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Arran elects two councillors

# Toilet sales halted as the fight goes on

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

The controversial sale of public toilets on Arran has been halted as North Ayrshire Council considers the case put forward by campaigners who have petitioned against their closure.

It is the latest twist in the long-running saga over the future of the public toilets which have been closed since the end of March.

The council immediately put some of the premises up for sale – Lamlash, Lochranza and Blackwaterfoot – and asked for bids by April 25.

But despite a number of applications, the process is now on hold with potential purchasers having received a letter telling them: 'At present there is a temporary delay in the acceptance of any offers...pending consideration of the petition submitted to the council.'

The latest move comes just days after voters went to the poll to elect new councillors to North Ayrshire Council.

As a result Arran now has two representatives, Conservative Timothy Billings, who won the seat, and Ellen McMaster of the SNP, who have both vowed to take up the toilet fight. It will be the new council's audit and scrutiny committee which will consider both the online and written petitions on May 30.

The online petition, which was started by Hilary Paton from Glasgow more than seven months ago, rapidly gained public support and her appearance on radio shows and through social media attracted more than 1,700 people opposed to the closure. At the request of the council, paper copies of the petition also had to be gathered and presented, according to the council's guidelines, to be accepted. Local shops including the

Book and Card Centre in Brodick, The Glenisle Hotel and The Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash, along with various other businesses across Arran, acted as collection points where people continue to sign the petitions and submit letters of disapproval.

While the toilets at Lamlash, Lochranza and Blackwaterfoot are up for sale, the toilets at Brodick, Glen Sannox and North Sannox have been deemed unfit for use and decommissioned. Some toilets, although not council owned, have been adopted by communities on Arran, such as at the Corrie Village Hall and at Kilmory Hall, where they are open to the public, along with various establishments offering visitors the use of their facilities.

Some, such as the Corrie Hotel and the Corrie Tea Room

Continued on page 2

## Hockey ladies' success



Anne Watts, Lorraine Hewie and Pauline Reid of Arran Ladies' hockey team swapped their sports kit for glamorous outfits when they attended the Scottish Hockey West District awards ceremony in Glasgow where they were presented with the trophy for winning the fourth division. Full story, see page 20.

## Play park not ready until June

The new wild Arran adventure playground at Brodick Castle will finally open in time for the school summer holidays at the end of June.

It had been hoped that the exciting new island attraction would be open in late May but this has now been put back, with the National Trust for Scotland saying that the date was 'never set in stone'.

The structure of the play park is now complete with only the finishing touches needed.

NTS general manager for Ayrshire and Arran Stuart Maxwell said: 'We have taken the opportunity while building the park to add a new catering unit which will serve both those in the play park and those walking through the grounds. This has increased our investment by £80,000 and will also add further employment opportunities.'

The plan is to invite closed party groups in mid June to test the park. It will then open once the NTS is fully satisfied with the operation and safety of the park and catering units.



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# Arran's elected councillors

## Island returns two councillors as Labour tries to hang on to power

**Hugh Boag**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran now has two serving councillors following the North Ayrshire Council election last week.

Conservative candidate Timothy Billings from Lamash comfortably won the Ardrossan and Arran seat with 1,309 first preference votes – 379 votes ahead of his nearest rival.

He is joined on the new council by the SNP's Ellen McMaster from Shiskine, who secured 932 first preference votes and was elected under the proportional representation system.

The third candidate elected to the seat was sitting councillor Tony Gurney from Ardrossan who secured 930 first preference

votes. Although the two Arran councillors will also represent Ardrossan, the newly elected Councillor McMaster considered it a 'win-win' situation for the island.

There had been concerns that with the retirement of Arran councillor John Bruce, and with one less councillor for the ward, the island could have been left without any resident representative.

But in the event, they have doubled Arran's presence on the new council.

Councillor McMaster said: 'It is encouraging to see that Arran as an island is politically engaged and I, for one, am willing to put party 'politics' to one side and work in the best



Councillor Timothy Billings.

interests of all residents of Arran and Ardrossan regardless of their political persuasion.

'At a local level, two resident councillors is a win-win scenario for Arran.'

Councillor Billings said:



Councillor Ellen McMaster.

'As an election candidate I identified a number of specific Arran issues, including housing and the environment, and these are still very important issues for Arran.'

'However, I am aware that there are other pressing priorities, such as education, health, transport, and social care. What I need to find out now is what are the specific issues for Arran, and what is needed to improve services.'

Arran's other representative Colin Turbett (Ind Socialist) recorded 165 first preference votes, while sitting independent councillor John Hunter lost his seat.

Although there is no breakdown of how Arran voted, the return of two SNP councillors is seen as reflecting the 40 per cent



Councillor Tony Gurney.

share of the seat vote Arran represents. There was also nearly a 10 per cent increase in voter turnout (50.5 per cent) compared to 40.88 per cent five years ago when John Bruce won the seat with 837 first preference votes.

Overall it was the Conservatives who picked up the most gains across North Ayrshire, adding six councillors to the previous solitary council seat.

The SNP lost four seats and Labour two. The two parties now both have 11 councillors to the Conservatives seven and there are four independents.

As a result, as with the rest of Scotland, no party has overall control, although Labour, who ran the last administration, says it will try to continue

to run a minority administration. Amid speculation over coalition deals, North Ayrshire Labour leader Joe Cullinane said: 'Before last Thursday's election, North Ayrshire Labour were written off, but we've defied the odds and fought back, and we stand today tied with the SNP having picked up the same number of councillors as we did in 2012.'

'We now stand at a crossroads with the council hung and no single largest party.'

'It is once again a time for political leadership.'

'North Ayrshire Labour will do no deals with any party that have imposed austerity on our communities. Our intention is therefore to form a new minority Labour administration.'

'For the last eight months we have been a minority administration with one councillor more than the SNP.'

'Whilst this council is even more split than the last, we showed during those eight months that we can make minority administration work.'

'Next Wednesday we hope to have a Labour-led authority that will continue to stand up for the interests of North Ayrshire by protecting our public services and delivering change.'

## Toilet sales halted as fight goes on

Continued from page 1

suggest a small charitable donation for the upkeep and maintenance of the facilities.

At the Corrie Hotel, owner Anne Masson said: 'People have been coming in to use our toilets and we have a sign outside welcoming visitors and suggesting a small donation to the Arran Mountain Rescue Team donation box if possible, but we also find that people return later to have some lunch or a drink. Our newly refurbished public bar which opens today (Saturday) will also welcome visitors needing to use our toilets.'

VisitArran this week also entered the debate and in a statement said: 'VisitArran was very proactive on this issue



Jane Howe of the Pierhead Tavern with the petition outside the closed Lamash toilets. 01\_B19toilet01

last year when the announcement was made regarding closure. Since then we continually lobbied NAC and other agencies raising our concerns.

'We were supportive of the community council in its cam-

aigning too. The situation is very concerning, but we must also remember that the public toilets on Arran were, frankly, not up to standards expected of a holiday island – and renovating them was not within the community council or VisitArran's resources, either financially or practically. We commend the community groups which have taken such facilities on, and have no doubt those communities will make a success of their ventures.'

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'We can confirm that the petition relating to the public toilets on Arran is expected to be considered by the council's audit and scrutiny committee on May 30.'

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# Big Davy brings anvil of love to its new home

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

The anvil which Arran man Davy Ballantyne dragged to the top of Goatfell is to have a new permanent home.

It is nearly a year since Big Davy completed the heroic charity feat and money is still pouring into his fundraising account which has now reached £15,679.

The Douglas Hotel has now secured the anvil after owner Sean Henry made a donation to the anvil charity and confirmed it will be used for wedding ceremonies at the hotel.

It currently sits on the ridge just above where the Goatfell paths converge for Brodick and Corrie, but should be off the hill by the end of the month.

Davy, with the help of Fraser Aitchison, dragged the 18.5 stone (120kg) anvil up the 2,866ft (874m) Goatfell over a period of 26 days to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF) after his daughter Roisin was diagnosed with type one diabetes. He had initially hoped to raise



Davy and Fraser take a breather on their way up Goatfell with the anvil last year. 01B19anvil02

£3,000. However his Herculean feat caught the public's imagination and money poured in from all over the world. Why the anvil is on Goatfell is still discussed by hillwalkers today, as *The Banner* discovered on a recent climb.

This week, Davy confirmed he had been bringing the anvil down in stages when he had the time, saying he hoped to have it off the hill in two weeks.

After considerable speculation, Davy's wife Annelies Slaats said they are

pleased the anvil is to have a permanent home.

She said: 'I'd rather have seen it stay at the top, but the offer of the Douglas is very generous and it will also hopefully bring more donations to the JDRF.'

It will not be the first time the anvil has been used in a wedding ceremony. Last June bride Dawn Anderson from Shiskine climbed Goatfell in her wedding dress and declared her undying love for new husband James Johnstone at the 'anvil of love'.



The anvil on the ridge above Corrie on its way down from the top of Goatfell. 01\_B19anvil01

## Peel Ports pledges an 18-month timescale for Ardrossan works

Regeneration project director Doug Coleman of Peel Ports attended Monday's Arran Ferry Committee meeting, outlining plans for developments at Ardrossan Harbour following the decision to retain the mainland ferry terminal there for the duration of the next 25- to-30-year contract.

Mr Coleman noted that North Ayrshire Council would take charge of the 'dry' on-shore side of the terminal developments, allowing Peel Ports to concentrate on 'wet' improvements, including an extension and new linkspan for the Arran berth, and regeneration of the existing linkspan on the Irish berth, alongside other works, such as strengthening and protection of quay walls.

Mr Coleman stated that these works were based on an 18-month timescale and would be concluded in time for the arrival of the new ferry in the summer of 2018.

Colin McCort and Donna Lockhart, the CalMac Ferries port managers for Brodick and Ardrossan respectively, were both in attendance.

Mr McCort advised that the last five piles for the new harbour had been installed, and that training and trials for operation of the new linkspan, the passenger access system and berthing were ongoing.

It was also noted that traffic management for the new Brodick terminal would require to be determined as this will not fall into the jurisdiction of the police.

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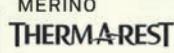


















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## LEGO sought to build new club

The Brodick Library has started a LEGO Club and is appealing for donations of any unwanted and unused LEGO to add to its collection.

The LEGO club, which will be held from 10.30am to 12.30pm every Saturday, has already received donations of LEGO but requires more to be able to cater for additional children.

Library assistant Nick-eey Summer said: 'We at the library are very excited about our new project. If you have some un-loved LEGO stashed away in a cupboard or loft and want to see new life breathed into it, please just drop it off at the library, we would greatly appreciate it.'

'Children can come along and build amazing creations out of the famous bricks for free. Let your imagination run wild and have fun, be inspired by our print out idea sheets and books and meet other LEGO enthusiasts and share the joy.'

The LEGO club is open to all children aged four and upwards. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## Summer bridge

The results of the Arran Bridge Club summer bridge competition played at Lamlash on Monday May 8 were: N/S 1 David Campbell and Tricia Martin, 2 John Baraclough and Eendy McNiven, 3 Margaret and Douglas Bruce. E/W 1 Jennifer Wales and Milly Hobson, 2 Gege Kroner and John Dick, 3 Margaret MacGill and Jan Beattie.

### Talk to us

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

# Lots to see and do at mountain festival

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

The Arran Mountain Festival starts next weekend running from Friday May 19 to Monday May 22.

Described as Scotland's premier hillwalking and mountain festival, it is an opportunity to meet like-minded people, discover the island and have unforgettable days in the safe hands of experienced local walking leaders.

Many of the walks are already booked up, but there is plenty going on as part of the festival.

An art exhibition and sale is currently running upstairs at Arran Active, which is available for everyone to enjoy. This will run until the end of the month.

Next Friday night there will be a talk entitled *A Short History of Mountains and Light*, by Professor Jonathan Pitches and featuring *Moonwalker* author Alan Rowan, at the Ormidale Hotel. The event starts at 7.30pm and is a free event that follows a late-night opening at Arran Active.

On Saturday, again following a late-night opening at Arran Active, the fun and games continue with the annual family ceilidh at Brodick Hall from 7.30pm until 11pm.

Everyone is welcome and music will be by the Arranach Ceilidh Band.

Tickets (adult £5, child £3) can be bought in advance from Arran Active, or on the door.

Once an appetite has been worked up, locally-renowned Hooked and Cooked's mobile chip van will be on site to buy supper from.

As the event is BYOB those attending are invited to bring their own refreshments.

The evening will raise funds for the festival, which is entirely organised by volunteers.

It has steadily grown from year to year since it began in 2007, and has helped to put Arran firmly on the map as one of the best mountain walking destinations in the UK.

For all details about this year's Arran Mountain Festival, please see: [www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk](http://www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk)

## Rescue teams join forces to train



Members of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team and Police Scotland Mountain Rescue Team at their joint training day on Arran.

Arran Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT) enjoyed a day of training in the bright summer sunshine last Sunday as they conducted a joint exercise with the Police Scotland Mountain Rescue Team.

A spokeswoman from AMRT said: 'Both AMRT and Police Scotland MRT headed to the Rosa Slabs

area of Goatfell to practise and share skills using various rope rescue techniques. After this, some of the team explored the steep, precarious ground around the west side of Goatfell before heading off the hill via Coire Chatan.

'The weather could not have been better.'

The Arran team regularly work with other agencies and emergency services to allow them to share skills and increase proficiency.

The annual AMRT AGM will be held on Friday May 19 at 7.30pm at the team base at Cladach where interested parties are welcome to attend.

## Drivers told to expect delays

A series of scheduled road works will be taking place during May with minor disruptions affecting road users during limited closures.

Carriageway resurfacing will take place at the following locations:

On the A841 between Brodick and Corrie at Merkland. Short closures of up to 30 minutes will come into effect for three days starting on Monday May 15 between 9.15am and noon and from 12.30pm to 4pm.

On the C147 north of Catacol, road users can expect closures of up to 30 minutes between 9.15am to noon and from 12.30pm to 4pm for three days starting on Thursday May 18.

South of Catacol on Tuesday May 23, closures of up to 30 minutes can be expected for three days between 9.15am and noon and from 12.30pm to 4pm.

Starting on Friday May 26, there will be six days of footway resurfacing at Murray Crescent, Lamblash.

All the roadworks may be subject to change at short notice.

### Talk to us

Send your news and photographs to [editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

# Filmmaker's boost for spoof comedy

## Tweet claimed heart-throb actor Hardy was on island

Social media on Arran went into meltdown last weekend after a claim Hollywood heart-throb Tom Hardy was on the island.

A tweet to promote a short film by Arran filmmakers Utter Nonsense Films went viral after they posted a spoof message supposedly from the London born film star.

The message on Twitter read: 'Just arrived on Arran. This could be the world's most beautiful island. Checked into Lagg ahead of tomorrow's shoot. I can't wait to walk my dogs here.' The tweet was immediately shared more than 7,000 times.

Eric Dunn, one of the filmmakers along with Scott Clark, said: 'I posted the tweet on Thursday evening and by Friday morning it was being talked about all over the world. It's good publicity for Arran.'

As news spread among Tom Hardy's legion of fans, many took to social media to establish if the news was true and they inundated CalMac with booking enquiries to visit Arran and meet the film star. The

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

Lagg Hotel also received phone calls but they had to break the news to disappointed fans that the tweet was a spoof. So far the original tweet has been viewed more than 602,000 times, shared 17,000 times, liked by 3,400 people and has received more than 5,500 comments. It has also been mentioned in various newspapers and continues to be circulated and discussed online.

Riding on a wave of popularity the short comedy film, *Tom Hardy was on Arran*, was released on Saturday and features Arran charity fundraiser Davy Ballantyne as well as filmmakers Scott and Eric. Filming was undertaken by Colin Ribbeck and the idea for the film was from 14-year-old Cameron Clark.

Utter Nonsense Films regularly meets at its production office, also known as the Ormidale Hotel in Brodick. The next meeting is on Tuesday May 16 at 7pm and anyone with an interest in film-making is invited to attend.



Eric Dunn, Scott Clark and Davy Ballantyne feature in the viral film, *Tom Hardy was on Arran*. Inset: the real Tom Hardy.

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# Forum seeks members as interest drops

**Hugh Boag**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A disappointing turnout at the last meeting of the Arran Elderly Forum (AEF) has led to concern from a 'perturbed' committee at the sudden drop in interest.

'It is a bit sad for us and I hope it will be a wake-up call for our members and older people generally,' said chairwoman Helen Kerr after only six people turned up at the April meeting of the forum.

The committee is also concerned that, despite a mailing list of almost 50 people, only 23 people have so far signed up for a conducted bus tour round Arran with Iain Hendry as guide, who has extensive knowledge of the island.

The opportunity for a free bus tour from 10.45am to 3pm on Wednesday May 31 is still available for anyone that is interested. The forum will be responsible for the bus cost and lunch

is at each person's expense or a packed lunch can be taken along. For those arriving with cars and people with a disability, the bus will pick them up at the Ormidale Pavilion at 10.20am promptly and those who come in by public transport will be picked up at the pier. The coach will wait until the public buses have all arrived.

The forum describes the outing as: 'A chance to socialise, learn things you never knew about the island you live on and have a not-too-long day out.'

It particularly wants to invite people who stay alone or who are not fit to have a long day off the island.

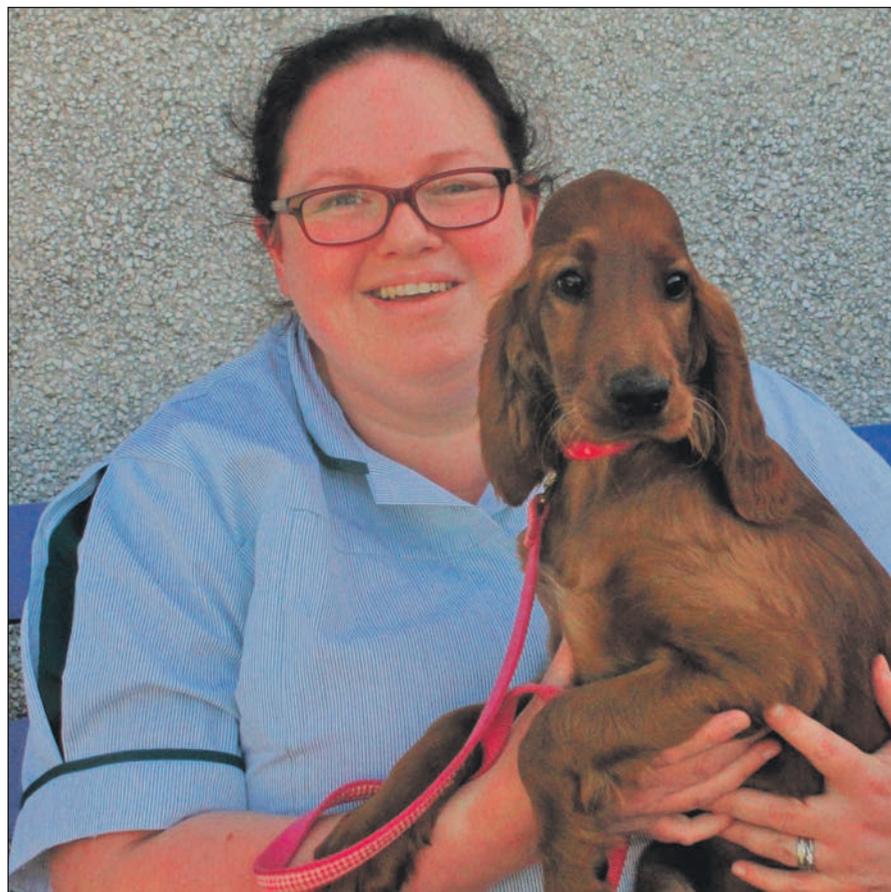
Other over 55s and their carers may enlist too. If anyone falls into this category or knows of someone on the island who would like to go on this trip please contact Jean Strachan on 600911 or email jean.strachan2011@btinternet.com.

The forum is an informed body receiving regular reports from the local community council and North Ayrshire Council about things pertinent to older people such as the toilet closures, the new pier and integrated health and social services. It affords the opportunity to ask questions and make comments and if the forum feels there is an issue that needs to be addressed it will correspond with the relevant bodies.

From time to time there are speakers who address specific issues of concern.

The latest speaker was giving advice on warding off scams and there were several comments from those who attended saying they enjoyed the meeting.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday May 17 at the Ormidale Pavilion where interested parties are encouraged to join everyone for a pre-meeting coffee or tea at 10.40am.



## Gemma earns her diploma

Practice assistant Gemma Ferguson has gained a veterinary care assistant diploma while working at Arran Vets. This City and Guilds distance learning course is provided by the College of Animal Welfare (CAW), based in Edinburgh. Gemma started the year-long course in March last year and was awarded the diploma in April. She was supported with training and assessment in the practice and learned academic theory online. She is grateful to the clients and their pets who allowed her to use case notes for

her assignments. She now plans to go on to further study with CAW. Gemma has always regretted not having the chance to train as a veterinary nurse when she left school. Training and working with Arran Vets has given her the chance to fulfil her dream and the distance learning course allowed her to train whilst living on Arran and supporting her young family. Gemma is pictured outside the surgery with Irish setter puppy Darcy belonging to Lynn Raeburn.

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# Record visitors flock to find 'the Arran waters'

**Hugh Boag**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The award-winning Isle of Arran Distillery visitor centre at Lochranza welcomed a record number of visitors last year. A total of 104,000 people made the

journey to find 'the Arran waters' in 2016 – a 93 per cent increase since 2012, and 18 per cent increase on 2015.

Distillery managing director Euan Mitchell said: 'The visitor centre has al-

ways been core to the distillery. As the first distillery in over 150 years to operate on an island once scattered with illegal stills, we understand and celebrate our place in Arran's whisky making history.

'These visitor numbers are a reflection of our success in translating this heritage into a world-class visitor experience.'

Currently the highest-rated attraction on the island on Trip Advisor, Lochranza recently reopened after the completion of £1 million worth of renovations to both the visitor centre and distillery.

The distillery has double the number of pot stills from two to four and they are now in full production, doubling capacity at the distillery, and in the visitor centre there has been a complete re-design of the reception area and Casks café with a modern water feature to replace the original waterfall and a new interactive wall display.

The old spirit safe, which was removed during the upgrade of distillery equipment, will be exhibited in the main entrance.

A new tasting bar can also accommodate larger groups of visitors and provides extra space for the increasingly popular tours.

The distillery is also making a £100 million investment in the south of the island with a new distillery site and visitor centre at Lagg presently under construction.

Focusing on peated single malts, the Lagg centre will overlook the southern fields and cliffs of the island offering a striking contrast to Lochranza in the mountainous north.

Visitors to Lagg are expected to exceed 62,400 in the first full year – 60 per cent of visitors to Lochranza in 2016 – rising by 10 per cent per year to 75,504 by 2020. It is projected that by 2020 the number of visitors to both sites will surpass 200,000, resulting in



The distillery at Lochranza.

a combined turnover in excess of £2 million.

Euan continued: 'With the new distillery at Lagg, and continued investment at Lochranza, we intend to

uphold the rich heritage of whisky making on Arran and look forward to welcoming many more visitors to the island to experience it for themselves.'



The new interactive water display.



The four pot stills which produce 'the Arran waters'.

## Visitor centre wins prestigious award

The Isle of Arran Distillery and visitor centre at Lochranza has won an award of excellence based on customer feedback.

The award was given by Irish coach tour operator CIE Tours International, which recognises the quality of the UK's hotels and visitor attractions by awarding a merit award to those who have received a greater than 90 per cent customer satisfaction rating.

The visitor centre at Lochranza was given the excellence award based on the feedback of the 14,000

visitors CIE brought to the UK in 2016.

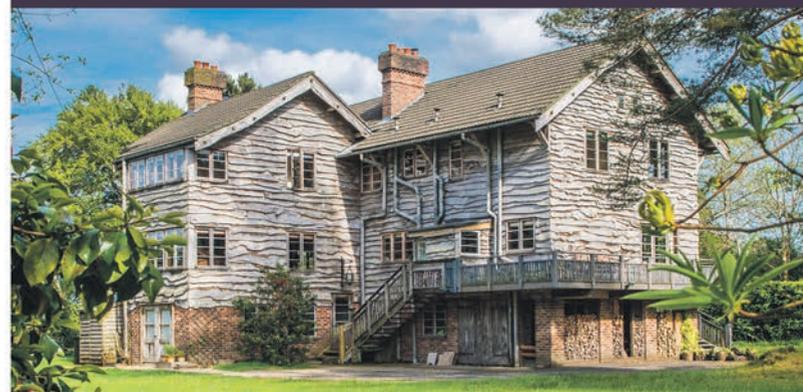
CIE launched its UK awards five years ago, replicating its long running awards in Ireland. Since then, the numbers of venues and attractions achieving a higher than 90 per cent satisfaction rating in the UK has grown from 32 to 56. In 2016, the company enjoyed a 10 per cent rise in visitors on their UK tours. The award ceremony was held at Hotel du Vin Devonshire in Glasgow last month.

Faye Waterlow, visitor centre manager, said: 'We

are incredibly proud to be recognised by CIE tours. The visitor experience is central to what we do at Lochranza. People travel from all over the world for a taste of the history and heritage of 'the Arran waters' and we aim to deliver a warm welcome to everyone who comes to learn about our award-winning whiskies.

'With recent renovations to Lochranza, and a new distillery and visitor centre being developed on the south of the island at Lagg, we look forward to welcoming many more.'

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## Editorial

### The wind of change

We sense a wind of change blowing around the controversial closure of toilets. And stalling the hasty sale of some of the facilities may just be the start.

There is also a new look at North Ayrshire Council and last week the Ardrossan and Arran ward returned two representatives from the island. That does not mean to say the decision by the previous authority will automatically be reversed, but it gives Arran more clout.

But it may not be easy for the council to say: 'Oops, sorry we made a mistake.' There is now no budget to run them and there is the matter of the prospective buyers who have put in legal bids to buy them.

One thing is for sure: the issue is far from settled. We can't but help feeling that if it had not been for the ongoing public protest the toilets would have been closed and the previous council administration would have taken the blame.

The issue is still alive for the new administration, and with Labour and the SNP tied on the number of councillors, it is still wide open to conjecture as to who that will be.

#### Thought for the week

'Remember this; whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each person should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.' (2 Corinthians 9: 6-7)

### Ready for the challenges ahead

Sir,  
I am delighted and honoured to have been elected as a council representative for Ardrossan and Arran.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported and voted for me - I am ready for the challenges ahead. Now that the excitement of winning is passing, it is time to reflect on what the job ahead actually is. The first challenge is to complete the next few weeks of intense training to learn what it means to be a councillor and how the council works, and starting to get to know my councillor colleagues and council staff.

So what do I want to achieve? Well, my aim is get out to speak to people, get their views, feed them back to the council, influence decisions to get the best for Arran, and then let everybody know what has happened. My first specific task will be to see what can be done about the toilets on Arran - a hot topic for Arran. As an election candidate I identified a number of specific Arran issues, including housing and the environment, and these are still very important issues for Arran. However, I am aware that there are other pressing priorities, such as education, health, transport, and social care. What I need to find out now is what are the specific issues for Arran, and what is needed to improve services.

I am aware that this will take time, and a short, medium and long-term strategy is needed and I will be working with my Conservative colleagues on our approach to all these issues. I am really looking

forward to the challenges ahead, and I will never forget why I am a councillor and who all this is for - you! If you see me around please feel free to speak with me and tell me your thoughts.

**Yours,  
Councillor Timothy Billings, Conservative.**

### Win-win scenario

Sir,  
Writing as the newly elected Ardrossan and Arran SNP councillor, I would like to thank the 1,862 voters who gave their first preference votes to the SNP in the North Ayrshire Council elections last Thursday.

Thanks to the hard-work of our dedicated supporters and members, the SNP is the only party with councillors in every North Ayrshire ward and two in Ardrossan and Arran. I look forward to working with my fellow SNP councillor Tony Gurney, who was re-elected.

I would like to pay tribute to outgoing councillors Peter McNamara and John Hunter whom I worked with during my time on the Arran Homes Committee of Trust Housing Association, for their service to Ardrossan and Arran; also to Arran's retiring, resident SNP councillor John Bruce, whose dedication to Arran and Ardrossan was tireless as evidenced by such successes as keeping Corrie school open in the face of tough financial constraints; extending the My Bus cover to seven days; securing the provision of a new bus fleet of 12; facilitating the provision of 80 new homes on Arran for affordable rent and a new Montrose House, amongst

many other things. I am honoured and humbled that the majority of the Arran vote was entrusted to the SNP and I will work hard on behalf of the residents of Arran and Ardrossan to continue to build on John's many successes.

Another triumph of the local elections is that Arran now has two island-based councillors, no mean feat in a three-member ward! On a side note, in response to Mr Billings' letter in last week's Banner with regards to political posters, both Labour and the SNP utilised them to help raise awareness of the local elections, an important aspect of the electoral campaign process in the light of the low voter turnout across North Ayrshire. From Thursday's election results, it is encouraging to see that Arran as an island is politically engaged and I, for one, am willing to put party 'politics' to one side and work in the best interests of all residents of Arran and Ardrossan regardless of their political persuasion. At a local level, two resident councillors is a win-win scenario for Arran.

**Yours,  
Councillor Ellen McMaster, SNP**

### Poster tradition

Sir,  
I was among the first to congratulate Timothy Billings in person on his election as a councillor last Friday.

However, as election agent for the two successful SNP candidates in the ward, I take issue with his views on political posters (Arran Banner letters, May 6). It is ridiculous to suggest the purpose of the signs is 'to annoy people'.

The intention is to engage the public, remind people of their right and duty to vote and increase involvement in the democratic process. Voter turnout in this election, after all, was a disappointing 35 per cent. Postering at elections is a long-standing tradition across the UK and has taken place on Arran for as long as I can recall.

The Conservative Party, in other parts of Scotland, makes extensive use of posters much less discrete than ours. I have observed large Conservative hoardings while travelling in the Highlands and in Argyll in the last couple of weeks. I might disagree with the message, but I would defend to my last breath their right to engage in the political process.

Yes, we have a 'beautiful island', but it isn't a theme park. People live, work and suffer here and are entitled to challenge the effects of the Tory austerity agenda, politically. Visitors who find democracy in action 'ugly' might consider another destination for their next holiday - Disneyland, perhaps? Back in the real world, the Arran SNP posters comply with electoral law, and I have had no complaint about them in discussions with council officers. Many, of course, are on supporters' private property.

The Arran SNP posters will be taken down promptly after close of poll on June 8. Finally, perhaps Councillor Billings could remind us whose idea it was to hold an unnecessary and divisive general election so soon after our local government poll?

**Yours,  
Dr Malcolm Kerr,  
Election Agent for  
Councillors McMaster and Gurney.**

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THE EDITOR welcomes letters for publication on this page. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, should also be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ. Fax: (01770) 302021. Email editor@arranbanner.co.uk  
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# Next stop Kilimanjaro for intrepid Arran trio

The community theatre was the venue for a fundraising tea dance last Saturday.

Two Arran High School pupils and their teacher have been running a series of fundraisers for a trip to

Tanzania in June which will see them helping to build and develop residential centres for abandoned children. Brian Donlin, who teaches geography at Arran High School, will travel with Meagan Bennett and Ben Downing to the Kilimanjaro region where they will join the Vine Trust project which helps communities living in poverty.

As part of the fundraising, the trio have held a dress down day at the high school and the tea dance, where visitors enjoyed tea and cakes, a raffle and a spot of dancing.

A bingo night is planned on Wednesday May 17

from 7pm to 9pm and everyone is invited to win some prizes and help raise money for a truly life-changing experience. Entry is £1 with each bingo card also costing £1.

Mr Donlin said: 'This is a fantastic opportunity for both the pupils and myself to travel to Tanzania and participate in the excellent work being undertaken by the Vine Trust but also to broaden the horizons of some of the young people of Arran.'

The group leaves on Saturday June 3 and would be interested to hear from anyone who would like to sponsor the trip or donate towards the costs involved.



Naomi Gillson, Charlie Hodgart, Michael Nicol and Clover Emmet Gillson enjoying tea and cakes at the tea dance.

01\_B19tea02



Ben Downing and Meagan Bennett along with teacher Brian Donlin, centre, who will be travelling to Tanzania.

01\_B19tea01

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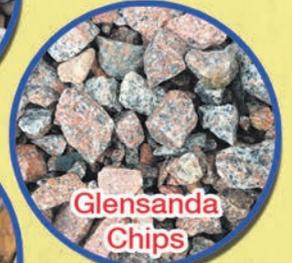
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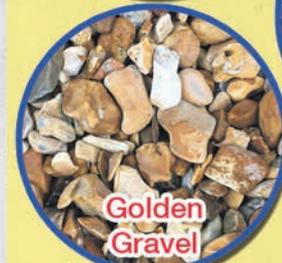
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## House bid at Stags Pavilion

An application for a single-story, detached house to the north east of Stags Pavilion restaurant in Lochranza has been lodged with North Ayrshire Council.

The proposed house design is similar in style to the restaurant and is situated within the grounds.

The application for the two-bedroom house has been lodged by Val Pisano, owner of the Stags Pavilion, and would feature a natural slate finish roof and composite weather board finish to the walls.

The pavilion was built during the 1930s as the clubhouse for the golf course. From the 1960s onwards it has served as a cafe and shop for the Lochranza campsite until about 12 years ago when it was converted into a restaurant.

Seven neighbour notifications have been issued to properties within 20 metres of the site boundary and the application is under consideration by planning officials.

**Newsdesk**  
01770 302142

# 'Ferry' tasty new menus onboard CalMac boats

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

It's enough to get the taste buds a-tingling, as Caledonian MacBrayne introduces the likes of cullen skink pie, smoked salmon bagels and vegetarian haggis nachos to its ever-popular menu.

Served in the Mariners cafés on board its major ships, including the *MV Caledonian Isles*, the food has become a firm favourite

with customers, both regular travellers and tourists, as offering great taste, value for money and supporting Scottish produce.

The cullen skink pie features Scottish smoked and unsmoked haddock in a creamy leek sauce topped with mashed potato, while the Macsween's of Edinburgh vegetarian haggis nachos bring a bit of fusion to this firm favourite.

A variation on a popular breakfast dish, the Scot-

tish smoked salmon and Argyll free range scrambled egg bagel makes a nice treat and, for the more health conscious, the newly introduced banana bagel is a healthy option with its natural yoghurt accompaniment.

And continuing the healthy eating options, the company has introduced a cottage cheese jacket potato to its selection, using cheese from Yester Farm in East Lothian.

Complementing CalMac's well-kent curry of the day – all varieties of which are now gluten free – is the introduction of a mixed pakora platter, while a piripiri chicken burger marks a spicy addition to the burger selection.

### Favourites

Two perennial favourites have had a tweak – the Scottish beef burger now features Puffer chilli jam from Easdale Island near Oban, while Mull of Kin-

tyre cheddar becomes the foundation for the famous CalMac 'n' Cheese.

All of this maintains the company's Taste Our Best accreditation from VisitScotland across all Mariners cafés. In 2015, CalMac was the first ferry company to achieve this accolade and has continued to expand its range of local and Scottish produce, underpinning support to quality and home-grown suppliers.



Martin prepares to board the lifeboat at Lamlash.



Martin is all smiles as the lifeboat speeds to Kildonan.

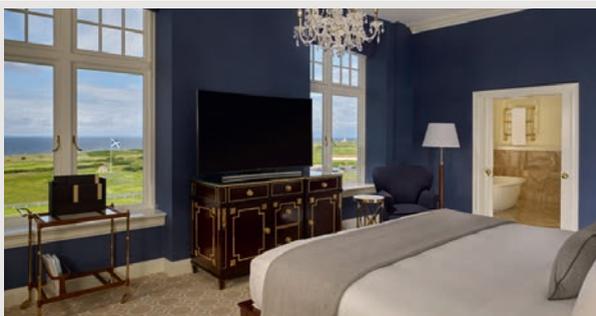
Photographs: David Lydon, Arran RNLI crew member.

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Situated on the enchanting Ayrshire coast is the iconic Trump Turnberry, a Luxury Collection Resort, Scotland. First opening its doors in 1906, it is steeped in rich history and heritage and features unforgettable views across Championship golf links to Ailsa Craig and the Isle of Arran. Following a multi million pound renovation, all of



the bedrooms have been lavishly refurbished, and now feature opulent marble bathrooms, freestanding bathtubs and sparkling chandeliers.

Enjoy long walks on Turnberry beach, relax in The Grand Tea Lounge with a glass of fizz or make your way to The Spa at Turnberry to unwind from the stresses of everyday life.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:  
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To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to Wyvex Media Ltd, Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL. Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is May 31, 2017. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media Ltd, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply.

## Lifeboat crew deliver groom to waiting bride

Groom Martin Wood was always going to get to the church on time for his wedding to bride Kate Gillies. But just to make sure, his colleagues from Arran RNLI lifeboat delivered him to Kildonan.

The crew assembled, just like any other mission last Saturday, and launched the in-shore lifeboat Rachel Hedderwick at 12.40pm with the important package of helmsman Martin aboard.

En route, however, Martin showed he is always thinking of improving his crew as he launched an impromptu training exercise while they waited for the go ahead for the groom to go ashore.

A lifeboat spokesman said: 'All of the Arran RNLI crew are delighted to see Martin and Kate married and wish them all the best for their honeymoon and the many happy years they have ahead.'



## Arran Leisure

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# Choir shows its soul ahead of first concert



Members of the choir spontaneously break into dance during a favourite song.

01\_B18choir05

**'It will be a great deal of fun and I encourage everyone to attend this great community event'**

The good folk of Arran are showing they have soul in their hearts and a voice to rejoice. And they have honed that energy into creating the island's latest singing phenomenon - the Arran Soul Choir.

And after months of rehearsals they have just announced a summer date for their first public performance which will be held in the community theatre in Lamash next month.

Having formed in January this year, the choir have been diligently rehearsing a retinue of songs, both classic and modern, under the tutelage of James O'Neil, faculty leader of music at Arran High School. He is joined by assistant musical director David Lambert and administrator Carolyn Lambert who helps to organise proceedings, as well as taking part in the choir which meets every Thursday on a drop-in basis.

James said: 'The choir is open to everyone of all ages and all abilities; it is an informal setting with no weekly commitment re-

quired and no auditions to join. We are a fun and uplifting choir with the sole purpose of singing and making music together.

'Our concert will showcase the singing talents of the group and the hard work which everyone has been putting in over the last few months. It will also be a great deal of fun and I encourage everyone to attend this great community event.'

### Friendly

The choir meets every Thursday in the community theatre where, from 7pm to 8.30pm, as many as 50-plus people gather in a friendly, supportive, no-pressure environment where they can sing, or watch, a wide repertoire from Lady GaGa to Abba and the Beatles. And during a mid-session break the choir members enjoy a chat over a cup of coffee and a slice of cake.

\* The Arran Soul Choir concert will be held in the community theatre on Tuesday June 27 at 7.30pm.

More photographs on page 12.



Baritones provide the singing voices between tenor and base.

01\_B18choir08

# Summer date for Arran Soul Choir



The soprano section belt out a song which has the members dancing and tapping their feet. 01\_B18choir07



James O'Neil leads the choir while David Lambert expertly plays the piano. 01\_B18choir06



Choir leader James O'Neil sings and plays the piano during the chorus of Gloria Gaynor's I Will Survive. 01\_B18choir02



Choir members quench their parched throats during the sociable tea and coffee break. 01\_B18choir01



More than 50 members can take part on a typical evening rehearsal. 01\_B18choir03

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Some members of Quilt Arran with their works at the exhibition. 01\_A19quilt01

## Work on show at Quilt Arran exhibition

Quilt Arran has just staged its first exhibition and it has proved a big success.

The group of around 20 ladies was formed four years ago and meets every week in Lamlash to work together, share ideas and knowledge and enjoy the art of quilt making.

The three-day exhibit held last weekend attracted both interested locals and visitors as well as a number of quilt group parties from across Ayrshire including the Troon

quilters group, which Quilt Arran visit regularly.

Leader Alison Thompson said: 'When the group began, most were quilting beginners supported by several experienced members. I think this, our first exhibition, shows how far members have come.'

'We are delighted that quilting groups from across Ayrshire have taken the trouble to come across to Arran for the day to see our work.'

During the show visitors

were able to chose their favourite quilted design in a competition set by Alison for an A4 work of a favourite Arran scene.

Quilt Arran also holds a Linus Day to make quilts for Project Linus UK, some of which were on display.

Linus quilts are named after the security blanket-toting character from the Peanuts comic strip to provide security and comfort through quilts and blankets.

The quilts made by

Quilt Arran are donated to Ayrshire hospitals, especially the children's ward and neonatal unit at Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock. Donations towards future quilts are always welcome.

Quilt Arran meets every Thursday at 2pm in Lamlash Fire Station and all are welcome. Anyone who would like further information can contact Alison Thompson on 600764 or email: nianali@icloud.com



A visitor examines the work on show. 01\_A19quilt04



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### What's On.....

**Castle Time Travellers - Sat 13<sup>th</sup> & Sun 14<sup>th</sup> May 11am & 2pm**

A family tour through the times of the Castle – dressing-up optional! Stout footwear advised – To book please contact the Castle  
Adults & children Free with Garden Entry

**Brodict Castle from the Outside - Sat 13<sup>th</sup>, Sun 14<sup>th</sup> - 12, 1 & 3pm  
Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> & Fri 19<sup>th</sup> May - 11am, 12, 1, 2 & 3pm**

A guided historical tour of the exterior of the Castle – stout footwear advised - Please book at Reception on arrival

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# WHAT'S ON

## Everyday

Trout fly fishing  
 Brodick Castle, garden open  
 Arran Brewery  
 Soap making and candle dipping  
 Arran Heritage Museum, Rosaburn, Brodick

Mon, Wed, Sat 10-5pm, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sun 12.30-5pm  
 Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am - 4pm  
 Daily 10.30am to 4.30pm

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
 9am-dusk

## Saturday 13th May

Army Cadets  
 Over 21s disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Family games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Arran Vets  
 Arran Vets  
 Blackwaterfoot bowls  
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club rink game  
 Brodick Bowling Club rink game  
 Live music - 2 Bob Rocket  
 Live music - Alan Frew

Auchrannie Road 11am-1 pm  
 Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie spa pool, 4-5pm  
 surgery 9.30am - 11am  
 reception 9.30am - noon  
 Bowling Club, 2pm  
 WBay Bowling club, 2pm  
 Brodick Bowling Green 2pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
 The Douglas Hotel, 9pm

## Sunday 14th May

Family games  
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie spa pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Open acoustic session at Fiddlers' Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm - 5pm  
 AA meeting  
 Live music - Fat Man and The Angel

Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm

## Monday 15th May

Over 50s badminton  
 Badminton  
 Morning fitness  
 Badminton  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Arran Junior Football Club  
 Circuit training  
 Lamlash Aerobix  
 Tae Kwondo  
 Summer bridge tournament  
 Arran Citizen's Advice Bureau  
 Adult tennis  
 Brodick Bowling Club rink game  
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club rink game  
 Arran Skinnymalinks  
 Arran Skinnymalinks

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
 Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Auchrannie sports hall, 7-9pm  
 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
 Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm  
 Arran High School dance studio, 6.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm  
 Arran high School, 6.30pm - visitors welcome  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm  
 Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
 Brodick Bowling Green 6.45pm  
 WBay Bowling club, 6.30pm  
 Shiskine Church Hall, 5.15pm  
 Brodick Church Kitchen, 6pm

## Tuesday 16th May

Pop quiz  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Youth club  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Healthy outdoors  
 Blackwaterfoot bowls  
 Bridge class (beginners/improvers)  
 Lamlash Junior Drama Club  
 Flow yoga  
 Pilates  
 Brodick Castle garden walk  
 Scottish country dancing  
 NFU Arran branch open meeting

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm  
 Bowling Club, 2pm  
 Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm  
 Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm  
 Corrie and Sannox Hall, 6pm  
 Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
 Meet at Visitor Centre, 2pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Kinloch Hotel, 8pm

## Wednesday 17th May

Rock an pop bingo  
 Tae Kwondo  
 Alcoholics Anonymous  
 Arran Brass rehearsal  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Yoga  
 Hydrofit  
 Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service  
 Mixed ability Run (Arran Run Coach)  
 Yoga-Arran  
 Mixed hockey  
 Dog classes  
 Flow yoga  
 Knittnerly and Natterly  
 Family friendly pup quiz  
 Bus pass club meal  
 Chair yoga  
 Burger and quiz night  
 Brodick Bowling Club rink game  
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club rink game  
 Arran Skinnymalinks  
 Coffee morning  
 Coffee morning  
 Arran elderly forum

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm  
 Arran High School Kids-6.30- 7.30pm adults-7.30- 8.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm  
 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Auchrannie studio, 9.30am-10.30am  
 Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
 10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30  
 Dunfion car park, 5.30pm  
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
 Auchrannie sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
 Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm  
 Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
 The PHT, 8.30pm  
 The PHT, noon - 2.30pm  
 St Molios Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am - noon  
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
 Brodick Bowling Green 6.45pm  
 WBay Bowling club, 6.30pm  
 Lamlash Church Hall 5pm  
 Brodick Church hall, 10.30am - noon  
 Lamlash church hall, 10.15am - noon  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 11am

## Thursday 18th May

Morning fitness  
 General knowledge quiz  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Ladies' hockey  
 Winter bowls  
 Arran Bridge  
 Quilt Arran  
 Flow yoga  
 Chair yoga  
 10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers  
 Adult tennis

Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am  
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm  
 Auchrannie, 7pm  
 Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm  
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm  
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am - 11.30am  
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm  
 Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club from 5.30pm

## Friday 19th May

Yoga  
 Hydrofit  
 Arran Youth Foundations  
 Lochranza children's badminton  
 Lochranza adults' badminton  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 AA meeting Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
 Tae Kwondo  
 Open mic led by Jim

Auchrannie spa leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
 Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash adults, 7pm - 8.30pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

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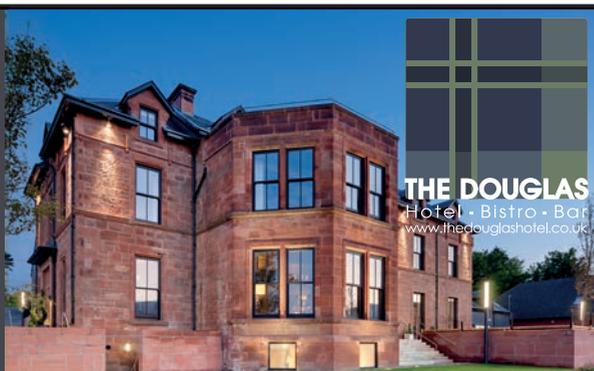
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# Spring fayre fun in the sun



Face painting went down a treat on the day.

The sun shone for the Kilmory primary school spring fayre last Sunday when more than £700 was raised for school funds.

One of the highlights of the day for the children was 'splating' deputy head teacher Quinton Black with wet sponges.

A spokeswoman for the Kilmory primary parent council said: 'We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for donating, baking, helping and supporting our annual fundraiser especially to all the businesses that donated raffle prizes. We raised an amazing £709 which is quite an amount for such a small school. The kindness and generosity of our community and further afield is much appreciated.'



Deputy head Quinton Black gets a soaking.



Visitors enjoy alfresco food and drinks.

## The Danish Girl on show

The offering from Corrie Film Club tomorrow night (Sunday) is *The Danish Girl* (UK 2015. Cert. 15).

Directed by Oscar winning Tom Hooper it stars academy award winners Eddie Redmayne and Alicia Vikander.

*The Danish Girl* is a fictitious love story loosely inspired by the lives of Danish artists, Lili Elbe and Gerda Wegener, whose work evolves as they navigate Lili's groundbreaking journey as a transgender pioneer.

The film poignantly explores thought-provoking themes in a beautifully-filmed biopic drama.

See this superbly acted, heartfelt film in Corrie Hall this Sunday at 8pm. Everyone welcome.

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# Ideal time to watch bird migration

Spring migration gets under way in April, with arrivals and departures of birds, all seeking their best breeding territories.

This April was an interesting, almost 'four-season' month with a wide range of temperatures and other weather conditions but it was much drier and colder than April last year. There was less than a tenth of the rain of last April and the mean temperature was half that of last April. The last 10 days saw mainly cold northerly winds.

The impact on migrating birds heading north seemed to be to hold them up. While a number of the regular migrants did arrive in April, it seemed to be only the pioneers. Even by the end of the month the bulk of the migrants had still to arrive.

By the end of March the first chiffchaff, wheatear, sand martin, swallow and

house martin had all been reported. Here are April 'firsts' with the 2016 arrival date in brackets for comparison: willow warbler in High Kildonan on 4th (10 April), white wagtail on Blackwaterfoot shore on 7th (17 April), cuckoo in Brodick Country Park on 8th (18 April), common sandpiper on Sannox shore on 15th (14 April), manx shearwater in Brodick Bay on 15th (2 April), grasshopper



Lesser redpoll also in breeding plumage.  
Photo by Howard Walker

per warbler in Monyquil on 20th (1 May), sedge warbler in Porta Buidhe on 20th (4 May) and tree pipit on Torr Dubh on 22nd (20 April).

On 24th swallows were reported flying in the falling sleet and snow in Whiting Bay!

Not surprisingly with the cold weather, some wintering birds were still around including: 50 redwing in Glenree on 1st, two brambling in Sliderry on 5th, one purple sandpiper in Kildonan also on 5th, 11 wigeon in Cosyden on 6th, 50 fieldfare in Sliderry also on 6th, 12 pink-footed geese in Clachaig on 7th, four goldeneye in Loch Ranza on 19th, two whooper swan off Pirmill on 26th and the adult Iceland gull, that was first reported in March, was at Sliderrywaterfoot on 27th.

On the morning of 24 April there were two re-

ports of brent geese feeding on the shore, 23 at South Feorline and 31 in Machrie Bay, refuelling before continuing their journey to their breeding grounds in Greenland.

April is an ideal time for watching migration. Other examples included: 26 house martin over Mossend Pond on 6th, 100 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot on 8th, 34 redshank at Sandbraes on 11th, one great skua off Brodick Bay on 15th, one black-throated diver in breeding plumage off Pirmill on 18th, 250 meadow pipit at Hazelburn also on 18th, two black-tailed godwit at Fisherman's Walk on 19th, two great northern diver courting and calling off Kilpatrick Point also on 19th, 16 sandwich tern in Kildonan on 21st, two dunlin on Sliderry shore on 27th and 33 whimbrel at Sliderrywaterfoot also on 27th.

Migration was also in evidence from the widespread reports received of goldfinch, siskin and lesser red-



Brent geese feeding at the mouth of a burn.

Photo by Jim Cassels

poll moving through people's gardens throughout the month. Larger garden numbers reported included; 30 siskin in Gortonalister on 7th, 15 goldfinch in Shannochie on 15th and five lesser redpoll in Kilpatrick on 28th. Tens of thousands of birds seem to be moving through the island at this time of year.

In April there were one 113 species recorded. Here is a further small selection from this list: two little grebe and two moorhen at Mossend Pond on

## Bird notes by Jim Cassels APRIL

5th, three yellowhammer in Sliderry on 7th, a merlin in Glenshant Hill on 8th, five common crossbill Kilmory on 9th, two goosander at Machriewaterfoot on 16th and an osprey over Sliderry on 18th.

Finally magpie, while common on the adjacent mainland, is a vagrant to Arran.

When it does appear it is regularly reported!

The last report was in 2015 until April this year when one was reported on Shiskine Golf Course on 20th with a further report from Strathwillan on 22nd. Did it fly through and keep going?

My thanks to the many people who have been in touch to share their sightings in what has been a remarkable month. May should be an equally interesting month with the arrival of more summer visitors including whinchat, spotted flycatcher, garden warbler, wood warbler, swift, Arctic tern, common tern and, hopefully, even corncrake and nightjar.

Please remember that under the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004 it is an offence to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is being built or used.

Take particular care on our shores and beaches and please keep your dogs on a lead at this time.

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk

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All Items Subject to Arrival

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday 17 May

## Signs of agreement

A meeting was held in the Lamlash Hall last Tuesday to try to tie up the loose ends of a long-running conflict between land owners and land users on Arran. The issue, not unique to Arran, tries to balance the needs of those who use the land for recreation and those who own and conserve it.

This first public meeting was chaired by Barbara Kelly, chairman of Scottish Natural Heritage for south west Scotland and included landowners, quangos, some rammers and members of the access group. The issues that were raised included over-improvements of paths and a proliferation of signs, many not very welcoming.

When questions from the public came they almost all centred on the hillphone which was introduced last year as a pilot. The service had received 260 calls in the first year but many wanted to know if it was specific enough, did it take into account any activities other than deer shooting such as lambing or issues where certain areas were best avoided?

The meeting went some way to address the concerns so that landowners and walkers recognise the problems and rights of each other.

## Members only

In 1991 Iain Johnston opened up a large indoor swimming pool at the Auchrannie Hotel which has provided the public with an excellent wet-weather facility. Now, it may be that it will have to close to



All of the prize winners at the Arran Riding Club's Prix Caprilli held last Sunday. B19twe04

the public. When the Auchrannie opened its leisure centre it was for hotel residents, timeshare owners and club members and because of long negotiations with the local authority, it was open to the public.

It was agreed that it would receive around £50,000 per annum to help towards staff costs. Last year North Ayrshire Council cut this by 25 per cent and this week the hotel has been informed that a further 30 per cent cut will reduce the subsidy to around £25,000. This has caused the Auchrannie to reconsider its position on public use. Mr Johnston believes that a £50,000 per annum subsidy is a cheap way for the council to provide these facilities but he is torn between conflicting forces. Lodge owners and residents appreciate a degree of exclusivity and do not appreciate it when the pool is busy. The contract with North Ayrshire Council ends on June 30 and Mr Johnston will have to make a decision within the next two weeks.

## Music shop shuts

The String Music Shop in Brodick has closed. Opened about two years ago and run by Campbell Seaton it was Arran's only music shop. With a pleasant selection of discs, an ordering service and a video hire section it was an agreeable addition to Brodick's shops. Mr Seaton had objected when the Co-op started to sell music although the closure also indicates the difficulties of business in a small and finite market. It also leaves another empty shop on the front at Brodick.



The Primary Schools swimming gala, which was held last Wednesday at the Kinloch pool, was as noisy as ever. Champions at the event were Penny Raeburn and Tom Wheeler. B19twe02



Duncan Russell of Whiting Bay took his father's new Range Rover for a drive past the Lamlash Golf Club last week when, on his first outing, an errant golf ball struck and dented the car. B19twe01



A large group of Austrian guests say goodbye to their new found friends on Arran after a two-week visit to Arran High School where the visitors enjoyed getting a flavour of Scottish education and Arran culture. B19twe05



ALGU trophy winners for the 1996/1997 season: Morag Gardner (Cir Mhor), Ellie Jones (island champion) and Linda Johnston (Drumadoon Tray). B19twe03

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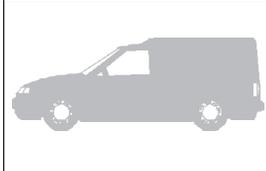
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**Please email your application to [sales@arrandeliveries.co.uk](mailto:sales@arrandeliveries.co.uk)**



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## Property

### WANTED

Single lady, independent means  
requires long term let on Arran from  
the end of May.

Brodick/Lamlash/Corrie preferred

No pets, non smoker

**Tel: 07941 767725**

### LONG LET REQUIRED

Large family property needed for  
family of 7. Any area considered  
but would prefer Lamlash  
or Brodick. References can  
be provided.

Please call: 07919 124406

## Public Notices

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ISLE OF ARRAN FERRY COMMITTEE

To be held in the Arran Mountain Rescue  
Centre, Brodick

**On Monday 12 th June 2017 at 1900hrs.**

Nominations are invited for election of  
Representative of The Independent Traveller and  
should be submitted with name and address,  
proposed and seconded to Mr Iain Thomson, John  
Thomson Construction Ltd, Lamlash KA27 8NB

**Not later than Monday 5 th June 2017**



## NFU Scotland

Arran Branch Open Meeting

**Tuesday 16 May at 8pm**

**Kinloch Hotel, Blackwaterfoot**

**Guest speaker Martin Kennedy –**

**NFUS Vice-president**

*Everyone welcome*

## CHURCH NOTICES

## SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
 St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 14th May**  
 11.00 am. Holy Communion.  
 Revd Canon Simon Mackenzie,  
 Priest-in-Charge.  
 Coffee after service.  
**Wednesday, 17th May**  
 12.15 pm. Holy Communion.  
 ALL WELCOME

## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran  
 Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza,  
 Pirmill and Shiskine  
 Independent but  
 working together  
 Minister:  
 Rev Angus Adamson  
 Parish Assistant:  
 Mrs Jean hunter:  
 Worship will be conducted in  
 the above churches at the  
 following times to which all  
 are invited.

**Sunday 14th May**  
 Lochranza Church,  
 9.30am Morning Worship  
 Pirmill Church,  
 10.15am Morning Worship  
 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 be a Service of  
 Worship in Montrose House  
 at 1.30pm. including the  
 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

## WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
 (Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 14th May 2017**  
 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.  
 All very welcome.  
 Christian Aid Week begins on  
 14th May.  
 Please give generously  
 to help those in need.

## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
 "A faith to proclaim ~ a  
 fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 14th May**  
 Rev Lily McKinnon  
 Kilmory 10 am  
 Lamlash 11.30 am  
 All welcome, including  
 families; children's area

## HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Sunday 14th May**  
 Vigil Mass 7.30pm  
 Sunday Mass 11am

## ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)  
**Communion Weekend**  
**Sat 13th May**  
 Preparatory Service 7pm  
 5 Glen Road, Brodick  
**Sun 14th May**  
 Morning Service 11am  
 The sacrament of The Lord's  
 Supper will be dispensed at  
 close of morning service.  
 Trust Housing Lounge, Glen  
 Estate, Brodick  
 Evening Service 6-30pm  
 5 Glen Road, Brodick  
**Monday 15th May**  
 Thanksgiving Service 7pm  
 Hazelbank, Pirmill  
 All welcome

## ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 14th May**  
 Service 11am  
 Ormidale Pavilion  
 Tea and coffee  
 after the service  
 Wednesday at 7.30pm Home  
 fellowship group for bible  
 study and prayer.  
 Contact phone no 600222  
 Everyone warmly invited

## ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

## RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

# Hockey ladies pick up trophy

The red carpet was out for Arran Ladies hockey club as they received their division four winners' trophy at the annual West District hockey awards presentation night.

The Marriott Hotel in Glasgow played host to the event on Saturday April 29 with the club's Lorraine Hewie, Anne Watts and Pauline Reid attending the glamorous event.

A chance to exchange hockey kit for glamorous gowns, the ladies had a meet-and-greet social with a glass of bubbly on arrival and a chat with players from throughout the four divisions.

'The warmth of responses from new teams we met was so encouraging. So many of the ladies we met have said they can't wait to come over to Arran to play next season,' said Anne, following on from her chats with the third division team players.

Called into the spacious and elegantly furnished function room, the 140 attendees were comfortably seated around the dance floor and presentation platform. Pam Roulston, the president of the West District hockey division, welcomed everyone to the evening and thanked those who had travelled from 'even as far as Arran'.

Awards were then given out to the winning teams of the first, second and third divisions, with the winner of the most voted for 'player of the match of the year' also collecting trophies for their individual contribu-



Lorraine Hewie, Pauline Reid and Anne Watts with the award.

tions to the games they had played in.

It then came the turn to present the trophy to the winning team of the fourth division. When Arran was called out by Christine MacDonald, the honorary secretary for the West District committee, enthusiastic applause and cheers came from around the room, especially from the Western Wildcats team members who were sharing a table with the Arran ladies. Lorraine, Anne and Pauline all went up to collect the team trophy and the official event photographer was there to record the moment. A special mention also went to Abbie Mckelvie, who was nominated in joint second place in the 'player of the match of the year' section in the fourth division.

Congratulations were not only kept for their performance on the pitch, the compere and DJ for the night also noticed that the Arran ladies made a significant contribution on the dance floor, being the first

on and rarely leaving it.

Rhona Ogilvie, the fourth division representative, with whom Lorraine has shared much correspondence over the last year, made a point of going over to congratulate the team on their promotion to the third division.

League statistics show Arran is the second most successful club in the whole of the west district, and for holding the fourth highest number of goals scored in one match.

The Arran team will now be welcomed into the West District third division next season. 'New club members would be very welcome to be part of our next exciting period in the new season,' said club coach Lorraine. 'We are always looking for new players to come to training on Thursday nights, even if they have never played before - like Pauline before she joined us - or since leaving high school, or just wanting to get back into the sport. Our current club and team has a diverse age

range from 12 to 60 and over with varying skill levels and abilities so everyone is welcome to come and give it a try.'

Pauline added: 'The club members who don't all sign up to play official match games enjoy our fun and friendly atmosphere and training sessions which help them get fit and to become part of an island club, meeting people they otherwise would never have done.'

The club are also looking to start and develop a boys' and men's hockey team, giving a place for the young and talented male players of the Arran junior hockey team the opportunity to go on to develop their skills at adult level.

The club AGM will be held in the Ormidale Pavilion on Thursday May 18 at 7pm and all people and parties interested are very welcome to attend. Anyone who wants an item on the agenda should write to the club captain, Cat Galbraith on bryce.cat@btinternet.com

## PERSONAL NOTICES

## BIRTH



## PICKEN

Jamie & Kirsten are happy to announce the safe arrival of Jack Crawford Picken on 6th May 2017.  
 A wee brother for Maisie.  
 All well.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to all my friends and family for the cards, generous gifts and for attending my 60th birthday party at Brodick golf club.

Special thanks to the 'organisers' (I knew you were all up to something), Trish for the food, club house staff for keeping everyone well hydrated and Armitage for the fab cake and T-shirts. Hope everyone enjoyed the night as much as I did!

Love Donald the best unicorn rider in town!



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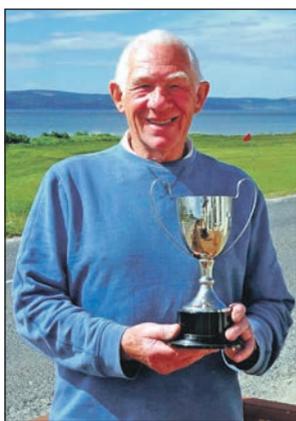


### Arran Golfers Association

Friday May 5, Seniors Bowl. The games were played on a beautiful evening at Machrie Bay, though the wind was a bit gusty at times. Both very close games which saw-sawed back and forth, taking them both to the extra hole. In the end both matches went to sudden death, (19th) where Machrie Bay beat Shiskine and Whiting Bay beat Corrie.

In a topsy-turvy match Whiting Bay just edged out Corrie at the first extra hole. In match one Whiting Bay came back from four down to half their match at the 18th, while in match two Corrie came from three down to half their game at the 18th. George McKechnie won the tie in the dwindling light with a superb slam-dunk with his third shot at the first extra hole to make sure it was Whiting Bay in the final.

Sunday May 7, Guy Spiers, Spring Handicap at Shiskine Golf and Tennis



Mike Hesp with the Hugh Steel Cup won at Machrie.



Kate McAdam, ALGU winner of the Flockhart Trophy.

Club. The course was playing like a true links, firm and fast. Thanks to Stewart and his team for the superb condition of the course. Also thanks to Alan and his team in the Clubhouse for the excellent soup and sandwiches.

First Class: 1 Jack McNally 70-11=59, 2 Frazer Barr 72-9=63, 3 Donald Logan 74-9=65 BIH. Second Class: 1 Ronnie Mann 78-14=64 BIH, 2 Lenny Hartley 79-15=64 BIH, 3 Willie McNally 81-16=65 BIH. Overall winner of the Guy Spiers Trophy, Jack McNally. JC Reid award for over 55s, Ronnie Mann. Best scratch, Jack McNally 70. Magic twos, David Morrison x2, Jack McNally, Danny Currie, Phil Betley, Willie McNally and Terry Raeside.

Thomson Cup draw: Qualifying score 71 due to a couple of people unable to play. Graeme Andrew v Jamie MacPherson, Willie McNally v Ian Bremner, Alan Smith v Stan Rainey, Lenny Hartley v John Pennycott, Jack McNally v Danny Currie, Phil Betley v David Jeffrey, Frazer Barr v Donald Logan, Ronnie Mann v Gordon Stewart. First round matches by Sunday May 21, second round by Wednesday June 7, semis and final on Saturday June 10 at 1pm and 5pm at Shiskine, first two rounds may be played elsewhere if mutually agreed.

Fixtures: Friday May 12, Senior Bowl final at Machrie, 5pm. Machrie Bay v Whiting Bay. Monday May 22, Junior match-play at Shiskine at 5pm.

**Arran Ladies Golf Union**  
Saturday May 6, Flockhart Trophy. On a beautiful warm and sunny day 19 ladies played for the Flockhart Trophy in Whiting Bay. 1 and scratch, Kate McAdam 81-18=63, 2 Yvonne Brothers 84-18=66, 3 Elizabeth Sinclair 86-18=68. A good day for Lamlash Ladies. Thanks to Whiting Bay for the courtesy of the course which was in great condition and to John for the catering.

Fixture: ALGU adm will be held at Shiskine Clubhouse on Monday May 15 at 7.30pm. Apologies to Viv Parks on 860185.

### Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday May 4, Summer Cup, CSS 65, Par 64. 1 Stu-



Jack McNally receives the Guy Spiers trophy from AGA secretary and father Willie McNally.

art Campbell 71-6=65, 2 Graeme Andrew 77-11=66, BIH over, 3 Norrie MacIntyre 74-8=66. Scratch Todd Jameson 70. Magic twos Stuart Campbell @17th, Todd Jameson @4th, Norrie MacIntyre @2nd, Serge El Adm @13th, Willie Currie @16th.

Ladies' section: Monday May 1, Josie Sanderson, Stableford, CSS 66, par 65, 21 played. This annual competition held by Lamlash ladies, but open to all island members, always attracts a large entry who enjoy the stableford format, the opportunity to play at Lamlash and the lovely home baking afterwards.

The winner this year was Gay Mackay with an excellent score of 37pts. Gay had won this trophy in 2011 and so was delighted to win again and to break her handicap.

Runner-up was Alison Heron with 36pts and in third place Kate McAdam with 33pts.

Magic twos Alison Heron, June Richardson, Ann May @16th.

Wednesday May 3, Fleet, 10 played, CSS 66. 1 Ruth Hardy 92-26=66, 2 Sheena Murchie 87-16=71. Scratch Sheena Murchie 71.

Fixtures: Sunday May 14, Hamilton Bowl, Boge Competition, 8.30am, 9.30am and 12.30pm.



Players taking part in the semi-final of the AGA Senior Bowl enjoy the fading sunshine at Machrie.



Gay Mackay is presented with a trophy by ladies captain Mary Adams for winning the Josie Sanderson competition at Lamlash.

Thursday May 18, Summer Cup. Make up own games, see starter for times.

### Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday May 3, Wednesday Cup. 1 R McLean 76-20=56, 2 A McDonald 70-12=58, 3 S Beardsley 66-7=59. Scratch S Beardsley 66. Very low scoring and lots of magic twos. The important twos came from Raymond Jeffrey and A Napier, who shared the pot.

Saturday May 6, Sweep. 1 R McLean 77-18=59, 2 A Napier 66-6=60, BIH, 3 E McKinnon 61-1=60. Scratch, Euan McKinnon. Magic twos, R Burke, G Hendry, I Keen, G Andrew and A Napier. Another

good win for R McLean on a low scoring day.

Fixtures: Saturday May 13, Summer Cup, stroke-play, ballots at 9am and 1pm. Wednesday May 17, Millennium Trophy and Wednesday Cup, ballot at 5pm.

### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday May 3, Summer Trophy Round four. The fine weather drew a good field of 29 for the latest round of the Summer Trophy but there was a sting in the tail with the quickening greens and firm fairways pushing the CSS out to 64. That did not stop John Pennycott who stormed home with a nett 57 to pip Danny Head by

two shots. 1 John Pennycott 14, 57, 2 Danny Head 5, 59 and lowest gross, 3 Frazer Barr 9, 63, 4 Ryan Armstrong 7, 64. Magic twos, Ryan Armstrong @17th.

Fixtures: Sunday May 14, McKelvie Cup Round one. Wednesday May 17, Summer Trophy and club championship qualifier.

### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday May 2, Peter Sutton, CSS 63. 1 R Woods 82-18=64, 2 J Pennycott 79-14=65, 3 B Sherwood 81-13=68. Magic two from H Bannatyne.

Saturday May 6, Hugh Steel Cup, nine-hole competition. 1 P Betley 31.5pts, 2 M Hesp 32pts, 3 B Sherwood 32.5pts. Phil is too young to win the Hugh Steel Cup so it went to Mike Hesp.

Fixture: Tuesday May 16, Peter Sutton/Lady Mary, 12.30pm and 5.30pm.

### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday May 3, Summer Cup, 40 played, CSS 67. Matt Dobson 70-7=63, Bob McCrae 72-8=64, Ross Duncan 67-3=64. Scratch, Ross Duncan 67.

Fixtures: Sunday May 14, McCarfrae Trophy, Club Championship qualifier, round one. Thursday May 18, McCarfrae Trophy, round two.

## Whiting Bay rally driver enjoys 5 Star success

It was another good day for Ross Auld from Whiting Bay when he won the 5Star vehicle deliveries rally at Kames Motorsport Complex near Muirkirk last Sunday.

With co-driver Richard Stewart, he drove his powerful two litre Ford Escort to a convincing victory over two experienced Ayrshire crews. There were 16 stages which Ross led from stage one, with consistently fastest stage times all day. On stage 11 there

was a loud bang which he thought was something breaking on the suspension, but it turned out the car had been whacked by a golf ball from a neighbouring course.

Once again Ross is grateful for the support of his team with Richard Stewart on the notes and Gavin Faulkner on the spanners.

Runners-up were Derek Connell from Tarbolton in his Subaru Impreza with Laura Marshall at his side.

Willie Pollock from Cumnock made his comeback after a break from the sport by coming third in a Ford Escort he shared with Helen Brown. Of the other Ayrshire entrants, Donald Cameron from Ardrossan (with Alasdair Graham) was 7th in a 1.6 Honda Civic, Sundrum's Graham Bruce/Keith Fair 10th in an Escort and Muirkirk's Marc McCubbin, partnered by Joan Blackwood were 11th in a one litre Nissan Micro.



Arran and visiting cyclists prepare to set off on their supported cycle ride. B19velo01. Pictures: Christopher Hogge.

# Café proves perfect pit stop for Arran cycle ride



A dual to be king of the hill.



Greg Hamill (left) and Gerard Tatterfield lead from the front.



Riders enjoy a well-earned rest in the Velo Café.

Arran's new cycling café Velo Café at Lagg, along with Assos of Switzerland, recently hosted a supported ride that saw riders complete an 80-kilometre route around the island.

Assos of Switzerland is one of the most prestigious and well-regarded marques in cycling.



Rider of the day Louie Urquhart-Dixon of Shiskine.

The 80-kilometre route, with 1,270 metres of climbing, started at the Ormidale pavilion, up the Bougillie, over the String and the Ross before ending up at the Velo Café for free coffee, cake and soup.

The enjoyable day's cycling was rounded off perfectly when, in the evening, Philipp Schwedthelm of Assos UK, who has competed in and completed endurance events, including the Transcontinental Race, talked and chatted about the company, its products, product development and history.

In total, 18 riders took part in the cycle with 27 people enjoying the evening event at the Velo Café in the evening. Cyclists nominated 13-year-old Louie Urquhart-Dixon of Shiskine as rider of the day for his efforts in cycling a total of 108 kilometres.



Is Davie Boal (left) still smiling?



The cyclists out on the open road.



The cyclists pose for a photograph with the support vehicle.

# Southend in narrow win as they bid to retain cup

**Southend** 1  
**Brodick** 0

Monday night saw the semi-finals of the Arran Haulage Cup being played with the main event being held in Sandbraes Park with cup holders Southend taking on their big rivals Brodick.

It turned out to be a game of few chances with both sides being so even and cancelling each other out.

The difference came in the first half when Donnie Park of Southend was brought down in the area by a mistimed tackle from Gordon 'Nog' Hendry.

Ryan Armstrong took the resulting penalty and sent Finlay Sillars the wrong way in the Brodick net.

The game wasn't short of flash points with some meaty tackles going in from both sides.

Brodick's new signing Mark Halliday got a swift introduction to Arran football by getting on the wrong side of one of Sandy Kelso's crunching fouls.

Sandy is making his

comeback after a cruciate knee injury which clearly hadn't affected his attitude for going into hard tackles. He was, however, put in the book for the foul.

Stevie Judge was back in goal for Southend and was on hand to produce a top class diving save to deny Archie McNicol late on as the home team held out to reach the final.

Referee Stevie Crawford gave Ryan man of the match for a great performance in the centre of the park winning tough aerial battles and making some mazy runs. Southend will be aiming to win their eighth Arran Haulage Cup in the past 10 years.



A Brodick head meets a nice cross but the ball went agonisingly wide. 01\_A19footy01



Sandy Kelso goes in for a strong tackle on John Drummond 01\_A19footy02 and Southend's Corey Allan is pursued by Adam McNicol 01\_A19footy03



# Lamlash are left on cloud nine



A scramble in the Northend penalty box. 01\_A19footy08

**Lamlash** 9  
**Northend** 1

In the other semi-final held in Lamlash, it was a much more one-sided affair with Lamlash thumping Northend by nine goals to one.

Ben Tattersfield stole the show with a man-of-the-match performance scoring a hat-trick for the home team, the third of which was a stunning strike into the top corner.

Sean Higgins continued his good form by adding two goals to his tally and was joined by Grant Adamson, who also got a brace. Captain Johnny Sloss only managed to bag himself one goal in the game.

The Lamlash youngsters were given their chance

to shine in the second half and Dylan Smith scored his first goal for Lamlash to kickstart his goal tally.

Andy MacNamara scored Northend's only goal of the game from the penalty spot despite Cameron Logan being a threat for the Lochranza men up front.

Lamlash are looking a strong force with a big squad going into the final today (Saturday). It promises to be a close encounter between the two finalists.

The game will kick off at 3pm at the Arran High School playing field in Lamlash.

As many supporters as possible are encouraged to go and support their teams and see who wins the first cup of the year.

# SPORT



## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Lamlash march into Haulage Cup final

# Open season

## Arran bowling clubs extend warm welcome

Arran's bowling greens are open for business and they have extended a warm welcome to budding bowlers to join them.

Membership at the four island clubs has been declining for a number of years so a push is on to get younger people involved.

The island boasts four grass bowling greens at Brodick, Whiting Bay and Lamlash, which are seasonal, and the all-weather green at Blackwaterfoot.

Brodick president Robert Crawford, speaking on behalf of all four clubs, said: 'All the island bowling greens are open and looking for new members. Anyone can get involved whether they are beginners, novices or anyone returning to the game. We need

to attract the 30-some-things if the clubs are to survive. Bowling is a social sport and can be enjoyed by all ages. You don't even need equipment as this can be provided, just a pair of flat training shoes.'

Those interested can take part in the various club competitions and there is also the annual inter-club Arran Bowling Federation competition, this year hosted by Lamlash.

'With a good long-term forecast for the summer we look forward to many memorable games. We would invite anyone who would like to join us to come along any day of the week,' Robert added.

Last weekend two clubs saw the traditional first jack of the season thrown. On Sat-

urday, Whiting Bay Bowling Club enjoyed a large turnout on a gloriously bright and sunny day as members, visitors and guests watched last year's singles winner, Johnny McGovern, bowl the first jack of the season.

The same day Lamlash Bowling Club also started off their season as their winner from last year, Marion Spence, opened proceedings with her first bowl.

The season had opened at Brodick the previous Saturday, April 30, with a good turnout of players, including several from other island clubs.

Kenny Mabon had the honour of throwing the first jack to get the season under way.

Unfortunately rain cut short play slightly, but it did not dampen

the enthusiasm of being able to play outdoors again.

Brodick bowling green is open to the public from 10.30am to 4.30pm, and club rink games are on Mondays and Wednesdays starting at 6.45pm, plus 2pm on Saturdays.

Novice players, if desired, can be shown the ropes by the club member on duty during the day.

The Lamlash and Whiting Bay clubs, whose rink nights are the same as Brodick, also invite anyone interested to try their hand at bowling.

Equipment can be provided along with tuition and a warm welcome. Rink times at Blackwaterfoot, which opened for the season last month, are Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2pm.



Marion Spence, last year's singles winner, bowls the first bowl at Lamlash. 01\_B18bowl04



Kenny Mabon opens the bowling season at Brodick which was well attended by other club representatives. 01\_B18bowl02



Members at Whiting Bay prepare to start the first game of the season. 01\_B18bowl01



Johnny McGovern throws the first jack at Whiting Bay. 01\_B18bowl03

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