannox, was launched last year and the new terminal will be a fitting, modern home for this innovative vessel when it enters service. In

addition, we have recently undertaken several small upgrade schemes at Lochranza, and have planned works during 2018 at both Lochranza and Claonaig.

'We are committed to an ongoing programme of harbour upgrades and modifications across our network to provide safe and efficient lifeline ferry services to communities around Scotland.'



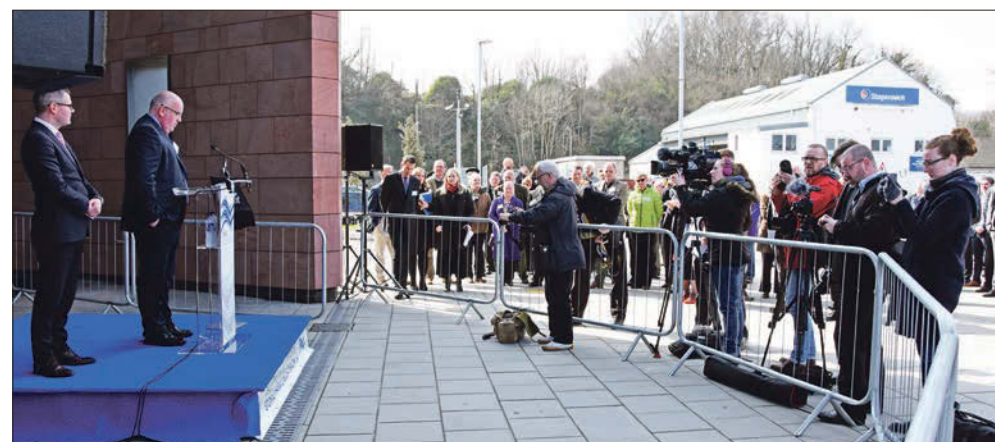
Ramsay Muirhead of CMAL explains how the passenger access system works to Mr Mackay. 01\_B16open03



CalMac managing director Robbie Drummond with the new pier behind him. 01\_B16open12



Guests watch the opening ceremony. 01\_B16open08



The TV and press record the opening ceremony. 01\_B16open09



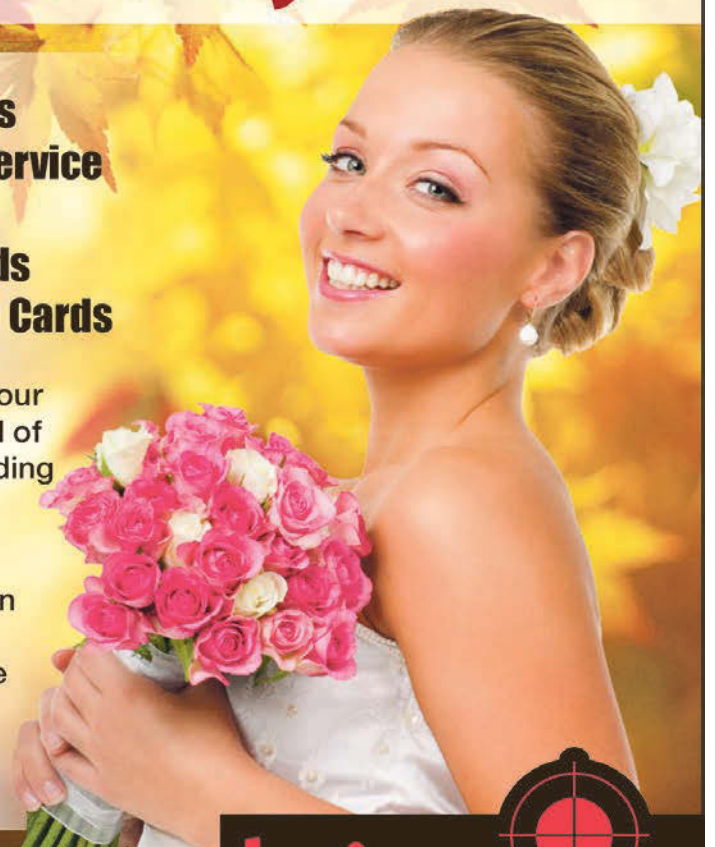
Mr Mackay chats with recent recruit Eilidh Black. 01\_B16open05

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# New Arran picture book is 20-year labour of love

A new photographic book of Arran's 60 best views has just been launched.

The work is the brainchild of Castle Douglas-based photographer Allan Wright and is the 'edited highlights' from over 20 years of photographic exploration on the island.

The launch was held re-

cently at Arran Active in Brodick where there is currently an exhibition of block-mounted prints in the upper gallery space from the book.

Author Allan said: 'This modest portfolio edition represents the edited highlights from more than 20 years of photographic ex-

ploration. The nature of the work is personal and subjective, and cannot claim to be comprehensive.

'Every location featured possesses a special sense of place. I regard it as my task to tune into, and deliver, this sense. The process of creating a deserving image is to enter into a game



This unusual panoramic view of Corrie is featured in the book. 01\_B16book02



Author Allan Wright with his new Arran photography book. 01\_B16book01

of chance, but the chance factor is underpinned by calculations aimed at shortening the odds of achieving a desirable result. Dipping into the rich and sensual palette of Scottish west coast light as it plays out its merry dance across the land through all the seasons, the possibilities are unlimited. When elements conspire to bring a landscape to life like this, I acknowledge a quiet sense of privilege.

'To talk photo-speak for a moment, finding a good angle is a large part of the art of landscape photography – but without the magic ingredient of light, things will not transcend to create anything special. An awareness of the path of the sun during all four seasons and the quality of light it produces during the rhythm of the day is second nature to the landscape photographer. I could revisit all these featured locations again and be presented with a distinctively different set of qualities.

'Arran offers wilderness in abundance, a shoreline of great beauty and diversity perfect for a meditative ramble, and dramatic glens and tumbling burns that will surely uplift the spirit. Trek through wooded foothills into the heart of its ancient mountains and you will find tranquil lochans

guarded by towering, rugged peaks. If a dose of solitude is an essential for the nourishment of both heart and soul, Arran will happily provide. Delve into history and pre-history with castles, forts and Neolithic stones, then simply take some contemplative time travel to further lose yourself. The atmosphere in the towns and villages is welcoming, with world-class facilities and the best of Scottish hospitality on hand to complete the inventory of reasons to spend as much time as possible losing yourself on this wonderful island.

'The images in this book are sequenced very roughly as an anti-clockwise circumnavigation of the island starting at Brodick, with an ascent into the mountains at the end. I have attempted to define the locations of each photograph by means of a

corresponding page number on the map, which appears on the previous page. I would be delighted to think that this book might function as a sort of ad hoc guide book. If an image transmits a special sense of place that the viewer feels a connection with, then, with a little sleuthing, he or she could navigate to the same location and have an equally joyful experience as I had.

'In my experience, Arran offers a very intense and varied package of life-affirming opportunities within its 167 square miles, all of them contributing to support its perhaps not-so-grandiose claim on the title Scotland in miniature.'

The book is a soft back 20cm x 23cm and retails at £10. It is widely available on the island and the mainland.



The book features these seals basking in the sun at Kildonnán. 01\_B16book03



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## krisp print

# What's on

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



## Every day

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

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
 Garden only open 9am-dusk  
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm  
 Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am - 4pm  
 Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm  
 Mon-Saturday 10.30am - 5pm, Tours at 11am and 2pm  
 Sunday:12:30pm - 5.00pm Tour at 2pm

## Saturday 21st April

Flow yoga  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Army Cadets  
 Pirnmill Primary School spring fair  
 Blackwaterfoot bowls  
 Family games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Bingo in aid of Arran Dancers  
 Live music - Mic Clark  
 Live music - Overhaul, alternative rock band  
 Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am  
 9.30am - 11am  
 9.30am - noon  
 Auchrannie Road 11am -1 pm  
 Pirnmill Primary School, 12noon - 2pm  
 Bowling Club, 2pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm  
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, 6.45pm-9pm  
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8.00pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

## Sunday 22nd April

Ormidale 10k  
 Military vehicles display  
 Live music - Mic Clark  
 Treasure Hunt, a musical adventure show, ages 2+  
 Family games  
 Live music - Overhaul  
 AA meeting

Ormidale Park, 12noon  
 Arran Heritage Museum, Brodick, 12.30 -3.30pm  
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 1pm - 4pm  
 Arran High School Theatre, 2pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm

## Monday 23rd April

Morning fitness  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Over-50s badminton  
 JogScotland mixed ability running group  
 Adult tennis  
 Arran Junior Football Club  
 Circuit training  
 Summer bridge, visitors welcome  
 Lamlash Aerobix  
 Badminton  
 Badminton  
 Tae Kwon Do  
 Live music - Arran Dawn

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30am -10.30am  
 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
 Whiting Bay 5.30pm  
 Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
 Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.30pm  
 Auchrannie Gym, 6pm - 7pm  
 Arran High School, 6.15pm for 6.30pm start  
 Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7pm - 9pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, Adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm  
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8.00pm

## Tuesday 24th April

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

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Bowling Club, 2pm  
 Glen Estate Lounge, 2pm  
 Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm  
 Corrie Hall, 6pm  
 Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm  
 Brodick, 7pm  
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
 Arran High School, 6pm  
 The Douglas Hotel Snug, 7pm for 7.15pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

## Wednesday 25th April

Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am- 2pm and 4pm - 5pm

## Yoga

Coffee morning  
 Hydrofit  
 Chair yoga exercise class  
 Bus Pass Club free soup  
 Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service  
 Knittery and Natterly  
 A garden update talk with Colin Totty  
 SCND book group meeting  
 Zumba Gold  
 Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness)  
 RUNclub, mixed ability, qualified coaches  
 Flow yoga  
 Tae Kwon Do  
 Yoga-Arran  
 Mixed hockey  
 Burger and quiz night  
 Tae Kwon Do  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Live music - Cams Campbell  
 Family friendly pub quiz  
 Rock and pop bingo

## Thursday 26th April

Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Morning fitness, Auchrannie Gym  
 Chair yoga exercise class  
 Lingo Flamingo, Spanish, Pablo Illera  
 Music Matters  
 Quilt Arran  
 Adult tennis  
 10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers  
 Arran ladies' netball  
 Ladies' hockey  
 Badminton  
 AMF exhibition 'World Mountains' by Gordon Davidson  
 Arran Soul Choir  
 Arran Garden Club with Colin Totty  
 General knowledge quiz

Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am -10.30am  
 St. Brides Church, Brodick, 10.30am - 12 noon  
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
 St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 12noon -2.30pm  
 10.30am -12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
 Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
 Glen Estate Lounge, 2pm  
 Front Lounge, Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash, 2.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 4.30pm - 5.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 5.45pm - 6.45pm  
 Invercloy Co-op car park 5.30pm  
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm  
 Arran High School, Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm  
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm  
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30pm - 9pm  
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
 Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm - 8.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8.00pm  
 PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

## Friday 27th April

Arran Vets  
 Arran Vets  
 Yoga  
 Hydrofit  
 Coffee morning, all welcome  
 T'ai Chi and chair T'ai Chi - Sue Thurogood  
 Smart Recovery meeting, all welcome  
 Steak night - build your own steak from £9.99 for rump  
 Lochranza children's badminton  
 Soundbath  
 AA meeting  
 Arran Youth Foundations  
 Tae Kwon Do  
 Lochranza adults' badminton  
 Friday night quiz  
 Live music - Mike Bailey  
 Poker, pool and darts

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 9.30am -10.30am  
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am  
 Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 11.30am  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 2pm  
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm  
 Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm  
 Arran High School, 6 - 7pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 6.30pm - 8pm  
 Shiskine Hall, Shiskine, 7pm  
 Arran Active, 7pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm  
 Brodick Castle Rangers Centre, 7.30pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

## Saturday 28th April

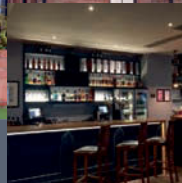
Flow Yoga  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Army Cadets  
 Blackwaterfoot bowls  
 Family games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Live music - Buchaneers  
 Live music - Arizona Live  
 Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am  
 9.30am - 11am  
 9.30am - noon  
 Auchrannie Road 11am -1 pm  
 Bowling Club, 2pm  
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm  
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm



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# School reunion

Former Arran High School pupils who are turning 50 are to hold their first reunion later this year.

The reunion is the brain-child of former pupil Alison Lundgren (nee McKelvie), who now lives in Calgary in Canada.

A reunion group has now been set up on Facebook looking for pupils who attended the school from 1980 to 1986, and in particular from 1983 (third year) to 1986 (sixth year).

It will be held on the first weekend in August, the same weekend as the Brodick Highland Games, which are scheduled to take place on August 4.

## Passionate

Alison, who got in touch with the *Banner*, said: 'This started on kind of a whim because I decided I was coming to Arran for my 50th birthday, as most of the main group of us are.

'Then it turned into a reunion because we've never had one.

'So for those of us who stayed till sixth year, it will be a 32-year reunion.

'I think we are primarily looking for students in our age range.

'I think it is safe to say we are looking for 1983 (third year) to 1986 (sixth year).

'Some people wanted to include the earlier years in case there were people who left but I think it is safe to say we probably won't find too many.'



A picture of Arran High School 2C1 class from 1982.



Another class photo from around this time.

## Cash available to boost flood resilience

A new £220,000 fund has been set up to help local community groups improve their resilience in case of flooding, which is an increasing problem around the coast of Arran.

The funds can be applied for through Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN).

Simon Crowther, MD of Flood Protection Solutions, is encouraging groups to contact his company for advice with their application forms to help communities gain vital funding. Local community groups can apply for the grants from £1,000 to £20,000.

'Flood Protection Solutions takes great pride in delivering high levels of customer service and this is just another way that we can help communities access essential equipment

needed to help their communities become more resilient,' he said.

'This is a fantastic opportunity for not-for-profit organisations to access vital funding to purchase equipment to assist with flood mitigation in their local communities,' he added.

Simon's company is the UK's sole distributor of the Water-Gate temporary flood barrier.

Far more effective than traditional sandbags, the Water-Gate is also reusable, mess-free, environmentally friendly, easy to store and can be housed at a community group location. The firm has also created community flood kits specifically designed to aid resilience.

Community groups within the SSEN distribution area, which includes Arran, can apply for fund-

ing from £1,000 up to a maximum of £20,000. You don't need to be a registered charity to apply, but the organisation must have a constitution (governing document or set of rules) and be set up on a not-for-profit basis. Those unsure if their group is eligible can contact Flood Protection Solutions for advice.

## Passionate

Simon has first-hand experience of the devastating effects a natural disaster can have on homes and businesses. 'Having been a 2007 flood victim, I'm passionate about working with communities to improve their flood resilience. Community resilience projects are very important in helping to reduce flood risk,' he said.

The deadline for applications is May 15.

## Obituary:

# Harold Edward Taylor – 1923-2018

Harold Edward Taylor – Spud – who has died aged 94 was a Londoner, who came to marry and settle in Lamlash after the Second World War. He was a very well-regarded member of this island community and held in great affection by all who knew him.

Spud – a nickname he was given at school and kept because he preferred it to Harold – was born in Woolich in 1923, and was the middle boy of three sons. At the start of the war he was evacuated to Bakton in Suffolk, but stayed only one night. He got word of a job in London and next day began an apprenticeship as a carpenter. Among other things, he made wooden cabinets for the Post Office telephone exchanges.

At 19 years of age Spud joined the Royal Navy and served on HMS Rosemary and HMS Cleopatra. It was on the Rosemary that Spud witnessed the Milford Haven disaster, with the loss of 79 lives, when two top-heavy landing craft capsized in a storm. Six of the dead were from Rosemary's boat-crew who had attempted a rescue. Spud was a member of the graveside firing party. For the rest of his life, the disaster affected his feelings about the importance of remembering war-time service and sacrifice.

On the Cleopatra, Spud was to witness the Japanese surrender at Singapore. Cleopatra was the first Royal Navy ship into the Singapore channel after it had been swept by Indian minesweepers. Spud said: 'Just in case they had missed any mines, we were led in by a Jap vessel, with high ranking Japanese officers aboard!'

While on active service, Spud was very ill with pneumonia. It was impossible to get the patient ashore

because of stormy weather. However, one of Spud's mates confronted the captain and more or less ordered him to get Spud to a stretcher and lowered him over the side and Spud always remembered how that friend had saved his life by verging on insubordination.

While the Rosemary was in Lamlash Bay, Spud came ashore to play football. The captain allowed his crew shore-leave in their football kit, provided they also wore their great coats. The weather blew up rough and the liberty boat was unable to return the sportsmen to their ship. They wandered into a dance hall, where a Lamlash girl called Jessie McColl, said to her pal: 'Look at that poor sailor in his shorts and greatcoat, we better go and talk to him.' And so began a romance of seven decades.

After the war, Spud returned to Lamlash. He found work with Spiers, Dick and Smith in Whiting Bay. He and Jessie were married in Lamlash Church in October 1948.

Spud was a craftsman. Inter alia, he worked on the Finnish Houses in Brodick; the two concrete-block bungalow houses at Sandbraes; the Lagg Hotel dining room extension; maintenance works at Dougarie Lodge and the Kildonan Coastguard Station; the dam at Easan Bio-rach above Lochranza; the sea-wall at the south end of Pirmill; the Post Office Garage in Brodick; the Brodick Pier store (now demolished) and his very own house at Blairbeg, Lamlash – which, all but the electrics, he did by himself. Spud's craftsmanship is on permanent display at the island's heritage museum in the form of the commando memorial cabinet.

Spiers, Dick and Smith also had the coal business. Spud delivered coal in their Dodge truck, by the half, one, or two-ton load. Eventually, the company began to bag coal in one cwt (50kg) sacks. At that time coal came to the island by puffer and part of Spud's work was to go down and catch the ropes at the stone pier in Lamlash. Because the pier is tidal, sometimes this was at four or five o'clock in the morning. When the owners of the company began business in Glasgow, Spud became the manager of the Arran end of the enterprise.

Spud was also deeply involved in organising the commando reunions on Arran for more than 20 years. The 11th Commando had been trained on the island during the war and billeted in almost every house in Lamlash. A strong bond developed between these men and the community.

'To begin with I thought that they were ordinary soldiers, but when I met them and talked to them about their war service, I realised that they were truly extraordinary soldiers,' explained Spud.

Living on Arran, Spud also continued with his interest in taking part in sport. He played football for the Lamlash team and badminton in Whiting Bay hall. Then in later life he took up golf, enjoying both the company and the challenge of reducing his handicap. He had memberships at Corrie, Brodick and Lamlash, but also played on all seven of the island's courses whenever he could. When he was asked which course he liked the most he always replied, 'The one I am playing now'. Latterly he played bowls with a retired group at the Auchranie.

At his funeral service,

the minister quoted Shakespeare as a character reference. This was the noblest of them all. / Only he acted from honesty for the general good. / His life was gentle, and the elements / So mixed in him that Nature might stand up / And say to all the world, 'This was a man'.

Spud is survived by his wife Jessie and by those many younger people who owe their freedom and way of life to the service and sacrifice of Harold Edward Taylor and his generation.

*Jim Arnold*



Harold Edward Taylor, affectionately known as Spud, pictured at 11th Commando reunion at the Arran Heritage Museum, in 2005.



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# Two magpies on Arran is a rare sight

Spring is an exciting time of year, awaiting the arrival of our summer visitors and seeing the last of our winter visitors leaving. The timing of the northerly spring migration is depend-

ent on the weather, not just locally, but throughout the whole length of the migration route.

This March, with periods of cold easterly winds even towards the end of

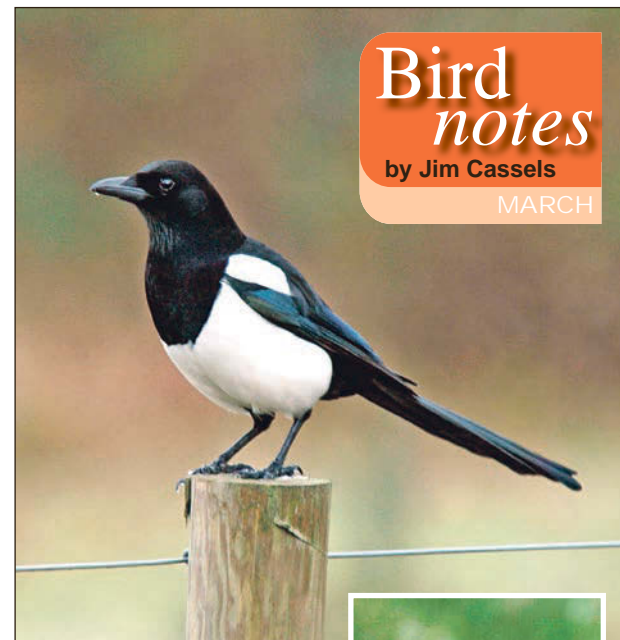
the month, it felt as if spring was on hold. The month was colder than last March and started the way that February had finished. With most of mainland Scotland covered with snow and biting, freezing winds from the east, the low lying snow-free fields of Arran and the shore itself were areas that seemed to be alive with many species of birds foraging for food, including blackbird, fieldfare, lapwing, mistle thrush, redwing, reed bunting, skylark and song thrush.

Having said that, a few pioneer summer migrants did arrive, namely a chiffchaff in Cnocan Wood 11th, a male wheatear on Kildo-

nan shore on 18th, a Manx shearwater off the south end of Arran on 26th and a sandwich tern off Blackwaterfoot on 31st. But that was all the records and unlike last year there were no March records of sand martin, swallow and house martin.

In March, our winter visitors were to the fore. The highlight was the Arctic breeding white-winged gulls which are usually uncommon winter visitors to Arran, not recorded every year. This year there were reports of Iceland gull throughout the month from five locations including two off Pirmill on 6th. There was also a report of a first winter glaucous gull on Sliderry shore on 3rd. Other wintering species included: a brambling at Cordon on 4th, 200 Greylag Geese in South Feorline also on 4th, 100 wigeon and 80 teal in Cosyden on 5th, a goldeneye in Lam-lash Bay on 7th, four purple sandpiper on Silver Sands on 11th and 69 pink-footed geese in Sliderry on 31st. Towards the end of the month there were some signs of wildfowl preparing to head north to their breeding grounds including 14 whooper swan flying off Kildonan and later across Whiting Bay on 25th.

There were signs of this ongoing migration including: on Cleats Shore on 3rd a Merlin, 12 fieldfare, 130 redwing and 200 song thrush; 22 lapwing on Kil-



Two magpie, a vagrant on Arran, seen for the first time. Photograph: Robert Lambie

patrick Farm on 5th; three black-throated diver off Corrie on 7th; 25 turnstone on Silver Sands on 12th; 27 pied wagtail also on Silver Sands on 18th; four great northern diver off King's Cave on 20th and 250 chaffinch at Sliderry on 25th.

In a month in which records were received on almost 100 species, these are a small selection of other interesting records: a snipe in a Shannochie garden on 2nd, two grey plover on Cleats Shore on 3rd (last recorded on Arran in April 2012), an immature white-tailed eagle in Pirmill on 13th, a kingfisher on Fisherman's Walk on 20th, eight long-tailed tit in Brodick on 22nd, four Common crossbill on Kilbride Hill on 24th, a short-eared owl in Glen Rosa on 27th and a water rail in Corriecravie on 31st.

In addition, there were several reports of magpie. Magpie, while common and widespread on the adjacent mainland, is a vagrant to Arran. In 2017 there was one short-staying bird and in 2016 none. In March the first record was from Sannox on 19th, followed by one in Whiting Bay on 28th and then on 30th there were reports from Lochranza in the north and Dippen in the south at the same time. So there were two magpies on Arran and in my 12 years as bird recorder on the island that is a first!

Spring is a great time to

Bird  
notes  
by Jim Cassels  
MARCH



An immature bird. Unusually there have been a number of records of Iceland gull in March. Photograph: Elizabeth Smith



Another sign of the cold March this snipe was photographed in a garden in Shannochie. Photograph: Brian Couper

be birding, as most birds are getting on with the business of breeding. Two starling nest building in Lochranza on 6th, 12 black guillemot displaying by Pladda on 8th, a grey heron carrying twigs into Whitehouse Woods on 24th, four collared dove on nests in Blackwaterfoot on 25th, three nest boxes occupied by house sparrow in Kildonan on 26th and among many reports of birds singing, there was one of yellowhammer in Sliderry on 31st. If it stays to breed it will be the first confirmed breeding of this once widespread familiar farmland bird on Arran since 1999.

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you.



Very few summer visitors did arrive including chiffchaff. Photograph: Dennis Morrison

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# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday April 11, 1998



Staff at the new Inspirations shop which replaced the old Arcas premises are; Jan Atkins who runs a Reiki salon, Ann Cameron, owner Sandra Bentley, manageress Joan Willcock and Marjorie Climie.

01\_B16twe04

## Steal magnolias

Spring is upon us and the flowers are coming into bloom. In Brodick Castle gardens there are ever improving displays of rhododendrons, magnolias and camelias. But skulduggery is afoot and the most attractive of flowers, the camelia, is being stolen. Sinister characters are coming by dead of night and, equipped with spades and fast vehicles, are making off with the young plants.

Head gardener Nigel Price says that occasional thefts from the gardens are not uncommon but more organised crimes like this has not previously happened. The typical theft is an elderly lady equipped with a pair of scissors and a plastic bag inside her handbag. She can then innocently admire plants and take the odd cutting in passing. Digging up plants in the dead of night, however, is a new thing and police have been alerted, and are said to be keeping watch and will prosecute.

Nigel said: 'The Royal Botanical Gardens in Edinburgh have their own police force, specifically for plant-lifters. I like those with green fingers, but not people with light green fingers.'

## Beach prediction

The weather has come in anger and with last week's gales, as was predicted 15

years ago, large swathes of Brodick beach have been swept away. The beach now stands six feet lower than it did, revealing items from earlier this century in what was an old coup. The debris has been impacted but it is sprinkled with recognisable items such as crockery. With possible injury in mind, council workmen have taped off the area with 'Keep Out' signs so that people are warned.

Acting local officer Gus MacLeod said that North Ayrshire Council leased the land from Arran Estates so their legal department was trying to work out who was responsible for making the area that was damaged safe again.

During the 70s and 80 when Scotsand were extracting sand from the beach and exporting it for use in water filtration, studies were undertaken and funded by objectors in order to prevent extraction.

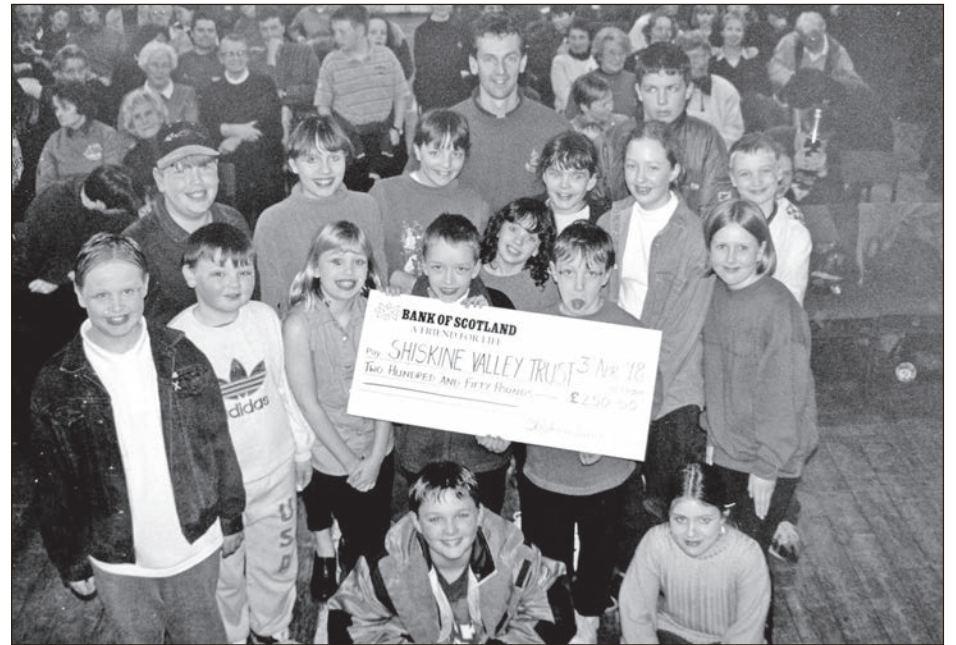
Professor Brian Lovell of Cambridge predicted that in about 15 years the beach would be so undermined that it would just collapse. This is exactly what happened this week, in exactly the time predicted.

## Land reform

The first step towards dealing with the huge problem of land issues in Scotland has been taken by the new government who have included in their manifesto a commitment to looking at land reform. Having created a Land Reform Policy Group last October, they have now produced their first document entitled Identifying the Problems.

This is the first step in reforming land laws and is entirely relevant to Arran. The acrimonious dispute between Arran Estates and geology students and disputes between tenant farms and their landlords have necessitated mediation, a land court decision and in a few cases, even higher court decisions.

The document outlines its intentions of aiming to foster the sustainable development of rural communities but it also wants to reduce the areas of conflict and encourage a greater fairness in relations between those who own the land and those who live, work and play on it.



Shiskine Junior Drama, still in their make up from a performance, hand over a cheque to Alan Johnston of the Shiskine Valley Trust. The donation will be used for leveling and reseeding the Harbour View playing field at Blackwaterfoot. 01\_B16twe01



Rosalind Millar selects a winner from Brown Owl Sheena Miller's ticket tub last Wednesday while the young brownies show off the Easter hamper that will be the prize. 01\_B16twe02



Alice Martin and her husband George at the launch of her new 1999 calendar. Called the Alice Collection it features Arran vista's photographed with a panoramic camera.

01\_B16twe03



Four generations of one family met for a meal at the Glenisle Hotel on Tuesday to mark the 80th birthday of Sal Bannatyne of Lamlash. Sal, looking many years younger than her actual age, is seated second from the right with her two daughters Sheena and Greta on either side of her. Editor's note: Sal was featured in last week's Banner celebrating her 100th birthday. 01\_B16twe05

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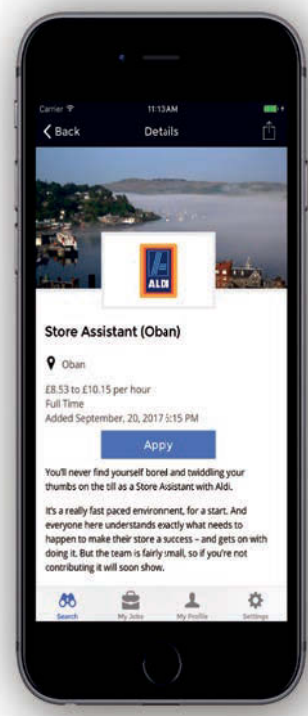
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CHURCH NOTICES

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together  
Minister:  
Rev Angus Adamson  
Parish Assistant:  
Mrs Jean Hunter  
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.  
**Sunday 22nd April**  
Lochranza Church, 9.30am. Morning Service.  
Pirmill Church, 10.45am. Morning Service  
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.  
Brodick Church, 10.30am. Morning Worship.  
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship  
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland, Charity Number: SC014005  
**Sunday 22nd April**  
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev. Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. All welcome.  
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service and everyone is invited to stay and enjoy more fellowship afterwards.  
**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 22nd April**  
Service 11am, Free Church, Brodick  
Tea and coffee after the service  
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.  
Telephone 600222  
Everyone warmly invited

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 22nd April**  
Holy Communion - 11am.  
Coffee after service.  
**Wednesday, 25th April**  
Holy Communion - 12.15pm  
ALL WELCOME

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
(continuing)  
**Sunday 22nd April**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All welcome

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**  
Sunday Worship at 11am  
Brodick Library  
Telephone 700346  
Everyone Warmly Invited

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 22nd April**  
Mrs Liz Clarke  
Kilmory - 10am  
Lamlash - 11.30am  
In Lamlash: prayer time 10.45am.  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm  
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**Sunday 22nd April**  
Sunday Mass 11am

DEATHS

**BOYD:** John Boyd passed away on the 10th of April at home. He will be sadly missed by his wife Jeannie, daughter Kirsty, sons Ally and Paul and his 12 grandchildren. A service will take place at noon in Lochranza church on Monday the 23rd of April followed by a private cremation.

**LAMBIE:** Stewart Lambie MBE, 85 years passed away peacefully on Monday 16th April at Lamlash War Memorial Hospital. The funeral will be held on Thursday 3rd May, St Brides Church, Brodick at 11.30am to which all friends and family are invited. No flowers please, donations if desired to Arran Hospital Supports League.

**RANKINE:** Ellan Marshall - Peacefully at Coorie-doon nursing home on Sunday, 15th April 2018. Ellan, formerly McMaster, aged 89 years, proud mum, grandmother and great grandmother of the family. An interment will take place at Airbles Cemetery, Motherwell on Monday 30th April at 11:30am followed by a memorial service at Lochranza church on Tuesday, 1st May at 11:45am to which all are welcome.

Arran Football Association fixtures 2018

<b>Arran Haulage Cup</b> <b>30th April,</b> <b>preliminary round</b> <b>7th May, semi-finals</b> <b>12th May final</b>	<b>11th June</b> Brodick v Southend Shiskine v Northend	<b>23rd July</b> Southend v Shiskine Lamlash v Northend	<b>20th August</b> Brodick v Southend Shiskine v Northend
<b>Arran Dairies League</b> <b>14th May</b> Southend v Shiskine Lamlash v Northend	<b>18th June</b> Shiskine v Southend Northend v Lamlash	<b>30th July</b> Shiskine v Lamlash Northend v Brodick	Playoff will be held on <b>25th August</b> if two teams are tied on points at the end of the season.
<b>21st May</b> Shiskine v Lamlash Northend v Brodick	<b>25th June</b> Lamlash v Shiskine Brodick v Northend	<b>6th August</b> Lamlash v Brodick Northend v Southend	<b>Copperwheats Knockout Cup</b> <b>27th August, preliminary Round</b> <b>3rd September, semi-finals</b> <b>8th September, final</b>
<b>28th May</b> Lamlash v Brodick Northend v Southend	<b>2nd July</b> Brodick v Lamlash Southend v Northend	<b>13th August</b> Brodick v Shiskine Southend v Lamlash	
<b>4th June</b> Brodick v Shiskine Southend v Lamlash	<b>9th July</b> Shiskine v Brodick Lamlash v Southend	<b>CUT OUT AND KEEP</b>	
	<b>16th July</b> Southend v Brodick Northend v Shiskine	<b>Match reports will appear in the</b>	



**Whiting Bay Golf Club**  
Wednesday April 11, Summer Trophy. In true WBGC tradition the second round of the 2018 Summer Trophy got under way on a morning that would have seemed cold in December, let alone April.  
The field of 18 players found conditions were far from easy and the CSS went out to its maximum of 66. 1 David Blair (16)65, 2 Ronnie Mann (13)66, 3 John Pennycott (13)68,

DEATH

**WHITE:** Peacefully at Cumbræ Lodge Care Home, Irvine, after a long illness, Mary, aged 81 years, beloved wife of Tony and much loved mum of Sue. Funeral service at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreghorn on Tuesday 1st May at 1.30pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Alzheimer's Scotland.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

**McCLELLAND:** An informal celebration of the life of Dorothy McClelland will be held in St Molios Church, Shiskine at 11.30am on Saturday 21st April, Rev. Angus Adamson officiating. A cordial invitation is extended to everyone who wishes to attend. Refreshments will be served in the Kinloch Hotel after the service. Donations if desired to ArCaS.

4 Ryan Armstrong (8)69. Jamie Stewart carded the lowest gross score at 69 and there were magic twos from Jamie and John Dick, both at the fourth hole.

Sunday April 15, Summer Trophy. Twelve played in this round of the Summer Trophy, postponed from April 4. Conditions were much improved from recent outings with the greens firming up and running true and scoring was generally good, with all but two scores in the 60s. CSS went down to 62 and, continuing his recent fine form, John Pennycott ran out a comfortable winner on net 60. 1 John Pennycott (13)60, 2 David Blair (16)62, 3 Nicol Auld (5)63 ACB and lowest gross, 4 Stan Rainey (1)63. There were no magic twos.

Fixtures: Sunday April 22, Captain's drive in and prize - rolling start at 10am. Cards to be in by 2pm. This will be a Stableford from the white tees and will be a 'counter' for handicap purposes. Wednesday April 25, The Richard Parfitt Stableford - all-day competition with optional draw at 5.30pm.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday April 11, medal and magic twos. 1 S Beard-sley 67-7=60, 2 A Smith 73-11=62. No winner of the magic twos, so a rollover.

Saturday April 14, The Eddie Rankin Memorial Trophy. A good entry of 10 two-man teams from Corrie and Machrie contested this competition in memory of a very popular member of both clubs.

This was the first major competition of the year and all competitors congratulated the club and Euan on the great condition of the course.

Corrie narrowly came out on top by a couple of points. The individual winner was John Adam with 35pts.  
Fixtures: Saturday April 21, 18-hole medal, ballots at 9am and 2pm. Wednesday April 25, medal and magic twos.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday April 12, Yellow medal, CSS65. 1 Willie Currie 71-9=62, 2. Ian Bremner 71-7=64, 3. Paul Jameson 76-11=65. Scratch Dougie MacFarlane 67. Magic twos Ian Bremner, Iain Murchie and Willie Currie all @16th.

Sunday April 15, Hugh Hutchison Trophy (green-some). Well done to winners Paul Jameson and John O'Sullivan 78-15.0=63. Runners-up Ian Bremner 75-9.8=65.2. Magic twos Scott Campbell and Iain Murchie @16th, Serge El Adm and Dougie MacFarlane @16th.

Fixtures: Sunday April 22, Drift Inn Quaich, 8.30am, 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday April 26, Summer Cup, make up own games, see starter for times.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday April 11, Summer Cup, 31 played, CSS 66. 1 Matthew Dobson 69-7-62, 2 Douglas Robertson 81-17-64, 3 Robert Waine 80-14-66. Scratch Ewan McKinnon 67.

Sunday April 15, British Legion Cup, Stableford, 18 played, CSS 37pts. 1 David

Hendry (14)42pts, 2 Finlay Sillars (13)40pts, 3 Nicol Hume (14)37pts.

Fixture: Sunday April 22, Belhaven Medal, enter in clubhouse or turn up for draws 8.30am and noon.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday April 12, ladies' 12-hole medal, six played, par 44, CSS 44. 1 Elizabeth Kelso 58-11 = 47 ACB, 2 Fiona Scott 62-15=47. Scratch Ann May 52. Well done Elizabeth.

Fixtures: Thursday April 26, Rock Plate, for both ladies and gents, 1pm and 5.30pm. Saturday April 28, gents' Stableford open, fun event and times between 9am and 3pm.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday April 10, 1 Campbell Laing 67pts, 2 Reuben Betley 70pts, 3 Brian Sherwood 75pts.

Tuesday April 17, 1 Phil Betley 67pts BIH, 2 Reuben Betley 67pts, 3 Brian Sherwood 73pts.

Fixtures: Saturday April 21, last day of Kiscadale Trophy, Whiting Bay 1pm. Tuesday April 24, Peter Sutton/Lady Mary, tee-off 12.30pm and 5.30pm.

Arran Golfers' Association

AGA fixture at Shiskine: Friday April 27m AGA Seniors Bowl (round one), 4.30pm Machrie Bay v Lochranza, 4.45pm Lamlash v Corrie, 5.00pm Brodick v Whiting Bay. If you are going to be late due to work, please phone 860226 (pro shop).



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# Rat Race is a big success

A total of 250 runners descended on Arran last weekend for the first Rat Race Ultra Tour of Arran ... and what a sparkling event it turned out to be.

Race organisers thanked the hospitality and welcome of the island while residents and businesses praised the high standard of organisation for the event, which had its base camp at Ormidale Park, which was left spotless after being turned into a weekend campsite.

Such was the success that the event is likely to become an annual event and has already been pencilled in on the busy Rat Race Adventure Sports calendar for next year.

For participants, the event is a gruelling one. A

total of 250 runners set off from Brodick green early on Saturday morning for the 27.6-mile run to Kildonan and back.

Then, on Sunday, 160 of those runners, after a number of call-offs, took on the gruelling mountain challenge around the north of the island on a 29.6-mile course which included Goatfell and the challenging North Goatfell ridge.

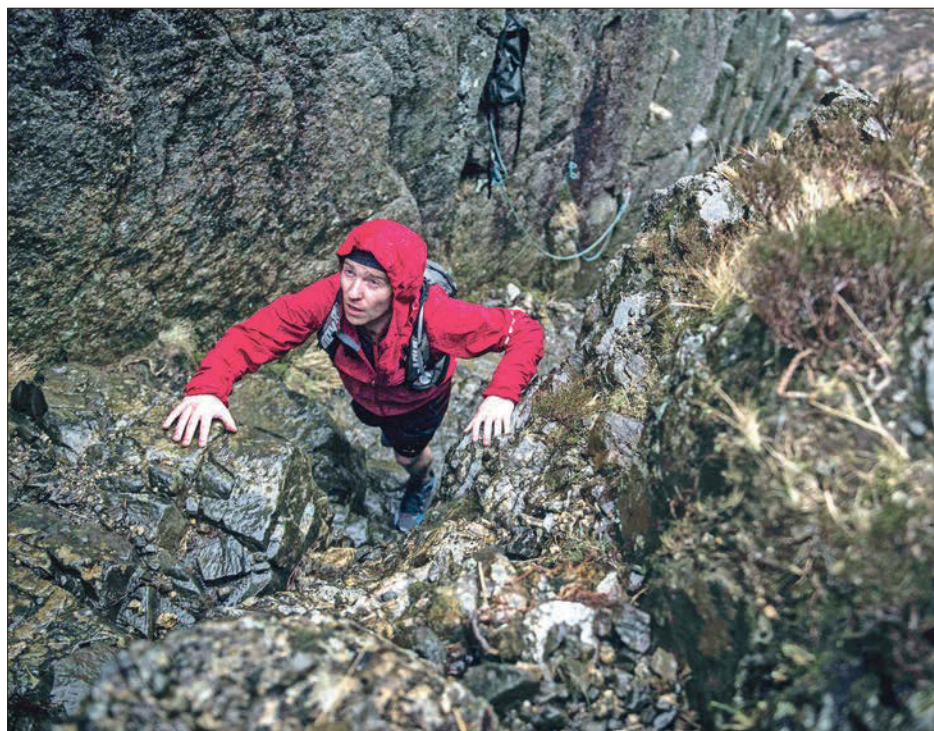
Event designer Gary Tompsett explained that runners can only opt for the Saturday event or both days which total 57.2 miles (92 kilometres).

He said: 'We are delighted at how the event went. Many of the participants had never been to Arran and really saw it as an adventure paradise. Every-

one was really friendly and welcoming, from the businesses, restaurants and accommodation providers to the people cheering at the side of the road and I would like to say a genuine thank you for the delightful hospitality of the island.'

Rat Race managing director Jim Mee confirmed that it was now planned to hold it as an annual event. He accepted it was expensive to put on and could do with a few more numbers, but added he appreciated that it could not grow too big but had to be in keeping with the capacity the island could handle.

'Our first event was a resounding success and that is in no small part to the island and the islanders making us feel very welcome.'



A runner scrambles up a gully on a tough part of the course. Photo Leo Francis



And they are off – runners at the start of the race. Photo Leo Francis



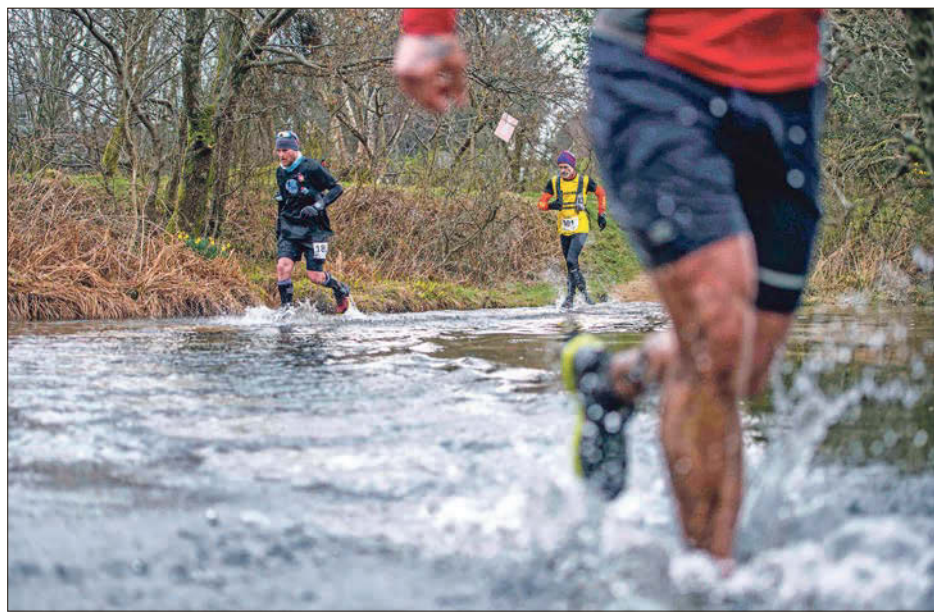
Two competitors still look fresh heading for the finish in Brodick on the second day. 01\_B16rat01



Two competitors cross the bridge as they leave the Fisherman's Walk. 01\_B16rat02



A competitor crosses the finishing line after 57.2 miles of running. 01\_B16rat04



Competitors make their way through a burn. Photo Leo Francis

# SPORT



**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**  
Rat Race is a big success



Southend were last year's winners of the Arran Haulage Cup. Captain Danny Head receives the trophy from sponsor Rachel Armitage of Arran Haulage. 01\_B17Football01

## All set for Ormidale 10K race

More than 70 runners will take to the roads of Brodick on Sunday for the 30th anniversary run of the Isle of Arran Ormidale 10k.

A record 71 runners have signed up online, with more expected on the day and although some rain is forecast conditions look favourable for the event.

The race starts at Ormidale Park at noon and will take runners on a fairly flat course up Knowe Road and out past the castle to Merkland Point at the north end of Brodick Bay.

The race is restricted to runners 16 years and over and registration on the day starts at 11am.

With the race being held on public roads, it needs about a dozen marshals to alert traffic and assist runners. Anyone who can help should contact organiser Tommy Gilmore on 302293 or 302246.

Police on Arran have asked drivers to bear in mind that there will be runners on the road between noon and 1.30pm, and to be aware there will be some traffic hold ups during the event.

# Can Brodick make it five in a row?

## Haulage Cup kicks off football season

Brodick will be looking to make it five league titles in a row when the new football season kicks off later this month.

The action starts on Monday April 30, with the Arran Haulage Cup first up on the footballing calendar, ahead of the league tussle.

Northend will host Shiskine in the preliminary round, with the winners being rewarded with an away tie to last year's double winners Brodick. Reigning cup champions Southend face a testing away fixture to Lamlash in the other

semi final, which is a repeat of last year's final.

At the annual general meeting of Isle of Arran Football Association it was decided that verbal abuse to referees in the forthcoming season would be clamped down on, with players being shown cards. Any issues with the referee have now to be discussed through the captain on the field of play.

There will also be a suspension for players who accumulate three yellow cards through the season. With Brodick hosting Southend in the fourth game of

the season, Babbies MacNeil and Ryan Armstrong have already been considered as unlikely to play in the match.

With Brodick's top goal scorer and player of the year Archie McNicol now having been transferred to Glasgow, it is expected that he is going to be making more boat trips than your average Arran Haulage driver this season.

Greg McCrae has announced his retirement, but Arran may not have seen the last of him as he has made more comebacks

than the Rolling Stones. Lamlash could be the dark horses this year with their young squad maturing and improving with every game they play. In the winter 7s league they were a strong force and they will be hoping to bring that into the 11-a-sides.

Northend and Shiskine will be hoping to avoid being at the foot of the table again this season. They both have a lot of young talent that hopefully they can hold onto and who should start to come good within a couple of seasons.

Southend came agonisingly close to the league last year only to be heartbroken in the play-off against Brodick. Again they will be relying on their youngsters due to centre back Gavin Gilbert moving away and Sandy Kelso's career cut short due to injury.

If you are interested in playing football on Arran then please get in touch with one of the teams. The more players the better, and anyone willing to referee would be a huge help.


See page 22 for the full season's fixture list

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