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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 1 OCTOBER, 2016

No 2082 70p

Fears Holy Isle will never look the same

'It is not expected that tourism on Arran would be detrimentally impacted'

REPORT
 by HUGH BOAG
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

There has been growing anger this week after the controversial wind turbine plan for Holy Isle was granted planning permission.

In spite of widespread opposition, North Ayrshire Council planning officials have granted the Buddhist retreat permission to erect five wind turbines on two sites on the island, despite calls for the decision to be referred to the full planning committee, where elected councillors would have voted on the plan.

A total of 89 objections were received, with just seven submissions of support. The proposals were opposed by husband and wife MSP and MP Kenneth and Patricia Gibson, Arran Community Council and VisitArran.

Under the plans there will be two turbines at the south

end of the island and three at the northern end with associated sub-surface infrastructure. But the three at the north end of the island will be clearly visible from Lamlash while the two to the south will be on the mainland side of the island. Work is expected to start either before March or after July next year.

The five turbines will be 20.2 metres to the top of the blade tip and the installed capacity of the turbines 75kw. They will service two buildings on the island, run by the Rokpa Trust, the Centre for World Peace and Health, in the north end and the Inner Light Retreat Centres at the south end. In the south a temporary track from the lighthouse jetty will be installed for construction vehicles and in the north, the proposed landing area for plant and materials will be to the north-west of the Centre for World Peace and Health with temporary



Transport and islands minister Humza Yousaf is joined by Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson on the Lochranza slipway with the new Lochranza to Claonaig ferry behind them. For full coverage of the minister's first visit to Arran see pages 4 and 5.

tracks leading north to the turbine locations.

The Banner first learned of the decision shortly after going to press last Thursday and was the first to post the decision on our Facebook page. Inexplicably the decision was then removed from the council online

planning site, finally being reposted on Monday night.

The news provoked some angry reaction both on Arran and the mainland with social media sites swamped with people who wanted to have their say. *The Banner* Facebook page included comments like: 'Holy Isle

will never look the same', 'sacrilege, a sad day', 'disgusting blot on a beautiful landscape', 'unbelievable, what a disgrace'. Although there were also a few comments of support.

The main objection throughout the proposal has

Continued on page 2

Big bang theory

The 'big bang' which gave many residents on Arran a fright last Thursday was caused by a sonic boom.

Community forums and websites went into overdrive with lively discussion when a loud 'explosion like sound' was heard across the island last Thursday around 12.40pm.

People told of hearing a disturbing bang from most of the main villages with many reporting that they believed that it was near their village as it was so loud. There were reports from Brodick, Lamlash, Shiskine, Kildonan and Corrie cravie and farther afield from Ayrshire and the Kintyre.

However, calls to Police Scotland confirmed there had been no major incident and it was later established that the noise was a sonic boom after a military jet reached supersonic speeds over Arran, which generates enormous amounts of sound energy.

With the help of a twitter enthusiast called @plane-sonthenet the exact source was identified as a RAF Typhoon being scrambled to intercept a Russian Bear bomber approaching UK airspace.

Whilst not entering UK territorial airspace Russian aircraft frequently fly over the North Sea in what is described as the UK area of interest where they are intercepted and escorted by aircraft scrambled from RAF Lossiemouth.



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Turbulent times as Holy Isle wind turbines get go ahead

Continued from page 1

been the landscape and visual impacts of the turbines, although wildlife, amenity and tourism have also been high on the agenda.

In support of their application the Rokpa Trust provided an environmental report, bat survey report, radar impact assessment, noise assessment maps and photomontages of the development as well as the impacts on tourism and potential impact on gulls.

A previous application was withdrawn in April this year following an objection from Glasgow Prestwick Airport, with the planning department saying that issue had now been resolved.

The retreat had previously been granted planning permission for three 23-metre turbines on the hip of Mullach Mor 16 years ago for a monastic retreat complex, which was never built, and they used this historical precedence as part of their

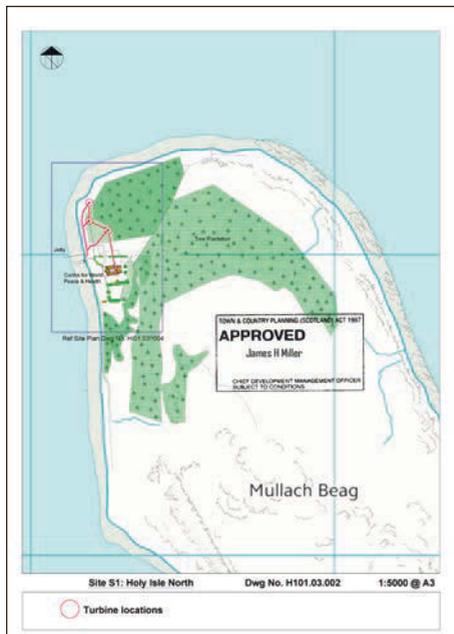
application. The community council objected that this was 'irrelevant'.

In their decision statement the planners said: 'This application has been subject to extensive pre-application negotiations with officers to improve the siting and scale of wind turbines which balance the energy consumption needs of the applicant and mitigation of landscape impacts.'

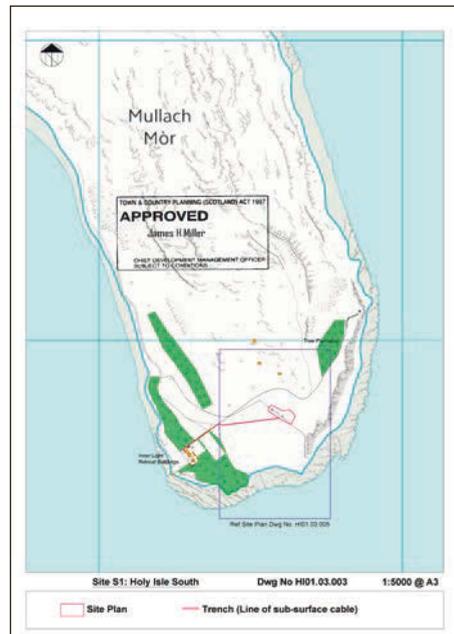
'The main concern regarding the effect on tourism re-



The masts of the yacht give some idea of how the wind turbines at the north end of the island could look. 01_A40turbines01



A map showing where the three northern turbines will be sited.



A map showing where the two southern turbines will be sited.

lates primarily to the visual and landscape impacts of the proposal. As stated above through careful siting, scaling and design the landscape impacts are considered acceptable and it is not expected that tourism on Arran would be detrimentally impacted by this small scale proposal but instead would instead help sustain the viability of an existing tourist facility on Holy Isle.

'The siting and scale of development proposed is such that it would also have no significant effect on the character and appearance

of the North Arran National Scenic Area.

'The small size of the turbines and their grouping with other built features minimises their impact on the landscape qualities of Holy Isle. When viewed from main vantage points including Lamlash, Kingscross and Whiting Bay the visual impact of the turbines in the north of the island would be mitigated by the woodland backdrop and in the south of the island, their relationship with existing buildings and the backdrop of the lower slopes of Mullach Mor would ensure the landscape qualities of the island would be maintained.'

Before development starts the trust will have to submit details of the proposed colour of the turbines' photomontages to demonstrate potential reductions in visual impact to planners. They will also have to submit details of ecological protection measures to ensure that birds, bats, otters and other protected species are not

adversely affected.

Conditions of the planning application also state the project company will have to implement an archaeological watching brief in recognition of the archaeological significance of the site. And measures have also to be put in place to protect the amenity of neighbours from noise.

Howard Sargent of the Rokpa Trust told *The Banner*: 'We're grateful that the Holy Isle community now has the opportunity to move towards energy self-sufficiency. The project will contribute, if in a small way, towards the environmental sustainability of our fragile earth.'

'We hope that it will also help to raise awareness among the island's many visitors of the possibility of energy self-sufficiency and its need for mitigating the future impacts of climate change. Construction of the project is likely to be next year, either before or after the nesting season.'

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The turbines at the south end will be visible from the mainland. 01_A40turbines02

Lucky ticket holder could win Arran estate in raffle

A seven-acre estate on Arran is being offered in a prize draw.

The owner of the Balmichael Centre near Shiskine is taking the unusual step of raffling the property, at £55 a ticket, instead of selling it on the commercial market.

The initiative, described as potentially 'life changing', is aimed at providing the winner with the opportunity to own the estate, while also making a difference to those less fortunate as the proceeds of the sale will go directly to the US charity Boots on the Ground.

The charity, most recently deployed in Haiti providing assistance to the survivors of the earthquake that destroyed the Caribbean country and killed more than 300,000 people, describes itself as an interna-

tional humanitarian aid organisation.

The Balmichael Centre includes a private home, multiple commercial units, a cinema, coffee shop, gym, storage buildings, an adventure park, children's play area, grass sledging, go-karts, duck pond and a synthetic ice skating rink.

Mixed results

Previous attempts have been made across the country to dispose of property in this way, with mixed results, but owner James L Clark told the *Banner* he is convinced he has found the right formula.

He said: 'We got the idea after hearing about an Australian family who were giving away their property in Micronesia this way. It sounded too good to be true, but then we looked into it and they really did it.

Some young guy won the whole place. He would never have been able to afford a place like that.

After a lot of research and consulting lawyers and government officials, we decided to go for it. But there's one really big difference - we're not just going to change the life of some lucky winner, we're donating all of the profits to help those less fortunate than ourselves.'

The raffle for the estate, which officially starts today (Saturday), costs around £55 per ticket and can be entered by visiting the website at www.islandraffle.com.

Early ticket buyers will automatically be entered into an additional cash draw and there will also be a 50/50 raffle where the winner will get half of the tick-

et proceeds in that category with the other half going to charity.

World-renowned Californian artist Jeff Albrecht has also donated work he painted based on disaster photos taken by Boots on the Ground in places including Haiti and Japan that will also be part of the prize draw.

There will also be a special £7,714 (\$10,000) cash raffle as well as a number of social media raffles that anyone over the age of 18 can enter for free.

Mr Clark added: 'We really want to give people an opportunity to win some-



An aerial view of Balmichael Centre which is being raffled off in aid of the charity Boots on the Ground.

thing. Statistically, your chances of winning something in this raffle are about 5,000 times greater than if you play a major lottery Powerball for example.'

Castle closes

Brodick Castle closes for the season today (Friday) and will only be open for guided tours from Monday to Thursday until the end of October. The tearoom will also be closed, but the gardens and shop will be open as usual.

This is a result of extensive improvement works which will be carried out on the castle over the winter. The annual Halloween event at the castle will go ahead as usual.

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Islands minister is collective approach branding

by HUGH BOAG
editor@
arranbanner.co.uk



Humza Yousaf MSP at the distillery with Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson, left, master distiller James MacTaggart and Campbell Laing. 01_A40minister03

The new Scottish transport and islands minister Humza Yousaf has said he is 'hugely impressed' by the work being undertaken by the Arran Economic Group (AEG).

Speaking after meeting the group on Monday, Mr Yousaf told the Banner: 'I take my hat off to them. All the businesses on the island are talking collectively; I have never seen it working so well. I am amazed at the Arran branding. It is great to see the businesses working together whether in cheese, whisky, or aromatics.'

The Glasgow Pollok MSP said he was also told by the group of some of the challenges businesses on the island faced including housing, ferries reliability, depopulation and digital connectivity - which, he said, was essential if young people were to be attracted back to the island.

During the meeting at Auchrannie Resort, the minister heard from AEG chairman Tom Tracey and other members of the committee about the work of the group. Development director Sheena Borthwick, who outlined the current housing issues, said: 'The meeting was very well received indeed with the minister realising very quickly that the collective group collaboration was working well and realising results with the various

high level skills brought to the table to achieve a common goal.

'Mr Yousaf was extremely positive and supportive of the work stream currently being carried out by group and felt Arran was well placed to be at the centre of a Clyde islands renaissance with the focus on a shared coastal and maritime heritage.

'He was impressed that the work of the AEG was well supported by current investment in physical and digital connectivity, skills development together with managed land and housing now being tackled to future-proof the island for future generations.

'As the AEG is supported by and works in partnership with North Ayrshire Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, CMAL, Scottish Government, the Arran Community and the private sector, the Minister suggested this level of engagement and innovation merited regular dialogue with the AEG to offer his assistance and intervention if and when required.'

The minister began his day on Arran, only his second visit since he was five years old, with a tour of the new Brodick harbour development. He said: 'When it is finished this will be one of the best ferry terminals in the country in terms of size, scale and quality of passenger accommoda-

tion. It will be a phenomenal boost to the island.'

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson agreed saying: 'Not only will it be a huge boost to ferry passengers, it will mean that it will be able to attract more cruise ships, which have already started to come to the island, giving a further boost to the economy.'

He later visited Arran Aromatics and the Isle of Arran Cheese Company before heading to the Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza. His final duty was to have been the formal launch of the new Lochranza to Clonaig ferry the *MV Catriona*, but a component fault in its propeller put it out of action just five days after being brought into service the previous Monday.



Islands minister Hamza Yousaf

MV Catriona formally

Transport and islands minister Humza Yousaf has welcomed Scotland's newest hybrid ferry, the *MV Catriona*, into service.

The new hybrid vessel has been formally deployed on the Lochranza-Clonaig route, bringing improved facilities for travellers and helping meet the significant rise in passenger and vehicle numbers on the route.

However, there was a slight hiccup when Mr Yousaf visited Arran to formally launch the vessel - as it had developed teething troubles and was out of service. A fault in a propeller component put the vessel out of service last Friday after just five days on the route. The *Loch Tarbert*, which it is replacing was servicing the route.

However, the minister was still given a tour of the £12.3m vessel, which is the third commercial ferry to be fully built and delivered on the Clyde in the past six years and the first to be completed by Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd (FMEL) since it took over the historic shipyard in 2014.

He was shown round the

vessel - which is almost double the size of the *Loch Tarbert* - by skipper Donald McKelvie and CalMac and CMAL bosses. The *MV Catriona* is 43.5m long, accommodating 150 passengers, 23 cars or two HGVs.

Mr Yousaf said: 'I'm delighted to see the *MV Catriona* in its new home port. Not only will this new vessel improve the passenger experience for people using the service, it will also help CalMac deal with the increase in passenger and vehicle numbers following the introduction of cheaper fares through the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) scheme in October 2014.

'The technology on board the *MV Catriona* means it will be fuel efficient and have lower maintenance costs, whilst still ensuring a quality service for passengers.

'The Scottish Government has invested a record £1 billion in vessels, ports and ferry services since 2007. This new ship underlines our continued commitment to making our ferry fleet sustainable and reliable.'

CalMac's managing director Martin Dorchester said:



The minister hears about the new VIP centre from guide Campbell Laing. 01_A40minister04

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impressed by h to Arran



after his meeting with the Arran Economic Group at the Auchrannie. 01_A40minister01

deployed on Lochranza route

'The *MV Catriona* is a very welcome addition to our fleet. The third vessel in class, the others have been providing sterling service to our communities since 2011.

'The continued adoption of hybrid technology on suitable routes reinforces CalMac's position as the UK's most innovative ferry operator.'

Kevin Hobbs, chief executive, Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited, said: 'Today marks the culmination of two years of hard work to bring *MV Catriona* into service, making her the third hybrid ferry in our fleet. This demonstrates our commitment to using innovative ferry design and technology. The technology used is cleaner, quieter and cheaper to operate and maintain compared to traditional methods.

'We're delighted to hand over *MV Catriona* to Calmac. We wish the team all the best for future voyages and we are sure passengers will be delighted with the new arrival.'

Liam Campbell, managing director of FMEL, said: 'We started this project in September 2014 and at that time, we had around 70 people in a



The minister on the bridge of *MV Catriona* with skipper Donald McKelvie. 01_A40minister07

yard that needed some major refurbishment. Now, our state of the art facility is almost complete and we have more than 300 valued employees including 35 apprentices.

'To deliver *Catriona* ahead of schedule and to such a high standard gives us the best opportunity to be successful in the commercial market. We recognise and understand the importance of 'on time' deliveries for the owners and are fully committed to this.

'To deliver our first vessel ahead of schedule confirms to the industry that we are indeed a shipyard that delivers on our promise.

'There has been significant

investment in the yard but our workforce remains our most valued asset and it is a testament to their skill and determination that we have achieved this fantastic success.'

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Out with the old, in with the new. The *MV Catriona* is nearly double the size of the *MV Loch Tarbert*. 01_A40minister08



Mr Yousaf on board the *MV Catriona* with, from left, skipper Donald McKelvie, Eric Smith CalMac, Ramsay Muirhead CMAL, engineer Alistair Rankin and Mr Gibson. 01_A40minister06

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Quaker week

The first week in October is Quaker Week in which Quakers throughout the country organise meetings and events to give those of other faiths, or none, an opportunity to meet a Quaker and find out what they believe in and do as part of being a Quaker.

On Wednesday October 5 the Arran Quakers will hold a drop-in session at Brodick Library, from 11am to 1pm at which anyone is welcome to attend and engage in discussion with them. For the final half an hour from 12.30pm to 1pm a Quaker meeting for worship will be held for those who wish to attend.



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New look for Arran Free Church

The Arran Free Church of Scotland in Brodick is undergoing modernisation as contractors busy themselves renovating the church and landscaping the outdoor area.

The work, which started eight weeks ago, will see an extension of the kitchen and the addition of a small room which will be used as a community outreach area and an office become a private meeting room.

Originally built around the turn of the century, the church has a congregation of about 25 people although this number can increase to more than 40 during the holiday season.

Also included in the plans for the church is a revamp of the church hall with the removal of the pews and the introduction of more comfortable seats that can be removed and allow the hall to be used for other purposes.

Pews will be sold at £50 each on Wednesday (October 5) between 7pm and 8pm, although alternative times to view them can be arranged by contacting the treasurer Derek Roxburgh on 303660.

The Rev Benjamin van Rensberg of the Brodick and Torbeg church in Shiskine said: 'These improvements



Landscaping has improved the outside appearance of the Free Church in Brodick.01_B40church03



The pulpit and pews from the interior of the church will be removed.01_B40church02

to the building will allow us to better meet the spiritual needs of the various visitors that pass through Arran as well as the generations of locals that have worshipped at the church.

'We will hopefully be able to offer a much larger variety of programmes and events in the hall and the office will allow for people to pop in and speak to some-

one in privacy. In the near future we also hope to have an informal meeting place for Arran youth, particularly international workers who can meet, socialise and share experiences in the new space.'

Work is expected to be completed in the next few days and normal Sunday service will continue in the church.

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Last chance for Arran groups to try to secure a funding boost

Arran's residents are running out of time to register for their chance to win up to £850 from a 'community chest' of £13,000.

Groups have until Tuesday October 4 at noon - the closing date - for applications to have the chance to pursue their aspirations when Participatory Budgeting comes to Brodick Hall on Saturday October 22.

Participatory Budgeting (PB) is another step towards achieving local democracy by empowering communities to decide how best to spend a small pot of public money.

Community groups keen to take part in the Arran

event must complete an application form outlining why they should receive a share of the funding pot.

The PB Steering Group will then review all applications and those shortlisted will be invited to the event on October 22.

At the decision-day event groups will be asked to present their idea (maximum three minutes) to everyone in the hall, which will include other applicants and members of the wider Arran community.

To take part and be in with a chance of securing funding presenters will need to be able to stay for the whole event i.e. 12noon

through to 4pm. Anyone from Arran aged eight and over is invited to attend the day and will have a ballot paper for voting on all the projects bidding on the day.

Councillor Louise McPhater, cabinet member for communities, is urging Arran's residents to take part in the event.

She said: 'Participatory Budgeting is democracy in action.'

'It is designed to help communities bring their ideas to fruition and if those ideas support local priorities, then we have empowered communities taking ownership and responsibility of community assets.

'I would encourage everyone in the Arran locality to get involved and not miss out on the opportunity to secure some funding. That funding could pay for a day trip for elderly groups, new easels for a local arts group or new strips for the local football teams. Whatever the cause, PB can make a positive contribution.'

For more information and an application form, please e-mail: participatorybudgeting@north-ayrshire.gov.uk, phone 01294 475900 or look on the PB website at <http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/resident/your-community/participatory-budgeting.aspx>

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Jas Campbell & Co now have an island base

Jas Campbell & Co is pleased to announce the opening of its new offices at Unit Two, The Douglas Centre, Brodick. After many years travelling to the island to provide the people of Arran with its full range of legal, property, financial and estate agency services, the firm is pleased to have acquired its own base on the island which will enable staff to better provide clients, both old and new, with their comprehensive legal, financial and property services.

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The email address and website are and remain arranoffice@jascampbell.co.uk and www.jascampbell.co.uk

Jas Campbell & Co, Writers to the Signet, is one of Ayrshire and Arran's leading legal practices. The business was established in 1856 and it has been coming to Arran weekly for around 50 years. As a result, it has a vast amount of experience of local matters and people.

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The team at Jas Campbell & Co look forward to welcoming, both old and new clients, to its new home on the island.

The staff are always happy to call on clients wherever they are on the island, at home, nursing homes, farms, businesses or even in hospital.

Contact Jas Campbell and Co now for the best possible advice in relation to any legal, financial or property matter.



Senior partner Ian Hunter, centre, with the rest of the Jas Campbell & Co Arran team.

Brass Tacks bring a little bit of the unusual to Lamlash

Brass Tacks, a lively, highly experienced group of professional brass players, is to perform in the community theatre at Arran High School on Saturday October 15 at 7.30pm. Its music spans the ages and is aimed at a wide audience, young

and old, classical and modern popular. The group's Arran programme contains, for instance, a dance tune from Tudor times, a piece by Corelli and on through Beethoven, Debussy and Paul Dukas of Sorcerer's Apprentice fame to George

Gershwin and New Orleans jazz. There will even be an arrangement of 'Loch Lomond'.

Playing will be Finlay Hetherington, leader, with John Sampson on trumpets, Fiona Lund on trombone, Robert Newt on French horn and Robert Fraser on tuba.

They are all based in Scotland's central belt and are used to varying audiences and venues having played, for example, at the Edinburgh Fringe, the Fife Sports Awards and at Glasgow Central Station.

The Arran concert aims to 'enthuse, excite and entertain' what is hoped will be a large audience with music old and new, familiar and 'a little unusual', as the group likes to 'release new life and theatre into music which has either been forgotten, played in different contexts or never had a chance to have a life in the first place'. It should be a great evening.

Tickets are available on the door on the night, in advance from Inspirations of Arran in Brodick or online from www.arranevents.com



The experienced Brass Tacks group.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Objections simply swept away

We have some sympathy for the objectors to the Holy Isle wind turbine plans who feel the odds were stacked against them from the start.

Certainly such is the surge of wind energy up and down the country that opposition seems to be simply swept away, while the developers look like they are being given planning assistance every step of the way.

Public consultation is a must for all green energy projects and it is important that everyone is in the full possession of the facts when developments are being decided.

Consideration has to be given to not to just who the wind project will benefit, but who it may have repercussions for.

Then there are other factors. Is it in a tourist area, what about the wildlife, will there be any noise? These need to be addressed in the widest possible context and a decision reached on sound analysis and research. Size also matters and so does visual impact so these need to be closely addressed and even the colour of them considered.

On this occasion the planners on North Ayrshire Council have set some tough conditions and it has to be ensured that these are followed to the letter when work starts next year.

The Rokpa Trust also says that the community now has the opportunity to move towards energy self-sufficiency. But the community is in actual fact a business operating to deliver the Holy Isle Project.

There has long been a debate on Arran on the issue of wind energy and this week's decision means that it is not going to go away any time soon.

In their decision the planners said each application would be considered on its own merits. 'This proposal would not create any precedence for future applications,' they stated. But how can that be true? Planning by its very nature relies on precedence and case history. We are sure it won't be long before someone else comes knocking at the door.

Let's hope they are not blown wide open.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.' (Ephesians 4:32)

press policy

WE AT the Arran Banner endeavour to ensure that all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO). We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time.

If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the senior reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

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



Public inconvenience

Sir,
I am writing to implore you (North Ayrshire Council) not to close the public toilets on Arran next year.

To do so on a predominantly tourist island would be paramount to commercial suicide. Where will tourists go to the loo when out and about at the beaches and villages of Arran?

In fact, if anything, you need more toilets. There are none at Blackwaterfoot beach at all, a trip to this beach is always cut short to go to the loo somewhere. Or we go to Whiting Bay just because it has toilets.

Furthermore people like myself rely on these conveniences to take their young children to when out for the day. Arran is our number one destination for all our family holidays but without toilet facilities we would be less inclined to visit regularly.

I mean, Centre Parcs have toilets all around their holiday villages. People may just go to these chain resorts rather than visiting our beautiful Scottish islands.

Imagine the alternative? Every beach, car park or village centre smelling of urine and worse, disgusting! So dogs can go anywhere and humans cannot? I know that toddlers need the toilet everywhere you go, in fact it's almost guaranteed they need as soon as you set foot out of the house.

Please reconsider the planned closure of these extremely important public conveniences. I look forward to your early response to this letter which I am also sending to our local councillors, The Ar-

ran Banner and the British Toilet Association, Save our Toilets campaign.

Yours,
**Hilary Paton
Brodick/Glasgow**

Sister retires

Sir,
I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the doctors and colleagues at the Arran Medical Group for their very kind cards and gifts, special thoughts and support over the years on my retirement.

I would also like to thank all the patients I had the pleasure to be involved with in the Lochranza and Shiskine surgeries over the last nine years, for their generosity and kindness with the beautiful cards and gifts I received. It was quite overwhelming and very much appreciated.

Thanks also to Ian and Jane at the Brodick Bar for making my retirement meal very special.

Yours,
**Merle Douglas
practice sister
Corriegills**

Festival thanks

Sir,
On behalf of the steering group of the McLellan Arts Festival and Peter Wilson and colleagues of the Arran Summer School, I would like to thank the many people on Arran who have supported the festival this year and also who have helped in so many ways.

Firstly to those who so generously supported us by donating prizes for the much-needed fund raising this year. These are: Auchrannie Resort, The Douglas Hotel and George Leslie. Without the funds raised from these raffle prizes the McLellan Festival could not have taken place. Then we must thank

those island organisations which collaborated with, supported and promoted the McLellan Festival. These are: Altachorvie, Arran Events; Arran Fiddle Club; Arran Music Society; Corrie Church; Corrie and Sannox Village Hall; The Saltire Society and Visitarran.

Little Rock proved to be an ideal venue for the poetry evening with David Constantine - thanks to staff there for contributing towards the success of the event, including the lovely music of Arran Dawn and to all those who organised it, especially Cicely Gill and David Underdown.

Thanks are also due to Whiting Bay Village Hall which hosted the ceilidh at which we were all entertained so wonderfully by Stuart Gough, Angus Adamson, The Buchaneers and the Drambusters. Also all those very kind folk who provided supper and helped in the kitchen.

Grateful thanks to Corrie Church, Angus Adamson, John Sillars and the glorious singing of the summer school students at the McLellan church service.

Special thanks too to Ann Bruce, Samantha Payne, David Pendlebury and Sheila Templeton for taking part in the interesting discussion on translation in Brodick Library.

Altachorvie, once again, provided a welcoming and comfortable setting for the joint event with the Saltire Society, Arran Clamjaffrey, at which we were so well entertained by John Sillars and the Edinburgh duo, Various Moons. Altachorvie was also a wonderful home for the music students of the summer school during their stay so thank you to Joni Keen and staff for facilitating this.

The staff of KA Leisure and MITE could not have

been more helpful when it came to the performances in the community theatre of Shakespeare, the Opera Gala. Thanks here also to Diana and Douglas Hamilton for rehearsal of the chorus for the Petite Messe Solennelle and to all those who made up the McLellan Festival Chorus.

Thanks also to Brodick Hall and staff for help in setting up for the successful Classic Buskers concert

We are also grateful to the local press in publicising and reviewing the events, to Arran Graphics for efficient services, to Arran Events and the Book and Card Shop for selling tickets, to VisitArran and tourist office for support, to Katharine O'Donnely for organising the wonderful students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland who gave us an unforgettable evening of theatre in Corrie Hall and, finally, of course, to all those audience members who attended the performances and workshops.

It is true to say that without volunteers - people willing to give so generously of their time and talents - none of the events in the McLellan Arts Festival would happen. Heart felt thanks to them all

Yours,
**Heather Gough
On behalf of the
McLellan Arts Festival**

Skiff Seabhag

Sir,
In your report of the launch of the skiff Seabhag in last week's *Banner* it was extremely nice of you to describe me as a 'master boat-builder', I'm very flattered, but really? Absolutely not, no way. Well done to Rory though, for guiding me through some of the dark arts involved.

Yours,
**Steve Garraway
Shiskine**

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Arran to lose a councillor in boundary shake up

Arran is to lose a councillor in a boundary shake up which has disappointed North Ayrshire Council.

The Scottish Government has made the decisions based on recommendations from the Local Boundary Commission for Scotland.

Cut

While the council will gain three councillors across its boundaries, the Ardrossan and

Arran seat will be cut from four councillors to three.

The four are presently Arran resident John Bruce and three mainland councillors, but with councillor Bruce standing down at the council elections next May, there is concern Arran could be left without a representative who lives on the island.

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'We are disap-

pointed in the minister's decision and will be writing directly to him. Every single councillor in North Ayrshire opposed these proposals, as did many community groups.

Undermines

'The council believes this undermines the locality planning approach which is a key priority for the Scottish Government and the council.

'The treatment of Arran is par-

ticularly disappointing. Community groups on Arran successfully lobbied to get one or two member wards included in the forthcoming Islands Bill. It had previously stated that it would not allow one member wards.

'As a result, ministers chose to delay boundary changes for the other islands authorities but, despite being the driver for the change, Arran will not receive

these benefits as it has been excluded from this approach.

Disappointed

'We feel very strongly about this and will be advocating for further redress for Arran through the Islands Bill. While we are disappointed with the minister's decision, elected members will continue to work hard to represent North Ayrshire communities and our six locality partnerships.'

All the fun of the autumn fete

There was a good turnout on Sunday at the autumn family fete in Lamlash church hall to raise funds for the children's Christmas party.

There were various stalls including home baking, a raffle, tombola and soup

and sandwiches for sale. A total of 125 tombola prizes and 23 raffle prizes were up for grabs on the day.

For the youngsters there was face painting and kids' crafts including the making of autumnal wreaths.

The event was organised

by Lynsay Scott and Ann Gray and other Lamlash young mums with the help of the Lamlash SWI, whose president Alison Thompson praised the work of the young mums in organising a spring and autumn fete this year which raised £550.



A big turnout at the fete. 01_A40fete04



Gregor, Charlotte and Shaila with their faces painted. 01_A40fete03



Lynsay Scott at the tombola stall. 01_A40fete02



Alison Thompson and Janet Mair at the Lamlash SWI baking stall. 01_A40fete01

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Youngsters learn car maintenance at the Three Towns motor project.



Professional guitar tuition is available from Steve Agnew.



New sport lacrosse is on offer.



AYF members on their trip to Alton Towers.

Every day is Arran Youth

Back to school activities a

Arran Youth Foundations has relaunched its weekly sessions following a busy summer holiday packed with activities.

Fresh from trips to Alton Towers, the Glasgow Science Centre and the Three Towns motor project, and days on Arran climbing Goatfell, mountain biking, gorge-walking and abseiling, AYF returns to its varied term-time programme.

The group provides a wide range of free opportunities for the island's high school pu-

pils, with something different on offer every day.

Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays see the youth cabins behind the high school opened for lunchtime drop-in, where pupils can come in and relax with Xbox One and PS4 games, iPads, WiFi and a chance to play with guitars and drums.

After school on Mondays, the cabins are open for the group's hugely successful cooking club, which sees young people given the opportunity to learn culinary

skills and experiment in the kitchen. There are often visits from local chefs, and for the past three years the group has hosted an annual night in the Auchran- nie's 1869 restaurant which sees participants preparing a three-course meal for parents and invited guests.

Wednesdays have seen the launch of a new activity, an after-school lacrosse club which uses the high school playing fields for an hour after school.

Graeme Johnston, AYF's youth work pro-

ject manager, explained why the new sport was introduced.

He said: 'A group of AYF's youngsters had tried the game at a multi-sports festival we went to last year and absolutely loved it. As it's something that many of the kids haven't tried, I thought it would be good to give it a go on Arran.'

'We are very privileged to have Dave Simpson, head coach of Scotland women's national lacrosse team, visiting the island later in the month to lead a



Learning culinary skills in the kitchen.



Youngsters at the misty top of Goatfell.

different at Foundations

after busy summer of fun

few sessions. Early next year there's a national schools tournament we will be aiming to put an Arran team in to.'

Three sessions

Thursday is the busiest day of the week, with no less than three sessions: guitar tuition with professional tutor Steve Agnew; a youth forum, where a committee of students meet to discuss and tackle issues affecting local youngsters; and a mixed-abilities running club, led by RunArran leader Laura Aitcheson heading out from Brodick church

hall from 5.30pm each week. Graeme says he feels Thursdays best exemplify the work AYF is doing. 'Young people have the opportunity to learn a new instrument with a professional tutor, all at no cost to themselves, give input to a forum where they can have a real say on issues that affect them, then come round to Brodick and enjoy the chance to go a run with their friends under the expert guidance of Laura, our ever-enthusiastic running coach.

'I think that shows

the breadth of activities we are putting on for youngsters,' he said.

'They can also have their hard work recognised, with our tutor Steve putting the guitar pupils through Rock School qualifications, youth forum members completing dynamic youth and youth achievement awards, and the first batch of running club senior members recently completing their junior leader course.'

Friday nights still prove the most popular with young people,

with upwards of 40 kids heading along to Brodick church hall each week for fun and games.

Fridays also see the group make regular trips to the Auchranrie's sports hall, Playbarn and swimming pool, or to things like the Christmas panto and high school summer show.

Graeme added: 'We want to give the young people on the island as many positive opportunities as possible, and I hope to see even more of them come along this year to take part.'

Bid to bring tourists to Arran from Amsterdam

Arran joined tourism businesses from around Scotland which were in Amsterdam this week as part of a mission to grow the £76million Dutch market.

Organised by VisitScotland, the national tourism organisation, and taking place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel at Amsterdam Schiphol airport on Wednesday, the business development mission saw 10 Scottish businesses, including VisitArran, meet with key tour operators from the Netherlands.

Fourth biggest

Behind the USA, Germany and France, the Netherlands is Scotland's fourth biggest overseas market, with the country welcoming 157,000 visitors in 2015.

The Netherlands has a number of

direct air links to Scotland, including Flybe's six-times-a-week service between Amsterdam and Dundee, which was launched in May.

Malcolm Roughead, chief executive of VisitScotland, said: 'VisitScotland supports industry in their aspirations to internationalise and to attract more business and income from international markets. Our mission to Amsterdam is a cost-effective way for Scottish businesses to maintain existing relationships and to establish new ones with Dutch tour operators.

'Worth nearly £80 million a year, the Netherlands is a key market for Scottish tourism and I'm sure this week's mission to Amsterdam will prove an enjoyable and beneficial experience for all of our partners.'

Lifeboat crew thank RNLI fundraisers



Garry and Ann Tulloch present the money they raised to the lifeboat crew.

Arran's RNLI crew were thrilled to welcome charity walker Alex Ellis-Roswell to the Lamlash lifeboat station during his recent visit to the island.

As reported in last week's *Banner*, Alex walked round Arran as part of a 9,500-mile, four-year non-stop walk around the coastline of Britain and Ireland raising money for the RNLI.

While on Arran, Alex took part in a training exercise with the Arran RNLI lifeboat crew on board the *Rachel Hedderwick* to give him an opportunity to see what the money he raises goes towards.

A station spokesman said: 'So far Alex has raised more than £24,000 for the RNLI and with just under half of his epic endeavour to go we are sure he will meet with more success. Everyone at the Arran RNLI station

would like to offer Alex our fondest farewell and we are sure he will continue to have success throughout the rest of his travels.'

You can follow Alex's journey and donate via www.facebook.com/alexellisroswell

Thanks

The station would also like to offer heart-felt thanks - and an unreserved apology for the lateness of this acknowledgement - to Garry and Ann Tulloch who completed a Macrathon, completing either three miles or 25 minutes of running every day last December, regardless of the weather.

'This was truly a tremendous feat. Everyone here at the Arran RNLI lifeboat station was extremely grateful to receive the money they raised,' the spokesman added.

Bard? - you won't be

National Poetry Day is fast approaching and people active in Arran's poetry scene do not want to miss out flying the flag for the occasion.

As in previous years, the event, on Thursday October 6, will be held in the Brodick Bar at 7.30pm and all contributions are welcome. The theme this year is 'Messages' but organisers stress that poems need not adhere to the theme. As co-organiser Cicely Gill said: 'It will be an interactive evening. Everyone's contributions will bring it alive. As usual some of our local poets will read their work and beside them we would like to hear from you. Please let me know if you wish to read one of your own poems to us. And let us know, for timing purposes, if it is a long or short poem. You can have a couple in reserve as we don't know how many people will want to read.'

'If you are a poetry lover, but not a poet, we would like very much if you would bring a favourite poem to read - or if you don't want to face an audience yourself, someone will read it for you.'

The evening tries to be all inclusive and would-be readers are asked to contact Cicely on 700464 as soon as possible. Also phone this number for details of what promises to be a great evening. As the poetry day sandwich board reads ... 'Bard? - you won't be!'

Market report

United Auctions at Stirling sold 18,264 prime, store and breeding sheep and 2,018 store cattle and cast cows.

The prices were: Cosyden (Chev) £57; Kilpatrick (Tex) £65; Bellevue (Tex) £59; Swallowbrae (Suff) £65; Sheddock (Suff) £57; Sheddock (Mule) £56; West Glensherraig (BF) £44; Glenkiln (BF) £40; Hillhead (Cast ewe) £61.50.

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Alex (centre) with two of the crew of the Arran lifeboat.



Alex joins the crew for a training exercise.

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Great skua can be seen on Arran migrating south in early autumn

Skuas are 'piratical' birds, gaining much of their food by stealing it from other sea birds. Skuas are gull-like in many respects, with long, pointed wings, short legs, and webbed feet. However, skuas have a strongly hooked beak, elongated central tail feathers, and a generally dark coloration, although some birds are of a lighter-coloured phase.

Skuas also display a very different behaviour from gulls. Skuas are swift, strong, and manoeuvrable fliers. They aerially harass other sea birds until they drop or disgorge fish that they have caught, which is then nimbly retrieved and eaten by the skuas. They are kleptoparasites - piratical feeders that rob other birds of their prey. They are also predators of small mammals, birds, their young and their eggs as well as taking fish and carrion.

They make a very small family with just four northern hemisphere species and a few similar southern ones.

The northern species, Arctic skua, great skua, long-tailed skua and pomarine skua nest on the ground in Arctic regions and some temperate regions with two, Arctic and great, breeding as far south as the North-

ern and Western Isles in the UK. Breeding skuas are relentless and ferocious in defence of their territory against human (or any other) intruders, especially when the chicks are young.

All are long distance migrants, wintering off the coast of Iberia and Africa.

It is during their migration north in the spring and south in the late summer or early autumn that they are most likely to be seen round the coast of the UK including Arran. In the last 10 years there have been records of great skua off Arran in nine of these years and Arctic in seven of these years. Long-tailed and pomarine skua have only been recorded each once in the last 10 years. In those last 10 years, there have been 32 records of great skua and 18 of Arctic skua, usually single birds but occasionally two or three.

Round Arran you are most likely to see the great skua, stercorarius skua. The great skua is the largest skua in the northern hemisphere.

The genus name stercorarius is Latin and means 'of dung'. The food disgorged by other birds when pursued by skuas was once thought to be excrement.

Great skuas are also called

bonxies. This name does not refer to their aggressive behaviour but is a Shetland word meaning dumpy, untidy women! They are majestic and powerful sea birds that never fail to provoke a reaction. In August, I watched from the Caledonian Isles as one pursued a gannet. It chased it for quite a distance, finally tipping up the tail of the gannet causing the bird to plunge to the sea emptying its stomach on the way down.

Look out for great skuas this autumn. At a distance they look stout and dark and show white wing flashes in flight. These white flashes in the outer part of both the upper and under wing can be seen from a considerable distance.

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@arran-birding.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 2015 and visit this website www.arran-birding.co.uk.



The great skua have a strongly hooked beak and elongated central tail feathers.



The great skua are swift, strong and manoeuvrable fliers. Photos: Jim MacKenzie

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*Price includes P&P

Spaniels lead the way to raise money for lifesaving equipment

Springer spaniels Jock, Scully and Max are supporting the Sandpiper Trust by doing a sponsored walk around the Glen Rosa Loop later this month.

Joining them on the five-mile circular walk on Wednesday October 19 will be owners Julie Graham

and Karen Stirland, who will be providing encouragement and biscuit treats.

The Sandpiper Trust provides emergency medical equipment to rural doctors, nurses and paramedics across Scotland to augment the emergency service provided by the Scottish Am-

bulance Service. On Arran there is more than £30,000 worth of Sandpiper equipment, all of which regularly requires replacement when used or expired.

Sandpiper responders on Arran, who consist of GPs and a practice nurse, see more than 40 responses a

year when the ambulance is already on another call, or when more medical assistance is requested by the crew.

Forms

For anyone who wishes to contribute to help Jock, Scully and Max to raise money to support the Sandpiper Trust to continue their valuable work across rural Scotland, sponsorship forms are available from Julie and Karen, or visit the JustGiving site at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ArranSandpiper.



Sandpiper responders and emergency services attend an emergency.

Bid to reform Legion branch

A bid to reform the Arran branch of the Royal British Legion is being made.

A meeting in The Douglas Hotel, Brodick, on Wednesday October 5 at 2pm will be attended by the chief executive officer of Legion Scotland, as the organisation is now known north of the border, Kevin Gray and administrative manager Claire Armstrong from HQ in Edinburgh.

Membership of the legion is open to service personnel, veterans and anyone interested in supporting the ideals of the Legion.

Legion Scotland supports veterans in a wide variety

of ways: providing help, advice, support and comradeship; organise events and activities to help veterans work and socialise together; provide specific disablement pensions and welfare support and lobby government and the media on veterans' issues.

Committed

They are also committed to the education of young people about the impact of war and remembrance including the annual Legion Scotland primary school competition. This year the competition is Films of Remembrance and registration for schools is open now.

Across the country Legion Scotland is always looking for people to help further the work of Legion Scotland - whether or not you have service connections. Not only can this be very rewarding but you may also learn new skills, make friends and become an integral part of the Legion Scotland family.

Volunteering

To find out more about volunteering with Legion Scotland on Arran, go along to the meeting on Wednesday in the Douglas Hotel, contact Liz Clarke on 860219 or email lizahclarke@gmail.com



Jock, Scully and Max who will be fundraising on behalf of the Sandpiper Trust.

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Harvest collection for clean water



The harvest display in the church.

On Sunday September 25, a Harvest Thanksgiving worship was held in Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland.

A fairly full church of members and visitors sang well-loved harvest hymns and remembered in prayer all those in the farming and fishing communities for whom life can be hard.

The Rev Elizabeth Watson said: 'As we gave thanks for all the good things we enjoy, including a lunch served after the service where there was much laughter and friendship, we thought of those less fortunate; in particular those who suffer from a lack of one of the things we take so much for granted - clean water.'

'The wonderful total of £935.25 was raised to be given to the charity Water Aid. Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously.'

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 5 October, 1996

Final decision

Exactly two years ago *The Banner* announced, under the headline 'Housing Revolution', Ms Celia Urquhart's plans for the housing development known as Charters Towers.

Since then the issue has been ongoing and with strong feelings from many, both for and against the development, the issue culminated in a public inquiry last August. Last Thursday it became known that Ms Urquhart had lost her appeal to the Secretary of State for Scotland and that the final chance for her to proceed with the development at the Cora Lynn site had failed.

The final paragraph of a letter received

from her solicitors read: 'I hereby dismiss this appeal and refuse to grant planning permission for the application to which it relates.' So the matter is now closed, or is it?

The penultimate paragraph reads: 'The foregoing decision is final, subject to any aggrieved person to apply to the Court of Session within six weeks.'

Bus contract award

Stagecoach bus services will remain unchanged after it was awarded the 12-month contract to provide the school bus services on Arran. This concludes the possibility of Stagecoach leaving the island if it did not receive the contract after Strathclyde Passenger Transport invited other companies to tender for the service.

The original Stagecoach tender had shown increases of 30-35 per cent over current costs and North Ayrshire Council felt that the increases were too much. After the NAC strategy committee met last month they accepted that costs had increased and that the previous tender may have been kept artificially low to gain the contract and recognising the service was good, they awarded the contract.

Additional sailings

The winter ferry timetable is now available and starting from October 13 there are a few additions. One is a 11.05am sailing from Brodick and a 12.30pm from Ardrossan on Wednesdays. This makes four return sailings on Wednesdays and three on other weekdays. Two sailings on a Saturday and Sunday and as an added bonus, additional sailings will start earlier next spring in mid February instead of early March.



Eleanor Muirhead (right) won the Ladies Singles Challenge Cup last week at Lamlash. She is pictured being congratulated by runner up Sally Brookes. The cup was first presented in 1912 and was played for each year until 1930. It has only been presented twice since then in 1966 and 1967. B40twe03



Community firefighters Tom Stewart and Tony Kane have been spending this week visiting primary schools to alert children to the dangers of fire. Pictured are two pupils from each class at Brodick Primary School. B40twe04



Audrey McArthur with actor James Bolam in front of her house Ivybank, or Harbour View as it has been renamed for the film *The Missing Postman*. B40twe01



Stuart Gough was the judge at the Kilmory fete last week where he had to select a winner from, left to right, Tin Man, Sam Hemmings and Mickey and Minnie, Hannah McLellan and Fiona Patrick. The young junior chef is Rachel Mulholland. B40twe02



Joan McLellan and Laura Turner, kite designers from Kilmory Primary School, have entered the North Ayrshire Schools Saturday Kite Fever competition that takes place in Ardrossan this weekend. B40twe05

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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 & Candle Dipping

Loch Garbad, bank fishing
9am-dusk
Mon - Sat 10am - 5pm, Sunday - 12.30pm - 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 Heritage Museum Archives & 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
Coffee morning
Parkinsons support group
Coffee Morning

Brodict Church Hall, 7-9pm
9am - 10.30am & 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm & 4pm - 6pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
Auchrannie Spa, Brodict, 5.30pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30pm - 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
Brodict Church Hall, 10.30am - 12noon
Lamlash Fire station, 2pm - 4pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon

Saturday 1st October

Army Cadets
Over 21s Disco
Family Games
Fun in the pool
Arran Vets - Surgery
Arran Vets - Reception
Live music
Arran Physiotherapy & Acupuncture Clinic
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
Whiting Bay Bowling Club Rink Game
Blackwaterfoot Bowls
Brodict Bowling Club Rink Game
Flow Yoga
Live music - The Usual Jet Patchers
Live music - Micheal Clark - *The Acoustic Butterfly*

Auchrannie Road 11am -1 pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
9.30am - 11am
9.30am - 12 noon
Fiddlers, Brodict from 7.30pm
arranphysiotherapy.co.uk 9-12noon
Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm
Bowling Club, 1.45pm
Brodict Bowling Club, 2pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
The Douglas Hotel, 9pm

Thursday 6th October

Morning Fitness
General Knowledge Quiz
Arran Vets - Surgery
Arran Vets - Reception
Live music
Ladies Hockey
RUNFIT
Burger & Quiz night
Winter Bowls
Tennis senior club night
Mixed Martial Arts/XFit
Quilt Arran
Flow Yoga
Chair Yoga
10th Ayrshire Shiskine cub Scouts & Beavers
RUNFIT
Brodict Embroidery group
Whiting Bay Thursday Club

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
9am - 10.30am & 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm & 4pm - 6pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30pm - 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, 2pm - 4.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 6pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30am - 11.30am
Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm
Lamlash Green, 6.45am
Brodict Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 2pm

Sunday 2nd October

Family Games
Fun in the pool
Open acoustic session at Fiddlers'
AA Meeting
Taiji & Qigong
Live music - Katy Kross

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 2.30pm - 5pm
Brodict church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 3pm

Monday 3rd October

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
Arran Citizen's Advice Bureau
Live music
Scottish Country Dancing- Beginners & Improvers

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
9am - 10.30am & 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm & 4pm - 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 & over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Arran High School, 6.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 11.30am - 3.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30pm - 10pm
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm

Friday 7th October

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

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

Tuesday 4th October

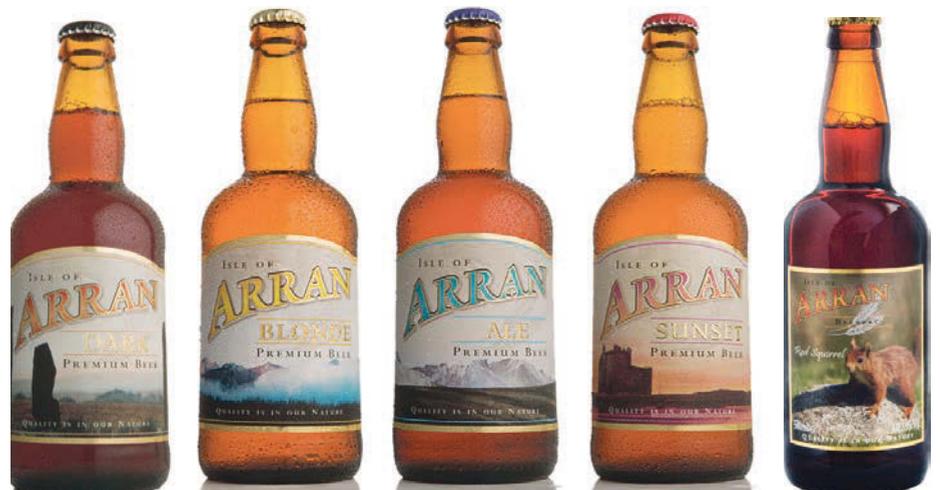
Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Arran Vets - Surgery
Arran Vets - Reception
Rotary club
Healthy Outdoors
Blackwaterfoot Bowls
RunArran Run Coaching
RUNFIT
Open Cricket Session
Lamlash Drama Club
Flow Yoga
Live music
Garden Walk
Metafit
Scottish Country Dance

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
9am - 10.30am & 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm & 4pm - 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 7pm-9pm
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 6pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30pm - 10pm
Brodict Castle, 2pm - 3pm
Arran High School, 6pm
Brodict, Church Hall, 7.30pm

Wednesday 5th October

Rock & Pop Bingo
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous

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



Recruitment



Full-time and Part-time bus drivers required.

PCV licence and CPC card preferred but full training can be given.

Please apply to **Guy Bodie, Stagecoach, The Pier, Brodick, KA27 8AU**



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Public Notices

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

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine*, between 9am-4.45pm weekdays (4.30pm Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

*and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 21.10.16. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

16/00852/PP; Eastland, Shiskine, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Removal of condition 1 of planning permission CH/01/98/0109 relating to occupancy restriction.

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
Staneastle 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 Auchendarvie 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;
- Staneastle School, Irvine.

Staneastle 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 Staneastle 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 **12 noon on 4 November 2016**.

JOHN BUTCHER

Executive Director, Education & Youth Employment.

THE NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES) (NO.4) ORDER 2016

On 26 September 2016, North Ayrshire Council made the above named Order in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The Order which comes into operation on 11 November 2016 was advertised in the Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald, the Arran Banner, the Irvine Herald, the Irvine Times and the Largs and Millport Weekly News. The effect of the Order is to make all disabled bays included in the schedule enforceable by Police Scotland. Copies of the Order are available for inspection during normal working hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of :-

Commercial Services (Roads), North Ayrshire Council, 3rd Floor East, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE.

Any person who wishes to question the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act, or of any instrument made under it, has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from the 30 September 2016 apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

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Church Pews, £50 each from Arran Free Church, Brodick. Wednesday 5th October between 7pm and 8pm or Tel: 303660

UNDER £50

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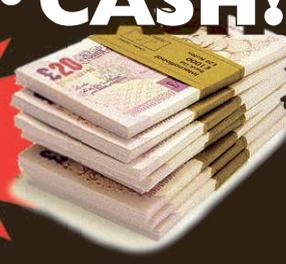
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Lamlash Golf Club
Thursday September 22, Summer Cup, CSS 67, par 64. 1 D MacFarlane 65-1=64, 2 A Winship 80-14=66, 3 Iain Murchie 72-5=67. Scratch, D MacFarlane 64. Magic twos, G Andrew 2, Andrew Smith, D MacFarlane.

Friday September 23, Seniors Open, yellow tees, Stableford, CSS 64, par 61, 14 played. 1 Andrew Martin of Whiting Bay, 35pts, 2 Colin Richardson of Lamlash, 32 pts BIH, 3 John Penny-cott of Whiting Bay, 32pts. Scratch, Andrew Martin 75, 24pts. Magic twos C Richardson, H MacLelland, G Andrew, D Brookens.

Saturday September 24, due to adverse weather the K Western Texas Scramble Cup was cancelled.

Sunday September 25, Medal Shield final, CSS 66, par 64. 1 N Stewart 66-5=61, 2 A Watson 80-9=71. Scratch N Stewart 66. Magic twos N Stewart, A Watson. The overall winner of the Medal Shield will be announced later.

Ladies' section: Wednesday September 21, Stroke 6, CSS 65, eight played. 1 Liz Sinclair 85(18)67, 2 Jenny Pattenden 99(31)68. Scratch Sheena Murchie 85.

Fixtures: Sunday October 2, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday October 6, front nine medal, make up own games, see starter for times.

Whiting Bay Golf Club
Wednesday September 21, Wednesday medal. With the

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

EAGLESON - Victor, Alfie and family would like to express their sincere thanks to friends and neighbours for their kindness and cards during their recent bereavement. Thanks to doctors and nurses at Arran War Memorial Hospital for their care and kindness to John's last few days, to Hendry Funeral Services, special thanks to Rev Angus Adamson for the kind words and also to the Kinloch Hotel for catering. £220 was collected for ArCaS and the War Memorial Hospital.



Liz Kerr wins the ALGU Cir Mhor trophy at Shiskine.

conclusion of the summer trophy, the club was able to schedule a final Wednesday medal in which 14 members could play.

Luckily an extremely pessimistic evening weather forecast did not come to fruition but those playing in the evening draw really were racing against the dying light. Closing shots to the home green relied on course knowledge as much as the view as there wasn't any. For all that it was two evening players who took the top two places, the winning score was an impressive four under par. 1 David Morrison 8, 59 and lowest gross, 2 Kevin McAleney 12, 62, 3 David Brookens 12, 63 ACB, 4 Danny Head 5, 63. Magic twos were scored by Danny Head @4th and by Peter Smith @17th.

Sunday September 25, Medal. The September weekend brought its usual weather forecast but a bright morning saw 10 players just make it to the clubhouse before the rain came on. It was a welcome return for former WBG Open Champion Michel Augier who won with a very tidy net 63. Well done Michel, nice to see you back.

1 Michel Augier 13, 63, 2 John Penny-cott 13, 64, 3 Scott Adair 6, 65, 4 Alan Foggo 3, 66 and lowest gross. Scott Adair managed the only Magic two of the day @4th.

Fixtures: Sunday October 2, Winter Cup Round

One. One draw at 10am. Wednesday and Friday winter sweeps start on Wednesday October 5, see notice board and website for full details. Preferred lies operative from Saturday October 1.

Brodick Golf Club
Wednesday September 21, Winter Cup. Eight keen golfers turned up for the first winter cup competition of the season. 1 D Robertson 77-15=62 BIH, 2 C O'Neil 80-18=62. Better inward half next week Charlie! Only magic two was T Raeside @15th.

Sunday September 25, Winter Cup first round, 15 played, CSS 64, 37 pts. 1 Iain Sillars 38pts BIH, 2 Gordon Hendry 38 pts BIH, 3 Donald McKinnie 38 pts. Magic twos, Gordon Hendry, two, Harry Macfarlane, one and Iain Sillars, one. The morning boys got the best of the weather, reflected in the scoring as the afternoon squad had to contend with the monsoon showers.

Fixture: Sunday October 2, Brandon, open draws at 8.30am and 1pm.

Machrie Bay Golf Club
Tuesday September 20, CSS 65 R/O. 1 J Penny-cott 79-13=66, 2 C Laing 87-17=70, 3 M Sherwood 77-5=72 BIH.

Fixtures: Saturday October 1, Lochranza Hotel Cup, 12noon. Tuesday October 4, Winter Cup,

12noon. Please note that all games start at 12noon from now on.

Arran Ladies Golf Union
A total of 21 ladies played in the ALGU Cir Mhor competition at Shiskine on Saturday September 17, in a stiff wind and sunshine. The greens were in excellent condition, for which many thanks to Stewart Fotheringham and his green keeping staff, and to Shiskine GC for courtesy of the course. The ladies came in to an excellent tea provided by Alan Dunlop and his staff. The winner was Liz Kerr with 82-17=65 net, runner-up was Kema Genda 78-11=67]. Kema Genda won scratch with a cracking 78.

Fixture: The next competition of the ALGU will be a Drumadon at Whiting Bay GC on Saturday October 29, first tee off at 10.30am.

Rugby and hockey games postponed

Both the rugby and hockey fixtures on Arran fell victim to the weather last Saturday. Arran's rugby match against Strathaven was called off at the request of the visitors, while the ladies' hockey match against Dumfries was also cancelled. Today (Saturday) the rugby team are away to Police Scotland-Glasgow.

CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 2nd October
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.
Wednesday, 5th October
Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

There will be Taizé worship on
Thursday 6th October
at 7.30 pm, in St Molios' Church, Shiskine.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together
Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson
Parish assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:

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

Sunday 2nd October
Lochransa Church, 9.30am Morning Worship.
Pirmill Church 10.45am Morning Worship.
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship.

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

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 2nd October
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory 10 am
Lamlash 11.30 am
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 2nd October
Morning Mass 11am

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 2nd October
Worship will be conducted by the minister,
Rev Elizabeth Watson
at 10.30am.

Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.

All most welcome.
There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm to which all friends will be most welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 2nd October
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30 pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 2nd October
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 2nd October
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

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Laura Aitcheson (centre) with the RunArran beginners group as they warm up before setting off on a three-kilometre run. 01_B40runarran01

RunArran beginners finish first course in record time

Words and photos by
COLIN SMEETON

Members of the RunArran JogScotland beginners group received awards on Monday evening after completing a course in record time.

Normally run over 10

weeks, the course was finished in six weeks because of the ability and progress of the new runners who met up once a week in Lamlash to run, socialise and enjoy the outdoors.

Offering mixed ability classes, runfit, girls and

youth classes, RunArran is run by professional coach Laura Aitcheson who aims to bring out the runner in everyone regardless of ability and fitness.

Classes take place from Mondays to Thursdays in various locations. Group or personal coaching is available, as is team coaching, which has been beneficial to various sports groups on Arran including the ladies hockey team and the rugby club.

The runners on Monday night could not praise their training enough.

Some commented on the social aspects and the fact training as a group encouraged them to 'get out there every week', while others enjoyed picking up tips from others and gaining confidence and motivation

from their regular workouts.

United Kingdom Athletics certified run coach Laura said: 'I am so pleased this group of six beginners have all completed the beginners jog course in six weeks.'

'Sometimes the hardest part is taking the first step. I knew from the start this group had the commitment to stick with it.'

'Team work and camaraderie really do help make fitness goals achievable so well done to everyone. It's never too late to start exercising.'

The next beginners course starts at the end of October in Brodick. For further details visit www.runarran.com or the RunArran Facebook page.



Runners proudly show off their awards after completing the six-week beginners course.

01_B40runarran02



Enjoying a post run chat are award winners Jennifer Rainey, Emma Davies, Heather Wood, Manuela de Los Rios, Holly Simon and David McLintock.

01_B40runarran03

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