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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 24 SEPTEMBER, 2016

No 2081 70p

# GP appointments are cut due to shortage of doctors

'We want to be honest about the challenges that face our team over the next year'

**REPORT**

by **HUGH BOAG**

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The number of GP surgery and telephone appointments on Arran has been cut due to a lack of doctors.

Before August, the Arran Medical Group offered around 550 GP phone and surgery appointments per week, but this has been reduced to around 400, which will inevitably lead to patients having to wait longer to see a doctor. Patients are also being advised they may be offered an appointment at a surgery that would not be their first choice.

Having previously relied on trainees to bolster numbers, the medical group will see the loss of two trainees and a rural fellow this year, with the filling of the vacant positions in doubt.

Adding to the difficulties, Arran has also seen GPs retiring and others returning to part-time work, in a pattern which has been repeated across the UK with some citing increases in pressures of the job. Additionally, the problem of recruiting GPs to the island is widely un-

derstood as is the fact that rural GPs are required to possess extra skill sets and provide additional services on Arran, such as emergency and hospital care.

A spokeswoman for the group said: 'We have been working hard to keep our services sustainable and equitable across the island and we want to be honest about the challenges that face our team over the next year.'

'The reduction in GP appointments is largely due to the fact that we no longer have any trainees and this year 30 per cent of GP training places in Scotland remain vacant.'

'We have been active in trying to recruit new trainees and GPs over the past few years, and we will continue to do this.'

'Arran patients enjoy excellent access to appointments. The development of phone appointments and closer liaison with our other health colleagues, has helped us to move to a more integrated model of health-care.'

'But there is a rising tide of demand from an ageing



## Having a splash in Lamlash . . .

With Holy Isle - where they swam from - behind them, the participants in this year's Lamlash Splash pose for a photograph at the end of the event. See centre spread for full coverage and more pictures.

01\_A39splash15

population and increasing medical problems, but so far we have managed to accommodate these changes on Arran and keep our service delivery sustainable.

'It is widely acknowledged that diagnostic tests and monitoring, that were

previously carried out in larger hospitals, are now being provided by GPs, which all adds up to increasing demand on appointment times, but, unfortunately, there has been very little resource to reflect this.'

It was reported this week

that Scotland is losing one family doctor a week and that surgeries across the country will have a shortfall of more than 800 posts in four years, according to the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Three surgeries across the

island were merged into the Arran Medical Group in 2012 to remain viable and to maintain the services. While the number of doctors' appointments are to be cut by around 150, the group will still offer more

Continued on page 2



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## Appointments cut as medical group struggles with shortage of doctors

Continued from page 1  
 than 300 appointments with the nursing and healthcare assistant team.

The group says it hopes to manage the cuts by prudent management, including a more effective triage system whereby patients' needs can be assessed by telephone and alternative locations being presented to patients to alleviate and spread the demand. Flexibility will assist in maintaining service levels as well as a degree of self-management on behalf of patients for non-serious issues which can be determined and managed with websites such as www.nhsinform.co.uk and www.patient.co.uk.

AMG also recently introduced online prescription ordering which has been well received and will fur-

ther reduce the number of people visiting the surgery.

Chief among the measures being introduced to relieve some of the pressures on the medical group will be an investigation on how to deal with the 40 to 50 lost appointments per week when patients do not attend their scheduled appointments. Solutions will be sought to this problem in partnership with the Patient Participation Group which regularly meets to discuss services and changes and provide feedback on primary health care across the island. Members represent most of the large villages on Arran and patients are invited to raise any concerns or feedback through their representative.

The medical group currently has three main surgeries on Arran - in Brodick, Lamlash and Shiskine. There are also branch surgeries held in Whiting Bay and Lochranza. Besides these surgeries, doctors also provide 24-hour emergency cover at the Lamlash War Memorial Hospital, home visits and when necessary they assist the police service.

# Second skiff Seabhag launched in Lamlash

Arran's second skiff was launched last Saturday and given its maiden voyage.

The skiff, a rowing boat for four rowers plus cox, was launched at the pier following the Lamlash Splash. A big crowd heard Arran Coastal Rowing Club treasurer Geoff Norris explain a brief history of the boat before unveiling the name of the vessel as Seabhag, meaning Hawk.

The skiff, as with the first one, Iolair, has once again been built in the Arran High School and the team of builders, including pupils from the school, have done another amazing job. Special thanks go to the master boat builders Steve Garraway and Rory Cowan. Rory then christened the boat with a splash of Irn-Bru.

The boat was then piped down the pier by Ross Kerr before setting off on its maiden voyage with three girls from the junior sailing

club, Cecilia Paul and cox Samuel Leckey.

■ Arran Coastal Rowing Club win first regatta, see page 22.



The boat is piped down the pier



Rory Cowan christens the new skiff. 01\_A39skiff02

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01\_A39skiff03



Piper Ross Kerr who played at the launch. 01\_A39skiff08



Setting sail on its maiden voyage. 01\_A39skiff05



The skiff looks shipshape in Lamlash Bay. 01\_A39skiff07



Treasurer Geoff Norris speaks at the skiff launch. 01\_A39skiff01

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Advertisement for The Douglas Hotel featuring a photo of the building and text: LIVE MUSIC on Sat 24th from 9pm with JONNIE SCOTLAND. Includes images of food.

Advertisement for Mainland Taxis featuring a map of Arran, contact number 01294 463 556, and a list of destinations and fares: Glasgow Airport £35, Prestwick Airport £25, Edinburgh Airport £100, Glasgow City Centre £42, Kilmarnock £23, Ayr £28, Crosshouse Hospital £20, Ayr Hospital £32, Irvine Central Hospital £14. Other quotes on request. \*HOSPITAL TAXI SHARE AVAILABLE\*

Large advertisement for Arran Active featuring 'FANTASTIC REDUCTIONS!' and 'Arran Active' branding. Lists brands like Montane, Rab, Animal, Merrell, Asolo, Icebreaker, Rieker, and The North Face. Includes images of a jacket and a shoe. Text: 'New Season Stock from Mountain Equipment, Salomon, Rab, North Face, Berghaus, The Muck Boot Company, Craghoppers, Ronhill, Regatta, Weird Fish, Animal, Montane Nomads, Lily&Me, Adini, Jack Murphy, Rieker and Sketchers. Grab a bargain off our sale rails! Also in stock kids clothing and footwear, rucksacks, gifts, wool, whiskies & gins, wax jackets, running gear and more!' and 'New Season Stock includes Mountain Equipment, Rab and North Face clothing and footwear.' 'AUTUMN COLLECTIONS NOW IN! Women's Lily & Me, Nomads, Adini fashion clothing, Weird Fish, Salomon, Regatta, Rieker Animal and Craghoppers'.

# Adder is found dead after attack

A Brodick man was given a fright when he came across a large adder while out walking his dogs.

But on closer inspection he found it had been killed by someone striking its head with a rock. The female snake, which was around 2ft long, was found by Nicol Bunyan in Glen Rosa on Sunday September 11 about a mile up from the campsite.

He said: 'I would not have seen it had it not been for my two spaniels who

were slightly off the track. It was the dogs I was worried about when I saw it, but on closer inspection I realised it was dead. It had clearly been struck a number of times.'



Nicol took a photograph and reported it to the Arran Ranger Service, who informed the police as adders are a protected species and it is an offence to harm them.

Nicol said: 'It is a shame such a healthy adult female was killed, especially since they are protected.'



Highland dancer Charlotte McKillop and Pipe Major Malcolm Wheeler at the launch with staff in the new blue-branded T-shirts. 01\_A39coop02

# Co-op card gives cash to community

Organisations on Arran are to benefit from the new membership card at the Co-op stores on the island.

The new blue card will be dropping through the letter boxes of existing members in the coming days and is available in store for new

members. As well as giving customers five per cent off Co-op-branded products and services, community groups get one per cent.

The first three groups to benefit on Arran are the Isle of Arran Pipe Band, the Arran Highland Dancers

group and the Hospital Supporters' League.

The new card was unveiled in the main Brodick store on Wednesday with representatives of the first organisations who will benefit from the first six months of funding. Other groups will ben-

efit thereafter and members can go online to have their say on deserving causes.

Pipe Major Malcolm Wheeler said the funding would go to pipe and drum tutoring, while the Highland dance group is planning to buy a marquee.

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**Charlotte McKillop performs a Highland dance in store.**

01\_A39coop01

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# Swim champ Stephen makes a big splash at high school

A popular swimming champion recently made a splash when he visited Arran High School.

Clutching the silver medal he won at the Olympics in Rio, Scots swimmer Stephen Milne made quite an impact when he visited the school earlier this month.

### Certificate

He presented Ellie Ewing with her certificate for achieving a gold medal at last year's Ayrshire Athletics triple jump final and

met with staff and young people.

Head teacher Barry Smith said: 'He was truly inspirational and delivered a message of achieving success through consistent effort and practice.'

Stephen also visited Lam-lash Primary and spent time with the children talking about his achievements.

Born in Inverness, Stephen, who is 22, moved to Perth as a young child where he continues to live

and train. Although he swam a new personal best and broke the Scottish record in the 400m freestyle in Rio, he missed out on reaching the Olympic final in his individual events. However, he made up for that disappointment by winning silver in the 4x200m freestyle relay.

### Silver medal

He can now add that to the silver medal he won at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow two years ago.



The Olympic swimmer with birthday girl Jodie McGarrie.



Stephen presents Ellie Ewing with her gold medal certificate.



Stephen with some of the school staff.



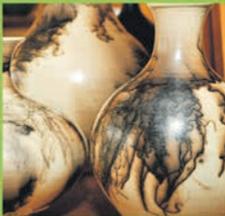
One pupil gets a selfie with Stephen.

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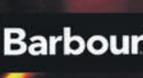

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## New youth champion

Ardrossan and Arran councillor Peter McNamara has been named as North Ayrshire's new youth champion – 25 years after he first took on the important role.

North Ayrshire's cabinet made the appointment and Councillor McNamara admitted he was privileged to take on a role which has meant so much to him.

'It was about 25 years ago when I was approached by Alex Pettigrew and Jim McHarg and asked if I wanted to be Youth Champion,' said Councillor McNamara.



Some of the youngsters who helped out on the day with the raffle prizes. 01\_A39funds04

## Ferry vote brings additional Sunday sailing

An additional ferry service has been added to the CalMac winter timetable with a new 8.20am Sunday sailing from Brodick to Ardrossan, after a public vote in favour of the new service.

But the extra Sunday sailing comes at the loss of the 7.20pm Saturday service, which was backed by a majority of 67 per cent of respondents in the survey held last winter by the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee.

A CalMac spokesman said: 'Our community consultation process enables us to listen to and act on feedback from the communities we support, allowing us to deliver services that best support their needs.'

'As we move into the new contract, this process will evolve even further to give communities a bigger stake in how their lifeline services are managed.'

Ferry committee chairman Iain Thomson said: 'For a lot of people Sunday is the only day they have to get off the island. It was unacceptable that they were unable to get to the mainland before lunchtime and we are pleased the majority decision has been accepted by CalMac.'

The winter timetable starts on Monday October 24 and runs until March 30, 2017.

### CATACOL BAY HOTEL SUNDAY BUFFETS PLEASE NOTE

There will be NO BUFFETS on the following dates:  
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# Youths cash in on fundraiser

Arran Youth Foundation's annual fundraiser was held at Strabane House thanks to Lady Jean kindly opening her beautiful gardens for the group to use.

Many of the AYF youngsters helped at the stalls and visitors had a chance

to enjoy home baking, teas, coffees, a book sale and an afternoon performance from Arran Fiddle Club, as well as enjoy the gardens.

The grand raffle at the event included several top prizes, including two Segway sessions and a £50

voucher kindly donated by the Auchrannie.

Graeme Johnston, AYF's youth work project manager, said: 'We are very grateful to Lady Jean, as the money raised at open days at Strabane always helps the group hugely.'

**Eilidh Macpherson and Arran Youth Foundation volunteer Thomas Williams at the book stall.**

01\_A39funds03



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liveries travelling at least once a week to the island and helpful, friendly staff on hand six days a week offering advice and quality products at competitive prices, you will hopefully get the feeling of an expanding family-run firm.

The company's owner, George Low, has more than 40 years' experience himself in the timber trade and knows his staff are among the most knowledgeable about their trade as anyone in the country.

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## Don't lose your eligibility to vote

The annual check to ensure all eligible voters on Arran are correctly registered is now well under way.

During August, around 170,000 voter registration letters containing a household inquiry form went out to every home in Ayrshire and Arran.

Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board is reminding householders that they must respond to the forms received or they could lose the right to vote.

In extreme cases, failure to respond could even result in a hefty fine.

The form lists the names of all voters registered at that address. Householders need to check the details and either confirm these are correct or update with the relevant changes.

The quickest and easiest way to do this is to complete it online, using the unique security codes included in each letter. Alternatively, the form can be completed and posted back.

Any new voters must also complete the individual voter registration form online – adding a person to the household inquiry form does not automatically register them to vote. If the household details are correct, this can also be confirmed by phone.

You can register to vote, update details or change preferences at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote).

If you need advice, contact Ayrshire Valuation Joint Board on 01292 612221 or email [ero@ayrshire-vjb.gov.uk](mailto:ero@ayrshire-vjb.gov.uk).

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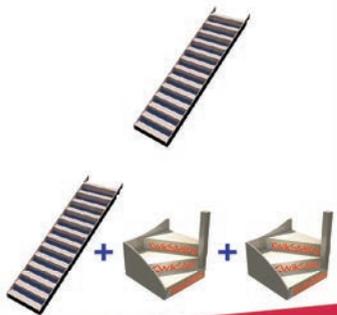
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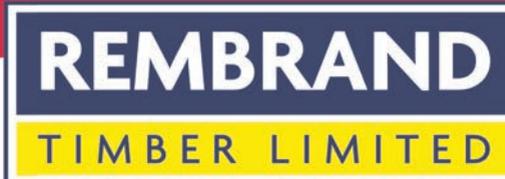
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# THE ARRAN BANNER

## An open and honest approach

The loss of any services has to be a matter of regret, but when the loss is the number of doctors' appointments on the island, there has to be real cause for concern.

So it is good to see the Arran Medical Group taking an open and honest approach to the obvious difficulties they are facing.

Too many health bodies over the years have run their affairs under a cloak of secrecy unwilling to give the public the facts of the situation.

But the Arran Medical Group has not followed this approach, preferring instead to tell patients exactly what is going on and why. It is a fact that Scotland is haemorrhaging GPs – it's just not that attractive to junior doctors any longer. And attracting young GPs to Arran and other island and rural communities is proving a real challenge.

For every trainee GP like Dr Andrew Gaw, who loved Arran and embraced his time here, and who will be back next year, there are many others who would never dream of coming to a small island community.

The loss of a rural fellowship post and two trainees, combined with the retirement and semi-retirement of older doctors and others cutting their hours, has left the island practices, which combined three years ago, extremely stretched leading to the decision to, reluctantly, cut the number of appointments.

Various measures are being put in place to try to accommodate this reduction, but one thing which would help is the 40 to 50 patients every week who fail to turn up for booked appointments. Now the medical group is planning to discuss this with its Patient Participation Group to see if there is anything that can be done to improve the situation.

And patients are going to have to accept some flexibility as they may need to travel to a surgery other than their usual one, particularly for urgent 'on the day' appointments.

Of course there are going to be some grumblings that it is getting harder, and taking longer, to get a doctor's appointment but the medical group is at least facing up to the difficulties which lie ahead.

It may not be just what the doctor ordered, but at least it is a cohesive plan.

### THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said: 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.' (Matthew 5:9)

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We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

### your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on e-mails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters Page, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran. E-mail editor@arranbanner.co.uk

## Letters to the Editor



### Tell us your views of broadband

Sir,  
The Arran Economic Group is keen to find out about the Arran community's experiences with connectivity across the island in respect of broadband – superfast or otherwise.

Specifically, we are trying to pull together a map showing 'hot and not' spots which will aid us enormously in work still to be done and where the emphasis/priorities should be.

Data protection regulation prohibits us from accessing this information directly from the suppliers, so what better way than to ask the questions directly of the receivers?

The AEG need to know: name and location, broadband download speed, broadband provider and, finally, if you don't have it, do you want it? Send to sheena.borthwick.aeg@gmail.com or drop the info into me at the VisitArran office, The Pier, Brodick.

We will put all participants/contacts into a hat and pull out a lucky one to win a hamper from the Isle of Arran Distillery.

Yours,  
**Sheena Borthwick-Toomey,**  
Development director,  
Arran Economic Group.

### Another fiasco

Sir,  
The *Banner* headline of August 13 was 'Ferry fiasco'. On Friday September 9 we had what I would call yet another fiasco. From about 6.30pm vehicles were lined up waiting for the 7.20pm ferry, having been led to believe this trip to Ardrossan, although the ferry was running late, would take place.

At 7.30pm the ferry arrived in Brodick. Only

then was everyone waiting informed there would be no further sailings, leaving vehicle drivers scrambling to get a booking for next day, and along with foot passengers trying to find somewhere to stay that night, contact and cancel any mainland arrangements they may have made and so on.

Why was this announcement left until the last minute? We were lucky, although we still had to queue to re-book our car, as we could go home, but

for many people it was a distressing end to their Arran holiday. CalMac please don't just abandon your customers.

Yours,  
**Alistair Glen,**  
Balgowan, Brodick.

### Office thanks

Sir,  
Thank you for the excellent coverage of COAST's planned redevelopment of the tennis pavilion in Lam-lash.

I would just like to add that while we are look-

ing forward to moving into the pavilion (given planning approval), we have in fact been very comfortable in our current offices at the Old Haybarn, which have been ideal for a growing organisation.

We would like to thank Gavin and Lesley Fulton for being such supportive and responsive landlords over the past five years.

Yours,  
**Andrew Binnie,**  
Executive director,  
Community of Arran  
Seabed Trust.



A reader this week sent us this photograph with the caption. 'This sailor got his parking a bit wrong last Sunday! Just as well it was a catamaran.'

## Continued hearing aid support on Arran

Action on Hearing Loss Scotland is inviting Arran residents to its next monthly hearing aid support drop-in session in Arran War Memorial Hospital, Lam-lash, on Tuesday September 27.

The charity's Hear to Help session, which runs between 11am and 1pm, offers free maintenance for NHS hearing aid users. Volunteers, who have been trained by NHS Ayrshire and Arran audiology, will carry out basic maintenance on hearing aids, such as cleaning and replacing tubing and batteries.

The volunteers can also provide information on equipment such as amplified phones, TV listeners and vibrating/flashing alarms which can make everyday life much easier.

Hear to Help was under threat of closure

earlier this year but, following concerted campaigning by volunteers and service-users on Arran, the three Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership boards provided short-term funding to keep the service running across the region.

### Difficult

Donna McSwiggan, Hear to Help coordinator, said: 'It can be difficult for some islanders – especially those with mobility difficulties – to travel to the mainland for basic hearing aid maintenance, so we're delighted to be continuing our much-loved local service to provide this vital support much closer to home.'

For information about Hear to Help on Arran, contact Donna McSwiggan on 01563 539900 or email donna.mcsiggan@hearingloss.org.uk.

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## Market report

United Auctions in Stirling had forward 2,126 store cattle and cast cows 16,286 store, prime and feeding sheep last week.

Store cattle: Hawthorn (CharX Blks) £960 (245pkg); Craighdu (CharX Blks) £930 (224pkg); Hillhead (AAx Blks) £900 (221pkg); Knowe (AAx Blks) £890 (225pkg);

Glenkiln (AAx Blks) £830 (211pkg); Hawthorn (AAx Blks) £730 (245pkg); Craighdu (CharX Hfrs) £950 (247pkg); Hawthorn (CharX Hfrs) £865 (218pkg).

Cast bull: Bellevue £925.

Store Sheep: Cosyden (Chev) £62; Sheddock (SuffX) £64; Moor (TexX) £93; Drumla (TexX) £71.50; Hazelwood (TexX) £57; Balnacoole (TexX) £54; Bridge (BF) £43.

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# Cemetery extension gets the final go-ahead

Planning permission has been granted for an extension to Lamlash Cemetery along with the creation of associated footpaths, landscaping and perimeter fencing.

The application, previously submitted and withdrawn after receiving objections from the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency, was resubmitted and after satisfying all requirements will now go ahead. Permission has been granted with only one condition in recognition of the archaeological significance of the site as reported in *The Banner* last month.

The condition states that prior to any work taking place, a programme of archaeological works is submitted to North Ayrshire

council and that during works the recording and recovering of the works undertaken are both done to the satisfaction of the council.

The completion of the extension will see a further 571 plots being created in the historic cemetery that dates back to the 14th century.

### Alterations

In other planning news, permission has been granted for alterations to the Tourist Information Centre at the Brodick Pier. The alterations include the removal of the existing pyramid roof lights and the replacement of the roof deck as well as repairs and replacement of windows and cladding.

The application states: 'It



Lamlash Cemetery will have 571 new plots. 01\_B39cemetery01

is considered that the alterations to the premises would result in a significant improvement to the appearance of the premises, assisting in improving the visual amenity and design quality of the building. The im-

provements and repairs would have a positive impact on the amenity of the neighbouring premises.'

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# JEWSON

# MP brings Bill for action on nuisance calls

Patricia Gibson, MP for North Ayrshire and Arran, has brought forward a Bill at Westminster seeking a change in the law to tackle nuisance calls.

The Unsolicited Marketing Communications (Company Directors): Ten Minute Rule Bill, which will have its second reading on November 18, proposes to hold company bosses personally responsible for nuisance calls, by giving the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) the power to take action against the named directors of companies found to have made unsolicited marketing calls in breach of the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003.

Currently the ICO only has the power to impose fines on companies rather than named company directors, enabling directors to escape paying the fines by closing down the company and setting up a new one – a practice known as “phoenixing”. Of the 22 com-

panies that have had fines imposed by the ICO since 2015, only six have paid or partially paid the fine, while the remaining 16 have not paid the fines at all or have gone into liquidation.

In June the SNP Government held the first ever summit on tackling the issue of nuisance calls, bringing together regulators, consumer groups and industry representatives to clamp down on the problem. The SNP Government will continue to take action using the consumer powers now available and will establish a taskforce focusing on practical ways of empowering and protecting consumers.

### Plague

Commenting, Patricia Gibson MP said: ‘Nuisance calls plague millions of people every single day and it is wrong that rogue companies are able to avoid paying the penalty for their unlawful actions.

‘At best, nuisance calls can be an irritant; at worst they can blight the lives of

some of the most vulnerable people in society.

‘If passed, my Bill would hold named company bosses personally liable for fines imposed for unsolicited marketing calls – elevating the issue of nuisance calls to the boardroom and ensuring that company directors cannot escape responsibility by liquidating their companies.

‘If the UK government is serious about tackling the practice of cold-calling it should back my Bill.’



Participants at a recent dog agility class.

## Good citizen dog scheme starts

The new winter sessions of dog obedience classes start this week in Whiting Bay.

The classes are being run with a view to having an examiner come over late November to test dogs and owners to The Kennel Club Good Citizen Dog Scheme standard. Classes cater for all ages of dogs from puppies needing socialisation and basic training through to dog that have achieved ‘gold’ at KC GCDS standards.

Organiser Margaret Kay said: ‘This type

of training is of huge benefit to dogs and their owners.

We have seen significant changes in owners enjoyment of their dogs, moving from avoiding other dogs and people to participating in dog events or just getting out and dealing with whoever/whatever they meet without fear or embarrassment at how their dog will behave.’

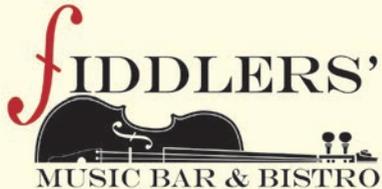
The classes run from 1pm till 3.30pm in Whiting Bay village hall.

### Lost gold cross plea

A small gold cross and gold chain, of great sentimental value, was lost in Brodick during the morning of Tuesday September 13. If anyone finds it could they please telephone 700366.

### 200 Club draw winners

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club August draw were, first prize Kitty Milne, second prize Margaret McGivern.



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Mary Bowers and son Reuben with the Ali Bodie Memorial Plate which was presented by Lamlash Heather Queen Jessica Reid.

01\_A39splash16



Ann Hart is congratulated at the finish by Mike Mellor.



A big crowd at Lamlash Pier watched the swimmers.



The swimmers take to the boats from the trip over the Holy Isle start.

01\_A39splash02



Alan Bowey checks in with the marshalls at the finish.

01\_A39splash05



Barry Smith looks exhausted at the end of his swim.

01\_A39splash19

# Swimmers big splash in Mary's determination sees

The 15th Lamlash Splash took place on a beautiful sunny day with perfect sea conditions last Saturday.

A big crowd turned out to watch the 39 swimmers, including 16 locals, who took part in the event which raised more than £1,000 for the Arran junior sailing club. The local swimmers were Mary Bowers, Wayne Dale, Greg Hamill, Ann Hart, Paul Hewie, Chris Hogge, Carole Johnson, Zabdi Keen, Georgina Maclean, Mike Mellor, Eric Milton, Heather Raeside, Glen Sloss, Barry Smith, Gerard Tattersfield and Jo Totty. The local swimmers all completed the swim and many of them who had attended open-water training sessions in Brodick and Lamlash improved on their times from previous years.

The safety of the swimmers is paramount in this event so thanks must go to Bill Barr, lead safety officer, for organising the volunteers from the RNLI, the Coastguard, the many kayakers and volunteers in the safety boats to be in attendance.

Also thank you to the Holy Isle ferry for taking two groups of swimmers over to the island for the start of the event, and to the many volunteers behind the scenes who registered the swimmers, recorded their times, assist-

ed with catering and generally helped. It meant that I was able to take part in the swim knowing that everything was in hand on shore.

Although the Splash is not a race, many of the swimmers like to compete while to others it is an accomplishment in itself to complete the 1.3-mile swim, which starts from the Holy Isle.

The first gent back in Lamlash was Alan Bowey from Glassford, who was completing in his sixth event in a row, in a time of 33min 45sec. Second was Roy Armstrong from Shawlands, who trains with Alan, in a time of 34.23 and third was Graeme Schreiber from Houston, who has been third for three years in a row, and who was swimming for the Glasgow Maggie's Centre, in a time of 36.05. The first local swimmer home was Glen Sloss from Sannox, who was fourth overall in the time of 36.37.

The first lady back was Morag Scott, who was ninth overall, in a time of 42.33, second was Laurel Brodie and third Gillian Donachy. The first local lady was Georgina Maclean.

The Ali Bodie Memorial Plate, presented to the swimmer who has shown the most courage and determination to complete the swim, was won by Mary Bowers from the Lagg Hotel. Mary is



Swimmers are kept on course with the help of a kayak support boat.

01\_A39splash09



return. 01\_A39splash18

All photos by Hugh Boag

# make a in Lamlash

## s her lift Ali Bodie plate

a triathlete who had really struggled with the swimming part of the event. She could swim front crawl for hundreds of lengths in the pool but panicked as soon as she was in the open water.

It is essential to relax when swimming front crawl otherwise you cannot breathe. Mary attended open water practices from the beginning of May and gradually managed to get over the panic and relax and 'enjoy' the swim. Hopefully now she will have the confidence to take part in more triathlons.

The Arran Open Water Swimming

group plans to meet up and swim throughout the winter.

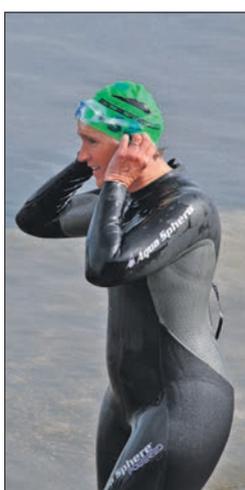
It would welcome new members so if you are interested in giving it a go, check out the Arran Open Water Swimming Facebook page where you will find the times and places of sessions. Open water swimming is exhilarating whilst at the same time there is great camaraderie with all those taking part. Why not come along and give it a go?

Next year's Splash has been set for Saturday September 16.

Ann Hart



Mike Mellor briefs the swimmers ahead of the start. 01\_A23splash01



Jo Totty at the finish. 01\_A39splash10



First, second and third, Alan Bowey, centre, Roy Armstrong, right, and Graeme Schreiber. 01\_A39splash07



Zabdi Keen emerges from the water after the swim. 01\_A39splash11



The last of the swimmers share a joke as they head off on the rib. 01\_A39splash03



Gerard Tattersfield and Chris Hogge share their experiences. 01\_A39splash13



Alan Bowey is the first swimmer home. 01\_A39splash04



Glen Sloss is the first Arran swimmer back. 01\_A39splash06

# First official open water swim from Arran to Troon

A group of 12 women and a man, ranging in age from 22 to 67, will attempt the first 16-mile official swim from Arran to Troon at the end of the month. The relay swim, which is expected to take the two teams a gruelling 12 hours to complete, will raise funds for the RNLI and local Ayrshire charity, the Jo Walters Trust.

The mainland group, who call themselves the Arran TrooNautics, are mostly all new to open-water swimming but have trained hard for the past year to get to the point where their coach and experienced cross-Channel swimmer, Chris Sifleet, is confident they can make the crossing.

Some of the team will be in wetsuits but many will not, enabling the swim

to meet the criteria to be logged with the British Long Distance Swimming Association. Each swimmer will swim for an hour and then be replaced by the next swimmer, before taking to the water again to complete the 12-hour journey.

'We all have different strengths and are facing varying fears, including the cold, stamina, jellyfish, sea sickness, dark water and basking sharks – to name but a few – but we are all committed to complete the task and have a good party at the end,' said Annie Howie, whose idea it was to take on the challenge in 2015, when she heard about a group rowing from Arran to Ayr, and thought she would like to swim the same stretch of water.

'The commitment has

been huge, training twice a week for over a year, with most of us having young families and jobs,' said Lucy Johnston, fellow swimmer and founder of local charity the Jo Walters Trust, set up in memory of her sister, Jo, who died aged 28 in a cycling accident. Some of the money raised from the swim will go to fund young carers in Ayrshire to go on an outward bound course and the rest of the money will go to the RNLI.

'Training has involved rats, eels, seals, slime, chilblains, wetsuit burns, fear of what lurks beneath the dark water, countless lonely lengths and early mornings and late nights, to name but a few,' adds Lucy. 'This has not been a walk in the park but fingers crossed we



The Arran TrooNautics team after a group training session.

have done enough to see us safely through to completion and reach our target of £10,000 for our charities.'

The swim will take place one day between September 25 and 30, when the weather conditions are right with no more than force

four winds and the water as calm as possible. The team will have 48 hours' notice of the swim date. The team consists of the following members: Annie Howie, Alice Vernon, Barbara Johnston, Bea Bound, Caoimhe Hunter Blair, Joanna

Clapton, Katherine Self, Lorna Laidlaw, Lucy Johnston, Mark Johnston, Rhona Quarm, Vanessa Lawrence and Whirly Marshall.

Donations to the fund can be made by visiting: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/arrantotroonswim>.

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## Round Britain walker ticks off Arran on trip

A man who is walking round the entire coastline of Britain and Ireland visited Arran last week.

Alex Ellis-Roswell, 24, walked round the island as part of his 9,500-mile, four-year non-stop walk round the coastline raising funds for the RNLI – and he isn't even half way there yet.

But 24-year-old Alex is determined to finish the journey he started back on August 3, 2014, when he left his hometown in Margate, Kent, to begin his epic walk. So far Alex has walked 4,500 miles and raised over £24,000 for the RNLI and he was given a warm welcome during the four days he walked round the island last week. He arrived last Tuesday and was given overnight accommodation at the Pierhead Tavern in Lamlash before embarking on his walk.

'There's no doubt in my mind the lifeboat volunteers are heroes,' Alex told the *Banner*. 'I must have met over 1,000 volunteers. Their dedication, professionalism, sacrifice and brav-

ery are an inspiration. Unfortunately we seem to live in a world of bad news right now. But here are thousands of men and women, from all different backgrounds, coming together for the good of others.'

Alex is taking a clockwise route around both Britain and Ireland. He's just finished walking the 2,500-mile coastline of Ireland and is now walking up the West Coast of Scotland.

'Hiking through Scotland this winter will be the great-

est challenge I've faced so far over the past two years,' said Alex.

He hopes to be finished back where he started in Kent sometime in 2018. Alex had set an initial fundraising target of £10,000, but he has already raised £24,000 for the RNLI to date through online donations and bucket collections.

You can follow and support Alex on his Facebook profile at [www.facebook.com/alexellisroswell](http://www.facebook.com/alexellisroswell).



Alex arrives on Arran to start his round island walk.

01\_A39lifeboat01

# Big Green Footprint leaves a trail of environmental awareness in its wake

Eco Savvy hosted their Big Green Footprint event at Whiting Bay Hall last Thursday where like minded individuals and school children learned about environmental awareness and responsibility.

Taking the visitors on a journey through the ages in

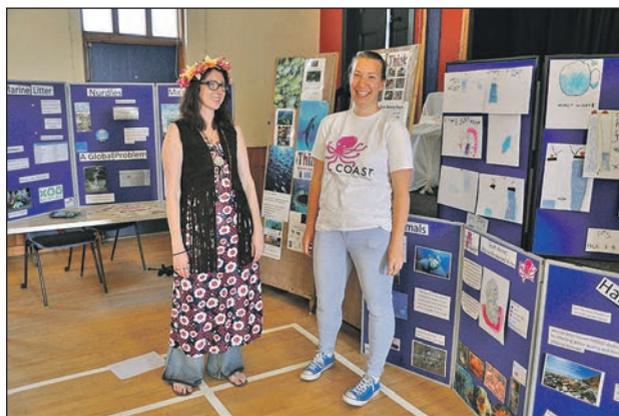
a progression of tables and exhibits were characters dressed up in suitable attire for the era who explained what impact humans have had on the environment. Assisting with the environmentally-aware education were representatives from the Arran Community Land

Initiative, (ACLI) who held a mini demonstration of fruit and vegetable growing and composting, as well as the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST), who detailed the damage being done to our oceans and what can be done to prevent this.

Lynn Lennon of North Ayrshire Council's Waste Awareness was also on hand to explain the need to reduce waste and to promote the campaign of 'Right stuff, Right bin', recently highlighted in *The Banner*.

Various other exhibitors added to the host of recycling, reducing and upcycling stalls including the unique and novel shopping bags and purses made by Louise Mackie of Irvine. Upcycling foil drinks and boil in the bag rice bags, she constructs various useful and attractive items out of things that would, ordinarily, be thrown away.

Eco Savvy is a community environmental awareness charity that works with other organisations, community groups, schools and individuals to promote awareness of environmental issues and how to reduce damage to the environment. The Big Green Footprint event was part of a Zero Waste Week which was held last week.



Representing the 60's and 70's era was Val Waite accompanied by Jenny Wright of COAST. 01\_B39BGF04



Louise Mackie upcycles plastic packaging to make bags, purses and wallets. 01\_B39BGF01



Promoting environmentally friendly methods was Lynn Lennon of NAC Waste Awareness. 01\_B39BGF03



Corrie primary pupils are taught to pot plants by ACLI's Jenny Macdonald. 01\_B39BGF02

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# Ten Strings Duo charm the audience at church concert

The audience at St Bride's Church in Lochranza were treated to a lovely musical evening from the Ten Strings Duo last month. Sicilian musicians Mariana-

talia Ruscica, violinist, and Davide Sciacca, guitarist, were on a British tour this summer.

Their playlist was billed as ranging 'from Schubert

to the Beatles' and it certainly included familiar favourites, but the real treats for the audience were many little-known Argentinian and Brazilian works, including Pujol's beautifully melancholic *Palermo* and Astor Piazzolla's lively and emotive *Night Club 1960*.

Marianatalia brought an engaging Mediterranean musicality to their repertoire and Davide's guitar work was both impressive and compelling. Together this duo charmed the Lochranza locals and island visitors alike.

During their tour the duo performed 30 concerts, delighting audiences in England, Scotland and Wales. Following an outstanding performance at St Margaret's Church, Braemar, Marianatalia and Davide



The Ten Strings Duo performing on Arran. Photos by Barbara Lloyd



Sicilian musicians Marianatalia Ruscica and Davide Sciacca.

received a special invitation. On August 28 they had the great honour of playing during the Sunday morning service at Crathie Kirk, Ballater, in the presence of the Queen, the Duke of

Edinburgh, the Prince of Wales and other members of the royal family and their guests.

The duo played two beautiful pieces, Maximo Diego Pujol's *Palermo* and

Laurent Boutros's *Ama-sia*. Their performance was, as always, of the highest standard and they were very well-received.

Review by the Ferguson family

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Scottish textile design studio Juniper and Jane is based in West Kilbride, Ayrshire. Much of their time is spent roaming Scotland's wild places from which they draw inspiration for their printed patterns.

Textile Artist, Jane Hunter and designer, Sam Kilday venture off the beaten track in a bid to find those quiet, remote locations in which to absorb the natural surroundings. Travels take the pair from craggy coastlines, hearing only the sound of inquisitive seals to lonely mountain corries in the hidden north, long since abandoned by ice and man.

Juniper and Jane's textile patterns evoke the true character of Scotland's wilderness in a contemporary, illustrative style.

The mountain bothy cushion on offer is printed on 100% natural, unbleached cotton and comes complete with a plump feather pad.

To find out more about Juniper and Jane's fabrics, gifts and home accessories visit: [www.juniperandjane.co.uk](http://www.juniperandjane.co.uk)



Scottish Field

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\*Price includes P&P

## Arran Civic Trust in visit to oldest observatory

Arran Civic Trust members enjoyed a visit the Coats Observatory and museum in Paisley on Wednesday, September 14.

Built in 1883, Coats Observatory is the oldest public observatory in the country. As well as the astronomical work, daily weather readings are taken and the observatory had also served as a seismic recording centre monitoring earthquakes worldwide, which included the famous 1906 San Francisco quake.

The stunning building holds a vast range of telescopes for year-round stargazing on clear nights, and a state-of-the-art digital planetarium. The Arran party were introduced first to the planetarium where the curator explained constellations, distant galaxies, nebulae, star galaxies and the light years distances using the impressive facilities to hand. Climbing to the top of the building, the group viewed the original Victorian telescopes and also the view over Paisley.

For those interested, winter viewing nights operate

every year from November to end of December, allowing visitors the opportunity to view the wonders of the night sky up close through powerful telescopes housed in the building. These events are free. The winter viewing season for 2016 will run on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from Tuesday November 1 to Thursday December 22, 6.30pm to 9pm (last admission 8.45pm).

The museum just below the observatory is located in the heart of Paisley, an attractive Victorian building that is home to a variety of exhibits from the Shawl Collection to one of the best ceramics collections in the country. Recently upgraded and much improved it provided an introduction to the weaving industry. Paisley is, of course, famous for the world-renowned pattern and the Paisley shawl collection is a recognised collection of national significance to Scotland.

In 2014, a loom gallery was created to showcase original handlooms that were used to produce the cloth. The cu-

rator introduced the development history of looms, showing how patterns were developed using punched cards reminiscent of early computer data recording and how Paisley led the way in this specialised area of weaving.

It was an interesting introduction to what became a major economic activity in Paisley in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, pre-dating the later cotton sewing thread mills. A much enjoyed and fascinating outing arranged by committee treasurer David Scott.

Sally Campbell



Punched cards were used to develop weaving patterns.

# THE ARRAN

# BANNER

# TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 28 September, 1996



**Married by the Reverend Elizabeth Watson in Whiting Bay Church last Saturday were Fionna, elder daughter of Sheena and stepdaughter of Hugh Ingram of Whiting Bay, and Jamie, youngest son of Helen and Archie Macpherson, also of Whiting Bay. Fionna works at the chemist shop in Lamlash and Jamie is a joiner with Thompson's.** B39twe02

## Called to account

Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate Margaret Mitchell has attacked North Ayrshire Council for 'appalling mismanagement of resources'. The council is, she says, £30 million in arrears from unpaid community charge and council tax. Almost one-fifth of the community charge which should have been collected up to 1993 had not been collected and, adding insult to injury, some of the non-payers and those backing non-payment were Strathclyde and Cunninghame councillors.

Mrs Mitchell says the result is a constant bleating from North Ayrshire councillors that they are short of money when a more responsible attitude on collection of taxes would have meant more money for housing, education and care in the community.

## Missing Postman

The story of *The Missing Postman* by Mark Wallington will be on our TV screens over the Christmas holidays. But right now it is taking place here on Arran. In a variety of locations, actor James Bolam, wearing spectacles and a cycling helmet, is being filmed around the island. Huge filming vehicles are in evidence and more than 20 local people are excitedly taking part in the role of extras. The attitude of most people is one of extreme interest and producer Gareth Neame, who has masterminded the whole thing, said: 'I want to make it absolutely clear that the people who want to come and watch will be most welcome.'



**Producer Gareth Neame with actor James Bolam on the set of *The Missing Postman* which is currently being filmed on Arran.** B39twe03



**Arran's new community council met on Tuesday. They are, back row: Sheila Gilmore, Margo Popplewell, Tom Campbell, Kate McAdam, Jim Wilson, Charles Fforde. Front row: Janice Gemmell, Terry Crawley, John Simcock (chairman) and Marella Flockhart. Not pictured is Stewart Walls.** B39twe01



**Shiskine Junior Drama Club last Friday put on another performance of their summer play *Captain Blackboot's Island* with a donation from the proceeds going to Shiskine Primary's parent/teacher association. Pictured is head teacher Irene Markham accepting a cheque for £250 on behalf of the PTA.**

B39twe04



**Lesley Rowan kicked off the Local Exchange and Trading Systems Scottish conference held in Lochranza last weekend. The bartering system is a cashless arrangement which attracted more than 100 people to the conference and workshops.** B39twe05

# What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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

ISLE OF

# ARRAN

BREWERY

## Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing  
Brodict Castle, Garden Open  
Arran Brewery  
Arran Brewery tour  
Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green  
Arran Heritage Museum  
Soap making and candle dipping

Loch Garbad, bank fishing  
9am-Dusk  
Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sunday 12.30-5pm  
2pm (limited spaces call for availability)  
Open all day  
Rosaburn, Brodict, 10.30am-4.30pm  
Arran Aromatics, Brodict, 10am-4pm

Arran Brass rehearsal  
Arran Vets – surgery  
Arran Vets – reception  
Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Museum archives and genealogy service  
RunArran  
Yoga-Arran  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club rink game  
Live music  
Unplugged music night  
Drift Inn quiz  
Mixed hockey  
Dog classes  
Brodict Bowling Club rink game  
Flow Yoga

Brodict Church Hall, 7-9pm  
9-10.30am and 4-6pm  
9am-2pm and 4-6pm  
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45-10.45am  
10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-3.30pm  
Auchrannie Spa, Brodict, 5.30pm  
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30-10pm  
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm  
Lamlash, 9pm  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm  
Brodict bowling club, 6.45pm  
Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm

## Saturday 24 September

Army Cadets  
Over-21s Disco  
Family Games  
Fun in the pool  
Arran Vets – surgery  
Arran Vets – reception  
Live music  
Arran Physiotherapy and Acupuncture Clinic  
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game  
RNLI shop  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club rink game  
Blackwaterfoot Bowls  
Brodict Bowling Club rink game  
Flow Yoga  
Live music  
Live music – Jonnie Scotland

Auchrannie Road 11am-1pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm  
9.30-11am  
9.30am-noon  
Fiddlers, Brodict from 7.30pm  
arranphysiotherapy.co.uk 9am-noon  
Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm  
Lamlash Pier, 2-4pm  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm  
Bowling Club, 1.45pm  
Brodict Bowling Club, 2pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am  
Corrie Hotel, 9pm  
The Douglas Hotel, Brodict, 9pm

## Thursday 29 September

Morning fitness  
General knowledge quiz  
Arran Vets – surgery  
Arran Vets – reception  
Live music  
Ladies hockey  
RUNFIT  
Burger and quiz night  
Winter bowls  
Tennis senior club night  
Mixed martial arts/XFit  
Quilt Arran  
Flow Yoga  
Chair Yoga  
10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers  
RUNFIT  
Brodict Embroidery group  
Music Matters

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
9-10.30am and 4-6pm  
9am-2pm and 4-6pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30-10pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm  
Lamlash Front Green, 6.45am  
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm  
Auchrannie, 7pm  
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, 5.30pm  
Balmichael Centre, 7pm  
Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 6pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30-11.30am  
Shiskine Hall, 6-7.30pm  
Lamlash Green, 6.45am  
Brodict Library, 7.30-9.30pm  
Lamlash church Hall, 2pm

## Sunday 25 September

Family games  
Fun In The Pool  
Open acoustic session at Fiddlers'  
AA Meeting  
Taiji & Qigong  
RNLI Shop  
Family Fete

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3-4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4-5pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict 2.30-5pm  
Brodict church Hall, 5-6.30pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Lamlash Pier, 2-4pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 12.45-3pm

## Monday 26 September

Over-50s badminton  
Badminton  
Morning Fitness  
Badminton  
Arran Vets – surgery  
Arran Vets – reception  
Arran Junior Football Club  
Circuit Training  
WBay Bowling Club rink game  
Brodict Bowling Club rink game  
Lamlash Aerobix  
RunArran  
Tae Kwondo  
Summer Bridge  
Live music

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm  
9-10.30am and 4-6pm  
9am-2pm and 4-6pm  
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm  
Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm  
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm  
Brodict bowling club, 6.45pm  
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm  
Drift Inn, Lamlash 5.30pm  
Brodict Church Hall Adults and over-10s, 7-8.30pm  
Arran High School, 6.30pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30-10pm

## Friday 30 September

Yoga  
Hydrofit  
Arran Youth Foundations  
Lochranza kids badminton  
Lochranza adults badminton  
Quiz  
Arran Vets – surgery  
Arran Vets – reception  
AA Meeting  
Live music  
Tae Kwondo  
Factory tours  
Frydays @ Lochranza Field Centre  
Corrie and Sannox coffee morning  
Rosemary's McMillan coffee morning

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30-10.30am  
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45-10.45am  
Church Hall, Brodict 7-9pm  
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm  
Lochranza Hall, 8pm  
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm  
9-10.30am and 4-6pm  
9am-2pm and 4-6pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict, 7.30pm  
Arran high School, Lamlash Adults, 7-8.30pm  
Arran Aromatics, 11am-3pm  
Lochranza field centre, 5.30-8pm  
Village hall, 10.15am  
Lamlash church Hall, 11am-1pm

## Tuesday 27 September

Pop Quiz  
AA Meeting  
Youth Club  
Arran Vets – surgery  
Arran Vets – reception  
Rotary club  
Healthy outdoors  
Blackwaterfoot Bowls  
RunArran coaching  
RUNFIT  
Open cricket session  
Lamlash Drama Club  
Flow Yoga  
Live music  
Garden walk  
Metafit  
Scottish country dance

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm  
Kildonan Hall, 7pm  
9-10.30am and 4-6pm  
9am - 2pm and 4-6pm  
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm  
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am-1pm  
Bowling Club, 1.45pm  
Lamlash, 5.30pm  
Ormidale Park, 6.45am  
Brodict Astro Turf 7-9pm  
Arran High School, 6.30-9pm  
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 6pm  
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30-10pm  
Brodict Castle, 2-3pm  
Arran High School, 6pm  
Brodict, Church Hall, 7.30pm

## Wednesday 28th September

Rock and pop bingo  
Tae Kwondo  
AA Meeting

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm  
Arran high School Kids 6.30-7.30pm, Adults-7.30-8.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm



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**AGM**  
*on Saturday 8th October 2016 @ 11.00am*  
 Lochranza Centre  
 All Welcome

**NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT MEETINGS TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS ON FUTURE ASN EDUCATION PROVISION**

A series of meetings will be held to discuss proposals on the future of ASN education in North Ayrshire. These meetings will be held for parents/carers and those interested in the proposals at the following venues:

Venue	Date	Time
Annick Primary School	22 September 2016	7pm
James McFarlane School	28 September 2016	2pm
James Reid School	28 September 2016	7pm
Stanecastle School	29 September 2016	2pm
Haysholm School	29 September 2016	7pm

The meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss the proposal and hear the views of the wider community. In line with the Schools (Consultation) (Scotland) Act 2010 (as amended), North Ayrshire Council proposes that:

A new Additional Support Needs School (ASN) be built at a site adjacent to Auchenhavie Academy, Saltcoats Road, Stevenston. The new school will provide high quality education and care for children and young people aged 2-18 years. This proposal will result in the closure and amalgamation of the following schools:

- Haysholm School, Irvine;
- James McFarlane School, Ardrossan;
- James Reid School, Saltcoats;
- Stanecastle School, Irvine.

Stanecastle Early Years class is also proposed for closure. This will result in new, purpose built early years provision at Annick Primary School, which is located immediately behind Stanecastle School.

A report outlining the background and benefits of these proposals will be issued to all parents/carers and interested parties. Copies of this document are available from Education and Youth Employment, 5th Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE. The document can also be viewed in all public libraries in North Ayrshire and on the North Ayrshire Council website, www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

All interested parties are invited to make written submissions on the proposal to the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment), Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE or by email to: educ\_consultation@north-ayrshire.gov.uk no later than **12noon on 4 November 2016**.

**JOHN BUTCHER**  
 Executive Director, Education & Youth Employment

Elma Murray  
 Chief Executive  
 Cunninghame House  
 IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
 Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

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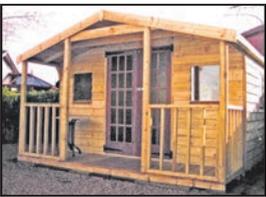
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### CHURCH NOTICES

#### SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 25th September**  
Holy Communion 11am  
Mrs Janis Gallagher.  
Coffee after service.  
**Wednesday 28th September**  
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.  
ALL WELCOME

#### CORRIE CHURCH

**Saturday 24th September**  
Corrie Church will be open from 6pm to join in the National Prayer Weekend. All are welcome for a short time or all night to pray for the Nation and our own community.

#### 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 25th September**  
Lochranza Church, 9.30am Morning Worship.  
Pirnmill Church 10.45am Morning Worship.  
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.  
Clachan Church, Shiskine, 3.30pm annual Open Air Service in Gaelic and English.  
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.

#### CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 25th September**  
Rev Lily McKinnon  
Kilmory 10 am  
Lamash 11.30 am  
Praise Service  
'Music Matters'  
**Thursday 29th September**  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
Scottish Charity SC015072

#### WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)  
**Sunday 25th September**  
Worship for Harvest  
Thanksgiving will be conducted by the minister,  
Rev Elizabeth Watson at 10.30am.  
All welcome.  
After the service, there will be a harvest lunch and all proceeds will go to the charity WaterAid.  
Everyone most welcome.

#### HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

**Sunday 25th September**  
Vigil Mass 7.30pm  
Morning Mass 11am

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)  
**Sunday 25th September**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge,  
Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All welcome

#### ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 25th September**  
Service 11am at Ormidale Pavilion  
Tea and Coffee after the service.

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.  
Contact phone no 600222  
Everyone warmly invited

#### ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

**Sunday 25th September**  
Shiskine 11am  
(Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm  
(Church behind post office)  
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

#### RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**



#### Whiting Bay Golf Club

Wednesday September 14, Summer Trophy final round. It does not seem long since the first round but 20 golfers took to the course in the final round of the Summer Trophy for 2016. CSS stayed at 63 and with a three under par net 60. Davie Morrison must have thought he was in with a shout only for Danny Head to come in five shots better. Eight under par 55 must be one of the lowest handicap rounds for some time at WBG - fantastic golf, well played Danny. 1 Danny Head (6)-55 and lowest gross, 2 Davie Morrison (9)-60, 3 Andy Martin (12)-62, 4 Sandy Pringle (12)-64. Danny bagged two magic twos, one when he eagled the 10th and another at the 17th, where Jamie Macpherson got the only other two of the day.

Overall the Summer Trophy was won by Nicol Auld to add to his tally of majors for 2016. WBG Champion, island Champion of Champions and now the Summer Trophy, it has been a great year for Nicol. Well done and congratulations from all at Whiting Bay GC.

Sunday September 18, Captain's Prize stableford. Wary of a deteriorating weather forecast 20 of us managed to get round the course before the worst of the rain set in and all seemed to enjoy the competition format which, off

### DEATH

**BAIN**-SheilaR(neeWhiteford) Died peacefully at home on 12th September. Memorial Service 27th September, 12 noon at Lochranza Church. Loving Mum of Jill and Kerri, Mother in law of Chris, Gran of Ross, Abigail and Callum. No flowers please, donations, if desired, to Diabetes UK.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

**MCEWAN** - Mandy, John, Ellie and families would like to say a huge and heartfelt thanks to family and 'Stevos' army of friends for the continued support since we lost Steven. Too many to mention but special thanks must go to Drs Hogg & Campbell, Paramedics, Rev Angus Adamson, David & Clair Hendry, John and Lucy Kerr, The Ormidale Hotel, Rosie Cooke and the Arran Police. You have all done Steven proud, £650 was raised and will be donated to the Hospital Supporters League.

the yellow tees, put no handicaps at risk (just as well for some of us). 1 Peter Smith (18)-41pts, 2 John Penny-cott (13)-39, 3 Peter Town-drow (11)-38. It was nice to have the girls join the boys for this competition and the top placed of them was Patricia Tait on 29pts.

Jamie Macpherson and Pete Towndrow bagged the only magic twos of the day at the 7th and at the 17th.

Fixture: Sunday September 25, medal.

#### Corrie Golf Club

Wednesday September 14. Wednesday medal and magic twos final. A big entry of 25 played in the finals day. Medal winner was Graeme Andrew with a net 58 which could have been much better had he not nervously tripled the last! In second place were two net 60's, one from Brian Lewis who was three under par after five but then wakened up. Ken Thorburn was the other net 60 in his first competitive round for years. He said he could have done better if his caddie was up to the job!

The massive magic twos pot was won by 'Bung' McMilan with his score at the 10th.

Many thanks to Brian for supplying a marvellous buffet.

Saturday September 17, sweep. 1 D Logan 69-10=59. Scratch A Napier 68. Magic twos D Logan and B Innes

#### Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday September 14, Flag Trophy, Ross Duncan.

Sunday September 18, John Gemmell Shield, three club Stableford, Alistair Hume (11) 33pts, Iain MacDonald (7) 32pts, John McKean (11) 32pts. Fixtures: Sunday September 25, Winter Cup round 1. Sunday October 2, Brandon. Wednesday Cup every week throughout the winter, draw noon.

Ladies section: Tuesday September 13, Thistle Brooch, seven played, CSS 67. 1 Aileen Latona 91(23)68, 2 Susan Butchard 81(12)69 3rd, Ann May 76(05)71. Fixture: Tuesday September 27, Bogey and 9 hole Stableford.

#### Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday September 13, CSS 65 R/O, 1 B Sherwood 83-12=71 BIH, 2 P Betley 83-12=71, 3 R Woods 94-18=76. Fixture: Tuesday September 27, September Sweep 12.30

#### Lamash Golf Club

Thursday September, Summer Cup. 1 J O'Sullivan 76-19=57, 2 T Jameson 65-5=60, 3 D MacFarlane



**Billy Paton who won the senior handicap on Saturday at Machrie Bay.**

63-0=63. Scratch D MacFarlane 63. Magic twos JO'Sullivan and T Jameson (2). Sunday September 18, Scratch Cup final round. 1 G Andrew 72-10= 62 BIH over L Dutton. Scratch G Andrew 72. No magic twos. The overall winner will be announced next week.

Fixtures: Friday September 23, Seniors Open yellow tees, stableford. Make up own games, see Starter for times. Sunday September 25, Medal Shield final, 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday September 28, Summer Cup and Eclectic Finals. Make up own games, see Starter for times.

Ladies section: Wednesday September 14, Medal 8, CSS 66, 9 played. 1 Liz Sinclair 85-18=67, 2 Rachel Wren 92-21=71. Scratch Liz Sinclair 85.

Sunday September 18, Captain's prize, nine-hole stroke competition. Nine ladies took part in the annual Captain's prize competition on a glorious autumnal Sunday courtesy of our Captain, Jennifer McArthur. The winner of the quach, for the second successive year, was June Richardson with a net 30.5. Morag Gardner was runner-up with 32.5 and Liz Sinclair had a magic two at the 5th.

#### Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday September 18, 18 hole medal, 16 played. 1 Scott Miller 71-10=61, 2 Willie Kelso 74-8=66 BIH, 3 Colin Allison 73-7=66 BIH. Scratch S Miller 71.

Ladies section: Thursday September 8, 12-hole medal

winner's medal, par 44, CSS 43, 9 played. Silver: 1 Jenni Turnbull 54 - 9 = 45 BIH. Bronze: 1 Fiona Scott 61 - 15 = 46. Scratch Kema Genda 52. Congratulations Jenni, winner of the medal winners. Thursday September 15, 18 hole medal, par 67, css 67, 10 played. 1 and scratch: Kema Genda 77 - 12 = 65, 2 Alice Anderson 82 - 15 = 67 BIH.

#### Arran Golfers Association

The final fixture for 2016 the senior handicap was played at Machrie Bay on Saturday September 17 in glorious conditions, equalled by the condition of the course.

Many thanks to Machrie for hosting the competition, congratulations were expressed to the greenkeeper and Campbell Laing presented the prizes.

The competition was played from the yellow tees, non counting for handicap. Twenty seniors entered, the eldest player being Mike Hesp at the sprightly age of 76 who returned a net 65 to be beaten for a place by the inward half.

First and winner of the seniors cup was William Paton 67-5-62, 2. John Penny-cott 76-13-63, 3. John O'Sullivan 82-17-65 BIH. Scratch William Paton with a 67 - one over the par.

There were five magic twos by J O'Sullivan, G Kennedy, M Adams, W Kelso and G Andrew.

Fixtures: Next outing for the association will be the Winter League starting in November.

# Arran Coastal Rowing Club lift their first regatta prize

As a climax to their first racing season, members of the Arran Coastal Rowing Club (ACRC) took their skiff Iolair twice across to the mainland to compete against other clubs.

Skiffs are boats for four rowers plus cox – and skiff racing has really taken off in the past decade throughout Scotland and worldwide.

On Saturday September 3 the hosts were the Firth of Clyde Coastal Rowing Club in Largs. The clubs taking part – Arran, Carrick (Maidens), Cumbræ, Irvine, Largs, Newburgh on the Tay (Fife), North Berwick and Troon – all braved the challenging conditions for the two-kilometre races. A stiff southerly breeze, coupled with an incoming tide, whipped up the Clyde producing white tops and a rolling swell.

Under the conditions and in the face of stiff competition, ACRC were very pleased with second, fourth and fifth places but all teams were blown out of the water by Newburgh, who scooped 35 gold medals in seven out of nine races, coming out on top and winning the overall trophy.

The following weekend, on Saturday September 10, Prestwick Coastal Rowing Club held their first ever regatta, inviting Clyde-based clubs from Troon, Maidens, Largs and Girvan, as well as Arran. Sadly, Girvan's skiff couldn't attend due to stormy weather on the Friday evening.

Eight Arran rowers, rang-

ing in age from 47 to 69, with one loyal supporter and skiff Iolair, set off on the 8.20am ferry for their third regatta.

After a stormy Friday, the weather was dry and sunny but the hearts of all involved sank a little when seeing the white horses racing in and the strong breakers on the beach while unloading their skiffs.

As in Largs, the atmosphere was very warm and welcoming and the hospitality couldn't have been better. Even though ACRC was still the new skiff on the block, it nevertheless felt like a family gathering and they enjoyed seeing many familiar faces, meeting new people from other clubs and, despite a competitive spirit, received plenty of tips from the more experienced rowers.

ACRC entered crews for all seven races – four one-kilometre courses in the morning (open women's, open men's, novice mixed and 50+ mixed) and three fun, novelty sprints in various categories in the afternoon, which were not only about speed but also about tactics, with items having to be collected for additional points.

The bravest had to start the first race to test the conditions and who else could it have been other than the ladies. After they successfully mastered the waves with great aplomb, all the other scheduled races went ahead as planned. It was certainly challenging and very hard and wet at times but never-



The Arran team were overall champions of the day at Prestwick.

theless tremendous fun and extremely exhilarating.

As the Arran team only had three ladies present, Prestwick kindly lent two rowers for the open women's and open women's novelty races, respectively. Thank you, Prestwick. Two Arran rowers also helped to fill crews for other clubs. This spirit of helpfulness and generosity reflects the sporting and friendly nature of skiff rowing, which encompasses participants ranging from 14 to over 80 and of all abilities.

After training hard in the run-up to the regatta, the Arran rowers proved to be in especially good form and at the end of the day the

results certainly reflected this: ACRC came in second place five times, only losing by one second in the men's open, and achieving first place twice.

In the final tally of points, Arran took a well-deserved overall win (by three points), Largs came a close second, with some good performances from the other West Coast clubs.

At the award-giving ceremony, the ACRC rowers were given medals for their individual successes and the club also received an imaginative driftwood fish sculpture as a trophy.

Prestwick certainly set high standards in organising such a perfect first re-



Skiff Iolair competes in the open men's category.

All Photos by David and Emma Ingham and Geoff Norris

gatta and Arran hopes to do as well when hosting their first regatta next summer. As almost all of the members only started rowing last October, the Arran Coastal Rowing Club is delighted with the results achieved in the club's first competitive year.

ACRC welcomes anyone who is curious to give row-

ing a try and can easily arrange a trial row. Whether you just want to row socially or feel like a new competitive challenge, there's something for everyone. Have fun, make new friends, get fit without noticing it and ride the waves. Contact ACRC at secretary@arrancoastalrowing.co.uk.

Stuart Turner



ACRC ladies competing in the novelty category.



Rowers prepare for a race at the Prestwick regatta.



A mixture of excitement and nerves as rowers prepare for the start of a race.



Action from the match between Arran and Giffnock. 01\_B39hockey03

# Ladies net magnificent seven



Arran stick close to their opponents. 01\_B39hockey01

Continued from page 24

was awarded jointly to Abbie McKelvie and Jenny Stark, as voted by team mates.

Team captain Cat Galbraith posted on the team's

facebook page: 'Well played today girls. 7-0 win against Giffnock.'

'Thank you to the Ormisdale Hotel for the teas, all our supporters and also to Phil Adams, Lorraine Hewie and Pauline Reid for um-

piring. There was great support from the sideline last week.'

The ladies will be playing against Dumfries 2s today (Saturday) on home ground, with a 12.30pm pass back.



Above: Arran double up on a Giffnock player. 01\_B39hockey04

## Heavy defeat for Arran rugby team

Arran Rugby Club's unbeaten start to the season came to an abrupt end when they travelled to top of the table Strathendrick in West Division 3 game last Saturday.

After the long trip to Fintry, Arran suf-

fered a heavy 73-0 defeat to a strong home side, ending their three game unbeaten league run.

Arran are at home today (Saturday) against Strathaven RFC. See club facebook page for kick-off time.

## John in Scotland team that loses out to the 'auld enemy'

Arran golfer John Pennycott was a member of the Scotland team who lost the Disabled Ryder Cup to England last week.

The Auld Enemies Cup was held at the Cardrona Resort and Hotel near Peebles with Scotland the defending champions. The three-day competition, is a traditional match play format, with foursomes, fourball and singles games to finish on Wednesday September 14. In all, 24 golfers of all ages, abilities and disabilities play each day for the coveted trophy.

Players, selected from the Scottish Order of Merit Championship Tables, and rep-

resenting all disability categories, travel from across the UK to compete for Team Scotland.

Unfortunately Scotland were beaten 15.5 to 8.5 over the three days of competition at Cardrona near Peebles.

John told *The Banner*: 'On day one my partner and I were defeated in the foursomes, day two saw us win in the fourballs and day three saw me lose my game at the 17th in the singles. But it was a great four days, including the practice day, with some inspirational golfers, some with handicaps as low as two.'



Arran golfer John Pennycott with English opponent and good friend Dave Standing, a below-knee amputee, who beat him in the singles at the 17th hole last week.

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# Sport

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## Ladies score magnificent seven with strong second half display

**Arran Ladies 7 Giffnock Ladies 2s 0**  
The second game of the season for Arran Ladies hockey club started with plenty of opportunities in the scoring circle for Arran but, actually putting a goal in evaded them for the first 20 minutes, until finally Abbie McKelvie managed to finish an attack with a great goal.  
Giffnock picked up their game after conceding the first goal but Arran's goalkeeper, Ali Hollingworth, ensured that any chances

were swiftly dealt and cleared out of the danger zone.  
After a team chat at half time from coach, Phil Adams, and a slight shuffle of players, the home team came out guns blazing in the second half. Arran dominated the play, with accurate clearing and passing from defence, and the mid-field played strong with quick transitional passing to the running forwards.  
Teamwork was far better and the right calls were being made in the second

half of the game. The ladies bumped up the scoring tally with Anne Watts scoring three goals in quick succession, from superb passing and movement from the team, followed by Lorraine Hewie also scoring three, one of which came from a short corner play. When the final whistle blew, Arran were victorious with a 7-0 win.  
Abbie McKelvie was voted man of the match by the Giffnock players and the dame of the game crown  
Continued on page 23



Faith McKelvie in pursuit of an opponent. 01\_B39hockey06



## Sam competes in his first full motocross season

Sam Rayner from Slidery has competed in his first full season in the Scottish Motocross Nationals semi experts class this year.  
The 25-year-old, who rides a Suzuki 450, only managed a couple of races last year after he broke his collar bone at the start of the season. But this year he

**Sam with his bike and some of the trophies he has won.**

was fully fit for the race season which started in April and he competed in all six rounds in Tain, Elgin, Rhynie, Duns, Drumclog and then back to Rhynie for the final race on Sunday September 11.  
Geoff Brookes from the Southend allows the Arran Motocross Club to use one of his fields which was made into a track for them to practice on all year round. Sam is very grateful to Geoff for allowing him to practice and is already looking forward to another season next year.



**Flying high. Sam is airborne during a motocross race.**

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