

HE ARRAN BANNER



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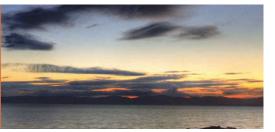
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Arran is kept lookin' bloomin' marvellous

Hugh Boag editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The floral tubs which brighten up the villages of Arran have been saved.

Each of the village associations around the island has agreed to take over responsibility for the flower pots after North Ayrshire Council said it could no longer maintain them.

As previously reported by the Banner, the council blamed budget cuts for the decision to stop planting the tubs, warning that if the villages did not take over responsibility for them, they would be taken away.

There are some 75 tubs around the villages which are presently in full bloom with spring flowers. However, when they die it will now be up to each of the village associations to replant them.

At the monthly meeting of Arran Community Council, chairman Bill Calderwood was given an assurance that

each of the village associations was willing to take over responsibility for its

In a one-off move, he said the council had secured £600 in funding from the Arran Trust, which would be match funded by the village associations, depending on how many tubs they have, allowing them to buy £1,200 worth of plants. These are being purchased and brought to the island at cost with the assistance of Eleanor McCue of Eleanor's Flowers, who, the meeting heard, had been a great help.

Brodick Improvements were the first to agree to take over the 16 tubs in Brodick. Lamlash, Kildonan and Blackwaterfoot have 10 each to look after. The others are at Corrie (nine), Kilmory (eight), Whiting Bay (seven), Shiskine (three) and Machrie (two).

However, Mr Calderwood previously warned it was Continued on page two

Memories are made of this



The Enactus group at Arran High School last week staged a My Childhood event with toys and artefacts from yesteryear. Here Natasha Murray, Chloe Brookes, Jessica Miller, Lauren Robertson, Rachel Janse Van Rensburg and Alexander Wilson are seen at the 1970s table. Full report and more pictures on pages six and seven. 01_B17enactus01



Drivers' ire at Lamlash roadworks

Brodick and Lamlash have been causing drivers a good deal of grief this week and they have being voicing their frustration at the unnecessary delays and disruption to their daily commute.

The repairs, which began on Monday and are due to continue for another week. have been seeing motorists experiencing delays while the road repairs are under-

Citing being unable to plan ahead and not being able to make punctual arrangements to avoid sitting in their vehicles for long periods, the bone of contention has been that

Major roadworks between commuters have been kept siderable disquiet at the elin the dark and unable to make informed decisions.

> Adding to the frustration, the roadworks were originally scheduled to commence a week prior to the actual start date on Monday April 23, but were delayed for a week due to 'operational reasons'.

Essential repairs

North Ayrshire Council, which is undertaking the essential repairs, says that the road is too narrow, in parts, to allow the works to be carried out using traffic

At Arran Community Council this week, Whiting Bay representative Peter Randell said there had conderly forum about the situation and island officer Gus MacLeod said the local office had been inundated with complaints. 'Not just that the road was closed, but that it was open and that there appeared to be no works going on,' he said.

Much of the concern, the meeting heard, had been the suggestion that the road could be closed for up to one hour – however, the road is only being closed as and when required and often for shorter periods with the use of 'stop' and 'go'

However, chairman Bill Calderwood said that following a meeting with



Drivers face delays on the Brodick to Lamlash road.

works, this had been agreed as a better solution than the alternative which would have been to close the road for four hours in the morning and the same in the afternoon, and was supported by businesses and visitor representatives

North Ayrshire councillor Timothy Billings said

roads officials ahead of the it was important that there was a daily update of the works to allow people to 'work around' any closures. He said some days would have more disruption than others

Delighted

The meeting heard that the ability to use the road at ferry times 'should be OK'. Lamlash representative Jim Henderson said that, despite the disruption, 'the people of Lamlash are delighted the work is getting done'.

The stretch of road from Clauchlands Road to approximately 700 metres north of the entrance to Lamlash Golf Club is rescheduled to reopen on Fri-



com



Arran is kept lookin' bloomin' marvellous

Continued from page one not just the case of removing the spring bulbs and planting the summer bedding plants. 'There has to

be fairly regular watering and there is a fair degree of ongoing maintenance,' he said.

The council blamed the need to abandon the tubs on the fact there are fewer grounds staff on the island and the planting out budget for the whole of North Ayrshire has been halved. It has played no part in mak-



The flower tubs, like these in Brodick, have been taken over by the village committees. 01 B17tubs01

The new toilet block at Sannox. 01 B17toilet01

ing the new arrangements for the flower pots.

It is not the first time that the community associations have stepped into to take over responsibility for public facilities following the public toilet and play park debacles.

The community council heard this week that the new toilet block at Sannox, which was delivered last month, had now been commissioned and the keys handed over the Corrie and Sannox village

Six-year-old's plea to stop

dog fouling

gusson has brought her complaints about dog fouling straight to the offices of the Arran Banner.

Regular readers know that week-in, weekout the Banner receives letters from our readers who like to share their opinions and address pertinent topics. But it is not every day that we receive a letter from a young girl who has only recently started learning to write.

The Fergusson family from Uplawmoor, who are regular visitors to Arran, were on the island earlier this month enjoying their first two-week break of the year in their caravan at Lamlash, taking long walks After chatting to her about

and public areas around the village. However, owing to the large amount of dog dirt on the pavements and will grass, dad John continually warned the children to 'watch their feet' so that they did not tread in any of the mess.

> Back home in the warmth and comfort of their caravan, where Rebecca, who is in primary one at Uplawmoor Primary School, was practising her writing skills, her parents were surprised to see what the topic of her writing was about.

Written on a piece of paper were the words: 'Some people's dogs poo on the grass and the pavements.3

Six-year-old Rebecca Fer- in the sunshine on the green what she had written, she asked her father to 'tell the Arran Banner to see if they can stop it',

As a result, the Banner received two copies of the letter, the original letter and a second version which young Rebecca thought she could improve on by making a special effort to rewrite her letter, just a little bit neater.

News editor Hugh Boag said: 'It is certainly one of our youngest readers letters we have received and it is topic which also concerns a lot of older readers as well.'

> Six-year-old Rebecca Fergusson with her letter to the Arran Banner.



RNLI fundraising coffee morning

The Arran branch of the RNLI is holding a fundraising coffee morning in the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick on Saturday May 5 from 10.30am till noon.

New activities

There will be some new fundraising activities along with the usual delicious homebaking stall and tombola, combined with tea and coffee served throughout the morning.

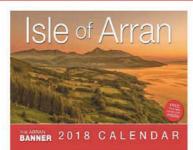
Last year's event was a roaring success and organisers invite everyone to come along and support the group and help them raise much-needed funds for the Arran lifeboat crew, who operate the Rachel Hedderwick inshore lifeboat from the Lamlash station.

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea and relies entirely on funding from local communities such as ours.

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MSP 'hugely disap disrupted summer

The MV Isle of Arran began work on the summer timetable sailings to Arran as scheduled on Thursday.

However, it only completed two return sailings between Brodick and Ardrossan before leaving for Port Ellen to help out on the Islay route and will not be back until Saturday.

As was first announced last week, Arran will have to share the vessel with Islay until later in May owing to the loss of the MV Clansman, which is out of service due to problems with the vessel's propulsion system, and which is having a knock-on affect throughout the network.

While repairs are being undertaken in Denmark,

the MV Hebrides – which was supposed to enter dry dock for its annual maintenance – is being pressed into service for a further three weeks.

However, Caledonian MacBrayne now hopes to have all services, including the Arran summer timetable, operating as normal by May 23 and all customers booked to travel up until that date should by now have had their travel arrangements confirmed.

'We originally thought this temporary timetable would be until the end of May but I'm pleased we will be aiming to bring this forward by a week, meaning normal service should be resumed before the Is-



The MV Isle of Arran arrived in Brodick this week to begin the disru

Troon move dismissed as 'scaremongering'

Claims this week that the Arran ferry service will operate from Troon during improvement works at Ardrossan have been dismissed as 'scaremongering'.

Certainty

While the possibility of the Brodick to Ardrossan using Troon for a short period during the works has not been ruled out, there is no certainty that the service will have to move out of Ardrossan, given there is also the Irish berth.

Operator Caledonian MacBrayne will also be looking at alternatives, including Gourock and Wemyss Bay, given it already has operations at these ports.

However, with the works, which will include a realigning of the present berth, still at an early stage the extent of the disruption or the timetable for works is still some some way off giving rise to the concern about scaremongering.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'Any

major upgrade of Ardrossan harbour may involve services to Brodick requiring an alternative departure and arrival point during periods of the work.

Options

'Detailed feasibility studies are currently being undertaken into the suitability of the various options open to us in this event. Once these are concluded, these options will be presented to Transport Scotland for consideration.'







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pointed' as sailings start



upted summer timetable sailings.

lay Whisky Festival,' said managing director Robbie Drummond.

'Staff are working overtime to reassign bookings on to the amended timetable and deal with new customer reservations. The most important thing for our customers is that they know with as much certainty as possible that the journey they are booked on will run. We are working pretty much round the clock to provide that certainty,' he added.

However, Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson has expressed his disappointment with the CalMac fleet reshuffle, which has led to the reduced summer services on Arran. The start of the Ardrossan to Campbeltown summer service has also been postponed.

Mr Gibson said: 'This is hugely disappointing. There is a lack of flexibility in the system, with dry-docking in Birkenhead and no spare vessel capacity.

'Transport Scotland tried last year unsuccessfully to secure vessels from Denmark and Norway. However, the only long-term answer is to commission the building of more vessels and I'll press the Scottish Government on that issue. The last vessels to be built, MV Catriona and the Glen Sannox were for Arran. Nevertheless, a larger fleet is now required if we are to avoid this situation in future.

In an earlier statement, Mr Drummond said: 'We are facing a highly regrettable situation that we need to manage as best we can with the vessels we have. Our priority is to continue to provide lifeline service to island communities.

'The overrun of our an-

nual vessel dry dock schedule into the summer season is regrettable and we realise that this set of circumstance is going to impact adversely on some communities, which we apologise for. However, under the circumstances, the timetable arrangements we have now put in place for the period of disruption are the best options we have available.

'With one major vessel down, it is always a difficult balancing exercise and we know there will be communities who believe they are taking more than their fair share of upheaval. However, this is the best short-term solution we have within our current operating limits.

being Passengers are urged to check the CalMac website at calmac.co.uk to confirm the amended timetables before travelling.

 \square See also pages 20 and 21.



Board to fight for improved services

CalMac's new independent Community Board was unanimous in delivering a strong message on behalf of its communities to the firm's managing director, Robbie Drummond, and other members of the management team following its second meeting, held in Largs and Millport last week.

The meeting was attended by Arran's two representatives, community council chairman Bill Calderwood and Sheila Gilmore of VisitArran.

Overwhelmingly, main concern was that measures being taken to deal with a recent vessel breakdown are failing to prevent major disruption bringing significant economic damage and having a detrimental impact on individual and families life. Cuts in timetabled sailings, deployment of vessels with inadequate capacities and inability to book even available space

in some cases are all adversely impacting communities and the sustainability of local businesses.

While the board recognised that CalMac has to operate with the resources available to it, there was huge frustration when at peak times and periods of full capacity the service is at serious risk if even one vessel is out of action as at present. The board has offered to positively work with CalMac in formulating a plan, including more robust contingency and prioritisation measures, which will help to protect the lifeline ferry services in the short, medium and longer term.

Areas such as fleet resilience, maintenance/dry docking, purchase/charter of additional tonnage and crew transferability will all be included in the mix. Mr Drummond has accepted the offer and a small group of board members has been identified to start working with CalMac, CMAL and Transport Scotland as soon as possible.

The board feels it can contribute a legitimate community perspective to future planning decisions that will affect the service and communities in the network

Communications also been a serious issue and it is important that not only should these be consistent but they must be informative and comprehensive and take into account the likely effects in all relevant communities. Again, the board has offered assistance to CalMac in this area and this has been accepted. The board says it is focused on working with CalMac, Transport Scotland, CMAL and other stakeholders to help address weaknesses and to identify measures that can be taken to initiate improvements in line with community expectations and needs.





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Deaf residents urged to share experiences

have hearing loss in Arran are being urged to help a campaigning charity's research project by sharing their experiences of accessing and using local health services.

Action on Hearing Loss Scotland is encouraging deaf people to get in touch regarding their experiences of accessing GPs, local health centres and hospitals especially if the health service staff were not deafaware or if working hearing loops were not available at reception points and consultation rooms.

Interim director Teri Devine said: 'As part of our research project, we are keen to find out about

neil young

and building

People who are deaf or deaf Arran residents' experiences of arranging and attending appointments at GP surgeries, local health centres or hospitals.

Interested

'We are particularly interested in finding out about good and not so good examples of appointment booking processes, the levels of deaf awareness shown by health service staff as well as any communication barriers faced by people who are deaf or have hearing loss in getting the medical information that they need."

Contact the charity by email to scotland@hearing loss.org.uk, telephone to 0141 341 5330 or text to 07388 227407.



The display of 1960s memorabilia. 01_B17memory04

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Childhood memor



Pupils study the old school photographs which were on





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Pupils of the Enactus group at Arran High School put a lot of work and effort into staging their My Childhood event, which was held in the community theatre last Friday.

It featured an exhibition displaying a variety of toys, games and clothing from different decades stretching back to the 1940s, as well tea and coffee and home baking, giving visitors the chance to socialise and reminisce.

The event was also visited by pupils from the high school and Lamlash Primary School to give them an insight into the toys of yesteryear.

Arran has the only school Enactus group in the UK. Enactus is an international organisation that pairs entrepreneurship and philanthropy to develop sustainable and beneficial projects in communities.

Enactus has predominantly been for university students and business leaders to date but last year Glasgow Caledonian University contacted Arran High School and invited them to become a branch of its Enactus group.

At Arran High the group comprises of Jessica Miller, Natasha Murray, Chloe Brookes, Lauren Robertson, Rachel Janse Van Rensburg and Alexander Wilson.

Idea

They are presently looking the issues of mental health and loneliness, which was the idea behind the sharing of memories and artefacts from days gone by. The group has previously held a Christmas lunch and a film afternoon.

Members are also regular visitors to the McKelvie Road sheltered housing complex



Lamlash Primary pupils take a keen interest in the displays.

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ies of yesteryear on show

companionship and practical help. They also have business adviser, Arran resident Jean McInnes, of international insurance and finance company

Jessica from the group said:

'We would just like to say thank you to Enactus GCU group for its help, support and encouragement, and to everyone who lent items for the exhibition and who came along and supported us on the



High school pupils take an interest in a pinball game from the



The Enactus group who staged the My Childhood event. 01_B17memory02



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Editorial

Flower power

Great to see the spirit of community is alive and well on Arran.

For the village associations to rally to save the floral tubs is to be commended. Just look around your village – these tubs are a really nice colourful display and it would have been a shame to lose them.

We are a holiday island after all, but these displays brighten up the villages for everyone. However, it will be up to volunteers to put their time and effort to keep them that way, as well as dipping into community coffers to pay for them – although it is good to see the Arran Trust helping as well.

North Ayrshire Council, having halved its planting out budget, simply said fill them yourselves or they will be taken away, and we have no doubt it would do just that if they are not now maintained.

It is, of course, not the first time that communities have had to rally to the cause – first to save the public toilets and then the play parks. Even the elderly in our sheltered housing units are feeling the pinch.

The worrying question is where will it end?

Thought for the Week

'So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.' 2 Cor 4:17

Trail care

Sir,

I want to say thank you to all those from the high school and local mountain bike clubs who took part in the IMBA Europe take care of your trails volunteer day in the Fairy Glen near Brodick.

A lot of hard work was done and a very obvious difference made to the trail. Special mention must be made to the high school pupil who cycled from Lochranza and back just to join in the day, and another who baked really great biscuits to encourage us to do a bit more work.

Yours, Andy Walker Arran Forester CalMac triathlon

Sir,

Have you tried the ultimate Arran fitness test yet?

To warm up, you wander along the blue tape until you get to a desk where you can buy an entry ticket. Then to the first leg – the mountain. At the top, while you catch your breath, your entry ticket will be taken so you are allowed into the second challenge - the departure lounge chicane dodging legs, bags, cases, dogs, small children while you weave between the rows of seats to take position in another blue tape maze

You are now on the starting line for the last leg, the long march. Once the tape is lifted, you are off on a hike halfway to Ardrossan, only to be stopped by a posse of high-vis clad stewards who point you in the direction of the ferry and a welcome rest and refreshment.

But beware, instead of automatically turning left for a cup of tea, do the same and you will end up in the bar – maybe not such a bad

idea after all that exercise. Yours.

Elizabeth Ross Glenloig

NAC

responsibility

This is a copy of the letter sent to Councillor Ellen McMaster.

Dear Mrs McMaster.

First, a quick word about the writer. I am 75 years old and suffering from a rare and disabling condition called Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP).

I am Canadian – Scottish by nationality – and was head of art and design at Arran High School for many years. My employer therefore was North Ayrshire Council. In addition, I was the founder of the Arran Heritage Project at the high school.

As soon as work started. I discovered that the senior citizens had a lot to give to the vounger generation, and not just about Arran's recent social history but about life too. They had had so much experience, regardless of what paths they had followed. It was touching to see how this normally difficult age responded to the older ones, whether it was about their own house or village area, or their occupations. The interest was mutual.

I am now highly dependent on social services and require assistance with many personal matters.

But now we hear that NAC intends to withdraw support for staff in sheltered housing. Specifically, here at Glen Estate, the services of Ann Reid are threatened. Ann looks after the personal plans and the general welfare of each tenant.

She is invaluable, since she reduces the need for expensive hospital stays - hospitals are full - also for transfers to Montrose House. The only alternative is the private Cooriedoon nursing home, beyond the reach of all but the rich.

I thought, wrongly it appears, that Scotland was egalitarian. I now wonder what my Canadian friends would think of this situation? Besides, the national news reports that after years of cuts, 'austerity Britain' is over. If this is the case, NAC are putting themselves outside the loop.

Does NAC have a responsibility to their people? Are the SNP middle ground or very right wing? If the latter, as in UKIP, I will never vote for them again.

Yours,

Maureen Farquharson Brodick

Road information

Sir.

I am astonished at the lack of communication regarding the possible road closures and disruption to traffic during the resurfacing of many of the island's roads.

As I require to commute daily from Corrie to Whiting Bay, I made enquiries at the pier, then the bus station offices for information. Neither knew any details of road closures and I was told that even the police had not been informed.

Making the assumption that the road will be open to allow the bus to connect with the ferries is all very well, but travelling outwith these times makes it a bit of a lottery.

Some details please?

Fiona Reiss Corrie

Ultra thanks

Sir,

It is a pleasure writing this list. Because it has been a pleasure to bring an event

to the Isle of Arran, meet so many residents, and to receive your immediate kind words of praise for the event. From our point of view the event was very successful. Now I don't measure that based on the number of entries or the lack of injuries (though I am sure there are a few fatigue niggles - it was tough!) but based on the participant feedback. They loved it! We gave them more than two Ultras! We gave them almost four days of adventure tourism - enough time for them to sample 'many of the many' attributes of the island, and we look forward to coming

You may know that both the event and the participants made donations to the Arran Trust, and that the preferred charity for Rat Race Adventure Events is Children with Cancer UK, and for whom the participants raised a stunning £1M in 2017.

back next year!

I would like to say a sincere thank you to everyone who helped in many different ways. I appreciate that I did not reach everyone as early as you might have liked, and that sometimes you gave critical opinion and comment. But that comment certainly gets my attention, and I am always, all ears. Thank you.

And lastly, someone that you might think would be less influential. I have probably been visiting Arran for 20 years. One man that I always seem to meet and have a chat with; Alastair Hendry in Glen Rosa. To me, he represents the assured friendliness that underlies Arran's land and people. This was emotionally influential.

Yours,

Gary Thompsett Architect of Adventure

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Military vehicles are on show at heritage museum

The Arran Heritage Museum hosted a display of classic military vehicles at its Rosaburn home in Brodick last Sunday.

It was staged by the south-west branch of Scottish Military Vehicles Group, which brought five restored vehicles to Arran for the first time and spent the weekend on the island.

The group is a collection of enthusiasts who own, restore and run military vehicles. While many of the vehicles in Scotland are of Second World War vintage, there are also quite a number of post-war types.

Supporting

The group's membership is spread over the whole of Scotland with members supporting events such as Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Day, Poppy Day and regimental and veteran reunions, as well as various military and vintage vehicle events held throughout the UK and Europe.



Two restored Willys jeeps. 01_B17military02



Group organiser John Webster and members of the south-west branch of the restoration group. 01_B17military01



Two ambulances on display.01_B17military03

ADVERTORIAL

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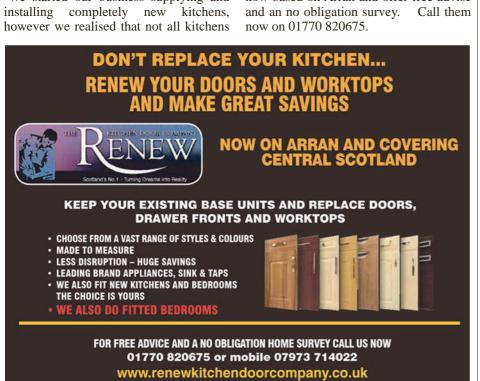
Quality

They are a family business who has been installing quality new kitchens and replacement doors for over 20 years

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They also install new sinks and appliances and all the latest worktops, including quartz and granite. Renew Kitchens are now based on Arran and offer free advise





Malcolm drops in for tea and tourism

Arran was the first port of call for VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead as part of his national tea and tourism tour.

Kickstarting the annual tour of destination tourism industry players, Mr Roughead met VisitArran board members at the Auchrannie Resort, where a number of tourism-related issues and strategies were discussed.

The main topic of discussion was a digital strategy for Arran, operational sustainability and the priorities for VisitArran over the next six months.

Mr Roughead praised VisitArran for its recent accomplishments which included winning the work-

award at the Scottish Thistle Awards national final in March, in which its 'strong working ethos' and 'creative partnership working' was commended by the judges.

The organisation's innovative collaboration in launching the ArranCard in 2017, which has already generated £11,000 in sales in the first year, was also highlighted by the judges as a fantastic example of partnership working

Mr Roughead said: 'Tourism is at the very heart of economic success in Scotland.

'It is integral to sustaining communities such as Arran by generating ining together for tourism come, creating jobs and

stimulating social change across the region.

'I have enjoyed meeting and speaking directly to the hard working team at Visit-Arran who have demonstrated great success at putting the island on the map as a quality visitor destina-

'From its breathtaking scenery, unique culture and heritage, world-class golf and sailing, not to mention its fantastic food and drink, the Isle of Arran really does offer the visitor a diverse range of great experiences.

'Last week, we launched the first ever collaborative global campaign - Scotland is Now – and the Isle of Arran is a perfect example of a region rich in his-



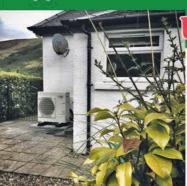
VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead, centre, with the board of VisitArran at the Auchrannie

tory and heritage but forging forward in a way that is progressive, pioneering and inclusive

VisitArran executive director Sheila Gilmore said: 'We are delighted to welcome Malcolm to Arran and to our board meeting. This will give us all an opportunity to more greatly understand how we can work together in the future, and perhaps highlight some key issues that destination

day-to-day delivery.' The tour will continue at a number of locations across Scotland and will allow tourism organisations and businesses the opportunity to speak directly to the VisitScotland chief executive.





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

OPDAYIE NOV 2017

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



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Talk to qualified heating engineers and Domestic Energy Assessors who are passionate about their craft and not pushy sales people.

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





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Arran's marathon charity champions



Arran joined thousands of runners in London on Sunday to take part in the city's marathon.

It was a first time outing in the event for Barbara Crawford and Carol Brown but, as a result of their feat, in the blistering heat, they have raised more than £6,000 for the Maggie's cancer charity

In the run up to the marathon, they ran a number of fundraising events at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot as well as putting in hours of training on the roads. Well done to them

Barbara and Carol are still smiling at the finish line.



Members of Ensemble, who will be performing in Brodick Hall in aid of Arran Trust.

Ensemble gather in Brodick

Prolific performers Ensemble, an operatic concert group from Fife, will be adding Brodick to their long list of venues at which they have performed over the past 35 years.

Wide repertoire

Named after their enjoyment of performing ensemble items, rather than a series of solos and duets, the group have a wide repertoire which is usually performed in costume and semi-staged.

Raising funds for the Arran Trust and performing for the enjoyment of it and at their own expense, the group have helped charities raise tens of thousands of pounds during their hundreds of concerts over the

With a show they first performed last year at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, where they have appeared for more than 21 consecutive years, Ensemble will be performing Irving Berlin: 100 years of song at Brodick Hall on Saturday May 12, at 7.30pm.

Tickets priced £10 can be purchased from the Book and Card Centre or online at www.arranevents.com. Cheese and wine is included in the ticket price.

Argyll College - Think Again



You may think you have a good idea of what Argyll College is and what we have on offer, but did you know that in the past 5 years we've introduced over 45 new qualifications and as a student at Argyll College UHI you'll be able to study in a convenient location, get recognised qualifications and improve your chances of getting your career on the right track.

If you love life on Arran but think you're going to have to move away to get the qualifications you need - think again. Whether you want to get those Highers you missed out on at school, take your first steps into Higher Education, or retrain for a new career, we can help you achieve your goals.

In 2018, we'll be offering full time horticulture courses on the island for the first

Last year's Student of the Year, Wendy Chance, successfully completed an HNC Horticulture on Islay. Wendy had gardened all her life, but had never considered turning it into a profession until she realised she could study it on her doorstep.

"It's been unbelievable. I've loved every minute of it and wish I'd done something like this 20 years ago," she said. "I've achieved better grades that I imagined I was capable of, which I believe is largely down to the tutors I've been lucky enough to have. They have been amazing - so supportive and encouraging.

Our brand new Access to Business, Administration and Computing is an ideal entry route to a number of HNC programmes and will allow you to get to grips with full time study, perfect for those contemplating a career change, or for students who've been away from education for a while. Successful students are guaranteed an interview for HNC programmes.

As a partner of the University of the Highlands and Islands we also give you access to over 50 degree and post-graduate programmes. The professional Graduate Diploma in Education is available for both Primary and Secondary routes, in English and Gaelic Medium. The PDGE consists of 18 weeks study in our Oban Learning Centre plus 19 weeks of work placements in schools close to your home.

So if you think you know what we do, you might want to think again.

Think you know us?



Think again #thinkargyll

Apply online now for courses starting in September

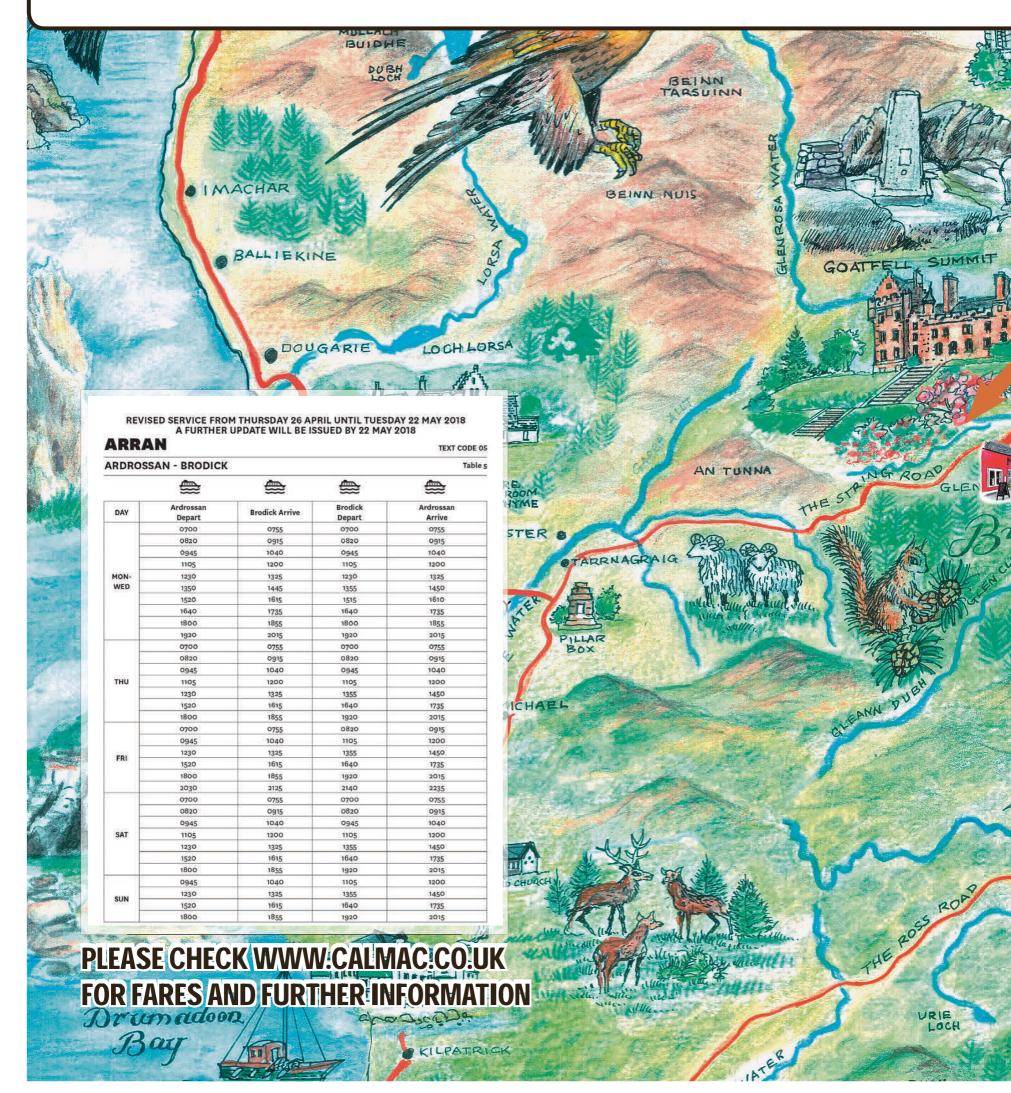


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ARDROSS



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AN TO BRODICK

WELCOMETO ARDROSSAN

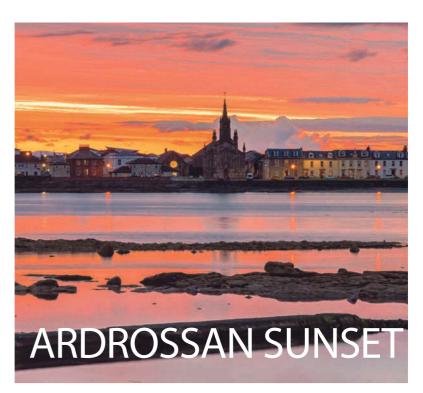


An industrial town and historic port now reinventing itself as a leisure and tourism destination.

Check out: The marina, with the port's old power house now transformed into a restaurant and two great beaches – the North Shore and South Beach, which is buzzing with eating places and great picnic spots.

The journey: M77 and A77 from Glasgow; A78 a glorious coastal drive, north and south; A71 through Ayrshire countryside from the east. The railway station is right on the harbour.

Hopscotch: also Ardrossan sailings to Campbeltown for Kintyre; Wemyss Bay for the Isle of Bute; Largs for the Isle of Cumbrae.



WELCOMETO

Caledonian MacB Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

BRODICK

BRODICK

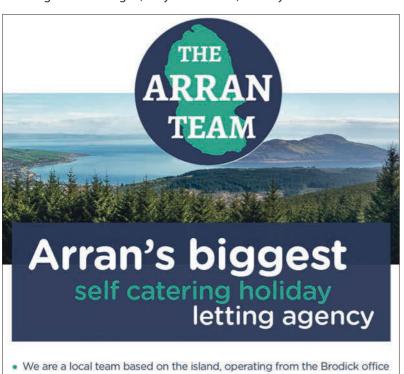
Scotland in miniature, the Highlands and Lowlands on one island.

The bustling heart of Arran, an island with a strong sense of community which offers everything: from sandy beaches to mountains, and holidays from boutique hotels to hostelling. History, geology, wildlife and countryside that never disappoint, thanks to Arran sitting on the Highland boundary fault.

Check out: Brodick is the commercial centre of the island where most of the shops and services are found; there are a wide range of eateries, accommodation and always a warm welcome. Set against a backdrop of the famous Goatfell.

The journey: The A841 circles the island and is its only A-road, a circuit of 55 miles; the B880, the 'String Road', is tied across the island's waist. Both roads reward you with magnificent scenery. The stops for island bus services and tour coaches are all at the ferry terminus.

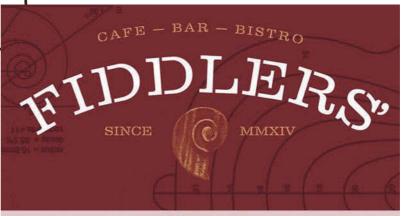
Hopscotch: Brodick for Campbeltown and Kintyre; Lochranza for Claonaig and onto Gigha, Islay and Tarbert, Loch Fyne.



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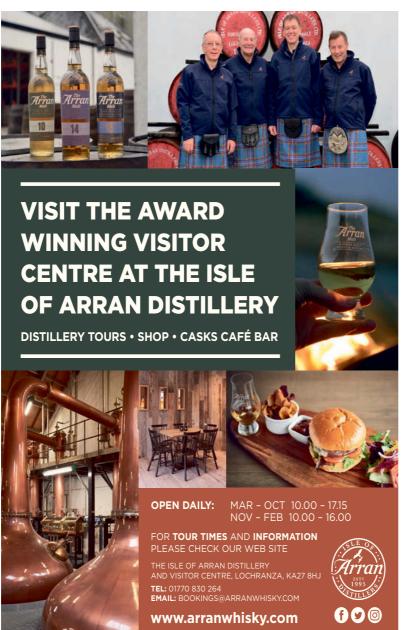




rayne

ARDROSSAN TO BRODICK

















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Come and see how the garden grows

Anyone with an interest in horticulture, food production, bee-keeping and green-fingered enthusiasts are invited to attend an open day at the Arran Community Land Initiative's site in Whiting Bay next weekend.

Showing the fruits of their labour, volunteers will be on hand to show visitors some of the many activities that take place on the land and the progress that has been made in establishing the expanse of land for community use.

On display on Saturday May 5, between 10am and 4pm, will be the community allotments which are coming alive as plot holders busy themselves pre-



Children enjoy one of the many educational activities that are on offer throughout the year.



ACLI demonstrates the various methods of composting from a wormery to a hot bin.

paring the beds for spring planting. There are 12 allotments and, for anyone interested, there is currently one full allotment (7.5m x 20m) available for £60 annually and two half plots (7.5m x 10) for £30. Each plot comes with an indoor polytunnel raised bed as well.

The orchard areas, which now boast 150 fruit trees, will be coming into flower imminently and the bees in the Arran Bee Group hives will be emerging to collect nectar and pollen for honey production.

Visitors will also have the opportunity to take a look at the rare Arran Whitebeam trees which are planted on the land along with the



Visitors are being encouraged to go and have a look at the community land during their open day early next month.

polytunnels bursting with vegetable seedlings which will be transplanted into the community garden beds.

If you are feeling inspired by the community land and fruit and vegetable growing, you can join a workshop making a herb box out of recycled pallets which are planted with six culinary herbs that you can take home

There will be coffee and tea available and flatbreads freshly made in the bread oven.

Volunteers will be happy to show you around the orchard or take visitors for a walk around the pathways that are being planted with

Scottish wildflower seeds by volunteers and school groups.

The Arran Community Land Initiative, which is a registered charity and is run mainly by volunteers, welcomes anyone to lend a hand on site. There will be a programme of volunteer activities from May onwards to suit all ages.

The site is signposted from Golf Course Road in Whiting Bay but, owing to the limited parking on site, visitors are encouraged to walk to the site whenever possible.

Toilet facilities and seating areas are available in the hub and polytunnels.





in association with Isle of Arran Brewery WWW.arranbrewery.com

Every day

Trout fly fishing Brodick Castle Cafe and Isle be Wild Soap making and candle dipping Arran Heritage Museum Arran Brewery Loch Garbad, bank fishing
Garden only open 9am-dusk
Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm
Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am - 4pm
Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm
Mon-Saturday
10.30am - 5pm, Tours at 11am and 2pm
Sunday:12:30pm - 5.00pm Tour at 2pm

Saturday 28th April

Flow yoga
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Army Cadets
Brodick Bowling Club opening day
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Family games
Fun in the pool
Live music – Buchaneers
Live music – Arizona Live
Over-21s disco

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

Sunday 29th April

Live music – Fatman and the Angel Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 1pm - 4pm Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm Charlie and Cori Gorman, guitar and fiddle from Kings of Birds The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm

Monday 30th April

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

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30am -10.30am
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Lochranza Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Whiting Bay 5.30pm
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm
Ormidale Park, 6pm - 7.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 6pm - 7pm
Arran High School, 6.15pm for 6.30pm start
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Brodick Bowling Club, 6.45pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall,7pm - 9pm
Brodick Church Hall, Adults and over 10s,7.00pm - 8.30pm
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8 - 10.30pm

Tuesday 1st May

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

Wednesday 2nd May

Arran Vets surgery Arran Vets reception Yoga Hydrofit Coffee morning 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm Brodick Church Hall, 2pm Bowling Club, 2pm Glen Estate Lounge, 2pm Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm Corrie Hall, 6pm Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm Kildonan Hall, 7pm Arran High School, 6pm Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm 9am- 2pm and 4pm -5pm Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am -10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon

Chair yoga exercise class

St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am
Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service 10.30am -12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm Whiting Bay Hall, 12.30pm Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4pm Brodick Church Hall, 4.30pm - 5.30pm Dog classes Knittery and Nattery Parkinson's Support Group Zumba Gold Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness) Brodick Church Hall, 5.45pm - 6.45pm Invercloy Co-op car park 5.30pm Shiskine Hall, 6pm RUNclub, mixed ability, qualified coaches Flow yoga Shiskine Hall, 6pm
Brodick Bowling Club, 6.45pm
Arran High School, Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30pm - 9pm
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm Rink game Tae Kwon Do Yoga-Arran Mixed hockey Burger and quiz night Tae Kwon Do Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8 - 10.30pm PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm Live music – Shindig Family friendly pub quiz

Thursday 3rd May

Rock and pop bingo

Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Morning fitness,
Chair yoga exercise class
LingoFlamingo, Spanish, Pablo Illera
Quilt Arran
Adult tennis
10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers
Arran ladies' netball
Ladies' hockey
Arran Soul Choir
General knowledge quiz

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

Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

Friday 4th May

Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 11.30am
Lamlash High School, Lamlash, 6.00pm
np!
The PHT, Lamlash, from 5pm Arran Vets Arran Vets Yoga Hydrofit T'ai Chi and chair T'ai Chi -Sue Thurogood Smart Recovery meeting, all welcome Steak night - build your own steak from £9.99 for Rump! Lochranza Hall, 6pm - 8pm Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm Church Hall, Brodick 7pm - 9pm Lochranza children's badminton Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Arran Youth Foundations Arran High School, Lamlash, adults,7pm - 9pm Lochranza Hall, 8pm Tae Kwon Do Lochranza adults' badminton Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8 - 10.30pm Friday night quiz
Live music – Arran Dawn Fiddle
Live music – Jericho Hill, Johnny Cash Tribute Band. The PHT, Lamlash 9pm

Saturday 5th May

Flow yoga
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
RNLI coffee morning
Army Cadets
Archrannie Road 11am – 1 pm
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Bowling Club, 2pm
Family games
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
Fun in the pool
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
Live music – Jamie Clark
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8 - 10.30pm
Live music – The Skunnered, fond favourites at the PHT
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Over-21s disco
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

NB: We will be updating the Arran Banner What's On next week. If you have not recently contacted the Arran Banner and would like an event included please email Cecilia at: adverts@arranbanner.co.uk or telephone: 01770 302142 with the details.





Music for all at the PHT

There is always a feast can sound like Art Garfunof music to suit all tastes at the Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash – and the coming weekends are no exception.

Kicking off are talented duo Charlie and Cori Gorman, who play the popular 4pm slot on Sunday. The guitar and fiddle playing duo, from King of Birds, provide a sound which will take your breath away. Multi-talented singer songwriter Charlie has an distinctive voice which

kel one moment and David Bowie the next. Alongside his infinitely talented guitar playing and Cori's amazing fiddle work, this is a couple not to miss.

And there is an extra gig on Friday May 4 at 9pm by Glasgow band Jericho Hill which has been rescheduled after they were unable to make their last gig by being snowbound on the mainland.

Playing a full set of



The Skunnered are firm favourites at the PHT.



There is a debut for Glasgow band Jericho Hill.

Johnny Cash greats, including songs from the Rick Rubin era, this will be the band's debut at the PHT.

Band members include Bill Wright, vocals and rhythm guitar; Joe Whyte, lead guitar; Rab Christie. bass; Al Pritchard, drums and Charlene Boyd on vocals.

It's all about the music of Johnny Cash, with Bill starting the band in January 2008 performing widely around Glasgow and now playing across the country, building a reputation for a quality and entertaining act. Festival appearanc-

es include Rebellion 10 and 11, Wickerman 11 and Belladrum 12.

And the music continues all weekend with The Skunnered playing on Saturday May 5 at 9pm and again on Sunday May 6 at 4pm.

This East Renfrewshire band are firm favourites at the PHT, founded by songwriter Chas Cunningham, who plays bass. They have given Arran several fabulous nights of dance along fun in their loveable, folkish rock style and they are sure to do so again next weekend.



arrantrust

Charlie and Cori Gorman play on Sunday.

Arran Trust, VisitArran Offices, Tourist Information Centre,





Lovely Snacks and Meals at Café Rosaburn.



Arran Trust are delighted to welcome,

fresh from the Edinburgh Fringe...

ENSEMBLE

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday April 18, 1998

Squirrel trouble

Of particular pride on Arran is that we have red squirrels and not grey. The greys, bigger and so common in city parks, tend to push out the reds and there are few parts of the UK where they are not the most numerous or indeed the only squirrels.

This week we have heard of a cat which recently caught six red squirrels. Normally too nippy, even for cats, was there a reason for these poor squirrels being caught? It turns out the squirrel was partly bald and had lesions on its head. Was it ill?

Dr Peter Nettleton, at the Moredun Research Institute in Edinburgh, is researching the disappearance of red squirrels. One aspect of this is a disease which is a bit like myxomatosis but it affects only squirrels. The disease is currently attacking squirrel populations in England, both red and grey, and there are fears that it may be on Arran.

Church music

Written and compiled by John Dick, a new book called Music in Lamlash Church, has been well compiled by the author, who is also the present organist. Unsurprisingly, it starts with the organ, which was installed in 1934, and was gifted in memory of the Rev Peter Robinson, who had been the first minister of the church.

John's story continues with details of the organists and pays tribute to the many people involved in music at the church. The book also tells of the various musical visitors to the church, The Glasgow Orpheus Choir, BBC Radio, Evening Praise on television and the more recent Arran Chorus. John does not neglect the bells or the bellringers. The bell tower design is said

to be based on St Mark's in Venice and the

carillon of bells is unusual in Scotland and

Controlled burnings

certainly the only set on Arran.

Mountain and forest walkers are being advised by the Forest Enterprise answerphone that controlled burnings by the Forestry Commission are taking place across Arran.

Currently there is controlled burning near Kilmory and additional burning near Brodick Castle.



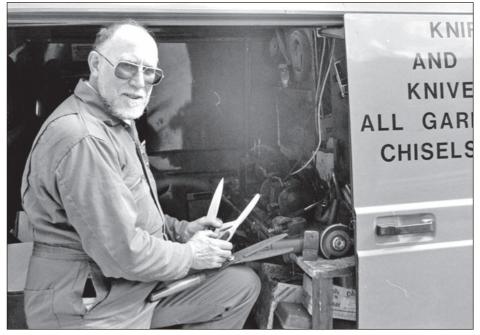
Arran players did well at the rugby sevens last Saturday. Putting up a brave fight, they were eventually defeated in the semi-finals at the new Ormidale sports park. 01_B17twe05



Adults also have a chance to show off their creations at the Brodick Castle Easter bonnet parade. 01_B17twe04



Causing a stir in Whiting Bay last week was Cumbernauld visitor Joanne Shirra and her pet rabbit, Toffee, who has been trained to walk around, albeit slowly, with a collar and lead. 01 B17twe01



Travelling craftsman Mike the Knife and his little green van have become a familiar sight on Arran over the past four years. Real name Michael Dimmer, he travels all over Argyll plying his trade, which is sharpening knives, shears and any other tools. 01_B17twe02



Children show off their creatively decorated headgear at the Brodick Castle Easter bonnet parade held last weekend. 01_B17twe03



arranbanner www.arranbanner.co.uk

Unintended consequenc



there is concern that there is no seating in the ticket office downstairs. 01_B17civic05

It is clear the angle for berthing at the new terminal is posing problems, according to the report. 01_B17civic02

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There has, naturally, been a lot of talk about the new Brodick ferry terminal but, love it or loathe it, it is here to stay. The Arran Civic Trust, in its role concerning amenity on the island, here takes a look at the unintended consequences of the design of the £30 million facility. These observations are intended to be constructive in the hope of aiding beneficial change.

There is dissatisfaction with the new terminal and how it is operated at present. Some are directly ferry-related, some transport hub-related. Others are parking-related and one or two convenience-related. It is important that these matters are looked at in the interest of travellers.

The issue is, what is a lifeline ferry now? Departing and arriving on Arran has always been a community experience – meeting and greeting, saying farewell, watching the boat dock, seeing friends on the boat as it docked and waving. Part of the amenity of Arran. We are not an airport, but an island community.

Terminal-related

- No seats in booking hall for anyone, including those who may be waiting for a wheelchair, or for another family member trying to park a car somewhere. This needs to be changed as the design of the terminal does not cater for this.
- Difficulty meeting someone off the ferry upstairs to assist with bags, children etc.
- The fire alarm went off on Thursday at the 'tea party' after the opening...what would have happened if there were wheelchairs or disabled individuals upstairs when use of the lifts is not advised?
- There must be a plan to assist if the ferry cannot latch onto the walkway. Descending the steep emergency stairs is unsatisfactory, especially for those less mobile or carrying larger wheelie bags. Recently passengers had to climb up the two flights onto the ferry via the car deck, after descending the emergency stairs.

- The stairs up to the waiting room are steep, so that descent is precarious, as was shown on Thursday after a fire alarm. The stair edges need coloured strips.
- An additional bannister running down the centre position on stairs would give passengers added confidence and something to cling onto.
- Are the toilets on the ground floor (two in the ladies, one so close to the sink it will surely not last long) out of bounds to bus passengers if the booking hall is out of bounds to them?
- The passenger connecting 'tube' is not a comfortable experience and having only one person off the ferry at a time is surely a design error. It is a long way to walk, with bags. Does CalMac intend to have a minibus to carry those who need it onto the upper car deck? What about heavy bags? In an airport, bags are sent separately to the plane.
- Suggestion: a passenger survey be done soon, which should discover the flaws in the whole process for passengers, especially those without a car. This can be taken to CMAL to obviate similar mistakes at Ardrossan with the intended new terminal.

Ferry-related

- Do ferry times need to be changed to cope with the new reality? That will involve SPT.
- Are the stats being collected correctly about disruption and are weather-related cancellations ever used as a cover up for other docking problems? Why does the AIS not show Caledonian Isles sometimes, as happened recently?
- Would it be sensible to suggest that CMAL



The passenger connecting 'tube' is just one of the areas of concern. $01_B17civic01$

es of new ferry terminal

now repair the old harbour jetty so an alternative berthing can be retained? A new linkspan costs money but nowhere near £30m, and at the same time maintain/repair the actual docking area, which has been sadly neglected for years.

It is clear the angle for berthing at the new terminal is posing problems.

Transport hub-related

- The previous terminal acted as a transport hub for those waiting for the ferry, whether going or collecting new arrivals. Often departing passengers get a car lift from their home to the ferry long before the ferry is due. Are they expected to stand outside in the rain and wind when, previously, they could sit quietly in the terminal building for up to two hours, especially if the ferry was delayed or cancelled? That opportunity has gone, yet that was so much part of the charm of Arran.
- Perhaps the old ferry terminal could be opened as a transport hub. Islanders met friends while waiting or departing; it was a community hub.
- It also acted as a hub for bus passengers. The fact that people waiting for buses are now told they cannot wait in the new ferry building must be changed and seats provided. If they arrive having bought a coffee at Copperwheats, they should be allowed to drink it in the entrance hall. The name needs to be changed to 'Hub Hall'.

Collecting passengers

• Why can they not wait upstairs to meet friends and family? The collection of tickets must change to enable this. Seeing friends off from the island is also part of the collective way of caring on Arran, the last goodbye, the hug. Preventing the intimacy of departure shows a lack of the emotional intelligence of the design.

• We are now into lighter evenings but Cal-Mac must think ahead to dark, wet nights and the management of visitors and locals alike.

Parking

- One of the problem areas is parking. Now that many islanders cannot get their cars easily on and off the ferry, especially at weekends, increasing numbers are leaving their cars between the Douglas and the Co-op. Second home owners also now leave their second cars there when they are off island, often for weeks at a time. This needs to be managed. Where is additional parking coming from? Is parking outside the terminal to be ticketed and, if so, how? Do we need a bye-law along the front in Brodick too?
- Car booking needs to be more efficient. Apparently, doctors will be able to get a car onto the ferry at short notice but advice is that booking should be made weeks in advance.
- As soon as RET made booking difficult for cars particularly, the wealthy were able to afford to book multiple tickets knowing some will be redundant but retain a guaranteed place. This should be prevented.
- Posting a letter at the post box at the old ferry terminal recently, a postman remarked that the box used to be half full, now just a few letters. Does that mean removal of the amenity? It surely must be moved and placed near the new terminal, the obvious place.

Does RET have flaws? What is the philosophy of a lifeline ferry? Has it now changed and placed the needs of islanders below that

These observations have been sent to Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), Caledonian MacBrayne and the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee.

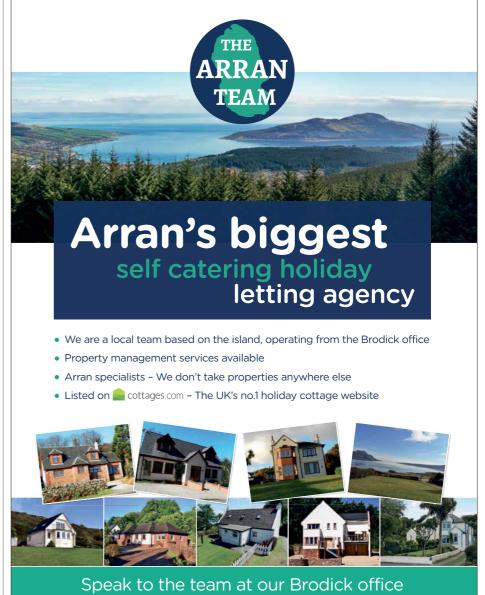
Sally Campbell

Next week the Arran Civic Trust consider the environmental issues facing the island.



Passengers have to carry luggage up and down the stairs.





or call **01770 303 113**.

Alarming decline of

by Jim Cassels

shore birds on Arran

In 2017, a person who rently eight stretches of the count, I felt that I would had meticulously counted the shore birds on Arran for almost 30 years decided to step down. He is one of thousands of counters who once a month on a designated date count the number of the birds on UK shores. The count is organised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and is called the Wetland Bird Survey or WeBS for short.

On Arran, there are cur-

shore month. His stretch of shore was Whiting Bay. When he indicated to me his intention to step down, he expressed the view that he felt the number of birds that he was counting each month was considerably less than when he started. I felt this was a valid observation from a reliable, methodical counter.

As the local organiser of shank and turnstone. These

monitored each like to investigate this further so I approached the BTO and asked if it would provide me with the shore bird count data for Whiting Bay for 1993 and 1994 when the present WeBS arrangements started and the data for the past two years. This was provided.

From this, I extracted all the counts of oystercatcher, ringed plover, curlew, red-



Young ringed plover nesting on the shore

are our most familiar shore birds. While some breed on our shores, others feed on the shore on their way to and from breeding grounds further north. A comparison between the sum of the totals of these five species between 1993/94 and the sum of the totals of the last two years showed an 86 per cent decline in number.

In 20-plus years, that is a huge decline and, from my point of view, alarming. While there could be many inter-related factors at work, including aspects associated with climate change, the general marine health of the Firth of Clyde or changes in distant breeding grounds, one factor that does contribute to this decline is human disturbance associated with dogs. While some of the large global factors may be difficult to manage, the local factor of human disturbance is one that could be managed, and I would argue should be managed, for the benefit of our wildlife.

That is why I am delighted to see this local initiative lead by the Arran Access Trust, and supported by the Arran Natural History Society, asking dog owners to keep their dogs under control, particularly in the bird breeding season. Notices encouraging this are on display in areas where there are likely to be ground breeding birds. This is in line with the legislation in the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

These notices are a genuine attempt to protect our wildlife while giving appropriate access for humans. Hopefully, those who love Arran will support this initiative and help ensure that the shores on Arran retain their wildlife because, without, it will be a poorer place.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2017 and visit this website www. arranbirding.co.uk.



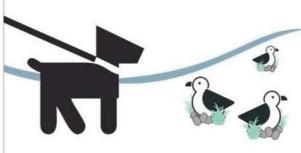
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DOG OWNERS



The shores of Arran are important for ground nesting birds

Please help them to successfully rear young by keeping your dog under close control and preferably on a lead during the breeding season between April and July.

Thank you

Arran Access Trust

The notices to dog owners which have been put up on

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We are looking for a friendly, out-going person to join our team in the shop.

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If you are interested, please give Lesley Jameson a call on 600 606 during normal working hours or email: liameson@paterson-arran.com

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HOUSEKEEPERS REQUIRED

The Arran Team is looking for reliable and conscientious housekeepers for various locations across the island.

Competitive rates of pay and incentives.

If you are interested, please contact us on 303113 or call into our office at The Douglas Centre, Brodick.

LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

THE ARRAN

BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142

Public Notices

Kilmory Public Hall **AGM**

Thursday 24th of May at 7pm.

All Welcome

PUBLIC PLANNING CONSULTATION EVENTS

North Ayrshire Council propose to construct the new ASN Campus and Respite and Residential accommodation on land to the east of Auchenharvie Academy.

The new Campus will replace the existing James Reid, James McFarlane, Haysholm and Stanecastle Schools and will provide Early Years provision.

Two Public Consultation Drop-In Events are to be held on:

Wednesday 2 May 2018 between 9.30am and 12.30pm at Saltcoats Library, Springvale Place, Glebe St, Saltcoats KA21 5LS

Thursday 3 May 2018 between 3.30pm and 6.30pm at Stevenston Library, 1 Main St, Stevenston KA20 3AB

Details of the proposals will be available for viewing and there will be an opportunity to discuss the proposals and provide feedback.

Comments can be made on forms provided at the events, by email to

Comments can be made on forms provided at the events, by email to asncampusconsultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or by post to ASN Project Office, Cunninghame House Irvine KA12 8EE.

All comments should be submitted by 21 May 2018.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION
AREAS)(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 09.00–16.45 weekdays (16.30 Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk *and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 18 May 2018. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2013 REGULATION 20(1)

18/00269/PP: Mountain Rescue Centre, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, Erection of extension to form vehicle and equipment store.

Elma Murray Chief Executive Cunninghame House IRVINE KA12 8EE



Sannox Christian Centre

Annual General Meeting Saturday 9th June 2018

Sannox Christian Centre at 3pm
All Welcome

Lamlash Moorings Association **AGM**

Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash Tuesday 8th May at 7.30pm All members Welcome

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of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

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

The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving

reasonable notice.

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 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the

event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other

Court as the Publisher may choose.

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may be, or make reasonable returnd or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, returnd or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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connection with which liability arose.

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10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher.

All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

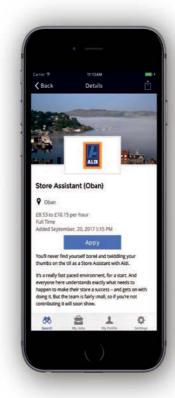
11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge

a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice

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



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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OFSCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine Independent but working together Minister: Rev Angus Adamson Parish Assistant: Mrs Jean Hunter: Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the

following times to which all are invited. Sunday 29th April Lochranza Church, 9.30am. Morning Service. Pirnmill Church, 10.45am. Morning Service Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship. Brodick Church, 10.30am. Morning Worship. Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL **CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay. Sunday 29th April Holy Communion, 11am Mr John Roberts Coffee after service. Wednesday, 2nd May Holy Communion, 12.15pm ALL WELCOME

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

Sunday 29th April Morning Service 11am Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick Evening Service 6.30pm 5 Glen Road, Brodick

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday Worship at 11am **Brodick Library** Telephone 700346 Everyone Warmly Invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie) Brodick 6pm Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC **CHURCH**

Sunday 29th April Sunday Mass 11am

ARRAN CHURCHES **TOGETHER**

There will be Taizé worship on Thursday 3rd May at 5.30 pm, in Holy Cross Church, Brodick, PLEASE NOTE TIME AND PLACE. ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share" Sunday 29th April Rev Lily McKinnon Kilmory - 10am Lamlash - 11.30am In Lamlash: Praise Service All welcome, including families; children's area Scottish Charity SC015072

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland, Charity Number: SC014005 Sunday 29th 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. At 7pm, there will be an evening of Sacred Music led by the Arran Singers, in Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church. There will be music from Bach, Stainer, Brahms, Elgar and others. Everyone will be most welcome to what will be a very enjoyable evening. Tea and coffee will be served

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

after music.

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings Sunday 29th April Service 11am, Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick Tea and coffee after the service Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer. Telephone 600222 Everyone warmly invited

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS BANNER

Ross takes win by 15 seconds

Arran driver Ross Auld had to dig deep for victory in the Star Stage Rally last weekend.

East Ayrshire Car Club

DEATH

McCONNELL: Peacefully, at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Monday, 23rd April 2018, William Wilson Mc-Connell beloved husband of Elizabeth; much loved father of Jack, Iain, Anne and Calum; devoted Grandpa to Hannah, Mark, Alan, Glenn, Dayni and Lizanne and proud Great-Grandpa to Freddie, Clara, Benji and May. Funeral service in Lamlash Church, Isle of Arran, on Tuesday, 1st May at 11.30am. All welcome. Family flowers only please. Donations welcome to The Isle of Arran Hospital Supporters League and the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ALLSOP: The Allsop family and David, would like to thank everyone for their help, support, cards and kind words following Audrey's recent death. Thanks also to Reverend Angus Adamson and Clair and David Hendry for the funeral arrangements, and staff at the Corrie Hotel for the catering.

We are also very grateful for the medical care which Audrey received over the last four years from doctors, nurses and staff at Crosshouse and Arran War Memorial hospitals, District Nurses and Arran Medical Group. We must also thank the Arran Homecare Support team and Stronach Day Centre for their excellent care and attention. Special thanks also, go to Dr Hamadi and all the staff at Montrose House, who cared for Audrey over the past few months.

The sum of £462 was raised at the two services, which will be divided between the Dementia Support Service and the SSPCA. Thanks to all who kindly donated.

BAILLIE: Ena would like to thank everyone for the expressions of sympathy received on the loss of her husband. Kerr. Also Elizabeth Clark for spiritual comfort, AW Blair & Sons for funeral arrangements and all who attended at Lamlash Church and at Kilbride Cemetery



Winner Ross Auld in action at Kames at the weekend.

attracted a near-full entry list for their first rally of the season at the Kames Motorsport Complex in Muirkirk on Sunday. A large public gallery was treated to some spirited driving in both the main event and in the junior rally for under 17-year-

The main rally saw a three-way struggle for honours between the Escorts of Ross from Whiting Bay, Allan McDowall of Tarbolton and Cumnock's Willie Pollock. Going into the final of the 16 special stages the trio were covered by only 38 seconds and after some nail-biting runs, the Arran man held on to win by 15 seconds from Mc-Dowall who in turn had only 16 seconds in hand over Pollock. Marc Mc-

Cubbin from Muirkirk was sixth in a Ford Focus

The junior rally was even closer, with Peter Beaton from Ardisier working hard in his Peugeot 107 to hold on to a three second lead over Lewis Winder from New Galloway in a Nissan Micro. He too was under pressure as Andrew Blackwood from Stewarton closed his Citroen C1 to just nine seconds.

The juniors, who included three girls, were in cars limited to 1,000cc engine size but they all gave good accounts of themselves. McCubbin from Amv Muirkirk finished 11th as a result of two maximum scores which lost her several places.

First bowl at Blackwaterfoot

Bowlers got the season off on the right foot as 12 members of the Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club gathered last Saturday to take part in the first tournament of the sea-

The ends were fiercely contested and the eventual winner was John Robinson. In second place was Keith Kelsall, followed by Jenny Douglas in third place.

Light refreshments were enjoyed after the game and members are looking forward to a season of good bowling in fine weath-

The Blackwaterfoot rink is situated behind the Shiskine Golf Club tearoom and is the only outdoor carpet rink on Arran.

Brodick Bowling Club

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

The club is keen to encourage anyone who wants to try out the game to come along any weekday 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 very 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.



Members of the Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club enjoyed a game in the sunshine at their first tournament of the season.

Three in a row as Brodick ladies lift Kiscadale Salver

were the proud winners of the Kiscadale inter-club for the coveted trophy. matchplay competition last lifting the Kiscadale Salver for the third consecutive year.

Taking place over five days starting on Tuesday April 17, at Whiting Bay, the matches started off very wet underfoot but as the tournament progressed the course dried out and by Saturday, the final day, the sun was shining and conditions were perfect for golf.

Women golfers from Brodick, Lamlash, Machrie Bay and Shiskine clubs -

Brodick Golf Club ladies Ladies Golf Union (ALGU) - fielded teams to compete

Starting the tournament week which saw the club on Tuesday, Lamlash won one game and lost another against Brodick while Shiskine won both their games against Machrie.

On Thursday evening Lamlash won one game and lost one against Machrie while Brodick won two very tight matches against Shiskine, one of which went to the last putt on the 18th green. At this stage the scores were: Brodick 6pts, Lamlash and Shiskine 4pts each, and Machrie 2pts

On the final day Brodwho are part of the Arran ick won both their match-



All of the players who took part in the Kiscadale competition.



The Brodick winners of the Kiscadale Salver.

es against Machrie giving them a final score of 10 points to win the Kiscadale Salver for the third consecutive year. Shiskine won both their matches against Lamlash giving them a score of eight to become the runners up.

A spokewoman for the ALGU said: 'Congratulations to the Brodick team for their win, Captain Isobel MacDonald, Ann May, Susan Butchard, Margaret Roxburgh and Heather Raeside.

Good condition

Thanks to Whiting Bay for the courtesy of the course and to the greenkeeper for all his efforts in getting the course in good condition despite the recent wet weather.

'Thank you to John for the delicious suppers, Nancy for all her work in the bar, and to the Captain Wolfi Kroner and Lesley Wood for coming out to support the competition and for making us feel so welcome. It was a competition of good golf played in great spirit and thank you to all the spectators who came to support their teams.'

Following the matches the annual prize-giving took place with the following winners receiving trophies: Flockhart Trophy, Kate McAdam, Cir Mhor, Isobel MacDonald. Drumadoon Tray, scratch and nett, Kema Genda. Island Championship, Ann May, runner-up, Susan Butchard.

ARRAN BANNER, Saturday 28 April, 2018

The next fixture for the Arran Ladies Golf Union will be the Flockhart Trophy to be played at Brodick Golf Club on Saturday May 12, at 12.30pm.



Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday April 19, Summer Cup, CSS 67. 1 Andy Smith 81-14=67 BIH, 2 Scott Campbell 82-15=67, 3 Neil Young 72-4=68. Scratch Dougie MacFarlane 68. Magic twos Andy Smith, Graeme Andrew, Scott Campbell, Lee Dutton, all @16th.

Inn Quaich, Stableford, CSS 67, RO. Winner Ian Bremner 30pts. Runner up Lee Dutton 26pts. Scratch Ian Bremner 23pts.

29, Hastings Cup first round, 8.30am, 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday May 3, Summer Cup, make up own games, see starter for times. McKinnon 66.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday April 18, Summer Trophy. A total of 18 played in the latest round of the Summer Trophy. CSS stayed at 63 and Stan Rainey carded a magnificent nett 59 to win by three from Ryan Armstrong. Jamie Macpherson had the lowest gross score of 70. 1 Stan Rainey 11, 59, 2 Ryan Armstrong 9, 62, 3 Paul Robson 17, 63, 4 Gus MacLeod 12, 64. Magic twos Stephen Judge and Nicol Auld, both @2nd.

Sunday April 22, Captains drive-in and prize. This fell Sunday April 22, Drift victim to the weather and will now be played on Sunday May 13.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday April 18, Sum-Fixtures: Sunday April mer Cup, 26 played, CSS 66. 1 Matthew Keir 67-4=63, 2 Gordon Hendry 70-6=64, 3 Bob McCrae 73-8=65. Scratch Ewan

Sunday April 22, Belhaven Medal, 10 played, CSS 65. 1 John May 85-21=64, 2 Donald McKinnie 77-11=66, 3 Bob McCrae 75-8=67. Scratch Bob McCrae

Congratulations to the ladies team on retaining the Kiscadale Salver!

Fixture: Sunday April 29, Brandon qualifier, 8.30am and noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday April 21, Medal. Only eight played on what was a lovely day, something to do with football maybe? 1 E McKinnon 60+1=61, scratch, 2 R Logan 73-6=67. Magic twos E McKinnon. Another great score by Euan.

Fixtures: Saturday May 5, 18 hole Medal. Ballots at 9am and 2pm. Wednesday May 9, Medal and magic twos ballot at 5pm.

Tuesday April 24, Peter Sutton, CSS 64. 1 Ron



ALGU trophy winners at the annual prize-giving.

Woods 64pts, 2 Phil Bet-70pts.

Fixtures: Tuesday May 1, ley 67pts, 3 Cambell Laing Peter Sutton/Lady Mary, tee off at 12.30pm and 12.30pm.

5.30pm. Saturday May 5, Hugh Steel Cup, tee off at

Scott wins in his first Ormidale 10k

Continued from page 28 take the first local wom- ners from North Ayrshire race director Paul Emsley en's prize finishing 31st in AC took the team prize.

a time of 49.17. Three run-

Ahead of the prize-giving, thanked the volunteer mar-

shals for keeping the runners safe, the timekeepers and the others who helped on the day.

The other local runners and their finishing times were: Darren Townsend 47.06. Myles Johnston 47.19. Garry Tulloch 48.08, Stuart Brodie 50.23, Ken Hogge 50.28, Shane Henderson 50.39, Trefor Goronwy 52.17, Brian Donlin 54.00, Abbie McKelvie 55.06, Sue Francis 55.31, Sarah Blair 56.51, Patrick Scott 57.50, Carole Johnston 58.00, Liam McNeaney 59.57, Karen Ferguson 01.00.02, Beth Rees 01.00.04, Hugh Boag 01.00.06, Amanda Hogge 01.07.56, Ingrid Demazeux 01.10.06.



Scott Pilkington of Corstorphine AC with his winner's medal. 01_B17ormidale10



Runners head out of Knowe Road. 01_B170



Patrick Scott from Whiting Bay makes a determined bid for the finish line followed by Carole Johnston. 01_B17ormidale08



Winner Scott Pilkington, in white vest, gets to the front from the start. 01_B17ormidale02



First local man David Allsop heads to the finish line. 01 B17ormidale0



Miles Johnston from Arran finished in a very respectable 47.19.01_B17ormidale06



Overall fastest female Elaine Eadie approaches the finishing line. 01_B17ormidale07



Over-50s winner Fiona Clarke is still smiling at the finish. 01 B17ormidale0

Arran Banner, Saturday 28 April, 2018



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Three in a row as Brodick ladies lift Kiscadale Salver



All 81 runners at the start of the Ormidale 10k. 01_B17ormidale01

Strong local field take part in Ormidale 10k

A strong field of local runners were among the 81 entrants who took part in the Isle of Arran Ormidale 10k last Sunday.

The event, which was celebrating its 30th anniversary, also had a record online 23 local runners.

Despite initial rain, the run, which takes participants from the start in Ormidale Park to Merkland Point and back, was held in time of 40.48.

mainly dry conditions, with the sun even making an appearance, but with some strong wind on the return

Winner in his first Ormidale 10k was Scott Pilkington of Corstorphine AC in entry this year, including a very respectable time of 34min 49sec, with Calum Oates runner-up with a time of 36.04. First woman home was Elaine Eadie of Kilbarchan AAC with a

There were some good times too from locals, with David Allsop of Arran Runners the first home, finishing eighth in a time of 39.45. Mike Mellor, also of Arran Runners, was second in 17th place in a time of 42.30.

Arran resident Fiona Clarke took the overall women's over-50 prize finishing in 22nd place in a time of 46.22, leaving Clare Marriott of Whiting Bay to Continued on page 27

Some of the prize-winners pictured at the end of the race.

01_B17ormidale09



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