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Iconic mini golf gets a major makeover

Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

It has entertained generations of children for nearly 60 years. But now the iconic mini golf on Brodick shorefront has been torn up – to be replaced by a new course.

It was in June 1960 when the course and the Mini Cafe were first created and opened for business, and it has remained open, under three owners, continuously for the 58 years until last Sunday.

First thing on Monday, Armitage Groundworks moved in and fenced off the site with the diggers this week demolishing the remaining 15 holes of the old concrete course – which had remained largely as they were laid all those years ago

It will be replaced by an 18-hole artificial grass course which owner Alastair Bilsland says will be 'truly all weather'. The work is expected to take around six weeks with the new course opening in time for the school summer holidays.

Much of the work involves complete new drainage for site, which Alastair admits has been a persistent problem in the past, but



Nice shot. Digger takes the last shot at the hill hole. 01_B18mini01

which will be eradicated by the extensive new works. The only part of the course being kept is the Forth Rail Bridge which was built for Alastair by Ian Monteith of Kiscadale Engineering in Whiting Bay around 15 years ago, but it will be feature in a new hole. Three holes were previously sacrificed for the mini go-

carts, previously sited on what is now the Little Rock terrace.

Because it is essentially a repair job, the work did not require planning permission or building warrant approval.

Alastair has taken inspiration for the new course from attractions in New Zealand, which he visits

regularly to see family, and Canada. One hole will feature a map of Arran.

The course is being built by Allan Macleod, and Alastair said Brodick surveyor Dave Campbell had been really helpful with the design.

'I am really delighted to see this work finally going ahead. It has been a long

time in the planning. One of the last players on the old course was my grandson Nicol, who may be only seven but is fantastic at mini golf. I plan to have him over as my guest of honour at the opening,' Alastair told the *Banner*.

The original course was the brainchild of the

Continued on page 2

Hope for creamery buyer

There was hope this week that a buyer could be found for the Torrylinn Creamery, which is up for sale.

A number of discussions with interested parties have already taken place and at least one potential investor is in talks with owners First Milk, the *Banner* was told.

The owners announced last month that the Kilmory creamery, which first opened in 1946, was for sale, putting the jobs of the six employees at risk, as well as threatening the main supply outlet for two Arran dairy farms. The Campbeltown Creamery is also up for sale.

Cunninghame North MSP Kenneth Gibson raised the sale at First Minister's Questions last week asking: 'What can be done to minimise the impact on the people who work at the creameries and in the local supply chain, including Arran and Kintyre farms?'

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon replied that the announcement was 'very disappointing'. However, she said the sale of the sites offered an opportunity for the right approach to be taken by future owners to achieve a sustainable future for the creameries, farmers and local communities.

'The cabinet secretary for the rural economy and connectivity (Fergus Ewing) is already working with offi-

Continued on page 2

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A new mini golf course for Brodick

Continued from page 1
 Dawes, a family of architects from Kilmarnock. The mini golf and glass-fronted cafe were quite an attraction to the shorefront in Brodick on what had just been a marshy plot between two hotels.

At the time there were only two courses of its kind

in Britain, the other being in Newquay in Cornwall, and the Dawes are said to have planned a series of them up the West Coast of Scotland, but this did not materialise.

The opening was reported at the time in an edition of *The Weekly Scotsman*, a publication which closed in

1967, who reported: 'The mini golf course is a fantastic network of tarmac strips (the playing stretches) set among rockeries, flower beds and lawns.'

'Players will find themselves putting through connecting pipes, up ramps, over a water hazard and even for a foot-wide rustic bridge.'

'With the course is a cafe which has seating accommodation for 80 people – 30 inside and the rest on a terrace at tables with continental umbrellas.'

The Dawes family ran the course for seven years when it was taken over by the Lawrence family, also from Ayrshire, who ran it



A last look at the old course before work began. 01_B19mini02

for three years before selling it to Alastair in 1970. 'A lot of people think I built it, but it was very much the

brainchild of the Dawes family,' he said.

'I will be delighted to see the new course complet-

ed and believe it will offer a greater challenge to golfers young and old than the previous course,' he added.



The Mini Cafe as it once looked. 01_B19mini03



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Hope for creamery buyer

Continued from page 1
 cials to explore all possible options to save the creameries. That involves engaging fully with local agencies, partners and – which is important – the farmers, on work with potential investors, so that we can try to find a sustainable and viable way forward. I know that the cabinet secretary would be happy to meet Kenneth Gibson to discuss the matter further.'

Mr Gibson told the *Banner*: 'The Scottish Government livestock manager Kevin Matheson has directly engaged with farmers on Arran and signposted them to contacts, one of whom is in touch with First Milk at this time with a view to taking over the creamery. A number of discussions with interested parties have also taken place.'

The managing director of Taste of Arran and Arran Dairies, Alastair Dobson, has been liaising and assisting with a potential sale. He says the creamery has lacked both investment in its machinery and in its marketing, partly shown by the decision to stop production of their popular Arran shaped cheeses.

He said it was imperative

that anyone taking over the creamery had to revitalise their sales channels. He said that was where Taste of Arran could help by providing 'market savvy' and helping to use Arran to sell the brand both in the UK and abroad.

He said: 'We have to treat the sale as an opportunity but have to realise that if not handled well it could become a crisis. The farms on Arran are integral to the rural community and I want to see more, not fewer, farms.'

Mr Gibson added: 'I have spoken to cabinet secre-

tary Fergus Ewing, who has asked that his officials put together what could be offered in terms of Scottish Government and partners support.'

These include Scottish Development International, which will look to continue to offer international trade services and support any new operator; HIE specialist advice services to provide support; introductions to Skills Development Scotland and its excellent Skills for Growth Service; and the Scottish Manufacturing Advisory Service.

Caley Isles repair completed

The mezzanine deck on the MV Caledonian Isles has been repaired, allowing her to operate at full capacity. The ferry had only been operating with the port upper deck due to a fault.

In other developments, the CalMac ferry MV Clansman has returned to service after extensive repairs to her propulsion system. Her absence required the company to move to an alternative timetable causing widespread disruption across its West Coast routes.

The vessel has picked up services from Uig to Tarbert and Lochmaddy allowing the MV Hebrides to enter dry dock for an overhaul.

However, this will have no immediate effect on the restricted MV Isle of Arran service between Brodick and Ardrossan, which is also currently serving Islay. The ferry should be operating full-time on the Arran route from May 23.

Island Porcelain comes full circle

In a week of iconic rebirths, Arran's famous hand-crafted porcelain birds and animals have come home to roost.

Island Porcelain has come full circle and can today be found back in its original home, Studio 4 in Lamlash, after more than 40 years.

Artist Tracy Gibson, who has run the Boat-house in Brodick for 15 years, bought the company last year and had originally planned to open her showroom there. However, when Studio 4 became available, she jumped at the chance to take it back to its spiritual home. 'There is a real provenance that the

collection is back where it all began,' she said.

Each figure is individually hand-made, to a high standard. It is then carefully hand-painted and fired to an eye-watering 1,200 degrees. Most figures have a matt, unglazed finish which is characteristic of the products. This process means that no two pieces are ever identical, making each piece unique.

Birds make up the majority of the designs, which now number more than 60, though there is a small range of porcelain animals such as dolphins, seals, red squirrels and their popular Corrie sheep, modelled on

the sheep which stand on the quayside at Corrie and Sannox.

Personalised items and Christmas designs are also available.

It was in the early 1970s that Alasdair Dunn, the renowned Scottish potter, painter and sculptor, began producing the porcelain miniatures from his workshop at Kings Cross and many of these are still in the growing collection today.

After his death in 1986, his dedicated team continued with his successful business until, in 1988, they decided the time was right to follow their own dream. Their continued hard work and determination and, of course, some of Alastair Dunn's vision, ensured the business went from strength to strength, allowing them to purchase the Old School in Kilmory in 1990. By then it was being run by Anne Rhead, Ile Ash, Janette Head and Marie Park and later Morag Grieve.

Their business flourished until 2006 when they decided it was time to sell and



Tracy surrounded by her porcelain miniatures in the shop. 01_B18tracy01

the company was bought by Vivienne Lambie. From there, Island Porcelain found itself back in Lamlash for a short while before eventually settling in Corrie, where it remained until last year

when Tracy became the latest custodian.

For Tracy, a talented painter and craft worker who lives in Lamlash, it is a new challenge but one she is looking forward to. When the Lamlash shop is

fully up and running, Tracy also plans to have a display in The Boathouse as well.

The majority of the miniatures sell for around £26 and are also available online at www.islandporcelain.com



Tracy outside the Lamlash shop. 01_B18tracy03

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Stalwart Willie is laid to rest

Lamlash Church was packed on Tuesday for the funeral of Arran farmer and community stalwart Willie McConnell, who died on Monday April 23 – just days before his 81st birthday.

After the service he was carried from the church by members of his family acting as pallbearers and led by his son and former First Minister Jack McConnell, now Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale.

He was buried at a private service at Lamlash Cemetery. A full obituary will appear in next week's *Banner*.



A piper led the funeral procession from the church to the hearse. 01_B18mccconnell01

May Day Mayday rescue near Seamill

Passengers aboard the MV Isle of Arran took a slight detour on Tuesday, the first day of May, when the ferry was diverted to assist with a Mayday call from a small creeler which was in distress near Seamill.

Launching its on-board fast rescue craft, the rib rescued the creeling ves-

sel whose propeller had become fouled and was drifting dangerously close to the rocky coast. The fast rescue craft secured a rope to the ailing vessel and towed it into deeper water until a lifeboat arrived on the scene.

Shortly after 8.30am the Troon RNLI lifeboat Jim



Onlookers watch the drama unfold as two vessels, coordinated with the assistance of a Coastguard vehicle on the shore, tow an ailing creeler away from the rocky coast.



Saving the day, the MV Isle of Arran's fast rescue craft is launched. Photographs: Peter Young

Moffat arrived with the Ardrossan Coastguard Rescue Team and took over the towline and towed the vessel into Clyde Marina where it was berthed with the assistance of the coastguard team. The combined efforts of the two rescue agencies and the fast rescue craft ensured that a poten-

tially serious situation was averted.

Hours after the rescue, both Troon lifeboats responded to a second call-out to attend to a boat requiring assistance between Troon and Arran. However, a closer vessel was able to provide assistance and both lifeboats were stood down.



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Stars are sought for Santa's Sparkle

Organisers of the Santa's Sparkle event in Lam-lash are appealing for volunteers to help make this year's sparkle extra special.

For the first time, the community last year took over the running of the well-loved Christmas festival, which includes music, entertainment, food, carols, children's entertainment, a parade and a visit from Santa himself.

However, the efforts needed to organise and arrange the event requires a huge amount of volunteer organisers, who are required to ensure that things run smoothly and to ensure that it is able to go ahead at all. While the legal and financial frameworks are in place, volunteers are now being sought to start making the necessary preparations.

In particular, they are looking for a person, persons or a group who can coordinate activities for children throughout the day; someone to organise and coordinate stage activities; and people to organise fundraising activities during the year to ensure that costs are covered and hope-

fully generate a fund for other community benefits.

They also need someone or a small group to solicit help and funds from Arran businesses; someone to organise and coordinate the necessary equipment to arrive at the school and to be removed after the event; and an organiser for the Santa's parade and someone to enlist hot food stalls.

Many of these roles can be merged or split into further parts and any help, no matter how large or small, would be greatly appreciated. The plan so far is to hold most of the event at Lam-lash High School with Santa traditionally arriving at Lam-lash Pier at mid-day and travelling to the school along with a festive parade to see the children in his grotto. Later in the afternoon – after everyone has played, been entertained and fed – Santa will lead the throngs out to light

the village Christmas tree which will conclude with a fireworks finale.

Previously run and funded by the Glenisle Hotel, last year's event was the first community-run Santa's Sparkle and not only did the event cover its costs, it also managed to return something to the community in addition to the event itself.

Donations totalling nearly £500 were made to a number of local organisations, including Arran Brass Band, Arran Junior Triathlon Club, Arran Youth Foundations, Lam-lash children's annual party, Lam-lash Church, Lam-lash Improvements Association and the Taiko Drummers.

If you can offer any assistance in any way, great or small, you can make contact through the Santa's Sparkle website at www.santasparkle.co.uk or through their Facebook page.



Runners and walkers at the start of the Finish for Matt event. 01_B18matt01

Arran joins in Finish for Matt

There was a good turn-out last Sunday on Arran taking part in the Finish for Matt event.

Runs have been taking place across the country to remember tragic chef Matt Campbell, who collapsed and died during the London marathon last month.

Barbara Crawford and Carol Brown,

who ran the marathon, came up with idea to hold a run on Arran.

Last weekend 28 island residents, including a baby in her pram, ran or walked the 3.7-mile course, in memory of the distance Matt failed to finish, to raise money for his charity the Brathay Trust. His total has now reached £337,851 and is still rising.

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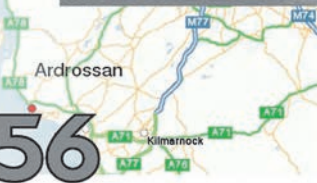
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Pupils win £3,000 Arran mountain

Words and pictures by Colin Smeeton

Four S2 Arran High School pupils have secured a £3,000 donation for the Arran Mountain Rescue Team with a winning presentation on why the life-saving organisation deserved the cash windfall.

The cash prize was the result of their success at the Youth Philanthropy Initiative (YPI), now in its sixth year, which saw 10 teams putting forward presentations in a bid to teach children about compassion, social issues and local charities.

Presentation

At a special presentation, attended by parents and fellow pupils last Wednesday, the five finalist teams competed for their presentation to be selected by a panel of judges, which included

Arran High School head girl Jasmine Scorey, Finn MacArthur, a member of last year's winning team, Meg El Adm, local business owner, Brodie Pearcey from North Ayrshire Council and head teacher Barry Smith.

Among the local charities being supported, all of which were visited by pupils to learn about their activities, were Arran Community and Voluntary Services (ACVS), Arran Youth Foundations (AYF) and Arran Cancer Support (ArCaS), as well as the mountain rescue team.

Participants used a variety of methods to make their presentations memorable which included a quiz – which saw players squirted with silly string – and a pie in the face game, along with video presentations and a cartoon animation.

While the judges deliberated over their decision, visitors were entertained by the skilled violin player Charlotte McKillop and a pitch-perfect rendition of *Hallelujah* by Iona Summer.

Informative and fun

The winning team, comprising Sam Reid, Gina Boni, James Macis and Euan Kinniburgh, convinced the judges to nominate their charity, the AMRT, with an informative and fun presentation which involved a quiz and liberal amounts of silly string being administered for incorrect answers.

Eilidh Hamill, who compered the event and who was on a YPI winning team two years ago, thanked all of the participants, judges and welcomed Isabel Johnstone, YPI Ayrshire regional facilitator, who presented the winning team with the cheque.



Pawel Gren, Thomas Gilmore, Sidney Townsend and Imogen Boyd enlist the help of mountain team member Darryl Urquhart-Dixon in their presentation. 01_B18YPI02



Sam Reid, Gina Boni, James Macis and Euan Kinniburgh give their reasons for supporting their nominated charity. 01_B18YPI04



Audience volunteers get sprayed with silly string during the quiz by the winning team supporting AMRT. 01_B18YPI03



Sheena Fletcher received a pie to the face in a game with Julia Harrison and Robert McNiece. 01_B18YPI06



Charlotte McKillop, accompanied by James O'Neil, perform for the audience during the judges' deliberations. 01_B18YPI07

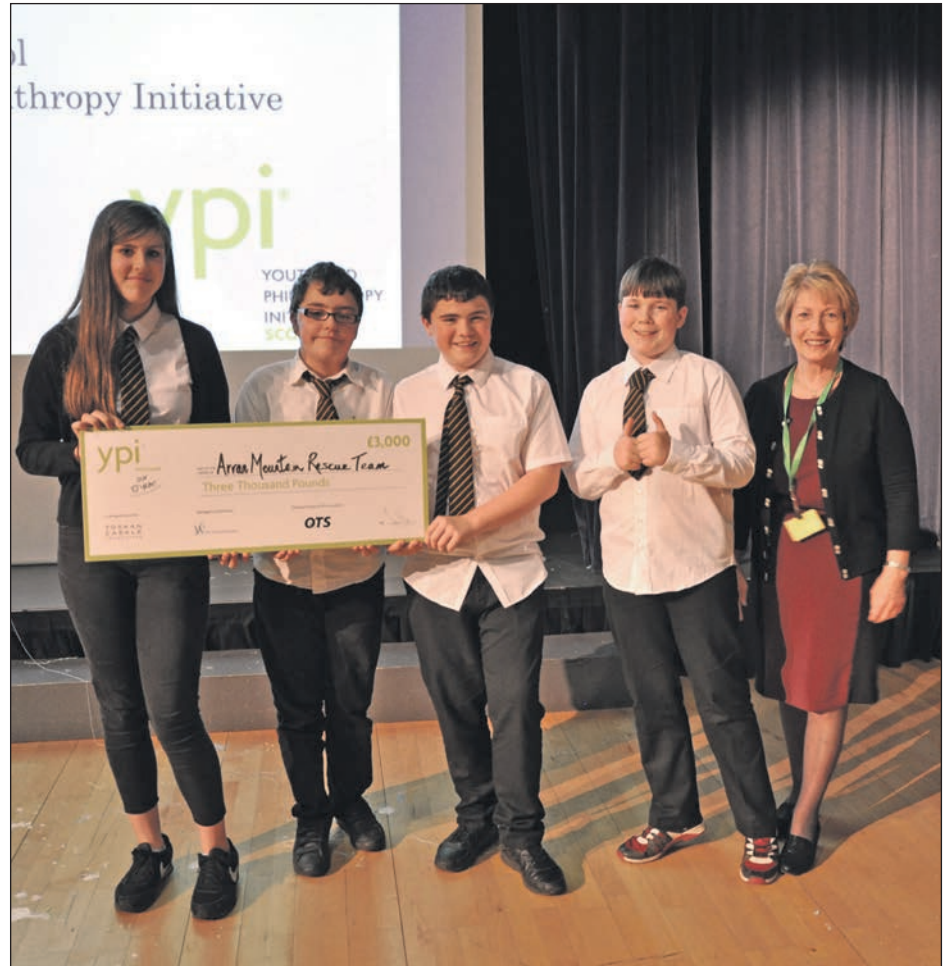


Jamie Simpson, Jemima Currie, Milo Godwin and Keir Riddel present their reasons for supporting ArCaS. 01_B18YPI05

£3,000 prize for rescue team



Judges Barry Smith, Finn MacArthur, Meg Al Adm, Jasmine Scorey and Brodie Pearcey listen intently to the pupils' presentation. 01_B18YPI01



Isabel Johnstone, YPI Ayrshire regional facilitator presents Sam Reid, Gina Boni, James Macis and Euan Kinniburgh with a cheque for £3,000 for the AMRT. 01_B18YPI08

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Editorial

End of an era

So its the end of an era for the Brodick mini golf. After nearly 60 years providing entertainment for generations of children, and their children's children, it has now been reduced to a pile of rubble.

There will be many who will be sad to see the 'old course' go but it had serious drainage problems and was beginning to look like it had seen better days.

So it is great to see Alastair Bilsland investing in a new course fit for the 21st century and which he promises will provide a far greater challenge. We can't wait to see it.

However, it is good to see nothing changes on Arran.

In the Weekly Scotsman report of the course opening in 1960, the reporter said one of the 'island's arts and crafts set' had described Arran as a 'Hell on earth' during the summer months.

He complained about the number of cars flowing on to the island from the car ferry Glen Sannox, which he called 'a floating garage', and said they were shattering the peace and tranquillity of the place.

That's par for the course.

Thought for the week

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

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Pothole woes are nationwide

Sir,
I had a (mostly) successful five-hour back operation eight years ago so I read with interest and empathy chronic back sufferer Peter Finlay's long letter in the April 21 *Banner* regarding potholes.

This I read while en route to the beautiful city of Lincoln via foot-ferry-train-bus-flight-taxi.

At Glasgow Airport, I picked-up free copies of some newspapers that I would never purchase and found the below post by Matthew Parris in *The Times* interesting and pertinent to Arran/Scotland's dire road conditions. One would think that England, with higher council taxes and alarming crime rates due to savage police cuts, along with a reeling, inadequately funded NHS, would at least keep the roads in better condition than Scotland, but perhaps not: 'Throughout history rings the cry "It's when it happens to you ..." Austerity often doesn't "happen" to people like me (and many of you) as fast, as often or as painfully as it does to millions of others. But potholes we *Times* readers see. When in our own lives our nearside front tyre is shredded, the ruddy pothole represents a momentary twitching-back of one tiny corner of a great curtain, behind which lie, no, not potholes, but a million anxious human stories, caused in part by cuts in public spending.

'And, no, I'm not going to decry cutting public spending. Much of it had to happen. But I'm making two points. First, the exercise cannot be without limit. Second, the time-lag be-

tween the cut and the pain can be so long that by the time you feel the pain the cut may have gone much deeper than you noticed. We need to wake up to that.

'So back, without apology, to potholes. Thanks to another of these, a friend in Lincolnshire has just broken his neck, though not fatally, thank heaven. Potholes matter in themselves. But they are a parable for others that matter even more.

'Over roughly the past decade (my figures don't cover 2017) spending on roads by councils has fallen by about a fifth. Serious injuries to cyclists have trebled, while cyclists' numbers have increased by a fraction of that. According to the RAC, the number of cars needing roadside assistance after hitting potholes has almost doubled since January.

'According to the Asphalt Industry Alliance, there are 24,000 miles of roads urgently awaiting repair in England and Wales. On present trends, a road is resurfaced every 78 years and it would now take 14 years, and more than £9 billion, to return the network to a "steady state". Our roads have been crumbling.

'Roads spending has just started to rise, albeit gently. Late in the day, local and central government politicians have woken up to what's happening.

'The trouble is, it's already happened. Voters in their millions, including *Times* readers in huge numbers, are telling them so. Just as my little argument with Mawstone Lane was a parable for a wider problem with potholes nationwide, so potholes nationwide are a parable for a problem far wider than that. We may be deceived by the fact that

you can get away for years, but not for ever, with pushing a problem to one side.'

Yours,
**Alex Holmes,
Brodick.**

Road closures

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 inquiries 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?

Yours,
**Fiona Reiss,
Corrie.**

On contemplating Brodick beach

Sir,
*The rain on Arran erodes the land
and washes it down to the sea.*

*It reaches there and ends as sand
and tumbles around the coast as free
to go where the currents decide.*

*Sometimes it piles up high as dunes
a source of wonder and of pride*

*and others as with the cast of runes
the sand just goes as with the tide.*

There almost appears little rhyme or reason

why the laid down sand just goes away

It seems to happen during winter's season

But when it goes once it will never stay.

So if people now lay lots of sand

with no protection not even a groyne

What do they expect when all the land

is again exposed, with many a coin

it has costed, the sand-bags shining white again

their efforts laid bare for all to see.

The movement of tides is not a friend

to those who ignore hydrology.

So Brodick beach has gone once more

and without some thought, it will stay that way

Lost it seems and beyond man's power

Perhaps an expert has something to say?

Yours,
**Kenny Walker,
Dumblane.**

Roadside samaritan

Sir,
I would like to thank the young man who helped me back on to the road when my car had rolled forward, almost into a ditch, at North Sannox.

I was in despair and he calmly directed me back from the deep ditch but refused to accept anything but my gratitude.

Thank you sir for helping a frantic elderly lady with patience and courtesy, I will remember to leave my car in gear in future!

Yours,
**Gillian Miller,
Newton Mearns.**

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How to contact us

Arran Banner,
Brodick,
Isle of Arran,
KA27 8AJ
Phone: 01770 302142
News editor
Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Reporter
Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Advertising
Cecilia Paul
adverts@arranbanner.co.uk

Head office
Wyvex Media,
Lochavullin Industrial
Estate, Oban,
PA34 4HB



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Ironing out the teething troubles at new terminal

New seating could be installed in the ground floor of the new Brodick ferry terminal, under plans being considered by ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne, the *Banner* understands.

There has been criticism over the fact that there are no seats on the ticket desk floor, designed to improve the space for the smooth flow of passengers arriving at the terminal, as well as concern that there is now nowhere to wait for the bus.

However, it is just one of the teething problems being considered by CalMac at the new terminal – now in its seventh week of operation discussed at the recent meeting of Arran Community Council.

Debate has also been sparked by the feature in the *Banner* last week in which the Arran Civic Trust highlighted the unintended consequences of the new £30 million ferry terminal.

In another development

passengers can now drop-off bags at the desk in Brodick and pick them up at Ardrossan. However there is concern at the speed of the operation on the mainland if passengers are heading for the train and this is being addressed.

Also of major concern to the community council was the use of the new terminal car park, which they heard was being 'monitored'. Members heard that it was intended as a short-stay car park with cars expected to stay maximum of a few days and not long term, however, there was concern that the blue badge spaces for the disabled were already being abused.

Chairman Bill Calderwood said there were now more car parking spaces than ever and were of a much better quality. However, he said, a little tongue in cheek: 'I don't think they ever intended for everyone on Arran to have a parking space.'

He added: 'We have to ap-

peal to everyone to use the car park responsibly. There are CCTV cameras and we need to monitor situation to see where we are going. And we can only ask everyone, please do not abuse the blue badge spaces.'

Meanwhile, a bid by the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee to turn the Lochranza to Claonaig summer ferry service into a year round service has been rejected by CalMac due to 'operational difficulties'.

The *Banner* reported last December that the committee had argued that the service could be diverted to Tarbert Loch Fyne in bad weather, and this is still being reviewed.

The ferry committee is also frustrated that despite the fact that in a year from now Arran may have two ferries, when the MV Glen Sannox comes into service, however neither Transport Scotland or CalMac will give any indication of the timetabling of the new year round two ferry service.



Car parking at the new ferry terminal is being monitored. 01_B18park01

Weak road will take weeks to repair

Road users who have been affected by the temporary traffic lights on Brodick hill will have to endure further weeks of delay before the situation can be rectified.

That is the warning from North Ayrshire Council who have set up the temporary traffic lights owing to subsidence under the

road which has caused the pavement to collapse and weaken the road.

A North Ayrshire Council spokesperson said: 'A survey and inspection of the retaining wall has taken place and the road has been made safe by moving traffic away from the affected area.

'We are considering options and will consult with local representatives shortly to discuss the impact of the repairs on the road network.

'It is likely to be a few weeks before any work starts and in the meantime the temporary measures will remain in place and the road will be monitored. Every effort will be made to minimise delays on the road network.'

The temporary traffic lights, while only allowing one way traffic for a short few metres, has been creating a bottleneck effect owing to the nearby junction, which at peak times, experiences heavy traffic owing to ferry departures and arrivals.



The traffic lights on Brodick hill will remain for weeks
01_B18roads01

Important new information on Government support for Central Heating Systems:

UPDATE NOV 2017

FACT 1

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

FACT 2

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

FACT 3

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

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Amnesty pyrotechnics go up in flames

Arran HM Coastguard received a huge amount of expired marine pyrotechnics which were safely disposed of under professional supervision last Saturday.

The amnesty took place due to information that a large amount of pyrotechnics were in circulation on Arran despite the Marine and Coastguard Agency having no statutory requirement to dispose of the items.

Members of the public and marine community handed in flares, handheld maroons and miniflare packs which were placed into suitable containers before being burned.

A containment area with a large cordon was established in a remote area and the highly flammable and explosive material was set alight. A total of 482 items were burned.

Emma still hopeful of finding Drogo

The search for missing dog Drogo received a welcome boost after receiving national coverage by the BBC Scotland earlier this week.

Drogo was adopted from Bosnia by Emma Campbell of Lamlash who has been intensively searching for the missing canine for over seven months since he bolted on a familiarisation walk just weeks after he arrived on Arran.

Enlisting the help of expert dog finders Lost and Hound Canine Capture Team, Emma has been relentless in her efforts at reuniting with Drogo, going as far as adopting Drogo's sister Goldie to help entice the German Shepherd

cross into a cage. Raising Emma's optimism in capturing Drogo in a feeding trap from the expert dog finders, Drogo has recently been photographed by a trail camera right at the entrance to the trap.

Fearing that the trap might seem a bit too enclosed for Drogo – who is skittish – a larger trap will soon be used to hopefully lure him in now that a feeding pattern has been established near the trap.

But it is not all good news though, Emma's new concern now lies with the fact that lambing season is well under way and that a dog who has had to resort to primal living might be tempt-



Drogo is pictured at the trap which is being used to try and capture him.

ed by the newborn lambs – an undesirable situation which farmers might resolve with a shotgun owing to the devastation that sheep worrying can cause.

Emma told the *Banner*: 'I am overwhelmed by the amount of support and offers of help that I have re-

ceived. While they are appreciated I have been advised that we stick with the systematic trapping plan and that people kindly refrain from approaching him or trying to seek him out.

'I feel responsible for Drogo and even when sighting him recently with

friend and Arran Ranger Jo Totty, I had to avoid calling out to him to prevent scaring him away from being acclimatised to the cage which is our best hope of capturing him after having failed with all of the other methods.

'Thank you everyone for all of your well-wishes and words of support. We hope to get Drogo home soon.'

While Drogo has been out in the wild fending for himself he has become an elusive but minor celebrity, with a large following and with his own social media page called Finding Drogo, where regular updates are provided and sighting recorded.



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

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Sat 5th, Sun 6th & Mon 7th May 11:30 & 13:00

Tue 8th, Wed 9th, Thurs 10th & Fri 11th May 11:30 & 14:30

A guided historical tour of the exterior of the Castle.

Stout footwear advised.

Adults FREE with Garden Entry. Please book at reception on arrival.

BRODICK CASTLE TIME TRAVELLERS Mon 7th May 14:00

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

Stout footwear advised.

Adults & children FREE with Garden Entry.

Booking essential, tel. 01770 302202.

BRODICK CASTLE GARDEN WALK Tue 8th May 14:00 - 15:30

Join the First Gardener for a tour of our current horticultural highlights.

FREE with Garden entry; donations welcome

No need to book, meet at Castle reception centre for 14:00

BADGER WATCH Thurs 10th May Time TBC (evening)

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

Adult £10 (not suitable for under 16yr olds).

Booking essential, tel. rangers 01770 302462.

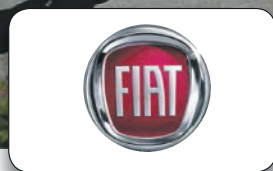
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Facing up to environment



Of particular concern, due to rising sea levels, is a stretch of coast between Brodick and Corrie which is vulnerable to flooding and tidal surges. 01_B18civic01

The site at Springbank Farm in Brodick earmarked for the development of affordable housing. 01_B18civic02

Last week the Arran Civic Trust highlighted the unintended consequences of the new ferry terminal. In the second article of the series, the trust this week considers environmental issues facing the island.

The Arran Civic Trust has a remit to conserve and promote the built and natural environments on Arran. We note with interest the efforts being made by the Arran Economic Group to develop the island in various ways and strongly support the proposals for more affordable housing with appropriate provision, in particular in view of the existing demand for 200 more dwellings of this type. But, as a conservation body, we are concerned that both the siting and supporting infrastructure for such a large number are both adequate and sensitively considered. The island is already under considerable stress owing to RET and to its very successful promotion by VisitArran, and both residents and tourists need to be reassured that the quality of life here is not going to be further diminished by too great visitor numbers and these many extra homes. Of particular importance are the following:

Roads

The most obvious problem currently is the condition of the roads. We are aware that the resources to deal with this on a short- and medium-term basis do not exist given budgetary constraints. But something will have to be done soon if wholesale reconstruction is not to become a necessity. Vehicles are being damaged, driving is becoming dangerous owing to drivers attempting to avoid the potholes and roughest surfaces, and tourism will be affected by visitors' reluctance to expose their cars to damage. Bearing in mind the considerable savings resulting from RET, we suggest that the council looks carefully at the idea of surcharging ferry fares to pay for a rolling programme of road reconstruction, the work to be carried out over several years by private contractors.

Climate change and rising sea levels

Sea levels are predicted to rise by several feet during the course of the century. Already there is severe flooding of lengths of the A841 during tidal surges, with resulting effects upon recreational facilities such as

golf courses and further damage to the roads. It is essential, therefore, to forward plan for this by re-routing some stretches of road and the building of sea walls within the framework defined in the Ayrshire Shoreline Management Plan. Areas of particular concern are on the A841 between Brodick and Corrie and through the villages of Lamlash, Whiting Bay and Lochranza. It should not be assumed that, with the quickening pace of climate change, extreme events will occur only once in 200 years. Sea levels are predicted to rise much faster than that (IPCC), although Arran will be protected to some extent by continuing post-glacial 'rebound'.

Waste disposal

Rising sea levels will affect existing treatment plants, septic tanks and effluent discharges, resulting in possible pollution of beaches and the marine environment. We trust the council is consulting regularly with SEPA over this. Of immediate concern is the increasing number of campervans visiting the island. According to VisitScotland, there are only four registered campervan sites on Arran, of which only one is quality assured. It is usual to see vans parked anywhere and probable that unauthorised discharge of waste is taking place. This issue needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. We are also concerned that there is insufficient control of discharges from the island distillery into Kilbrannan Sound.

Housing and settlements

NAC has produced an excellent guide to the design of housing in rural areas, which the Civic Trust has distributed to stakeholders and individuals on its behalf. We are much concerned about the quality of some of the council's recent planning decisions, which contradict the advice contained in the guide. These decisions affect, for example, approval of developments in what are called ambiguously 'nucleated settlements', which seems to mean consent to build outwith areas shown on its own LDP. They also raise issues to do with the quality of housing



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www.number16.co.uk



The trust believes that is essential to maintain play areas and recreational facilities to enhance the island. 01_B18civic04



The Arran Civic Trust supports the F broad-leaved trees and the significance 01_B18civic06

Environmental issues on the island

which its planners appear to find acceptable. These sometimes fall far short of the design standards applied by, for example, Highland Council, most notably on Skye. We feel that NAC should enforce higher standards by conditioning that applicants for planning consent apply the principles set out clearly in its own Rural Design Guide.

Exterior features of the landscaping

The quality of Arran, and therefore its appeal, lies as much in its exterior features such as walls and hard and soft landscaping as it does in its buildings. It is important therefore that the best examples of these are maintained and repaired. Many are owned privately, but the council could emphasise the importance of this heritage by means of requests to owners, notices and exhibitions. Soft landscaping is also important, which means attention to road verges and planting on publicly owned land. Again, private owners could be encouraged to play their part in maintenance and appropriate planting via notices and even demonstrations.

Light pollution

Despite attempts over the years, some successful, to mitigate the effects of light pollution, excessive exterior lighting of buildings and facilities is now creeping back in. Some hotels are unnecessarily floodlit and the new ferry terminal is a bright and unwelcome beacon of light at the southern end of Invercloy (Brodict). Arran is one of the few places in the country where a dark sky can be enjoyed; this feature is one of the island's attractions.

Forestry

Much of the industry of Arran involves forestry. Until recently, it has been the policy of Forestry Commission Scotland to plant monocultures, but this has been replaced with a new approach which encourages the introduction of broad-leafed trees among the traditional conifers. The hope environmentally is that this will prevent the clear felling of hillsides, which has resulted in their denuding of topsoil and the creation of large amounts of brash, which can be washed into the burns and create flooding.



Forestry Commission in planting an important role that forests play on Arran.

Recreational facilities

Recreation areas for children are essential on a holiday island. It is essential that existing play areas, especially those equipped with swings, slides and similar are first of all not removed and, secondly, are safely maintained. Play areas can also make a positive contribution to the visual environment and their siting and detailing have the potential to enhance the micro-environments in which they are placed. The trust is of the opinion that it is short-sighted to remove not only play areas but other recreational facilities such as tennis courts. Although these are not intensively used, when they are used they are much appreciated.

Parking

RET has resulted in a large increase in the number of vehicles visiting the island. While the extra business is welcomed, these have worsened the problems of parking as well as increasing the wear and tear on the roads. Campervans can and do park anywhere and there is inadequate provision for normal vehicles in the most attractive beauty spots around Arran such as Glen Rosa. The Civic Trust is concerned about this, but also that parking spaces should be well designed and managed, for example by neat detailing and the provision of waste bins and, in the most frequented sites, public toilets.

General

There are many places on Arran where poor maintenance of ground surfaces and adjacent buildings has adversely affected appearances. Taking Brodict as an example, the area round the Co-op convenience store is in a poor state, with rotting lampposts adjoining exposed pipe work and badly maintained tarmac. The footpath between Invercloy and the ferry on the landward side is a mess of differing surfaces. Everywhere, walls are either broken down or non-existent. We appreciate that this is a matter of money. But pressure can be brought to bear upon owners of private property to make good where it adjoins public spaces and thoroughfares. Issuing a supplement to the Design Guide illustrating how small improvements can make a big difference would help.

Ian Ferguson



The historical significant exterior features of buildings should be preserved and planting along road verges encouraged. 01_B18civic07



The aesthetics of the differing surfaces and badly maintained tarmac along Brodict is of concern to the trust. 01_B18civic03



Parking provision, particularly in renowned beauty spots such as at Glen Rosa, has been deemed inadequate. 01_B18civic05



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Arran comedy film with a very serious message

Arran will be cast under the directors spotlight later this year when a full-length feature film, shot entirely on location, is released by Arran film company Positive Pictures.

Described as a 'serious comedy', *Uncowed* will be filmed over the following few months and will tackle the serious subject of bullying, but with a humorous and empowering take on the subject.

Brodick couple Chris and Jan Attkins, who are ex-STV producers, came up with the idea for the film after learning that their grandson was being bullied at school in Glasgow. After helping him deal with it, they had the idea of producing a film to help many more people stand up to bullies, both at school and at work.

Realising that a comedy film could empower people in an entertaining way, the



Lewis is featured in the promotional poster for the film *Uncowed* which will be shot on location on Arran.

couple set about developing their screenplay a year ago and have now persuaded several colleagues who used to work for BBC and STV to form the film crew. They'll also be offering one or two local young people the opportunity to help out and learn about film-making.

With the exception of their grandson Lewis Stevenson, who has a part in the film, all the cast live on Arran, some playing

dramatic characters, others playing themselves, such as Sheila Gilmore and Charles Currie, who are both cast as island tourism officers. Drama buffs will also recognise several award-winners from recent Arran drama festivals, including David Simpkin, Andy McNamara and James Smith.

While dealing with a serious topic, some very intriguing and amusing threads are woven into the

plotline with the involvement of MI5 agents and a retired international assassin – all of which make for a good combination of comedy and pathos.

Producers Chris and Jan are part-funding the £25,000 film production, but are hoping to raise £10,000 from sponsorship and crowdfunding. They have already been backed by sponsorship from the Douglas Hotel and the main Co-op in Brodick but are hoping that others interested in the project will contribute to their crowdfunding campaign on Indigo.

To find out more about the film, visit www.uncowed.com where a synopsis, cast and crew biography and a teaser trailer are available. There are also details about bullying and a mailing list to be kept up to date on updates, screenings and related events.

Forgotten Brodick memories recalled

The latest exhibition at Arran library is Brodick Memories, which runs to May 29.

Brodick boy Billy Hartley, eldest son of Jock and Nellie Hartley (nee McKinnie) was born on Arran in 1935. Aged 19, he joined the Royal Air Force, serving in the telecommunications section as a teleprinter operator.

He was posted to Aden in the Gulf and purchased an AGFA 120 folding camera.

On his return home after military service in 1957, he used the camera to good effect, recording the Brodick social scene in the late 1950s and 1960s.

These unique photographs of many of the Brodick worthies, in those far off days when cameras were few and far between,



The splendid photo is among the Brodick Memories on show at the library.

show a side of Brodick social life mostly forgotten as only a handful of the subjects are still alive.

It has to be said that drink seems a recurring theme!

What's on

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 - 5pm
 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 5th May

RNLI coffee morning
 RNLI shop open
 Rink game
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club opening day, all welcome.
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music – Jamie Clark
 Live music – The Skunnered, return with Celtic Rock.
 Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, 10.30am - noon
 Lifeboat Station, Lamlash Pier, 2pm - 4pm
 Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8 - 10.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Sunday 6th May

Live music – Jamie Clark
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music – The Skunnered
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

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

Monday 7th May

JogScotland mixed ability running group
 Circuit training
 Summer bridge, visitors welcome
 Rink game
 Tae Kwon Do
 Live music – Mike Bailey

Whiting Bay 5.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6pm - 7pm
 Arran High School, 6.15pm for 6.30pm start
 Brodick Bowling Club, 6.45pm
 Brodick Church Hall, Adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8 - 10.30pm

Tuesday 8th May

Healthy Outdoors
 Castle garden walk
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Blackwaterfoot bowls
 Beginners and general queries IT – Duan Bruce
 Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
 Lamlash Moorings Association AGM
 Scottish country dancing
 Pop quiz
 Body Blitz

NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
 Brodick Castle, 2pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Bowling Club, 2pm
 Glen Estate Lounge, 2pm
 Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
 Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash, 7.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm - 10.30pm

Wednesday 9th May

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Coffee morning
 Coffee morning
 Chair Yoga Exercise Class
 Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service
 Dog classes
 Mike Bailey concert
 RUNclub, mixed ability, qualified coaches
 Rink game
 Tae Kwon Do
 Burger and quiz night
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon
 St Bride's Church, Brodick, 10.30am - 12noon
 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
 Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 2pm
 Invercloy Co-op car park 5.30pm
 Brodick Bowling Club, 6.45pm
 Arran High School, Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm



Live music – Buchaneers
 Family friendly pub quiz
 Rock and pop bingo

Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8 - 10.30pm
 PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

Thursday 10th May

Morning fitness
 Chair yoga exercise class
 Lingo Flamingo, Spanish, Pablo Illera
 Number16 Restaurant pop-up
 Arran ladies' netball
 Body Blitz
 Arran Soul Choir
 General knowledge quiz

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am
 Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 11.30am
 The Arran Lodge, Lamlash 5.30pm - 9pm
 Arran High School, 6 - 7pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm - 10.30pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

Friday 11th May

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!
 Number16 Restaurant pop-up
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Tae Kwon Do
 Friday night quiz
 Live music – Fatman and the Angel
 Live music – Jericho Hill, Johnny Cash Tribute Band.

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 11.30am
 Lamlash High School, Lamlash, 6.00pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, from 5pm
 The Arran Lodge, Lamlash 5.30pm - 9pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, adults, 7pm - 9pm
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8 - 10.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash 9pm

Saturday 12th May

Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Number16 Restaurant pop-up
 Ensemble, in aid of the Arran Trust
 Live music – Michael Clark
 Live music – Audioclass
 Over-21s disco

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 The Arran Lodge, Lamlash 5.30pm - 9pm
 Brodick Hall, 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8 - 10.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm



Businesses vie for excellence awards

The Douglas Hotel has been shortlisted in the particularly competitive independent hotel of the year category at this year's Catering Scotland Excellence (CIS) Awards.

The Brodick hotel faces competition from Duns-tane Houses in Edinburgh and the Lovat Loch Ness, which is built on the site of a Hanoverian fort erected to pacify the Highland clans after the 18th century Jacobite uprisings.

The Auchrannie is short-listed in the trainee and employee retention award where it faces competition from the CalMac hospital-

ity apprenticeship, while the Scottish Salmon Company, which runs the Lam-lash fish farm, is shortlisted for the business innovation award.

15th anniversary

As the country's leading annual contest for the hospitality, catering and tourism sectors, the CIS excellence awards are widely accepted as the ultimate accolade for chefs, hotels, restaurants, gastropubs and educational institutions. In this, their 15th anniversary, they will be presented at the Doubletree by Hilton Glasgow Central on Thursday May 31.



The Douglas Hotel.



General manager Richard Small collects the award.
01_B18auchrannie01

Auchrannie wins a top honour for hotel lodges

Auchrannie Resort has been named this year's winner of the hotel lodges of the year award at the prestigious Scottish Hotel Awards 2018, which took place in Edinburgh on Sunday April 22.

The annual awards, now in their 15th year, recognise outstanding achievements in the Scottish hospitality industry, the length and breadth of the country.

As well as winning the national award for hotel lodges, Auchrannie was also noted as highly commended in the spa hotel category.

Collecting the award on behalf of Auchrannie was general manager Richard Small. He said: 'Winning a Scottish Hotel Award is always a great honour. It is a reflection of the commitment and hard work of all the team at Auchrannie, each of whom plays an important part in our continued success.'

Arran producers come to the fore

Two Arran producers have been shortlisted for awards at the annual Scotland Food and Drink Excellence Awards.

Arran Blue produced at the Bellevue Creamery and Arran Dairies' raspberry ripple ice-cream, both distributed under the Taste of Arran umbrella, have been shortlisted for awards under the dairy category and the product of the year category respectively.

Compete

Specially selected from 273 entries, the two Arran products will now compete to be announced as winners in their category at an award ceremony on Thursday June 7, at the Edin-

burgh International Conference Centre.

Jimmy Warnock, chairman of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS) said: 'RHASS is committed to rewarding excellence and actively supporting new and successful talent.'

'We believe the awards are a valuable, and increasingly important, event to recognise and promote the cream of Scotland's crop.'

'It is an honour to celebrate the makers of Scotland's finest food and drink, and also to reflect on who are, without doubt, the back bone of this sector, our farmers who work the land to nourish our nation.'



Pub Quiz
Wednesday 8.30pm

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Detective Bob faces his most harrowing murder

New books

It is described as first-class Tartan Noir, with a hint of the supernatural, which can only mean one thing ... DCI Bob Valentine is back.

In a fourth outing for the Ayrshire detective, author Tony Black sees him return in *Her Cold Eyes*, which was published last week. And it turned out to be a momentous week as is coincided with Tony's departure from Arran to pastures new in Edinburgh, where his wife Cheryl and young son Conner will shortly join him.

Tony, who has lived on Arran for three years, latterly in Whiting Bay, is the author of 15 novels.

In his latest storyline, when a young girl goes missing her mother knows who to blame, but nobody's listening.

However, when the case falls to DCI Valentine, he has no choice but to listen. Haunted by the girl's cold gaze and her mother's hurt, the detective soon finds himself at the centre of the most harrowing investigation of his police career.

Uncovering a ring of ritualistic abuse that leads to the highest echelons of a degraded and Satanic society, Valentine wonders how the world could contain such evils. And then the bodies start to mount. And the demons' defenders appear. Can the detective fight on so many fronts? Can he even hope to find the missing, never mind the guilty?



The front cover of *Her Cold Eyes*. 01_B17black02



Tony with a copy of his new book bids farewell to Arran. 01_B17black01

Her Cold Eyes is a harrowing journey down the most twisting, turning rabbit hole, where the screams from below might just be preferable to the ones above. And largely set in Ayrshire there will be some familiar scenes woven into the plot.

Tony is no stranger to high praise for this work. 'Taut, with a heart-wrenchingly honest protagonist and impressive literary style, it is among the best of the new Tartan Noir'. 'A world full of emotion, mystery and suspense. Twisty crime fiction at its best'. These were just two of the reviews for his 2014 novel *Artefacts of the Dead*, which also features DCI Valentine.

He has been nominated for seven CWA Daggers and was runner-up in *The Guardian's* Not the Booker prize for *The Last Tiger* in 2014. He has written three crime series, a number of

crime novellas and a collection of short stories. For more information, and the latest news, visit his web-

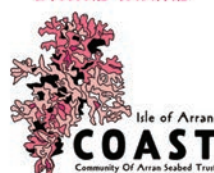
site at www.tonyblack.net. *Her Cold Eyes* is out now in all good bookshops and online priced £7.99.

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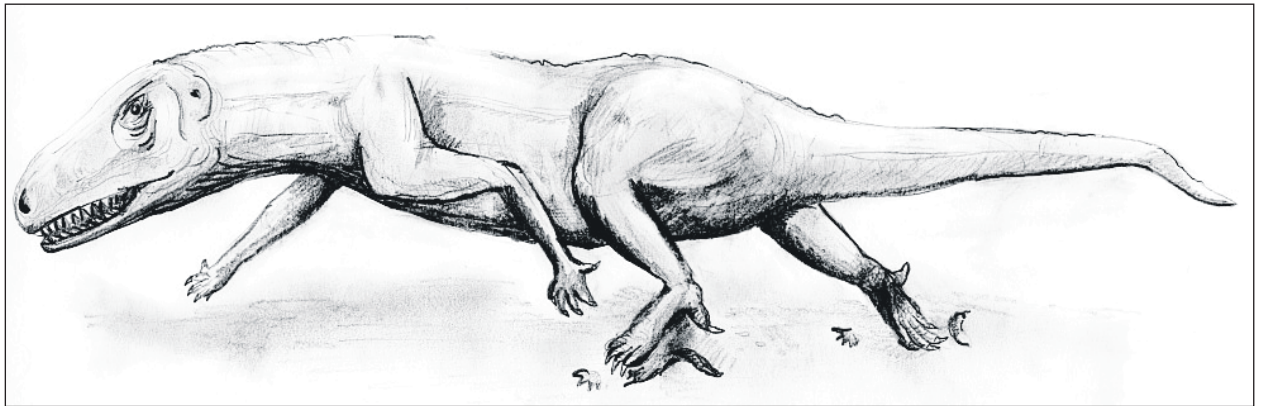
Historical society learns of the Arran hand beast

Arran Historical Society members enjoyed an entertaining and interesting talk on the geology of Arran and some of the animals which have inhabited the island, including the Arran hand beast, at its April meeting, writes *Hugh Brown*.

The talk was conducted by Dr Neil Clark of the Hunterian museum in Glasgow, who visited Arran to see a recent discovery of

chirotherium (hand beast) footprints preserved in rock at Kilmory. The discovery has now been recorded by a team of geologists. The footprints were formed in very wet mud and had been partially filled by the mud before being preserved.

The first chirotherium footprint was found in a university geology store and traced back to Arran. The chirotherium was like



Sketch of what the 3.5-metre Arran hand beast may have looked like.

a crocodile with longer legs under its body. Translated from Greek, the name means hand beast. This relates to the rear footprint with four fingers (claws) and a pinkie sticking out at right angles like the five digits of a human hand.

After the first report of the discovery, the speaker found one near the King's Cave and other footprints and tracks have also since been found round the Southend.

The footprints vary in size and shape. Further discoveries may help to clarify more details of the beast and help us to understand more, including what it ate. It lived during the Triassic period when the climate was hot and desert-like and Scotland had moved north of the equator, level with North Africa.

The first and oldest fossil track found is at Laggan on the Northend of the island. This was of an immense millipede called arthropleura.

The tracks are from the Carboniferous period when Scotland was near the equator with a tropical climate and immense forests that deposited.

The British Isles formation was explained by Dr Clark, starting with their location in the ancient continent of Pangaea, south of the equator. Scotland and England were apart in the middle of the continent. Pangea moved north and the land of Scotland and England rose and fell below the sea level with thick sediments being deposited over hundreds of millions of years.

Pangaea split up forming the Atlantic. The vast tectonic forces formed the geological faults present today in Scotland, England and the granite and lava rocks of Arran.

The latest geological techniques have been used to uncover the geology below ground level on Arran and this will be published next

year in the geological map.

The granite Northend seems to be a laccolith and the Southend a collapsed caldera. This is like the structure of Yellowstone Park in the USA and perhaps would have had active vents and hot springs as well as a volcano.

Dr Clark rounded off the talk by referring to Corriegills pitchstone. It would appear to be a substitute for flint in the Stone Age and pitchstone arrowheads have been found all over Scotland, England and Ireland.

The next meeting of the society will be on Monday May 21, at 2pm in Brodick Hall where Hugh Watson of the Kilmarnock and District Historical Society will discuss the connections between a Kilmarnock heiress and the Duke of Portland. Prior to that, a field trip to Lochranza will take place on Saturday May 12. The secretary can be contacted on 303577 to book a place.

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New Look



Dr Neil Clark, pictured with his wife Clare, entertained the Arran Historical Society members with a talk of prehistoric beasts and Arran geology.

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday April 25, 1998

Quarry row

More than 70 villagers attended a single-issue meeting about the quarrying of sand from Sannox at Corrie Hall.

Sannox resident Bill Logie asserted that the environment was being degraded and that nobody was doing anything about it. Granted permission for 10 years of sand removal in 1983, under the condition that the operator must reinstate the landscape as they worked it, local construction firm Thomson took over the operation about 1991. With permission having lapsed, and no attempt at land reinstatement having taken place, a new application for a further 25 years is pending. Iain Thomson explained his position by identifying problems that prevented reinstatement but gave assurances that – were the latest application passed – he would begin reinstatement immediately.

Land owner Charles Fforde, who leases the land, and the previous Cunninghame District Council were also blamed for laying down conditions but not enforcing them.

The Gathering

Next week at Whiting Bay Hall, a most extraordinary event will take place. A group of players and singers who combine ancient Scottish music with the tech-

niques of the modern day will come to Arran as the first stop-off point on a tour of the Highlands.

The four musicians will perform music which ranges from voice and percussion to ambionic sound which will allow people the opportunity to see and hear the fearsome carnyx, the Pictish war-horn carried six feet above the player's head. It is formed of bronze, in the shape of a wild boar's head, complete with bristling mane and angry red eyes, and the sound of it is enough to make any opposing army drop its swords and run.

Described by viewers at previous performances as 'one of the most moving experiences of my life' and 'it made the hairs rise on the back of my neck', the event is not to be missed.

Brownie remembrance

Last Saturday morning a tree was planted in the grounds of Whiting Bay Church. A tall narrow conifer, it had been purchased by Whiting Bay Brownies.

It was planted in memory of the late Nellie Walters, formerly of Kildonan, who had given a lifetime of service to the Guide movement. In dedication, Rev Elizabeth Watson paid tribute to Nellie's service as a Guide and Commissioner on Arran from the first time she served in Brownies in Singapore in 1955.



Trophy winners of the Arran Ladies' Golfing Union were Lillian Tod, Yvonne Brothers, Ellie Jones, Liz Paul, Sheena Murchie, Fiona Crawford, Elizabeth Kelso and Linda Johnston.

01_B18twe02



Brodick and Lamlash were the two final teams in the Kiscadale Salver competition. The players included: Liz Paul, Barbara Hendry, Yvonne Brothers, Isobel MacDonald, Linda Johnston, Sheena Murchie, Elizabeth McKellar, Margaret Bryce, Dorothy Rae and Ellie Jones.

01_B18twe03



A total of 43 runners, half of them from the mainland, took part in the Ormidale 10k road race, the first to start from the new Ormidale Sports Pavilion. 01_B18twe05



More than 20 Arran artists displayed their work at the Whiting Bay Hall exhibition over the weekend when around 50 artworks were on show. 01_B18twe04



Peter Albrich, who runs the Carraig Mhor Restaurant in Lamlash with wife Penny, has made it to the final six chefs in the Drambuie Scottish Chef of the Year Awards. 01_B18twe01

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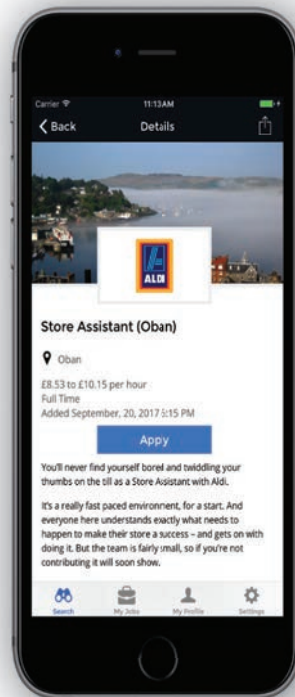


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Arran Geopark - Footpath Team

The Arran Geopark Project aims to improve access to, and understanding of the unique geology of the island. We are seeking motivated and enthusiastic individuals to join the project team and are offering the following posts:

Footpath Team Leader: 30 hours per week, 13 months commencing July 2018, based in Brodick. £10.50 per hour.

Footpath Trainees (2 posts) : 30 hours per week, 12 months, commencing August 2018, based in Brodick. £8 per hour.

Further details are available from, and applications with cv should be sent to Nial Moffat. nialmoffat@arrangeopark.co.uk
Closing date - 21 May.
Interviews - first week of Jun.

Public Notices

Lamlash Moorings Association AGM

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

NOTICE OF CONSULTATION OF PROPOSED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

North Ayrshire Council has published a Proposed Local Development Plan (PLDP) and Draft Environmental Report and is seeking representations. The PLDP sets out how the Council will guide development and investment in the area over the next 20 years. It contains specific information on locations proposed for new development as well as policies to guide the determination of planning applications. Representations are required to be concise (limited to 2,000 words plus any limited supporting documents) and be made by email, electronic document as attachments. The Council has published a form to assist with submissions which is available on the Council's website. Drop in events are scheduled for locations around North Ayrshire, covering each of the 6 localities of North Ayrshire. Details of these events have been published on the Council's website. Copies of the PLDP and Environmental Report can be inspected free of charge at Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE during business hours. The PLDP can also be viewed at any public library in North Ayrshire and on the Council's website at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-standards/ldp/ldp2. Representations to both the Proposed LDP and the Environmental Report should be sent to Strategic Planning Team at ldp@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or by post to Planning Services, Economy and Communities, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE no later than 29 June 2018.

[A841 LAMLASH, ISLE OF ARRAN] (TEMPORARY WAITING RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 2018

A841 Lamlash, from Claulchlands Road to Undercliffe Health Centre is to be subject to temporary waiting restrictions under the terms of Section 14 (1) of the Road Traffic Regulations Act, 1984, as amended by Schedule 1 of the Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991 from Tuesday 8 May 2018 at 8am and will remain in operation until 5pm on Tuesday 15 May 2018 for Carriageway Improvement Works. This Order will remain in force until the expiry of the aforementioned period or until the works are completed whichever is the earlier.

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 25 May 2018. Any representations received will be open to public view.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1987

Applications for Listed Building Consent.
18/00355/LBC; 6 Alma Terrace, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8BA; Internal alterations including replacement front door and installation of roof light to front elevation.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
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20 hours per week

We are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic team leader. Candidate should have knowledge of Third Sector and Health and Social Care at operational level. You will be based in Lamlash but should be available for some mainland travel on a regular basis.

Applicants should have strong leadership and management qualities, knowledge of community capacity building and experience of financial control. Good verbal, written and IT communication skills are essential.

For a recruitment pack contact Vicki Yuill, CEO on 01770 600611 or email vicki.yuill@arrancvs.org.uk

Closing date for applications:
Friday 25th May 2018

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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together
Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.
Sunday 6th May
Lochranza Church, 9.30am. Morning Service.
Pirmill Church, 10.45am. Morning Service
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am. Morning Worship including the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship including the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm including the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 6th May
Holy Communion, 11am. Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Communion Weekend
Saturday 5th May
Preparatory Service, 7pm Hazelbank, Pirmill
Sunday 6th May
Morning Service, 11am Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm 5 Glen Road, Brodick All welcome
Monday 7th May
Thanksgiving Service, 7pm Hazelbank, Pirmill
Services taken by Rev. John MacLeod, Tarbat All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 6th May
Mrs Liz Clarke
Kilmory - 10am
Lamlash - 11.30am.
In Lamlash: Praise Service
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday 5th May
Vigil Mass, 7.30pm
Sunday 6th May
Sunday Morning Mass, 11am

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland, Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 6th May
The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.
This Table belongs only to Jesus and all who love Him are most welcome.
There will be the usual activities in the Church Hall for our young people.
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.
There will be a service in Co-riedoon at 2.30pm to which all friends are welcome.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 6th May
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

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

DEATHS

EASDALE: Peacefully at Montrose House, Brodick on 25th April 2018. Allan loving uncle and great uncle of the family. Funeral service to which all friends are invited at Woodside Crematorium, Paisley on Wednesday 9th May at 12 noon.

HOTCHKISS: Peacefully, at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Wednesday, 25th April 2018. Mary, beloved wife of George, mother of Angus and the rest of the family. Funeral service at Masonhill Crematorium on Tuesday, 8th May at 1.15pm. Family and close friends invited.

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Brodick bowlers off to flying start

Brodick bowlers got their season off to a flying start with the first bowl of the season taking place on a bright sunlit day at the Brodick Bowling Club rink last Saturday.

Opening the season, Andy McCrindle bowled the first jack to the delight of the watching members who enjoyed the ensuing game of bowls with more than 21 bowlers taking part.

The club has issued an open invitation to anyone who would like to try out the game, or learn the rules,



Brodick Bowling Club members pose for a group photograph before play got underway. 01_B18bowl501



to visit the rink any day during the week between 10.30am and 4.30pm. Members who are on duty will be very willing to explain the game and allow novices to have a go.

Andy McCrindle bowls the first ball of the season at Brodick.

01_B18bowl502

Traditionally thought of as an older persons sport, the club actually has members of all ages and abilities, and has equipment for adults and children to use.

Rink games are held at 6.45pm each Monday and Wednesday, and on a Saturday at 2pm. Visitors are always welcomed and all equipment and sage advice is provided if required.



Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday April 26, Summer Stableford, CSS 64. 1 Drew Wales 35pts BIH, 2 Paul Jameson 35pts, 3 Andy Smith 33pts. Scratch Neil Young 27pts. Magic twos Ian Bremner @5th, Iain Parker @16th.

Sunday April 29, Hastings Mug, first round, CSS 64. 1 Serge El Adm 76-15=61, 2 Iain Murchie 68-5=63 BIH, over Ian Bremner 70-7=63. Scratch Iain Murchie 68. Magic twos Ian Bremner @16th.

Ladies Section: Wednesday April 11, Medal 1, CSS 64, par 64, 7 played. 1 Sheena Murchie 80-16=64, 2 Yvonne Brothers 87-18=69. Scratch Sheena Murchie 80.

Wednesday April 25, Stroke 1, CSS 67, par 65, 9 played. 1 Yvonne Brothers

88-19=69, 2 Gay Mackay 94-24=70, 3 Alison Heron 92-22=70. Scratch Yvonne Brothers 88.

Fixtures: Friday May 4, Seniors Bowl. Lamlash v Whiting Bay at Shiskine at 5pm. Sunday May 6, AGA Spring Handicap at Lamlash at 10.30am. Thursday May 10, Summer Cup, make up own games, see starter for times.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday April 14, E Rankin match. Corrie recorded a narrow win with 260pts over Machrie who scored 257pts.

Wednesday April 18, Wednesday Medal. 1 A Smith 74-11=63, 2 R McLean 82-14=68. Scratch, A Smith. There was no winner of the Magic twos so the rollover continues.

Wednesday April 27, Wednesday medal, eight played. A Smith won with a better inward half over J Adams. Magic twos R Logan and J McConnachie.

Saturday April 28, Med-

al. 1 R Logan 69-6=63 and scratch.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday April 25, Summer Cup, 28 played, CSS 65. 1 Jimmy Armit 76-12=64 ACB, 2 Iain Keen 74-10=64, 3 Bill Donaldson 84-17=67 ACB. Scratch Ewan McKinnon 70. Sunday April 29, Brandon qualifier, 18 played, CSS 66. 1 Donald McKinnie 74-11=63 ACB, 2 Gordon Hendry 68-5=63, 3 Alistair Hume 78-10=68. Scratch G Hendry 68.

Fixture: Sunday May 6, AGA Spring Handicap (Guy Spier Trophy) at Lamlash.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday May 5, Hugh Steel Cup, over 50, 9 hole competition with open sweep tee off 12.30pm. Tuesday, May 8, Peter Sutton/Lady Mary tee off 12.30pm and 5.30pm.

Arran Golfers Association

Friday April 27, AGA

Senior Bowl, round one. Machrie beat Lochranza, Whiting Bay beat Brodick, Lamlash beat Corrie. The course looked stunning and the greens were fast, a couple of wee bumps here and there, but, on the whole fabby, so a big thank you to Stuart, Paul, Jack, Lois and Glen, and Dougie for looking after the auld yins at the start, and thanks to Jock and Willie for patrolling the course keeping an eye on the matches and collating the results.

Fixtures: Friday May 4, AGA Senior Bowl, round two, start time 4.30pm. Shiskine v Machrie, Whiting Bay v Lamlash. Once again, if teams are running late, you must get in touch with the starters box, and if other teams are there and ready to go, then they can be put out first. Point of note please, there has been some slow play out there, which causes frustration for others, try and keep the games moving along, so that the ones at the end don't finish too late.



Kirsty Barton and Pauline Reid lead the Arran and Stirling players in a warm up dance routine. 01_B18hockey01

Ladies tickled pink with Stirling Wanderers' visit

Arran Ladies hockey club, fresh from completing all of their league games, enjoyed a visit from the Stirling Wanderers for a friendly match, some socialising and a shared appreciation of the game.

Far removed from the usual competitive matches, the two teams met for a knockabout which result-

ed in a score very loosely calculated to be about seven points to the Wanderers' three – but the score didn't really matter.

The Stirling Wanderers set up a camp – with permission from the Ormisdale Pavilion – for the duration of their visit and spent an enjoyable time away, camping in tents and

a large recreational vehicle. Making an entire weekend of their visit, the Ladies spent team-building time with each other, played a fun and informal game, and socialised with their Arran counterparts at the Ormisdale Hotel afterwards.

In keeping with the fun atmosphere, hosts Arran Ladies had a pre-game warm-up aerobics session attended by both teams and led by Kirstie Barton and Pauline Reid who donned a pink wig for the occasion.

Adding to the zany and fun spirit of the game the Arran Ladies also wore bright pink tutus which matched their pink tops.

Billy Dunlop and Pauline Reid umpired the game, assisted by Kirstie Barton and Cat Galbraith, who allowed Pauline Reid some time off so she could enjoy playing.



Elyse Aitken is supported by team-mates Susie Murchie and Kirstie Barton. 01_B18hockey04



Pretty in pink, the Arran Ladies donned pink tutus for the match. 01_B18hockey02



Shiskine Football Club pictured with coach David Napier before the Arran Haulage Cup game against Northend. 01_B18footy02



A Shiskine attempt at goal from the corner of the pitch goes over the bar. 01_B18footy05

Players scramble for the ball positioned uncomfortably close to the Northend goal. 01_B18footy06



SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Ladies tickled pink with Stirling Wanderers' visit

Northend secure semis place after narrow win

Arran Haulage Cup

Northend	3
Shiskine	2

The new Arran football season kicked off on Monday night with the preliminary match of the Arran Haulage Cup.

Shiskine travelled to Lochranza to take on Northend which has become a tasty fixture in recent years. Northend raced into a three-goal lead with Andy McNamara scoring first from the penalty spot. Dominic Demazeux scored the second before David Jameson added a third.

Shiskine started a comeback in the second half with Donald Mulholland scoring a penalty, before last year's young player of the year, Cammy Thomson made it 3-2 and the fight was back on. However, despite a few penalty claims late on from Shiskine the Northenders held on to set up a semi-final away to Brodick on Monday May 7. David Jameson was awarded the man of the match award for Northend.

Lamlash will host Southend in the other semi final of the cup on the same night.



Northend pictured with coach Christopher Trail before Monday night's game. 01_B18footy01

See page 23 for more photographs



A Northend player jumps to avoid this determined tackle. 01_B18footy07




Concentration etched on their faces, Shiskine players on the attack. 01_B18footy04



Northend's Jean Demazeux and a Shiskine player battle for possession. 01_B18footy03

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