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We're the scapegoat for ferry disruption

Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

An Arran business says it has been made a scapegoat for the damage caused to the ramp of the MV Caledonian Isles which has caused serious ferry disruption all week.

Travel between Arran and the mainland has been badly disrupted for days after a 'perfect storm' saw both first the Caley Isles and then the MV Isle of Arran needing repairs at the same time.

Murchie Sand and Gravel says it is being blamed for bringing an overweight crane on to the island which caused the damage to the main Arran ferry, which is still operating with only her bow ramp.

However, the firm insists the huge Liebherr crane brought over to remove the temporary bridge at the roadworks on the Brodick hill did not exceed the weight limit of the ferry.

Indeed it was the third time the crane has been on Arran after it lifted the temporary metal bridge into place and then moved it from one carriageway to the other. The crane has also been taken to other islands by a CalMac ferry.

The crane was hired from the 3b crane hire firm in Ayr, but Donald Murchie Jnr insisted it was not overweight despite persistent rumours, many of them on social media.

At the company depot in Market Road, Brodick, he showed the Banner paperwork showing the crane weighed 41.3 tonnes – well under the 44 tonne limit of the MV Caledonian Isles – and even with chains and accessories added the weight was still just 42.3 tonnes.

Donald said: 'We are upset that we seem to have been made a scapegoat for the damage to the ferry. We

Continued on page two



A new sensory garden has opened at the Glen Estate in Brodick. Here we see retirement housing coordinator Angela Glendinning and with tenants Lynn Ross and Greta Bannatyne enjoying the new surroundings. Full story page 3. 01_B37glen01

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CalMac on international search for ferry solution

Ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne has launched an international search to find vessels to plug the gap caused by serious delays to the new Arran ferry and her sister ship.

It comes as Arran residents are bracing themselves for days of disruption as ferry services are hit by continuing turmoil and amid concerns that travel woes could hit next week's important September weekend tourist trade.

A number of holiday businesses have already been faced with cancellations and disruption caused by the inability to get supplies at what is still a busy time

on the island. This weekend the Arran Sportive is trying to get 140 cyclists over to the island today (Saturday). Also trying to get over are MG cars for an island rally, competitors for the Lam-lash Splash, as well as a visiting football team – and that is before any islanders' travel arrangements are considered.

It has been another calamitous week for travellers, islanders and local businesses who have had to face serious ferry disruption owing to technical issues affecting both of the island ferries on the main Brodick to Ardrossan route.

But as the MV Caledo-

nian Isles limps on with one ramp, the MV Hebridean Isles is being drafted in from Islay to help cope with demand.

As CalMac admits it is facing 'operational challenges', it has become clear that the age of the vessels serving the route has contributed to the crisis. The MV Isle of Arran and the MV Caledonian Isles have a combined age of 59, which means there is no quick fix to the reliability issues.

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'CalMac may be working round the clock to restore Arran ferry services to normal as soon as pos-



The MV Caledonian Isles loads from the bow at Brodick this week.

sible, but it is deeply disappointing that repeated breakdowns continue to occur. The age of the fleet is clearly an issue which, had it not been for the delay in it entering service, the MV Glen Sannox would now be addressing.

'Transport Scotland and Scottish ministers are well aware of these issues.

'Vessels in Norway and Denmark have been examined to buy or lease until new vessels enter the fleet.

'However, while none suitable have yet been found, there is a determination to ensure a robust, resilient and reliable service for Arran, its people and its visitors and that work is ongoing.'

Mr Gibson added: 'I completely understand the deep sense of frustration and anger shared by islanders and visitors alike caused by the major loss of ferry services due to breakdown.

'A "heavy load" – as Cal-

Mac put it – damaged the front and rear ramps of the Caledonian Isles last Friday, causing the cancellation of vehicle-carrying services. It is shocking that this damage happened and I have asked how and why?

'Meanwhile, The Isle of Arran suffered a recurrence of her oil distribution box technical fault and has been withdrawn from service. The vessel is at Garvel in Greenock being repaired.'

The repairs are scheduled to continue until tomorrow (Sunday), with the MV Isle of Arran due to return Monday – the last week of the summer service.

MV Caledonian Isles will continue to operate single-ended up to Tuesday (September 18), thereafter she will spend the following two days being repaired in the dry dock, when the MV Hebridean Isles will return.

Meanwhile, VisitArran

has issued its members with a survey to gain insight into the cost of losses and extra costs incurred as a result of ferry disruptions in an effort to quantify the financial impact.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'We have been assessing capacity demand on services this weekend and into next week and are planning the following re-deployment of vessels to ensure that all needs are met.

'Communities can be assured we have taken into account a number of important island events taking place this weekend as part of this assessment.

'Additional capacity will continue to be provided on the Lochranza-Claonaig route by MV Loch Linnhe operating alongside MV Catriona.

'Work on the MV Isle of Arran's technical fault is ongoing and we will provide an update on her progress in due course.

'We recognise that these arrangements will impact on a number of communities but customers can be assured we explored a wide range of options before arriving at this plan, which we consider to be the best we can do with the resources available to us.

'We apologise for any inconvenience caused and, as ever, are grateful for customers' patience and understanding at this time.'

■ Letters page, page eight.



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Crane well under the 44 tonne limit

Continued from page one
are a small family firm operating on a close-knit island. These reports have caused distress to the family and are completely unjustified. We just want to set the record straight.'

And CalMac confirmed the crane was not overweight.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'Investigations into the damage to the MV Caledonian Isles' ramps, which has resulted in disruption

to the Ardrossan-Brodick service, are ongoing and it would be premature and inappropriate to speculate at this stage on the precise cause of this damage.'

There is also some speculation that the limits on commercial vehicles is due to concerns about the repair to the ramp. However, the spokesman added: 'It is routine practice when operating a reduced service to manage the types of vehicle carried to maximise the

space available on the vessel. For example, large vehicles can limit the use of mezzanine decks and also can limit the overall weight carried.

'The MV Caledonian Isles has the added issue at present of operating single-ended which presents challenges in turning large vehicles, which can then impact on turnaround times. These limits are not connected with the repaired ramp.'

Sweet smell of success at new sensory garden

A fragrant and colourful sensory garden was officially opened by residents, supporters and guests last week at a small gathering at the Glen Estate sheltered housing development in Brodick.

The well-established garden has been a long time in the making with residents actively involved in helping to make it a reality, from planning to planting to the continued maintenance in the form of weeding.

Following landscaping developments and a funding boost from National Lottery Awards for All, the Glen Estate Tenants' Association enlisted the help of gardeners Colin and Jo Totty, who started the project with an illustrated talk on designing and planting a sensory garden. With input and assistance and weekly gardening classes for the residents, not to mention many hours of hard work by Colin and Jo, the sensory garden started to take shape.

Built at the end of an easy to access pathway leading from the communal room, the garden and seating area is fully wheelchair and disabled access friendly and has been used by residents

and visitors who have been adding their own touches to the garden.

The garden has been made in memory of past resident Betty Cover who loved the garden and frequently made use of it. A plaque in the garden is dedicated to her and Sal Ban-



Gardener Colin Totty talks visitors through the choice of plants that were selected for the garden. 01_B37glen03

natyne, who now lives in Montrose House, but who spent many years there, including her 100th birthday celebrations, with her daughter Greta. In addition to these, an ornate sundial sits proudly in the centre of the garden, donated by friends and family, in memory of Jeni Faulkner.

Retirement housing co-

ordinator Angela Glendinning said: 'The gardens are looking beautiful and are proving to be very beneficial to the tenants. A lot of pleasure is gained from the beautiful surroundings. Mr and Mrs Totty have done a wonderful job in the upkeep of the grounds as well as some of the tenants. All in all it proved to be a good day with a good turnout.'

Lynn Ross, a tenant at Glen Estate, and Angela Glendinning officially opened the garden with Lynn once again thanking Colin and Jo Totty for their insight and hard work in creating the small oasis of tranquility in the garden.

A buffet banquet was laid out for visitors and residents and the many people who hold classes or activities with the residents all sat down to enjoy a tasty meal before joining others outside for a social chat.

The serene garden which has vivid and fragrant flowers – including among many others, lavender, mint, sweet peas, buddleia and dahlias – has been put to frequent use by the residents who enjoy spending time seated outdoors, and by the bees and butterflies which are already visiting the flowers.



Attending guests, residents and visitors at the official opening of the sensory garden. 01_B37glen02

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Brodick council house plans are to go on show

Plans to build the first council houses on Arran in a generation will be unveiled to the public next week.

North Ayrshire Council is building around 26 new homes to the rear of Brathwic Terrace, Brodick, as it seeks to help address the social housing shortage on the island, first revealed by the Banner a year ago.

The development forms part of the council's vision to deliver more than 1,000 new properties across North Ayrshire by 2023 – one of the most ambitious social house building programmes in the UK.

Now the development plans are to be unveiled and residents are invited to attend a special consultation event being hosted by the council's housing services at the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick, on Wednesday September 19, between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.

The event will allow people to obtain information about the project, give their views on the plans and discuss proposed building works. Residents who live within 250m of the development site should receive letters informing them of the consultation event.

The Brathwic Terrace development will be the first social houses to be built on the island for more than 30



The site behind Brathwic Terrace where the new houses will be built. 01_B37housing01

years and have been welcomed as there is a severe shortage of affordable homes for young adults and families.

There are approximately 2,100 households on Arran, yet only about 16 per cent, or 342 are housed in social housing properties, operated by the Trust Housing Association. It plans 20 new houses at a site at Springbank Farm by 2020/2021.

Cabinet member for place Councillor Jim Montgomerie

said: 'We're very excited about the plans to build new housing on Arran. We are well aware of the problems surrounding the lack of social housing on the island and while this new development won't eliminate the problem, it will be a major step towards addressing the issue.'

'Across North Ayrshire, we're well on track to build more than 1,000 new council houses by 2023

and in the process, help transform communities and change people's lives for the better.'

Those unable to attend the consultation event, as well as those on the housing register and interested tenants, will be able to view the proposals online from September 20 at www.northyairshire.community/consultations/open-consultations where they will also be able to add their comments.

Enforcement officers pay visit to Arran

Environmental enforcement officers, who are tasked with making communities cleaner, visited Arran last week and are set to return later in the month.

The officers spent the day patrolling the island, meeting locals and monitoring dumping hotspots. Able to issue fixed-penalty notices whether it's a fly-tipper, a smoker throwing their butt on the ground or a dog owner not cleaning up after their pet, the team is determined to make a difference.

Councillor Jim Montgomerie, cabi-

net member for place, said: 'The team works tirelessly across the whole of North Ayrshire and has done a fantastic job.'

'There is a real determination among them to make our communities as clean as they can be.'

Environmental crimes

'They are very visible and approachable and more local people are now reporting environmental crimes because they know they will take decisive action.'

'Obviously the geography of North

Ayrshire, compared to most other local authorities, is fairly unique and getting across to the islands on a regular basis is difficult. They hope these visits will be informative and successful and hopefully lead to more over the coming weeks and months.'

As well as issuing fixed-penalty notices, environmental enforcement officers, who will be back on Arran on Friday September 21, can also offer advice about fly posting, wild camping, dog fouling, waste management and litter.

Get involved in the big Arran beach clean-up

Full details of all the beach cleans

Friday September 14

Kildonan beach clean, 4pm meet Silversands

Saturday September 15

Brodick beach clean, TAP, 11am meet near Boathouse in car park near Fisherman's Walk

Lamlash beach clean, COAST, 9am Octopus Centre (booking essential),

Whiting Bay beach clean, Whiting Bay Improvements, 10.45am Sandbraes car park near bridge over Kingscross burn

Sunday September 16

Lamlash beach clean, Lamlash Improvements, 2pm meet on village green

Monday September 17

Pirnmill beach clean, TAP, 1pm meet on slipway

Kilmory beach clean, 2.30pm Torrylinn beach

Saturday September 22

Holy Isle sea clean, Arran Kayak Club (kayaks)

Sunday September 23

Blackwaterfoot beach clean, TAP, 2pm meet at golf course car park

For details visit www.thinkaboutplastic-arran.co.uk

Organisations and people from across the island are joining forces over the next two weekends to clean Arran's beaches.

The Arran-wide beach clean is part of the Marine Conservation Society's Great British Beach Clean and, for the first time, will give Arran its own local data about the type and quantity of litter on its coastline. Think About Plastic-Arran (TAP) will collate the data for Arran before it is sent to the society to be added to national and international information banks.

Beach cleans are being organised by village organisations which regularly clean beaches, with TAP stepping in where dates have not been possible for

some villages. COAST and the National Chamber Music Day are leading a novel beach clean with the plastic items found then being made into musical instruments (see below). Lamlash Improvements and Whiting Bay Improvements are also leading beach cleans. Arran Kayak Club will be collecting floating litter from the kayaks which will be accompanying competitors during their race around Holy Isle on September 22.

The beach clean events will kick off with a free, illustrated talk at 7.30pm on Friday September 14 at Lamlash Church Hall by Tara Proud of the Marine Conservation Society (Scotland) entitled Tackling Plastic Pollution in Scotland's Seas. Coast-

guard station officer Fiona Laing will introduce the evening with a short session on what not to pick up on Arran's beaches which will be of interest to anyone who sets foot on the Arran coastline.

TAP chairwoman Dr Helen How said: 'Arran is an island which is well-known for people working together. This is a great opportunity to make a difference and contribute to information collection which will help both Arran and contribute to the wider research base. NAC have been very supportive, and we are thrilled that the Marine Conservation Society has chosen to come to Arran for these events.'

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Eco music day joins in

A National Chamber Music Day is one of the events tying in with the big Arran beach clean-up.

It is the first time Arran has been involved in the music day and violinists Elspeth Luke and Emily Carr-Martin have been visiting local schools and communities with a new 'green themed' interactive performance written by composer Matilda Brown.

Taking place at the Lamlash Community Theatre today (Saturday) the eco music day will begin with a beach clean in conjunction with Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) between 9am and 11am.

Those taking part will meet at the COAST Octopus Centre for the beach clean before a youth music workshop where, between 11.30am and 1.30pm, par-

ticipants will be able to make music with some of the items retrieved from the beach.

Working in partnership with COAST, Music Arran, Eco Savvy and Arran Arts and Theatre Trust, violinists Elspeth and Emily will then hold a concert at 2pm.

The event is being held in Lamlash by Enterprise Music Scotland, which celebrates and promotes



A National Chamber beach clean in Edinburgh.

chamber music throughout Scotland. Spaces are limited – to book or find out more contact: info@enterprisemusicscotland.com or telephone 07599 524 569.

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Tribute to Lady Jean at fundraising event

Arran Youth Foundations will pay tribute to Lady Jean Fforde when it hosts its annual fundraiser at Strabane House in Brodick on Saturday September 22.

The event, which has taken place every year since 2012 when Lady Jean first offered to open her beautiful gardens to raise funds for the group, will run from 11am to 4pm.

Visitors will have the chance to enjoy home baking, teas, coffees, a grand raffle and musical performances from young people.

Donations can be made upon entry, and the charity is hopeful of another successful event, not only to raise funds for the work it does with the island's young people, but also to mark the passing of one of Arran's best-loved figures.



Lady Jean photographed at the Strabane fundraiser last year in what was to be her last public appearance.

Graeme Johnston, AYF's youth work project manager, said: 'All of us at Arran Youth Foundations have lovely memories of Lady Jean, one of our greatest supporters, not

least her final public appearance at our open day in September 2017, just two weeks before she sadly passed away.

'Her incredible generosity towards our organisa-

tion was best exemplified in her request that there be a collection at her funeral service to raise funds for AYF, a gesture we will never forget.

'When we discussed fundraising plans for 2018 with our committee and with the young people, everyone agreed that we wanted to continue with the tradition.

'When we approached Lady Jean's son Charles and his wife Lynn, it became clear that they had been thinking the same and they were touched at the thought.

'We would love to see a good turnout next Saturday to remember Lady Jean and to raise funds for the group once again, something we know she would be delighted about.'

MG cars on display at the heritage museum

Arran Heritage Museum will once again play host to a fleet of interesting and exotic MG cars of varying vintage on the museum lawn this weekend.

As an added bonus, the talented Arran Jazz Café Band will be providing the musical accompaniment to set the tone for a relaxing, enjoyable and informal afternoon.

Taking place today (Saturday) between 12.30pm and 3pm the exhibition by the owners will be the start

of a three-day tour of Arran by the members of the MG Car Club Caledonian Centre.

Having previously hosted other MG car clubs, this will only be the second visit of the club to the island.

MG Car Club Caledonian Centre draws its members from all over Scotland, and many from England, and every year stages more than 20 events, as well as joining in other classic car shows both in Britain and abroad.

Such has been the popularity of this event that it was fully booked more than a year ago.

Models from this distinctive marque, from the 1930s to the relatively recent, will be on display in all their grandeur. The museum trophy for the best turned out car will be presented during the afternoon. This event is certain to appeal to the keen motorist and those with an appreciation of automotive technology and fine engineering.

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New car park at Dippen

The Arran Trust, the island's visitor gifting scheme, has been delighted to continue its partnership working with Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) on improving visitor access to some of the key areas of Arran.

FCS had built a forest road from Giants' Graves for harvesting, and were able to link this to the public road at High Kildonan.

There was a small roadside layby at this point and with support from the Arran Trust to the tune of £3,377.84, FCS was able to develop this area into a small car park at Dippen.

The project opens up a

long distance recreation route giving more options to walkers, cyclists and pony trekkers as well as to those who want the option of sitting and enjoying the view.

Margie Currie of the Arran Trust hands over a cheque for the Dippen car park work to Arran forester Andy Walker.



International country dance visitors at Brodick Church Hall

Brodick Church Hall resounded to much laughter and music recently when a coach load of dancers from Brisbane and east coast cities of Australia, joined by friends from Hamburg, visited the Arran Scottish country dancing group.

The international group of visitors decided to pay their Scottish counterparts a visit after attending the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Summer School in St Andrews.

Programme

The Arran group hosted the evening, putting on a programme of dances which included The Sleeping Warrior, Reel of the Royal Scots, Goatfell Gallop and Culla Bay, all places for which dances have been devised, as the visitors had been touring Scotland to dance in them.

Scottish country dance meetings will resume on Tuesday September 25, and are described as a fun way of exercising both body and mind. It is also incredibly social and a great opportunity to listen to music from bands from across the world.

Dancing takes place in the church hall from 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings and includes a tea break. Everyone is welcome to join in and go and see what it is all about.

Arran public urged to have say on local transport at community meeting

While most of the transport concerns in recent days have surrounded the ferries, the public will have its chance to have a say on transport on Arran itself at a community gathering to be held next week.

It will be an opportunity for residents to suggest innovative solutions to overcome the lack of community connectivity on the island.

Arran Eco Savvy and Arran Locality Partnership are co-hosting the Arran Community Transport Gathering at 6pm on Tuesday September 18 at the Ormidale Pavilion. This event has been pulled together to enable local discussion around solutions for sustainable travel and transport on Arran.

With many problems being highlighted by residents on an ongoing basis the gathering seems necessary for collective solutions as well as added insight from guest speaker Daniel Lafferty of Transport Scotland.

Jude King, project manager for Arran Eco Savvy, said: 'Eco Savvy's underpinning quest is to make Arran a greener and more sustainable island. Previous projects have predominantly focused on waste, now focus is on energy efficiency, but the more we analyse the island and what we need to become greener and more sustainable, the more we are pointed to improving transport and travel. Arran residents have already identified the problems and we hope that all will attend this gathering to identify solutions, and potential community facilitators and collaborators to ensure results.'

Councillor Ellen McMaster, chairwoman of Arran Locality, reports that a lack of community transport was a consistent high priority theme which emerged from the series of island wide Locality Partnership roadshows held earlier this year. Transport is one of the key priorities of the Arran Locality Partnership

along with social isolation and housing. People expressed deep concern that continuing lack of community transport options, supplementary to the present strategic level of ferries and buses, is hampering the connectivity of communities on the island and the ability of all ages to have access to work, leisure, activities and services such as post offices, GPs and general shops. They recognise that this lack of community transport affects all aspects of island life and is a root cause of social isolation for many in more remote communities.

It will also provide opportunity for Transport Scotland to note, as a part of its consultation for the National Transport Plan for the next 20 years, the island-specific travel and transport issues faced by islanders on a daily basis.

'We hope many of the community will be able to attend as it is open to all,' Jude added. Light refreshments will be provided.

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Editorial

Too little too late

There is no doubt it has been a difficult week for the travelling public on Arran – and that means just about everyone.

A ‘perfect storm’ of circumstances has almost brought the island to its knees and left CalMac with not just one, but a whole series of headaches.

Yes, everyone is unhappy – they want someone to blame. So where should they go? To the Scottish Government, who has ultimately responsible for running and paying for the ferry service, and to Transport Scotland to whom the ship owners CMAL and operator CalMac report.

They do not go on social media and rant with no care for the facts.

Worse, the frontline ferry staff – who we wish to state publicly here have done a sterling job in extremely difficult circumstances – have also faced the ire of the ignorant.

We could go on, but the bottom line is this. This ‘perfect storm’ of circumstances is no fluke – it has been coming for months, years as the CalMac fleet is just too old, which means there can be no quick fix.

CalMac is now looking for boats in Scandinavia to help plug the gap until the MV Glen Sannox and her sister ship can be brought into service in a year’s time. But it’s all a bit too little too late.

Thought for the week

‘My salvation and my honour depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge. Trust in him at all times, you people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.’
Psalm 62:7

Ferry chaos

An open letter to CalMac MD Robbie Drummond: Please explain how you will fix the Arran ferry mess?

Sir,
The unrelenting series of ferry breakdowns is now doing real harm to Arran. Surely enough is enough?

The staff and crew at the sharp end of CalMac are trying their very best. Seriously. Every encounter I have had with staff has been positive. They are struggling with breakdowns and older vessels. No relief in sight.

As the Arran Banner reported, the delays of MV Glen Sannox are laid bare. Even when commissioned and in service, the new ship is too big and will have that long-known problem of not getting into Ardrossan when there is a strong breeze, and diverting to Gourock.

On August 25, after an earlier torrid week of ferry chaos and stranded families, the Arran Banner were kind enough to publish a letter asking CalMac MD Robbie Drummond for a reply and answers to some questions that islanders have. To date there has been no response.

Yesterday, Sunday September 9, I was worried sick as my friends and their two young children tried to get back to the mainland and found the last ferry out of Brodick had been cancelled. This young couple were sent to Lochranza where the crew were good enough to work late and help get stranded visitors off of the island. But instead of a 10-minute trip from Ardrossan Winton Pier, to their Kilwinning home, my friends had to borrow a car and drive,

with two young children from Claonaig for three hours and didn’t get home until after midnight. The kids were upset and exhausted.

This experience is being repeated a 100 times with dozens of friends, families, visitors and islanders being left deserted or utterly stressed out each time CalMac HQ and senior management fail to run the lifeline ferry service as per their contractual obligation. The company appears close to implosion.

Some people on the Arran Community Forum Facebook pages actually think this is funny but the majority don’t. This relentless CalMac nightmare is now having serious implications on Arran. Our own small efforts are focused on renovating a closed down hotel. That will create six new jobs. We have a group of friends who have enjoyed re-opening closed businesses for 20 years.

We already have the next project on Arran lined up. Okay, it may only be eight more new jobs, but after a while these things can make a positive difference.

Unfortunately, the CalMac senior management are not able to solve their appalling ship failures.

Each time, the CalMac MD goes home to a warm bed whilst he leaves his staff to pick up the pieces and deal with visitors being stranded on Arran, or left deserted at Ardrossan.

Worse, the evident inability of CalMac’s managing director to get a grip of his remit will cost jobs on Arran. Our own moderate effort will be impacted if CalMac fail to sort out this crisis.

Our next Arran project is now on hold until we see if CalMac can repair their

lifeline ferry service.

Consequently, might I ask the CalMac MD either comes to a public meeting in Brodick, or at the very least, replies to concerns about his ferry failures and his plans to fix them via the Arran Banner? After reading some of the anger on internet sites last night, Mr Drummond could be forgiven for not wishing to attend a very robust town hall-style meeting on the island. But if he continues to ignore people whose livelihoods depend on a reliable lifeline ferry service, two things will happen.

One, there will be a formal request to invoke the termination/penalty protocols of the October 1, 2016 CalMac lifeline ferry contract (eight-year duration) and secondly, the case we won in the CalMac dispute between 2005 and 2006 will be re-opened. Whilst the EU ruling is now moot because of Brexit, the transitional enabling UK legislation is still competent to progress.

I am trying to retire back home at Corrie and Sannox, but this ferry mess is the worst I have known in all of my life.

CalMac is paid £100,000,000 in subsidies every year and had a £3,500,000 bung last week to fix the ageing vessels. If Robbie Drummond cannot remedy this mess and refuses to explain his solution to islanders, then time to employ a new managing director.

Yours,
**Russ McLean,
Sannox.**

Follow the money

Sir,
I note that the shipbuilders have made a somewhat spirited defence of the late delivery of the new Arran

ferry, as reported in last week’s Banner.

It seems they are in dispute with the paymasters. I don’t know the details, but perhaps we should follow the advice given by Deep Throat to Woodward and Bernstein during the Watergate investigation: Follow the money?

Yours,
**Tony D’Arcy
London**

Ferry fiasco

Sir,
Once again I feel moved to write to the Banner concerning the new MV Glen Sannox.

Had I known that a public meeting was being convened, I would surely have attended. I would have had some pertinent questions for the yard representatives, a few of which I would now pose together with some remarks on the report of the meeting.

At the outset, the contract for the vessels would require an agreed cardinal date programme (CDP) showing key dates of construction and outfitting together with delivery dates after trials. This programme normally also indicates when stage payments are due.

So, has a new CDP been agreed between owner and builder without the application of late delivery penalties? If so, the yard is in the clear, providing of course that it adheres to the new programme. But have they?

What stage payments have been made and how did they match with the original CDP? I understand that the yard as part of the contract were obliged to lodge a £50m performance bond; what is the status of this now and is there a danger of it being called?

Mr Dunn claimed that

99 per cent fabrication of Glen Sannox had been completed. This is meaningless unless a commensurate amount of outfitting is complete which as I have stated should be reflected in the CDP.

Mr Morgan alluded to the bulbous bow ‘being requested’ - by whom? The bulbous bow will be necessary as an element of the underwater hull form such that the vessel will achieve its contract speed of 18 knots and would be defined at model tank tests prior to detailed design. What changed?

A recurring theme seems to have been ‘these vessels are prototypes’. Gas powered technology is not new and safety of life at sea (SOLAS) fully covers the regulations to be applied.

Yes, I know the Marine and Coastguard Agency can be difficult in the application of these and will also be on a learning curve. The yard would be well aware of this and of their own design responsibilities.

These vessels (we hear nothing of the second) owe more to the altar of the Scottish Government’s green agenda. Some hope!

Gas transported all the way from the far east, tankered by road from Tilbury to some as yet defined storage facility adjacent to the appropriate Scottish terminal, ending up propelling a hull form more akin to that of a bulk carrier and at a speed well in excess of the present vessels on the route.

Do I smell a contingency plan for the new Glen Sannox to operate out of Troon without detriment to the time on passage?

Yours,
**Norman Brown,
Ferguson Shipbuilders
1964-96,
Largs and Brodick.**

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A whiff of scandal

Sir,
Since arriving here some eight years ago I have attempted to keep a low profile and live a life like a bastion of moral rectitude.

There have been a few slips ups like the unfortunate incident involving myself and a bottle of malt whisky at the Highland games a few years ago but that is all in the past now and everyone has forgiven and forgotten except for that Kenny Morrison who keeps reminding me and says there is a video of the whole debacle. Thanks a lot, Kenny.

My life as a paragon of virtue was going swimmingly, well beneath Arran's critical radar, but now I find myself vilified and my standing besmirched by allegations that I have supplied a substance deemed to be illegal to an individual now cast with me into the abyss of loneliness as deviant miscreants incompatible with fine upstanding Arran society.

Yes, I did supply a generous amount of my famed compost to a gentleman from the West Mayish area of Brodick, and yes, I was aware that this was for the purpose of competing in the legendary Brodick Golf Club sunflower competition.

This gentleman, who shall remain nameless, tri-

umphed spectacularly but his fall from grace was propelled by a female family member telling her twin sister where the plant's sustenance was sourced and, as we all know only too well, if two people know a secret on Arran then everyone knows.

I understand that I am now persona non grata and will never be able to show my face in Brodick Golf Club again and will no longer attract even desultory waves from big men in big motors. Life is cruel.

I can only beg for forgiveness and add that if anyone wants any of my famed compost next year then it's gonna cost you pal!

Yours,
**Colin Guthrie,
Brodick.**

Heartfelt thanks

Sir,
For the first time in my long life, my car broke down a half-mile south of the Brodick ferry terminal on Sunday September 2, about 10 o'clock. I got immediate help from a young lady (Lorna) and her husband in phoning the AA and police. I was crestfallen and badly in need of help.

The police car, driven by Colin, arrived on the scene quickly, followed by Angus Lambie with his breakdown lorry. The old Octavia was winched on to

the lorry. Colin drove me back to my good friends to Kings Cross with my luggage and even rescued my reading glasses later from the car at Lambie's.

On Tuesday at 1.30pm I phoned Mr Lambie to establish the progress in replacing a new clutch unit.

'It's ready,' he said. I was nearly speechless – but really so grateful at such astonishing service. I jumped on a bus to collect my car which now runs perfectly.

What better place to break down than the Isle of Arran. A prime example of the spirit and character of Arran people. All so willing to help me – and my extra three days on the island were just marvellous in finding new walks in excellent weather.

My heartfelt thanks to all who turned my 'disaster' into a very fine experience.

Yours,
**Edward Jackson,
Glasgow.**

Brodick bake off

Sir,
Through your column, may I please reply to the letter published in last week's edition from Joanna Lumley of Macmillan Cancer Support.

Joanna's letter was asking readers to become involved in Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning. I would like to make readers

aware, that my colleagues and I at Café Rosaburn, at the heritage museum in Brodick, are already planning to host a fantastic coffee morning as part of this on Friday September 28 from 9am to 11am.

We are currently very busy planning lots of delicious cakes and bakes for the day.

There will also be fun games, including a 'bake-off' on the day that welcomes anyone to bring along their own cake or bake to be in with a chance of being crowned Café Rosaburn's star baker.

Tickets are already available in the café for our grand raffle, with lots of wonderful prizes to be won. The raffle will be drawn during the coffee morning.

Could we kindly ask your readers to save the date and come along on the day to help us raise as much as we can for this worthy cause.

Yours,
**Eileen Gregg,
Café Rosaburn.**

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Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.

Critical role books still play

The September exhibition at the Brodick Library is a photographic display with the apt title of Scotland in Books by Celeste Noche.

Celeste is a Filipino American photographer from San Francisco, California, who is living in Portland, Oregon. She graduated from Stanford University with degrees in English Literature and Ancient Greek – neither of which have really come in handy for her as a photographer now. She currently freelances and specialises in documentary food, travel, and portraiture.

Scotland in Books was inspired by her visit to Wigtown, Scotland's national book town in Dumfries and Galloway. In 2017 she completed a



Celeste Noche at Innerpefferay Library, Scotland's oldest free public library.

three-month artist residency in the town, during which she travelled around the country photographing second-hand bookshops, libraries, and private collections.

Explore

In this age of ever-increasing digitisation, she wanted to explore the ways in which we continue to make and keep space for books, and was delighted to visit Arran during one of her first research trips.

Although her visit to the island was brief, her visits to local homes, preserved collections at Brodick Castle, seeing the mobile library in action, and finding books for sale at the chandlery all reinforced the idea that physical books continue to play a critical role in our daily lives.

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Accordion orchestra puts the squeeze on Arran

The Jimmy Blair Accordion Orchestra will be undertaking what it calls its first 'overseas concert' when it performs on Arran later this month.

Based in Renfrew the Jimmy Blair Accordion Orchestra is conducted and led by world famous and internationally renowned accordionist Gary Blair, whose father Jimmy Blair founded the original orchestra in the 1970s.

Whilst the members have changed over the years the orchestra has continued to entertain audiences far and wide although this will be the first time it has visited Arran.

The orchestra will be performing at The Arran Lodge, Altachorvie, Lam-lash on Saturday September 29, from 7.30pm followed by a performance at the PHT in Lam-lash from 4pm to 6pm on Sunday

September 30, for anyone that can't make the concert.

Playing a wide range of music from Scottish, classical, sing-along to folk, there is bound to be something for everyone.

Tickets for the concert are available from the Book and Card Centre in Bro-dick at £7.50 for adults and £5 for concession and children.



The Jimmy Blair Accordion Orchestra will perform a wide range of music during its visit to Arran later this month.

ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM
Scottish Charity Number SC002089
Rosaburn, Brodick, Open Daily 10.30am to 4.30pm

MG CAR RALLY
on Saturday 15th September from 12.30pm to 3.30pm at Rosaburn, Brodick.

Come along to see a fascinating display of classic MG cars of varying ages, on display on the museum lawn, and meet their owners, members of the MG Car Club Caledonian Centre on their first Arran 3 day tour.

The Arran Jazz Café Band will be entertaining throughout the afternoon.

Museum and Tearoom open all day 10.30am to 4.30pm.

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Corrie Film Club presents...

Insyriated
(Cert 15, 83 mins)
Corrie Film Club's next offering is a fast moving and cleverly orchestrated thriller about the reality of life as a civilian in modern-day Damascus, explored in gripping and visceral detail by director Philippe Van Leeuw.

The streets are a war zone, with a barricaded doorway providing the only protection from the threat of deadly bombs and sniper fire. One day, an ominous knock on the door signals

that their time in hiding is almost up. And when the world outside finally bursts in, Oum Yazan is forced to make a terrible sacrifice in order to protect those she loves.

Tense and immersive, it is a powerful and timely portrait of the everyday fight for survival in war-torn Syria.

See this film in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall tomorrow (Sunday) at 8pm. Entry to non-members is free but a donation towards hall funds would welcome.

Brodick Bar & Brasserie
Alma Road, Brodick. 01770 302169

Arran Musicians at The Brodick Bar
Saturday 15 September 9pm

Joni Keen Duo
exquisite jazz standards with a unique take

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Councillor Jim Montgomerie with the Ayrshire Shoreline Management Plan and the northern hills of Arran in the background.

Masterplan to help fight Arran coastal flooding

A masterplan to protect Arran's shoreline – as part of a larger Ayrshire Shoreline Management Plan – has been approved by North Ayrshire Council's cabinet.

The plan, developed in partnership with North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire councils, offers a large-scale assessment of the

risks to the people of Arran and Ayrshire, and its historic and natural environment, from coastal flooding and erosion, and identifies suitable policies for the management of these risks.

The plan covers the entire Ayrshire mainland coastline from Skelmorlie in the north to the northern shore

of Loch Ryan in the south, as well as the coasts of Arran and Great Cumbrae.

On Arran the shoreline management policies and measures are divided into four main sub-cells which are then further divided into smaller policy units. The main sub-cells are; Lochranza to Clauchlands, Clauchlands Point to Kingscross Point, Kingscross Point to Drumadoon Point and Drumadoon Point to Lochranza.

Councillor Jim Montgomerie, cabinet member for place, said: 'The Ayrshire coastline is a hugely important asset and it's crucial that we have a proper plan in place to ensure it remains that way.'

'In the years to come, this plan will play a key role in the efforts to ensure our shoreline can be enjoyed by future generations.'

A series of consultation events were held across North Ayrshire earlier this

year to give local residents a closer look at the proposals and the chance to have their say.

Taking on board the public's comments, the updated shoreline plan was approved by the NAC cabinet on Tuesday September 4. It set out the policies on how to manage risks from flooding as well as identifying opportunities to maintain and improve the coastal environment.

The plan also identifies the need for a number of feasibility studies to be carried out over the coming years to examine the level of risk to some parts of North Ayrshire's coastline.

These include various locations on Arran – between Lochranza and Sannox to Brodick; Whiting Bay; and Machrie Bay to Lochranza.

It can be viewed online at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/community-safety/flooding/ayrshire-shoreline-management-plan.aspx

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Decking at The Douglas

The Douglas Hotel has been given planning permission to complete the new area of decking at the front of the hotel in Brodick.

Permission was given, in part retrospectively, as work on the decking started last year as it was originally planned as a seating area for the short-lived Douglas Deli.

It will now be used as an extension to the popular hotel terrace. A design statement, which accompanied the application, said: 'Although the proposed terrace extension is not expansive it will provide additional outdoor space for the public and hotel users, along with additional refuse amenities.'

'Using metal railings to match the existing and a non-slip plank, the terrace will subtly blend in with its surroundings and provide an additional outdoor activity space with stunning views across the Firth of Clyde towards Goatfell.'

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A fitting finale for the



Royal Conservatoire students performing *Searching for a Sunny Day* which deals with dementia.

The McLellan Arts Festival has again been a whirlwind 10 days, ending last Sunday with a spirited performance of Puccini's *Messe di Gloria* under the experienced baton of Alec Crow.

This concert, which included additional items from the summer school students, was much appreciated by the audience – as have been all performances during this festival including the opera gala last Friday night, the compelling, imaginative and, at times, powerful theatre from the drama students of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Corrie and Sannox Village Hall last Saturday.

Then there was the thoughtful and moving forum with Howard Wood, the interest-

ing film, *Tommy's Honour*, the fascination in James McEnaney's talk, the beauty of the sacred music and the voice of John Sillars in Corrie Church as well as the warmth and quality of this year's poet, Sinead Morrissey.

This festival was among the best the island has had and, as always thanks are due to the many who contributed to its success. Special thanks to Sue and Ian McKinley for generous support of the summer school and to Alec Crowe and Peter Wilson for tutoring the students.

In addition, thanks were made to all those who performed – including local performers Angus Adamson, Arran Dawn, Drambus-



Students performing *Stucken Moon*, a part murder mystery, part treatment about mental health.



The McLellan Festival Chorus in full



SPECIAL LUXURY ISSUE OUT NOW



Howard Wood talking about his Goldman Environmental Award at the Clamjamfry.



Sinead Morrissey reading her work at poetry night.

Scotland's 25 top shoots... On board the Royal Scotsman... Fergus Ewing... Cairngorms... Maserati's new SUV... Luxury fashion & Beauty... 10 extravagant places to dine...

McLellan Arts festival

ters, Stuart Gough, Tim Pomeroy, John Silars and Bethany Walsh.

To Cicely Gill and David Underdown for organising the poetry competition, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Katharine O'Donnolly for organising Drama Live, Auchrannie Resort and The Douglas Hotel for their generous donations, The Book and Card Shop for so kindly handling tickets, Arran Banner for coverage, Arran Events for online ticketing, Arran Lodge for providing superb accommodation, Corrie Church, KA Leisure and Community Theatre, Whiting Bay Village Hall, Corrie and Sannox Village Hall and Brodick Library for excellent venues and service, Colin Guthrie for gener-

ous provision of accommodation, Josephine Broekhuizen and Asja Baumgartner for delicious catering, Angie Fisher and Christine Drennan for ceilidh meringues, Sarah Cook and Kilmory Community Bus for transporting students.

Also Eileen Kerr and Margaret Wright for events management, front of house volunteers from the McLellan Festival Steering Group and, of course, grateful thanks to all those warm and appreciative people who attended the performances. If anyone would like to join the McLellan Arts Festival steering group or become involved please email Heather at gough.carlo@btinternet.com or phone 01770 302670. *Heather Gough*



All voice during the final concert.



The summer school students perform on the final night. 01_B37mclellan07



Drama students performing *Wilf and the Whale* about plastics waste and the impact of humans on the earth.

Brodick Bar & Brasserie launches **Arran Wine Club**

The Brodick Bar & Brasserie in collaboration with Alexander Wines is launching the Arran Wine Club. Full details in next week's Arran Banner.

The inaugural event will be on Monday 1 October at 7.30pm in the Brodick Bar & Brasserie with a Wine Club Dinner. The wine maker will talk about each wine at the dinner.

Menu

Aperitif with glass of Nieto white wine
Cullen Skink with glass of Cadus Chardonnay
Venison Bon Bons, Haggis with whisky sauce
with glass of Verne Malbec
Blade of Beef with Bourguignon sauce with
glass of Cadus Tupungato Cabernet Sauvignon
or Cadus ChacayesMalbec

Choice of sweets

(Vegetarian option available)

£40 per person including wine.

Early booking advised to avoid disappointment.

Taxi arrangements obligatory!

To book telephone or drop in to the
Brodick Bar & Brasserie.

Alma Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8BU

01770 302169

Society hears of world's first savings bank

Members of the Arran Historical Society welcomed Kay Kingstone of the Scottish Savings Bank Museum at Ruthwell near Dumfries for an informative talk on the history of the savings bank and its founder, the Reverend Henry Duncan at their August meeting in Brodick Hall.

Rev Henry Duncan was born in Lochrutton in Kirkcudbrightshire in 1774, the son of the parish minister. He was 16 years of age when he had to decide what his interests were and what profession, if any, he would take up. He first went to St Andrews University but left after two sessions.

He then got an apprenticeship in a commercial bank in Liverpool but this did not suit him either, and



Kay Kingstone from the Scottish Savings Bank Museum at Ruthwell.

he came back home after a couple of years.

He then decided to become a minister and went to Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities for six years to get the necessary education. His patron had him ordained as minister near his home at the parish of Ruthwell in 1799 at the age of 25.

In 1810 Rev Duncan opened the world's first commercial savings bank in his parish to cater for the parishioners who would not usually have access to established banks. At the time banks only catered for those with substantial wealth. His bank was a great success and was eventually copied by others over Britain and across the world.

Many of the reverend's exploits are recorded in the Scottish Savings Bank Museum at Ruthwell, which provides an insight into his enquiring mind which embraced issues ranging from historical to social and scientific issues.

Rev Duncan's life ended rather tragically. Having joined the free church during the church disruption in 1843, he was then barred from his parish. He died soon afterwards and before the new free church building was completed. His grave is unmarked.

The next society meeting is on Monday September 17 at 2pm in Brodick Hall when Bob Tomlinson will talk about his life in journalism. He was, at one time, 'The Hon Man' for the Sunday Post.

Arran Sportive is back for third time

A major charity cycle event will descend on Arran again this weekend.

The Arran Sportive, which raises funds for Ocean Youth Trust Scotland, is now in its third year and more than 140 cyclists have signed up this year.

The event is being held today (Saturday) with its base at the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick with a 9am start. Residents and visitors should be aware that the island roads will be particularly busy with cyclists.

Being a sportive the event is non-competitive.

However, it is a challenging open road event which covers 56 miles (90km), a full island loop with 1,300 metres of climbing. The route starts and finishes in Brodick going anti-clockwise around the island.

The event is organised by and is entirely in aid of youth development charity Ocean Youth Trust Scotland. All proceeds of the event will go directly to the charity to help it deliver its

life-changing Adventure under Sail to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

At Arran Community Council last week members agreed it was one of the better organised events staged on the island.

And organisers have issued a list of rules to participants. These include: 'Please remember that the Arran Sportive is non-competitive and therefore not a race. Please ensure you act accordingly when par-

ticipating. You will be riding on open public roads alongside other traffic so it is essential for your own safety, and that of all other road users, that you comply with all traffic and Highway Code regulations.

'Route marshals are there only to indicate the direction of the route. Marshals cannot and will not stop traffic. You are responsible for your own safe and legal passage through all junctions, turns, traffic lights, etc.'



Participants taking part in a previous event.

They say there will be a sweep of the course at the end of the race which will be finished by 5pm.


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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 15th September

Flow Yoga
 Arran Sportive
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Arran Highland Dancers
 Lamlash Splash
 MG Cars Day
 Rink Game
 Rinks Bowls
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Number 16 Restaurant Pop-up Dining Experience
 Live Music - Shindig Pladda
 Live Music - Slider - Hits from U2, Police, Biffy Clyro & much more
 Live Music - Joni Keen Duo
 Over 21s' Disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am start
 11.00am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm
 Arran High School Games Hall, 11am - 1pm
 Lamlash Pier, 11.30am
 Arran Heritage Museum, Brodick, 12.30pm - 3.30pm
 Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 Arran Lodge at Altachorvie, 5.30pm - 9pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Brodick Bar, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Chair Yoga
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Archives and Genealogy Service
 Dog Classes
 Arran Pace Makers Running Group
 Flow Yoga
 Rink Game
 Arran Hockey Club – Seniors (12 yrs +)
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Live Music - Tim Pomeroy
 Family Friendly Pub Quiz
 Quiz Night
 Rock 'n' Pop Bingo

St Mollo's Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am
 11.30am and 2.30pm
 Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 12.30pm
 Brodick, 5.30pm
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm
 Brodick Bowling Club, 6.15pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8pm
 Advanced Juniors & Adults, 7.30pm-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm
 PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Drift Inn, Lamlash 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Sunday 16th September

Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Live Music - Biff Simpson
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Live Music - Hugh Clinton & Debbie Campbell
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Number 16 Restaurant Pop-up Dining Experience
 Folk Music Session

11.30am and 2.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 2pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
 Arran Lodge at Altachorvie, 5.30pm - 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 20th 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
 Whiting Bay Thursday Club
 Quilt Arran
 Adult Tennis
 Arran Soul Choir
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 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 Club, 2pm
 Whiting Bay Lesser Hall, 2pm
 Fire station, Lamlash, 2pm - 4.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot, 5.30pm
 Community Theatre, Arran High School, 7pm - 9pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm - 10.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Monday 17th 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
 Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s,
 Live Music - Fatman

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, 6.15pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm

Friday 21st September

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 McLellan Arts Festival - Opera Gala Night
 Friday Night Quiz
 Live Music - Mike Edwards
 Live Music - Fatman and The Angel
 Live Music - Midtown Riot, rock covers & their own folk-rock pop material

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 11.00am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm
 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
 Brodick Bar, 9pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Tuesday 18th 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
 Trev's Pop Music Quiz
 Traditional Music Sessions
 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
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
 Brodick Bar, 9pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm - 10.30pm

Saturday 22nd September

Flow Yoga
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Arran Youth Foundations Fundraiser
 Rink Game
 Rinks Bowls
 RNLI Shop Open
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 2 for 1 Fish and Chips
 Family Bingo Night
 Live Music - Mic Clark
 Live Music - Midtown Riot, rock covers & their own folk-rock pop material
 Live Music - Joni Keen Duo
 Over 21s' Disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 11.00am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm
 Strabane House, Brodick, 11am - 4pm
 Brodick Bowling Club, 2pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club, 2pm
 Lifeboat Station, Lamlash Pier, 2pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 5pm - 6pm
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, 7pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Brodick Bar, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Wednesday 19th September

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Brodick Gardens Volunteers
 Arran Elderly Forum

Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 Brodick Castle and Country Park, 10am - 1pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30 am for 11am



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Summer visitors enjoy Arran sunshine ahead of migration

While the mean temperature for August was a couple of degrees lower than July, the mean temperature this August was identical to the mean temperature of last August. This August was drier than last August with about 20 per cent less rain. The relatively dry summer continued. Towards the end of the month, with slightly lower temperatures, there was just a hint of the approach of autumn.

Having said that, summer visitors were still to the fore including: a swift over Torrylinnwaterfoot on

2nd, a spotted flycatcher in Merkland Wood on 3rd, two common sandpiper in Blackwaterfoot on 10th, 26



Swallow – look out for the last ones this year. Photo Carl Reavey

willow warbler in Corriecravie on 11th, one grasshopper warbler in Shiskine on 12th, 20 sand martin in

Glen Catacol on 15th, a chiffchaff in Brodick on 20th, 75 swallow in Slidery on 11th and 120 house martin in Shannochie on 30th. Please try to give me your last record for swallow and house martin this year. Last year there were October records for both species.

Some signs of successful breeding this month included: red-breasted merganser with five young by Fisherman's Walk on 6th, eider with four young at Cosyden on 7th, juvenile great spotted woodpecker in Glen



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
AUGUST

A female sparrowhawk, one of many sightings, reflects a good breeding season. Photo Arthur Duncan

Cloy on 9th, juvenile water rail and juvenile greenfinch in Corriecravie on 11th, juvenile golden eagle in Glen Rosa on 20th and juvenile little grebe and juvenile moorhen in Mossend Pond on 24th. In August there was an exceptional number of reports of sparrowhawk in gardens including many young birds. Their breeding success may be reflecting the breeding success of the many small birds on which sparrowhawk prey.

In August, breeding is coming to an end, and after breeding a number of species begin to flock together, some in preparation for migration. These included: 42 house sparrow at Silver Sands on 6th, 38 curlew at Corriecravie on 7th, 56 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot also on 7th, 350 starling at Slidery also on 7th, 21 ringed plover at Drumadoon on 10th, 142 meadow pipit at Slidery on 13th, 140 linnets and 30 goldfinch on Cleat Shore on 20th and 160 pied wagtail on Braehead Farm on 21st.

All around the coast were signs of birds on migration, including: a merlin at Corriecravie Pond on 7th, a greenshank at Blackwaterfoot also on 7th, three sanderling at Drumadoon Point on 10th, a knot on Silver Sands also on 10th, 30 dun-

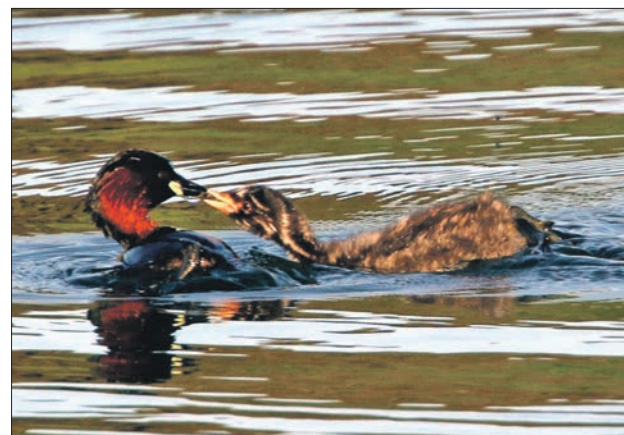
lin at Porta Buidhe on 12th, three wheatear at Slidery on 13th, a black-tailed godwit at Porta Buidhe also on 13th, an osprey over Slidery Shore on 19th, 200 manx shearwater in Brodick Bay on 20th, 20 white wagtail on Braehead Farm on 27th, two whimbrel at Kildonan also on 27th and four sandwich tern in Lam-lash Bay on 30th.

Among the 100 plus species reported in August there were a number of other noteworthy ones. These included: a goosander at Machriewaterfoot on 7th, 30 gannet off Cosyden also on 7th, a dipper at Glenashdale Falls on 19th and six Canada geese at Blackwaterfoot on 21st. In addition there were two reports of red kite the first on Slidery Shore on 4th and the second report from Lam-

lash Golf Course on 6th. This was the third report of this occasional visitor this year. The first was in April. The previous record before this was May 2016.

September sees the start of the peak migration season when many birds are on the move. It is the time to expect the unexpected. I look forward to hearing from you.

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



Little Grebe feeding its young. Photo Nick Giles

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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday September 5, 1998

First class

Brodick Post Office is the best in Scotland and that's official. A few weeks ago they were presented with the best in the west of Scotland award after being nominated by Fred Robson of Lochranza.

Today they heard they were top in the country out of nine regions. Postmistress Janice Small will travel to London to find out if she and her team will be judged as the best in the UK.

It was when the Post Office split between counters and deliveries that Janice seized the day and decided to run it as her own business. Since then it has blossomed and it is now much more than just a Post Office.

Janice said: 'We try to do our best. We listen to our customers and apply a bit of common sense. I don't think you can go wrong with that.'

All eight finalists will attend a ceremony on HMS Belfast on the Thames in November where they will find out if Brodick Post Office is the very best in Britain.

Guarding Goatfell

Public bodies do listen. When objections were raised about the insensitivity of building a water treatment plant right beside the path up Goatfell, West of Scotland Water went off and designed another plant. Granted, it had an incentive to do so

since its first ideas failed to pass planning. Nevertheless, it came up with something which looks, on the face of it, completely new.

The new plan, however, is still facing criticism – the new plans show that the ground will be excavated and the new plant will be turfed over so that from the Goatfell path it will hardly be visible. Problems arise with the access path; a road will sweep round to the rear and the layers of turf will be held up by ubiquitous gabi-on walls.

An objector, who described the building as an Aztec fortress, said: 'If they want to put this plant at Goatfell then they should take on board that they have a responsibility not to spoil the area.'

Yacht rescue

The Arran lifeboat was called out last Monday morning to assist the yacht Braw Lass in Brodick Bay. The Braw Lass had been dragging her anchor and had been pushed up on to the beach near the swing park. The lifeboat arrived to find the yacht stuck by its keel and in shallow water. Too shallow for the lifeboat. Help came from Donald and Alistair Bilsland in their yacht Carioca.

They launched a small inflatable into the surf and passed a rope from the lifeboat to the owner of the distressed yacht so that the lifeboat could then pull her to safety.



Ardgowan shop will close this week with the retirement of Hamish and Anne Mitchell. After 13 years of running the successful clothing store it will now become a private residence upstairs and an estate agency below. 01_B37twe02



Arran's newest business venture, the Brodick Riding Centre, started this week with owner Gavin Bell taking his first pupil on a pony trekking adventure at the Bell family farm in Corriegills. 01_B37twe05



Arran councillor John Sillars met Viking visitors from Norway last week. Visiting Arran to see the island's own connections with Vikings, they were joined by NAC convenor George Steven, David Anderson of community services and Charles Currie from the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board. 01_B37twe03



Ayrshire and Arran Health Board chairman Dr John Morrow presents Arran paramedics Neil Gillies and Jeff Dawson with their new four-wheel drive vehicle which is designed to be able to reach the remotest parts of Arran. 01_B37twe04



Arran High School pupils emerge from a building gasping for air. The children were in no danger though, they were in fact learning about the danger of fires at an educational activity hosted by Strathclyde Fire Brigade last week. 01_B37twe01

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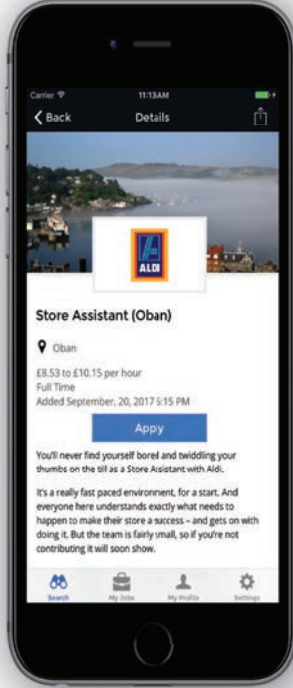
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Closing Date 21st September 2018
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NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING – BRATHWIC TERRACE, ARRAN

North Ayrshire Council is building new homes to the rear of Brathwic Terrace, Arran. Local people can view and comment on the draft plans by visiting the consultation event which is being held on:

Date: Wednesday 19 September 2018
Time: Drop in anytime between 4.30pm and 6.30pm
Venue: The Ormidale Sports Pavillion, Brodick, Arran, KA27 8DL

You can also view the plans on-line at: <http://www.northayrshire.community/consultations/> from Thursday 20 September 2018 until Thursday 11 October 2018.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE
KA12 8EE



Isle of Arran Drama Association

AGM

Wednesday 3rd October
7.30pm
Arran High School
All Welcome

LOCHRANZA AND CATACOL SEA SOCIETY cic

Annual General Meeting
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at the Lochranza Centre
All Welcome

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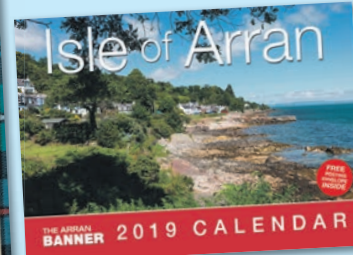
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CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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 16th September
Lochranza Church, 9.30am.
Morning Service.

Pirnmill Church, 10.15am.
Morning Service

Shiskine Church, 12noon
Morning Worship. The Guild

Rededication Service.
Brodick Church, 10.30am.
Morning Worship.

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

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

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 16th September

Holy Communion, 11am.
Rev Jane Penn
Coffee after Service
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 16th September

Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick

Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday Worship at 11am

'Heather Lodge', Brodick
(Next to the Douglas Hotel)
Telephone 700346
Everyone Warmly Invited

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 16th September

Mrs Aileen Brookens
Kilmory - 10am
Lamlash - 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 16th September

Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth

Watson, at 10.30am.
Everyone most welcome.
Tea and coffee will be

served in the transept
immediately after the service.
Please stay and enjoy more

fellowship. and there will be
a sale of Traidcraft goods
and other items.
Everyone most welcome.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH
Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 16th 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 15th September

Vigil Mass, 7.30pm

Sunday 16th September

Sunday Morning Mass, 11am



Arran Ladies' Golf Union

Sunday September 9, ALGU Island Championship at Whiting Bay. After four hard-fought rounds two competitors remained, Anne May of Brodick and Kema Genda of Machrie Bay. Both are past island champions and the small group of spectators were treated to a fine display of golf. In the end it was Anne who prevailed becoming Arran's island champion for the third year. Well done to all who played in the 2017/18 Championship.
Fixture: Saturday September 15, Cir Mhor Trophy at Machrie Bay, 12.30pm start.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday September 5, Summer Cup, last round. 31 played, CSS 63. 1 David McKinnon 72-14=58, 2 Brian Smith 74-15=59, 3 Matthew Keir 66-5=61. Scratch Matthew Keir 66.

Summer Cup, final. 1 Bruce Jenkins 308 (better sixth round), 2 Stuart Galloway 308, 3 Gordon Hendry and 4 Babbies MacNeil 312. Scratch 1 Ewan McKinnon 328, 2 Matthew Keir 336, 4 Gordon Hendry 340. Jinty Trophy, number of twos, Bruce Jenkins 16, Jimmy Armit, Ewan McKinnon and Terry Raeside 8. Elliott Eclectic, Gordon Hendry 47, Bruce Jenkins, Matthew Keir and Ewan McKinnon 48.
Friday September 7, Kintyre Cup at Carradale GC, Stableford, 13 played. 1 Brian Smith 38pts, 2 Stuart Brodie 37pts, 3 Nicol Hume 36pts.

Sunday September 9, Brandon Qualifier, 15 played, CSS 67. 1 Stuart Galloway 78-15=63, 2 Bill Donaldson 85-16=69, 3 Donald McKinnie 82-10=72. Scratch Stuart Galloway 78.
Fixture: Sunday September 16, John Gemmill Shield, three club competition, enter on notice board or turn up at 8.30am or noon. Wednesday September 19, Wednesday Winter Cup, 12-hole Stableford, at noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday September 8, Eddie Rankin. Machrie Bay V Corrie. Machrie won the cup for the 10th time to level the score with Corrie. Congratulations to David and the team for the excellent soup and sandwiches.
Sweep: 1 Phil Betley 42pts, 2 Sandy Murray 41pts, 3 Ron Woods 36, BIH, over Reuben Betley. Magic twos Sandy Murray.
Tuesday September 11, Captain's Day. Played as a two-person scramble over nine holes. 1

Anne is island champion again



Runner-up Kema Genda of Machrie Bay and winner Anne May of Brodick, who competed for the ALGU Island Championship.

Marilyn Woods and Paul Emsley 23, 2 Hamish Bannatyne and Campbell Laing 25. Ladies nearest the pin at the fifth, Elizabeth Kelso. Ladies' longest drive at the sixth, Kema Genda. Gents nearest the pin at the second, Alastair MacDonald. Gents' longest drive at the seventh, Phil Betley. The raffle raised £155. Thanks go to Kate and her staff for the lovely sandwiches and cake which were enjoyed by everyone.
Fixtures: Tuesday September 18, SGLU medal tee off at 12.30pm.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Friday August 31, Ladies' Glenashdale Stableford, 4 played, CSS 67. 1 Margaret Auld 29pts, 2 Jean Davidson 26pts.

Wednesday September 5, The Bannatyne Cup. A total of 21 people played in the Bannatyne Cup, a popular late season medal play trophy. CSS stayed at 63 and David Blair smashed that by four shots to win by three from Jamie Macpherson. 1 David Blair 16, 59, 2 Jamie Macpherson 5,62 ACB and lowest gross, 3 John Dick 15, 62, 4 Ryan Armstrong 9, 64. Magic twos Pete Towndrow @ second, John Dick and Andy Martin @ fourth and Stan Rainey @ seventh.

Friday September 7, The Ladies' Raymond Curtis Stableford, five played, CSS 67. 1 Margaret Auld 22, 25pts. 2 Jean Davidson 24, 23pts.

Sunday September 9, The Aitken Rosebowl. A total of 10 people played in the Aitken, the strokeplay foursomes which was rained off earlier in the year. The weather this time was kinder but a couple of heavy squalls had players rushing for the waterproofs and brollies at times. 1 Jamie Macpherson and Wolfi Kroner 10, 60, 2 John Dick and David Brookens 13, 66, 3 John Pennington and Peter Towndrow 13, 72.

and 12.30pm. Thursday September 13, Summer Stableford and Captain's Prize. Make up own games, see starter for times. Friday September 21, Seniors Open, yellow tees, Stableford.

Ladies' Section: Wednesday September 5, Fleet 6, CSS 64, par 65, 8 played. 1 Sheena Murchie 79-15=64, 2 Yvonne Brothers 84-17=67, 3 Gay Mackay 93-25=68. Scratch Sheena 79.

Friday September 7, away day. This year the venue for the away day was Loudon Golf at Galston. The majority of the 12-strong party had not played there before which added to the interest of the day.

Loudon is a long flat course which provided the group with a very enjoyable and testing round. The lunch in the clubhouse was also much appreciated.

The competition is a Stableford format with individual and team prizes. Winner of the away day trophy with 34 points was Kate McAdam, runner up was Ruth Hardy with 33 points and the winning team comprised Ellie Jones, Liz Sinclair and Ruth Hardy. The whole day was very successful aside from a two-hour wait at Ardrossan for the jinxed ferry.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday September 6, Ladies' 12-hole medal and medal winners from last year's final. 1 Fiona Henderson 53-8=45 (12 hole medal winner), 2 and scratch, BIH, Alice Anderson 53-7=46. 3 Jenni Turnbull 57-8=49. Alice wins a voucher for winning the medal final.

Arran SWI Federation

Four ladies, Fiona Henderson and Alice Anderson, Rion Culpin and Pat Adamson, represented the Arran SWI Federation on Tuesday August 28 at Duff House Royal Golf Course in Banff in the national golf finals.

Fixtures: Saturday September 15, AGA Seniors' Handicap, Shiskine GC, 1pm Sunday September 16, The Raymond Curtis Salver, Open, Stableford. Wednesday September 19, Stableford, yellow tees.

Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday September 5, Medal and magic twos. 1 D Jeffrey 66-8=58 BIH and scratch, 2 D Logan 69-11=58 BIH, 3 G Andrew 68-10=58. Four twos but not the magic one.

Saturday September 8, Eddie Rankin Trophy played at Machrie GC. Congratulations to Phil Betley.

Fixtures: Saturday September 15, 18-hole medal, ballots at 9am and 5pm.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday September 6, Summer Cup, CSS 64. 1 Drew Wales 68-9=59, 2 Dougie MacFarlane 63-0=63, 3 Iain Murchie 70-6=64. Scratch, Dougie MacFarlane 63. Magic twos, Paul Jameson at 16th.

Fixtures: Sunday September 9, Scratch Cup Final, 9.30am

Corrie Golf Club Winter Membership

Once again we are offering a

Winter Membership for £30.

This Membership will run from 1st October 2018 till 31st March 2019.

Application forms can be obtained

from the Club or Secretary at

65 Murray Crescent

Lamlash

KA27 8NS

Tel: 01770 600339

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Competitors watch Clair Hendry starting out on the obstacle course.

Riders put through their paces at TREC event

By Elanor McNamara
 The Arran Riding Club held its third annual Techniques de Randonnée Équestre de Compétition

(TREC) competition last weekend. TREC is the result of French trail riding exam candidates enjoying their tests so much that they wanted to do it all again.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the challenge making its way to Britain.

The competition has three parts, all designed to test the competence of riders and their horses to lead people riding in the outdoors. To do well, horses and riders must be versatile and calm in the face of a challenge.

The orienteering phase tests the riders' navigation and their ability to judge speed. The routes are as off road as possible and get more adventurous as riders

go up the levels, and might well include fords, high bridges, soft ground, rocky ground, narrow paths and riding at night.

The second phase is called the 'control of paces' and sounds easy – riders canter as slowly as possible and walk as fast as possible along a 100-150m marked out corridor on grass. Its far from being easy in practice. Cantering slowly requires quite an advanced level of schooling where the horse has learned to carry itself in a collected way, like an advanced dressage horse. It's also difficult to achieve a horse's best free walk in test conditions, especially as items like road signs are often left along the corridor making it harder to keep the horse straight, and all points are lost if the horse steps out of the corridor. Riders also lose all points if they break pace into trot in either direction.

The final phase is usually set on a cross country course, using the natural jumps like ditches, steps up and down, logs and hedges, with extra challenges added in. There is a long list of obstacles for organisers to choose from including staircases, footbridges, gates to open, low branches, narrow corridors, fords, and moving sideways and backwards, too. Everything has to be performed in good style, with penalties being incurred for growling at the horse, or using a whip, for example. Taken together

the whole thing is a great test of a partnership with the horse, trust in each other, and ability as a horseman. It's also great fun.

This year's competition was held at Glenkiln, making good use of the undulating field in front of the farm. Many thanks to Eleanor and Kenny for hosting, and for all the good-natured competitors who came along, making for a good day.

Special mention to Vicki Yuill and Velvet, who had the best walk; Alison Currie and Tia, who had the best canter, and Lois Ashley on Kippen and Clair Hendry on Colin, who had the highest scoring rounds on the cross country course. Everyone chose to ride as a pair, and the way the scoring works is that each partner's control of paces and cross country scores are added together, with penalties incurred on the orienteering taken off.

This year Laura Tulloch on Gem and Daisy McNamara on Toby came out on top, having made a big effort to be very accurate on the orienteering course, and with consistent performances in the other phases.

Second were last year's winners - Alison Currie on Tia and Rona Fulton on Ricky.

Third were Clair Hendry on Colin and Hollie Adamson on Lexus, and fourth were Vicki Yuill on Velvet and Kirsty Morrison on Pearl.



Clair Hendry on Colin and Hollie Adamson on Lexus approach the end of the orienteering.



Alison Currie and Rona Fulton on Tia and Ricky in the forest.



Kirsty Morrison and Pearl, and Vicki Yuill and Velvet approach a checkpoint on the orienteering phase.



Laura Tulloch and Daisy McNamara on the orienteering course.

Arran suffer a narrow defeat to Irvine Celtic

Ayrshire Sunday League

Isle of Arran 1
Irvine No 1 CSC 2

On Sunday it was back to 'international duty' for a lot of the Arran boys as the new all-island team played their final group game of the Ayrshire Sunday League group C.

Arran hosted Irvine No 1 Celtic Sports Club and although both teams had already qualified for division 1 there was still a lot to play for, as Arran could still top the group, but could also drop to third with a loss.

It was clear from the start of the game that there was a lot of weary and fragile players on the field for Arran.

The cup final on the previous day and the aftermath

were a major factor in this. Irvine took an early lead as they dominated play in the first 20 minutes.

Arran started to play themselves back into the game though and were rewarded from an Archie McNicol corner as the keeper spilled it and debutant James Todd was on hand to head the ball into the net to make it 1-1.

Penalty

In the second half the teams were evenly poised but Irvine were given the chance to retake the lead when Ryan Armstrong was judged to have brought down the Irvine striker in the box. David Heenan in goals for Arran stood no chance from the resulting penalty as the away side went back in front.

Arran had chances late on and McNicol thought he had rescued a point for his team when he ran in and stroked the ball into the corner only for it to be ruled offside by the referee despite protests from the Arran players and supporters.

The scores remained 2-1 to the Irvine Celtic boys and both of the teams will now head into Division 1 now that the group stage is finished. The first league fixture will take place on Sunday September 23.

Tomorrow (Sunday) Arran will host Galston in the first round of the Go Vending cup as Arran compete in their first knockout competition. Kick-off will be at 2pm at the Ormidale Park and all support is welcome.



The Arran side who took to the field on Sunday with manager Alan Murray and club sponsor Iain Keen. 01_B37irvine01



The ball goes narrowly wide from an Arran free kick. 01_B37irvine05



The Irvine Celtic side who took to the field at Ormidale Park with the referee. 01_B37irvine02



An Arran player shows some good close control. 01_B37irvine04



The crowd eagerly watch a promising Arran attack down the wing. 01_B37irvine06



Archie McNicol hits the deck as another promising attack ends in a foul. 01_B37irvine07



An Arran player is determined to be first to the ball. 01_B37irvine08

Double up for Southend

Continued from page 24

In the second half Southend's pressure continued and they made a lot of substitutions to showcase their younger players who maintained the high tempo.

Donald Park, who has been dominating in the midfield, was rewarded with a goal and Willie Silars also got on the score-sheet. James Currie, who at 14 is one to watch, made a bursting run down the left wing and calmly finished for the MBS boys.

The score could have been even more but Southend missed a penalty

which was well saved by the Brodick keeper.

It was the first time the Southend boys had won the knockout cup since 2014 and they did it in style.

Sponsor John Copperwheat presented the trophy to captain Danny Head and he kindly donated refreshments to all the boys.

The football association would like to thank all its sponsors from the 2018 season, especially John Copperwheat, Arran Dairies and Arran Haulage. The continued support from these companies is a major driving force in keeping football going on Arran.



Despairing Brodick keeper Finlay Silars can't keep out an early Southend goal. 01_B37final03



Finlay Silars goes the right way to save a Southend penalty. 01_B37final11



Matt Keir is pursued by a Southend player. 01_B37final10



James Currie is congratulated by his team mates. 01_B37final15



James Currie is poised to slot his solo effort into the Brodick goal. 01_B37final14



Opponents in a tight tussle for the ball. 01_B37final07



Brodick keeper Finlay Silars under pressure in the box. 01_B37final06

Get ready for Lamlash Splash

The final training sessions for the Lamlash Splash are now over and all the entrants are hoping for calm seas and no jellyfish at the event being held today (Saturday).

The 1.3-mile swim will start from the Holy Isle at around 11.30am with the first swimmers back at Lamlash Pier about 30 minutes later or, if last year's times are anything to go by, it might even be earlier.

Few changes

All 40 places for this popular event were taken up within two weeks of being posted online, however, there have been a few changes to the initial list with a number of call-offs and others taking their places.

This year there are quite a number of entrants swimming in the splash for the first time and to finish the event will be a big achievement.

The RNLI, Coastguard, Arran Sailing Club and Arran Kayak Club will all be on the water supporting the swimmers. After

all the swimmers are back at Lamlash Pier the Ali Bodie Plate for the person showing the most courage and determination in completing the swim will be presented by the Heather Queen, Keira Willis.

There will be 12 locals swimming – Charlotte Clough, Lynsey Cuthbertson, Ann Hart, Paul Hewie, Rory Hunter, Zabi Keen, Georgina Maclean, Jaqui McFarlane, Mike Mellor, Eric Milton, Heather Raeside and Jo Totty.

Will Rory Hunter be first male back this year after being beaten out of first place by 10 seconds last year? Will Georgina Maclean, who swam 10k from St Fillan's to Lochearnhead in a fantastic time of four hours 38 minutes last weekend, have recovered enough to retain her title as first local lady?

The swimmers all appreciate the support from spectators, so please come along to view this exciting challenge.



The local splash entrants ahead of their final group training session.

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Riders put through their paces at TREC event



The victorious Southend team are presented with Knockout Cup by sponsor John Copperwheat who hands the cup to captain Danny Head.

Brodick hit for six as Southend lift the cup

Copperwheat's Cup

Brodick	0
Southend	6

The Arran football year drew to a close on Saturday

with the final of the knock-out cup which is now sponsored by the Copperwheat Coffee House.

Both teams were aiming for a domestic double

with Southend fielding arguably one of their strongest squads of the season but Brodick had a lot of key players missing.

This was the story of the

game as Southend inflicted Brodick's biggest defeat for many years. Lewis Kennedy opened the scoring for Southend with an instinctive striker's finish.

Corey Allen then made it 2-0 after his shot was deflected by Finlay Sillars into the Brodick goal. The third goal was made by

between Willie Sillars and Gregor Crichton down the right handside before Gregor snuck the ball under the legs of Finlay Sillars.

Continued on page 23

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