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Toilets biggest concern as four miss hustings

Hugh Boag
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The closure of the Arran public toilets is a political hot potato that just won't go away, if Monday night's hustings meeting in Brodick was anything to go by.

The issue took centre stage as the candidates in next week's local council elections faced the electorate in Brodick Hall.

However, with seven candidates standing for the Ardrossan and Arran seat, not a single hopeful from the mainland was represented at the event, organised by the Arran CVS.

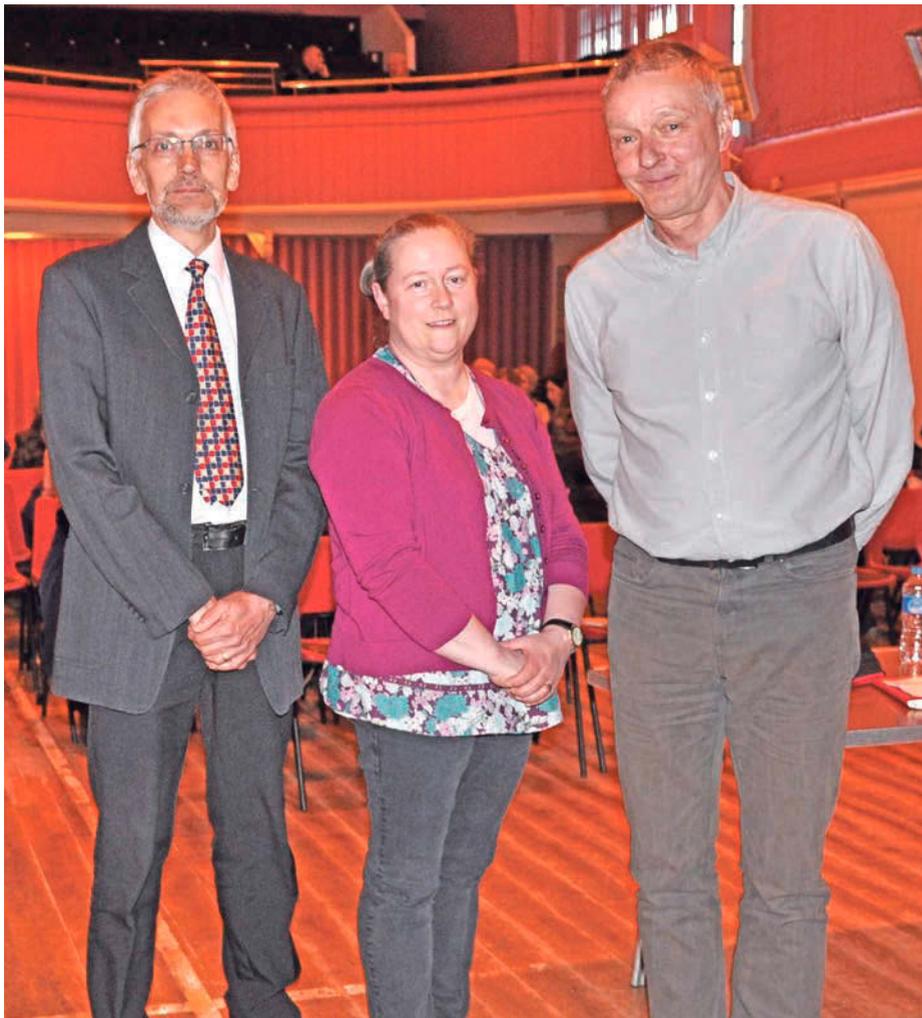
That left the three Arran candidates – Ellen McMaster of the SNP, Conservative Timothy Billings and Scottish Socialist Colin Turbett – facing the

60-strong audience in what was largely a good-natured exchange.

Like an old-fashioned hustings, each candidate was allowed a three-minute introduction. All seven candidates had been asked to provide a statement but only a further two had sent them and these were read out by chairman Bill Calderwood from independent candidate John Hunter and Labour's Claire McGuire. The second SNP candidate standing for the seat, Tony Gurney, sent his apologies by telephone, the meeting heard.

However, it did not take long for the toilets issue to be raised by a woman who said it was the first time she had ever been to a hustings

Continued on page 7



Looking for your vote: Timothy Billings, Conservative; Ellen McMaster, SNP; and SSP candidate Colin Turbett ahead of the hustings. 01_A17hustings01

Concession ferry fares set to rise

Concession holders have been hit by a 20p hike in the cost of a single ferry ticket.

The rise has been approved despite the fact that under RET general fares cannot go up until April 2018.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport pushed through the rise which sees a single fare on the Brodick to Ardrossan route increased from £2.60 to £2.80 for island residents, but it failed to tell anyone. The first most older and disabled passengers knew about the rise was when they went to buy a ticket.

Retiring North Ayrshire Councillor John Bruce, who was a member of the SPT, told Arran Community Council this week the increase has been caused by funding cuts by the 12 contributing councils to the SPT. He said it was the first time there had been an increase for four years.

Community councillors were concerned that it eroded the differential between the full and concessionary fare, but Councillor Bruce warned: 'It may be in the future that they may not be able to afford it at all.'



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Arran prepares for the friendly Scout invasion

Colin Smeeton
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran is set for a friendly invasion this May Day weekend.

A national Scouting event will see more 500 Scouts from all over Scotland arriving on the island today (Friday) to take part in their annual camp.

But there had been some trepidation when Caledonian MacBrayne announced on its website that 'national events' were likely to restrict passenger numbers on two ferries on the Brodick to Ardrrossan route today (Friday) and Monday, but it later amended it to confirm it was the large number of Scouts it



The MV Isle of Arran started the summer service early. 01a_B17ferry01

was giving notice of. The Scouts are scheduled to be camping at Dyemill near Lamlash for the May Day weekend where they will be cooking, building rafts,

geocaching and engaged in a whole range of outdoor activities.

The annual camp is held at a different location every year and it is open for any

Scouts over the age of 11 who wish to take part in camping, cooking and learning useful life skills. Last year's camp was the Highland adventure at Glen Tanar Estate in Aboyne and the year before was the Lowland adventure at Selkirk.

CalMac has restricted numbers on the 6pm and 8.30pm ferries from Ardrrossan today, Friday, and the return trip from Brodick on the 12.30pm and the

1.55pm on Monday May 1 to cope with the additional passengers.

Meanwhile, the arrival of the MV Isle of Arran last weekend, a week earlier than planned to operate additional sailings on the Ardrrossan to Brodick route, has been welcomed by island organisations and travellers. The additional sailings, which started last Saturday, coinciding with the Easter break this year, continued until the vessel resumed normal ser-

vice for the summer timetable period.

The move, which was welcomed by holidaymakers who struggled to secure bookings on the MV Caledonian Isles, was not without issue, though, as the 34-year-old vessel has had to be cancelled on a few occasions already, first by high winds and then by low tides.

Despite the additional carrying capacity, complaints were made to CalMac and online as passengers have been unable to book their preferred sailings due to bookings being 'closed' along with cancellations on Monday April 24 caused by forecasts of high winds.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'Ferry services across the whole CalMac network had a busy Easter weekend and Arran was no exception with many sailings at full capacity. Scotland's West Coast islands remain as popular as ever and we are looking forward to a successful summer season.'

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Man is jailed for 18 months after being caught with axes

Police on Arran received numerous calls about a man walking through a village carrying two large weapons, a court has heard.

At Kilmarnock Sheriff Court, Steven Shankland, 31, of East Woodstock Court, Kilmarnock, pleaded guilty to having the axes in Main Street, Lamlash, in May last year. He was jailed for 18 months.

Jo Cunningham, prosecuting, said that Shankland was spotted by an off-duty police officer as he carried the items while walking past shops and a hotel. She described them as 'two large, wooden-handled axes with no protective covering'.

Ms Cunningham said that the officer called the police control room, noting that 'other people were

alarmed'. 'This was not the only call which was made,' she said. 'The police received numerous calls about the male carrying axes.'

By the time other officers arrived on the scene, Shankland was no longer there. But he was identified from CCTV footage.

Ms Cunningham said: 'That clearly showed the accused walking on the footpath with the axes. He was carrying one in each hand.'

Peter Murray, defending, said his client had 'a fairly lengthy history of offending behaviour'. He also had a long history of drug and alcohol misuse which had led to mental health problems.

He said Shankland had been living a dilapidated

cottage on Arran with no gas, electricity or water. Mr Murray said: 'He was effectively scavenging in bins outside local stores. His behaviour at the time was fairly erratic.'

And he added: 'There is no suggestion he had these items for any nefarious purpose. He clearly did not have any reasonable excuse or lawful authority to have them with him.'

Shankland also admitted failing to appear at court on previous occasions.

Mr Murray said that this was down to his 'fairly chaotic' lifestyle.

Sheriff Elizabeth McFarlane sentenced Shankland to 18 months' imprisonment on the axe charge, with a concurrent six-month term for his failures to appear.

Arran art brightens up Montrose House

Primary school pupils demonstrate their artistic talents

Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

There was a good entry for the Montrose House relatives support group art competition for Arran primary schools.

The contest was to provide some beautiful and interesting art work for the public areas of the Brodick care home. The chil-



The support group has four objectives

dren were asked to create pictures of the Arran landscape as they felt that the residents would enjoy seeing familiar scenes and the paintings would add a homely touch.

There has also been some artwork kindly donated by members of Arran Visual Arts. In addition, Friends of Montrose House are in the process of providing Arran photos printed on canvas and also donated the prizes and frames for the competition.

The winners were: Brod-



Winning entries from the Montrose House school art competition. Chloe Hemming, Lamlash; Tilda Litton, Whiting Bay; Wiktor Jablonski, Brodick; Hannah Lord, Pirmill; Lisa Henderson, Shiskine; Roisin Ballantyne, Kilmory; Lucy Blair, Corrie.

ick – Wiktor Jablonski; Corrie – Lucy Blair; Pirmill – Hannah Lord; Shiskine – Lisa Henderson; Kilmory – Roisin Ballantyne; Whiting Bay – Tilda Litton; Lamlash – Chloe Hemming.

On Thursday April 20, the winners and their parents were invited to a prize-giving at Montrose House, where they could see their paintings on display. The winners were presented with a £20 gift voucher for the Book and Card Centre and a certificate from unit

manager Morven Ross-Bain and afterwards enjoyed refreshments with the residents.

The support group was set up with four objectives. These are: to directly represent the interests and needs of the residents to whoever is appropriate to meet these needs; to enhance communication for residents, relatives, all relevant agencies and everyone involved with Montrose House; to liaise with Friends of Montrose House; and to inform and support each other.

Arran tourism businesses fly the flag at giant travel Expo

Auchrannie Resort and VisitArran were among 13 of Ayrshire and Arran's top tourism and hospitality businesses representing the region at Scotland's biggest travel VisitScotland Expo 2017, which took place this week at Glasgow's newly named SEC (Scottish Event Campus).

The 38th staging of Scotland's biggest business-to-business event for the travel trade, the show gave 276 Scottish tourism businesses – including accommodation providers, visitor attractions and ac-

tivity providers – from every corner of the country the chance to showcase their products and services to more than 600 tour operators and travel agents from all over the world.

The event is expected to create a net economic impact of £2.5 million for the local economy.

And, thanks to one-to-one appointments facilitated by VisitScotland, exhibitors are expected to generate an average of £22,000 worth of gross turnover as a result of attending.

Annie Armstrong, VisitScotland regional director, said: 'I am very pleased that so many great businesses from Ayrshire and Arran took part in this year's Expo to showcase the region and highlight the quality of its visitor offering.

Collaboration is vital to grow tourism so it's great to see such commitment to working together and to capitalising on this fantastic opportunity to engage with key travel operators from all over the UK and overseas.'

Decision soon on toilets

Offers have been received for all three public toilets put up for sale on Arran by North Ayrshire Council.

For sale signs were slapped on the toilets when they were closed with an invitation to submit proposals by Tuesday April 25 with offers invited at over £1,500 for each of the properties located at Lochranza, Lamlash and Blackwaterfoot. Described as a potential development opportunity, interested parties were invited to submit their proposals in writing through their solicitors.

It is understood that a large number of proposals have been received, ranging from a limited continuation as a community facility, to a commercial enterprise.

A council spokesman said: 'We can confirm that we have received offers for the former toilet blocks.'

SPRING HAS SPRUNG@

Arran Active

New Season Footwear and Clothing Now In!

Exhibition of Landscape Paintings and Textiles Preview in Arran Active - 7pm on Friday 7th April - in association with Arran Mountain Festival – featured artists: John Knox, Heather Macleod, James Mackintosh, Ronnie McNeice, Chris Mills, Tessa Smith

footwear and clothing for all ages including waterproofs wellies, swimwear, sportswear and ladies' fashion rucksacks, sleeping bags, tents and camping equipment maps and books, Scottish whiskies and gins, wooden toys. Up to half price bargains on sale rails including men's and women's merino crew tops were £30 now £15!

















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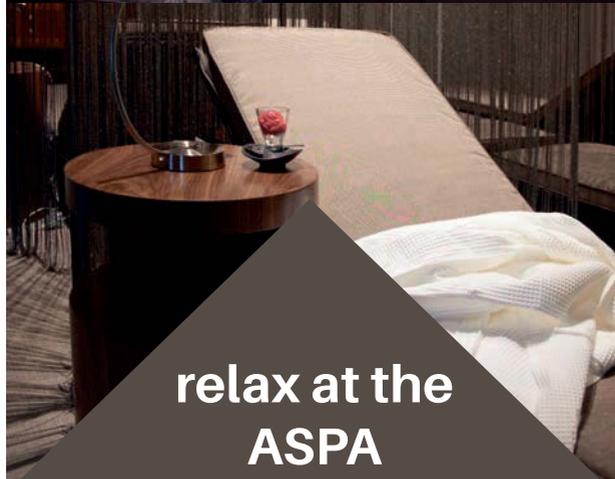
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New shellfish restrictions imposed

Measures to protect the sustainability of shellfish stock have come into effect.

From last Monday, fishermen without a licence have been restricted to a daily limit on a number of shellfish species. These are: one lobster, 10 nephrops (Norway lobster), five crabs (edible, green, spider and velvet), five scallops (king, queen).

Rural economy secretary Fergus Ewing said: 'The setting of catch limits will make it possible for the Scottish Government to distinguish between those genuinely pursuing a hobby and those catching sufficient quantities to make it a financially viable exercise. While I recognise and support the public's right to fish, this right must be balanced with the management of commercial fishing activity and the sustainability and health of the stock.

'In recent years, fishermen have expressed increasing concern about the health of these fisheries. The commercial fishing sector supports taking action against illegal unlicensed fishing and I hope the proposed catch limits will help tackle this issue.'

Marine Scotland compliance officers patrol inshore waters with rigid inflatable boats, and are in contact with fishermen. Officers also make regular visits to fish buyers to ensure they buy from vessels that are registered and hold a valid UK fishing vessel licence.



Euan McIlwraith meets with head teacher Barry Smith while being filmed for an episode of *Landward*.

Arran back on TV in Landward

Arran will be featured on BBC1 in an episode of the BBC Scotland show *Landward* which looks at the ways in which Arran High School makes use of locally-sourced food in its cafeteria.

Episode three of the long-running programme, which is due to air tonight (Friday) on BBC1 at 7.30pm and will be repeated tomorrow (Saturday) on BBC2 at 3.30pm, features Euan McIlwraith, who recently visited the island again to speak with head

teacher Barry Smith. While visiting, Euan enjoyed a stay at the Dunvegan Guest House in Brodick, where he met local people, food producers and recorded a radio broadcast of the Saturday morning show, *Out of Doors*.

Speaking exclusively to the *Banner*, Euan said: 'We try to get over to Arran as often as possible. It is a beautiful place with stunning wildlife.'

'Once you step off the ferry you are almost immediately immersed in a

world of wildlife where you can see anything from eagles to otters.

'Arran is so accessible and we enjoy every visit, whether we are covering a story with the Community of Arran Seabed Trust or on a wildlife walk with Lucy Wallace.'

Landward, which focuses on agricultural and rural issues throughout Scotland, was first aired in 1976 and stars presenters Euan McIlwraith, Dougie Vipond and Nick Nairn. It is produced by Simon Cousins.

Marine conservationist is 'outraged'

An Arran marine conservationist is 'mad and outraged' after a rare flame-shell reef off the West Coast was 'intensively' dredged on two occasions and could take decades to recover.

The scallop dredger was operating legally, but the chairman of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), Howard Wood, said it represented a 'complete failure' of inshore fishery management.

The Scottish Government said it would investigate the 'worrying' reports.

Flame shells are bivalves that make nests on the seabed. The reef that forms around the nests is a valuable nursery ground for young scallops, crustaceans and fish.

Many of the flame-shell beds that used to be found off the West Coast of Scotland have now disappeared and Scottish Natural Heritage considers large beds rare.

Mr Wood, a winner of the international Goldman Environmental Prize for his marine conservation work, told BBC Scotland: 'It's a complete failure of Marine Scotland's inshore fishery management.'

'We're way behind other countries. Norway and other Scandinavian countries would not allow this in inshore waters. We need to bring our inshore fisheries up to modern-day standards.'

The reef is in Loch Carron, a sea loch to the east of Skye. It is not in

a Marine Protected Area (MPA) and can be legally dredged.

A spokeswoman for the Scottish Government said: 'These reports are worrying and will be investigated. But it is worth noting that there are already strong measures in place to protect valuable marine habitats around our coastline.'

A COAST spokeswoman added: 'We are sad and angry this wasn't avoided.'

'Reform of inshore fisheries and aquaculture needs to be a priority for the Scottish Government. We will be working with other communities and organisations to push for a reform that benefits the public and the fishing sector.'

Arran supports Sue

An Arran sailor is embarking on her second eXXpedition trip – this time round the British Isles.

Mission co-leader Sue Weaver, from Kildonan, has received support from across Arran with the latest donation from the Arran Trust going towards her 30-day round Britain expedition later this year, which will visit Lamlash.

Receiving an Arran Trust grant for the sum of £500, the money will go towards some of the expenses of the expedition, which will be funded by crew fees and fundraising.

The mission of the circumnavigation of British Isles by an all-women crew on board the SV Sea Dragon will see research into plastics and toxics pollution in the sea, by trawl-

ing for plastics and microplastics, sampling waters for toxins and sediments for microfibrils. It will be the first continuous sampling of UK waters over a 30-day period.

Sue, who previously crossed the Atlantic on an eXXpedition adventure, told the *Banner*: ‘As mission co-leader, I’m particularly responsible for the Scottish part of our voyage. I’m also responsible for dreaming up the whole circumnavigation by eXXpedition. Once we’d crossed the Atlantic, I realised I had one other sailing dream left – to go around the whole of the British Isles.’

Starting the expedition at Plymouth, with the support of world-renowned Professor Richard Thompson of Plymouth University, the 14-strong crew will go clockwise around Britain, calling into all four UK capitals as well as Arran and Stornoway.

Sue said: ‘Our mission is to make the unseen seen – and by unseen we mean the presence of pollution in the seas, the diseases that are linked with this and the less acknowledged roles of women in STEM careers and as adventurers.’

A large part of the mission is to raise awareness of the extent of the problems of ocean pollution. More than eight million tonnes enter the world’s oceans each

year. On Arran, on Thursday August 17, they will run citizen science workshops looking at the results from the trawls at sea under microscopes. There will also be creative workshops using the skills and talents of the multi-disciplinary crew and a music and storytelling event at the Pierhead Tavern.

She added: ‘We have been delighted by all the support generated here on Arran. The Arran Trust grant of £500 is a wonderful contribution to our many expenses. The voyage itself is being funded by our crew fees, including mine, and all the volunteers onboard are contributing large sums to make this voyage happen. We are fundraising for everything else, from information leaflets and venue hire to science equipment.’

The expedition has also received support from various other island organisations, including the Co-op in Brodick which has offered to restock the Sea Dragon with fresh food while in Lamlash Bay, ready for the next stage of the voyage to Stornoway. COAST has also been incredibly supportive in many practical ways and the RNLI offered them the use of the lifeboat station for the day when they are onshore and reaching out to the community while also doing a beach clean.



Sue Weaver, who will be circumnavigating Britain, receives a cheque from Angela Elliott-Walker and Henry Murdo from the Arran Trust. 01_B17expedition02

Pharmacy hours for May Day

While many pharmacies across North Ayrshire are closed for the May Day bank holiday on Monday May 1, pharmacies on Arran will remain open but residents are being urged to be aware of the opening hours.

Both the pharmacies in Brodick and Lamlash will be open from 9am to 4pm and the Whiting Bay pharmacy will be open from 11am to 3pm, with a pharmacist available between 1pm and 2pm.

If you take regular medication, check your existing supplies and only order what you need to ensure you have enough to see you through the bank holiday weekend.

If you need a doctor or dentist urgently call NHS 24 on 111.



We have been delighted by all the support generated here on Arran – the Arran Trust grant of £500 is a wonderful contribution to our expenses

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Timothy Billings, Scottish Conservative and Unionist

I am Timothy Billings and for the past nine years I have successfully owned and run the Glenisle Hotel in Lamlash with my partner Geoffrey. I have also been an active member of the Lamlash Improvements Association being involved in a number of projects including the campaign to save the village green.

I decided to stand for election as I have found that the council feels very re-



Tony Billings

mote from Arran and that in my dealings with the council and councillors, there is a lack of personal engagement, and a lack of understanding about the needs and challenges of Arran.

I know I can do a better job than that, and so I put myself forward as a candidate. What better than to get involved in something that I feel strongly about? My pledge is that I will be available so that anybody can speak with me. I will regularly visit your area of the island, so that I can find out what matters to you, and you can hold me to account for what is happening in your areas. I will take your views with me to the council and ensure that they are heard and taken in to account.

I hope that even those of you who may not be natural Conservative voters can see past the labels, and know that I will work for you as an individual, and that I will be a strong challenging voice for Arran.

John Hunter, Independent

It has been a great honour and a privilege to serve the people of Ardrossan and Arran on North Ayrshire Council, for the past 10 years. As an Independent candidate I owe no allegiance to any political party and always put the interests of my constituents first. I am asking for your vote on May 4 to re-elect me for a third term. I make no false claims or empty promises, only that I will work tirelessly for the people of Ardrossan and Arran.

On Arran I have been supportive, and active with initiatives for the island community. I was a member of the Isle of Arran Homes committee for five years, bringing much-needed affordable, rented housing to Arran, I am still a board member of the Brodick Country Park joint committee and was involved in the design and build of Montrose House. I was also very active in the campaign to retain Ardrossan as the mainland port for the Arran ferry.

I expect the subject of

public toilet provision on Arran will arise and I received some critical, and at times hostile, correspondence on this issue as though I was responsible for this situation. Yes, I tried, and succeeded, in keeping the public toilets at Ardrossan South Beach open for a while by way of an 11th hour amendment to the 2016/2017 budget; a budget set by the then SNP administration and supported by the then Labour opposition. I suggest that it is to them that any understandable criticism and hostility should be directed.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement.



John Hunter

Ellen McMaster, Scottish National Party (SNP)

I'm honoured to be standing in this local election as the Arran SNP candidate. I'm married to local farmer Jim McMaster, we have three sons and together we run a small farm in Shiskine.

I've been involved in local community activities for many years - helping fund-raise for the first Arran folk festival; chairing Shiskine PTA and School Council; lobbying successfully for the provision of a playing field at Shiskine primary and most recently organising the cross-party petition to enable Arran residents to have their voices heard in the ferry debate.

If elected I will work to deliver further community empowerment and participatory budgeting for the island; bringing decision making closer to Arran residents. I will promote the case for Arran to achieve ward status through the forthcoming SNP, Islands Bill to ensure that the island is always represented by an island-based councillor.

As an elected member of

Arran Homes, I represented the community for 10 years during which time more than 180 houses for social rent were built on the island.

After 12 years of being a carer I have first-hand experience of the delivery of social care and from working in retail and the hospitality sector over the years I have gained insight into the requirements and importance of small businesses to the Arran economy.

I am standing because I believe in getting the best deal for Arran, this means ensuring that we keep our local schools; that there is a commitment to providing adequate affordable housing and that Arran gets single ward status.



Ellen McMaster

Clare McGuire, Scottish Labour Party

I have to apologise for being unable to attend tonight as I have work commitments this evening which I am unable to get away from, but, if elected as your Labour councillor I make this pledge - Labour will build council houses on Arran. It was a Labour council which kick-started North Ayrshire Council's house building programme in 2011 and when we regained control last autumn, following the SNP administration's resignation, we increased it by 50 per cent. If re-elected Labour will increase it again - including new builds on Arran.

Arran is a tourism island and I am concerned that the toilets in Brodick are closed, largely because of the poor condition of them as a consequence of imposed austerity cuts.

In its new budget, Labour has created a £3m community investment fund and devolved it to local communities to spend on local

priorities. If elected I will work with groups on Arran to establish whether a new toilet block in Brodick is something that the island wants to pursue through this fund. We will obtain the best outcome we can within the resources available to us.

Arran is in so many ways the jewel in North Ayrshire's crown - and I am determined to ensure that it is treated as such if I am elected. I will work to ensure that North Ayrshire Council's business team continues to work with Arran businesses and the Arran Economic Group to keep growing the island's economy.



Claire McGuire

Colin Turbett, Scottish Socialist Party

I have invested almost half my life in this community - that's 29 years, and I care very much about it. My children grew up here and I worked on the island as a social worker for many years. I do think I understand the council and how it works, not just from my experience as an employee, but as a trade union representative for UNISON, representing workers and their issues with managers and directors in all the services over 40 years - so I certainly bring some experience of local government and how it works.

Although I do believe that Arran as an island should have its own single member representation on the council we are actually just now part of a multi-member ward including Ardrossan. I'm proud to say that I do have some understanding of Ardrossan's issues having worked there latterly as a children and family social work manager, deal-

ing mostly with child protection. I therefore have an understanding of poverty and its impact in the Three Towns. If there is one thing that characterises politics over recent years in this country it is the Tory Westminster Government's attack on the poor - with poverty and inequality reaching levels that are unprecedented in my lifetime and absolutely appalling in their scale.

I believe the council can act as a barrier to these Tory attacks, as well as a centre of resistance - and that's very much how I would see my role if elected.



Colin Turbett

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Lively debate at Arran hustings

Continued from page 1
meeting and said she was 'appalled' by the decision to close public toilets across the island. She said she had written to Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson but said he 'had washed his hands of it' saying it was a council matter.

The SNP's Ellen McMaster, who was the most confrontational, but also the best prepared candidate at the hustings, said the budget to close the toilets had been set last year. She said that since then village associations had been given 12 months to put an alternative in place so said there was no point in being reactive now.

She said, of the four toilets closed, no-one in the room would have gone near them with a barge poll. The candidate said she wanted to see a solution found and said that communication was the answer.

SSP candidate Colin Turbett disagreed. He said the

provision of public toilets, while not a statutory requirement, should be the responsibility of the council as, historically, it had always been and asked what would be next – the library? He said it was wrong to try and dump responsibility on to the community groups.

Conservative Timothy Billings from Lamlash said: 'The council has failed us.' He said Lamlash Improvements Association had looked at taking over the facility but ruled it out instead introducing a scheme allowing the public to use commercial facilities but this had recently had some 'challenges'.

He said: 'There needs to be a proper strategy and going forward the need for some more support for businesses providing facilities.'

The debate returned to the public toilets several times during the evening with one community councillor saying he had been to four pub-

lic toilets in Argyll in the past week which were clean and well looked after. 'The saving on closing the public toilets on Arran amounts to .01 per cent of the annual budget of North Ayrshire, if another nearly local authority can manage it why can't we?'

Another audience member warned: 'The health budget will have to pay in the end.'

Attempts to introduce national issues to the debate – including indyref 2 by the SNP supporters and the so called tax credit 'rape clause' – led to comments that there was a 'large elephant in the room', but there seemed little appetite among the audience to discuss national issues.

Indeed it led to one quip from the audience: 'We seem to have departed from the main issue of the toilets.'

Earlier a question had been raised from an audience member about what

would happen if Arran failed to return a representative from the island.

Mr Turbett said this was 'extremely unlikely' as Arran represented now 40 per cent of the ward vote and said the 'middle class' electorate would turn out in higher numbers than Ardrossan.

Mr Billings said the island had its voice heard, while Mrs McMaster said the best way to ensure island representation was to vote SNP since the proposed Islands Bill supported a single ward status for islands.

The other main issue raised on the night was on the issue of planning with one woman saying that she believed that too many decisions were taken by planning officials, including the controversial Holy Isle wind farm development and described there as being a 'democratic deficit' in the planning process.

Mr Turbett got a cheer from the audience when he said he did not just want to see a windfarm on Holy Isle. 'I want windfarms on Arran,' he said to applause.

Mr Billings said this matter was not about Nimbyism but looking at what was good for Arran as a whole.

Later a former councillor defended the North Ayrshire planning officials as being among the best in the country and was supported by Mrs McMaster who produced documents to back the claim.

There were also calls for any of the candidates elected to report in the *Banner* once a month what they had been involved in. Mr Billings and Mr Turbett both supported such a move with Mr Turbett adding the sensible caveat 'if it was permitted by the *Banner*.' Mrs McMaster was 'not against' having a column to improve transparency and accountability.

The final question of the meeting concerned Montrose House with a former employee expressing concern with claims that only 50 per cent of the staff were now resident on the island and other employees were bank staff and on zero hours contracts.

Mr Turbett said he shared the concerns and said he believed 'some of it was due to poor management'. Mr Billings said: 'What is important is the quality of care and service they are actually getting.' Mrs McMaster said that when she was a carer several years ago it was a 'nice, friendly place', but said she had no experience of it now.

Voting takes place on Thursday May 4 with the polling stations open from 7am to 10pm. Each of the candidates present read a statement to the meeting and two were read out by the chairman. They are reprinted on page six.



Ellen McMaster, SNP, speaks to the audience. 01a_B17hustings04

Full candidate list

The full list of the Ardrossan and Arran candidates are: Allison Gordon, No Referendum, Maintain Union, Pro-Brexit. Timothy Billings, Scottish Conservative and Unionist. Tony Gurney, Scottish National Party (SNP). John Hunter, Independent. Clare McGuire, Scottish Labour Party. Ellen McMaster, Scottish National Party (SNP). Colin Turbett, Independent Socialist Scotland.

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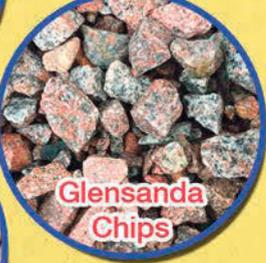
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Editorial

The power is in your hands

The talking is all but over – and now the power is in your hands.

With just days to go to the council elections, it is time to decide who you want to run services in North Ayrshire.

This may be a political decision following your chosen path locally and nationally but others may take a different view deciding local politics and national politics may not always go hand in hand.

There was justified concern at the hustings in Brodick Hall this week about what would happen if Arran was left without a resident councillor among the seven standing for the three places on the Ardrossan and Arran seat.

Arran makes up 40 per cent of the electorate and, because of the demographic, we are more likely to vote. That makes an island candidate highly likely, but only you can decide if any of three Arran candidates is your choice.

There may be voter fatigue given the number of times Scots have been to the ballot box recently for both referendums and election votes. But there is one thing that is in no doubt. Unless everyone goes down to the polling station on Thursday, no-one can complain at a lack council representation on Arran.

And, remember, it's a proportional representation vote so number your preferred candidates accordingly.

Thought for the week

Thought for the Week Jesus said: 'Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and other things will be given to you as well' (Matthew 6:33)

Missing gritters make road doubly dangerous

Sir,
The String Road, especially towards the summit, is probably the most dangerous stretch of road in snowy conditions on Arran.

Snow had been forecast, and that was the situation at 8.30am on March 21. The road surface was treacherous and extremely dangerous to vehicles. There was a line of vehicles stuck for an hour and a lorry had to deliberately steer into the verge to arrest an uncontrollable slide. In all of this, the gritter was conspicuous by its absence.

On January 12, in similar conditions at the same time of day, a car slid off the road and only a fence prevented it from overturning, a car slid into a bridge, a car had to steer into the verge to arrest an uncontrollable slide and a school bus full of children had to inch its way downhill. The gritter was conspicuous by its absence.

This scenario has occurred many times before. The gritter was conspicuous by its absence.

Having communicated my concerns to NAC roads department in Irvine, giving a full account of the perils inherent in this situation, the response is startling and alarming. Leaving the vehicles, including a bus full of schoolchildren, totally exposed to considerable danger on the road at this time of day is not what I would consider 'taking reasonable steps to keep traffic moving'. Make no mistake, this is a deliberate decision by NAC roads department not

to protect this route at this time.

As parents send their children to school, as motorists set off on this route, it is only reasonable to expect that the local authority would have some sense of responsibility for their safety. Apparently not!

Yours,
J Stewart,
Blackwaterfoot.

Priority must be to reduce ferry cancellations

Sir,
While welcoming the news that Peel Ports plan to make a significant investment to improve Ardrossan harbour, I agree with John Cruickshank, in his letter in last week's *Banner*, that the priority should be to ensure a reduction in ferry cancellations attributed to adverse weather conditions.

I have read that the cost of an extended breakwater to the south is considered prohibitive, but do not know if a reliable estimate of the length, situation and cost of such a structure has been obtained. Clearly there are wind strengths which prevent sailings from any port, but I hope I am not naïve in presuming that the Government report comparing the two harbour options will have included an analysis of the wind strengths and directions which led to cancellations at Ardrossan which could have been avoided by greater protection of the harbour entrance.

Dredging of the inner harbour may be another option which would allow greater manoeuvrability and more berthing options. A detailed survey of the harbour area may

be required, together with input from CalMac masters familiar with the harbour to decide if dredging could have a beneficial effect. In my view these options should be considered before embarking on cosmetic alterations to shore structures which function perfectly well at present.

Yours,
Iain Glen,
Blackwaterfoot.

Arran residents must work together

Sir,
I agree with Neil Arthur, in his letter to the *Banner* last week, that it can be hard to know who speaks for Arran.

As he said there are lots of groups tackling a range of issues and on the face of it they can appear unrepresentative yet claim to be the voice of Arran. However, these groups are tackling important issues and are formed by people who have a passion for the topics they are working on.

I strongly believe that people must continue to be encouraged to get together to fight for what they believe in, and to work on issues important to their communities. But to prevent these groups from appearing elitist and unrepresentative they need to be more open about how they work, what they aim to do and what they plan to achieve.

My election platform is based on a pledge that I will work to develop an inclusive and joined up approach to local government. Councillors are elected to represent the views of all of the people in their area, and make decisions based on a broad

range of views and opinions. An effective councillor takes account of all action and pressure groups, ensures that alternative opinions are considered, and develops a co-ordinated approach that really can claim to speak for Arran.

Yours,
Timothy Billings,
Conservative and
Unionist Candidate,
Ardrossan and Arran.

Thanks from a cyclist after accident

Sir,
On April 11 I came off my bike while descending the Bougillie.

While not badly hurt I was appreciative of all the motorists who stopped to offer assistance.

I would particularly like to thank Dr Hogg who kindly came to my aid and the taxi driver who transported me and my bike down to Lochranza surgery where my injuries were treated.

I look forward to returning for future cycling challenges on Arran.

Yours,
Sally Leslie,
Ayr.

Does everyone know flower show is gone?

Sir,
I am concerned that some regulars to the Ayr Flower Show may not be aware of the fact that this show is discontinued.

Over a period of many years the Arran Horticultural Society has run a coach to and from Ayr, and so many have enjoyed the trip.

We are, however, contin-

uing to run a coach to and from the Scottish Garden Show at Ingliston – this year on June 2. Coach tickets will be available during May at the Book and Card Centre in Brodick.

We are delighted that there were so many favourable comments from the general public following our spring show on March 25.

We ourselves felt that the standard of entries was very high, and as usual the schools/nurseries added so much to the display.

Yours,
John Sillars,
President,
Arran Horticultural
Society.

Closing island's public toilets makes no sense

Sir,
I am not privy to the amount of money North Ayrshire Council has available or whether or not it spends it wisely.

I'd imagine that depends on your priorities.

However, I would suggest that in a modern western economy where there is an area heavily dependant on tourism, including day trippers, not to have access to public toilets is utter nonsense.

What perhaps is an even greater nonsense is that VisitArran, VisitScotland, the local councillor, MSP and MP are not screaming from the rooftops and actively seeking funding to provide the facilities.

It seems that more and more politicians are so intent on keeping their jobs they are neglecting to do their jobs.

Yours,
Marc G Head,
Whiting Bay.

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Antenna planning permission bid

Planning permission has been lodged for a 15-metre telecommunications street mast at Whiting Bay.

The application for the antenna, which has a covering of glass-reinforced plastic, also includes three ground-based cabinets and ancillary equipment, and is proposed for the public footway near the car park and entrance to the Glenashdale Falls.

Pre-application discussions were held with the North Ayrshire Council's planning department.

However, owing to tight schedules, permission has been applied for prior to a site visit being undertaken.

One neighbour notification has been issued to Pleasantfield, Whiting Bay, which is the only neighbour within 20 metres of the site boundary.

RNLI coffee morning

The Arran branch of the RNLI is holding a coffee morning at the Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, today (Saturday) from 10.30am until 12.30pm.

There will be the traditional tea, coffee with home baking and a number of stalls, including a cake stall and tombola.

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea and relies entirely on funding from local communities. Visitors are encouraged to go along and support the organisation.

Bridge results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club summer bridge competition played at Lamlash on Monday April 24 were: 1 John Baraclough and Jim Peacock, 2 David Boag and Eendy McNiven, 3 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 4 John Dick and Gege Kroner.



An artist's impression of the new building which sits alongside the recently refurbished emergency department at the Ayr hospital.

Patients get sneak preview of new Ayr combined assessment unit

An open day for members of the public to have a sneak preview of the new combined assessment unit (CAU) at University Hospital Ayr is being held next weekend.

Visitors are welcome to drop in on Saturday May 6 anytime between 10am and noon. On the day, members of staff will be on hand to provide tours of the department and answer any questions. The tours will start from the entrance to the CAU, which is beside the emergency department at the Ayr hospital.

Built by NHS Ayrshire and Arran, the new unit will start admitting patients from Saturday May 20. Patients

on Arran will be referred to the new unit either by their family doctor or from the emergency department if clinically appropriate.

Liz Moore, director for acute services, said: 'The CAU has facilities to assess and treat patients so that only those who need further inpatient care are admitted to hospital. Other patients can receive treatment in the CAU and return safely to their own homes as soon as possible. This is a new way of working which will help to improve patient experience and reduce pressure on the rest of the hospital system.'

The CAU is a 24-hour unit with five rapid assess-

ment spaces, 12 ambulatory care spaces, two outpatient rooms, three initial assessment bays and 29 single en suite rooms to provide treatment, with most patients only staying in the unit up to a maximum of 48 hours.

Jack, six, sinks hole-in-one at Brunttsfield

A six-year-old, with family links to Arran, has become the youngest player to score a hole-in-one at Brunttsfield Links in Edinburgh, one of Scotland's oldest golf clubs.

The remarkable feat was achieved by Jack Dunn, who is the son of Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club members Jonathan and Kate Dunn, and grandson of Donald and Trish Turner. Jack's family have a long association with the Shiskine club as grandfather Donald, great-grandfather Ian Turner and great-great-grandfather Malcolm Henderson were club captains in 2008, 1957 and 1945 respectively.

The P2 Edinburgh Academy pupil has become the youngest player ever to



Hole-in-one for Jack Dunn.

toast a hole-in-one in the 256-year history of the Brunttsfield Links Golfing Society, the fourth oldest club in the world dating back to 1761. Jack holed the par three 134-yard seventh with his driver.

'It was fantastic,' he said. 'Hopefully, I will have many more.'

Dad Jonathan is also a Brunttsfield club member and Jack's four-year-old brother Angus also plays golf.

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Children in Ayrshire and Arran have been benefiting from improved oral health for more than a decade. The Childsmile Programme, which works to reduce inequalities in oral health and ensure every child has access to dental services, has just celebrated its 10th birthday.

And data from the past 10 years shows that there have been considerable improvements in the health of our children's teeth.

Emma Hall-Scullin, consultant in dental public health, said: 'In 2005, just over 47 per cent of five-year-olds in Ayrshire and Arran had no obvious decay in their first teeth. In 2016, this figure had increased to 73 per cent.'

If you would like more information, please visit www.child-smile.org or phone 01292 513 998.

Arran Brewery takes on big boys and wins

Arran Brewery continues to win awards with its ale called Arran Blonde taking the bronze medal in the SIBA Scottish Craft Keg Competition.

This has been a very successful start to the year for Arran Brewery. Its Arran Dark is the current CAMRA Scottish champion mild title holder and its sister version in craft keg being the SIBA UK Champion mild.

The rise in craft keg has been quite remarkable when you consider keg beer has for generations been the domain of the big brewers. With the rise in craft breweries, such as Arran, the trend has been

to better the large multinational breweries in every category, including keg.

Arran Brewery managing director Gerald Michaluk said: 'While the large brewers can "buy loyalty" through tied loans and pub estates, we have to secure accounts through the quality of our award-winning beers.

'We are at a price disadvantage because of the big brewers' economies of scale and their immense marketing budgets to convince consumers that their "crafty beers" are special. We, on the other hand, are using only all-natural ingredients, whole hops – not pellets or syr-

ups or essence – and, of course, making our beer on an island means we cannot compete on price. So we can only compete on flavour and taste. We hope this alone will convince the beer-drinking public to spend a few extra pence on our beer and the savvy publican and retailer to stock Arran beers.

'By frequenting the pubs and off-sales that are also about quality and not sim-

ply turning a quick short-term profit by selling "crafty beer" rather than true craft beer from a certified independent brewer, the consumer is supporting local businesses and the local economy.

'We employ as many people in our brewery as some of the very large fully automated breweries producing millions of litters of beer so by supporting local craft beer,

produced by independent brewery, you are creating jobs and wealth locally, not to mention enjoying a unique, flavoursome brew.

'The team at Arran Brewery are dedicated to having the right beers and the best beers money can buy and I congratulate them all for their hard work and dedication that allows the brewery to remain at the very top of the UK and Scottish craft brewing scene.'



Gwen calls it a day at brewery

Gwen Billson, Arran Brewery's longest-serving saleswoman, has reluctantly retired due to ill health.

Gwen is pictured next to the one of the brewer's newest recruits, Russell Muir, who is head of retail operations. Also in the photograph are managing director Gerald Michaluk, Veronica Michaluk, logistics manager, and legal adviser Malcolm Michaluk.

Gerald Michaluk said: 'We will be sorry to see Gwen go. She has been very good at

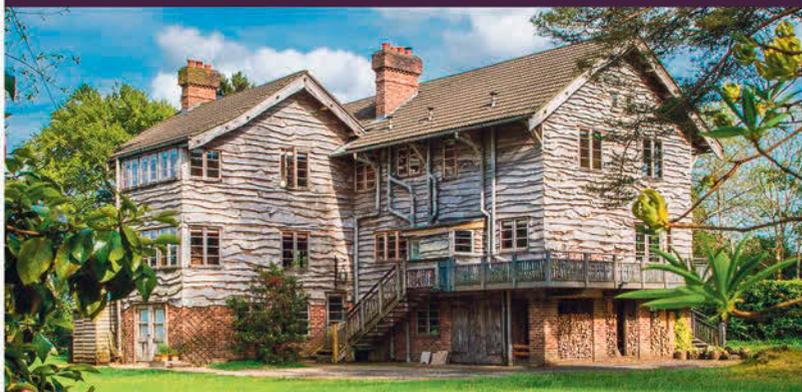
her job and will be missed by both Arran staff and her customers, who I think she really worked for, making sure they got the best deals possible.

'She will become an honorary Arran Brewery ambassador and we wish her well in her retirement and hope her health improves.'

Arran Brewery will be looking to replace Gwen and has vacancies for a further three sales representatives both full- and part-time.

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Runners put their best foot forward at Ormidale 10K

There was a healthy entry this year for the Isle of Arran Ormidale 10K on Sunday.

The first official Scottish 10-kilometre race of the season saw runners from Arran joined by competitors from a number of Ayrshire running clubs and from as far afield as Manchester. A field of 59 entrants raced the scenic and flat route from the Ormidale Sports Pavilion to Merkland Point and back in conditions which were perfect for running, dry and bright but not too warm.

The race was sponsored by the Ormidale Hotel and Arranshand Business Development Services which, along with the invaluable help of Paul Emsley and a host of marshals, ensured that the race went off without a hitch.

At a small prize giving presentation directly after the race the overall victors, the winners of the various age categories, the first local male and female and local novice, received shields along with Arran beer as prizes.

In an exciting finish, previous winner Billy Richardson was narrowly beaten to first place by Irvine Running Club team mate Steve Daye by a margin of 38 seconds.

The first male local runner Dave Black,

who came in fifth place, was delighted to also receive a first place shield for his age group. His Arran Runners team mate Mike Mellor, who came in 14th overall and who was the second local, achieved a personal best with his time of 42m 50s which he completed in his lunch break before returning to work to wave off the visiting runners leaving on the ferry.

The first female to complete the race was Elaine Eadie of Kilbarchan AAC in a time of 41m 05s, followed by Garscube Harriers' Alison Wood in 45m 14s. The first local woman over the line was Fiona Clarke who came in with a time of 47m 37s.

The other Arran runners who completed the race were: 18th George Doubleday, RunArran 46.40; 20th Fiona Clarke 47.37; 21st Donald Roberts 47.39; 22nd Greg Paterson 47.41; 28th Darren Townsend 49.26; 33rd Kay Boal 53.15; 36th Colin Ribbeck 54.32; 37th Niall Hume 54.32; 39th Liam McNeaney 56.16; 42nd Aimee Blair 57.52; 43rd Jan Emsley, Arran Runners 58.56; 44th Hugh Boag, RunArran 59.02; 48th Maureen Laya 1.02.22; 51st Laura Helliwell 1.03.27; 56th Michael Jackson 1.06.19; 57th Karen Adams 1.10.40.



Mike Mellor, Jan Emsley and David Black representing Arran Runners pose for a team photograph. 01_B1710K01

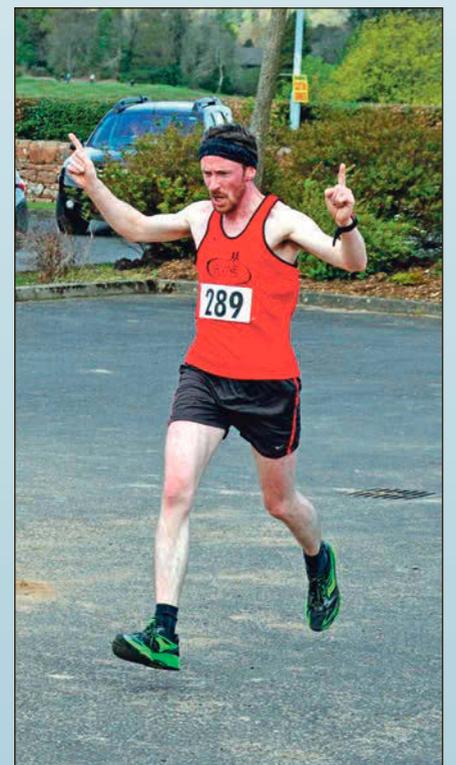


Kaye Boal from Arran heading out of Knowe Road.

01_B1710k22



Local runner Dave Black finished in fifth overall and first in his age group. 01_B1710k07



Steve Daye of the Irvine Running Club crosses the line in first place.

01_B1710k04



Runners emerge from the Knowe Road which helps to make up the 10K route. 01_B1710k03



Resident Greg Paterson receives his trophy for the best time as an Ormidale race novice. 01_B1710k19



Arran runner Mike Mellor completes the race during his lunch break. 01_B1710k10



First and second place runners; Steve Daye and Billy Richardson with the top team-of-three trophy. Not pictured is John Miller. 01_B1710k18



A long line of runners head out of Knowe Road. 01_B1710k21



And they are off. Runners set off at



Tommy Gilmore and Scott Clark record the results while Janet Shand hands out the medals. 01_B1710k15



Winning female Elaine Eadie of Kilbarchan AAC approaches the finish line. 01_B1710k09



Second female to cross the finish line is Alison Wood of Garscube Harriers. 01_B1710k11



Sponsor Derek Shand presents David Black with a trophy for first in his age category. 01_B1710k16

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the Ormidale 10K



noon as the whistle blows. 01_B1710k02



Winner Steve Daye receives his trophy from Tommy Gilmore. 01_B1710k25



Niall Hume and Colin Ribbeck race each other to see who crosses the line first. 01_B1710k12



Runners leave Ormidale Park. 01_B1710k20



Local marathon runner Michael Jackson receives applause from the crowd as he crosses the finish line. 01_B1710k14



Billy Richardson of the Irvine Running Club comes in second place, 38 seconds behind the leader. 01_B1710k05



Paul Forbes came in first in his age group and seventh overall. 01_B1710k08



Calum Oates crosses the finish line in third place. 01_B1710k06



A dog proudly wears his owner's 10K medal. 01_B1710k23



Banner news editor Hugh Boag finishes the race with a sub one hour time. 01_B1710k24



Kaye Boal from Arran receives a trophy from Derek Shand for her performance in the 10K race. 01_B1710k17



What's On.....

Castle Time Travellers - Sat 29th & Sun 30th April 11am & 2pm
A family tour through the times of the Castle – dressing-up optional! Stout footwear advised – Please book at Reception **Adults & children Free with Garden Entry**

Brodick Castle from the Outside - Sat 29th, Sun 30th – 12, 1 & 3pm
Thurs 4th & Fri 5th May - 11am, 12, 1, 2 & 3pm
A guided historical tour of the exterior of the Castle – stout footwear advised. Please book at Reception on arrival **Adults Free with Garden Entry**

Garden Guided Walk Sun 30th April 12 – 2pm
Join the First Gardener for a tour of our amazing Gardens
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WHAT'S ON

Everyday

Trout fly fishing Loch Garbad, bank fishing 9am-dusk
 Brodick Castle, garden open Arran High School children 6.30-7.30pm, adults 7.30-8.30pm
 Arran Brewery Mon, Wed, Sat 10-5pm, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sun 12.30-5pm
 Soap making and candle dipping Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am - 4pm
 Arran Heritage Museum, Rosaburn, Brodick Daily 10.30am to 4.30pm

Saturday 29th April

Army Cadets Auchrannie Road 11am -1 pm
 Over 21s disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Family games Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie spa pool, 4-5pm
 Arran Vets surgery 9.30am - 11am
 Arran Vets reception 9.30am - noon
 Blackwaterfoot bowls Bowling Club, 2pm
 Brodick Bowling Club - OPEN DAY Brodick Bowling Green 2pm
 Live music - Arran Ceilidh Band Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm - 10pm
 RNLI Coffee morning Ormidale pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am - 12.30pm
 Women in Black Coastal way start opposite the Douglas hotel, Brodick, 1pm
 Live Music - Alan Frew The Douglas, Brodick, 9pm
 Live Music - George Lindsay Blues Band The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm - 11.30pm

Sunday 30th April

Family games Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie spa pool, 4pm-5pm
 Open acoustic session at Fiddlers' Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm - 5pm
 AA meeting Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
 Live music - George Lindsay Blues Band The PHT, Lamlash, 3pm - 5.30pm

Monday 1st May

Over 50s badminton Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Morning fitness Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Badminton Auchrannie sports hall, 7-9pm
 Arran Vets surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
 Arran Vets reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
 Arran Junior Football Club Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Circuit training Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm
 Lamlash Aerobix Arran High School dance studio, 6.30pm
 Tae Kwondo Brodick Church Hall adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 Summer bridge tournament Arran high School, 6.30pm - visitors welcome
 Arran Citizen's Advice Bureau Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
 Adult tennis Shiskine golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm
 Brodick Bowling Club rink game Brodick Bowling Green 6.45pm
 Live music - Mike Bailey Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm - 10pm

Tuesday 2nd May

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

Wednesday 3rd May

Rock an pop bingo Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Tae Kwondo Arran High School children 6.30-7.30pm, adults 7.30-8.30pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Arran Brass rehearsal Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Arran Vets surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
 Arran Vets reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
 Yoga Auchrannie studio, 9.30am-10.30am
 Hydrofit Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service 10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30
 Mixed ability run (Arran run coach) Dunfion Carpark, 5.30pm
 Yoga-Arran Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Mixed hockey Auchrannie sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
 Dog classes Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
 Flow yoga Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm
 Knittnerly and Nattery Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm
 Quiz night The PHT, 8.30pm
 Bus pass club meal Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am - noon
 Chair yoga St Molios Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
 Burger and quiz night Brodick Bowling Green 6.45pm
 Brodick Bowling Club rink game Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm - 10pm
 Live music - Folk Like Us Lamlash church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon
 Coffee morning Brodick church hall, 10.30am - 12noon
 Coffee morning Lamlash fire station, 2pm - 4pm
 Parkinson support group

Thursday 4th May

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

Friday 5th May

Yoga Auchrannie spa leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Hydrofit Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 Arran Youth Foundations Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Lochranza children's badminton Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza adults' badminton Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Arran Vets Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
 Arran Vets Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
 AA meeting Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Tae Kwondo Arran High School, Lamlash adults, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Live music Coast, Whiting Bay, 8pm
 Quilt show Lamlash Church Hall, 10.30am - 4.30pm



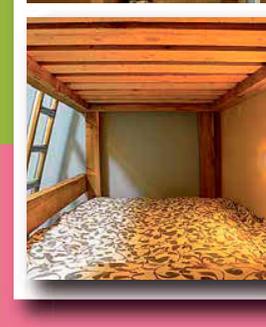
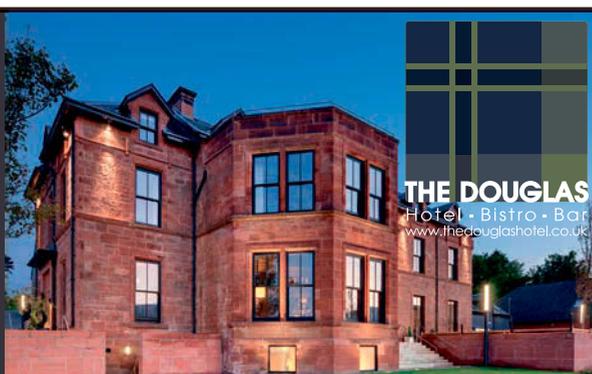
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Phil's painting is people's choice

Another successful exhibition was held by Arran Visual Arts in the Arran community theatre in Lam-lash with nearly 140 exhibits. Over the six days, 483 people visited the exhibition and more than 20 pieces of work were sold.

A total of 380 votes were cast for the people's choice,

the visitors' favourite exhibit and the results were: first place with 28 votes Phil Holmes 'Goatfell'; second place with 26 votes was Janelle Paton's 'Harambe'; third place also went to Janelle Paton for her evocative 'Homeless' with 23 votes and fourth place with

20 votes was Patsy Keen's 'Horse'.

In joint fifth place were Morag Campbell's amusing 'West Highland Banner' and John Earle's fascinating lesson in perspective, 'Room with a view', both with 17 votes. John Earle scored again taking seventh place with his 'Brodick shops' with 16 votes. It had people walking around in front of it to make the shops move.

Joint eighth place went to Sally Brookes for her 'Lobsters' and Yvonne Bailley for her 'Sea Horses' both receiving 13 votes. In 10th place was Janelle again with her 'Despair' with 12 votes.

A prize is given to the

artist in first place which was Phil Holmes, but special mention was made of Janelle Paton, who was exhibiting for the first time with AVA and gained 63 votes over all.

Jan MacGregor of the AVA said: 'Thank you to all of you who voted as it gives tangible encouragement to artists. And of course thank you to all the artists for their amazing work. Keep at it up, as our summer exhibition is at the end of July in Lochranza.'

Workshop information is on the AVA web-site www.arranvisualarts.co.uk, but there are only few places left as the choice of subject and tutors have been extremely popular this year.



A steady stream of visitors attended the Easter exhibition at the Arran community theatre. 01_B16AVA02



Five-year-old Beatrice Bennison creates a bright pink artwork. 01_B16AVA03



Visitors from York Connor and Ciara Galvin enjoy the arts workshop to create a bunny town in clay. 01_B16AVA01

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A tribute to Ricky MacDonald – 3 May 1945 to 19 March 2017

Ricky was one in million

Richard Celestine MacDonald was born in Kingussie, Invernesshire, to Paul and Ellen MacDonald on 3 May 1945.

Paul arrived in Kingussie during the war from Newfoundland as a lumber man and Ellen worked in an ammunition factory.

At the age of three, Ricky was taken to Newfoundland with his parents, where Paul built a home for them. After four years they returned to Scotland, settling in Leith, where his sister Moyra and brother Ian were born.

As a young boy Ricky had several delivery jobs cycling round Edinburgh, which gave him a taste of freedom he so richly enjoyed. All his earnings were given straight to his mother to be added to the family funds, he never

thought twice about keeping any for himself.

Ricky went on to attend Leith Academy where he made lifelong friends.

He became involved in the local amateur boxing club and one of his claims to fame was fighting Ken Buchanan in his younger years. He then went on to become involved in the local youth club, run by Hugh Boag, where a close friendship was formed. This took him on lots of adventures far and wide, learning lots of life skills, another important part of life that has made him the man he was to become.

Being handy with his hands he did a joinery apprenticeship which stood him in good stead, throughout his lifetime. His love of books took him on to pastures new



Ricky MacDonald with his beloved guitar.

them about nature, to studying the sky at night with its moon and stars.

Having travelled abroad he encouraged his children to do the same and all three have taken flight for several months at a time, enjoying many parts of the world, keeping in touch about their travels almost to the extent that Ricky felt he was part of it. This encouraged Ricky and he made a pilgrimage back to Newfoundland with four close Arran friends.

Ricky's working life on Arran was spent fencing and working with the forestry, planting and caring for trees. On occasions his contracts would take him to the mainland. His good humour and banter was enjoyed by all his workmates and many a good friend was made. Ricky was a social animal and loved nothing more than to frequent the pub. There was something very special about him that drew people to him and he was loved by so many.

He was a mine of information so could hold a conversation with the best of them. His love of music saw him enjoy many a musical session and late night at his local.

Ricky loved his golf and was keen for his children to play, taking them to Corrie golf course before heading to play darts and pool, along with a jamming session at the local hotel.

Much quality time was spent on Sundays with buddies on the golf course.

Around the turn of the century the north end crew put together a rock and roll band and for several years he played bass with them.

The News Band (The North End Wrinklies and Simon) was fame at last. Their gigs were legendary on Arran. They even played on the mainland at Linsey's 30th and Jess and Jamie's wedding dance in Glasgow. Both nights to remember and loved by all who attended.

In 2011 after attending his daughter's engagement party he was rushed to hospital with a heart attack, where his kidney problem presented itself and he dialysed four times a day without fail. He

never let it get him down and continued with life at a slower pace.

He watched his family grow and was so pleased to know Linsey had settled in Edinburgh, his home town. He and Diane then become proud grandparents to Jess and Jamie's two children, enjoying their visits. Ricky's last joy was watching his son Fraser, with girlfriend Shona, embark on building their own home in Kildonan.

Diane has been by his side through thick and thin, and over the last few years the family home has been run as a B&B. Ricky took great delight in being able to help out with jobs around the place and always had a log pile cut and stacked. He loved his home.

His workshed was his bolt hole, with a stove and reclining chair. Many hours were spent tinkering away on his Harley and restoring an old boat, while having the occasional snooze. Visitors and friends would pop up to see him and check out his Aladdin's Cave.

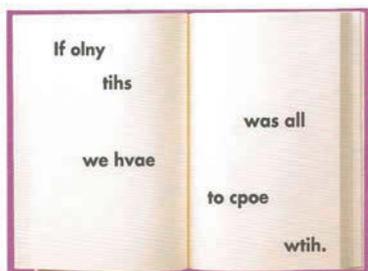
Ricky lived his life to the full, savouring every minute and was one in a million. Money didn't matter to him. Friendship and family loyalties were more important than anything else in his life. He never criticised or got annoyed or angry, because he had no expectations, so no-one ever disappointed him.

He was never in a hurry and drove so slowly – so he could smell the flowers! He was kind to everyone, strangers included, giving so generously of his time and always left people with a smile on their faces. Everyone has a Ricky story. He died peacefully in Crosshouse Hospital with his family by his side; he was 71. His funeral service was attended by so many, a real tribute to him.

The family intend having a celebration of his amazing life in the garden at Clisham on Saturday May 6 from 7-11pm with Ricky's last wish being granted in style.

All welcome. Please BYOB, a plate of finger food and instruments for a jamming session. **DM**

Dyslexia Scotland Roadshow Isle of Arran, 17 – 18 May



Questions about dyslexia?

Dyslexia Scotland is visiting Arran to provide information and advice about dyslexia.

Wednesday 17 May - we will be at **Arran High School, Lamlash**, from 2pm - 7pm.

Thursday 18 May - we will be at **Glen Cloy Suite, Auchrannie Resort, Brodick**, from 10am - 2pm. There will be a **free talk** on 'What is dyslexia?' at midday.

Everyone welcome – drop in any time on either day

For more information email lena@dyslexiascotland.org.uk

National Helpline: 0344 800 84 84

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and he ended up working for Robert Maxwell, moving on to manage two of James Thin's bookshops in Edinburgh.

After being made redundant, he went back to joinery, working in Dumfries, where in the December of 1971 he met Diane.

Love blossomed immediately and six months later the two of them packed their bags and headed off on an adventure of a lifetime with Morocco in mind. But plans went astray and they ended up in the Canary Islands spending the next six weeks camping and living off the land.

On returning to Scotland, with six shillings in their pockets, Arran beckoned. On arriving off the Arran ferry, Ricky was spotted by an old friend who was heading to the mainland. He was handed the keys of their home in Pirmill, the keys to their car and a phone number for a job and told to make himself comfortable.

And so the start of the next 45 years of Ricky and Diane's life in Pirmill began, raising three beautiful children – Jess, Linsey and Fraser.

Ricky was extremely proud of his brood, teaching his children to appreciate all around them, from taking them fishing, to teaching

Getting to the bottom of the strange white birds

Over the winter, various people in Blackwaterfoot area contacted me about 'strange white birds' coming to their garden feeders.

It reminded me of the contacts that I had during the first week in August last year when there was reports of a 'white' house martin at the north end of Whiting Bay.

With the latest encounters, usually it was one bird in the garden but occasionally two, one smaller than the other. With the help of the home owners I was able to get photographs one of the 'strange white birds'. It was with house sparrows and the non-white feathers were house sparrow feathers – it was a house sparrow with white patches. From the description of the smaller one, I suspect it was a blue tit with white patches.

Birds like this are said to be leucistic. They are not a separate species just individual birds with this condition.

From the selection of images with this article, sometimes the condition makes the plumage entirely white and sometimes there are varying sizes of patches of white. It is thought to happen when the plumage lacks melanin pigment due to the cells responsible for making melanin being absent. This results in white

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels



An all white leucistic swallow.

feathers, unless the normal plumage colour also comprises carotenoids (eg. yellows), which remain unaffected by the condition.

The reduction of pigment in leucistic birds causes feathers to weaken and be more prone to wear. In some situations this can hinder flight, which, in addition to leucistic birds usually being more conspicuous, can heighten risk of predation. There is also evidence that leucistic birds might, on occasion,

not be recognised or accepted by a potential mate.

Albinism also results in white feathers but true albinos are thought to be rare in the wild. Albinism is caused by a genetic mutation. An albino individual is unable to produce any melanin pigments. This leads to a good diagnostic feature with which to distinguish leucistic and albino individuals – the colour of the eye. Albinos have pink eyes while the iris pigmentation of leucistic birds remains dark.

There is more information on the British Trust for Ornithology website at www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw/gardens-wildlife/garden-birds/behaviour/plumage/leucism

The link also includes a simple on-line survey that you should complete if you have seen a bird with this type of unusual plumage.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012, as well as the Arran Bird Report 2016 and visit this website – www.arranbirding.co.uk



A leucistic oystercatcher which is almost entirely white.



Left: This leucistic robin still has a red breast; above, the white head of a leucistic blackbird.

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Charlie and Ruaridh hard at work on their design.

Lamlash pair rise to engineering challenge

As part of the Glasgow Science Festival, Arran High School hosted a primary engineering K'NEX challenge last week.

The contest gives pupils a chance to demonstrate their creative design skills by solving engineering challenges using the construction set K'NEX. Teams must use their communication, design and problem-solving skills in order to progress and become the creating engineers champions.

The cluster winners were Charlie Ross and Ruaridh



The winning team with their certificate.

Lindsay-Smith from Lamlash Primary, who will now go on to represent Arran at the Ayrshire final and have the chance to progress to the Scottish final in Glasgow on June 9.

Initiative fights new scam mail

Victims of scam mail on Arran will welcome a major initiative Royal Mail has launched to help consumers.

Scam mail involves professional fraudsters sending often convincing letters designed to trick people out of money or other valuables.

Scam mail can include bogus competitions and fake prize draws encouraging people to buy products to qualify for prizes that don't exist.

Last November, Royal

Mail launched an industry-wide code of practice in conjunction with National Trading Standards, to crack down on scam mail. Since then, Royal Mail – supported by Trading Standards – has stopped more than 700,000 scam items from reaching its customers.

Royal Mail has also started to contact households it believes are receiving high volumes of scam mail. The latest anti-scam initiative will initially focus on the

most-impacted customers.

Under the scheme, Royal Mail will block and impound suspected scam mail at its distribution centres before it reaches the customers' letterboxes. Legitimate business and personal mail will continue to be delivered to customers as normal.

Impacted customers will be able to contact a dedicated Royal Mail helpline at 0800 085 8003, for information if they have any concerns. They can also arrange

a home visit from Royal Mail staff.

Royal Mail is also relying on communities to play a role in defeating the scammers by supporting Friends Against Scams, a Trading Standards initiative to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams by empowering communities to take a stand. The organisation provides helpful guidance and advice on their website at www.friend-sagainstscams.org.uk.



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Three of a kind

Lamlash Primary had three representatives at the Scottish Primaries Cross-Country Championships on Saturday April 22 at Kirkcaldy High School.

Oscar Inglis, Ruaridh Lindsay-Smith and Connah Wright were among more than 300 entrants in each age category. The event was a fantastic experience for the youngsters.

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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday May 3, 1997

Too long to wait

Waiting eight years to have proper sewage treatment at Brodick is not good enough.

That was the view of several members of the public who attended the community council meeting on Tuesday.

They were there because Martin Brown of West of Scotland Water was visiting to speak at the meeting.

Mr Brown explained that in cleaning up the waters in the Clyde they had to tackle the most urgent problems first. This will be to end the days of the sludge boat, the Shieldhall, which dumps Glasgow sewage at Garroch head off Bute, less than 10 miles from Arran. Priority will be given to areas with larger populations and those further up the estuary before Arran.

With its smaller population and being closer to the open sea, Arran will not be getting its sewage treatment plants until the deadline of 2005.

Goats' cheese ends

The Island Cheese Company while doing well sees great difficulty in carrying on making goats' milk cheese.

They can continue to make it but only by buying in frozen goats' milk.

Until last autumn they had a local supply from Jackie Scutt at Largiemeanoch who kept around 10 Sannen goats which produced enough to keep Ian McChlery's goat cheese going.

But now he has stopped keeping goats and Ian cannot find any more on the island. When he started making goats' milk cheese almost all of it was sold to wholesalers. So popular has it now become that he sells all he makes through his shop at the Home Farm.



Married last Saturday in Whiting Bay Church were Nikki Walker of Lamlash and Andrew Surridge of the Lake District. The couple, who are on honeymoon in Turkey, live in Whiting Bay. B17twe05

Deer signs

There have been at least four road accidents this year alone involving red deer. One of these was on the Lamlash Hill and the others on the Bouguillie.

This was raised at the community council on Tuesday with the suggestion that warning signs should be put up for motorists. Four signs on the Bouguillie were suggested and two on Lamlash Hill.

It is also understood that North Ayrshire Council is to lobby the Scottish Office for assistance to upgrade Arran's roads to accommodate the increased use they will get as timber extraction increases on the island.



Sixth year pupils and members of the understanding industry course at Arran High School received certificates from the organisers for completing the course. B17twe04



The victorious Brodick team who won the 1997 Kiscadale Salver were left to right: Isobel MacDonald, Barbara Hendry, Elizabeth McKellar, Jan Beattie and Linda Johnston. B17twe02



Peggy Mann who runs the new factory shop selling Arran Aromatics products stands atop the gallery which overlooks the selling area and the factory floor. B17twe01



Last Sunday saw the running of the fifth Arran Allcomers Triathlon with 38 entrants attempting the 750-metre swim, 20-kilometre cycle and five-kilometre run. The first local male was Richard Lane and first female was Marion Logan. B17twe03

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Childs pine bed 5ft x 2 1/4 ft, good condition with duvet and mattress £35 Tel: 303998 buyer collects

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Closing date 5th May 2017

Contact the Brodick Depot on 01770 302000 for an application form.

or write to:

Guy Bodie, Stagecoach West Scotland, The Pier, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8UA.

email : guy.bodie@stagecoachbus

Public Notices

Arran Music Festival Association

AGM

Monday 8th May at 7.30pm

at Arran Mountain Rescue Base, Cladach

All welcome

HOUSEKEEPER REQUIRED

For a family holiday property in Lamlash
The house is used only by friends and family. The job would suit someone who is willing to take on irregular, occasional work throughout the year.

Please contact me for more details if interested: **07736 670940**

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Saturday changeover Brodick

We need a reliable person for Saturday changeover for a four bedroom holiday let from May 20th to end of September or later.

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Eco Savvy Re-use Micro-Hub Managers

8 vacancies

Kildonan, Kilmory, Shiskine/Blackwaterfoot, Pirmill, Lochranza,
Corrie/Sannox, Brodick & Lamlash

Eco-Savvy is an environmental charity on the Isle of Arran, working towards making Arran a greener and more sustainable island. The charity has been awarded a grant by the Climate Change Fund and the European Regional Development Fund to establish eight micro-hubs, so creating an island wide network of reuse and upcycling sites.

We are now seeking enthusiastic motivated people with a good knowledge of their local community to manage these hubs.

You will need good communication and organisational skills, be IT literate, with an understanding of spreadsheets & word documents. Social media skills would also be helpful but not essential.

Your objectives will be to motivate your community & gather supporting volunteers.

The job is a fixed term contract for 10 months working 8 hours per week (may include some weekend and evening work). The pay rate is £11.50 per hour.

To apply please send a CV and covering letter to arran.ecosavvy@gmail.com or post to Eco Savvy Community Shop, Shore Road, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran. KA27 8PR.

Applications close 5pm Wednesday 10th May. Interviews will be in mid May with a start date of early June.

These positions are funded through the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund and the European Regional Development Fund.

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 30th April
11am Holy Communion.
Mrs Janis Gallagher.
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

There will be Taizé worship on **Thursday 4th May** at 3.30 pm, in St Molios' Church, Shiskine.
ALL WELCOME

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 30th April
Lochranza Church, 9.30am
Morning Worship
Pirmill Church, 10.15am
Morning Worship
Shiskine Church, 12noon
Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am
Morning Worship
Corrie Church, 11.30am
Prayer Meeting,
12noon Morning Worship
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 30th April
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service and everyone is invited to stay and enjoy more fellowship afterwards.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 30th April
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6-30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 30th April
Kilmory 10 am
Rev. Lily McKinnon
Lamlash 11.30 am
Praise Service
The Kirk Session
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 30th April
Sunday Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 30th April
Service 11am
Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and coffee after the service
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.
Contact phone no 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 6pm
BACK IN THE CHURCH
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg
RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FREINDS, QUAKERS
Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring - 830622, 820223

Brodick lose out to Carradale

Brodick 1
Carradale 4

Brodick FC warmed up for the new season with a friendly against Carradale AFC at Ormidale Park on Saturday.

The island's 2016 champions have been keeping the players' feet in this winter playing seven-a-side, but they were no match for the West of Scotland Amateur Football League side. They put up a brave fight despite going down 4-1.

A Carradale spokesman said: 'It was quite a bruising game with tough tackles but great sportsmanship. We want to thank the Brodick club for their hospitality at the Ormidale hotel and hope to see them in Kintyre in late July or August.'



Adam McNicol on the attack for Brodick.



Brodick and Carradale line up together before the friendly. 01_A17brodick01



Babbies MacNeil goes in for a crunching tackle. 01_A17brodick02

Ready for feast of football as Arran season gets under way

The 2017 Arran football season will kick off in traditional style with the start of the Armitage Haulage Cup on Monday night (May 1).

The football association are grateful to Struan and Rachel Armitage, who last year took over Arran Haulage, that they have embraced the opportunity to continue sponsoring the first trophy of the year.

As a result, the opening game will be held at the Arran High School playing field with the preliminary match between Lamlash and last year's finalist's Shiskine. Kick off 6.30pm.

The winner of this playoff will earn a home tie against Northend while the defending champions, Southend, will meet old rivals Brodick in the other semi-final at Sandbraes park.

These games will be played on Monday May 8. Then the final will be

played on Saturday May 13 with the venue still to be confirmed.

The following Monday will see the start of the league, which is sponsored by Arran Dairies. This year will see champions Brodick vying for their fourth league championship in a row and another chance to lift the Arran Dairies Shield.

The league fixtures have already been put on the football association Facebook page and will be printed in the *Banner* before the start of the season.

The knockout cup, which is played for at the end of the season, is lacking sponsorship at the moment.

The association would be very grateful if any local businesses would like the chance to put forward a trophy and sponsor the competition.

The association say it is a great advertising oppor-

tunity for a business to get their name spread across the island. Anyone interested should please contact Danny Head or another member of the football committee.

There have been a couple of noticeable changes in the format this year, mainly based on attempting to encourage more youngsters to play.

Amateur football in Scotland has had five substitutes instead of three for a couple of years now so Arran is following suit this year to get more people game time. The minimum age has gone down to pupils going into S3 at the high school this summer as well.

Referees fees have gone up to £25 and we are always grateful to people willing to take on the job.

Hopefully, 2017 will be an exciting season of football with plenty of players and spectators alike.

Brodick lift Kiscadale Salver in close contest

Arran Ladies Golf Union

The Kiscadale Salver is a keenly-contested inter-club matchplay competition played off scratch as a round robin and this year it was played in Shiskine with teams from Brodick, Machrie, Lamlash and Shiskine.

On Tuesday April 18, a dry but cold evening, Machrie played Shiskine. They won one game each giving each team two points. Brodick made a strong start against Lamlash winning both matches for four points.

On Thursday April 20, another dry but brighter evening, Brodick played well against Machrie and gained a further four points while Shiskine also won four points beating Lamlash in both matches.

The sun shone on the final day, Saturday April 22, when Machrie, the most improved team of the competition, put on a very strong performance against Lamlash to win four points bringing their total to six points. Brodick, the strongest team, were beaten in one of their matches by Shiskine keeping their lead to two points.

The Kiscadale Salver winner was Brodick with 10 points, runner up was Shiskine with eight points. The ALGU Trophies for 2016/17 were as follows; Flockhart Trophy, Brenda Livingstone; Cir Mhor Trophy, Liz Kerr; Island Championship, Kema Glenda; runner up, Susan Butchard; Drumadoon Tray, Susan Butchard.

The ALGU thanked Stuart and the greens staff for the excellent condition of the course, Alan Dunlop for the

welcome hot food after playing on the cold evenings, Dougie in the pro shop and to all the spectators who came along to support this great competition which was played throughout in wonderful sporting spirit.

Fixture: Saturday May 6, Flockhart Trophy at Whiting Bay at 12.30pm. Monday May 15, ADM Shiskine at 7.30pm.



Jamie MacPherson receives his prize from Whiting Bay captain Wolfi Kroner at the Captain's Drive Day and prize.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday April 20, Summer Cup, CSS 64, Par 64. 1 Andy Smith 77-15=62 BIH over, 2 Serge El Adm 80-18=62, 3 John O'Sullivan 82-18=64 BIH over, 4 Scott Campbell 78-14=64. Scratch D MacFarlane 66. Magic twos A Wales @16th, Alan Smith @16th, I Bremner @13th, J O'Sullivan @16th, W Currie @16th.

Sunday April 23, Drift Inn Quaich, Stableford, CSS 66, Par 64, 34pts to Stableford.

1 Allan Winship 35pts, 2 Andrew Wales 33 pts BIH, 3 Mark Wren 33pts. Best scratch A Wales 26pts. Mag-

ic twos A Wales and Lee Dutton, both @16th.

Fixtures: Sunday April 30, Hastings Cup, first game, 8.30am to 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday May 4, Summer Cup. Make up own games, see starter for times.

Ladies Section: Wednesday April 19, Stroke 1, CSS 67, seven played. 1 Kate McAdam 88-18=70, 2 June Richardson 96-25=71. Scratch, Kate McAdam 88.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday April 19, Summer Trophy round 3. Worsening afternoon weather meant the early players had the better conditions for the third round of the 2017 Summer Trophy.

A healthy field of 19 played and Douglas Auld took full advantage of the benign morning conditions to win with a nett 59. CSS went out to 65 and there were no magic twos. 1 Douglas Auld 24, 59; 2 David Brookens 11, 62; 3 Danny Head 5, 65 ACB and lowest gross, 4 Frazer Barr 10, 65.

Sunday April 23, Captain's Drive Day and prize. A glorious morning for the first of captain Wolfi Kroner's prize days saw 15 players take to the course to enjoy a fine morning's golf and captain Wolfi's generous hospitality afterwards. Scoring was generally good and the non handicap risk Stableford format seemed to suit everyone.

If ever the old adage 'beware the injured golfer' held true, it was that day as Jamie MacPherson, playing for the first time since a football-related injury to his knee, swept home with 41 points to win by one from John Pennycott.

1 Jamie MacPherson 6, 41 pts, 2 John Pennycott 14, 40pts, 3 Andy Martin 12, 39pts. Many thanks to Wolfi for the entertainment and generous hospitality; the prize giving especially will live long in the memories of all who were there.

Fixtures: Sunday April 30, The Eric Wood Stableford. Wednesday May 3, Summer Trophy.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday April 18, Arran Grouse. 1 R Woods and R Traill 80-18=62.

Fixtures: Tuesday May 2,



The four teams who played in the ALGU Kiscadale Salver at Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club, Brodick, Shiskine, Machrie Bay and Lamlash.

Peter Sutton/Lady Mary at 12.30pm and 5.30pm. Entry sheet for the Lawson Cameron Handicap Knockout is on the notice board in the tea room.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday April 19, Wednesday Medal. 1 L Hartley 71-17=54, 2 A McDonald 75-12=63 BIH, 3 M McDonald 77-14=63. Scratch, L Hartley 71. Magic twos from R Logan, J McConnachie, S Beardsley and D Logan. Fantastic score from Len.

A moderate handicap revision will be applied. Steven Beardsley ran off with the magic twos money thanks to number one coming out of the hat.

Saturday April 22, Sweep. 1 R Logan 68-6=62, 2 A McDonald 77-10=65, 3 G Andrew 77-11=66. Scratch, R Logan 68. magic twos, R Burke and D Logan.

Fixture: Friday April 28, AGA Seniors Bowl at Machrie, 5pm start.

Saturday April 29, Sweep. Ballots at 9am and 1pm.

Wednesday May 3, Wednesday Cup at 5pm.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday April 19, Summer Cup, 37 played, CSS 65. Brian Smith 77-12=65 ACB, Greg McCrae 70-5=65, ACB, Brian Allison 87-22=65. Scratch, Greg McCrae 70. Sunday April 23, The Belhaven, 20 played, CSS 65. Gordon Hendry 68-5=63, Bill Donaldson 80-16=64, Chris Pattenden 79-13=66. Scratch, Gordon Hendry 68. Fixture, Sunday April 30, Brandon Qualifier.



The Brodick Ladies who were winners of the Kiscadale Salver.

Arran Golfers Association

Fixtures: Friday April 28, Seniors Bowl at Machrie Bay Golf Club, first round from 5pm. Draw: Lochranza v Shiskine, winners play

Machrie. Brodick v Corrie, Lamlash v Whiting Bay. Junior medal at Shiskine Golf Club on Monday May 1 from 4pm. Sunday May 7, Spring Handicap at Shiskine Golf Club, sheets in locker rooms.

New bowling season begins

Brodick Bowling Club open their season today (Saturday) at 2pm, and extend an invitation to all island bowlers to join them.

The club is keen to encourage anyone who wants to try out the game to come along any week day between the hours of 10.30am and 4.30pm, when the bowling green and tennis courts are open to the public.

Members will be on duty each day and are willing to explain the game to novices who want to have a go. Age is no barrier, as the club has sets of bowls for youngsters as well.

The club's rink games are held at 6.45pm each Monday and Wednesday, and on Saturdays at 2pm, and an open invitation to join in, or try it out for the first time, is extended to all.



ALGU Trophy winners: president Carole Stewart with Susan Butchard, Kema Genda, Brenda Livingstone and Liz Kerr.

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Brodick lift Kiscadale Salver in close contest

Neil fixes up Lamlash with a new playing kit

Lamlash FC have a new sponsor for the season after local businessman Neil Young Joinery and Building Ltd stepped in to buy new strips for the club.

Neil said: 'The team were badly needing new strips and I am pleased to have been able to provide them with a full new kit.'

The team kicked off their season with a

friendly against Glenburn Miners Welfare AFC from Prestwick at the high school pitch on Saturday. The high scoring game finished 6-6.

Lamlash captain Johnny Sloss said: 'The team are very grateful to Neil and Sarah Jane for their support.'

* Brodick FC were also in action see page 22



The Lamlash squad with the new strips sponsored by Neil and Sarah Jane Young. 01_A17lamlash01



Johnny Sloss spins away from a tackle. 01_A17lamlash05

Preparations advanced for first festival

Preparations are progressing well for the first ever Arran Triathlon Festival.

The Island-2-Island event is so named because the unique start to the event will be a powerboat ride to Holy Isle.

In order to keep local residents up to speed with what is happening during the weekend of Saturday June 3 and Sunday June 4 a meeting is being held on Monday May 1 at 6.30pm in the Arran Outdoor Centre in Lamlash to which all are welcome.

The festival is the first ever to be staged by the Arran Junior Triathlon Club to raise funds for the club. As well as being able to find out about the event those attending will be able ask questions about the proposed closure of the shore road at Claulchlands between 4.45pm to 6.15pm on June 3 to accommodate the children's race.

The racing starts at 9am on Saturday with the half iron distance then two more distances, Olympic and sprint.

From 4pm food and drinks will be available with live entertainment in the marquee adjacent to the outdoor centre until late.

Organiser Craig Wood said: 'Everyone on Arran is welcome to come and join us for a great day at the outdoor centre. With live entertainment and food and drink served on site it should be a good night and the more money we can raise on the night the better - it all goes to the club.'

He added: 'We want this to not only be a triathlon event but also a festival in which all locals can come and experience the on-site entertainment and support our juniors when they race.'

The club is still looking for volunteers if anyone is interested in helping out on the day, and would like to hear from businesses which may wish to help with prizes. If you would like to help in any way please contact: craig.wood10@yahoo.com



Sean Higgins moves in to thwart a Glenburn attack 01_A17lamlash03

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