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No. 2075 Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 12 MAY, 2018

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# Concern over £13m early years shake-up

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

A private Arran nursery has expressed concern over what ambitious £13 million plans to develop and expand early years centres across North Ayrshire could mean for it.

All island parents will also have to wait more than two years before they see any benefits as Arran is in the last phase of a scheme which will see early years provision nearly double to 1,140 hours a year, but not until August 2020 at the early years classes around the island.

The additional childcare provision has been welcomed but there are also concerns about the impact of the major shake-up on Brodick Nursery, which is private and voluntary, but whose children are funded by NAC.

Currently accommodating 16 children, and staffed with two early years practitioners, the facility is housed in the village hall where it has to make use of the public toilets and prepare meals in a tiny coffee canteen.

While providing a commendable service according to many parents, the



Pupils and teachers at the Brodick Nursery this week. 01\_B19nursery01

teachers have to set up and dismantle the nursery facilities every morning and evening, going as far as replacing the children's artworks on the walls every day.

However, it has an excellent reputation which sees children coming from as far afield as Shiskine, and the nursery continues to attract children from across the island. It will be expanding

by eight pupils by August.

Manager Aileen Brand said: 'Representatives from NAC have been over to discuss these changes with us and, while we do feel that our concerns are being listened to, we are worried about our future.'

'We rent the village hall and fundraise for all of the facilities. The parents and community have been incredibly supportive, as

have the other early years providers on Arran.

'Our future is uncertain but we will continue our communications with NAC in the hope of working with them to find solutions that work for them, us and the community of parents and childminders.'

Ann MacKay, who has been an early years practitioner at the nursery for 13 years, said: 'We voiced our

concerns with NAC, which are that there are no plans in place for us to deal with these changes. Solutions which have been collated from data obtained on the mainland might not necessarily reflect the needs on Arran so we will need to be employing some innovative thinking on the ways to cope with the changes.'

Aileen added: 'On a positive note...

**Continued on page two**

## Water woes for Brodick

Brodick residents were left without water for more than six hours after a mains pipe burst early on Wednesday.

Scottish Water workmen received a call-out at 6.30am to deal with the incident which occurred under the road near the Brodick Hall. A mini digger was seen excavating about a metre under the soil to reach the pipe. A small section of the road had to be cordoned off while workmen did the repairs and had residents' supply reinstated shortly after 1pm.

Brodick Castle garden and country park, who were left without water for visitors and staff, made the decision to close for the day.

A spokeswoman from Scottish Water said: 'We apologise to customers for any inconvenience caused as a result and thank them for their patience.'

Many affected by the outage believed that the disruption to the water supply was part of a cleaning effort which users receive written notice of the week prior.

The flushing of the water network which was undertaken two days before and which involved opening hydrants on the network to flush out sediment and grit which builds up over time, was unrelated to the incident and took place overnight to avoid disruption to customers.

**Continued on page two**

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# Road collapse repairs could take many weeks

The full extent of the damage which has been caused to a retaining wall supporting the main A841 road on Brodick hill emerged this week.

As North Ayrshire Council pledged in last week's *Banner*, roads officials met with local representatives on site this week to discuss how they are going to fix the road, which is a major engineering challenge.

Drivers using the main Brodick to Lamash road have already faced weeks of the delay caused by the temporary traffic lights which were brought in after subsidence under the road caused the pavement to collapse and weaken the

road, and these will remain for some time.

The subsidence is believed to have been caused by a falling tree which caused the knock-on collapse of the sandstone structure on the bank of the Strathwillan Burn which has been seriously undermined.

## Seriously

Arran councillor Timothy Billings, community council chairman Bill Calderwood and a representative from the Douglas Hotel attended the briefing and afterwards Councillor Billings said: 'While the work is going to take some weeks, I am pleased that the roads department is



Councillor Billings and Bill Calderwood at Strathwillan Burn with the landslide behind them.

taking it seriously and that there are a lot of works going on behind the scenes to get the road repaired, with the minimum of disruption possible.'

While still in the early

stages of detail, the roads chiefs said that the work would go out to tender shortly and hopefully by the end of the month. That process will take four to six weeks, with a further four

to six weeks to carry out the work. No cost has yet been put on the works.

Mr Calderwood said: 'The nature of the subsidence means this is a major job which will require

some serious machinery. The council is very sensitive to try to get the road reopened with the minimum of disruption but the temporary lights will be in place for some weeks yet. They have promised to consult fully over any road closures which may be needed.'

## Minimise

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman reiterated: 'It is likely to be a few weeks before any work starts and in the meantime the temporary measures will remain in the place and the road will be monitored. Every effort will be made to minimise delays to the roads network.'



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## Nursery concern over £13m early years boost

**Continued from page one**  
itive note, good quality childcare on Arran and across the region will be expanded and there will be a huge increase in opportunities for childcare professionals, which is always welcomed.'

North Ayrshire Council's cabinet has approved the redevelopment of the early years centres across

the local authority area. Councillor John Bell, a cabinet member for education, said: 'By August 2020, all three- and four-year-olds and eligible two-year-olds can access 1,140 hours of free early learning and childcare each year - that's nearly double the current amount of 600 hours.'

The increase to 1,140

hours in early learning and childcare means that early years centres will operate from 8am till 6pm during 49 weeks of the year.

A council spokesman confirmed that consultation was ongoing with both private and public sector providers and that no decision had been taken on future provision of early years services on the island.



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## Water woes for Brodick residents



**Continued from page one**

Throughout the outage users were kept up to date on the repairs and an estimated completion time with a message on the ScottishWater website and text message updates for mobile users.

Scottish Water workmen can be seen digging a hole in the road to gain access to a water mains pipe that needed to be repaired.

01\_B19water01

# Bringing together the mountains of the world

A NEW exhibition is being held in the upstairs gallery at Arran Active, Brodick.

*Wild Mountains* by Scottish landscape artist Gordon Davidson has been compiled for Arran Mountain Festival, which is being held later this month.

It was opened by festival chairman Jackie Kemp at small, informal gathering attended by Gordon.

It features his work over the past 12 years of travels to South America, Africa, Europe and Asia. Over this time he has produced work

for the Peru government, the Nepal government, the King of Thailand, the Thai Embassy in London, UNICEF and the Embassy of Qatar. He has painted from the Andes to the Amazon in Peru, the Atlas to the Atlantic coast in Morocco and across the Himalayas in Nepal.

There are also works of Arran mountain scenes.

Since 2011, Gordon has been working with Gurkha soldiers for the charity Kalaa Jytoi in Nepal. The group takes art to poor

and disadvantaged children across the country, including homes, orphanages, schools and monasteries.

The commission from the exhibition is being donated to cover Gordon's next trip to Nepal in September.

The exhibition runs until June 3.

This year's mountain festival takes place from May 18 to 21 and while many of the walks and events are already fully booked, there are still some spaces available. Visit [www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk](http://www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk)



Artist Gordon Davidson with his World Mountains exhibition. 01\_B18mountains01



Festival chairman Jackie Kemp at the exhibition opening. 01\_B18mountains02

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# Fitting farewell to Stewart MBE

Mourners lined Knowe Road to say a final farewell to Stewart Lambie MBE after his funeral last Thursday.

As a mark of respect, his coffin was carried from the Brodick Church by serving members of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team, of which Stewart was a founding member and team leader for 27 years. He was then transported to Brodick Old Cemetery in one of the mountain rescue vehicles and was laid to rest after a private family service.

Mr Lambie, who died on



Mourners line Knowe Road and the mountain rescue vehicles leave the church. 01\_B19lambie02

Members of the mountain rescue team carry his coffin from the church. 01\_B19lambie01

Monday April 16 at Lam-lash War Memorial Hospital, was well known for his community work. He was 85. A spokesman for the mountain rescue team said: 'His commitment and contribution to the team over the years has been extraordinary and he will always be a big part of everything we do.'

A full obituary of the life and work of Mr Lambie will appear in the future edition of the *Banner*.



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# Lifeboat coffee morning success

There was a good turnout at the RNLI fundraising coffee morning in the Ormidale Pavilion last Saturday.

Supporters of all ages enjoyed some new fundraising activities along with the usual delicious homebaking stall, bric-a-brac and big tombola, with a host of great prizes, including several large soft toys.

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



Joyce Buchanan and Alice Lennox with some of the tombola prizes. 01\_B19lifeboat01



Sheila MacNaughton and organiser Elspeth Lang serving at the baking stall. 01\_B19lifeboat02



Members of the Arran and Campbeltown RNLI crews assist the grounded yacht back into deep water. Photograph: Dave Nicholson.

## Joint rescue of stricken yacht

Arran and Campbeltown RNLI crews had to work in tandem to come to the rescue of a stricken yacht that had run aground.

Shortly after 10.22am on Wednesday May 2, Arran RNLI crew assembled and launched the inshore lifeboat Rachel Hedderwick to the shore at Kilmory to locate and assist the yacht

that had run aground in the poor weather conditions.

After arriving on scene, the Campbeltown RNLI crew recovered the crew of the yacht to their all-weather lifeboat Ernest and Mary Shaw, while the Arran RNLI crew boarded the stricken yacht to assess it. After being assessed by the Arran RNLI crew, the yacht

was towed to open water where it was judged seaworthy enough to be towed back to Campbeltown.

Arran RNLI helm Tim Crockett said: 'We're always happy when a call-out ends well and having the opportunity to work with our colleagues at Campbeltown makes this call-out particularly memorable.'

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# New challenge for anvil man Davy

Big Davy Ballantyne has set himself another challenge.

The man who dragged an anvil to the top of Goatfell and back down again is up to his fundraising exploits again.

This time the challenge will be to carry 60kg of chains up to the top of Ben Nevis in a day. No date has yet been set for the challenge but his training is in full swing. He will again be raising money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF).

His wife Annelies said: 'Davy is still training with

a rucksack with 50kg of sand in it. The chains are still to be organised.'

Davy, who works for North Ayrshire Council, spent 26 days dragging a 120kg anvil up Goatfell two years ago after his daughter was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. That feat raised nearly £17,000 for the JDRF.

He has since brought the anvil back down again and it is now at the Douglas Hotel, where it will be brought into use for wedding ceremonies, once preparatory work has been completed.



Davy drags the anvil up Goatfell with the help of Fraser Aitchison.

## Full-scale search for missing duo

A full-scale search was launched for a father and son who had become lost walking in the North Glen Sannox area.

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team were called out at around 5pm last Thursday to search for the missing pair. Due to their unknown location and the size of the area they could possibly be in, a full-scale search commenced utilising as many team members as possible, including search dogs.

Thankfully, after an hour or so the duo reported reaching a road which the team were able to identify as being Dougario/Iorsa, quite a fair distance away from their starting point. They were then located by police and taken to safety.

See rescue team in training on page nine.

## Arran Elderly Forum meeting

A meeting of the Arran Elderly Forum will take place next week with a guest speaker discussing power of attorney.

Anyone over 55 years with an interest in issues affecting the elderly or those who may wish to learn about the subject from guest speaker Marilyn Woods is encouraged to attend the forum at the Ormidale Pavilion on Wednesday May 16, at 10.40am. Attendees enjoy a cup of tea before proceedings begin at 11am promptly.

## Autism support group mooted for Arran

Mark Harwood, the Co-op's member pioneer, has mooted the idea of forming an autism support group on the island.

So far he has spoken to three families and three enthusiastic individuals. The next move is to have a drop-in at the Co-zy room

at the main Brodick Co-op from 1pm to 3pm on Sunday May 20.

Mark said: 'I'm not proposing to lead a group, just trying to assemble interested parties to get one going.'

Also, Mark wants to make it more widely known that local people can have free use of the Co-zy room. Just ring him to arrange this on 850577.

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# 'Fully booked' vessel sparks holiday anger

**Hugh Boag**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Passengers trying to get to Arran for the May bank holiday were angry to find space on a ferry which they had been told was full.

One Arran resident was unable to obtain a ticket to bring his car over last Friday on the 7am sailing from Ardrossan as he was told the peak time service was fully booked.

Understanding that it was the start of the May bank holiday weekend, he was then surprised and angered to see that a significant portion of the MV Caledonian Isles's carrying capacity was not being utilised, with space on each side and at the back of the ferry.

The angry passenger told the *Banner*: 'My photos show the 7am sailing from Ardrossan which was "fully booked".'

'This sadly is becoming

the norm and not the exception.

'Is it CalMac's cunning plan to stop tourists coming to Arran?'

When approached for a comment, a spokesman from CalMac explained that the unused space had, in fact, been booked by three large commercial vehicles carrying tar, but they failed to make use of their booking.

He added: 'We are working hard to improve processes of filling all

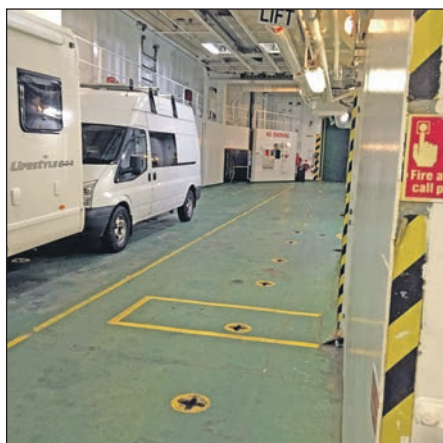
available deck space in such instances, but it is difficult to manage no shows.'

CalMac offers refunds on most tickets as long as they have not been used and the tickets have not expired.

Refunds can be also be provided for cancelled commercial reservations, provided the purchaser cancels in writing and faxes its cancellation notice to the port of departure at least 48

hours before the scheduled departure.

According to the CalMac website dealing with cancellations and refunds, purchasers who do not meet the cancellation requirements will have their future bookings and/or block bookings reduced proportionally, according to the number of no-shows and cancellations the customer has made in the preceding six months.



Despite the ferry being 'fully booked' this photograph shows the available space on either side and the rear of the MV Caledonian Isles car deck last week.

No. B19CalMac02

## CalMac train bid is 'speculation'

Claims that Caledonian MacBrayne could bid for the franchise to run Scotland's trains was dismissed as 'speculation' this week, writes Hugh Boag.

But it may not be as far-fetched as it first seems. Transport minister Humza Yousaf has made clear his deep unhappiness with ScotRail's beleaguered Dutch owner Abellio and has spoken previously about the possibility of bringing ScotRail back into public hands.

This week there were national newspaper claims that a CalMac bid was one

of two options being considered by Scottish ministers to take over the £2.5 billion franchise, the other an entirely new company. Abellio is meant to operate the franchise until 2025 but a break clause could be activated in 2020 if it fails to hit performance targets.

The SNP government recently changed the law which would allow a not-for-profit Scots operator – such as nationalised CalMac – to make a bid.

A CalMac source described the reports to the *Banner* as 'mere speculation at this stage'.

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: 'Our consistent view over many years is that there ought to be a level playing field between the private and public sector in bidding for rail franchises.'

'It is vital that we take the time to think through the various scenarios as ministers want to enable a competitive public sector bid which offers best value for the public purse while delivering continuous service improvements.'

'An announcement on this is expected in the coming months.'



Two lots of seats have been installed in the ticketing office at the new ferry terminal. 01\_B19seats01

## New seats installed at ferry terminal

Ferry operator CalMac has taken notice of concerns regarding the lack of seating in the new £30 million terminal at Brodick.

Following concerns from the community, and as highlighted by the Arran Civic Trust recently in the *Banner*, eight seats have now been installed on the ground-floor area, which accommodates the

ticket office. The ferry terminal, which was officially opened on Thursday April 12, has faced a number of teething problems which CalMac has promised to fix.

The seating downstairs, while sparse, will add to the 120-seat departure lounge which is located upstairs for travellers who have a valid booking ticket.

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## Editorial

### Nursery in rhyme

There can be no doubt that it is good news that North Ayrshire Council has announced details of how it is planning to implement the Scottish Government's long promised expansion of early years provision.

The fact that they have budgeted £13million for the changes which will see the availability of free early learning and childcare provision almost double for all three- and four-year-olds, as well as vulnerable two-year-olds, shows the size of the task.

However, the provision of nursery and early years classes is different on Arran than it is in the rest of North Ayrshire and this must be taken into account in any shake up planned on the island.

Brodick Nursery operates privately and is run by a committee of parents. It therefore differs significantly from the other early years provision on the island and they are right to have concerns.

If the most recent Care Inspectorate report is anything to go by, they are doing a good job with the inspector noting: 'Brodick Nursery provides children with a welcoming, inclusive environment in which to learn and to develop confidence and independence.'

We couldn't agree more.

#### Thought for the week

'Husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church.' Ephesians 5:28

### Lochranza Campsite

Sir,

I read the Arran Civic Trust's report with interest in last week's *Banner* and it is good to know that we have committed guardians of the island's built heritage.

However, as one of Arran's campsite owners (who is also very committed to protecting the island's nature, beauty and culture) I was taken aback to read, in the Waste Disposal section of the trust's report, that 'according to VisitScotland, there are only four registered camper van sites on Arran, of which only one is quality assured'. The negative implications of this statement could damage my business!

VisitScotland is not the definitive authority on standards of campsites; it is a destination marketing organisation. The campsite on Arran that is quality assured by VisitScotland is the campsite that paid to be advertised by them. Quality Assurance is the name of their grading scheme.

There are various organisations offering to market campsites (for a substantial sum) by giving them a grading, usually based on the sophistication of the facilities. The five star awards tend to go to holiday parks with bars and swimming pools.

One reason I chose not to market Lochranza Campsite with VisitScotland was because they stipulate that campsites should be well lit at night. That would certainly not go down well with Lochranza villagers – or the Arran Civic Society, judging from their section on light pollution!

At Lochranza Campsite

my husband and I prefer to be graded by the sustainable tourism organisation Green Tourism and were delighted to receive their Gold Award last year. We had to address more than a hundred criteria relating to waste disposal, energy, water, conservation projects and community involvement. Our award certifies that we are 'achieving the highest standards of sustainability with a strong, broad ethos and excellent practices throughout'.

One of our commitments to the Lochranza community is that we are part of the group that has kept the public toilets open and by doing this we are helping to avoid problems of random waste disposal.

The report expresses concern that Arran has 'only' four campsites, all small, traditional, unsophisticated but excellent sites (see the Trip Advisor reviews).

The island's topography has few large, flat, sheltered areas suitable for a new camper van park. In any case, tourism is fickle; we have just come through a very lean April. Yes, there are some problems with some camper vans such as parking up inappropriately but, having been involved in tourism for nine years now, I know that most Arran visitors positively love the island and want to do the right thing by it; they simply need gentle guidance as to what the right thing is at times. In fact there are quite a lot of Arran folk who enjoy their camper vans and motor homes.

I hope I have reassured you that we are not irresponsible campsite owners causing problems for the island. Lochranza Campsite is held in great affection by many visitors go-

ing back many decades to well before our time, and we hope it only ever brings benefits to the island.

Yours,

**Kathryn Wells**

### History mix-up

Sir,

I was unable to attend the latest meeting of the Arran Historical Society, but I believe your correspondent got a little muddled up concerning the formation of the British Isles.

The various parts of Scotland, and some of Northern Ireland, were originally parts of the continent of Laurentia, which would nowadays be thought of as the shield area of Canada, large pieces of North America and Greenland.

Laurentia, at the time we are interested in, was lying astride the Equator, while England, Wales and Southern Ireland belonged to a microcontinent known as Avalonia, which broke free from the giant conglomeration of Gondwana, which was lying around the South Pole in the early Paleozoic, sailed north, at the break-neck speed of some 4-5 centimetres per annum, and collided with another smaller continent called Baltica, which was loafing around to the east of Laurentia.

Baltic/Avalonia eventually collided obliquely with Laurentia at around 420 million years ago, in the Ordovician/Silurian Period, forcing Scotland and England to become welded together along a suture line stretching from the modern Solway Firth eastwards to Berwick-on-Tweed.

The supercontinent of Pangea did not come into any of this, finally come together as it did approximately only 286 million

years ago, a slight discrepancy of some 130 million years, which I cannot believe the speaker Dr Clark would have been guilty of.

Yours,

**Alan McBain  
Lamlash**

### Memorial darts

Sir,

My family and I would like to thank everyone who supported the annual Donald and James Mackenzie Memorial Darts competition which was once again a huge success.

Many thanks to all the people who helped to make it possible. Jimmy for boards, Lorna and Lindsay for getting games sorted and keeping three boards busy. Andrea for good food and comfortable surroundings. The staff at the club for keeping everyone watered, Nicky for photos. Mr Music Maker and everyone who gave raffle prizes and donations. Thanks too, must go to Wilma, Colin and Irene for helping with raffle tickets, and lastly to Phyllis for presenting trophies and raffle prizes.

The trophy was once again won by Niall McMaster and this year's partner Margaret Easdale. John Mackenzie and Vicki Milne were runners up. Niall also had the highest check out with 154 to win the James's Cup.

The hamper was won by Davie Thomas and a grand total of £510 was raised which was shared between the Kilmory Hall, Kilmory Community Bus and the Arran branch of Action For Hearing Loss.

Yours,

**Margaret Mackenzie  
MBE, Kilmory**

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# Snakes but no ladders at joint rescue training

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team and the Police Scotland Mountain Rescue Team combined forces in a training exercise that saw them rescuing 'casualties'.

They also enjoyed stunning vistas of Glen Rosa and spotted a large number of adders sunning themselves.

The annual joint training exercise builds on the relationship between the two rescue teams and enhances their experience and skills

levels. Taking place over an entire day, the two teams practised their rope and equipment skills by going through various scenarios.

Involved, too, was the search and rescue dog and a number of casualties who were positioned through the glen, some inaccessibly situated on the steep cliffs.

A spokesman from the Arran Mountain Rescue Team said: 'There were some incredible views from where some of the casualties were

positioned and the sun shone, which is always a bonus.

'There was also quite an abundance of adders in the glen basking in the sunshine'.

The training exercise was completed only days after the Arran team was involved in a call-out involving a father and son who had gone missing in the North Glen Sannox area.

*Photos by Ian, Kirstie, Lucy, Struan and Neil B.*



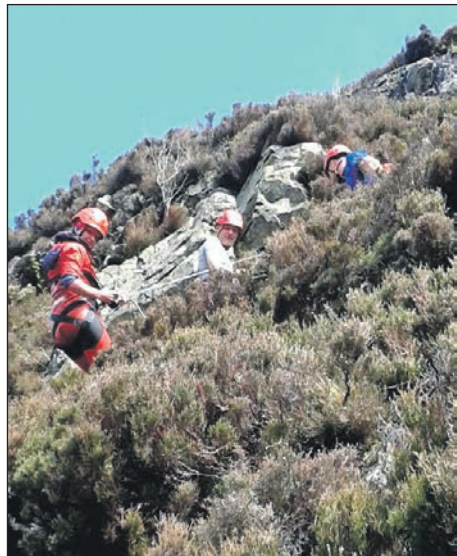
Rescue personnel await their chance to descend the ropes.



The Glen Rosa adders were also out enjoying the warmth of the sunshine.



A 'casualty' is strapped to a stretcher which is then ready to be carried down the mountain.



Participants practise a rope descent down a steep cliff side.



The two mountain rescue teams discuss their strategy.



Arran Mountain Rescue Team and Police Scotland take part in a joint training exercise in Glen Rosa.



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# Design win for Catie as space event is held

A pupil at Whiting Bay primary has won a £1,000 prize for her school after finishing runner-up in a design contest.

The competition was organised for Ayrshire and Arran primary schools to design a Mission Patch for Mission Discovery Ayrshire 2018 which is being held next month.

While the competition was won by eight-year-old Eilidh Cooke of Annanhill Primary School with her half-Mars, half-Earth design, Catie MacArthur, 11, of Whiting Bay school and Heather McDonald, 11, of Alloway primary School were the runners-up. All three of their schools will receive a prize of £1,000 to be used for STEM activities.

Mission Discovery, a week-long space school that gives Ayrshire and Arran youngsters the oppor-

tunity to work alongside NASA leaders, will take place from June 11 to 15 at Ayrshire College's Kilmarnock Campus.

A total of 200 secondary school pupils will work in teams this summer to design space experiments. The winning idea will be sent to space where it will be tested by NASA astronauts.

The Mission Discovery programme first came to Ayrshire in 2016. The first winners created an experiment that looked at the speed of slime mould on different materials in space. Last year's winners presented their idea that observes 'the photosynthesis of phytoplankton in microgravity and the generation of electricity'. Both winning experiments were sent to the International Space Station.

This year, NASA astro-

naut Stephen Bowen – who has been on three spaceflights – will be involved in the Ayrshire programme for the first time. Visitors will have the chance to meet and have their photograph taken with the astronaut at a special evening event as part of the week.

Heather Dunk, principal of Ayrshire College, said: 'We are thrilled that Mission Discovery will return to Ayrshire this summer. The programme is a tremendous experience for young people, giving them a once in a lifetime opportunity to work with an astronaut and NASA leaders on a live space project.'

**Catie MacArthur, centre, with the other prizewinners and organisers.**



## OFFERS & competitions

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk). Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 30 June 2018. **Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize draw to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve whisky.**

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Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, 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 Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

## Engineering contest with a bit of a twist

Aspiring engineers are being sought for the annual engineering competition which takes place next weekend.

The competition, which is open to schoolchildren across Arran as well as adults, will take place at Lamlash Church Hall on Saturday May 19 hosted by retired engineer Rory Cowan. Vying for cash prizes, competitors have to plan, design and build a contraption which is then put to the test by the judges.

This year the competition is simple as always, but

with a bit of a twist. Using stored energy only the contestants will have to move four ping pong balls, one at a time, from the floor and into a dustbin where the opening of the bin is a metre above the floor.

The ball has to start from the floor and the machine must lift it from the floor and put it into the bin. The only human interaction with the machine is to set it going at the start of each shot.

The clock will start when the first attempt is initiated and will stop when the

final ball has landed in the dustbin. The machine may be reset after each shot and the next shot initiated. The machine may be as large as you like, but no part of it may exceed 300mm in height. So the ball will have to be 'fired' accurately and will have to 'fly' into the bin.

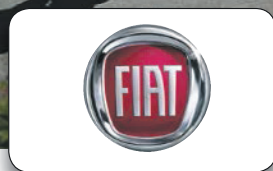
If you would like to enter the competition, entry forms for adults and children are available from Rory Cowan who can be contacted on 01770 820603 or by email at [hrc@moray-house.com](mailto:hrc@moray-house.com)



**The winning contestants with their designs at last year's competition.**

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# Liam puts himself in frame

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

A young and upcoming Arran photographer has snapped up the chance to exhibit his work by hosting his first photographic exhibition in Lamlash, to critical acclaim.

Twenty-year-old Liam Nelson exhibited 15 of his favourite canvas-backed photographs to a receptive audience who attended the intimate show to view his Arran landscapes, striking nature shots and portraits of well-known islanders.

Liam, who has been taking photographs since the age of eight, when he received a point-and-shoot camera for his birthday, has been nurturing the hobby and honing his skills over the years. It was when he received his first DSLR camera that things really took off for him.



Liam explains background detail to his photos. 01\_B18liam02

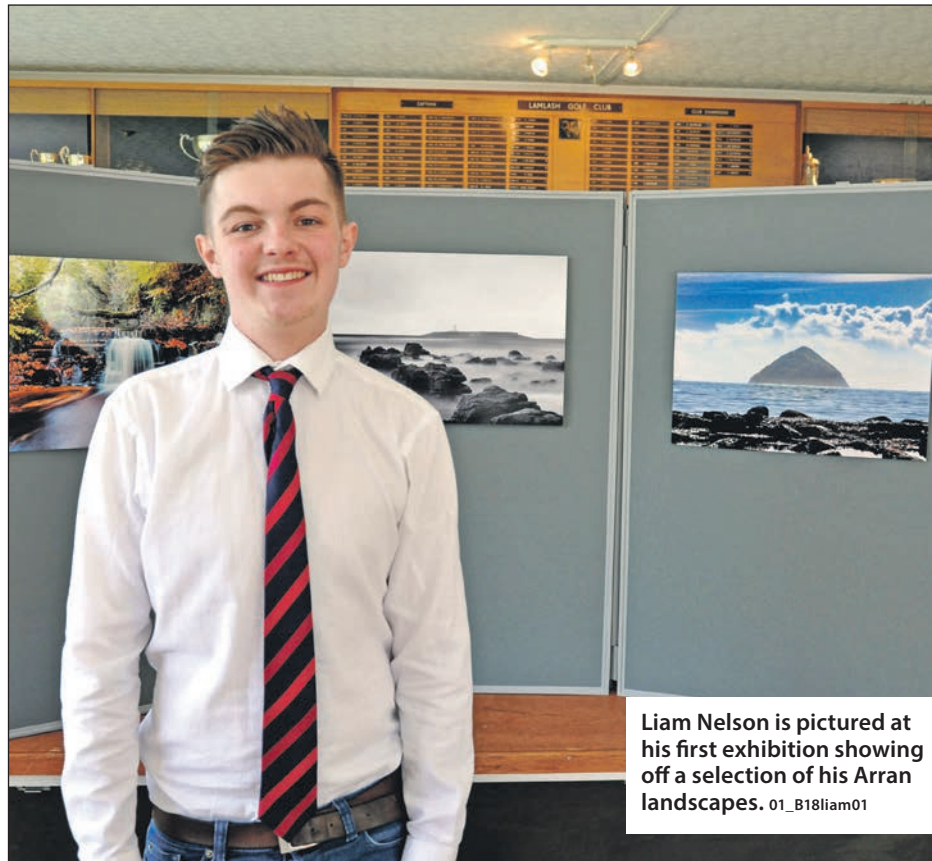
The exhibition of his latest work came about after he showed Sarah Good of the Lamlash Golf Club some of his shots and she invited him to show off some of his photographs at the clubhouse.

Supported by his mentor Dr David Hogg, who is an enthusiastic photographer and supporter of sharing of photography skills on Arran, he gathered the courage to host his first exhibition.

Liam said: 'It is a privilege to be exhibiting my

photos at the Lamlash Golf Club. Photography has played a large part in my life and I hope to continue with it at a professional level. I would like to thank everyone who visited the exhibition, particularly Sarah and David, without whom none of this would have been possible.'

Describing himself as someone who is still learning and improving with every shot, Liam will be attending Glasgow Kelvin College to study photography later this year.



Liam Nelson is pictured at his first exhibition showing off a selection of his Arran landscapes. 01\_B18liam01

## Whiting Bay B&B is judged best in Scotland

Cruickshanks Boutique B&B in Whiting Bay has been named the best bed and breakfast in Scotland at the national AA awards.

At an award ceremony held in London recently the association singled the B&B out for its diversity, individuality, uniqueness and friendliness.

Already holding a five-star gold AA rating, Cruickshanks, which overlooks Whiting Bay, was awarded the accolade for its views, high standard of finish and thought-

ful extras. The 19th-century building is the home of Rob and Nanette Cowieson, who have lovingly and painstakingly restored the remarkable old building over a period of two years, creating a comfortable and welcoming destination.

While luxuriously appointed, the B&B offers a homely feel with a wood-burning fireplace set in a comfortable lounge complete with relaxing sofas and a library.

Helping them earn the



Robert and Nanette Cowieson receive the best B&B in Scotland award at the AA award ceremony in London.

accolade, the home-baking that guests receive on arrival, along with the quality of the breakfasts, are

given as being among the many reasons the Whiting Bay establishment stands out from the crowd.

Cruickshanks' owner Rob said: 'The award came as something of a bolt from the blue and we are delighted to receive this honour.'

'This represents a tourist award hat-trick for Arran which currently and simultaneously holds the AA Scotland small campsite of the year with Seal Shore Camping and Touring Site and the AA glamp-

ing site of the year with Runach Arainn Glamping.'

The popular B&B received Arran's first AA five-star gold rating after only months of trading last year.

Its three en-suite rooms, each of which is unique and offering elevated views of the bay, have ensured that Cruickshanks continues to be highly regarded and in constant demand, operating to near maximum capacity since it opened.



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

**Brodick Castle from the Outside** - 11.30am (daily) 1pm (Monday only) 2.30pm (Tues, Wed, Thurs & Fri only) A guided historical tour of the Castle - stout footwear advised. Please book at Reception on arrival  
**Adults Free with Garden Entry**

**Arran Mountain Festival** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> - Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May  
A long weekend of guided mountain walks and evening social events in ceilidh on Sat 19<sup>th</sup> May. Supported by the NTS Ranger Service.

Visit [www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk](http://www.arranmountainfestival.co.uk) for more information



BRODICK CASTLE & COUNTRY PARK

# New mini golf course is beginning to take shape

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

Work on Brodick's new mini golf course is continuing apace as workers push to have the attraction ready for the school summer holidays at the end of June.

It had remained largely unchanged since it was built in 1960, but the new 18-hole course will be 'truly all-weather' and feature artificial grass, but it will have a reminder of the old course, with the retention of the Forth Rail Bridge which was created almost 15 years ago.

The course is being built by Armitage Groundworks and already the first holes are beginning to take shape.

Since work began last week, heavy machinery has been seen removing the old course, and already the site has been reduced to soil level with mounds of concrete being taken away.

The lorries then return with loads of aggregate which is being laid over a layer of plastic membrane



Diggers clear the old course after work began.  
01\_B19mini04 and 01\_B19mini05

that will assist with site drainage. Further below the course, drainage pipes – already buried – have been laid, which will ensure that the persistent drainage problems of the past will be completely prevented.

Working from one side of the site to the other – getting the hard landscaping completed in preparation

for the new course – the initial groundworks are progressing well.

Destined to become a new Brodick landmark and tourist attraction, excitement among Arran's young golfers and children is steadily growing in anticipation of trying out the new course during the summer holidays.



Mini diggers and landscaping machinery prepare the site earlier in the week. 01\_B19mini02



Left, how the course used to look as, right, the first new hole takes shape as Arran Active makes it clear it is business as usual for them. 01\_B19mini06

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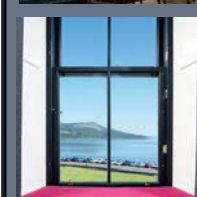


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# New Canadian air force commander has close ties with Arran

The Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) has appointed a new commander who finds himself very much at home in Blackwaterfoot.

The new commander is newly promoted Lieutenant-General Alexander Donald Meinzinger CMM MSM CD who was sworn in at a ceremony held at the Canada Aviation and Space Museum in the nation's capital, Ottawa.

Lt-Gen Meinzinger, known as Alister, is the second son of Dave and Kate Meinzinger of Orleans, Ontario, and is the grandson of the late Donald and Helen MacAlister of Cairnhouse, Blackwaterfoot. His cousin, Alan MacAlister, who still lives there, flew out to Canada ahead of the ceremony last week.

Dave Meinzinger was serving with the RCAF in France in 1961 when, by chance, he came to Arran for the first time with his air force friend Dave Thorburn, a relative of the MacAlisters of Cairnhouse.

He met Kate, then a teacher at Shiskine Primary School, and romance blossomed. They were married in October 1962 and moved to Dave's next posting in Vancouver, British Columbia. Dave retired from the RCAF as a chief warrant officer after 36 years of service.

Alister joined the RCAF in 1985 under the regular officer training plan. He earned a BA Honours in economics and commerce



Lt-Gen Meinzinger is the new Commander of the Royal Canadian Air Force.

from Royal Military College of Canada (RMC), Kingston, and was awarded the Governor General's Medal for academic excellence.

Immediately following graduation, he attended Queen's University, earning an MA in economics in 1990, before obtaining his pilot's wings in 1992.

In the course of four flying tours, he deployed from CFB Edmonton, Alberta, with 408 Tactical Helicopter Squadron as a member of the first contingent in support of the United Nations mission in Haiti, serving as an instructor pilot and flight commander, before assuming command

of 403 (Helicopter) Operational Training Squadron at CFB Gaagetown, New Brunswick, in August 2006.

In 2008, Al returned to Canadian Forces College where he attended the inaugural National Security Programme, graduating with an MA in security and defence management and policy.

In addition to various staff positions, Lt-Gen Meinzinger deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in 2011, as the then Colonel A D Meinzinger, where he commanded Canada's Joint Task Force Afghanistan Air Wing in what was then a 'theatre of operations'.

The following two years were spent as deputy director of NORAD's and Northcom's strategy, policy and plans directorate, at the Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs, Arizona, in the United States.

In 2013, Alister and the family returned to Canada when the then Brigadier-General Meinzinger was appointed commandant of the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston, Ontario.

Lt-Gen Meinzinger is married to Joy and, along with their children Nolan and Shayna, they enjoy regular visits to Blackwaterfoot where the family have a home.

## Artists say something of the sea

A collaboration between artists on the island and the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) is creating a lot of interest.

### Original artwork

The joint venture will not only boost COAST funds but allow members of the public to acquire an original artwork at the fraction of the cost it may be otherwise.

Artists who are part of Arran Open

Studios will be donating a piece of artwork to an exhibition to be held in the summer with the theme Something of the Sea. It will be held at the Marine Discovery Centre in Lamlash and all proceeds will be donated to COAST.

Unsigned by the artist, they will be mounted on a simple but elegant mount produced by artist Heather McLeod of Arran Studio Shop. The

various works of art are all required to fit the specification of being of standard A4 sheet of paper size – or smaller – and can be in any preferred medium and of two or three dimensions.

### Exhibition

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

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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



## Every day

Trout fly fishing  
Brodict 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  
Brodict Castle, 10am - 5pm  
Arran Aromatics, Brodict, 10am - 4pm  
Rosaburn, Brodict, 10.30am - 4.30pm  
Mon-Saturday 10.30am - 5pm, Tours at 11am and 2pm  
Sunday: 12:30pm - 5.00pm Tour at 2pm

## Saturday 12th May

Young Naturalists' Club, bushcraft bonanza  
Rink game  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Number 16 restaurant pop-up  
Ensemble, in aid of the Arran Trust  
Live music - Michael Clark  
Live music - Audioclass, indie rock band  
Over-21s disco

Rangers' Centre, Brodict Castle, 10.30am  
Brodict Bowling Club, 2pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm  
The Arran Lodge, Lamlash 5.30pm - 9pm  
Brodict Hall, 7.30pm  
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 8 - 10.30pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

## Sunday 13th May

Live music - Michael Clark  
Number 16 restaurant pop-up  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Live music - Dave and Jim from Audioclass acoustic session  
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 2pm - 4pm  
The Arran Lodge, Lamlash, 5.30pm-9pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm

## Monday 14th May

JogScotland mixed ability running group  
Circuit training  
Summer bridge, visitors welcome  
Rink game  
Tae Kwon Do  
Live music - Shindig

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

## Tuesday 15th May

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

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

## Wednesday 16th May

Dougarie Dog Trial (Open)  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Coffee morning for Christian Aid  
Elderly Forum  
Chair yoga exercise class  
Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service  
Dog classes  
Mark Harwood concert  
RUNclub, mixed ability, qualified coaches  
Rink game  
Tae Kwon Do  
Burger and quiz night

Glenloig, The String Road, from 9am  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30am for 11am  
St Molios Hall, Shiskine, 11am  
10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 12.30pm  
Glen Estate Lounge, Brodict, 2pm  
Invercloy Co-op car park 5.30pm  
Brodict Bowling Club, 6.45pm  
Arran High School, Kids-6.30-7.30pm, Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm  
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm



Alcoholics Anonymous meeting  
Live music - Fatman and the Angel  
Family friendly pub quiz  
Rock and pop bingo

Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 8 - 10.30pm  
PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 9.30pm

## Thursday 17th May

Morning fitness  
Chair yoga exercise class  
Lingo Flamingo, Spanish, Pablo Illera  
Whiting Bay Thursday Club  
Arran ladies' netball  
Body Blitz  
Arran Soul Choir  
General knowledge quiz

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30am  
Glen Estate Lounge, Brodict, 11.30am  
Lesser Hall, Whiting Bay, 2pm  
Arran High School, 6 - 7pm  
Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm - 10.30pm  
Arran High School, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm

## Friday 18th May

Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Smart Recovery meeting, all welcome  
Steak night - build your own steak from £9.99  
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting  
Tae Kwon Do  
Friday night quiz  
Live music - Rob Muir  
Jazz Cafe band

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am  
Lamlash High School, Lamlash, 6.00pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, from 5pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Arran High School, Lamlash, adults, 7pm - 9pm  
Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm  
Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 8 - 10.30pm  
Kildonan Village Hall, 8pm

## Saturday 19th May

Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Live music - Tim Pomeroy  
Live music - Rough Cut  
Over-21s disco

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



# Arran poets in Leek

Arran poets David Underdown, Cicely Gill and Tim Pomeroy travelled to Leek in the Staffordshire Peak district last Thursday to present as headline poets at Leek Arts Festival.

Last year, poets Roger Elkin and Pam Brough were headliners at Altachorvie, reading as guests of the Arran three.

Leek Arts Festival, which has been running since 1977, attracts big names and big audiences.

This year the Arran poets shared the programme with the Fairport Convention and Barbara Dickson, among others.

And the good people of the area did the Arran poets proud.

An audience of 55 were entertained in the Foxlowe Arts Centre off Leek's Market Square. Tim read a selection of older and more recent poems, with verses inspired by the large Hadron Collider, God and Little Chef restaurants rubbing unlikely shoulders.

Cicely's poems ranged through gardens and grandparents, hospital waiting rooms and Glasgow Central Station, while David, reading from his last publication *Timelines*, talked of family, children, anatomical specimens and read *The Secret of Flying* from his forthcoming collection called *A Sense of North* being published by Cinn-



Arran poets David Underdown, Cicely Gill, Tim Pomeroy with hosts Roger Elkin, left, and Pam Brough. 01\_B19poetry01

mon. Tim concluded the Arran contribution, by request of the hosts, playing and singing Dougie Maclean's *Caledonia*.

A great event and another milestone in the poetry ex-

change initiative which has exported Arran writers and brought others here ... to be continued.

David and Cicely continue to be the powerhouse of the McLellan Arts Festival

poetry competition which is currently receiving submissions for this year's competition.

Visit the McLellan Arts Festival website for more details.

## Corrie Film Club presents...

**The Levelling** ( UK 2016, Cert 15, 80 mins)

This month's Corrie Film Club showing is a stunning debut from an exciting new directorial female voice on the British film scene – Hope Dickson Leach.

The title refers to the film's setting on the Somerset Levels, on a farm, at the time of devastating flooding and the tragedy of the early death of a brother of the central character Clover, outstandingly played by Ellie Kendrick (*Game of Thrones*).

Clover is a vet and a vegetarian who has to deal with her flood devastated home, her estranged father, ill-remembered conflicts and unspoken regrets. She sets out to heal their fractious but loving relationship and, although this is a stark film, it is a compassionate one with fiercely intelligent acting and startling images. This is powerful cinema which stays with you.

See this interesting film in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall tomorrow (Sunday) at 8pm. Everyone welcome.

## Club draw

Results of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 club April draw were: 1st prize Nigel Wells, 2nd prize Sarah Giles.

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The Poozies, Ella Munro Trio, Davy Lees

*Sat 9th June*  
Open Session. Douglas Hotel. 12-5pm. FREE  
Evening Concert. Brodick Hall. 7:30pm. £20  
Old Blind Dogs, Jenny Sturgeon Trio

*Sun 10th June*  
Survivors' Session. Douglas Hotel. 12-5pm. FREE

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**Sunday 13th - 4pm**  
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**THE ISLAND'S FOUR STAR FAMILY DAY OUT**

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## Obituary:

# William Wilson McConnell

April 25, 1937  
April 23, 2018

He was christened 'First Shepherd' by his pals when his oldest son, Jack, became First Minister of Scotland in November 2001, but Willie McConnell never forgot his roots, or lost his desire to learn and then pass on his knowledge and advice to future generations.

William Wilson McConnell was born on a Saturday, April 25, 1937, at Bells Grove Farm in Ayrshire, the second son of James and Barbara McConnell. The family moved to Hoodyard Farm near Beith in 1940.

At Ayrshire young farmers' dances, his blue eyes made him popular as a partner. There in 1956 he met Elizabeth Jack and soon they were deeply in love.

He was over the moon when they married in 1959. It was time to branch out and make their own way, so in 1962, with two little sons, they left for the Isle of Arran that was to become their permanent home.

Glenscorrodale Farm was high in the hills above Lam-lash, a dilapidated cluster of buildings with no electricity, phone line or stock. In 1962, they borrowed some money to buy 74 ewes and Willie set about clearing up the fields and rebuilding the sheds alongside building a sheep flock that could sustain a family.

That first winter they were snowed in for six weeks, but they survived and soon



A smiling Willie in his later years.

a daughter and a surprise third son joined the brood.

Willie learned electrics to keep the new generator going and plumbing to provide clean and hot water. He worked at the sawmill and in the forestry planting trees to supplement the meagre sheep farm income.

Meanwhile, they were throwing themselves into the local community. Willie was a church elder, an officeholder in Lam-lash Burns Club, the Arran Farmers' Society and many more committees. And, despite living so far out of the village, he ran the local badminton club, including a regular Saturday night club for young players. If adults were required to keep activities going for young people in the village, he never held back.

But farming was his first love. Despite the small stock, by 1968 he had won the Overall Supreme Championship at Arran's Agricultural Show with Muldoon the tup. And just to show the more established and larger farms that this young upstart was not a one-off, he won again in 1969 and 1971, with a different sheep, Laura.

By 1964, he had started to compete in sheep dog trials, and he won the main island trial at Dougarie six years in a row from 1966 with two different dogs.

He and his cronies travelled regularly across Scotland to compete. They went to great lengths to get there on time, like the day when he and two others arrived at the boat in Brodick to find the gangplank had been pulled away. Like something out of *The Great Escape*, they just ran down the pier with their dogs in tow and jumped from the pier on to the boat over the open water.

He represented Scotland in international competition in 1972 with Moss, and



Willie McConnell with one of his beloved sheepdogs.

that same year he re-established the UK's second oldest sheep dog trial, here on the island. Forty six years later, when he was admitted to hospital for the last time in February, he was still secretary of the Kildonan and District Sheepdog Trial Association.

Through the 1970s, he helped Elizabeth cre-



An early dog trial win at Dougarie for Willie, circa 1968.

ate and grow the national award-winning tearoom at Glenscorrodale so fondly remembered today. He learned how to complete the VAT returns and entertained guests with his dog handling.

In 1977, they were advised that Arran Estates had decided to end their tenancy and plant trees across the hills. They had won awards and trophies

on that farm, but it was all coming to an end.

So they made a big bold decision and moved to Blackwaterfoot to run the Rock Hotel. It soon became the place to go after a game of golf on Shiskine's famous links and, characteristically, he threw himself into the Licensed Trade Association and local activities.

In the mid-1980s, the couple moved back to Lam-lash, and took over Nags Bar and Bistro in Whiting Bay. For several years, it became the most popular place on Arran, with young people hiring minibuses from other villages just to enjoy a Saturday night in Nags. And of course, he became a key figure in the Whiting Bay Fun Day.

Having surviving a terrible stabbing in his neck outside the bar one night in 1991, he returned to shepherding for the final working years of his life and even made a successful appearance on Grampian TV's Sheep Dog Trial. He became closely involved in St Molio's and contributed much of his time to the welfare of friends and neighbours.

He never stopped learning: having learned to swim

by attending night classes at Arran High School in his late 30s, he gained SQA computing qualifications in his late 60s. With a rare blood type, he donated regularly and was recognised for his commitment to that.

And, even into his 70s, he was such fun. One of the few people who could catch a lift on the bus and take a sheep on with him.

Willie McConnell passed away on April 23 in Lam-lash Hospital, where he had received wonderful care, just two days before his 81st birthday. He was an amazing father to Jack, Iain, Anne and Calum; a

devoted and much loved husband for Elizabeth; a daft and loving grandpa and great-grandpa. He was proud of all of them, but they are even more proud of him.

He was brave and determined; competitive but never nasty; responsible and fun. His generosity was legendary, so it was appropriate that a packed Lam-lash Church said goodbye on May 1 and a collection raised over £1,500 for the Arran War Memorial Hospital and the Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institute.

Lord Jack McConnell



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# April is a busy month for bird migration

## Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

APRIL

April is the month when spring migration gets under way, 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. As with last April, it was

cold with a mean temperature half that of April 2016 but it was wetter than April 2017. There were a lot of easterly winds. The impact on migrating birds heading north seemed to be to initially hold them up. 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, manx shearwater and sandwich tern had been reported. Here are April 'firsts' with the 2017 arrival date in brackets for comparison: swallow in Brodick on 6th (26 March), willow warbler in Clauchlands on 7th (4 April), white wagtail in Kildonan on 7th (7 April), sand martin in Sannox on 14th (28 March), common sandpiper in Clauchlands on 14th (15 April), house martin in Blackwaterfoot on 15th (12 March), cuckoo in Glen Cloy on 16th (8 April), grasshopper warbler in Whitefarland on 20th (20 April), tree pipit in North Sannox on 24th (22 April), whitethroat in Slidderly on 27th (30 April), whinchat on Slidderly Shore on 28th (1 May), Arctic tern at Dougarie on 29th (14 May), ring ouzel on Beinn Bharrain on 29th (2 May) and spotted flycatcher in High Kildonan on 30th (12 May).

Not surprisingly with the cold weather, some of our wintering birds were still around including: 27 wigeon at Machrie Bay on 2nd, 300 greylag geese in South Feorline on 4th, 28 redwing on High Kildonan on 9th, 50 fieldfare on the top of the String on 14th and one whooper swan in Whiting Bay on 18th. In addition, there were four further reports of Iceland gulls, involving at least two birds. The last report was off Fairy Dell on 23rd.

April is an ideal time for watching migration. These are a few examples: 11 turnstone on Silver Sands on 4th, a merlin in Clachaig on 6th, five great northern diver off Kildonan on 8th, 50 song thrush over the String on 14th, two dunlin on Silver Sands on 19th, four black-throated diver at Machriewaterfoot on 24th and 40 golden plover over Clachaig on 30th. In addition, there was a much reported passage of sandwich tern, including seven at Cosyden on 27th, and whimbrel, including 15 at



A large passage of whimbrel are heading north this month.

Photo by Alasdair Fyffe. No. B19bird04

Auchenhew on 29th. One whimbrel, which had been ringed on a southern Arran shore 12 months ago, was reported again almost on the same shore having spent the winter in Africa,

Migration was also in evidence from the widespread reports received of goldfinch, siskin and lesser redpoll moving through people's gardens throughout the month. Larger garden

on 5th, red kite in Sannox on 12th, first record since May 2016, and a pair of goosander in the Iorsa on 24th. The magpie reports in March continued until 9th. While common on the adjacent mainland, magpie is a vagrant to Arran. Finally, it was good to see an increase in the reports of greenfinch in April. They may be on the recovery.

My thanks to the many people who have been in touch to share their sightings in what has been a remarkable month. Sightings of common birds are as welcome as those of rare ones. May should be an equally interesting month with the arrival of more summer visitors, including lesser whitethroat, garden warbler, wood warbler, swift, common tern and, hopefully, even corncrake and nightjar.

Finally, spring is a great time to be birding, as most birds are getting on with the business of breeding. The business of breeding involves attracting a mate by song, courtship display and ritual, defining a territory, nest building and generally establishing relationships. Please take a moment to report any signs of breeding birds to me. Already there have been reports of blue tits nest building, robins feeding young, blackbirds carrying food, grey heron with young in



A dipper flying to a nest hole with food.

Photo by Arthur Duncan.

the nest, dipper carrying food and greenfinch with young out of the nest.

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 e mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2016 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Spotted in many Arran gardens during their migration, a lesser redpoll. Photo by Walter Vendeveken.



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New Look

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday May 2, 1998

## National park plan

The idea for Arran to be turned into a national park was put forward by Janice Gemmel at Tuesday's community council meeting as a result of a paper put out by Scottish Natural Heritage.

The paper is only looking for ideas and is inviting comments. So far the thinking is the Trossachs, Loch Lomond and the Cairngorm area might be made into national parks. The organisation is open to other suggested areas but pertinent comments are to be made soon. All but one of the councillors were a little bemused by the notion and appeared to have no firm feeling, nor did they know what being an official national park might entail. But Charles Fforde had very strong feelings, describing Scottish Natural Heritage as just another 'committee-run organisation'.

The debate was inconclusive but councillor Tom Campbell said that, should the discussions progress, he thought that Mr Fforde would have to declare an interest.

## Ugly schools

In a BBC programme called Now You're Talking on Tuesday, a list of the 10 ugliest buildings was given and one of these was Whiting Bay Primary School. One

person who agreed with this verdict was Bill Jones of Whiting Bay, who said: 'Oh, I think it's miserable. It doesn't fit in at all. It's a miserable looking building. Sitting in the country environment, it does not belong there.' Another resident disagreed and remarked that at least it was complete whereas Brodick Primary School has a mixture of attractive old red sandstone and abominable prefabs painted dirty brown, looking much worse than Whiting Bay.

## Keep on trucking

One of Arran's top 10 locally-owned companies, Arran Haulage Services, turned 10 years old today. A decade ago Bannatyne Motors and Arran Transport and Trading Company found they were often sending a lorry each to the same place. There was duplication so D S Bannatyne Senior and David Warwick of Arran Transport decided to join forces. Now, 10 years on, this merger is still very successful in business and little has changed. There are three directors: D S Bannatyne Senior, Donald Bannatyne and Caroline Warwick, David's daughter. But other than new blood in the business, the organisation continues to bring produce and goods to the island and keep Arran's exports flowing off the island.



Ian Edwards has been denied planning permission in Whiting Bay as North Ayrshire Council officials say that where he is standing, is in the middle of the proposed road. The boundary of his neighbour's elaborate wall would suggest that something is amiss.

01\_B19twe01



Isa Wilson bowls the first jack of the season at Brodick Bowling Club where the club is operating the green under licence from North Ayrshire Council for the first time.

01\_B19twe04



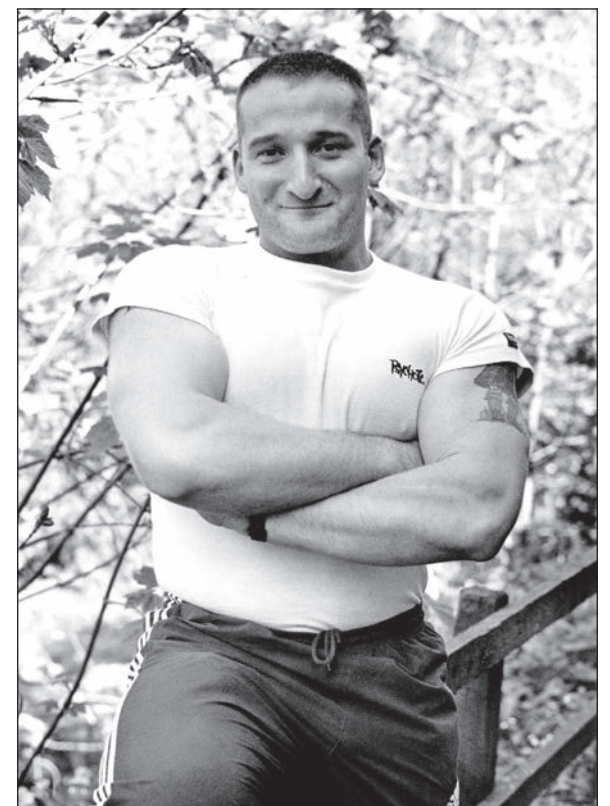
Ten years old, Arran Haulage Services celebrate their birthday with some of the 20 employees: Caroline Warwick, Drew Raeburn, Teddy Kerr, Ian Frew, Willie Anderson, Donald Bannatyne and Billy Hamilton.

01\_B19twe02



Bryce Walker and Steve Bunyan receive the Arran Licensed Trade Association Cup at the charity golf day from LTA president Tommy Gilmore.

01\_B19twe05



Strongman Scott Clark of Brodick is in big demand all over the world. Known for winning all the heavy events at the Brodick Highland Games, he will soon be visiting Brittany, Jakarta, San Francisco and Moscow this year along with many Scottish games.

01\_B19twe03

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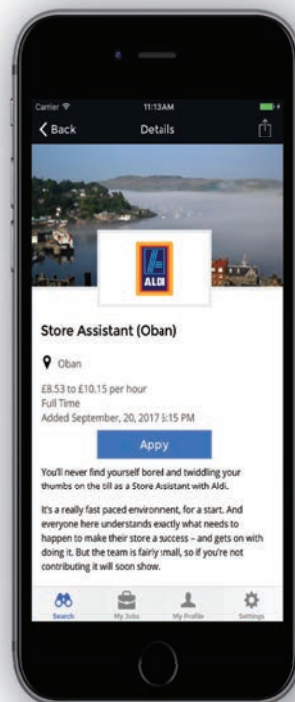
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**For a recruitment pack contact Vicki Yuill, CEO on 01770 600611 or email [vicki.yuill@arrancvs.org.uk](mailto:vicki.yuill@arrancvs.org.uk)**

**Closing date for applications: Friday 25th May 2018**

## Public Notices

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 9 am - 4.45 pm weekdays (4.30 pm Fridays) or at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://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](mailto:eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) by 01.06.18. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

18/00381/PP; 2 Stonefield Cottage, Kings Cross, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Demolition of existing farm cottage and erection of replacement dwellinghouse.

Elma Murray  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



Forestry Commission Scotland on Arran will be tendering a grass cutting contract in the near future. Interested contractors must be registered with Public Contracts Scotland (PCS) Quick Quote system, since it is through this system that tender details will be issued and tenders submitted.

If you intend to register with Quick Quote or have any questions please contact Andy Walker on M: 07747898533 or E: [andy.walker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:andy.walker@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

## WHITING BAY AND DISTRICTS IMPROVEMENTS ASSOCIATION, SCIO

Charity no - SC047609

### AGM

(followed by business meeting) in Whiting Bay Village Hall on Tuesday 29th May 2018 at 7pm.

All welcome

ARRAN AROMATICS

SCOTLAND

### Job Vacancy

#### Production Line Operative

We have a vacancy for a Production Line Operative to join us at our Home Farm base in Brodick. No experience is necessary as training will be given. Availability for an immediate start would be ideal.

Arran Aromatics operates a four day week, 7am to 5.30pm Monday to Thursday

To apply - please email your letter of application and CV to Sarah McDowall, Production Manager at [sarah.mcdowall@arran.com](mailto:sarah.mcdowall@arran.com)

Alternatively for postal enquiries please send your application to -

Sarah McDowall  
Arran Aromatics Ltd

The Home Farm, Brodick, Isle of Arran. KA27 8DD



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or phone 01770 302202 for more details and recruitment pack

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine Independent but working together

Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson  
Parish Assistant:  
Mrs Jean Hunter

Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

**Sunday 13th May**

Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches, 10.15am. Morning Worship including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Pirnmill.

Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.

Brodick Church, 10.30am. Morning Worship.

Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship

There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

**Sunday 13th May**

Holy Communion, 11am Rev Canon Simon Mackenzie, Priest-in-Charge. Coffee after service. ALL WELCOME

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)

**Sunday 13th May**

Morning Service 11am Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick Evening Service 6.30pm 5 Glen Road, Brodick All welcome

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

**Sunday 13th May**

Rev. Lily McKinnon Kilmory - 10am Lamlash - 11.30am.

In Lamlash: prayer time 10.45am

All welcome, including families; children's area Scottish Charity SC015072

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland, Charity Number: SC014005

**Sunday 13th May**

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.

There will be a Big Breakfast at 9.00am in the Church Hall, everyone welcome and donations to Christian Aid.

Christian Aid Week begins on **Sunday 13th May.**

Please give generously to help those in need.

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

**Sunday 13th 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

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

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

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Saturday 12th May**

Vigil Mass, 7.30pm

**Sunday 13th May**

Sunday Morning Mass, 11am

**DEATH**

**CURRIE:** Allan Ian Robert - Passed away peacefully on 2nd May 2018 and now reunited with his beloved wife Rena. Loving and much loved dad of Wilma, Isabel and the late Tina. Devoted Grampa to Colleen, Leigh, Innes and Finlay and very proud Great-Grampa to Edie. Dear father-in-law to Alan, Norman and Brian. True friend to all. Service at Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland on Friday 11th May 2018 at 11.30 am, thereafter to Lamlash Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to ArCaS and the Hospital Supporters League. Transport available from the 9.45am ferry and return for the 4.40pm ferry.



**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Wednesday May 2, Summer Trophy. A total of 22 played in the latest round of the Summer Trophy. The late afternoon players had the better of the conditions, the course being very wet for the morning players after heavy overnight rain. That did not stop Paul Robson who stormed in with a nett 57 to win by eight shots from John Pennycott. 1 Paul Robson 17, 57, 2 John Pennycott 13, 65 ACB, 3 Danny Head 4, 65, 4 Jamie Stewart 5, 66. CSS went out to 64 and there were no magic twos.

Friday May 4, AGA Seniors Crystal semi final. Having squeezed home against Brodick in the quarter finals, this time around Whiting Bay enjoyed a comfortable victory against Lamlash.

In the first game out David Blair and David Brookens found some putter magic and by the 15th green they held a substantial lead that come not be overcome by the deficit faced by the second pairing of John Pennycott and Alan Kay. On now to an intriguing

match against host club Shiskine GC in next week's final.

Ladies section: Friday May 4, the Eric Wood Stableford. Seven ladies braved the elements to play the Eric Wood Stableford competitions (18 and nine-hole) in continual misty drizzle. Prizes were presented by the Wood family and the overall winner was Patricia Tait with 28 points.

The ladies were delighted to welcome Lynda Blair and Jenni Martin to their first tournament. Linda had a great start with a magnificent eagle two on the seventh. The winner of the first ever nine-hole competition was Margaret Auld with 13 points. Despite everyone being very wet the competition was enjoyed by all.

Fixtures: Friday May 11, ladies May Medal. Sunday May 13, Captain's drive-in and prize, yellow tee stableford. Rolling start with get together and draw at 10am. All cards to be in by 2.30pm. Wednesday May 16, Summer Trophy.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Thursday May 3, Summer Cup, CSS 66. 1 Norrie MacIntyre 73-8=65, 2 Serge El Adm 81-14=67, 3 Ian Bremner 75-7=68. Scratch, Norrie MacIntyre 73. Magic twos, Norrie MacIntyre at 17th.

Sunday May 6, the Spring Handicap. The top 16 players qualified for the Island Thomson Cup (qualifying score 74). Thomson Cup first round: D Jeffrey v D Logan, D Robertson v D Head, B Smith v T Mitchell, L Dutton v A Pattinson, A MacDonald v W McNally, A Winship v Bremner, G Andrew v F Barr, A Kerr v J MacPherson. First round to be played by Saturday May 19 and the second round by Saturday June 2.

Ladies Section: Wednesday May 2, Fleet round two, CSS 67, PAR 65, 8 played. 1 Ellie Jones 88-17=71, 2 Gay Mackay 96-24=72, 3 Kate McAdam 87-15=72. Scratch, Kate 87.

Fixtures: Sunday May 13, Hamilton Bowl round one, 8.30am, 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday May 10, Summer Cup, make up own games, see starter for times. Saturday



**John Pennycott winner of the Hugh Steel Cup at Machrie.**



**Jim Henderson presents Ross Trail with the Arran Golfers Association Handicap Shield and runner up Rory Currie with the Match Play trophy.**

June 9, Thomson Cup, semi final at 1pm, final at 5pm at Lamlash.

**Brodick Golf Club**

Ladies section: Tuesday May 1, CCQ round one and May Medal, 6 played in difficult conditions. 1 nett Yvonne Brothers, 2 nett Heather Rae-side. Magic twos Yvonne Brothers.

Fixtures: Sunday May 13 round one, McCarrfrae Trophy (Club Championship qualifying), 8.30am and noon. Thursday May 17, round two, McCarrfrae Trophy, 5pm. As the draw is done in classes, entry is by clubhouse notice board only. Tuesday May 22, Coronation Foursomes and the Legion Trophy knockout competition. Tuesday May 15, Club Trophy round two and St Elmo Cup. Two ballots only on a Tuesday at 12.30pm and 4.45pm for a trial period.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Saturday May 3, Hugh Steel Cup played over nine holes with an open sweep. 1 John Pennycott 32.5pts, 2 Phil Betley 34pts, 3 Willie Kelso 34.5pts.

Tuesday May 8, Lady Mary, 1 Piet Johnson 87pts, 2 Rion Culpan 96pts. Peter Sutton, 1 Cambell Laing 67pts, 2 Phil Betley 70pts, 3 John Pennycott 73pts.

Fixtures: Tuesday May 15: Peter Sutton/Lady Mary tee off 12.30pm and 5.30pm

**Corrie Golf Club**

Saturday May 5, Wednesday medal. 1 R Logan 69-6=63 and scratch, 2 G Andrew 82-10=72. No winner of the Magic twos so the prize pot is becoming meaningful.

Saturday May 5, medal. 1 A Smith 71-11=60, 2 I Keen 71-10=61, Scratch, G Hendry 70.

**Arran Junior Golf**

Fixture: Friday June 15, Kelso Cup, Machrie Golf Club at

4pm. Any junior player who is interested in playing in this prestigious competition should contact Ann May on 07979 855174 or Viv Parks on 860185. Juniors from all island clubs are encouraged to get in touch as this is an inter club competition.

**Arran Golfers Association**

Monday May 7, The Arran Golfers Association Junior Handicap was held at Lamlash with only two lads turning out for this annual event, Ross Trail (18) and Rory Currie (25). So it was decided that the handicap and match play would be decided on Monday's result. The standard of golf exhibited by both was excellent, they could in fact grace any senior competition.

Of the 16 holes completed in match play format Ross scored 72 winning by 3+2 with Rory on 74 both of them on at least two occasions having to play three off the tee due to lost balls. So there total score could even have been less of a number.

Ross won the Handicap shield and match play cup also one years membership at Lamlash. Rory being awarded the match play runners up trophy.

Compliments to the green staff at Lamlash the standard of the greens and to the club for hosting the competition.

**Arran Junior Golf**

Friday June 15, Kelso Cup, Machrie Golf Club at 4pm.

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Juniors from all island clubs are encouraged to get in touch as this is an inter club competition.

# Opening day at Whiting Bay Bowling Club

Whiting Bay Bowling Club held their opening day last Saturday on their perfectly manicured green before members took part in the friendly game.



Members who took part in the opening day game.

01\_b19bowls02

The first jack and bowl was this year thrown by Keith Irving before members took part in the friendly game.

The green, which is completely run by the club, is always on the look-out for new members and anyone interested will be made very welcome.

The green is open on a Monday and Wednesday at 6.30pm and on a Saturday from 2pm.

Keith Irving throws the first jack at Whiting Bay.

01\_B19bowls01



## Brodict take on Lam lash in Arran Haulage Cup final

Continued from page 24

### Brodict 6 Northend 0

League champions Brodict made light work of Northend in the other semi-final as they got their season off and running.

New signing Joel Small, who made the move from Shiskine, banged in an impressive hat-trick to mark a perfect debut.

Babbies MacNeil also got on the scoresheet after a strong run down the wing by Toby Wingham resulted

in Babbies tapping in from Toby's cross.

Man of the match was given to Brodict captain Matthew Dobson, who was also involved in the scoring a well-taken goal from the edge of the box.

Bryan McCallum, in the Northend goal, was unfortunate to get on the scoresheet with an own goal as the pressure put on him resulted in the ball coming off him and into his own net.



The Lam lash goalkeeper looks on as the ball powers past him. 01\_B19footy04



A Northend player at full stretch to reach the ball. 01\_B19footy05



The Northend goalkeeper takes a hard landing trying unsuccessfully to stop the ball from going into the back of the net.

01\_B19footy07

### Eight in a row for darts ace Niall

Niall McMaster made it eight in a row at the re-arranged Doanld and James Mackenzie mixed doubles darts competition. Helping him win the trophy this year was his darts partner Maggie Easdale. Niall also had the highest check-out of 154 to lift the James's Cup.

The 30th anniversary event, held annually in Kilmory, finally went ahead on April 14, after bad weather caused the postponement of the original date. Runners-up on the night were John Mackenzie and Vicki Milne.

Organiser Margaret Mackenzie thanked everyone who took part and all the businesses and individuals who donated prizes to the raffle. A total of £510 was split evenly between Kilmory hall, the Kilmory community bus and the Arran services of Action for Hearing Loss.

### Ernie in action at Gourrock

Arran's Ernie Weir is one of the heavy athletes taking part in the Gourrock Highland Games at Battery Park this weekend.

He is one of the eight strong field taking part in the games which will be held tomorrow (Sunday).

# SPORT



**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**  
Open Day at Whiting Bay Bowling Club

# Old enemies set for cup final clash

## Lamlash win penalty shoot-out as Brodick brush aside Northend

Brodick and Lamlash will face each other in the final of the Arran Haulage Cup today (Saturday) after the two teams cemented their places during the week with victories in the semi-final rounds.

The final will be played at Lamlash in a reciprocal agreement as the Cooper-wheats Cup final last year was played between the two teams at Brodick's

pitch. Kick-off is at 3pm. Supporters are encouraged to attend the final game, which is guaranteed to be a hard-fought encounter between these two old enemies.

**Lamlash 3 Southend 3**  
Lamlash won 3-2 on penalties  
Southend have dominated the Arran Haulage Cup

in recent years, having won it eight out of the past 10 years. However, Lamlash were hoping to spoil their run and get off to a flying start in the new season.

Lamlash won the toss and elected to go up the hill first. Southend struck first with Gregor Crichton calmly placing the ball past David Heenan and into the bottom corner of the goal. Ten minutes later, the visi-



Lamlash will be playing in the final against Brodick on Saturday. 01\_B19footy02



Southend pictured prior to the game. 01\_B19footy01

tors doubled their lead after a corner turned into a goal-mouth scramble and Lewis Kennedy was on hand to make it 2-0.

Lamlash came out firing in the second half and captain Johnny Sloss took the game by the scruff of the neck and was causing the Southend defence problems with his dribbling. He scored after a great run down the left side and beat Fraser McKenzie in the Southend goal at his near post.

Five minutes later, he turned provider for Grant Adamson as he headed the ball in to bring the scores back level. Lamlash were oozing confidence now and around the hour mark the

comeback was complete when Johnny bagged his second of the game to make it 3-2.

Southend weren't going to lie down though and equalised with 15 minutes to go as Danny Head nodded in Gregor Crichton's well-placed corner.

Extra time was a very cagey affair with both teams tiring in the heat and neither side wanting to make any mistakes to lose their side the game. The teams couldn't be separated after 120 minutes so penalties loomed.

Danny Head was the first to miss for Southend in the shoot-out as his effort came back off the post. Dylan Smith of Lamlash then had

his penalty saved by a great stop from McKenzie to level things up.

Young Crichton then had his stopped by Heenan, which gave Grant Adamson the chance to win the tie for Lamlash. However, in another twist, his penalty went wide and it was on to sudden death. Young Joe McHugh stepped up for Southend and went for power but his shot just went over the bar.

Lamlash left back Chris Gosman then scored the last penalty and cemented their place in Saturday's final. Referee Jack McNally gave Johnny man of the match after a great captain's performance.

**Continued on page 23**

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The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd), www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2015 for combined print and digital editions was 3,053.