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Question time on Arran airs people's priorities

Kathie Griffiths
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Pressure is to be put on ferry and bus operators on Arran to improve timetables and connections.

A 'Question Time' style-session with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and cabinet members at Arran High School on Monday heard that unless foot passengers can 'sprint' off the ferries, buses often leave without them.

It means people going to the north of the island have to wait two and a half hours before their next connection, according to one woman, who also wanted to see improved communication from CalMac letting people struggling with mobility and luggage know that assistance was available.

A high school student also questioned why pensioners, who were wealthiest demographic group on the island, got free or reduced travel when young people, who were the poorest, did not.

Answering those ques-

tions, transport minister Michael Matheson said integrating timetables should be a priority not just for Arran but for the whole of Scotland, especially at key interchange hubs and he would take on that issue to see timetables aligned more effectively.

He said he would ask CalMac to put up appropriate signs and make sure help was in place for passengers who needed assistance and also said policy makers were looking at extending travel concessions for young people on modern apprenticeships.

Subjects during the topical debate, which lasted one and a half hours, included independence for Scotland, stepping up to climate change and bio-diversity challenges, improving disabled access, Trident, Brexit, education, housing and support for in-shore fishermen.

The first minister and cabinet regularly go on tour

Continued on page two



Producers and heads of food and drink industries on Arran showcase the wealth of produce available from the island during the visit of First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, who lent her backing to a new plan to boost food and drink tourism in Scotland. See inside for full story. 01_B35front01

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'What questions would you ask yourselves'

Continued from page one outside of Edinburgh having meetings in towns, cities and communities across Scotland.

Students from the high school made up around a quarter of Monday's packed audience but it was 12-year-old Gary Findlay

who asked the most philosophical question of all.

'I don't really have a question to ask you but I wanted to know what question would you ask yourselves?' he said.

While the first minister said: 'I'm asking why I agreed to let myself be questioned by such smart school pupils', Michael Russell, Argyll and Bute MSP and secretary for government business and constitutional relations had a Brexit-themed answer: 'I'm asking, how on earth did we get into this mess.'

Another pupil asked about the shortage of homes, saying her disabled gran-



Cabinet line-up at Monday's public meeting on Arran.



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said the meeting would give 'food for thought' to take back to Edinburgh.

ny was still looking for a house. Another said a relative had been medically advised to take a year off work but had been forced back because benefits had been refused.

Education was also a worry. An older pupil said her little brother and others like him were not getting the extra support they needed because of cutbacks to teaching assistants.

Classroom concerns were continued by a teacher expressing her frustration that IT provision was 'well below par' and at times they had to 'go back to textbooks'.

But all was not doom and gloom, Finance Minister Derek Mackay told the audience that Scotland had 'a strong economic record' and added: 'There are many reasons to be positive and cheerful.'

'Scotland has everything we need to be an independent country but we don't have independence - that's



Gary Findlay, 12, having a post-meeting chat with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

a choice for the people to make.'

He also said spending £180 billion on Trident missiles was a choice that he believed people in Scotland would not make. 'We could spend that money on other things,' he said, adding: 'We are investing in housing and education now. It's about building for the future.'

Arran resident John Webster wanted to know, if Scotland had independence

would the government sign the global prohibition of nuclear weapons - the answer was yes.

One member of the audience, originally from Trinidad, got a big round of applause after pleading with the first minister to 'please, please just name a date' for Scottish independence.

'Can't we just take a vote now and declare it,' quipped Ms Sturgeon.



Waiting to hear answers at the first minister's and cabinet's public meeting.



Arran High School pupils, who were in the audience asking question.



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Ferry services thrown a lifeline with £3.5M boost

Scotland's lifeline ferry services will receive £3.5 million from the Scottish Government to reduce the risk of vessels breaking down and to return them to service quicker if they do.

This additional funding will tackle obsolescence which would otherwise take the ferry out of service for extended periods and will allow for a programme of upgrades to be undertaken during this winter's overhaul period when replacement parts for obsolete equipment will be procured.

The move was announced by Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Michael Matheson MSP during the Scottish Cabinet visit to Arran on Monday.

Mr Matheson met with representatives of the Arran Economic Forum and the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee.

Mr Matheson said: 'We are very much aware that, as our ferries age, additional resources will be needed to keep the vessels running so our island communities stay connected.'

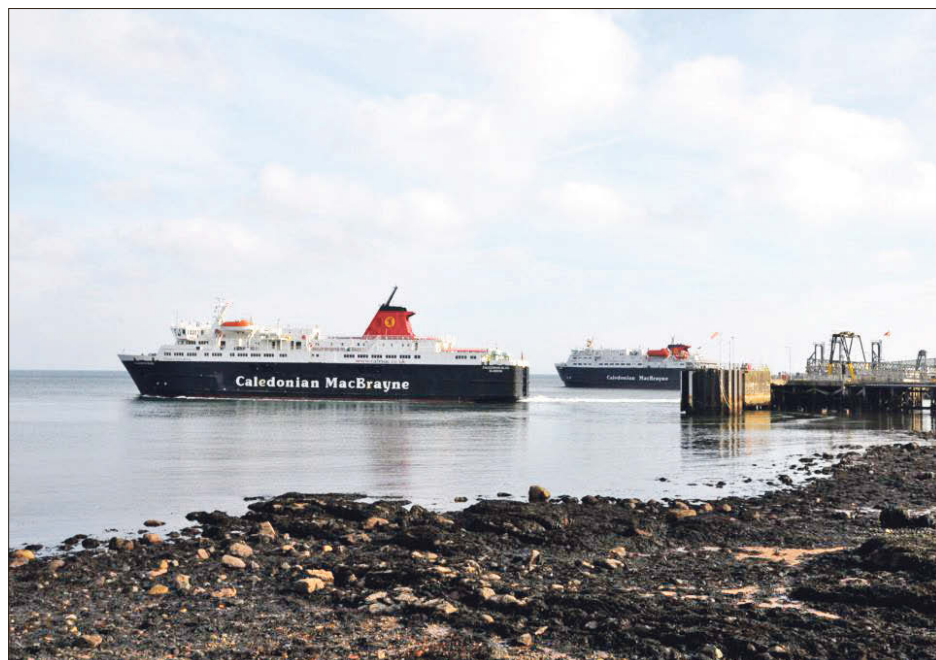
'These funds will be used to upgrade or replace key systems and equipment on the vessels. This will be tackled on a priority basis to avoid potential vessel breakdowns and delays to the ferry service and inconvenience to customers.'

'During the forthcoming overhaul period this winter, CMAL and CalMac will initiate the obsolescence programme of upgrades and

spare part procurement. This will provide future resilience providing, in the longer term, increased vessel reliability and availability.'

Welcoming the announcement, Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson added: 'This funding will allow CMAL to take a proactive approach to upgrading on-board technology, which will reduce the risk of breakdowns and help to reduce downtime when faults do occur.'

'A more resilient fleet is a more reliable and safer fleet, and I am sure this will be warmly welcomed by Arran communities reliant on these lifeline ferry services, especially given the current difficulties being experienced.'



Seeing double. The MV Clansman and the MV Caledonian Isles in Brodick.

Corrie Early Years shortlisted for award

Corrie Early Years class has been shortlisted to receive a Play More award as part of an initiative aimed at encouraging children to enjoy more time playing outdoors.

Play More was set up to help deserving nurseries and early years classes improve their outdoor play areas through financial support or murals. It is an initiative set up by Sudocrem and has been designed to encourage parents and children to get back in touch with nature and explore the great playground on earth – the outdoors.

As part of the campaign, Play More asked parents to nominate a deserving

nursery with Corrie Early Years class being nominated and shortlisted to receive support for its outdoor play area.

The campaign, which is now in its third year, is run with the support of Play Scotland which also encourages children to enjoy outdoor activities, fresh air, exercise and exploring nature.

Once all of the nominations are collated, five successful nurseries will receive a grant towards playground regeneration and five will receive an attractive mural painted by award-winning artist Joy Pirkle.

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Arran enterprise

The arrival of the Scottish Cabinet to Arran for its cabinet meeting and public discussion brought with it a number of cabinet secretaries who took the opportunity to visit industries relevant to their portfolios.

Owing to ferry disruption, with the breakdown of the MV Isle of Arran, the ministerial visits were reduced in scope and scale, however, many still managed to pay brief visits before attending the cabinet meeting.

Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Mr Mi-

chael Matheson MSP arrived off the ferry to be officially welcomed by CalMac Port Manager Colin McCort.

In Lamlash members of Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) met Cabinet Secretary Roseanna Cunningham MSP and showed her around the Octopus Centre where she learned of the valuable work being undertaken by members in preserving Arran's marine life and biodiversity.

Also in Lamlash at the HM Coastguard Station, Cabinet Secretary for Jus-

tice Huma Yousaf MSP, met HM Coastguard Station Officer Fiona Laing and associates, along with Sergeant Dougie Robertson and Inspector Colin Convery of Strathclyde Police.

Discussing

Deputy Team Leader Ewan McKinnon and Robert Waine of Arran Mountain Rescue Team joined in the meeting of emergency services personnel who spent some time discussing operational processes with the minister.

Mr Yousaf expressed his appreciation for their dedi-

cation and service and was particularly interested in how the various organisations worked together.

In addition to these visits, there were also meetings with VisitArran by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop MSP; a Brexit discussion with Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations Michael Russell MSP; and a visit to the Lamlash War Memorial Hospital by Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport Jeane Freeman MSP.



Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Climate Change Roseanna Cunningham meets COAST chairman Howard Wood and director Paul Chandler, along with team members and researchers.



North Ayrshire Council leader Councillor Joe Cullinane arrives on Arran.



No stranger to Arran, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Constitution Derek Mackay greets CalMac Port Manager Colin McCort.

in the spotlight



Cabinet Secretary Humza Yousaf meets members of Arran Mountain Rescue Team, Strathclyde Police and HM Coastguard.



Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Climate Change Roseanna Cunningham disembarks from the MV Caledonian Isles.



Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity Michael Matheson is officially welcomed by CalMac Port Manager Colin McCort.

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New national body is announced during visit

The First Minister Nicola Sturgeon has announced the formation of a new national body to promote employee ownership when visiting the Auchrannie resort earlier this week.

Meeting with Auchrannie director Linda Johnston and her management team – who completed the move to becoming an employee-owned business earlier this year – Ms Sturgeon confirmed the establishment of Scotland for Employee Ownership (EO) with the strapline of Employees CAN DO Ownership.

Ms Sturgeon said: ‘All the evidence tells us that employee ownership delivers benefits to business performance, the people who work

in them and the places in which they are located. This has certainly been the experience of the Auchrannie team in Arran.

‘The health of the Scottish economy depends on having a diverse range of business-types and employee ownership clearly has an important role to play in that.

‘We want to make it easier for companies and workers to find out more about this model and to move towards it if it’s right for them. Scotland for EO will help to make this into a real option for businesses across Scotland.’

Scotland for EO aims to increase the number of employee-owned businesses from around 100 to 500 by 2030. It will receive Scottish Govern-



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon with Auchrannie managing director Linda Johnston and the Auchrannie management team at the announcement of the new Scotland for EO national body.

ment funding of £75,000 and will be co-chaired by Jamie Hepburn, minister for business, fair work and skills. Speaking at the meeting,

Auchrannie managing director Linda Johnston said: ‘We first started looking at employee ownership as a means of protecting the ethos of the

company. The team has been involved in the process from an early stage and was given the opportunity to input throughout.

‘They are delighted that Auchrannie’s legacy will be protected and that they will have the chance to play an active part in, and benefit from, Auchrannie’s future success. They also realise that what each one of them does will affect the future success of the business and that this is directly linked to their own success. There is no, ‘them and us’ now, we’re all in this together.’

Led by leaders of Scotland’s EO businesses, as well as Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the national body, Scotland for EO, will create an industry strategy that supports self-sustaining employee-owned businesses for the benefit of employees, business and the economy.

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Helping hand to boost food and drink tourism

A new plan to boost food and drink tourism in Scotland will aim to serve up an extra £1 billion to the economy by 2030.

Visitors to Scotland already spend around £1 billion a year on food and drink but an action plan launched by First Minister Nicola Sturgeon on a visit to Arran earlier this week hopes to unlock growth potential for an additional £1 billion to be spent on local produce.

On Monday the first minister and Rural Economy Secretary Fergus Ewing met Alastair Dobson of Taste of Arran at the island's Auchrannie Resort.

Measures in the new plan

include creating a food tourism plan, bringing suppliers and regional buyers together at more Showcasing Scotland events and promoting local produce through a Taste Our Best quality assurance accreditation scheme.

Ms Sturgeon said: 'Scotland is already renowned as the land of food and drink, with our quality produce known throughout the world. With around £1 billion being spent on food and drink by visitors each year, the economic benefits are clear.'

'This action plan will bring together everyone in the food and tourism sectors to build on that suc-



First Minister Nicola Sturgeon with Auchrannie head chef Craig Beedie and Alastair Dobson of Taste of Arran.

cess story.'

The first minister had seen in Arran how quality local produce can attract visitors and enhance the experience of Scotland.

'Now is the time for everyone to work together to make sure that we can make the most of everything this growing sector,' she added.

Chief executive of Scotland Food and Drink James Withers said: 'We know that a good local food and drink experience is what visitors want.'

'It drives spend in our tourism businesses and it supports local producers.'

'Above all, though, it builds Scotland's food and drink and tourism reputation on the world stage.'

Mr Withers said the hard work to make Scotland a global food tourism destination 'begins now'.

And he added: 'There is a huge economic and reputational prize awaiting us if we get this right.'

Marc Crothall who is the chief executive of the Scot-

tish Tourism Alliance is confident about the Food Tourism Action Plan.

'We are totally committed to encouraging and supporting all food and drink-related business, that are by the very nature of what they do 'Tourism Business', to get behind this shared ambition to embrace the plan so that those who choose to visit, drink and dine out in our hotels, pubs, cafes, bars, restaurants or at any event can enjoy an even greater choice of local good quality, authentic food and drink experiences in destinations throughout Scotland delivered by skilled and passionate people,' he said.

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Editorial

Arran opinion

For anyone who has lived and worked on Arran, even for the shortest of time, there is a clear understanding that island life comes with its own set of unique challenges and circumstances, most of which we can all agree with, and which are partly the reason why so many people aspire to live and work here.

It would not be unfair to say that, especially judging from our letters page, Arran residents hold strong opinions on these matters and, through their valuable contributions towards public discourse, are uncowed in airing them.

Especially so with the arrival of the Scottish cabinet ministers and first minister's visit earlier this week, where public discussion was invited at the meeting at Arran High School.

While it became evident that there exists a desire for status quo in certain aspects, so too is there a desire for improvement in many of the issues which were raised at the meeting, including transport, care for the young and elderly, poverty alleviation and improving public services.

It is the varied opinions and many voices joined together that create a powerful and unified voice – as Arran so admirably displayed at the public meeting.

Thought for the week

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20

Ramblers rescued

Sir,
As a group of 17 walkers from Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers, we had just completed a lovely 8.5-mile circuit around Whiting Bay and Kings Cross area on Saturday August 11, in glorious weather.

The kind staff of Coast opened up to serve us coffee and cake, even though they were preparing for their evening service. When the 4.50pm number 323 bus came, it was surprisingly busy and there were six of us who couldn't get on. We were going to miss the 6pm ferry.

On the advice of the very helpful lady in the Bay Stores shop, we thumbed a ride – success. A very kind young man, who was only going to Lam-lash, took three of us all the way to the ferry, but the couple who had overheard our conversation at the Bay Stores really came up trumps by taking the first three to Brodick and then coming back to collect the second three, by dropping the wife off at home to collect her car so that she could quickly come back to Whiting Bay for us (before the second car arrived and unfortunately unknown to the three of us with the young man!)

Arran is GREAT and apologies to the gentleman's wife who had a fruitless journey back to Whiting Bay.

Yours,
Sheila Crawford
Bearsden and Milngavie
Ramblers

Meter woes

Sir,
Having read the excellent points made by Jim Climie on smart meters, in the Banner of August 11, there is a more fundamental short-

coming on their use.

The meter communicates, via the mobile phone networks, to a central computer which is linked to the energy suppliers. Since mobile phone coverage is only designed for outdoor use, it is a lottery whether meters will be able to connect to the network. As a result, due to many meters being in cupboards and flats, they will not have the 'benefits' claimed by the sponsors.

Many of the meters already installed are Mk1 versions, which apparently have software incompatible with the central computer and may have to be replaced. Several EU countries decided not to proceed with smart meters. Germany is only installing them in selected areas, and due to a political decision to shut down all their nuclear power plants, had to build new coal-fired power stations.

I was surprised dedicated masts are to be used, considering the additional expense and the limited number of houses which will have coverage. Already a number of MPs are questioning the viability of smart meters, since there are still 40 million meters to be installed (by 2020).

However, I do not know who will make a stance to halt this project. No doubt this will end up like other IT disasters by successive Scottish and UK governments.

Yours,
Robin Gardner,
Lamlash and Milton
of Campsie.

Scotland's schools

Sir,
Deputy First Minister John Swinney is now requiring local authorities to de-

volve powers and budgets to local schools. If councils do not respond within the next year, he has vowed to legislate for improved school governance across the country.

The fear of making mistakes has led to an unwillingness to experiment and a total absence of diversity to suit individual communities. Local authorities have prevented head teachers and staff from running their schools and classes in their pupils' true interests.

Councils have failed to recognise the very significant contribution which broadly constituted and empowered school councils could make to the overall education system. Schools have had little incentive to cut back wasteful expenditure.

The shortage of resources being allocated to education is, of course, partly to blame for the mess we are in, but it is by no means the whole story.

Is it too much to hope that councillors and education officials in every education authority will now play their part in restoring Scotland's state schools to their once iconic world status?

Yours,
Angus Tulloch
Longniddry
Boat tipping

Sir,
If the car fly-tipping problem mentioned last week is being looked into, then perhaps the same authorities could also consider how to go about removing abandoned boats on Arran's coastline. Examples of this problem can be found on Cordon shore beach but they are distributed around the island.

These sad looking remains usually have no realistic prospect of repair to enable them to ever float

and be used again.

Meanwhile visitors and residents alike have to see these neglected hulks and over time watch their inevitable deterioration as they break apart and become increasing health and environmental hazards.

Perhaps a notice, similar to that used for parking offences, could be attached and the owner given six months in which to claim the boat and either remove or repair it?

After this time if nothing has been done by the owner, then perhaps having it removed to a storage area for a further three months before the council finally disposes of it safely would be a fair and satisfactory procedure? This would help to ensure the coastline remains both safe and attractive.

Yours,
David Lang
Cordon

Long lost cousins

Sir,
I am trying to find my cousins who I believe all moved to the Isle of Arran some years ago.

I do not know their surnames now as I have presumed they will all have married but their maiden name was Green. Their Christian names are Kathleen and Mary and they had two brothers Gerald and Anthony.

Their father was my father's brother and his name was also Anthony, married to Mary. I am Nina Bayer, daughter of their uncle John. I would be obliged if they, or anyone who knows them, could contact me at nina2141@mac.com

Yours,
Nina Bayer
Kilmarnock

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

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meal is offered to include a soft drink, glass of wine or 1/2 pint of beer for only £14.95. The Early Bird evening menu (5.30-6.30pm) is very popular and is again a set price with two courses for £18.50 and three courses for £22.50. The a la cart dinner menu is available from 5.30 until 9pm and offers high level cooking and a focus on seasonal, local ingredients. Above all customers are assured of a warm welcome and attentive service. The bar itself is now being increasingly patronised and a features local Arran musicians in September - see advertisement for details.

The Brodick Bar & Brasserie changed hands this summer but continues to provide a much loved island service. The McKinnon family have loved becoming part of this iconic

Arran establishment and have greatly valued the fantastic support of islanders and visitors alike. Serving lunch from 12-2.30 with a set price menu, a 2 Course

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Rowing club members with the experimental oar and Amy Rickard at the Drift Inn.

Oar thanks for your support

The Drift Inn in Lamlash has received an unusual thank-you gift from members of the Arran Coastal Rowing Club, who presented the owners of the



Rowing club chairperson Cecilia Paul presents Amy Rickard of the Drift Inn with a commemorative plaque in recognition of the bar's support.

establishment with a memento of their appreciation for their support.

In recognition of the Drift Inn's continued sponsorship, to enable the development and repairs of oars for the club's two St Ayles skiffs, club members gathered at the Lamlash bar and bistro to present proprietors Amy Rickard and Euan Henderson with a decorated oar for display in the restaurant.

Club chairwoman Cecilia Paul presented Amy with a framed plaque explaining the significance and development of the experimental oar, which was made by the club's resident boat building and woodcraft expert Rory Cowan.

The popular and very active club, which recently

completed a sponsored row around Arran in one day, is currently enjoying a successful regatta season with members eagerly looking forward to many more challenges, successes and rowing fun over the coming years.

Amy said: 'We are delighted to receive this gift from the club.

'It will bring back happy memories of days out on the water and will be an interesting feature displayed on the wall.'

The Arran Coastal Rowing Club was established in 2015. With assistance from the community and members of the club they built two skiffs which they use to regularly compete against other clubs at regattas across Scotland.

Raising funds for mental health

A fundraising event held at Lamlash Church Hall Saturday raised £300.14 in aid of Scottish Association of Mental Health (SAMH).

Organised by Maureen Uy and Stephen Flynn, visitors enjoyed delicious homebaking with tea and coffee and there was a huge raffle with prizes donated by local businesses and other organisations.

In addition to the fundraiser the organisers will also be participating in the Great Scottish Run 10k

which takes place on Sunday September 30. Maureen has already completed the charity run for Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland and Alzheimers Scotland and this year.

Maureen said: 'It was all down to the generosity of all the sponsors who donated the prizes for the raffle and those who came along on the day that we were able to raise more than £300 and I would like to thank each and every one of them.'



Michael Shannon, Jill McKillop, Stephen Flynn and Maureen Uy at the baking stall.



Stephen does a roaring trade selling raffle tickets.

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RANT

The all girl Shetland fiddlers featured at Celtic Connections

MSPs backing for whitebeam conservation

Maurice Golden MSP has pledged to help conserve the rare Arran whitebeam tree after a visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh (RBGE) where he learned of the work being undertaken to help preserve the endangered species.

The Conservative West Scotland region MSP was joined by members of Woodland Trust Scotland to discuss the Arran whitebeam with horticulturalists from the botanic gardens. As a champion for the species he works to raise awareness of Scotland's most threatened native tree in the Scottish Parliament.

Arran whitebeams are unique to Arran and have formed through hybridisation of the rowan tree and the rock whitebeam. Scottish Natural Heritage and RBGE are researching how to conserve the species - which has fewer than 900

individuals - in order to better understand the trees and learn why they are under threat before extensive planting can be undertaken.

David Knott, curator of the living collection at RBGE, said: 'The Isle of Arran is home to three species of tree found nowhere else in the world, the Arran whitebeam, the Arran service tree and the Catacol whitebeam.'

'Staff from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, working in partnership with staff from Scottish Natural Heritage and the landowner, have been actively involved in the conservation of these, Scotland's rarest trees, to deliver the Scottish Government's environmental objectives by promoting the natural regeneration of the trees through on site management and by safeguarding them in cultivation.'



From left, Charles Dundas and Arina Nagy-Vizitiu, public affairs team at Woodland Trust Scotland; Maurice Golden, MSP for West Scotland; Simon Milne MBE, regius keeper; Natacha Frachon, horticulturalist at RBGE.

While discussing the importance of the RBGE and the work that they do, Maurice said: 'Nature conservation is very important for biodiversity and in turn for healthy ecosystems. There is still a lot of research to be done related to Arran whitebeams and I will help support this in any way I

can. Our hosts at RBGE were fantastic and I am already looking forward to my next visit.'

The Arran whitebeams are by the east gate entrance at the botanical gardens. On Arran you can find whitebeams in Glen Diomhan off Glen Catacol, and in the northern half of the island.

Arran scenes selected as location for feature film

The picturesque beauty of Arran continues to attract holiday makers, visitors and now, increasingly, film makers who are attracted to the island for its stunning scenery.



A scene from the film, shot in Lamlash and featuring director and writer David Wilde.

The latest release, which is shot on Arran and called Cold-Blooded Killers, tells the story of two hitmen who visit the island to carry out a contract, but they ultimately fall in love with the island and the seductive pace of life, taking the story into an entirely new direction.

Lamlash Green, Holy Isle, the ferry, Lochranza, and many other locations familiar to Arran residents feature prominently in the film which also uses a drone to capture panoramic views that showcase the unspoiled beauty of Arran landscapes.

Writer, producer, director and editor David Wilde said: 'As well as the leads and support actors, the Isle of Arran is the star of this film. It's been referred to as a miniature Scotland which is another reason I set the film there.'

A trailer of the film can be seen at www.cbkfilm.com/ while the full feature can be viewed on Amazon Prime.

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Casualty stretchered off Goatfell



AMRT members descend the steep cliff to assist a trapped walker. Photograph: Lucy and Iain, AMRT.



A rope system is secured to reach a crag-fast man located on the cliffs at Bennan Head. Photograph: Lucy and Iain, AMRT.

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT) was called out last week to assist a female walker who had sustained an ankle injury while descending from the summit of Goatfell.

Shortly after 4.30pm on Wednesday August 22, two groups of team members, in both Argo-

cats, made their way to the shoulder of the mountain where, after a short hike with equipment, the injured walker was located.

Following an injury assessment the woman was settled into the team stretcher and carried down to the awaiting Argocat. On arrival back at the team base she was then trans-



Arran Mountain Rescue Team members secure an injured walker into a stretcher on Goatfell. Photograph: AMRT.

ferred to an ambulance and taken to the Lamash War Memorial Hospital where she received treatment for her injuries.

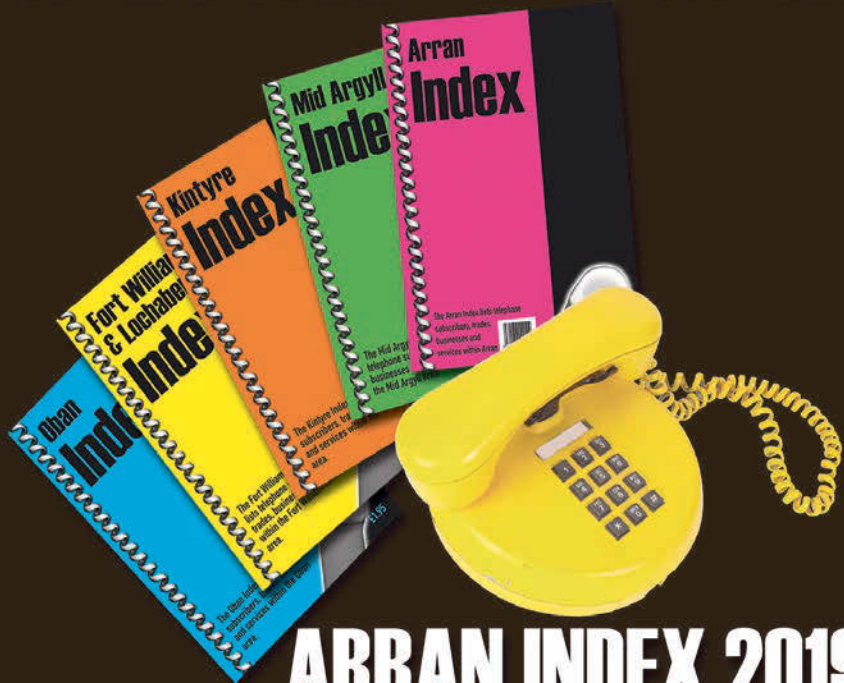
A spokesperson from the rescue team said: 'We wish the casualty a speedy recovery.'

Four days prior to this, team members responded to a callout on Saturday

August 18, to go to the assistance of a male walker who had become crag-fast in the Black Cave area at Bennan Head.

Due to the location of the walker, team members had to lower themselves down to his location from the cliff top above, where he was then lifted out to safety, uninjured.

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Busy summer continues for RNLI

Arran RNLI's busy summer continued with its 16th callout for the year after a request to go to the assistance of a sailing boat with mechanical difficulties in Brodick Bay.

At 5.10pm on Wednesday August 22, Arran RNLI's volunteer inshore lifeboat crew launched the inshore lifeboat Rachel Hedderwick to help the boat which had dual engine failure and was adrift near Brodick Bay. Once arriving on scene the Arran RNLI crew towed the boat to a mooring in Brodick Bay.

Arran RNLI helm Mark Nelson said: 'Today's callout just showed the value of being well prepared to call for assistance when needed. The crew of the sail-

ing vessel were very unlucky to suffer engine failure but knew to call for assistance when needed and we're happy to help.

'At the end of the day we're just happy everyone is back in port safe and sound.'

'This year has been busy with the station averaging a callout once a fortnight and this just goes to show the dedication of the volunteer crew we have on station.'

The RNLI charity provides a 24-hour search and rescue service around the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland coasts.

The RNLI operates more than 230 lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland and depends entirely on voluntary donations and legacies to maintain its rescue service.



The RNLI volunteer crew aboard the inshore lifeboat Rachel Hedderwick earlier this year.

Dancers delighted with fantastic fundraiser

The Arran Dancers are tapping their toes with delight at the response to their annual fundraiser which saw Lamlash Church Hall packed to capacity with supporters and well-wishers.

The event, which raises funds to allow free tuition for the weekly dance classes, will allow participants to continue with their graded exams which are sanctioned by the Royal Academy of Dance.

Visitors were treated to a wide array of things to see and do with over 10 stallholders exhibiting at the event. Most popular among them was a large tombola table laden with desirable prizes and an even larger table brimming with tempting home baking.

Seated in the centre of the hall, visitors enjoyed soup and sandwiches, tea and coffee and a seemingly endless supply of home baking.

Organiser Jill McKillop said: 'All of the young dancers, myself and everyone else that is involved in helping to make the dance classes possible, cannot thank all of the visitors, young and old, enough for

their support. We enjoyed a busy afternoon which was filled with fun and laughter, and good food, and we are grateful to every single person who visited and showed their support.'

Former professional dancer and choreography teacher for more than 30 years Fiona Rodriguez said: 'We offer something for dancers of all ages and all styles. Get in touch and we will be delighted to help you or your little one to enjoy a fun activity that will develop physical skills and encourage creativity, expression, and musicality.'

Anyone interested in joining the dance classes can contact the club at arrandancers@yahoo.com



Samuel and Louise join mum Jennifer Soffa of Lochranza in testing the tasty treats on offer.



Something for everyone, volunteers are kept very busy at the home baking stall.



Visitors packed the Lamlash Church Hall to support the Arran Dancers.

Arran musician returns to perform autumn tour

Arran musician Iain Clarke, along with musical partner Helen Matthews, will perform at three venues on Arran during their autumn tour as Calluna Duo.

Past Arran High School pupil, who has been involved in many musical ventures on Arran, Iain is currently studying piano performance at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Joining him at the Royal Conservatoire, Helen – who is the woodwind section of the duo – performs on the oboe.

Playing a wide repertoire the autumn tour is called Music through the ages: From Bach to Gershwin and beyond.

Starting on Tuesday September 4, the initial performance will be at St

Bride's Church, Lochranza at 7.30pm. The following evening, at the same time, the duo will be performing at Corrie Parish Church. The final performance, once again at 7.30pm, will be on Thursday September 6, at St Molio's Church in Shiskine.

Tickets will be available at the door or can be reserved on 01770 860219.



Iain Clarke and Helen Matthews, known as the Calluna Duo, will be performing at three venues on Arran during their autumn tour this month.



AUTUMN TOUR 2018

MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES: FROM BACH TO GERSHWIN AND BEYOND

SEPTEMBER:

- 4th: St Bride's Church, Lochranza, Isle of Arran, 7:30pm
- 5th: Corrie Parish Church, Isle of Arran, 7:30pm
- 6th: St Molio's Church, Shiskine, Isle of Arran, 7:30pm
- 7th: Giffnock South Parish Church, Glasgow 7:30pm

TICKETS £5, available on the door or may be reserved at:

01770-860219 for Arran and 0141-638-2599 for Giffnock

Weel kent RAF officer Ian Atkins

Friends of former RAF officer and weel kent face on Arran Ian Atkins – known as Ted – have been saddened to hear of his accidental death while mountaineering in Italy.

Mr Atkins, who was raised in Nottinghamshire – but whom many on Arran will keenly remember – is understood to have slipped while descending Civetta, in the Dolomites, Italy.

An experienced climber, Mr Atkins had climbed Everest and the north face of the Eiger and was responsible for inventing a breathing system for oxygen masks at altitude.

He is survived by his wife Shona and son Lewis. A private funeral will be held in Italy with a day of commemoration planned to take place in Scotland.

The Bessie bus pays a visits to Brodick

Bessie the play-talk-read bus provided pre-school children with an entertaining day out on Brodick seafront recently during its whistle stop tour of Scotland.

Supported by the Scottish government, the brightly decorated bus crammed with educational and fun interactive toys, tours around Scotland in an initiative aimed at providing children with an unusual play experience to encourage social interaction, educational learning and more importantly, fun.

Play worker Emma Nolan provided children with a host of activities inside the bus and on the grass verge outside where children could fish for ducks, find treasures buried underneath the

sand or relax in the cushioned seating area surrounded by soft toys.

Inside the bus, children under five years old, took part in arts and crafts, creating paper boats and dressing up in costumes while reading, writing, drawing or even chatting to other children.

Mothers read books to the children while others rummaged through the toys to excitedly discover something new to play with.

The play-talk-read bus visits all 32 local authorities in Scotland with the assistance of another bus called Benji. Together the two buses provide children with opportunities to help make a positive difference to their health, happiness and development.



Play worker Emma Nolan welcomes pre-school children on to Bessie the bus which is loaded with fun and educational activities for the children.

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Elderly urged to check their electricity costs

A national charity for older people, Age Scotland, is encouraging older Scots to check if they could save money by switching electricity providers and by having a quick benefit entitlement check by calling its free helpline.

With energy price hikes just announced, Age Scotland is hoping to save older people money by investigating the various tariffs available before winter arrives.

Since April of this year, British Gas raised its price twice – adding a total £104 to the average bill. Other energy companies have also hiked prices between

four and nine per cent.

Research conducted by Age Scotland found that almost six in 10 single pensioners and four in 10 pensioner couples live in fuel poverty in Scotland – with those in rural areas most affected.

Age Scotland's chief executive Brian Sloan said: 'It's unacceptable that hundreds of thousands of older people could be putting their health at risk because they can't afford to adequately heat their homes. We know that cold homes put them at greater risk of ill health and even death over the winter months, exacerbating heart disease,

respiratory conditions and dementia. Help is available.

'It may be hard to think of the winter's effects on our fuel bills during this recent heatwave, but with the hike in fuel costs this year you don't want to be on the other side of a large bill at Christmas, or feel that you cannot afford to heat your home properly.

'Now is the time to check your energy tariffs with an unbiased home energy service. Impartial energy experts like Citrus Energy will speak directly with you over the phone to advise on the most effective, providers and tariffs that suit

your needs. Switching tariffs can seem daunting but well worth the time when it could save you hundreds pounds.'

With four in 10 Scots entitled to pension credit but not claiming it, this could mean they are also missing out on cold weather payments and warm home discounts.

Brian said: 'The most effective way to avoid fuel poverty this year is to find ways of boosting their income. So we urge all older people to check they are receiving all the benefits that they are entitled to by calling our free helpline for advice and a benefits check on 0800 12 44 222.'


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 Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm
 Mon-Saturday, 10.30am - 5pm, Tours at 11am and
 Sunday, 12:30pm - 5.00pm Tour at 2pm

Saturday 1st September

Flow Yoga
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 McLellan Arts Festival - Poetry Workshop
 Rink Game
 Rinks Bowls
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 McLellan Arts Festival - Famous Festival Ceilidh
 Live Music - Mike Edwards
 Live Music - Escapade , covers band
 Live Music - The Sensational Biff Simpson & the Band
 Over 21's Disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 11.00am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm
 Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 11am - 3.30pm
 Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Brodick Bar, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

Sunday 2nd September

Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 McLellan Arts Festival at Corrie Church
 Live Music - Mike Edwards
 McLellan Arts Festival, James McEnaney, A Scottish Journey
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Live Music - Aimee Penman, singer and keyboard player
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Folk Music Session

11.30am and 2.30pm
 Corrie Church noon
 Brodick, 2pm - 4pm
 Brodick Library, 3pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Monday 3rd September

Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 JogScotland mixed ability running group
 Adult Tennis
 Circuit Training
 Summer Bridge, visitors welcome
 Rink Game
 McLellan Arts Festival- Film Night, Tommy's Honour
 Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s,
 Live Music - Biff Simpson Trio

11.00am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm
 Whiting Bay 5.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6pm - 7pm
 Arran High School, 6.15pm for 6.30pm start
 Brodick Bowling Club, 6.45pm
 Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm -10.30pm

Tuesday 4th September

Healthy Outdoors Team
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Castle Garden Walk
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Blackwaterfoot Bowls
 Technology with Duan Bruce
 Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
 Flow Yoga
 McLellan Arts Festival, Anarran Clamjamfry
 Live Music - Kid Millport
 Trev's Pop Music Quiz
 Body Blitz

Brodick Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
 11.30am and 2.30pm
 Brodick Castle and Country Park, 2pm - 3.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Bowling Club, 2pm
 Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 2pm
 Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
 Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 6pm
 Arran Lodge at Altachorvie, Lamlash, 8pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm -10.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm – 10.30pm

Wednesday 5th September

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Brodick Gardens Volunteers
 Coffee Morning
 Roundhouse Open

Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am -10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 Brodick Castle and Country Park, 10am -1pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12 noon
 Brodick Country Park , 11am – 3pm



Chair Yoga
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Archives and Genealogy Service, Arran Heritage Museum,
 Dog Classes
 Arran Pace Makers Running Group
 Flow Yoga
 Rink Game
 Arran Hockey Club - Seniors (12 yrs +)
 Tae Kwon Do
 Burger and quiz night
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Lamlash S.W.I.
 Live Music - Fatman Heather Macleod
 Family Friendly Pub Quiz
 Quiz Night
 Rock 'n' Pop Bingo

St Mollo's Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am
 11.30am and 2.30pm
 10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 12.30pm
 Brodick, 5.30pm
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm
 Brodick Bowling Club, 6.45pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8pm
 Advanced Juniors & Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm -10.30pm
 PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Drift Inn, Lamlash 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 6th September

Morning fitness
 Chair yoga
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 A.C. L. I. Volunteer Gardening Day
 Lingo Flamingo, Spanish, Pablo Illera
 Castle Time Travellers
 Adult Tennis
 Arran Soul Choir
 McLellan Arts Festival - A Scots Hairst
 Body Blitz
 Tommy's General Knowledge Quiz

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am -10.30am
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am
 11.30am and 2.30pm
 Golf Course Road, Whiting Bay, 11.30am - 3.30pm
 Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 11.30am
 Brodick Castle and Country Park, 2pm
 Blackwaterfoot, 5.30pm
 Community Theatre, Arran High School, 7pm - 9pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 8pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm – 10.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 7th September

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 T'ai Chi with Sue Thurogood
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 McLellan Arts Festival - Opera Gala Night
 Friday Night Quiz
 Live Music - Shindig
 Live Music - Steve Young, Troubadour

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 11.00am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm
 Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 11.30am
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Community Theatre, Lamlash, 7.30pm
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Saturday 8th September

Flow Yoga
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Rink Game
 Rinks Bowls
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Live Music - Mike Bailey
 McLellan Arts Festival - Drama Live
 Live Music - The George Lindsay Band, Amazin' Blazin' Blues
 Over 21s Disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 11.00am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm
 Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm
 Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 8pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm



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McLellan Arts Festival

Aberdeenshire fiddler and composer Paul Anderson will be one of the three performers taking part in the Scots Hairst on Thursday September 6.
Photograph: Steven Rennie.



Enjoyable scenes from the Famous Festival Ceilidh. Photograph: Eileen Wilson Kerr.

McLELLAN ARTS FESTIVAL 2018



Foundation
Scotland



FAMOUS FESTIVAL CEILIDH

Saturday 1st September

Whiting Bay Hall, 7.30pm

**Tickets £12 including supper
BYOB**

Tickets can be bought online
at arranevents.com, at the Book
and Card Shop or at door.

The McLellan Arts Festival, which bursts into life this week, will see a cornucopia of events taking place across Arran with music, poetry, literature, storytelling and much more besides on offer to appeal to people of all tastes.

Tonight, Friday August 31, a poetry event in Corrie Hall will kick-start proceedings.

Sinead Morrissey will announce the winners of this year's McLellan Poetry Competition and read from her own work – all enhanced with music from Arran Dawn. For anyone interested in literature or the music of Arran's famous harp and whistle duo, this is bound to be an enticing event.

The following evening, Saturday Septem-

ber 1, a slightly less restrained Famous Festival Ceilidh will raise the roof of the Whiting Bay Hall when visitors can enjoy an evening of live music, dancing and great food. Regarded by some as their favourite event of the festival, the ceilidh is suitable for all ages with children and young people at school gaining free entry. (BYOB)

For those who delight in sacred music and worship songs, the talented students of the Royal Northern College will perform at Holy Cross Church in Brodick at 11am and then in Corrie Church at noon.

On Sunday afternoon at 3pm, erstwhile Arran-resident-turned-lecturer-and-writer James McEnaney will appear in Brodick Library to give a fascinating talk. Inspired by Edwin Muir's famous book *Scottish Journey*, James recently completed a 10-day, 1,500-mile trip around Scotland, gathering a 'bundle of impressions' of the country and its people and bringing them all together in his first book, *A Scottish Journey*.

Complicated and conflicted

From the bustle of Edinburgh, where the journey began and ended outside the Scottish Parliament building, to the isolation of the tiny Orcadian island of Wyre, James encountered a country which is complicated and conflicted, all-too-often unsure of itself in a rapidly changing world, but still filled with energy, talent and limitless potential. Entrance to this talk is free of charge.

Monday September 3 is festival film night and this year on show is *Tommy's Honour*, a powerful true story about the life of Tom

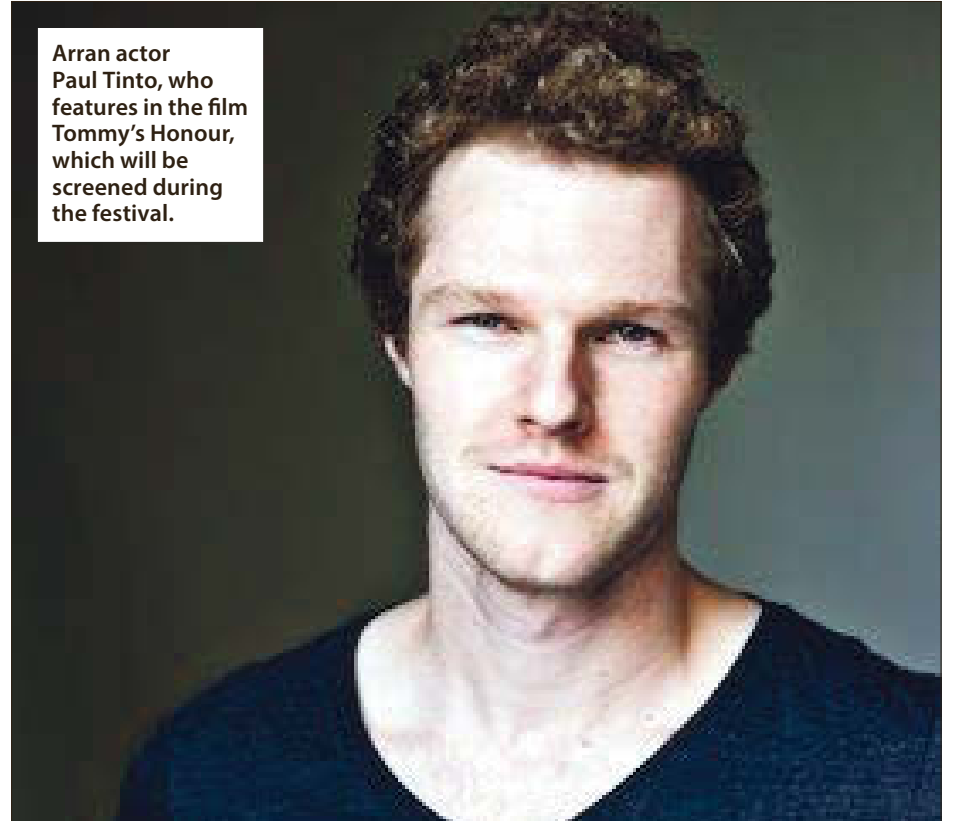


Howard Wood will be the guest speaker at the Arran Clamjamfry.

starts on a high note



Arran actor Paul Tinto, who features in the film *Tommy's Honour*, which will be screened during the festival.



Morris and the forging of modern golf. The film stars Peter Mullan, Jack Loudon and Arran actor Paul Tinto. The film starts at 8pm at Corrie and Sannox Hall.

An Arran favourite, the special Clamjamfry event is where Arran people who have really contributed to the island are honoured. This year festival organisers are delighted to welcome Howard Wood, chairman of COAST, to talk about his life through images and music. This promises to be a truly fascinating and moving evening at Altachorvie, Lamlash, starting at 8pm.

Music, song and verse

Thursday September 6 will be a celebration of Scots tradition in music, song and verse from the north east to south west. A foot tapping treat is in store in Whiting Bay Hall when Paul Anderson – a talented and acclaimed fiddler from the north east – will perform alongside fellow entertainers from Aberdeenshire and Arran, including Sheila Gilmore and John Cruikshank.

Friday is sure to be a memorable evening with the young opera singers, who have been working all week at their summer school at Altachorvie, who will perform an opera gala at the Community Theatre in Lamlash.

And then on Saturday more talented young people – this time theatre students from the Royal Scottish Conservatoire – will perform their vibrant and compelling work in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall. Now in its third year, this event has become a real showcase of talent and a well-attended fixture of the festival.

The festival concludes on Sunday September 9 with a glorious musical event at the Community Theatre, Lamlash. The McLellan Festival Chorus and the summer school students will perform the Puccini *Messa di Gloria* and the beautiful *Serenade to Music* by Vaughan Williams. A fitting finale to a festival packed with talent, entertainment and an appreciation of the arts.

Tickets for all events can be bought online at www.arranevents.com, The Book and Card shop in Brodick or at the doors. A festival season ticket which gives entry to all events (except the poetry workshop) can be purchased online or at the Book and Card Shop for £42.



James McEnaney will entertain visitors at the Brodick Library with a free talk on his 10-day, 1,500-mile trip around Scotland.

MCLELLAN ARTS FESTIVAL 2018

Fri 31st August - Sunday 9th September

“and when the seed was sown, the hairst was gethert”

Robert McLellan (*Arran Burn*)



Friday 31st August
SINÉAD MORRISSEY
McLellan Poetry Competition
Corrie and Sannox Hall 8.00pm. £10

Saturday 1st September
POETRY WORKSHOP
Corrie and Sannox Hall 11.00 - 3.30
£10 including lunch.
Booking essential 01770 700464
or cicelym39@gmail.com

Saturday 1st September
FAMOUS FESTIVAL CEILIDH
Whiting Bay Hall 7.30.
£12 including supper. BYOB.

Sunday 2nd September
MCLELLAN ARTS FESTIVAL AT CORRIE CHURCH
Corrie Church 12.00 noon. Free event.

Sunday 2nd September
JAMES MCENANEY
'A Scottish Journey'
Brodick Library 3pm. Free event.

Monday 3rd September
FILM NIGHT
'Tommy's Honour'
Corrie and Sannox Village Hall.
8.00pm. Entry by donation.

Tuesday 4th September
AN ARRAN CLAMJAMFRY: MEMORIES, PICTURES AND SONG WITH HOWARD WOOD
Arran Lodge at Altachorvie, Lamlash 8.00pm. £12.

Thursday 6th September
A SCOTS HAIRST
Whiting Bay Hall 8pm. BYOB.

Friday 7th September
OPERA GALA NIGHT
Community Theatre Lamlash 7.30. £12.

Saturday 8th September
DRAMA LIVE
Corrie and Sannox Hall 8.00pm. £12.

Sunday 9th September
PUCCINI - *Messa di Gloria*
VAUGHN WILLIAMS - *Serenade to Music*
Community Theatre, Lamlash School, Lamlash 7.30. £12.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT SCHOOL FREE AT ALL EVENTS.
See Arran Banner and website, arrantheatreandarts.org for more details.

Tickets for performances can be bought online at arranevents.com, at the Book and Card Shop, Brodick from Saturday 26th August or at the door.

SPECIAL OFFER

A Festival season ticket which entitles entry to all events except Poetry Workshop, can be purchased online at arranevents.com or at the Book and Card Shop for £40. A massive saving for all festival goers (10 paying events).

Call of the cuckoo, a sure sign spring has arrived

One of the species that people seem to require no encouragement to report is the cuckoo.

Few people are unfamiliar with its call and it is a sure sign that spring has arrived and summer is on its way.

The first cuckoos are usually heard in mid-April. This year on Arran it was the 16 April. The earliest record on the island was 8 April in 2017. Peak migration takes place in late April/early May and throughout this time and into June and early July, reports come in of calling males. Unlike other parts of the UK where it is in serious decline, the cuckoo population on Arran seems to be thriving.

The well-known feature of cuckoos is that they lay their eggs in the nests of other species. In Arran they usually target meadow pipits, but more than 50 species of host have been recorded in Britain. The young cuckoo is brought up entirely by foster parents.

The cuckoo parents take no part. It is an astonishing piece of evolutionary behaviour but, perhaps even more mind boggling, is to consider that, once raised, the young cuckoos in early August begin to make their own way to their ancestral wintering grounds in the tropics.

No adult guides them. The adults have left weeks before. Not only that, the fol-



A young cuckoo being fed by a pied wagtail.

Photograph: Alastair Forsyth.

lowing spring these young from the previous summer return to northern Europe and are able to recognise and seek out a mate among their own kind.

It was almost one hundred years ago that Edgar

Chance began his study of cuckoos on a Worcestershire heath. With excellent field craft he watched females lay eggs in meadow pipit nests over several years and concluded that individual females

each year were laying a single egg in around 15 to 20 nests. In 1921 he captured the egg laying and nesting habits on film and in 1922 he published his ground breaking book *The Cuckoo's Secret* which detailed the parasitic nesting habits.

The migration habits of cuckoo remained almost a complete mystery until 2011 when the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) began to put light-weight satellite tags on adult birds, enabling the birds to be tracked on migration.

Two routes seem to be used, one through Spain and the other through Italy to their wintering areas in the Congo rainforest. You can follow the cuckoos'

progress and learn more about their journeys south in a way that was unimaginable a century ago. Go to 'Tracking Cuckoos to Africa... and back again' on the British Trust for Ornithology site at www.bto.org/science/migration/tracking-studies/cuckoo-tracking

With Britain's breeding cuckoo numbers having reduced by more than half in the last 25 years, this on-going research work may also give some insights into the reasons for this dramatic decline of breeding cuckoo in the UK.

Hopefully Arran will continue to remain a summer stronghold of this fascinating species.

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Return of a rose-coloured starling

Last year, on Monday July 10, a resident in Sliderry was at the kitchen window keeping an eye on the garden birds, when a rose-coloured starling appeared.

The rose-coloured starling is a stunning bird with pink body, pale orange legs and bill, and glossy black head, wings and tail. As an experienced bird-watcher, he knew instantly what it was. The bird was later photographed, caught and ringed by a licensed ringer. This was the first Arran record since June 2002.

This year on Thursday July 19, the same Sliderry resident saw a rose-coloured starling on his early morning walk. Like last

year, it was in a flock with common starling. Last year the bird was seen on only one day, whereas this year it was seen on three consecutive days. This year it was not caught and ringed, so we do not know if it was the same bird. It certainly was the same species.

Where do they come from? The rose-coloured starling's breeding range is from easternmost Europe across temperate southern Asia. It is a strong migrant, and winters in India and tropical Asia. It is a bird of steppe and open agricultural land. In years when grasshoppers and other insects are abundant, it will erupt well beyond its core range, with occasionally



The rose-coloured starling pictured on Arran last year.

Photo Jim Cassels

Bird notes
by Jim Cassels

significant numbers reaching western Europe and the UK. It is during dispersal after breeding, that some birds stray into north-west Europe. The Sliderry bird was one such long distance wanderer. In the UK in July this year, there were around 60 reports of rose-coloured starling.

What a coincidence on Arran. The same species, in the same area, on almost the same date. How little we know about our feathered friends.

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

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday August 22, 1998

Road to ruin

At the end of Market Road in Brodick, there is a public coup and driving along this road is the only way for the public to gain access to this coup.

However, driving along this road is not an easy task. From Arran Dairies' premises onwards, the road is littered with potholes, many of which have grown into craters full of water which it is impossible to avoid. Market Road, one might imagine, must be very close to the top of North Ayrshire Council's (NAC) Road Department's list of priorities but it is not as simple as that.

For not all of Market Road is NAC's responsibility. The public part of the road ends outside the BP Scottish Oils depot, while NAC itself owns the stretch between Angus Lambie's garage, which it tries to keep in good condition. But the stretch in between is jointly owned by all of the premises along the road. The premises of each business in fact, extends outwards as far as the middle of Market Road itself, and thus the responsibility for carrying out these repairs lies with the companies who own the road.

Companies the length of Market Road have said they would be happy to put their hands into their pockets to resolve the problem but the road needs more fundamental work to keep it in a good state of repair.

While they await NAC's response, public access to the public coup is still a journey not to be taken lightly.

Millennium Auchrannium

Iain Johnston's expansions plans for the Auchrannie have taken a big step forward. Plans for the massive development at Auchrannie have now been lodged.

These plans show a £6M development which is part a 30-bedroom extension to the hotel and part an Arran leisure centre such has never been seen before. The scale of the plans is shown by comparing the ground it will cover. The existing hotel occupies 3.95 hectares.

When the new development is complete they will have 42.5 hectares. Not all of it will be built on, however, some being earmarked for timeshare expansion should it be required.

The new leisure centre and landscaped area with putting green and outdoor tennis courts will occupy all the area between the present hotel and the road up Glen-cloy. The purchase of the land from Arran Estates is in its final stages and work should get underway this year, in time for the millennium, if niggles with red tape and financing does not delay the development.

Back to school

School began this Wednesday. One significant aspect of the new term which head teacher Susan Smith is setting a lot of store by is the dress code.

With enthusiasm being expressed by both parents and pupils, arrangements were in place last term with its full launch this week. And the response? 'I'm delighted with the response,' said Miss Smith.

'We're not talking of what people think of as an old style of uniform.' In other words, no blazers, not even definitely shirts and ties, but predominantly black sweatshirts for the younger ones and v-neck sweaters as an option for the upper school. Prefects will wear red sweaters and polo shirts should they not like wearing a tie. Mrs Smith added: 'A smart appearance assists towards smart behaviour and group pride.'



First day at school at Kilmory Primary. Mrs Todd with Connor McKellar, Michael Jenks, Mairi McAllister, Shannon Galloway, Bobbi Adamson, Jennifer Hemmings, Andrew Earle and Hannah Jackson.



Winners of the first annual Hydro Electric Charity Golf day last Saturday were Alastair Dobson and Bert McGunnigle. They are pictured with Phil White and Alf Holliday of Hydro Electric at the prizegiving.



Brodick beach is packed during the Brodick Beach Barbecue where the Arran Waterski-ing Championships took place.



Pictured at the recent Pirmill Summer Fete: Fiona Laing and Daniel the donkey take Eilidh Kerr for a ride.



Bronze and Silver division winners at Brodick Ladies Open on Tuesday with lady captain Margaret Guald.

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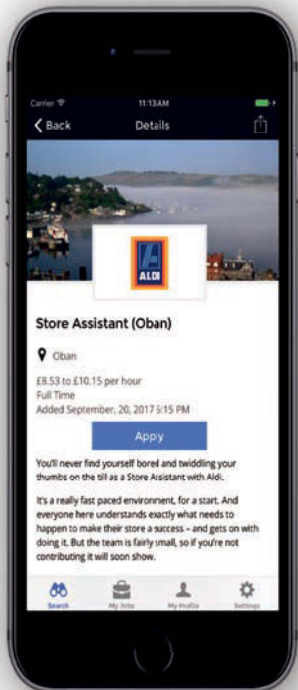
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Public Notice

Arran Community and Voluntary Service
Annual General Meeting
 7.30pm, 18th of September 2018
 Arran CVS Office,
 Park Terrace, Lamlash

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

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

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 21.09.18. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

18/00692/PP; Arnhall, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of 3 detached 2 storey villas with integral garages.
18/00721/PP; Burnside, Pirnmill, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of one and a half storey replacement dwellinghouse.
18/00748/PP; 25 Kilbride Road, Lamlash, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of new dwelling house.

Elma Murray
 Chief Executive
 Cunninghame House
 IRVINE KA12 8EE


 North Ayrshire Council
 Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

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THE ARRAN BANNER



CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:

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

Sunday 2nd September

Lochranza Church, 9.30am. Morning Service.

Pirnmill Church, 10.15am. Morning Service

Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.

Brodick Church, 10.30am. Morning Worship.

Corrie Church, 11.30am

Prayer Meeting, 12noon The McLellan Festival Service

There will also be a Service of

Worship in Montrose House

at 1.30pm.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 2nd September

Holy Communion, 11am.

Richard Trewby

Coffee after Service

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 2nd September

Morning Service 11am

Trust Housing Lounge, Glen

Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6.30pm

5 Glen Road, Brodick

All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday Worship at 11am

'Heather Lodge', Brodick

(Next to the Douglas Hotel)

Telephone 700346

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamdash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a

fellowship to share"

Sunday 2nd September

Mrs Aileen Brookes

Kilmory - 10am

Lamdash - 11.30am.

All welcome, including

families; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan

Church of Scotland, Charity

Number: SC014005

Sunday 2nd September

Worship will be

conducted by

Mrs Sharon MacLeod,

Reader, at 10.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served

in the transept immediately

after the service; please stay

and enjoy more fellowship.

There will be a service in

Cooriedoon at 2.30pm to

which all friends are invited

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 2nd September

Service 11am, Ormidale

Pavilion, Brodick

Tea and coffee after

the service

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home

fellowship group for bible

study and prayer.

Telephone 600222

Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Shiskine, 11am (church on

road between Blackwaterfoot

and Machrie)

Brodick 6pm

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Saturday 1st September

Vigil Mass, 7.30pm

Sunday 2nd September

Sunday Morning Mass, 11am

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

Thursday 6th September

Taize Worship 5.30pm

Holy Cross Church Brodick

ALL WELCOME

DEATH

BUDDEN: Lillian, formerly of Whiting Bay passed away peacefully at Montrose House on 22nd August. Funeral Service to be held at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreg-horn, Irvine on Monday 3rd September at 1.30pm. Memorial Service to be held at Montrose House, on Tuesday 4th September at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please, donations, if desired for the Sunshine Fund at Montrose House.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

NORRIS: Gilbert - Geoff, Graeme, Andrew and Elaine would like to thank all friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and support in their recent sad loss. Thanks go to The Rev. Lilly McKinnon for her moving celebration of Gilbert's life, David and Clair Hendry for funeral arrangements and the Brodick Bar for catering. Not forgetting thanks to the Doctors at Arran Medical Group together with the staff at Arran War Memorial Hospital and the Home Care Team who have cared for him over the years and especially all the staff at Cooriedoon Nursing Home who have looked after his every need over the last 13months.

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Island hockey club appeals for new members

The Arran Ladies Hockey Club are appealing for new members to join their club for competitive league matches, non-competitive fun and fitness, or even just to enjoy the camaraderie and sportsmanship that the club offers.

Other than players and members, the club is also on the lookout for umpires or anyone that is interested in learning about that role.

Training sessions are held at the Ormidale Sports Pavilion on a Tuesday evening for an hour starting at 6pm for juniors, aged 5 to 14, and on a Thursday from 7pm to 8.30pm for seniors, aged 12 and up, with no upper age limit.

The team currently compete in the West District League in the third division but not all members are required to play in the league. League games start on Saturday September 22, with a total of 20 matches – 10 home and 10 away games



Arran Ladies hockey team.

– requiring between 11 and 16 players per game.

Umpire Pauline Reid said:

'Four years ago I had never played a game of hockey, not at school and not at college, but since that first fun filled night in March 2015 I have been taught by some amazingly talented women. I developed basic skills and progressed from there, all the while being encouraged by the whole team to go af-

ter my umpiring qualification with Scottish Hockey which I developed an interest in.

'Since then I have developed friendships with people I would never have met and whom I have come to love and admire for all the commitment and enthusiasm they show – by voluntarily running the club which has gone from success to success.

'If I can go from complete novice to a regular player on the team and on to becoming a qualified umpire, so can anyone who has enthusiasm and commitment and I would like to invite everyone, girls and boys, and men and women, who want to be part of this joyful game to come along to our training to give it a try. Sticks and shin guards can be borrowed on the night.'

No experience is required but an enthusiasm to learn would be beneficial. The club offers a fun, active and supportive environment where players can share the love of the game while also staying healthy and enjoying the social aspect of being part of a team.

Anyone who is interested in joining is welcome to contact arranhockey@gmail.com or visit the Arran Ladies Hockey Club's Facebook page or even just to show up at one of the training sessions.



Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday August 23, Summer Cup, CSS 66. 1 Graeme Andrew 72-10=62, 2 Ian Bremner 72-7=65, BIH over, 3 Iain Murchie 71-6=65. Scratch, Dougie MacFarlane (better last six over Iain Murchie). Magic twos, Norrie MacIntyre at 5th, Neil Young at 12th. Jamieson Cup 2018: 1 Alan Smith 65+66=131, 2 Ian Bremner 73+68=141.

Fixtures: Sunday September 2, AGA Autumn Handicap at Brodick. Thursday September 6, Summer Cup. Make up own games, see starter for times. Friday September 7, McLean

Arran Golfers Association

Friday August 17, Champion

of Champions. The final of the Champion of Champions held at Corrie was between Ewan McKinnon and Hamish Bannatyne – a later start time due to work commitments but, all parties were happy with the arrangement.

The weather was a slight drizzle, but nothing that would stop play, everyone had played in far worse. There wasn't a big crowd to support this old competition but the ones that did turn up were treated to some great golf. It was close for a couple of holes then Ewan started to pull away. A wee word in Hamish's ear from his trusty caddy soon had the game becoming interesting but in the end the big man did enough to win. Well done Ewan on your ninth win.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday August 28, Medal and Magic Twos. 1 R McLean 72-14=58 and scratch, 2 J McGovern 77-14=63, 3 P McMillan 87-23=64. Magic twos, A Napier (The magic one), P Middleton. Satur-

day August 25, Medal. 1 A Smith 76-11=65 and scratch, 2 R McLean 83-13=70. magic twos, Marvin Elliott.

Fixtures: Saturday September 1, Medal, ballots at 9am and 2pm. Wednesday September 5, Medal and Magic Twos, ballot at 5pm. Saturday September 8, The Eddie Rankin Memorial Trophy at Machrie Golf Club, shotgun start at 1.45pm.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday August 22, Summer Cup, 32 played, CSS 64. Bruce Jenkins 68-7=61, Gordon Hendry 68-6=62, Iain Keen 74-11=63, ACB. Scratch, Gordon Hendry 68, ACB.

Sunday August 26, Brandon Final, seven played, CSS 66. Donald McKinnie 74-10=64, Gordon Hendry 73-5=68, David Hendry 83-13=70. Scratch, Gordon Hendry 73.

McLelland Medal Final, Bill Donaldson beat Alastair Dobson. Merchants Trophy Final, Billy Armit and Lindsay Keir

beat Jimmy Armit and Neil Duncan.

Fixtures: Sunday September 2, AGA Autumn Handicap at Brodick. Wednesday September 5, Summer Cup, final round.

Machrie Bay

Tuesday August 21, Peter Sutton/Lady Mary final. 1 Hamish Bannatyne 64, 2 Phil Betley 65, 3 John Pennycott 69. Lady Mary trophy was won by Kema Genda 56 and the runner up was Aileen Latona 57. Peter Sutton trophy was won by Hamish Bannatyne 379 and the runner up was Phil Betley 381.

Fixtures: Tuesday September 4, Sweep, tee off 12.30pm.

Tuesday September 11, Captain's Prize, nine-hole competition, tee off at 12.30pm. Hamish assures everyone that there will be tea and cakes afterwards

Saturday Sept 8, Gents Eddie Rankin at Machrie Bay. Machrie Bay V Corrie, tee off at 1.45pm.



Irvine put the Arran defence under pressure but this effort is cleared for a corner.

Islanders draw bruising match with Irvine Vics

Ayrshire Sunday League

Arran 2
Irvine Victoria 2

Arran have qualified for the Ayrshire Sunday Amateur Football Association's first division with a game to spare after earning a point in a tough away game to Irvine Victoria.

The visitors made a few changes in an injury hit squad with players like Toby Wingham, Matthew Dobson and Johnny Sloss among the injury list.

Manager Alan Murray decided to change the formation and went with a 4-5-1 plan as Irvine looked a strong team with a powerful front line.

Martin Hynes was brought into centreback with John Drummond returning to the midfield. Cailin Applegate got his first start after making a big impact the previous week against Killie

United. Straight from the off the Arran boys knew they were in a tough game but they were holding their own and playing some good passing football.

It was Irvine that broke the deadlock though when Drummond fouled on the edge of the area and Irvine scored the resulting free kick into the bottom corner.

Arran captain Danny Head had to limp off after being on the end of a painful late challenge which put him out of action, and to his surprise, only earned the offender a yellow card.

After half-time it didn't take long for Arran's top goalscorer Archie McNicol to get on the scoresheet after rounding the goalkeeper and putting the ball into the net.

Irvine then put themselves back in the lead soon after with a mix-up in the Arran defence leading to

the ball going beyond substitute keeper Stevie Judge.

Joel Small came on for Arran and made a big impact down the left hand side with some strong running. He got his reward when he was in the right place at the right time to hit home after a corner was swung in by McNicol.

McNicol looked to have earned a late penalty too after being taken out by an Irvine player but the referee did not concur and waved away the claims to the dismay of the Arran players and supporters. Fraser Gilbert joined the list of injured when he was on the receiving end of a mistimed challenge that forced him off with a leg injury.

The game finished 2-2 which was a fair result based on the play. Ryan Armstrong was given man of the match, after his return to fitness, for creating



Coach Alan Murray talks to the Arran players prior to a warm-up before the game.

a lot of the chances with his runs through the midfield.

Arran's next game will be against Irvine CSC on Sunday September 9, at the Ormidale park at 2pm. Arran can top their qualifying group if they beat Irvine by at least two goals.



The Arran line-up against Irvine Vics



Arran's Chris 'Babbies' MacNeil is chased down by an Irvine player.



Man of the match Ryan Armstrong weaves his way through the Irvine defence.

Bridge results

The results of the summer bridge recently played on Monday August 27, at Arran High School are as follows; NS: 1 John Dick and Andy Martin, 2 David Boag and Eendy McNiven, 3 Margaret McGill and Jan Beattie. EW: 1 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 2 Flies Jones and Elizabeth McKellar, 3 Grace Bleakley and Elby Lang.

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Islanders draw bruising match with Irvine Vics



Arran Dairies representative Greg McCrae presents Southend captain Danny Head with the Arran Dairies League Cup.

We are the champions!

Arran Dairies League

Southend	4
Lamlash	0

Southend ended their league campaign with their 11th victory to ensure a near-perfect finish and to emerge as the undefeated champions in this season's Arran Dairies league.

The MBS boys ran in four goals with young Gregor Crichton scoring two of them, Lewis Kennedy and Fraser Gilbert securing

the remaining two.

The league cup was presented to the players by Arran Dairies representative Greg McCrae before the Copperwheat's cup match with Northend on Monday night.

Captain Danny Head picked up the trophy to mark a successful season for the Southenders and the first league title they have won since 2013, doing so in style with 11 wins and one draw.

Copperwheat's Cup

Southend	6
Northend	2

The Knockout Cup which is in the second year of its sponsorship by John Copperwheat got underway on Monday night following their league cup award.

Southend played host to Northend in the preliminary round to see who would face Shiskine in the semi finals.

Southend won comforta-

bly in the end with stand-in captain Ryan Armstrong getting a hat-trick. Stevie Judge also got two for the home team with Gregor Crichton rounding off the scoring.

Northend's two goals came through Jean Demaneux and Donald 'Scooby' Roberts.

The semi finals will take place on Monday, when Southend face Shiskine and Brodick take on Lamlash, both at 6.30pm.



Southend's Gregor Crichton powers the ball into Northend's net.

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