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No. 2027 Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 3 JUNE, 2017

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## Lochranza Belles

Trio set for MoonWalk



## Rescue base

Charity hands over the reigns



## Roving Rab

Noakes to play folk festival

# The changing face of Brodick's front

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

Here is the first image of what the new hotel on the site of the derelict McLaren Hotel in Brodick could look like.

Next week the public will get their chance to have their say on the plans at a public consultation meeting to be held in Brodick Hall.

The proposals are for a 96-bedroomed hotel with a glass fronted first floor restaurant, as well as a cafe and bar. It would end the eyesore of the former hotel with the site flattened to make way for the new development.

If planning permission is granted work could start later this year or early next year and be built over the following 12 months.

The company behind the development is the Norfolk-based Abode Group which bought the site two years ago. As previously reported in the *Banner* the



An artist's impression of the new hotel.

company has been in preliminary talks with North Ayrshire Council planning officials and is now in a position to go out to public consultation with its proposals ahead of submitting a full planning application.

Now the developer is giving the public the chance to meet the company and the architects at a public consultation drop-in meeting

to be held in Brodick Hall on Tuesday June 6 from 4.30pm to 7.30pm.

James Metcalf of the Abode Group, who has been involved in development opportunities on the island for nearly 10 years, told the *Banner* that the company had already undertaken informal discussions with businesses, groups and politicians on

the island and been made aware that a hotel on the site was the preferred option.

He said: 'It is a great site with so much potential.'

No name has yet been chosen for the new hotel with Mr Metcalf suggesting that the public could get a say.

The former McLaren Hotel closed in Novem-

ber 2014 having been in continuous operation for 76 years. It was originally built in 1938 and for many years was known as the Kingsley Hotel, when it was run by the Duncan family, who sold the hotel in 2002.

Since its closure the hotel and the grounds have become an eyesore on Brodick shorefront.

## New hope toilets can be saved

There is renewed hope this week that all the public toilets on Arran could be saved.

In a dramatic u-turn councillors this week referred the issue back to the new North Ayrshire Council cabinet which is likely to reconsider the decision later this month.

It is yet another twist in the shambles which has followed the closure of the island's public toilets in April.

But there was a warning from Arran Community Council chairman Bill Calderwood when they met this week. He said: 'This is only the first step. We haven't saved the toilets yet.'

And it looks increasingly likely that it will be up to each village to fight for the best deal to save its own toilets. Despite initial reluctance, it seems community groups in Lochranza, Lamlash and even Shiskine could be persuaded to get involved, although a new facility would be need to be provided in Blackwaterfoot.

Mr Calderwood told the

Continued on page 2



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# Renewed hope for toilets



**Continued from page 1**  
 community council that it appeared the council may be willing to upgrade the toilets to an acceptable standard and work in partnership with each of the communities. But he added: 'There is no consistency of approach. Each village has to be treated on a case by case basis.'

Following the council election last month the sale of the toilets was suspended, despite a number of commercial bids being made, after the council agreed to hear the case by the campaigners who have petitioned against their closure.

They got their chance at the council's audit and

**Jane Howe, who made a submission to the council committee.**

01\_B22toilets01

scrutiny committee in Irvine on Tuesday. There, petition champion Hilary Paton from Glasgow spoke of the reaction to the decision and the support and feedback from the petition which has now collected more than 3,000 signatures.

Jane Howe from Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash gave a business overview of their experience of trying to support a 'comfort scheme' which also included inputs from other businesses on the island with Jane giving some background from the community view and suggesting the decision be reviewed with a request to have facilities funded with community participation where appropriate.

Mr Calderwood then gave the community council view. He told the meeting: 'We ask that the committee recommend to cabinet to revisit the budget decision

and agree that for a local authority with areas heavily reliant on tourism, public toilet facilities are considered an essential part of the infrastructure and should be supported.

'We would suggest that a reduction in the proposed £3.1m community investment fund of a sum appropriate to provide the facilities in an acceptable condition together with the previously identified savings would allow communities to continue to work with the officers to develop community partnerships which could ensure that the costs are controlled within the agreed budget and income generating opportunities are developed where and when identified.'

New Arran conservative councillor Timothy Billings also spoke in support of their retention after being invited to the meeting,

although he is not a member of the committee. He also attended the community council meeting on Tuesday night and is pressing to have the toilets discussed at a cabinet meeting before the council summer recess.

After the submissions, various questions were asked including how much it would cost to reopen the toilets.

Yvonne Baulk the council's head of physical environment, responsible for the toilets, said it would cost £44,000 in staffing costs and £5,000 running costs – a considerable increase in the much-vaunted £35,000 initial saving made by closing the toilets.

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'Following a meeting of the council's audit and scrutiny committee, this matter has now been referred to the cabinet for consideration.'

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## Crash victims were charity heroes

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

Two men who died when their plane crashed into the sea off Arran were returning home after a trip to raise cash for a children's hospice, it has been revealed.

Anthony Woodward, aged 62, and friend 57-year-old Robert Archer took off in a light aircraft from Oban Airport at around 11.30am on Thursday May 25, bound for Carlisle, en route to southern England.

When they failed to reach their destination that afternoon a search was launched in the Kilbrannan Sound involving Police Scotland, the coastguard search and rescue helicopter from Prestwick along with the Arran lifeboat and coastguard rescue teams from Tarbert and Campbeltown.

The bodies of Mr Woodward and Mr Archer were subsequently recovered along with plane wreckage.

It later emerged that the pair, along with fellow walker Peter Ogilvie, had just completed a charity trek up Ben Nevis for Shooting Star Chase charity, a children's hospice based in Weybridge, Surrey.



**Tony Woodward, Bob Archer and Peter Ogilvie on their charity trek.**

Posting on a Justgiving fundraising page set up to support their efforts, Mr Woodward's family said: 'After completing the epic journey up Ben Nevis, tragically Tony and one of the other walkers, Bob, died in a light aircraft crash on their way home. This was devastating news for all involved, but we are hoping that people will dig deep and contribute what they can to this amazing charity that he passionately supported.'

At the end of their trek, the total raised stood at £2,600. Earlier this week more than £5,300 had been pledged on the website alone.

Mr Woodward's family commented: 'We're so pleased that people have continued to give in their memory. Tony would, and the charity will, appreciate every penny.'

Walking partner Peter Ogilvie gave an insight into their experiences on the walk on Tuesday May 22.

On the fundraising website he wrote: 'The climb was completed after nine and a half hours. We are in some pain yet hugely proud of our achievements. We marched and then struggled through relentless rain with plummeting temperatures. Below freezing at the top we were hit by freezing rain being blown by 45 KT winds.'

Shooting Star Chase issued a statement saying: 'We are extremely saddened to learn of the death of two dedicated fundraisers. We would like to express our sincere condolences to Tony and Bob's family and friends at this incredibly difficult time.'

Investigations continue into the circumstances of the crash.

# Belles to take MoonWalk in their stride

A trio of ladies with a combined age of 210 are taking on a walking half marathon challenge to raise money for the fight against breast cancer.

The ladies who call themselves the Lochranza Belles are taking part in MoonWalk Scotland in Edinburgh next weekend.

The trio of senior citizens are: Hellen Thorburn, 72, Maureen Cumming, 70, and youngest of them Fiona (Crawford) Henderson, 68, who brought the group together to fundraise af-

ter being diagnosed with breast cancer last year. The group has already raised more than £900 and hopes to raise more money.

Fiona said: 'I was treated for breast cancer last year and was looked after so well on Arran, at Crosshouse and at Irvine Central, I wanted to do this to help.'

The MoonWalk on Saturday June 10 starts and finishes at Holyrood Park, Edinburgh.

It will see thousands of walkers pounding the pavements through the streets

of the capital city at midnight, wearing decorated bras, as they raise money and awareness to help fight breast cancer. This year's Jungle Safari challenge marks the 12th year of the event.

There are four distances and the Arran trio are taking on the 13.1-mile half marathon challenge.

They have been training on the roads around Lochranza and can now manage 15/16-minute miles. They hope to complete the course in under

four hours.

Eighty-thousand people have taken part in The MoonWalk Scotland over the years, helping to raise more than £19.9 million.

Most of the money raised from the event stays in Scotland to help improve the lives of people with cancer now. Around 4,600 women and men in Scotland are diagnosed with breast cancer each year.

Anyone wishing to donate can do so online at everydayhero/lochranza-belles, there are also sponsor sheets at the Book and Card Centre in Brodick and the Harbour Shop in Blackwaterfoot or if you see the ladies out training, why not slip them a pound or two.



Striding out ... the Lochranza Belles. 01\_A22moon02



Maureen Cumming, Hellen Thorburn and Fiona Henderson are still smiling during their training. 01\_A22moon01

## Get those fèis forms filled in

It is time to get the forms in for Fèis Arainn 2017.

If you really want to come along and have lots of fun then please return your application form for this year's fèis as soon as possible.

The deadline has been extended to Friday June 9.

Hand in to school or post to: Maggie Frame, 29 Alma Park, Brodick, Isle of Arran. KA27 8AT or Aileen McLaughlin, Taigh-an-Dara, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran. KA27 8RE

Tapadh leibh!

## New ferry is named

MV Glen Sannox has been chosen as the name for new Arran dual fuel ferry which will come into service next year.

It was a landslide winner among a shortlist of four names, receiving nearly 50 per cent of the votes in a competition organised by owners Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) to select the new vessel's name. The other names were Hutton, Goatfell and Glen Iorsa.

The 102-metre ferry is the first of two dual fuel vessels currently being built by CMAL at the Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd (FMEL) shipyard in Port Glasgow. The ferry will be capable of operating on liq-

uefied natural gas (LNG) and marine gas oil (MGO).

All of those who voted were entered into a prize draw and Mairi Brown from Gourrock was chosen at random from over 2,300 people who voted in the competition.

She will be invited as a special guest to the launch of the ferry at the Ferguson Shipyard in Port Glasgow. Mairi will also receive a £200 gift voucher for the Auchrannie Resort, two bottles of commemorative whisky, bottled by Arran Distillery to mark the ferry launch, and a special goody bag.

The vessel is expected to enter service in the second half of 2018.

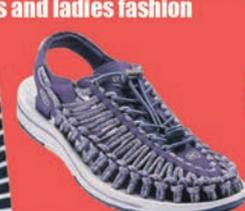
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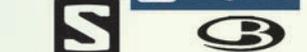
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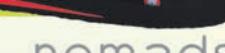












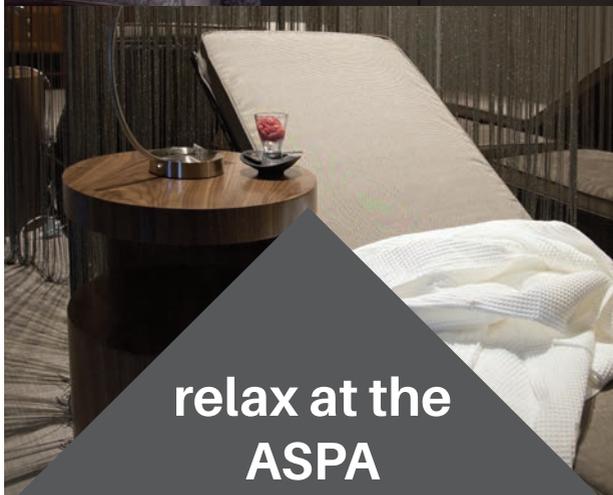

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# Police in plea for help to find missing man

There was still no sign of an elderly man missing from his home on Arran as the *Banner* went to press this week.

Despite a widespread search involving a police helicopter and the Arran Mountain Rescue Team and members of the public, there was no sign of 77-year-old John Smith from Machrie.

After police appealed for information and assistance from the public to trace him, his details were circulated widely on social media.

Mr Smith was last seen by a neighbour near to Machrie Golf Club around 6.10pm on Tuesday evening and it is believed that he was walking in an easterly direction.

He is described as white, 5ft 4in height, of slim build, with short grey hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion. He was last seen wearing a dark coloured jacket, dark trousers, a woolly hat and brown hiking boots.

Inspector Christine Boyd of Irvine police office said: 'Mr Smith had said to the neighbour who last saw him that he was going to see a friend in the Shiskine area of the island. We do not know if he arranged a lift or planned to walk, but he did not get to his friend's house.'

'He has had some health issues recently and is of poor mobility so for him to be away from his home for this length of time is very unusual. He also requires

to take daily medication which we don't believe he has with him.

'Local officers, supported by the force helicopter and search and rescue team, continue to search the island for Mr Smith but so far there have been no sightings of him and both we and his family are becoming concerned for his well-being.

'We have alerted local bus and taxi companies to look out for Mr Smith and would appeal to the public to assist by, for example, checking gardens, sheds and the like just in case he sought refuge there overnight for whatever reason.

'If you have seen Mr Smith recently or have any information that will help



John Smith.

us find him, then please call officers at Lamlash/Irvine Police Station via 101 quoting reference number 4049/30/05.'

## Summer secondments arrive to bolster police

The number of police officers on Arran has been boosted with the arrival of four constables who have joined existing officers on summer secondment.

The constables who are normally based at west of Scotland offices on the mainland have all been successful in their application to spend the summer in a new environment from



Constable Stuart Crockett with Sergeant Allen Gow.

01\_B21police01



Summer secondments Andy Haig, Lindsay Crawford and Jimmy Baird. 01\_B21police02

their usual beat and to experience island policing.

Constables Andy Haig from Cathcart, Stuart Crockett from Dalmarnock and Lindsay Crawford from Pollok said that they looked forward to a change from their usual routine and

to learn more about how island policing works. Constable Jimmy Baird from Kilmarnock, who is serving his second summer secondment on Arran, often takes his holidays on Arran and looks forward to spending more time living and work-

ing within the community.

The constables will work on a shift rota with existing staff under Sergeant Allen Gow who will expand their policing experience, and all that it entails, until their departure at the end of September.

# St John Scotland gifts base to rescue team

St John Scotland has officially transferred ownership of Arran's Mountain Rescue base at Cladach to the team.

St John Scotland is the biggest contributor to Scottish mountain rescue teams for many years and by 2020 the charity will have provided more than £3.2 million in funding, mainly through the provision of bases and vehicles. Since it began its support of mountain rescue, St John Scotland has provided bases for 14 teams in Scotland. As well as Arran these include Aberdeen, Arrochar, Dundonnell, Gal-

loway, Lomond, Moffat, Oban, Ochils, two in Skye, Tayside, Tweed Valley and Ullapool.

The Arran base is the second base of 13, after Aberdeen, to be gifted from St John Scotland to the teams themselves. The cost of these bases has now topped £2 million and, until now, were provided to the teams under licence and rent free.

Robert Waive, secretary of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team, said: 'It has been an amazing journey for the team. From the basic hut at the back of the police house to this purpose built base and we are incredibly grateful for the generosity of St John Scotland which has enabled this to happen.'

Handing the base over to the team the St John Ayrshire and Arran chairwoman Roseann Cunninghame said: 'We are delighted to be able to gift the Arran base to the team. However, this will not be the end of our relationship and we look forward to maintaining and strengthening our existing links with the team.'

St John Scotland will maintain a close relationship with the Arran Mountain Rescue team and upon

its transfer, the base will be known as 'Arran Mountain Rescue Team, St John Base'.

St John Scotland is a Scottish charity dedicated to saving and enhancing life.

Formed in 1947, St John Scotland is headquartered in Edinburgh. St John Scotland is divided into 12 areas, each with their own projects and activities.

As well as being the biggest contributor to Scottish mountain rescue teams, it also funds a mountain safety instructor, who provides training to young people from university mountaineering clubs across Scotland.

St John Scotland also has patient transport teams operating in Dumfries and Galloway, Angus and Dundee, and Fife, ensuring people arrive safely and on time for hospital appointments. It also supports the provision of public access defibrillators to aid first response in an emergency. Most notably, the team of volunteers in Edinburgh run the St John and the city defibrillator project, installing life saving machines across the city - including on each of Edinburgh's trams.



Roseann Cunninghame of St John Scotland outside the base with Robert Waive, Alan McNicol and Ewan McKinnon of the Arran Mountain Rescue Team. 01\_A22armt01



A new collection point has been put up at the base to encourage passing walkers to donate to the ARMT. 01\_A22armt03

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## David Rocks Conservative

Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party candidate for the North Ayrshire and Arran seat is David Rocks.

David was born, educated, and has always lived in and always worked in North Ayrshire.

Born in Irvine, David, 31, attended Annick Primary School and Irvine Royal Academy. After leaving school he continued his studies at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow, now the Royal Conservatoire Scotland, from 2003-07, gaining a BEd Music Hons. Since 2007, he has been teaching Secondary School music in North Ayrshire.

David joined the Scottish

Conservative and Unionist Party in 2004 at just 18 and became active in the local branch and wider association. Since 2010, he has been chairman of the Irvine Branch. He was elected to the constituency executive council and currently holds the post of association secretary. He has contributed to conferences and takes part in the wider work and life of the party in Scotland. He has served as agent for candidates in local government and Scottish parliament elections, organising action days and leafleting. He has built up many close friendships in the party and encourages others to get involved.

David said: 'Music has always been my main passion and continues to be so. Apart from teaching music, I am the accompanist of the North Ayrshire Workplace choir and perform at various local events throughout the year. I sing in a church choir and sometimes deputise as organist. Taking an active role in the life of the church gives me an insight into the issues facing our communities.'

He continued: 'I played a key role in the North Ayrshire Council employees' people strategy. The values of focus, passion and inspiration were the themes and I enjoyed featuring in the brochure and videos as 'inspiration'. I was on the committee that planned

and developed the strategy for more than a year and continue to be involved with it. Meeting and working with other council employees from a range of services proved to me what a great place North Ayrshire is to work and we were very proud to win awards for all our efforts.

'My reasons for being a Scottish Conservative and Unionist and standing in this election are that:

'I believe in small government and low taxes with careful and sensible public spending to support people taking responsibility for their own lives and contributing to their local communities in a positive way.

We need less state control in people's lives and I believe in more powers to councils, not more centralisation.

'I am an active supporter of a strong Scotland in a prosperous United Kingdom and oppose the diversion of a second referendum by Nicola Sturgeon and the SNP. What we need is more Conservative and Unionist MPs elected from Scotland to work with the government, really delivering for Scotland and the UK.'

North Ayrshire and Arran association chairman, Richard Wilkinson, said: 'We are lucky to have David as a candidate; who has dedicated his life to North Ayrshire through educa-

tion, home and work. His mixture of energy and enthusiasm, based on life experience, makes him an ideal candidate and even more a prospective MP who will bring a positive nature, confidence and sincerity to the role of MP for North Ayrshire and Arran.'



## Christopher Rimicans Labour

Kilwinning resident Christopher Rimicans is the Labour Party candidate for North Ayrshire and Arran.

Christopher has lived in North Ayrshire his whole life. He attended St Matthew's Academy before studying at Strathclyde University. At 18 years old, if elected, he would be

# Battlelines drawn as fight North Ayrshire

Four candidates will contest the North Ayrshire and Arran constituency in the UK parliamentary election on Thursday, June 8.

Voters will be able to choose between Mark Dickson of Scottish Liberal Democrats, Patricia Gibson of the Scottish National Party (SNP), Christopher Rimicans of the Scottish Labour Party and David Rocks of Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party.

the youngest MP for 350 years.

He volunteers for many groups and last year won a volunteering award from The Ayrshire Community Trust. He has been involved in projects such as collecting donations for the North Ayrshire Foodbank.

Christopher is currently on a seasonal contract with North Ayrshire Council as a sports coach and is a piper with Johnstone Pipe Band and part of the teaching team at Irvine District Pipe Band.

Christopher hit the national headlines in 2014 when he spoke at the Scottish Labour Party conference against Trident.

At this year's conference he spoke in favour of Labour's federalism proposals and gave an impassioned speech in support of Ardrossan retaining the Arran ferry.

Christopher said: 'It is a

great honour to have been selected as the Labour candidate for North Ayrshire and Arran.

'North Ayrshire is my home and I am standing to give my family, friends and neighbours the strong voice that they deserve.

'Local people are being let down by an out-of-touch Tory government and an SNP government in Edinburgh more interested in stoking grievances than delivering change for the people.

'We badly need a Labour government which will end austerity, deliver a £10 minimum wage and create an economy that works for working people.'

Christopher joined Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn at the party's rally in Glasgow last Sunday night where he gave an impassioned speech about the reasons why he choose to stand at this election and why working people need a



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# four candidates and Arran seat

**Polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm on election day.**

**Ballot papers from Arran will then be taken by a specially-chartered boat to the count for the constituency which will be held in St Matthew's Academy, Saltcoats, with the declaration made in the early hours of Friday, June 9.**

**Here each of the candidates outline their priorities.**

Labour Government.

He said: 'A lot has been said about my age during this election.

'I may be 18 but that is not what defines me. I am a socialist. I joined Labour at 14 because I could see at school that people in my community were struggling.

'I saw classmates whose parents were on low wages and zero-hour contracts. Peers who couldn't get access to mental health support. People whose only decent meal all day was their free school meal.

'Friends, I choose Labour because I wanted to help.

'I choose Labour because it is the only party which will stand up for the interests of ordinary working people.'



**Patricia Gibson  
SNP**

The SNP candidate is Patricia Gibson who has held the seat since 2015.

The 49-year-old former teacher from Kilbirnie is married to Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson and has wide political experience, including five years as a Glasgow City councillor representing Pollok.

Patricia said: 'I seek your vote based on my constitu-

ency work combined with the need to ensure Scotland has MPs at Westminster to stand up for its interests.

'As your MP since 2015, I have assisted hundreds of Arran constituents while making your voice heard at Westminster.

'In February I organised an employment fayre in Kilwinning, having jointly organised one in Saltcoats last October, to help job-seekers gain access to employers who are actively recruiting. I also pressed the UK Government to commit resources - as the SNP Government has done - to the Ayrshire Growth Deal to regenerate Ayrshire's economy, secure in-

clusive growth and reduce inequality.

'I brought forward a Bill to ban nuisance calls, fought for the rights of WASPI women and lobbied hard to retain the Brodick to Ardrossan ferry service. Of course, ferries have been one of the big successes of the SNP Government, with budgets more than doubling even while Scotland's overall budget has been slashed by successive UK governments, showing the importance of island communities to the SNP. RET has slashed fares, bringing more visitors and revenue to Arran, whilst £12.3 million is being invested in the Catriona and £48.5 million in a new vessel - built in Port Glasgow - for the Brodick to Ardrossan route.

'I have pursued improved mobile phone coverage on Arran, despite the UK Government declaring that Arran was "not a priority".

'As Labour's in-fighting continues, here in North Ayrshire and across the UK, the Tories seek to consolidate their grip on power.

Scotland again faces having a government imposing deeper austerity while imposing a hard Brexit which threatens Scottish jobs.

With a majority of just 12, the Tories gave us the 'rape clause', cut support for disabled people by £30 per week and delayed paying the pensions of women born in the 1950s.

'With a big majority Mrs May will feel free to impose even harsher measures.

'Now more than ever, it is vital to have strong SNP voices standing up for Scotland. I support an independent Scotland. However, to say this election is about independence is wrong. The Scottish Parliament already has a mandate on that issue.

'The choice at this election is between SNP MPs who will continue fighting for Scotland or Tory MPs seeking to impose further cuts.

'The SNP will always put Scotland first, continuing our work to make Scotland the best country it can be.'



**Mark Dickson  
Liberal Democrat**

The Scottish Liberal Democrat candidate is Mark Dickson. Born and raised in Scotland, Mark is a humanitarian aid worker who has spent several years living and working in challenging environments around the world.

After graduating from Trinity College Dublin with a degree in Geogra-

phy and Sociology, Mark studied International Security at St Andrews University; he then spent four years in Afghanistan working for a small charity before going on to provide security support to international aid and development agencies.

Mark also worked with the HALO Trust, a Scottish charity clearing landmines around the world. He currently works for a not-for-profit organisation, leading a mission in Syria and Iraq to control emerging epidemics.

He loves being back home in Scotland, enjoys cycling, and plans to complete the North Coast 500 with his girlfriend in July. He has always followed Scottish rugby and particularly likes watching the game with his young nephews.

Mark joined the Liberal Democrats soon after returning home to Scotland. He shares their vision and believes their policies will help give people more choice over their future.

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## Editorial

### First step to save toilets

It may just be the first step, but we believe this week's developments could lead to a giant leap towards saving Arran's public toilets.

But the fight is not won yet and it is important that the pressure be kept on the politicians on North Ayrshire Council who, it is hoped, will make a decision before they go on their summer holidays.

None of this would have come about had it not been for people power forcing the council's hand and everyone who signed a petition - in person or online - can take some credit for at least keeping the subject going.

Had the previous administration got away with it, the money would have been withdrawn, the toilets closed and sold to the highest bidder before anything could have been done.

Now there is commercial interest, community interest and - because of public pressure - council interest in trying to get the situation reversed.

And while we want to see the toilets reopened, either in council or more likely community hands - what about the individuals who put in bids for the facilities, in good faith, when they were put up for sale?

That, as Bill Calderwood said at the community council meeting, is 'another can of worms'.

#### Thought for the week

'There is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:39)

## Elective dictatorship

Sir,  
Bobby Whitacre's rather intemperate epistle entitled 'political atmosphere' in last week's letters page does very little to cool the said atmosphere. Unfortunately, it contains very damaging lies regarding both Scottish and Arran tourism. Bobby asserts: 'Scottish tourism including visitor numbers to Arran suffered massively in the wake of the 2014 referendum.'

Arran tourism, as everybody and their granny knows, has enjoyed a healthy increase in the last few years. Again, as everybody knows, this increase has been helped by the introduction of RET (road equivalent tariff) fares on our ferry, introduced by the SNP-controlled Scottish government.

However, I thought I would check up on Bobby's assertion that Scottish tourism had suffered after 2014. I quote from the official VisitScotland figures for 2015: 'Expenditure in 2015 for GB residents overnight visits to Scotland exceeded £3.2 billion pounds, one of the strongest years recorded since 2006.'

I do not recognise Bobby's description of Arran as having an 'aggressive political atmosphere, accompanied by hatred, hostility and an abuse of anyone who disagrees with your viewpoint'. Arran, in my view, is and always has been, an island where visitors, irrespective of their nationality, religion, or political persuasion are welcome to come and enjoy its unique relaxing atmosphere.

I, along with a very large



The trailer mounted luggage lockers used in Tenerife.

number of my fellow islanders, believe that all political decisions affecting Scotland should be taken in Scotland by a government responsible to the Scottish electorate. I do not think this is an extreme or unreasonable request and I would ask Bobby to reflect on the following fact. One person's 'strong and stable government' is another person's elective dictatorship.

Yours,  
**Jim Lees**  
**Sannox**

## Trailer lockers

Sir,  
After looking at the new Brodick ferry terminal building, the passenger walkway and the new jetty the distance that passengers have to walk appeared to be much further than at present.

I printed out the plans from CalMac web page and simply stepped off with dividers the new distance compared to the old - the new 16 units, the old nine units. So the new set-up will involve walking nearly twice as far. The narrowness of the walkway will further constrain how quickly passengers can disembark and embark especially when they have lots of luggage. At busy times the ship may be unable to sail on time with the

knock-on effect of missed connections at each end.

When I was at a harbour in Tenerife passengers had the option of putting heavy luggage in lockers that were mounted on trailers which were then towed on and off the ship. The lockers, a euro in the slot, close the door, lock and take the key. On arrival unlock and take your luggage the euro being returned (hopefully).

Such a system would speed up passenger movement and generally make it easier for them.

Could/would CalMac adopt this idea?

Yours,  
**Jim Climie**  
**Whiting Bay**

## Brilliant volunteers

Sir,  
Volunteers' Week runs until June 7 and what better time to celebrate our brilliant volunteers?

Here in Arran, we have dozens of incredible volunteers in Scouting helping young people have fun, experience new adventures and learning skills for life. We have volunteers from all backgrounds and they often give their time on a flexible basis, supporting us around work and family commitments.

I want to say a huge thank you to each and every one

- you are helping young people look to the future with optimism giving them the practical, character and employability skills they need to succeed. But nationwide, we still have 50,000 young people waiting to join, so we need your help.

As a Scout Ambassador I know the benefits of volunteering first hand. Giving a little time and enthusiasm for something you believe in not only supports your community but makes you feel great too. Giving your time is known to be one of the key factors in wellbeing - so do yourself a favour and try it; you'll use your skills and learn new ones.

Thank you and best wishes to volunteers, past present and future!

Yours,  
**Anita Rani**  
**Scout Ambassador**

## Independent traveller

Sir  
Following the recent advert in the Banner for the Arran Ferry Committee AGM I have been approached by a number of people kindly enquiring why I was stepping down from the post of independent traveller representative. Which was what they had assumed from the advert. Currently

the ferry committee constitution requires annual re-election for the post. For the avoidance of any doubt it is my intention to stand for re-election at the forthcoming 2017 AGM. I hope that will be supported.

Yours,  
**Neil Arthur**  
**Kilpatrick**

## Emissions fix

Sir,  
I thought I'd share our VW emissions fix experience to help others.

If you own a VAG diesel vehicle that's affected by the emissions scandal (VW, Audi, Skoda, Seat) and have received a letter to have the emissions fix this is in fact voluntary, we wrongly assumed it was mandatory.

The letter stated that our vehicle would not be affected by the update.

This in fact was not the case for us...the vehicle broke down and has had expensive 'goodwill gesture' repairs. Initially VW dealership told us it was a coincidence and tried to charge us £900.

If you have had the emissions fix and are finding problems such as limp mode, noisy engine, increased fuel consumption and reduced power it may be the fix that has caused it.

There is a VW emission team set up to deal with the problem and they can be contacted on 0800 333 666, Audi and other manufacturers have their own teams too.

There is a forum on Facebook which now has more than 2,500 members and is growing daily, if you are concerned have a look it's really helped us; the Volkswagen Diesel Customer Forum.

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hold it until all your goods have arrived and deliver it all together to your home. If you're needing special arrangements for your delivery we can help. Just let us know your requirements when you book in. Forklift on site for pallets and as well as our speedy parcel services, we offer a 2 man and tailift service throughout the Island.

I thought I'd write to you as unless you search the internet it is not something owners would find out.

Yours,  
**Angela Elliott-Walker  
 Brodick**

## Nature sensitivity

Sir,  
 I was horrified to see the flotilla of kayaks on Mos-send Pond at such a critical time in the nesting season.

This area is a sanctuary for gulls, little grebes, moorhen, mallard and other species.

At a time when the habitat for wild animals is increasingly being invaded and used for human activities on Arran, it would be good to see some sensitivity to nature and wildlife, especially during the breeding months.

Yours,  
**Rosemary Sinton,  
 Brodick**

## Wonderful weekend

Sir,  
 What a wonderful weekend full of sunshine.

First Nicol Hume's sunflower extravaganza on Friday night at Brodick Golf Club. It was wonderful to see the clubhouse bursting at the seams with families and lots of kids, Trish's fish and chips and everyone going home clutching their prizewinning sunflower, we hope! Thank you Nicol for all your hard work.

Then on Sunday the fabulous Corrie open gardens. It was like a great big street party, busier than 'Sauchiehall Street on a Saturday'.

Again a lot of work, wonderful gardens and great hospitality. Many thanks to all the organisers.

Yours,  
**An inspired gardener  
 (name and address  
 supplied)**

## Desperate smears

Sir,  
 One of the reasons why so many people hesitate to go into front-line politics is that some folk think that being in political life gives one carte blanche to say anything they like about you. The poison pen letter from a 'Bobby Whitacre' is a case in point.

Despite living in Glasgow, he moans about SNP posters on display in Arran but, of course, not those of any other party. In fact, across Scotland all parties display posters at election times, if they can find people to put them up.

More to the point, this bloke, who claims to have been at university with me - I had never heard of him until I read his letter - implies that my wife Patricia objected to a union flag because she shares some dreadful views he claims I had back in the early 80s. A bit of a stretch one might think? He refers to Patricia contacting NAC about a flagpole constituents had complained about in Largs, one which NAC decided to take action against, not because of the flag it flew but the flagpole's location.

Similar flags abound in Largs and across Scotland and nobody bothers, if they are in the appropriate location. Mr Whitacre is reading into this something that

is simply not there.

As for me, Mr Whitacre alleges that 35 years or so ago I had extreme views which I apparently would 'loudly' proclaim to 'anyone who would listen'. He is deluded. I joined the SNP on my first day at university in 1979 and have been in the mainstream of the party ever since. Had I held and aired the views he attributes, the SNP would have turfed me out pronto. Had they not, I'm sure that contemporaries from other parties I was at university with, such as Jack McConnell and Tommy Sheridan whom I served with in the first Scottish Parliament, would also have made something of it.

Opponents of the SNP such as Mr Whitacre really are becoming desperate when they resort to such smears.

Mr Whitacre then claims that Scottish tourism suffered 'massively' in the wake of the 2014 referendum. In fact tourism is booming, not least on Arran, where RET brought in by the SNP Government helped increase passenger numbers by 19 per cent last year. He goes on to say that he knows of 'two English families' who cut short holidays to Scotland because of 'hatred and hostility'. Frankly, I don't believe that for a minute. English visitors and residents are warmly welcomed here and are prominent in Arran SNP. He then imagines an 'aggressive political atmosphere' on Arran. What is he talking about?

The scaremongering on tourist numbers is similar

to tales of inward investment being curtailed due to the last referendum. Ernest & Young only last week published their annual survey showing that of the UK's 12 nations and regions only London attracted more inward investment than Scotland last year, for the fifth year in a row.

Lastly, Mr Whitacre, concluding that 'democracy is just fine,' applauds himself for having the courage to 'speak out' - as if he lived in North Korea - then talks about 'hatred, hostility and abuse of anyone who disagrees with your viewpoint'. Given the vindictive tone and distortions in his letter, he has certainly shown plenty of hatred, hostility and abuse, directing it against people who simply share a different and widely held political view from him.

Yours,  
**Kenneth J Gibson MSP  
 Cunninghame North**



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# Youngsters are urged to cycle to school

Families across Scotland are being encouraged to take part in Sustrans' Bike to School Week 2017 from June 5 to 9 and discover the benefits of cycling, scootering and walking.

Bike to School Week is an opportunity for children and parents to kick-start active travel habits and switch to cycling, scootering or walking for the school journey.

It is also a time to celebrate the good work already being done in schools to inspire more children and their parents to cycle, scoot or walk to school.

Run by Sustrans Scotland, the free event is open to schools across Scotland and to celebrate, Sustrans has produced a series of teaching resources helping to explore the benefits of travelling by bike, scooter and foot.

Activities range from planning the school journey to conducting a traffic survey, learning about the effects of activity on the heart and carrying out simple checks on bikes and scooters.

Cecilia Oram, Sustrans Scotland smarter choices

coordinator, said: 'We hope as many schools as possible get behind Bike to School Week. It is a great opportunity for parents to encourage their children to be more active in their journey to school.'

There is a growing body of evidence that demonstrates cycling and walking has many health, social and environmental benefits.

Cycling, scooting or walking to school helps children get their recommended hour of physical activity a day and maintain a healthy weight.

Ask your child's school to take part in Bike to School Week this June. For more information visit [www.sustrans.org.uk/bike-school-week](http://www.sustrans.org.uk/bike-school-week).



The bank staff and family and friends who went for a fundraising wee wander.

## A wee fundraising wander

The Brodick manager of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Karen Ward, and staff members Calum Campbell and Sarah Groves, along with friends and family, went for a wee wander around Brodick raising funds for the Arran Army Cadets and the STV Appeal. Sue Prewett

couldn't make it but did her own walk in Lamlash with her tartan-clad doggies.

### Thank

Karen, who helps run the cadets, said: 'We would like to thank all the generous passers-by who donated their change and helped us to raise £197.'

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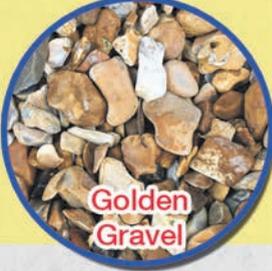
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## Arran Active to pay staff the living wage

Arran Active, the specialist outdoor shop in Brodick, has joined the list of companies on Arran committed to paying their staff the living wage.

Their living wage commitment will see everyone working at Arran Active, regardless of whether they are direct employees or third-party contracted staff, receive a minimum hourly wage of £8.45 which is higher than the statutory minimum for over 25s of £7.50 per hour which was introduced by the government in April 2017.

Owners Juliette and Andrew Walsh said: 'We want to be good employers and this means paying our staff a decent wage.'

Arran Active will join

CalMac, VisitArran and Arranshand, which all pay their staff wages based on the amount set by the Living Wage Foundation.

Katherine Chapman, director of the Living Wage Foundation, said: 'We welcome Arran Active to the living wage movement as an accredited employer. Responsible businesses across the UK are voluntarily signing up to pay the real living wage now. The real living wage rate is annually calculated to reflect the real costs of living.'

'We are a movement of more than 3,000 UK employers who together want to go further than the government minimum to make sure all their staff earn enough to live on.'



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# Rab Noakes sure to hit the right notes as folk festival fever rises



Rab Noakes has been in music for 50 years.

Music fever is building as the island gets ready for the 23rd Arran Folk Festival next weekend.

And one of the main attractions this year is the participation of the legendary Scots musician Rab Noakes. This year marks Rab's 50th year as a professional musician. It also sees him turn 70 and his Arran performance at next Saturday night's show is part of his 70/50 tour to celebrate this milestone.

An accomplished singer-songwriter with a lifelong interest in popular song and folk music, Rab has released more than 20 albums since *Do You See The Lights?* in 1970, most recently 2015's *I'm Walking Here* and last November's *The Testament Tapes EP*.

Noakes also sang backing vocals and played guitar on the first solo album by Gerry Rafferty,

Can I Have My Money Back, and became an early member of Stealers Wheel. He remained a lifelong friend and was instrumental in a tribute concert to the singer staged at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow during Celtic Connections after the Paisley singer died in 2011.

Also on the Saturday night bill in Brodick Hall are The Tannahill Weavers, one of Scotland's premier traditional bands.

With a repertoire of songs and tunes spanning the centuries and capturing everything from slow ballads to foot-stompin' jigs and reels, the band are widely regarded as some of the finest cultural ambassadors for Scotland's rich Celtic heritage and still feature founding members Roy Gullane (vocals and guitar) and Phil Smilie (flute, whistles,

bodhran, vocals), the line-up is completed by John Martin (fiddle and vocals) and most recent recruit Lorne MacDougall (bagpipes, small pipes and whistles). Lauded everywhere they go it is certain the headline set will be one to remember.

The fun starts next Friday, as always, with the first open session in the Douglas Hotel bar - or on the terrace, if the weather is as nice as last year.

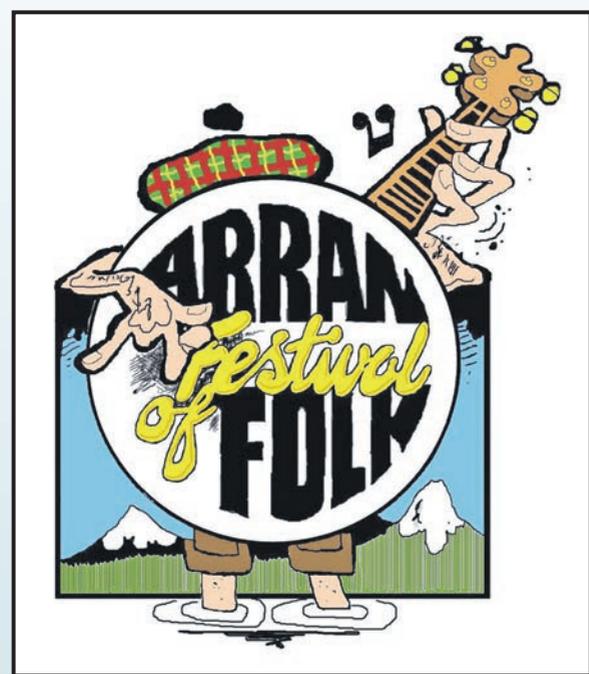
All weekend musicians, visitors and locals soak up the atmosphere at the impromptu sessions hosted in his own inimitable style by 'uncle' Keith Robertson. It happens all over again on Saturday afternoon and concludes with a survivors' session on Sunday.

There is also a top line up at the Friday night concert, also in Brodick Hall, featuring the Glasgow based Top Floor

Taivers who combine some of the finest talent from Scotland, England and Ireland. Alongside them on the bill are Jenn Butterworth and Laura-Beth Salter, who are no strangers to the festival having previously performed here in 2014. Their debut album, *Bound*, was released in November last year to great acclaim.

And the concert will be headlined by a very nostalgic one-off reunion of Mike and Stef. They spent a couple of decades playing their distinctive and often original music to audiences all over Arran. Their blend of catchy tunes and good humour is sure to set the mood for a great evening's entertainment.

Organisers would also like to encourage as many people as possible along to the Rab Noakes illustrative songwriting workshop next Sunday at 11am in Brodick Hall. People don't even need to be singers or songwriters; it's a good opportunity



to get a chance to listen to the thoughts and experiences of a legend of 50 years in the music business and it is sure to be a fascinating talk.

The previous day there will be a fiddle workshop, also at 11am in Brodick Hall featuring GrÁinne Brady is a fiddle player and composer from Co Cavan, Ireland. Currently

based in Glasgow, she is heavily involved in its folk scene, playing regularly with some of Scotland's finest musicians.

\*Open sessions are free, while tickets for the two concerts are available from the [arranevents.com](http://arranevents.com) website or on the door, if still available. A two-day festival pass is also available.



The Tannahill Weavers line up.



Hollie Buckby ready to take part in the camp.



Kirsty Morrison tries out her jumping skills.

# Fun in the sun at

## The adventure wouldn't be complete without a sleepover

The sun had his hat on, and 10 girls brought their ponies out to play when Jen McNeish and Alison Currie held a pony camp for the Arran Riding Club kids at Balgowan Farm in Shiskine.

Jen gave lessons described by the kids as fantastic. She also took them exploring on the hill, where everybody got to test themselves over some cross country jumps, and have a good gallop in the fields.

Back at the farm there was a chance to practise some TREC obstacles, and gymkhana games, which might come in handy for the handy pony at the junior show in a couple of weeks.

Toby was also on hand so that the kids could keep up

their vaulting practise. He patiently circled while everyone stood up on his back, and practised their 'bench', 'flag', round-the-world and scissors.

The adventure wouldn't be complete without the sleepover where all the kids had a ball.

Many thanks were made to Alison for looking after them and feeding them so well.

Aside from being great fun, and a highlight of the year for the kids, camp really helps the ponies and riders as they learn and gain confidence from each other.

So thanks a million to Jen and Alison for hosting, teaching, feeding and supporting and making it a weekend to remember.

Elanor McNamara



Jen McNeish with all her pupils.



Lily and Missy tackle the gate.



Kizzy, Daisy, Lily and Missy practising the three-legged race.

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Top Floor Taivers, Mike & Stef, Jenn & LB,

Sat. 10th June

Open Session. Douglas Hotel. 12-5pm. FREE

Fiddle Workshop. Brodick Hall. 11am. £5

Workshop hosted by Grainne Brady (of Top Floor Taivers) for all ages & abilities.

Evening Concert. Brodick Hall. 7:30pm. £20

The Tannahill Weavers, Rab Noakes

Sun. 11th June

Survivors' Session. Douglas Hotel. 12-5pm. FREE

Songwriting Workshop. Brodick Hall. 11am. £5

Hosted by Rab Noakes. Limited places - book early!

Brochures and further info available from local shops.  
Tickets now available on-line and at Brodick Post Office.

www.arranevents.com

## LIVE MUSIC!



Saturday 3rd June, 9pm

Black Triangles

Tim Pomeroy

sings on Friday 2nd

9pm plus Open Mic

Pub Quiz at 8.30pm Wednesday!

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# pony club camp



Grace Popplewell enjoys the trekking out.



Rosie McNamara with Paebal.



Emma gets a great view from the back of a patient Toby.



## VOLUNTEER ARRAN EVENT Brodict Hall 5th of June 2-4.30pm

ACVS are holding an event at Brodict Hall from 2pm till 4.30pm to promote and celebrate volunteering on Arran.

**Come along, have a chat and find out how volunteering can help you!**

If you would like to book a stall or nominate someone for a volunteer award call 01770 600611 or email Sophie.Clark@arrancvs.org.uk

## Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Brodict, Auchrannie Hotel  
Tuesday 6 to Friday 9 June

**The Illusionist - Expanded Cinema** (PG) 78 mins £10/£8  
A Screen Machine first: added sensory experiences bring this gorgeous French/Scottish animation to life. "exquisite" *Observer* **06/06 at 7pm**

**Moonlight** (15) 111 mins  
Oscar winner about a young man's tough up-bringing. **06/06 at 9.30pm**

**Beauty and the Beast** (PG) 129 mins  
"a pleasure to watch" *Herald* **07/06 at 5.30pm, 09/06 at 5.30pm**

**Their Finest** (12A) 117 mins  
Sparkling romantic drama starring Gemma Arterton and Bill Nighy. **07/06 at 8.30pm, 09/06 at 2pm**

**The LEGO Batman Movie** (U) 104 mins  
"The kids are gonna love it" *Rolling Stone* **08/06 at 5pm**

**NT: Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead** (12A) 200 mins  
£14/£12 Daniel Radcliffe stars in this 50th anniversary adaptation of Tom Stoppard's play. An encore screening. "Hilarious" *Times* **08/06 at 7.30pm**

**Pirates of the Caribbean: Salazar's Revenge** (12A) 128 mins  
Captain Jack Sparrow is back with a new adventure. **09/06 at 8.30pm**

**The Travelling Gallery is also in town. Custom built contemporary art space inside a bus. Parked right next to Screen Machine 5pm - 9pm on 06/06 and 10am - 5.30pm on 07/06. Free entry - all welcome.**

Book at: www.screenmachine.co.uk. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. Cash, no cards. £7.50 Adults. Concessions £5.50 (except: *NT Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead* and *The Illusionist - Expanded Cinema*)



## What's On.....

**Castle Time Travellers - Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sun 4<sup>th</sup> June 11am & 2pm**

A family tour through the times of the Castle - dressing-up optional! Stout footwear advised - Please book at Reception **Adults & children Free with Garden Entry**

**Brodict Castle from the Outside - Sat 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sun 4<sup>th</sup> - 12, 1 & 3pm**

**Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<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 **Adults Free with Garden Entry**

**Garden Guided Walk Tues 6<sup>th</sup> June 2 - 3.30pm**

Join the First Gardener for a tour of our amazing Gardens

No need to book - please meet at Reception

**Free with Garden Entry**

# BRODICK CASTLE & COUNTRY PARK

brodictcastle@nts.org.uk 01770 302202

# WHAT'S ON

## Everyday

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

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
 Garden open 9am-dusk  
 Mon - Sat 10am - 5pm & Sun 12.30pm - 5pm  
 Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am - 4pm  
 Daily 10.30am to 4.30pm

## Saturday 3rd June

Army Cadets  
 RNLI Shop  
 Over 21s disco  
 Family games  
 Fun in the pool  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Blackwaterfoot bowls  
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club Rink Game  
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink Game  
 Live Music - Black Triangles - Rock covers  
 Live Music  
 Dr Grahams Coffee Morning  
 Live Music - Alan Frew

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm  
 Lamlash Pier, 2pm - 4pm  
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie spa pool, 4-5pm  
 9.30am - 11am  
 9.30am - noon  
 Bowling Club, 2pm  
 Whiting Bay Bowling club, 2pm  
 2pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
 Corrie Hotel, 9pm  
 Corrie & Sannox hall, 10.30am - 12noon  
 The Douglas Hotel, 9pm

## Sunday 4th June

Family games  
 Auchrannie games hall,  
 Fun in the pool  
 Open acoustic session at Fiddlers'  
 AA meeting  
 RNLI Shop  
 Live music - Still Crazy - Acoustic Duo

3pm-4pm  
 Auchrannie spa pool, 4pm-5pm  
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm - 5pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm  
 Lamlash Pier, 2pm - 4pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm

## Monday 5th June

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  
 Volunteer Arran

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, 7pm-8.30pm  
 Arran high School, 6.30pm - visitors welcome  
 Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm  
 Shiskine golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm  
 Brodick Bowling Green 6.45pm  
 WBay Bowling club, 6.30pm  
 Shiskine Church Hall, 5.15pm  
 Brodick Church Kitchen, 6pm  
 Brodick Hall, 2.30pm - 4.30pm

## Tuesday 6th June

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

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

Brodick Castle garden walk  
 Public Meeting - Redevelopment of McLaren Hotel

Meet at Visitor Centre, 2pm  
 Brodick Hall, 4.30pm - 7.30pm

## Wednesday 7th June

Rock and 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  
 Coffee morning  
 Chair yoga St Molios  
 Burger and quiz night  
 Brodick Bowling Club Rink Game  
 Whiting Bay Bowling Club Rink Game  
 Arran Skinnymalinks  
 Eco Savvy AGM  
 Parkinsons support group

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 Carpark, 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  
 Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon  
 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  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 6.30pm  
 Lamlash fire station, 2pm - 4pm

## Thursday 8th June

Morning fitness  
 General knowledge quiz  
 Arran Vets surgery  
 Arran Vets reception  
 Ladies' hockey  
 Winter bowls  
 Arran Bridge  
 Quilt Arran  
 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, 10.30am - 11.30am  
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm  
 Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm

## Friday 9th June

Yoga  
 Hydrofit  
 Arran Youth Foundations  
 Lochranza children's badminton  
 Lochranza adults' badminton  
 Arran Vets  
 Arran Vets  
 AA meeting  
 Tae KwonDo  
 Open Mic  
 Folk Festival Open Session

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  
 Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm  
 Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm  
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
 Arran High School, Lamlash adults, 7pm - 8.30pm  
 The PHT, Lamlash - 9pm  
 The Douglas Hotel, Brodick - 12noon - 5pm

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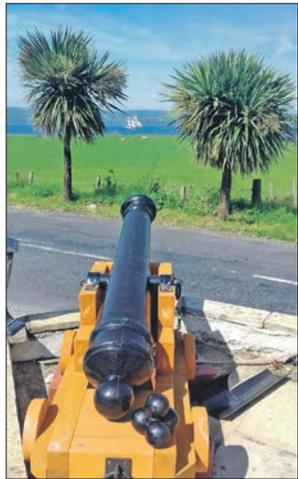
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# Cannons prove to be a big hit

A house-proud joiner from Whitefarland, who has decorated his garden with homemade garden orna-



One of the replica cannons which sit outside his home.

ments, has experienced an increase in the usual number of visitors stopping outside his house to take photos of his colourful creations.

Keith I'Anson is well used to people stopping to take photos, as it is at a well known beauty spot on the west coast.

Inspired by a scarecrow festival at Scampton, near Filey, Yorkshire, he decided to build his own version.

The two elderly figures sitting on a bench, which he created, overlooking the sea has seen visitors stopping their cars and dismounting from their bicycles to join the two for impromptu photo shoots.



The two elderly scarecrows sitting on a bench.

'It's all a bit of fun', said Keith, 'I decided to create my own scarecrows after seeing those at Scampton and I am surprised at how many people now stop to visit them and to take photos.' Keith's latest cre-

ations, and the ones he is most proud of, are two replica cannons which face out towards the sea.

The barrels were ordered off the internet but the woodwork, including the cannonballs that sit along-

side, were all crafted by hand.

Keith added: 'I made the cannons and the scarecrows as I love working with my hands. It brings me joy and if it amuses others too then that is an added bonus.'

## Bridge results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club summer bridge competition played at Lamlash on Monday May 22 were as follows; N/S: 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Margaret MacGill and Jan Beattie, 3 Pat Adamson and Brenda Livingstone. E/W: 1 David Boag and Eendy McNiven, 2 Ian and Alan Andrews, 3 Douglas and Margaret Bruce.

The results of the same competition on Monday May 20 were: N/S 1 David Campbell and Tricia Martin, 2 Doug Chase and Jennifer Wales, 3 Liz Robertson and Jennifer McArthur. E/W 1 Gege Kroner and John Dick, 2 Jan Beattie and Margaret McGill 3 Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson.

## Club draw

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club April draw were first, Donald Brown and second Katharine McCourt.

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# The great Arran whisky mystery

## 'They buried three casks in peat but they only recovered two'

**Sandy Neil**  
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

You never know what a search into your family history might find and one man has uncovered an intriguing historical Arran mystery.

Ten months ago businessman James Hamilton from Tarbert, Loch Fyne was hunting for secret love children of a family 'rogue' - who disappeared in Africa a century ago - and happened upon the court papers of an earlier Arran ancestor and 'businessman'.

And they could mean that a hidden whisky haul could still lie undisturbed in the peat of Arran.

James, who runs Tarbert's Corner House bistro, recently embarked on a new venture, the Whisky West Coast shop on Harbour Street.

Like James, his ancestor Daniel Cook also embarked on a career in the whisky trade, but, unlike James, on the wrong side of the law, and he left a 200-year-old mystery leading right up to the door of the Isle of Arran's new distillery.

### Discovery

James' voyage of discovery began by trying to please his mother. Catherine Hamilton (nee Stewart) is 88, still on Arran and 'as sharp as a tack'. Her great-grandfather John Stewart was 'a bit of a rogue', to put it mildly.

John, an 'errant' blacksmith at Lamlash smiddy, left his wife Mary and five children, with another baby on the way, to start a new life in South Africa in 1902, sending back no word or money for many years, and possibly fathering relatives

for James to track down. 'I wanted to find out some answers for mum,' he said, 'as to where this old b\*\*\*\*\*d was.'

John's granddaughter Georgia, less than charitably, continued the story in a document discovered by James: 'John Stewart decided to emigrate to South Africa, hoping to become rich but leaving his wife and children destitute in Arran. We understand he promised that once he was established, he would send money so that they could all join him.

'However, this never materialised, leaving another deserted family to struggle on as best they could. As he had been an unfaithful and errant husband in Arran, grandmother doubted that he would change his ways in South Africa.' True to form, John is listed on the Aberdeen Line steamship from London to Port Natal on May 28, 1902, as a 31-year-old 'single' male.

Back on Arran, Georgia continued: 'The thought of being deserted with small children in a country where [my grandmother] had neither friends or relatives made her think that it would be a much safer option to remain in Arran where she was surrounded by both. However, as no money was ever sent, she never had the opportunity to make a decision to go or stay.

'My grandmother then had to earn money by working in the fields for the various farmers and when she worked on root crops, the two babies, including my mother, were left wrapped up in blankets in clean potato creels at the end of the drills.'

One son, Jimmy, 11 years old when his father disappeared to South Africa, worked on the baker's



James Hamilton is convinced there is a missing cask of whisky 'maturing' underground on Arran.

delivery van to earn some money. 'Each day the baker would give him a slice of iced gingerbread to take home and this he divided in two, giving the two babies half each,' Georgia wrote. 'Naturally my mother always thought Jimmy was the kindest person in this world.'

Eventually, after 10 years of nothing, John was guilt-tripped into sending some loot by his sons, who traced him to Vereeniging, a district of Johannesburg, where he was working as a foreman. 'I was going to put an advert in the local newspaper,' James said, 'to ask if anyone had Scottish ancestry. If Georgia had ever got hold of him in South Africa, he would not have had any more kids. She would have sorted him out with a large hammer.'

Then, while rifling through the drawers of family documents, James found papers detailing the trial in Inveraray of another relative, Daniel Cook, an illicit distiller accused of the 'heinous' crime of 'assaulting, beating and violently maltreating' Brodick customs officer James McGregor on the highway between Lagg and Bene-

cargan, Arran, in March 1807.

McGregor caught Cook driving a horse and cart containing 'two' casks, McGregor suspected, of 'smuggled or contraband aquavita'. McGregor 'required him to stop', but, 'instead of doing so, Cook violently seized McGregor by the collar and threatened to knock him down with a bludgeon'.

When McGregor expressed his intention to seize the casks and carry them off, 'Cook again violently laid hold of MacGregor, and after attempting to throw him upon the ground, struck his right leg so violently with one of his feet, as to break or fracture the leg about three inches below the knee.

McGregor was forced to abandon his seizure, and Cook instantly drove off with his horse and car.'

As a warning for eternity, the crown advocate argued Cook 'ought to be punished to deter others from committing like crimes in all time coming'. Twelve witnesses were cited to give evidence against him, at a cost of £41 and four shillings, worth approximately £1,400 today.

Cook, however, gave the 'it wisnae me' defence, declaring he was at his brother's house three-quarters of a mile away, with his cart laid up in a loft.

Painting a wholesome picture, he added that he and Daniel Murphy, another farmer at Benecargan, had 'ploughed together on the said day and wrought as long as they could see, with the day light, to turn a furrow'.

Eventually Cook was exonerated, because 'the exciseman had no-one to corroborate his story'. James reported: 'I think he was just unlucky. There were illicit stills right through Arran and Kintyre.

'But Cook left us a tantalising mystery: that there were not two casks of whisky, but three, secreted in haste after the incident.

'My mum always tells me they buried three casks in the peat, but they only recovered two, so it was said there is a hidden cask, maturing,' James recounted.

'This took place on the south end of Arran, where they are building the new distillery. It's right at the entrance.'

The distillery at Lagg is due to open in 2018.

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# Distillery toasts award success

The Isle of Arran Distillers has been recognised at the prestigious Drinks Business Awards for its success and investment in wine and spirits tourism.

An international award judged by the biggest drinks trade magazine in the world, the distillery beat off tough competition from wineries and distilleries to win the accolade for best contribution to wine and spirits tourism.

The judges praised the distillery's success in enhancing the whisky tourism offering in Scotland, its role in the impressive boost in visitors to the island and for the substantial investment into Lochranza and the new distillery planned for Lagg.

James MacTaggart, master distiller at the Lochranza distillery, said: 'We are fiercely proud of our island home and of the welcome we offer to all those seeking the Arran Waters.'

'The distillery and visitor centre, our large network of worldwide distributors and our investment in the south of the island at Lagg, are all central to our business success. It is also core to our wish to introduce the world to the qualities of our malt whisky, and to the people and places involved in



An atmospheric shot of the distillery.

its production. Arran has a unique position in the history of Scotland's most recognised product and this award is testament to our contribution to the bright future the industry has.'

Faye Waterlow, visitor centre manager, said: 'Everyone is over-the-moon with this award. We

are one of more than 130 distilleries in Scotland, and certainly one of the most remote, but we are proud to offer visitors a very warm welcome complete with fascinating tours, good food and, of course, the finest spirit.

'We work continually all year round to distribute our

whisky in countries all over the world and it is important for us to offer a first class welcome to all those who make the long journey to our home in Lochranza.

'Our whole company is dedicated to building on this recognition as we look towards the opening of the new centre at Lagg and an exciting new chapter of whisky-production on Arran.'

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 company distributes its single malt in 50 world-wide markets.

## Make your voice heard on health and social care

People across North Ayrshire are being given the opportunity to have their say on how they would like to see health and social care develop in the area.

'What Matters to You?' day is being held on Tuesday, June 6, with the aim of gathering views to help improve people's experiences of health and social care in North Ayrshire.

The aim this year is not only to encourage and support meaningful conversations, but also to focus on what is required to improve the care people need and want.

There will be lots of activity on the day and plenty of ways to get involved. Say what matters to you about health and social care services in North Ayrshire: by texting the dedicated number: 07860031113, or by emailing the dedicated email address: whatmat-

terstoyou@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

You can also catch someone from the What Matters to You team who will be in Brodick on the day. They'll be wearing white t-shirts and smiles.

If you receive health and social care services on 6 June, you will find that the person treating or supporting you might ask you the question and record your answer on a postcard.



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Many thanks to Helen and Phil for all their help and advice.

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# Magnificent Magnolias and grisly Grisolinea

There are a few plants that flower so gracefully and add so much to the garden for a brief period then the elegant magnolia, writes *Tim Keyworth*. To see them thrive is one of the joys of moving from managing a garden in the north east of Scotland where they struggle to the west where

they flourish in our milder climate. There is nothing more disheartening than watching a magnolia bud up, about to break out in to flower, only for a sharp frost to snatch away its splendour for the season.

Astonishingly the magnolia has been traced as far back as 100 million

years and is thought to be one of the most important plants in evolutionary history. It once thrived over many continents and countries but it is now only indigenous to China and the southern most parts of the United States. The earliest drawings known of the plant date back to Az-

tec times and it has been traditionally used in herbal medicine. The magnolia takes its name from the French botanist Pierre Magnol, who was one of the first people to properly record this plant in around 1700.

Today there are thought to be somewhere in the region of 80 species of which half are classed as tropical. Here

are a few of my favourites; The Campbell magnolia, *magnolia campbellii* 'Alba'. There are a few of these at Brodick Castle.

The best example is down by the pedestrian entrance not far from the Horlick collection. A pure white form, it can be seen from the bay. Very large flowers followed by rather striking seed pods. They are a feature but are weird and gruesome looking enough to be frequently used at our Halloween event. Large, broad leaves with a noticeably fuzzy underside. *Magnolia campbellii* ssp. *mollicomata*. This one is very similar to the standard Campbell magnolia but has a few noticeable differences. The tree has a slightly more open growth habit, the flowers have a slightly purple tinge and the buds are a bit hairier. This one is a particularly fine specimen because from the Middle rhododendron walk you look down on its showy blooms perfectly. *Magnolia sieboldii*. Otherwise known at the Chinese Magnolia. This is a large shrub with a bushy habit. It comes in to its own later in the season. The flowers are cupped shaped and fragrant, with a red and yellow centre. It is in my opinion a really classy plant and the easiest one to find at Brodick is in the walled garden.

If you are tempted into growing this truly remarkable species, consider the following before you buy. They tend to like acidic or neutral soil, a sheltered spot is required and they are very hard to prune. If you think a species of magnolia may outgrow your



*Magnolia sieboldii* can be found at Brodick castle.

space then pick a smaller one as they don't tend to recover well from being cut back hard.

I would recommend a visit to the National Trust for Scotland's gardens in Ayrshire and Arran to see many different magnolias at their best just now.

Having written about a plant that is clearly a class act, I thought I should write about one that is fast becoming our biggest challenge at Brodick castle.



*Griselinia littoralis* is also known as the New Zealand broadleaf or privet.

The plant's Latin name is *griselinia*, rather than calling the shrub grisly in the title I very nearly called it ghasly but that would be far too harsh. Aesthetically it isn't a bad looking plant and it can be very useful. It has rounded glossy leaves in nice shades of green and originates from New Zealand, from which it gets its common name the NZ broadleaf or privet.

It is used predominantly in gardens as shelter in mild coastal areas and can be kept as a nice hedge. It is also a firm favourite of the flower arrangers. *Griselinia* has a reputation of being a bit fickle. It doesn't like being moved and won't tolerate anything too cold. The plant is fast becoming an invasive at Brodick and is one that we are really struggling to control. This is

more remarkable as having researched the problem it says that it very rarely sets seed. I have also spoken to other head gardeners about this and who have it growing in the gardens they manage and none have reported it being a problem.

The conclusion that I have come to is that Arran must just have the perfect micro climate for this plant to set viable seed in which to spread itself rampantly. It has really started to take hold since the removal of the rhododendron ponticum shelterbelt after the devastating plant disease *Phytophthora* (sudden oak death) hit the gardens within the past decade.

*Griselinia* is easy to pull out if you can do so while the plants are very young, it is the sheer scale of the garden at Brodick and the ground that is covered by this plant which contributes to the problem. The estate team have started a programme of removing the larger plants from the garden to try to stop the seed cycle. This is in part really opening the garden up, but I feel that this is crucial to try and control it at this point. As a gardener who keeps bees, I tend to only use chemicals when desperately needed, but the glossy leaves are such on this plant that even with a wetting agent Roundup does not stick and has insignificant effect in halting the plants invasion.

It is important to take a plus out of any situation and in this case there is now plenty of room in which to expand the rare and tropical planting.

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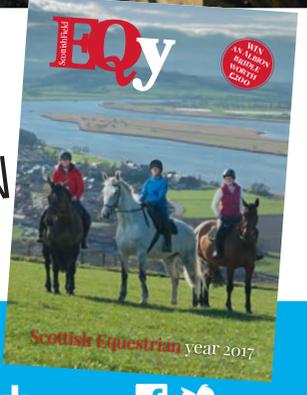
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# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday 7 June, 1997

## Dress code

This Tuesday the education committee of North Ayrshire Council received a report on school dress code. This report is the final version of a draft prepared last January.

It has involved consulting all schools in the area. The report is only four pages long and yet manages to cover all of the pertinent points.

The recommendation to the committee was to adopt the report and to issue it to all schools and school boards. 'We have a recommended dress code with two options,' said rector at Arran High School Iain Murray, 'a sweatshirt or polo shirt, plus there are certain forbidden items.'

The dress code at Arran High has been in effect for eight years and since then it has been worn, but only by some pupils and fairly erratically. Now the council is giving a clear lead to its head teachers to implement a more clearly defined dress code.

## Glenashdale rescue

A man was plucked to safety and temporarily suspended from a rescue helicopter cable high above Glenashdale on Thursday, after it was sent out to rescue a hol-

iday maker who had got into trouble. Mr Robert Kennedy of Bury, St Edmonds had been walking up the Falls with his family and dogs when, at the viewing platform, one of the dogs slipped.

Trying to rescue it he fell 40 feet to a ledge below but was able to use a mobile phone to call rescue services. Just as the RAF helicopter winched him to safety the ledge gave way, tumbling into the ravine below.

He was taken to Sandbraes where an ambulance was waiting. He had only minor injuries and the dog was unhurt.

## Winning streak

Ross Duncan of Brodick is an 11-year-old Brodick Primary pupil who has enjoyed the luckiest few weeks in his golfing career.

Last Saturday morning in a friendly four-ball he got a hole in one at the 7th, the new par 3. Then as if this was not enough he went out to play in the junior medal last Monday and got another hole in one - this time at the 15th.

With a current handicap of 10, perhaps to be cut now, he recently qualified for the matchplay stages of the club championship.



Ruth Robertson, manager for the Brodick Co-op, presents a cheque to Mrs Anne Bruce and Arran High School pupils as a donation to Feis Arainn which is running at the high school and island primary schools all next week.



For the sixth year in a row the Lamlash Wolf Cubs camped at the Kilmory Hall where they enjoyed a host of activities including a visit to Lenamhor beach.



The Spice Tatties kick off the ninth Arran Folk festival playing at the Lochranza Distillery where over the last week 18 bands or individuals performed.



Andrew Barrie and Craig Ingham of Shiskine stand next to their favourite car at the Vintage Car Rally held last Sunday by the East Ayrshire Car Club and the Caithness Car Club.



Hospital Supporters League members, sponsored by the Isle Of Arran Distillers, get into their gear for the Round Arran Relay.

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## Public Notices

### Arran Eco Savvy

Registered Charity SCO 45785

### A.G.M.

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June

6.30 pm Whiting Bay Village Hall

Come along for a presentation by Michael Gettins of Eco Savvy's Reuse Micro-Hubs Project  
Help shape this project with your ideas & suggestions for 50 reuse workshops  
Enjoy refreshments and meet the Eco Savvy team.

### KILMORY

### PUBLIC HALL

AGM

Thursday 22nd June at 7pm

All welcome

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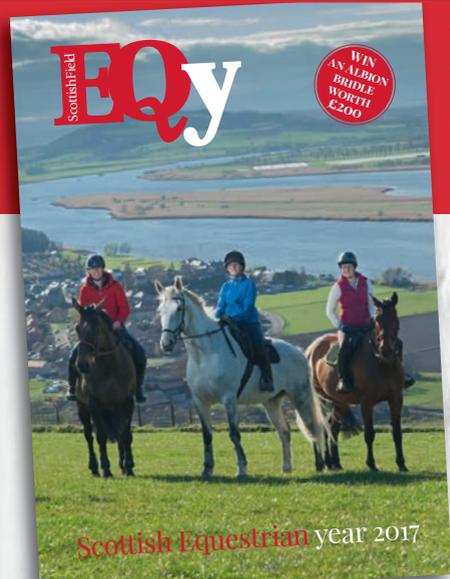
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## Public consultation on redevelopment of the site of the former McLaren Hotel



**6th June 2017, 4.30pm-7.30pm**  
**Brodick Public Hall, Main Street, Brodick**  
Everyone welcome - please come and make your comments to the owners and architect.

CHURCH NOTICES

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 4th June**  
11am Holy Communion, with Infant Baptisms  
Rev Adrian Fallows.  
Coffee after service.  
Wednesday 7th June  
NO SERVICE.

**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 4th June**  
Lochranza Church, 9.30am  
Morning worship  
Pirmill Church, 10.15am  
Morning Worship  
Shiskine Church, 12noon  
Morning Worship  
Brodick Church, 10.30am  
Morning Worship  
Corrie Church, 11.30am  
Prayer Meeting, 12noon  
Morning Worship

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

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
(Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 4th June**  
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.  
Tea and coffee will be served after the service.  
All most welcome to stay and enjoy more fellowship.  
There will be service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm to which all friends are invited.

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 4th June**  
Rev Lily McKinnon  
Kilmory 10 am  
Lamlash 11.30 am  
In Lamlash:  
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Sunday 4th June  
Vigil Mass 7.30pm  
Sunday Mass 11am

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS**  
Quakers meet every Sunday at 11am. For meeting venue ring - 830622, 820223

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**  
(continuing)  
**Sunday 4th June**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge,  
Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All welcome

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 4th June**  
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

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

# Cross country success for Arran runners

The children of Arran primary schools and Arran High School have recently completed the North Ayrshire cross country league for 2017.

This entailed running at least three out of four races over the course of four weekends. The children have all done really well, performing consistently throughout the races. Many of them travelled to Saltcoats for all four races showing great effort and commitment, at times in challenging conditions.



Some of Arran runners who took part in the cross country league.

The combined results of the four races saw the Arran runners finish as follows:

P5 girls: Ruby Wright 5th, Imogen Allison 10th. P6 boys: Archie Gunaydi 4th, Ruaridh Lindsay-Smith 6th. Oscar Inglis 12th. P6 girls: Beth McCarthy 4th, Abby Stewart 7th, Caitlin McGarry 20th. P7 boys: Connah Wright 11th. P7 girls: Julie Hamill 6th, Erin McNiven 7th, Laila Webster 15th. S1 boys: James McCarthy 2nd.

The other children who competed but did not run



Some of the runners took part in all four races.

at least three races were: Rhea Webster and Donald Myles Lindsay-Smith, Currie.

THANK YOU

## THANK YOU

To the (BT) engineer and ladies who helped Jean when she fell on Friday, especially the kind lady who stayed with Jean and then drove me home.

Diane

WEDDING



Jillian and Linda would like to thank everyone for the many cards, messages and good wishes received after our wedding on 27 April 2017 at Portavadie.

## Southend on easy street with comfortable win

**Southend Northend** 11 1

There was only one game this week in the Arran Dairies league when Northend travelled south to Whiting Bay to take on Southend.

The home side were 5-0 up in the first half with five different scorers. Stevie Judge opened the scoring after being taken out of goalkeeper duties again.

Lewis Kennedy made it 2-0 just before Mak Russell scored from the edge of the area. Danny Head turned in

a cross from Jack Simmons for a fourth but the goal of the first half was a powerful volley from Secuna Junior to mark his first goal for Southend.

The second half continued to be one sided. Donald Park scored a brace of goals, one being a bullet header from a corner. Ryan Armstrong, who had been creating loads of chances for the others, was rewarded for his efforts when he found the back of the net as well. Danny latched onto a header to get his second of the

game. The centre back then scored a long range effort into the bottom corner to get an unlikely hat-trick.

Stevie Judge completed Southend's scoring to get his second of the game.

Cameron Logan turned in a consolation goal for the Northenders for a final result of 11-1.

Referee Sean Higgins gave Ryan man of the match after a dominating performance in the midfield. Monday June 5 fixtures: Southend vs Brodick, Northend vs Lamlash.

# Ewan is just champion

## Brodick Golf Club

The finals day of the club championships were held on Saturday May 27.

In the men's club championship, semi-finals, Ewan McKinnon bt Gordon Hendry and Matthew Keir bt Matthew Dobson. In the final Ewan bt Matthew to win his 10th club championship.

The junior championship was won by Kyle McNicol.

The ladies' championship final was between defending champion Ann May and past champion Susan Butchard, and those watching were treated to some of the best club golf they had seen. This was a match played in good spirit, which could have gone either way, with both players playing mainly par golf. Susan was one under par for the first nine holes. It was only a couple of loose shots off the 12th and 13th tees which proved costly for her and allowed Ann to take control of the game and to win on the 18th green. Well done Ann and Susan.

Wednesday May 24, Summer Cup: 36 played, CSS 64. 1 Gordon Hendry 66-5=61, 2 Ewan McKinnon 64-1=63, Greg McCrae 70-6=64. Scratch Ewan McKinnon 64. Sunday May 28, Sweep, 15 played, CSS 65. 1 Ian McDermid 82-18=64, 2 Terry Raeside 75-11=64, 3 Donald McKinnie 76-11=65. Scratch Terry Raeside 75.

Fixture: Saturday June 3 and Sunday June 4, Arran Open Championship.

## Shiskine Golf Club

Ladies' section: Thursday May 18, Club Championship qualifier third round, par 67, CSS 66. Silver: 1 Jenni Turnbull 83-16=67, 2 Viv Parks 86-18=68. Scratch: Ann May 76. Bronze: 1 Lesley Murray 93-27=66, 2 Fiona Scott 92-26=66.

Thursday May 25, Mary Craig Cup, 14 played. Silver: 1 Jenni Turnbull 55-8=47 BIH, 2 Carole Stewart 58-11=47 BIH. Scratch Kema Genda 54. Bronze: 1 Clare Buchanan 61-14=47, 2 Lesley Murray 66-16=50. Well done Jenni.

Wednesday May 24, Dr Adam Cup, 13 played. 1 Ron Woods 50-10=40, 2 Reuben Betley 57-16=41



Above: Brodick Golf Club finals day. Matthew Keir, club championship runner-up; Ann May, ladies' champion; Kyle McNicol, junior champion; Susan Butchard, ladies' championship runner-up; Ewan McKinnon, club champion.



Left: The Shiskine ladies relax in the sun after taking part in the Mary Craig Cup.



BIH, third and scratch Phil Betley 47-6=41. Magic twos R Woods, Jack McNally and R Betley. Congratulations to island resident Ron Woods on winning the Dr Adam Cup.

## Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday May 24, Summer Trophy, seventh round. A total of 22 played on a fine day when, following three consecutive medal top 10 finishes, Andy Martin stormed home with a net 60 to win by one from Jamie Stewart. 1 Andy Martin (12) 60, 2 Jamie Stewart (5) 61 and lowest gross, 3 Ronnie Mann (14)

64, 4 Alan Kay (19) 65. CSS stayed at 63 and there were magic twos from David Morrison @ second, Jamie Stewart @seventh and Ronnie Mann @17th.

Sunday May 28, medal. A beautiful Sunday morning drew a surprisingly small field of 14 for this medal round. The benign conditions seemed to suit those that played as five players equalled par and CSS came down to 62. 1 David Rankin (9) 63 acb, 2 John Rankin (9) 63 acb, 3 Wolfi Kroner (15) 63 acb, 4 John Pennycott (12) - 63 acb.

The lowest gross score came from Danny Head on

71 and magic twos went to David Morrison @ second, Gavin Bell @16th and Andy Martin and John Pennycott @17th.

Fixtures: Sunday June 4, all day, Club Championship finals and final of the JC Reid Trophy. Wednesday June 7, Summer Trophy.

## Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday May 25, Summer Cup, CSS 66, par 64. 1 I Bremner 71-7=64 BIH over, 2 M Harvey 76-12=64, 3 C Brown 83-17=66. Best Scratch I Bremner 71. Magic twos I Bremner @ 14th, C Brown @ fourth, D MacFarlane

(25) 66. Scratch Brenda Livingstone 79.

## Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday May 23, Peter Sutton, CSS 65. 1 H Bannatyne 72-6=66, 2 P Betley 82-12=70, BIH, 3 R Betley 98-28=70. Lady Mary, CSS 65, 1 P Johnston 90-21=69, 2 E Kelso 91-21=70, 3 J Turnbull 91-16=75.

Fixtures: Saturday June 3, Duncan Sillars, second round Gents' Championship qualifier at 12.30pm. Monday June 5, Gents' Championship quarter final at 5.30pm. Tuesday June 6, Ladies' Club Championship, 2nd round, 12.30pm and 5.30pm and Peter Sutton for the gents. Thursday June 8, quarter final of the President's Cup, 5.30pm.

## Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday May 24, Jack Logan Cup and Wednesday Cup. 1 J McGovern 73-14=59 BIH, 2 G Andrew 70-11=59, 3 P Moran 81-20=61. Scratch J Adam 69.

Saturday May 27, Summer Cup. 1 G Andrew 67-11=56, 2 R Logan 64-6=58. Scratch R Logan and E McKinnon

Two great scores from Rab and Graeme, for Euan it was just average.

The condition of the course, in particular the greens were excellent. Fixtures: Saturday June 3, Summer Cup, ballots at 9am and 2pm (please note change of time). Wednesday June 7, Wednesday Cup, ballot at 5pm

## Arran Golfers' Association

The AGA Junior Handicap held at Shiskine on Sunday May 28 was won by Kyle McNicol with some great golf. Well done Kyle.

Also played on the same day was the AGA Junior Matchplay final which saw Kyle McNicol taking on Ross Traill, which was a repeat of the last final, but this time Ross had the upper hand with a two and one win.

The golf was brilliant with the two youngsters slugging it out and giving nothing away. The future is bright for the young golfers on Arran. Well done boys it was a pleasure to be out there with you both and the support team.

@17th. The twos accumulator was won by Colin Brown when hole number four was drawn.

Seniors' Cup, yellow tees, CSS 61, par 61. 1 J Gibson 74-12=62, 2 A Martin 83-16=67. Magic Two J Gibson @16th.

Sunday May 28, Scratch Cup, CSS 64, par 64. 1 Drew Wales 72-8=64 BIH over, 2 Colin Brown 81-17=64, 3 Paul Cowan 71-5=66, Scratch Paul Cowan 71. Magic two Paul Jameson.

Fixtures: Sunday June 4, Hamilton Bowl second round, 8.30am, 9.30am and 12.30pm.

Thursday June 8, Summer Cup, make up own games, see starter for times.

Ladies' section: Wednesday May 24, Championship qualifier first round, CSS 64, par 65, 13 played. 1 Gay Mackay 88 (23) 65, 2 Jackie Winship 96 (30) 66, 3 June Richardson 91

# SPORT



**INSIDE THIS WEEK:**

Cross country success for Arran runners

# Arran Juniors secure Auld Enemy victory

**Arran Junior Select** 4  
**St Augustine's** 0

Arran staged its very own Scotland vs England clash on Tuesday night and gave a performance which the big boys should take note of ahead of the Auld Enemy clash at Hampden next weekend.

The Arran Junior select team ran out comfortable 4-0 winners over St Au-

gustine's RC High School from Blackburn. They were on their annual trip to Arran this week staying at the Lochranza outdoor centre and play a game of football against a local select side every year.

Arran, playing in North-end's new strip, sponsored by the Isle of Arran Distillery, had a good start to the game, but the first half was evenly matched and

it finished goalless at half time.

In the second half Arran upped the tempo and secured a comfortable win with two goals from Kyle Campbell, a debut goal from Connor Marciera and another from Dylan Smith.

Man of the match was goalkeeper Liam Bremner, for keeping a clean sheet, closely followed by Luc El Adam.



Arran defenders try to thwart an opposition attack. 01\_A22junior02



An Arran player bursts through the St Augustine's defence. 01\_A22junior04



The Arran Junior select victors.



Arran's Ross Dobson turns away from an opponent. 01\_A22junior03

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Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran. Tel: 01770 302142, Fax: 01770 302021, Email: editor@arranbanner.co.uk



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.