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Letters page

Full consultation is promised



Little acorns

Elderly are young at heart



Thumble Tumble

Fantasy football at book launch

Door opens on council house return to Arran

Affordable homes boost for Brodick

Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Nearly 50 affordable homes are to be built on Arran in the next four years, it was revealed this week.

Work will start as early as next summer on 26 new council houses, the first to be built on the island for more than 30 years.

They are to be built on council-owned land behind Brathwic Terrace in Brodick. A further 20 houses are planned by the Trust Housing Association at nearby Springbank Farm due for completion in 2020/21. A new road will also be created giving a two-way access to the whole Springbank area.

The moves have been welcomed by the Arran Economic Group, which

sees more social housing as vital to the future prosperity of the island.

As part of its recent wide-ranging report, highlighted by the *Banner* back in August, it found that Arran was the second-most difficult place in the UK after London to access affordable housing.

The study showed that Arran's housing affordability ratio – based on an average salary of £24,000 – is ranked as 8.2 while London stands at 10.4. The average figure for the UK is 5.3 while the average in Scotland is 3.3.

There are approximately 2,100 households on Arran, yet only about 16 per cent – 342 – are social housing properties, operated by the Trust Housing Association

Continued on page two

Lady Jean joins Arran youth group



AYF members enjoy a group photograph with Lady Jean.

Arran Youth Foundations had a very special visitor at their fundraising day at Strabane House at the weekend – Lady Jean Fforde herself.

She made a surprise, but very wel-

come, appearance outside her home during the event.

The group's Graeme Johnston said: 'We were delighted she was able to come out and join us in the

afternoon. She enjoyed watching the pipe band with a cup of tea and some home-baking given to her by one of the youngsters.'

Full story – page four.

NEW HOMES ON ARRAN

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Sites are chosen for new developments

'We're delighted that the council is committed to new social housing on Arran.'

Continued from page one and there are presently no council houses. Indeed, the majority of properties on the island are privately owned, with 22 per cent of these classed as second homes – meaning a lack of affordable housing is available.

North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane said the council is determined to make more affordable housing available and is working with Arran Economic Group to achieve that aim.

He said: 'Last year, we increased our commitment to new council housing

by increasing the number of new homes from 500 to 750. Now we have increased that further and are pledging to build 1,000 new homes across North Ayrshire by 2022.

'We know Arran faces unique issues with a real lack of social housing and these new properties in Brodick will be one of the first steps taken to help address that.'

Tom Tracey, chairman of Arran Economic Group, said: 'We have been working alongside North Ayrshire Council to develop plans to address this critical issue and we're delighted

that the council is committed to new social housing on Arran.

'Our working-age population is expected to decline by about 47 per cent by 2025. To be clear, we have jobs available across all sectors but few candidates to fill them. One of the primary reasons we are unable to attract or retain employees is the shortage of low-cost permanent accommodation.'

As a result, the council will also work alongside AEG to explore grant funding which would be the catalyst for bringing empty homes on the island back

into use. It is estimated that there are currently about 75 properties deemed empty for a variety of reasons. In addition, both the council and economic group will be jointly examining other low-cost home ownership models.

However, the new Brathwic Terrace development is a blow to one resident. Robbie Brown has, over many years, extended his impressive garden onto the site to be behind his home. Council officials confirmed this week that the extra ground will be reclaimed when the development starts.



The site above Brodick where 26 new council houses will be built. 01_B40housing02



The future housing site behind Springbank Farm. 01_B40housing03

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Facts and figures . . . facts and figures

According to a study commissioned by Arran Economic Group, Arran needs a minimum of 200 affordable homes.

The housing affordability ratio – based on an average salary of £24,000 – is 8.2 on Arran, second only to London at 10.4. The average UK figure is 5.3. Scotland is 3.3.

The average house price on the island is £285,000. To get onto the hous-

ing ladder, earnings of £42,285 are required.

Arran has 22 per cent second-home ownership (second only to St Ives in Cornwall at 25 per cent). Arran's second-home ratio is massively greater than the Scottish average of 1.1 per cent and significantly higher than other island settings such as Islay, Jura, Colonsay (14.8 per cent), Mull and Iona (12.6 per cent) and Bute

(11.7 per cent). Arran has four villages now known as 'dark villages' due to the high concentration of second-home ownership (over 80 per cent). Arran has high levels of owner occupation at 73.9 per cent (11.8 per cent higher than Scotland).

Arran has 342 social housing units with a very low turnover of properties (less than 10 per annum).

Two shortlisted for top awards

The Isle of Arran Distillery and VisitArran have been shortlisted in the West of Scotland Scottish Thistle Awards, which are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year.

Standing out from the crowd, the two organisations have been selected from a record breaking entry of over 734 submitted entries and hundreds of nominations from members of the public.

VisitArran has been selected in two categories: the Working Together for Tourism category as well as the Innovation in Tourism category for its work in establishing the ArranCard.

The Lochranza distillery has been shortlisted in the fiercely contested Best Visitor Attraction category and is up against The Experience in Glasgow and Heads of Ayr Farm Park in Alloway.

The awards recognise hotels, restaurants,

B&Bs, visitor attractions and individuals who go the extra mile to provide customers with exceptional service, celebrating success, innovation, excellence and best practice in the country's tourism and hospitality industry.

Rebecca Brooks, chairwoman of the Scottish Thistle Awards industry panel, said: 'It's fantastic that in this special anniversary year, we've had such an overwhelming response to the competition. From the sheer volume and calibre of entries, it is clear that this year's competition will be the fiercest yet and, on behalf of the panel, I'd like to congratulate all the shortlisted entrants and wish each and every one of them the very best of luck at the regional finals.'

The winners will be announced at the West Regional final at Glasgow Science Centre on Thursday October 26.

New president for NTS

... and award for path champion Paul

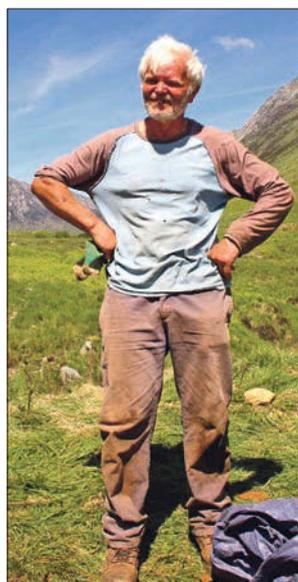
Archaeologist, TV presenter and author Neil Oliver has said he would be delighted to come to Arran in his new role as president of Scotland's largest conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland.

Members of the charity confirmed his appointment at its annual general meeting in Dundee's Caird Hall last Saturday. He takes over from Lord Lindsay, who has held the role since 2012 when he succeeded the Duke of Buccleuch.

The meeting also heard that the £2 million being spent on fire prevention works which have closed Brodick Castle is still on schedule with the castle due to re-open next Easter.

NTS chairman Sir Moir Lockhead said: 'Neil has championed Scotland and its heritage throughout his career – unearthing new insights into its stories, sharing our stunning scenery and fascinating audiences all over the world. We are very excited about the energy, enthusiasm and opportunities for more engagement that he will bring to our charity as we work to protect Scotland's heritage, and share and celebrate all that we have to offer with more people.'

On taking up his appointment, Neil said: 'The National Trust for Scotland protects so much of what makes Scotland special. Over the years I have dug up some of its places, visited many more and been completely inspired by it all. I can't wait to get more



Path champion Dave Hector.

involved and I'll be encouraging others to do the same.'

The Ayrshire and Arran regional NTS team, led by general manager Stuart Maxwell, provided all of the displays at the AGM this year, including a stand devoted to Brodick and an-

other devoted to the Arran Ranger Service, who welcomed Neil to the stand and heard of his wish to come to Arran.

And the team were delighted that Dave Hector, who has led upland footpath Thistle Camps for years on Arran and elsewhere, was awarded the George Waterston Memorial Award for his tireless commitment to leading volunteers repairing the paths.

NTS chief executive Simon Skinner also gave an update on the work at Brodick Castle at the AGM. He said: 'Brodick Castle, Garden and Country Park is the second of Ayrshire and Arran's priority projects this year, the other being Culzean.

'The castle is currently closed allow for extensive fitting of new fire protection systems and these are well on schedule to allow the castle to re-open again at Easter 2018.

'In the meantime, an amazing new play area, Isle to Wild, themed around the natural environment of Arran, opened to great acclaim and popularity.

'The property's cafe will also be refurbished and there will be new trails and wayfinding and, overall, £2 million is being invested.'



New president Neil Oliver at the Arran Ranger Service stand.

Scottish country dance nights in church hall

Scottish country dancers, along with anyone looking for an enjoyable and social way of having fun, are invited to attend the Scottish country dancing in Brodick church hall on Tuesday evenings.

Described by those who attend as a fun way of exercising both body and mind, it is also incredibly social and a great opportunity to listen to music from superb bands from across the world.

Dancing takes place from 7.30pm and includes a tea break. Everyone is welcome to join in and to see what it is all about.

Arran Visual Arts group hold exhibition

The exhibition space at the Brodick Library will feature an exhibition by various members of the Arran Visual Arts group for the month of October.

The display will include a mixture of mediums from oils to acrylics and even machine embroidery.

Arran Visual Arts is a group of both amateur and professional artists from across Arran

with over 140 members. Memberships is open to all and for a small membership fee, members receive a discount on the various workshops run throughout the year.

The group also hosts two exhibitions a year where members submit works of art which are displayed at Arran High School and the Lochranza and Catacol village hall.

Club draw winners

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club September draw were: 1st prize Ben Baboolal, 2nd prize Richard Henderson.

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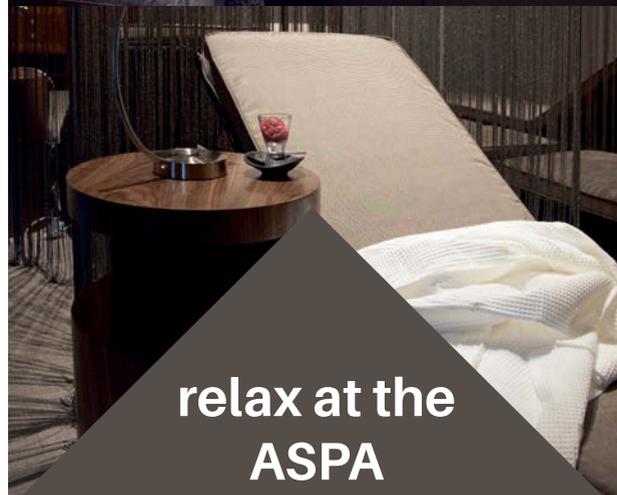
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Youth group is given big boost from fundraiser

The young folk of Arran Youth Foundations raised £664 last Saturday by hosting their sixth annual fundraiser in the gardens of Lady Jean Fforde at Strabane House in Brodick.

With donations for entry, the group's young people also raised money by selling teas, coffees and their home-baking, as well as holding a grand raffle.

Beautiful

For most of the event, the weather was beautiful, with a shower of rain starting just before a wonderful performance by Arran Pipe Band but failing to dampen spirits.

AYF youth work project manager Graeme Johnston said: 'I'm delighted we raised so much – these funds will be such a big help to all the great work that we do with the young folk of Arran.'

'Everyone involved in



Members of the AYF who helped on the day. 01_B40youth03

AYF would like to thank those who helped us on Saturday, be they young people, parents, anyone who visited the gardens, all those who helped set up and clear away, and to Arran Pipe Band for coming along and providing

such brilliant entertainment. Huge thanks to the businesses who donated raffle prizes: Auchrannie, Douglas Hotel, Co-operative, Arran Dairies, and Isle of Arran Cheese Shop, as well as those who brought prizes on the day.

'Most importantly, we would like to give special thanks to Lady Jean, who so generously opened her gardens to support the young people once again. We really appreciate everything Lady Jean has done for AYF.'



The pipe band performing at the fundraising event. 01_B40youth04



At the cafe are, left to right, treasurer Sylvia Alison, Lori Prescott, Megan Hamill and Charlie Hodgart. 01_B40youth02

Call for price cap on energy prices

A cross-party letter is urging the UK government to introduce a price cap on energy prices saying that users, including 1,246 on Arran, are being overcharged.

A total of 193 MPs, including North Ayrshire and Arran MP Patricia Gibson, have joined forces in urging the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, (Ofgem) to protect the interests of consumers who are being 'ripped off' to the tune of £1,400 million a year.

Mrs Gibson said: 'It is a disgrace that on Arran 1,246 households are overpaying for energy by £291,500 per year.'

Ripped off

'A total of 17 million consumers – two thirds of all UK customers – have been ripped off by the big six for decades. And Ofgem has chosen to stand idly by, leaving 15 million customers on standard variable tariffs.'

'If Ofgem doesn't go into bat-

tle with the big six energy companies on behalf of consumers, it must be replaced and the UK government should implement the energy price cap instead.

'This was a manifesto pledge by all the major parties in June's general election and the breadth and depth of cross-party signatures on this letter shows huge support for the government to get this through parliament. It is time for the government to act.'

Helping to keep the elderly young at heart

Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS) has planted the seeds of a befriending project which will see children and pensioners regularly meeting each other for support and friendship in an effort known as Arran Acorns.

The scheme involving residents of Glen Estate and the pre-school children of Brodick early years centre will begin later this month and be rolled out at the Stronach day care centre in the new year.

The children visited the sheltered housing residents last week to have a sneak preview and to meet their new friends, whom they will visit weekly for interaction and fun activities, including crafts, singing, games and gardening.

Residents are already looking forward to the sessions and thinking ahead, planning a trip out to see the children perform their nativity play in December. These sessions will add to an itinerary of creative activities that the residents themselves plan and organise.

Benefits for children who take part include improved language and skills, confidence in new situations, pa-

tiency and working with a new age group. These benefits are two-way and include increased physical and social activity, learning through skill sharing, knowledge and experience. Through connection and communication with the wider community, one aim is to decrease loneliness and social isolation.

The idea for the Arran Acorns came from a Channel 4 programme *Old people's home for four-year-olds* where pre-school children and care home residents met and both generations shared moments taking part in various activities.

In the programme, some of the residents were rather sceptical and thought it would be a total disaster, but it didn't take long for the children to change these views. There were notable differences recorded in both the physical and mental health of the residents. One person, who had concerns about mobility and was almost too scared to move out their chair at the start, ultimately took part in the sports day, embracing the encouragement from her new friend.

Funding for the inter-



Glen Estate residents meet some of the early years children with Bobbi Mulholland, Arran CVS development officer, and Ann Reid, housing co-ordinator.

generational project came through the Social Isolation Fund from North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership and it is hoped the project will forge stronger links in the community between the groups and sustain greater generational bonds.

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Fishing boat is towed to safety

A training exercise turned into a real life rescue for the crew of the Arran lifeboat last week.

While undergoing a training exercise to assess staff on procedures, including towing vessels in distress, the Arran RNLI were tasked to the assistance of a fishing vessel without steering off the coast of Corrie.

At 7.45pm on Wednesday

September 27, Arran RNLI's inshore lifeboat crew had to respond quickly after the Belfast Coastguard requested them to abandon their training exercise to respond to a fishing vessel in distress.

The Rachel Hedderwick and her crew had been launched at 7.30pm to undergo assessments for some of the crew before

being contacted by Belfast Coastguard just 15 minutes into their exercise. The crew diverted to the sea approximately half a mile from Corrie where they located a 40ft fishing vessel that had lost steering. After two members of the crew joined the fishing vessel's crew it became apparent that repairs would not be possible at sea and the ves-

sel would need to be towed to a safe harbour.

After 30 minutes of towing the vessel, and with conditions worsening, the Arran RNLI crew requested the assistance of their flank station at Troon. Once the Troon RNLI all weather lifeboat Jim Moffat was on scene they took control of the tow and brought the fishing vessel into Brodick bay. Then, when in the shelter of the bay, Arran RNLI resumed the tow and secured the fishing vessel to a mooring before returning to station at 12.20am.

Arran RNLI helm Martin Wood said: 'After going out with the intention to train and get some of the crew assessed on towing, the crew suddenly had to do the job for real.

'The crew rose to the occasion in one of the most challenging tow jobs we have had for a while. With much appreciated help of our colleagues from Troon RNLI and Belfast Coastguard, we were able to get the fishing boat to a safe location where they could spend the night.'



Arran RNLI crew onboard the Rachel Hedderwick in Lamlash Bay.



Grace Small with her birthday cake.

Happy birthday Grace!

Family and friends gathered at the Stag's Pavilion restaurant in Lochranza to celebrate the 90th birthday of Grace Small.

Grace was born at Villa Latona, now Loudoun House, in Brodick, on October 1, 1927, making her one of the oldest born residents of Brodick. She was joined by sons Murray and Ian, other family members and friends from as far away as Sussex.



Grace was surrounded by her family for her birthday.

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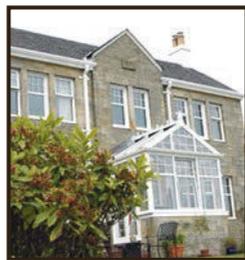
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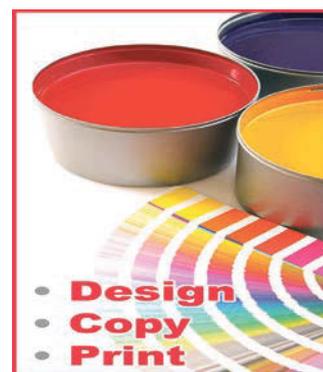
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Plaque unveiled at Clachan service

A commemorative service attended by more than 50 people was enjoyed by worshippers of all faiths who met at the restored Clachan Church in Shiskine for the open-air event.

The annual event, organised by St Molios Church in Shiskine, saw the clergy from all denominations attending the service, which was led by the Rev Angus Adamson, who read from the King James bible. Liz Dale read the lesson in Gaelic while Elizabeth Wilkinson played the harp and sang with her husband. Rev Benjamin van Rensburg delivered the sermon and the benediction was rendered by Father Noel Colford.

During the service, a plaque was dedicated to the memory of Jack Murchie, one of the main instigators of the renovation of the old kirk which was restored in 2012.

The service provides an opportunity for wor-

shippers to gather, not only for religious purposes, but also as a celebration of Arran's heritage in a church that dates back to druidic times.



Father Noel Colford, Liz Dale, Rev Angus Adamson and Rev Benjamin van Rensburg held the open air service at the restored Clachan Church in Shiskine.



SMART
GROUP
ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME IMPROVEMENTS



The Arran Banner had a chat with Elaine Duncan who was happy to share her thoughts with us about Smart Group.

Elaine replaced night storage heating with the new Air Source Heat Pump heating system from Smart Group.

Elaine had been considering for some years the benefits of renewable energy, and knew that she had to find a better solution to the antiquated, non-efficient and very costly storage heaters that she had had for many years. "The worst part for me was if I was off the island or away from the house for the night. I'd come back to a freezing cold house the next day, because you have to turn the heating on the night before for them to give off heat the next day. Winters were bitterly cold because of this problem - yet still very costly!"

Elaine joined the Energy Savings Trust Scotland (EST) to keep informed and up-to-date with the latest findings, newest technologies and government assistance in helping to switch

to a greener system. She then saw an advertisement in the Arran Banner for Smart Group which was holding an exhibition on the island for locals to come along and learn more about the Air Source Heat Pump system, and how government grant funding can make the process extremely cost effective. Elaine tells us she had looked at solar and PV panels in the past, but neither had grabbed her interest.

When Elaine decided to call Norman Paterson from Smart Group to come and explain how they could help her, she wasn't expecting to be quite so impressed. "It sounded like the perfect solution for us," she said: "Norman talked us through the whole process, step by step from how we would be able to get rid of our old night storage system and finally feel the benefits of a warm home at a fraction of the cost. The fact that the government are offering funding, topped up with a small interest free loan, and quarterly cash-back payments, made the decision even

easier. I thought there had to be a catch but really there isn't!"

Elaine and her husband had run a hotel for many years and were used to workmen coming and going. She told us that in all her years she has never experienced such friendly, professional and efficient tradesmen as those that came to install her new system. "Not only did they explain exactly what they were doing and how to work the system, but they were on time, clean, tidy and very efficient," she said. "I was so impressed with their quality of work. It took just 2 days to get the new system in and up and running. Not only do we now have a warm home but the water pressure is also much improved so we now have lovely hot, powerful showers!"

Why not follow in Elaine's footsteps and arrange for Norman Paterson to pay and visit to you to discuss how you can benefit from cleaner, greener, low carbon heating.

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Scottish Government's Climate Change Plan 2017/32 published January 2017



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Editorial

A welcome boost

It seems council housing is very much in the news this week.

No sooner do North Ayrshire Council reveal details of 26 new council houses for Arran, than Prime Minister Teresa May is jumping on the bandwagon with a £2 billion pledge for social housing across the country.

That may be a little flip-pant, but the news that the first new council houses on Arran for more than 30 years is very serious indeed and a welcome boost for the economy.

And it doesn't end there, with another 20 affordable houses coming within the next four years. But given both their locations in an already busy part of Brodick, it is important that suitable infrastructure is put in place as well.

And while welcome, it is really only the first step. The Arran Economic Group is of the opinion that the island needs a minimum of 200 affordable homes if it is to attract young working families to replace the present working-age population which is expected to decline by nearly 50 per cent by 2025.

The island already has jobs available across all sectors, but few candidates to fill them, so the commitment to build new council and other affordable housing is indeed a welcome one. Let's hope other initiatives bear similar fruit.

Thought for the week

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.' Romans 15:13

Full consultation is promised

Sir,
I read with interest the *Arran Banner* article dated September 9 regarding our plans to develop our site at Lamlash and the subsequent letters published in the following week's issue.

I fully appreciate that this is a topic that some in the local community feel strongly about. We will be undertaking a full programme of consultation with local residents and organisations to listen to their views and concerns.

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to explain more about the development and what this means for Arran.

The Scottish Salmon Company's operations are 100 per cent Scotland based and Lamlash is one of 60 sites we operate across the west coast and Hebrides.

It was one of the first fish farms in Scotland and has been operating successfully on Arran for about 30 years. As a company we are fiercely proud of its heritage.

While our intended plans for the site will increase its capacity, its location footprint will remain similar and we will be investing in modernising the equipment.

Our current Lamlash site lies within the South Arran MPA; it is located approximately 1.2km away from the nearest MPA feature and is also around 1.5km from the No Take Zone.

By developing the site in the current location, we intend to minimise any additional potential environmental impacts on the integrity of the MPA and NTZ.

At all times we operate with utmost consideration and appreciation for this

surrounding natural environment.

As part of the planning exercise we will be undertaking a full Environmental Impact Assessment. Indeed, we will be submitting a Screening and Scoping request to North Ayrshire Council in the coming weeks with regards to this assessment which will rigorously examine any potential effects of increasing the volume of fish at the farm. We adhere to the highest levels of environmental protection across all our sites but we will work closely with key stakeholders to identify any further measures which would be required.

The salmon industry is a vital driver of the Scottish economy and we are known the world over for the quality of our produce.

On Arran we provide five people with stable full-time employment with a combined service of 50 years. We invest heavily in training for all members of our team and we want to provide not just jobs to the local area but quality, sustainable employment.

The development of our site at Lamlash will only enhance these opportunities and also increase our contribution to the regional economy through our commitment to local sourcing.

We use more than 20 suppliers and services in North Ayrshire, including Arran, and recently commissioned three new work boats built in Arran representing a six-figure investment.

Over the coming weeks and months we will be engaging with the local community to gather their views and share more information on our proposals.

We have been an active member of the Arran community for many years,

from supporting the Brodick Highland Games to working with local schools on health and wellbeing. We are fully committed to continuing this strong relationship throughout the consultation process and I hope we can count on your support.

Yours,
Craig Anderson
CEO
The Scottish Salmon Company

Stagecoach complaint

Copy of letter sent to Stagecoach West Scotland.

Sir,
I am a Canadian tourist who was visiting the lovely Isle of Arran during the first week of September.

Despite an otherwise fantastic trip to the island, I'm writing to convey my significant disappointment at your company's policy regarding bicycles on buses.

On September 6, I rented a bicycle in Brodick with the intention of cycling to Blackwaterfoot and back.

After completing most of the journey from Brodick to Blackwaterfoot with no problems, my bike slipped on the wet road and I fell onto my knee and shoulder.

While painful, it wasn't serious enough to call an ambulance, and we managed to make the rest of the journey to Blackwaterfoot to decide what to do.

Upon arriving in Blackwaterfoot, it became clear that I was in too much pain to safely complete the journey back to Brodick by bicycle, so we had no choice but to wait for the bus.

After waiting for almost an hour, an empty Stagecoach bus arrived, and we were absolutely floored when the driver informed

us that as per your policy, he was not allowed to take bikes on the bus under any circumstances.

Despite explaining that I had been injured and could not make the long bike trip back to Brodick safely, he still refused to make an exception, again citing Stagecoach's policy. Frankly, I'm shocked that this policy even exists in the first place – and at the very least, there should be some flexibility when the bus is otherwise empty.

Yours,
Rachel Brewer
Canada

Boarding fears

Sir,
I recently expressed my concerns to CalMac about the new ferry boarding arrangements at Brodick. They are based upon the fact that I suffer from claustrophobia and vertigo. I could never enter that long narrow tunnel, nor walk in mid-air with see-through panels.

I suggested a ground level boarding for such sufferers, or a minibus to shuttle such folk on to the car deck.

In their reply CalMac stressed that they 'care about their passengers and would not want to them to feel distressed,' but have no plans to remove that stress. They offer the alternative of Lochranza – not much good in winter.

In summer this is satisfactory if you are driving and have the time, but if that were the case there would be no problem at Brodick. It is when one is forced to be a foot passenger, for whatever circumstance, that boarding becomes impossible. Perhaps I'm the only sufferer on the island?

Yours,
Leigh Hocking
Brodick

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Press policy

At The Arran Banner, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

However, we realise 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 chief reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter.

You can call IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body that deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

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

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

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

Children going green at Whiting Bay eco event

A celebration of all eco action on Arran was combined into The Big Arran Green Show last week, writes *Colin Smeeton*.

Eco Savvy and the Arran Community Land Initiative joined forces for the event in Whiting Bay hall with the assistance of the Climate Change Fund. The day, which was also supported by Greener Scotland, provided school children and visitors with fun activities and useful information.

Providing a healthy amount of excitement, almost 150 pupils from primary schools on Arran received a tub of ice-cream on arrival which they enjoyed while watching an education film on food miles. The tubs were then washed out, filled with soil

and rocket seeds were carefully planted before being individually marked for each pupil to take home with them.

Among the host of volunteers providing sound ecological, environmental and recycling advice were members of COAST (Community of Arran Seabed Trust), Arran Community Land Initiative, Home Energy Scotland, the Arran Bee Group and Woodside, an organic Arran farm that promotes environmental awareness and healthy eating.

John Cruickshank of the Arran Bee Group delighted children with his bee hive demonstration with an actual bee hive enhanced with photographic images of bees and examples of frames filled with bees

wax. Children also enjoyed the activities provided by volunteers from the Arran Community Land Initiative which included a pledge bunting with children's pledges and a hand sewed banner with children's contributions which will be proudly displayed in the hub building at the community land in Whiting Bay.

Arran Eco Savvy project manager Judith King said: 'The Big Green Arran Show was purposed to celebrate and promote eco activity on Arran and we strongly feel that this was achieved.'

'Thank you to all who participated and supported. We thoroughly enjoyed the day with all of you and look forward to the next event.'



John Cruickshank from the Arran Bee Group shows pupils a bee hive and explains the role that bees play in nature. 01_B40eco06



Corrie Primary School pupils contribute to the pledge bunting by pledging to reduce waste. 01_B40eco01



Rebecca Lacey assists pupils with planting their rocket seeds. 01_B40eco03



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Solicitors back Make a Will Fortnight

Jas Campbell & Co Solicitors in Brodick have signed up to support the Ayrshire Hospice Make a Will Fortnight between October 16 and 31.

Along with their offices in Ardrossan, Saltcoats and West Kilbride the solicitors have very kindly agreed to waive their fee and write or update your Will in return for a donation to the Ayrshire Hospice.

Senior partner Ian Hunter said: 'The Ayrshire Hospice is a charity my firm has supported for many years through various charitable events and Make a Will Fortnight is an extremely important part of this relationship. The hospice is an important and well respect-

ed organisation in the local area providing comfort and support to many people. With increasing awareness of this event, the numbers of our clients participating are rising year on year and hopefully will continue to do so.'

If you need to make or update your Will, why not do it during the Ayrshire Hospice Make a Will Fortnight? All you need to do is contact a participating solicitor (full list available at www.ayrshirehospice.org/how-you-can-help/make-a-will-fortnight/) and make an appointment with them between Monday 16 and Tuesday 3 October 2017.

Olive Lindsay, senior fundraising officer at the

Ayrshire Hospice said: 'We're truly indebted to Ian Hunter and his team at Jas Campbell & Co for their wonderful support in the past and we are delighted to have them on board once again this year. We recognise the amount of work that all of our participating solicitors and their staff put in during our Make a Will Fortnight and we are hugely grateful to them and their clients for their continued support.'

Ian Hunter and his team at Jas Campbell Solicitors are once again supporting the Ayrshire Hospice Make a Will Fortnight seen here with senior fundraising officer Olive Lindsay.



Bid for new forest tracks

The Forestry Commission on Arran has submitted two planning applications to North Ayrshire Council for the construction of two access tracks which are to be used to haul timber from approved clear fell sites.

The first of the two applications is for the construction of a new 400m-long access track with a turning point and a passing place at Clauchland Hill, Corriegills. The second slightly longer track measuring 570m long, also with a turning point but with two passing places, is being requested for a site north of Cnocan Wood, Brodick.

Consultations with Scottish National Heritage by the applicant have indicated that they are satisfied that the proposal will not impact upon the Arran Moors Special Protection Area. The applications are currently pending consideration by North Ayrshire Council.

Make a Will Fortnight 16th - 31st October 2017

In support of the Ayrshire Hospice Make a Will Fortnight, a number of solicitors across Ayrshire and Arran have very kindly agreed to waive their fee and write or update your Will in return for a donation to the Ayrshire Hospice.*

All you need to do is contact a participating solicitor from the list opposite and make an appointment with them between Monday 16th and Tuesday 31st October 2017.

Did you know?

Over two thirds of the hospice's funding comes from voluntary donations including Gifts in Wills and every penny counts.

Every gift, large or small, makes a difference to the patients we care for today, their families and loved ones, and those we will care for in the future.

Please consider the Ayrshire Hospice in your Will. We will always spend your gift wisely and your donation will be very much appreciated.

For further information please contact:
 Olive Lindsay Tel: 01292 288488
 Email: olive.lindsay@ayrshirehospice.org
 Website: www.ayrshirehospice.org

Ayrshire Hospice

Making today matter

*suggested voluntary donation is £60 for a basic Will or £100 for a pair of basic mirror Wills.

Scottish Charity No. SC011390

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 KA22 8DF
 Tel: 01294 464131

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Beith:
 Stewart & Osborne
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 Tel: 01505 503345

Kilbirnie:
 Carrick Robb Solicitors
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 Kilbirnie
 KA25 7AB
 Tel: 01505 682408

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 KA13 6AN
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 Tel: 01475 674646

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HIJOBS announce new app launch

HIJOBS, one of Scotland's fast emerging technology start-ups, has announced the launch of its new recruitment app. The app, which is available for both IOS and Android devices, marks the next stage in HIJOBS' remarkable rise to become one of the leading providers of recruitment solutions in Scotland.

Founders Christopher Snelgrove and Laura Saunders are justifiably proud of their achievements so far. Says Christopher: "Our new app was just the logical next step in our quest to provide candidates and recruiters with the best technological solution to either finding a job or finding the perfect candidate."

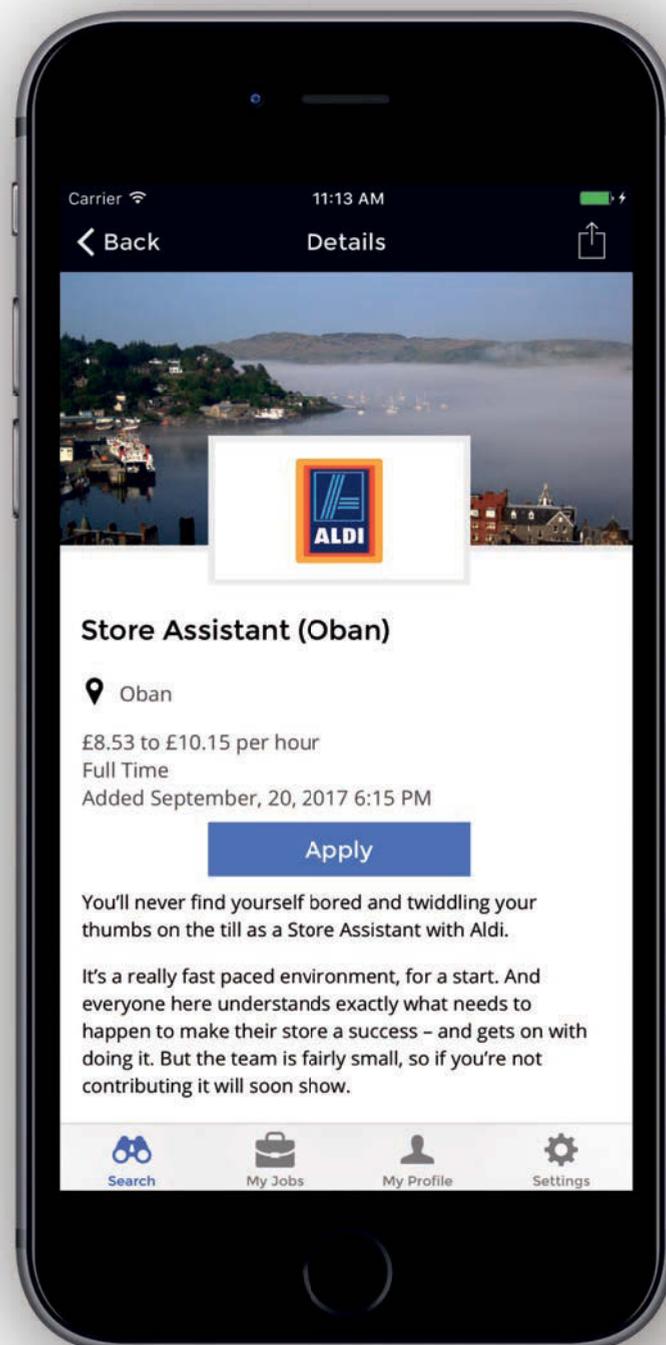
Laura adds: "We don't think anyone in the recruitment markets can come close to our technology. It is simple, intuitive and delivers results. The development of the app had to match the ease of use of our website and seamlessly integrate with social media. We are incredibly proud of what we have achieved."

Founded in Lochaber in 2015, HIJOBS specialises in matching candidates and recruiters in Scotland's more rural locations. Christopher is passionate about helping people find jobs outside the central belt. He says: "I live in Lochaber and wouldn't want to live anywhere else. We developed our technology to allow people to search for vacancies in the smallest towns and villages in Scotland. The gradual roll-out of 4G in places like Oban and Fort William means that the time is now right to give people a really smart, easy-to-use app."

As well as investing in the app, the company has also undertaken a significant digital marketing campaign that sees HIJOBS appear high up on the first page of Google's rankings, outperforming most of the big national brands. Traffic to its site is growing exponentially and candidates registering on the site will soon pass 50,000. Laura says: "2017, by whatever measure you choose, has been an exceptional year so far. The app launch is the cherry on the cake. We want people to have the choice of working in any part of Scotland they choose, not be forced to move to one of the big cities. Our app has just helped make that choice a whole lot easier."

HIJOBS app is available to download for free in the app store or via Google Play. Visit the HIJOBS website at hijobs.net

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HIJOBS



Christopher and Laura along with fellow director Keith McIntyre, right.

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LEST WE FORGET
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www.scottishfield.co.uk

Football fans flock to far

A squad of young readers and fans of football joined children's author Angela Proctor at the launch of her new book called *Thumble Tumble and the Eagalach Cup* which is based on a fantasy adventure set on Arran with a football storyline.

The book, which is the third in the series, was an exciting new addition for the children who follow the adventures of Thumble Tumble and an opportunity to meet the author who has involved children in the series through school visits, competitions and various private readings.

The launch in Brodick Hall last Saturday allowed children to buy a copy of the new book and provided them with fun activities where they met some of the witches, wizards and characters from the book.

Among these was a game of eagalach (football), drawing and colouring and a quiz along with some sweet treats and

chocolates from a magical cauldron.

The latest instalment, which will especially appeal to football fans, both male and female, is loosely based on Scottish international footballer Robert Snodgrass who has been transformed into a kilted Thistle pixie in the book.

Author Angela chose Robert, currently on loan at Aston Villa, as a role model for her goal scoring Thistle pixie after seeing him play in Malta and spending time with the star and his team mates.

He was not at the event on Arran but told the *Banner*: 'It's a strange but wonderful feeling being immortalised in such a lovely children's book. I'm delighted because not only do I hope it encourages more children to read books, but my own kids are big Thumble Tumble fans.'

They are really excited about me appearing in the book and have even been asking me if it might be



made into a film one day. In their eyes, that would make me proper famous.'

At the event Angela was met by a legion of fans who joined in the activities, bought the latest book and even presented the author with ideas and suggestions for future books in the series.

Angela said: 'I had a magical day on Arran for the

launch of the third book in the Thumble Tumble book series. I was thrilled to see so many children who already follow the book series and it was also great to meet loads of new Thumble Tumble readers too. I am always overwhelmed by the amazing support I receive from VisitArran and the local community.'

Familiar face in new TV drama series

Television viewers may have recognised a familiar face when watching the new six-part drama series *The Last Post* on Sunday.

Paul Tinto, who is cast as corporal Chris Dimarco, features in the drama as one of the military police

officers in the show which is set in the 1960s during the Aden Emergency.

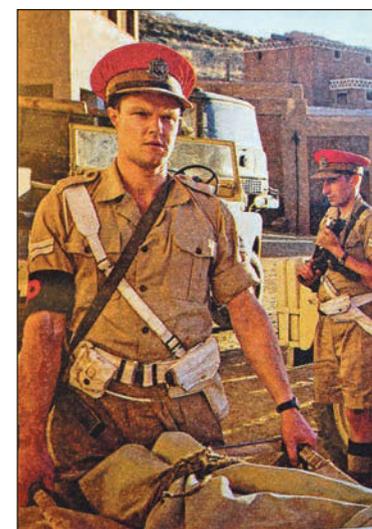
Paul spent much of his formative years on the island as he is the son of former Arran GPs Graham and Barbara Tinto who now live in Dunkeld,

Perthshire. No stranger to the big and small screen as Paul has also featured in *Tommy's Honour* and *New Gods*, both released in 2016 along with *First Light* which was released in 2010.

Set in the Yemen in 1965, *The Last Post* is the story of a British army unit fighting a Yemeni insurgency in the Middle East and the women and children who were there with them.

Among the stars is Jessica Raine, in a very different role from the goodie-two-shoes character she played in *Call the Midwife*.

The Last Post is screened



Paul Tinto in *The Last Post*.

days at 9pm. The first episode is available on the BBC iplayer.

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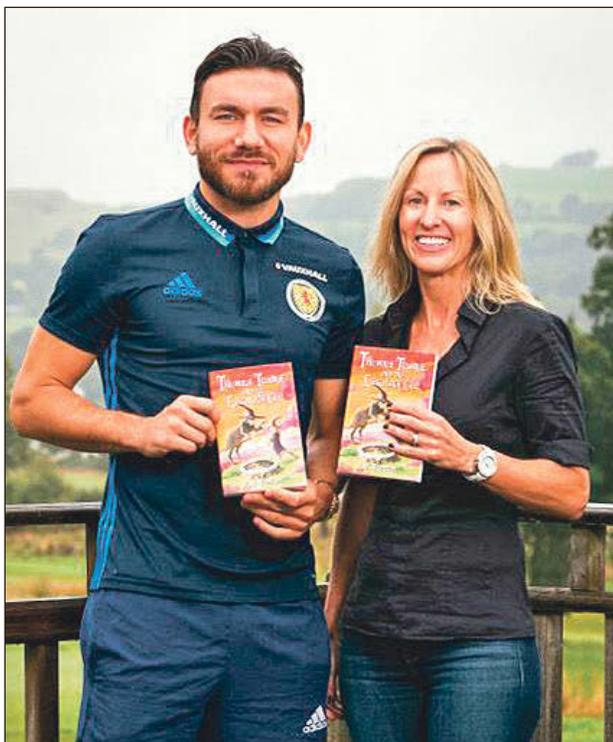
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fantasy book launch



Scottish international footballer Robert Snodgrass, whose children are fans of the books, with author Angela. 01_B40thumble04

Author Angela Proctor, centre, is joined by children who took part in a game of fantasy football with witches warlocks and a magical ball. 01_B40thumble01



Visitor Harry McLay of Stirling enjoyed drawing at the book launch. 01_B40thumble02

Gary Findlay, aged 11, of Shiskine shares some ideas with author Angela Proctor who signed a copy of her book for him. 01_B40thumble03

ECO SAVVY HALLOWEEN WORKSHOPS

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Lamlash Church Hall | Oct 7.....10am - 1pm |
| Corrie Village Hall | Oct 10....11am - 1pm |
| Brodick Library | Oct 11.....1pm - 3pm |
| Lochranza Field Centre | Oct 15....11am - 5pm |
| Pirnmill Village Hall | Oct 16....2pm - 5pm |
| Kildonan Village Hall | Oct 22...2pm - 5pm |
| Kilmory Village Hall | Oct 25....11am - 2pm |

Costume Creation & Swap shop

Mask Making!

Make your own goody Bag! (bring an old t-shirt!)

Bring your old costume to SWAP or upcycle

Everyone Welcome!



OFFERS & competitions

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Enjoy delicate finger sandwiches, delicious pastries and fantastic cakes in the Atrium Lounge whilst watching the Zephyr lighting sculpture dancing above.

As well as an overnight stay the lucky winners of this competition will receive two ice skating passes, spa access, Festive Afternoon Tea and breakfast in the Squire restaurant.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question:
What is the lighting sculpture in the Atrium Lounge called?

Voucher valid 9th December 2017 until 6th January 2018. Blackout dates apply, subject to availability, other terms and conditions apply and will feature on the voucher.

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. Information will be shared with promoters and sponsors.

BELGIAN BEER Tasting Event

THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2017 @ 7.30PM & 9.30PM

At THE GLENISLE HOTEL, LAMLASH

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WHAT'S ON

Everyday

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

Saturday 7th October

Army Cadets
RNLI shop
Over-21s disco
Family games
Fun in the pool
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Eco Savvy Halloween workshops
Whiting Bay Bowling Club rink game
Flow yoga
Growers drop in session
Live music
Live music – The Spangles
Live music – Fat Man & The Angel
Live music – Folk Like Us

Sunday 8th October

Family games
Fun in the pool
AA meeting
RNLI shop
Live music – The Spangles

Monday 9th October

Over-50s badminton
Badminton
Morning fitness
Badminton
Arran Bridge Club (All Welcome)
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Arran Junior Football Club
Circuit training
Lamlash Aerobix
Tae Kwon-do
Adult tennis
Whiting Bay Bowling Club rink game
Arran Skinnymalinks (slimming class)
Arran Skinnymalinks (slimming class)
Live music – Mike Bailey

Tuesday 10th October

Pop quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth club
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Bridge Lessons for beginners and improvers (all welcome)
Eco Savvy Halloween workshops
Healthy outdoors
Blackwaterfoot bowls
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
Lamlash Junior Drama Club
Pilates
Flow Yoga
Scottish Country Dancing
Live music – Tim Pomeroy

Wednesday 11th October

Rock an pop bingo
Tae Kwon-do
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Eco Savvy Halloween workshops
Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service
Yoga-Arran
Mixed hockey
Knittery and Natterry
Family friendly pub quiz
Burger and quiz night
Whiting Bay Bowling Club rink game
Chair yoga
Flow yoga
Arran Parkinson's Support group
Lamlash SWI
Zumba Gold
Just Jhoom (Bollywood dance fitness)
Live music – Cams Campbell

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

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
Lamlash Pier, 2pm - 4pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie spa pool, 4-5pm
9.30am - 11am
9.30am - noon
Bowling Club, 2pm
Lamlash Church Hall 10am - 1pm
WBay Bowling club, 2pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Broddick, 9am
Community Land, WBay, 10am - 12noon
The Douglas Hotel, Broddick, 9pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
The Fiddlers, Broddick, 8-10.30pm
Coast, Whiting Bay, 8-10.30pm

Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie spa pool, 4pm-5pm
Broddick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
Lamlash Pier, 2pm - 4pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie sports hall, 7-9pm
Lamlash Golf Clubhouse 7.15pm
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm
Arran High School dance studio, 6.30pm
Broddick Church Hall adults and over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm
WBay Bowling club, 6.30pm
Shiskine Church Hall 5:15pm
Broddick Church Kitchen, 6pm
The Fiddlers, Broddick, 8-10.30pm

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Broddick Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Broddick Golf Clubhouse at 2.30pm
Corrie Village Hall 11am - 1pm
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Bowling Club, 2pm
Broddick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm
Corrie Hall, 6pm
Broddick Church Hall, 7.30pm
The Fiddlers, Broddick, 8-10.30pm

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
Arran High School Kids-6.30-7.30pm adults-7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Broddick Library 1pm - 3pm
Auchrannie studio, 9.30am-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
Auchrannie sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm
The PHT, 8.30pm
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
WBay Bowling club, 6.30pm
St Mollis Hall, Shiskine, 11am
Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4pm
Fire Station, 7.30pm
Broddick Hall, 4pm-5pm
Broddick Hall, 5.50pm-6.50pm
The Fiddlers, Broddick, 8-10.30pm

Thursday 12th October

Morning fitness
General knowledge quiz
Arran Bridge Club (all welcome)
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Ladies' hockey
Quilt Arran
10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers
Adult tennis
Chair yoga
Arran Soul Choir
Broddick Embroidery Group
Arran Skinnymalinks (slimming class)
Live music – NCW

Friday 13th October

Yoga
Hydrofit
Rosemary's Macmillan coffee morning
Knit and Natter Nutters
Arran Youth Foundations
Lochranza Children's badminton
Lochranza Adults' badminton
Arran Vets
Arran Vets
AA meeting
Tae Kwon-do
Arran Aromatics factory tours
Quiz
Smart Recovery meeting
Live music – Michael Clark
Live music – Buchaneers

Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Broddick Golf Clubhouse 2.30pm
9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 6.30-8.00pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm
Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club from 5.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Broddick, 10.30am
Arran High School, Lamlash, 7pm - 8.30pm
Broddick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Thursday - Broddick Church Kitchen 10:30 - 12 noon
The Fiddlers, Broddick, 8-10.30pm

Auchrannie spa leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
Lamlash Church Hall 11am - 1pm
Residents Lounge, Trust Homes McKelvie Court 10:30 - 12 noon
Church Hall, Broddick 7pm-9pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Arran High School, Lamlash adults, 7pm - 8.30pm
Home Farm, Broddick, 11am, 1pm & 3pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Broddick, 1.30pm - 3pm
The Fiddlers, Broddick, 8-10.30pm
Coast, Whiting Bay, 8-10.30pm



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What's On....

BRODICK CASTLE from the Outside

Sun 8th, Mon 9th, Tues 10th, Thurs 12th & Fri 13th

11.⁰⁰, 12.⁰⁰, 13.⁰⁰ & 15.⁰⁰

A guided historical tour of the exterior of the Castle – stout footwear advised.

Please book at Reception on arrival

Adults Free with Garden Entry

Castle Time Travellers Sun 8th, Tues 10th, Thurs 12th 14.⁰⁰

A family tour through the times of the Castle – dressing-up optional! Stout footwear advised

Booking Essential - 01770 302725

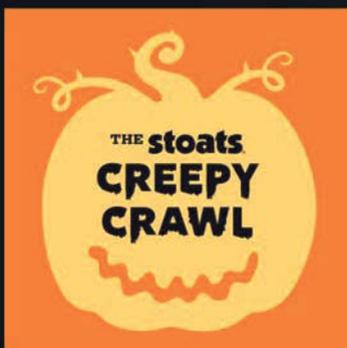
Adults & children Free with Garden Entry

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<https://www.facebook.com/ArranRangerService>

if you go into the Woods.....



Halloween - 28th October

tel: 01770 302202

brodickcastle&nts.org.uk

BRODICK CASTLE

Trust Housing Association has over 300 properties across the Isle of Arran.

Housing for all ages

David Heenan is 24 years old, and works full time for North Ayrshire Council. He applied for a Trust house in 2013 when he was 19. David lived with mum and dad and older brother in the family home in Lamlash. The two brothers shared a bedroom.

David says, "Finding accommodation is hard on Arran, and very expensive, but Trust houses are affordable. I do not earn enough to rent from a private landlord or buy my own house. I would still be living at home if I had not applied to Trust."

General Needs Housing offers affordable housing for families and individuals. This type of housing is available in the villages of Brodick, Lamlash, Whiting Bay, Kilmory, Shiskine, Pirnmill and Corrie.

Benefits of General Needs housing:

- You can stay with Trust for as long as you like, there's no time limit on your tenancy.
- Rental costs can be inexpensive in comparison to private rents. Costs start at £324 per month for a double bedroom to £415 for three bed properties.
- Modern, warm and well insulated flats.

Retirement made easy

Trust also provides Amenity Housing, ideal for older people, with an emergency pull cord system for added peace of mind and safety.

This type of housing is available in the villages of Brodick, Whiting Bay, Blackwaterfoot, Lochranza and Corrie.

Sheltered Housing is for those who are able to live independently, but



want to ensure that all their needs are met. Shared areas offer companionship and your own fully self-contained flat means privacy when you want it. There are many advantages to living in Sheltered Housing with Trust:

1. Staff meet regularly with tenants to make sure all support needs are being met.
2. Onsite staff are available Monday to Friday.
3. Laundry and guest rooms (where family and friends can stay) are available onsite.
4. Controlled entry system to the main door offers added security.

5. All the flats are on ground floor level.
6. All flats have their own living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom.
7. Modern, warm and well insulated flats, with heating charged at a fixed monthly rate.

Rents are fully covered by Housing Benefit for those with an entitlement to this. Trust has a dedicated benefits advice service to help and support those looking to take up a sheltered tenancy.

Trust's two Sheltered Housing developments are in Brodick and Lamlash.

Join the waiting list now; the housing situation on Arran is always changing. Please note the Trust application form is separate to the application for North Ayrshire Council.

Priority is given to applicants over the age of 60 for Amenity and Sheltered Housing, but there may be availability for younger applicants with support needs.

For more information contact Trust on **0131 444 1200** or **info@trustha.org.uk**

www.trustha.org.uk
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https://www.facebook.com/trusthousing1973/



More than just affordable housing.

Trust has properties to rent across the Isle of Arran.



Trust's housing on Arran ranges from sheltered, ideally suited for older people, to homes for families and individuals.

Whatever your housing need, contact us to see if we have the right home for you.

0800 917 1964 or info@trustha.org.uk.

How to tell cormorants and shags apart

In February 2008 I wrote a short article for the *Banner* on these closely related species. From various recent contacts with readers I felt a need to revisit this

subject with the intention of trying to help with the identification of these easily confused species.

Both cormorants and shags are common round

the coast of Arran throughout the year, but on Arran the shag is much more numerous than the cormorant. Both have breeding colonies on Pladda. Both are black, fish eating birds that sit low in the water with heads up-tilted. Both dive from the surface of the water with a quick arching forward leap that takes them clear of the surface of the water. After fishing, both cormorant and shag can be seen standing upright on a rock with their wings held out to dry. In other words, both in looks and behaviour, they are very similar.

In breeding plumage they are relatively easy to tell apart. The cormorant has a diagnostic white thigh

patch. The shag has a recurved short wispy crest and dark thighs. At other times, it is the difference in size and shape that you have to rely on to help tell them apart.

Cormorants are altogether bigger. They have a bigger, more triangular head, a flatter forehead and more massive bill, giving an angular almost wedge shaped look to the head. There is a white gular (throat) patch and the green eye is set within bare skin.

Shags are significantly smaller, shorter and more slender. Shags have a small head with a peaked forehead and slimmer bill. There is no gular patch but there is a yellow gape and the green eye is set within feathers.

In flight, shags have a shorter, thinner and much straighter neck and thinner bill, as well as shorter, more rounded wings, leading to quicker wing-beats. Its more rounded, pot belly is apparent and the wing bases appear to be set more to the rear of the bird, unlike cormorant's more central position.

While juvenile cormo-



Shag showing the bird in breeding plumage with crest. Photo by Carl Reavey



Cormorant showing the bird in breeding plumage with white thigh patch. Photo by Dennis Morrison

Bird notes
by Jim Cassels

rants have pale almost white under-parts, juvenile shags have a uniform brown tint to chest and belly, with only the undertail coverts being white.

Next time you are on the coast have a look at these big black birds, get familiar with their features and confidently say whether it is a shag or a cormorant.

For further help in identifying these species check out this video link. Identifying cormorant and shag – British Trust for Ornithology www.bto.org/about-birds/bird-id/bto-bird-id-cormorant-and-shag

This is part of the excellent series of bird identification videos produced by

the British Trust for Ornithology <https://www.bto.org/about-birds/bird-id>

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2016 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

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CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 SECTION 17(4A) (AS AMENDED BY CRIMINAL LAW AND LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010) NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL TAXI FARE REVIEW

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council, having consulted with taxi operators and organisations appearing to it to be representative of operators (referred to collectively hereinafter as "the trade"), has reviewed the existing scales and proposes to make the new Scales below. The proposed Scales, and any written representations, will be considered by the Licensing Committee on 1st November 2017, and the Committee will then or later fix the new Scales. These will come into force as below, subject to any Appeal to the Traffic Commissioner.

The proposed new scales increase fares slightly in line with changes in the cost of living and the operation of taxis. The proposed changes reflect the views presented to the Council at a meeting of the Council's Licensing Committee held in consultation with members of the trade on Friday 1 September 2017.

Any person may make written representations concerning these proposals by writing to Aileen Craig, Clerk to the Licensing Committee, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine, KA12 8EE no later than Friday 20 October 2017.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 (AS AMENDED BY THE CRIMINAL LAW AND LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010)
Proposed Taxi Fare Scales (Section 17(4A)(b))

These Scales will come into force as below, subject to any Appeal to the Traffic Commissioner, on Monday 11 December 2017.

Tariff 1 (Day) (Tariff 5 if more than 4 passengers carried)
All journeys starting or ending in the period 7am to 12am (midnight) (except where Tariffs 2 or 3 apply):

- Initial Charge (Flagfall) - For a distance not exceeding 1,320 yards (3/4 of a mile) (or waiting time not exceeding 10 minutes) - £2.80.
- Additional Charge (Mileage): Each additional 1/18 of a mile (about 98 yards) or additional waiting time of up to 25 seconds - 10p.

Tariff 2 (Nights and Sundays and during day across Zones) (Tariff 6 if more than 4 passengers carried)
All journeys (except where Tariff 3 applies):

- starting or ending in the period 12am (midnight) to 7am
- starting or ending at any time on Sundays
- starting or ending at any time on these Public Holidays:
 - 2 January
 - Good Friday
 - Early May Bank Holiday
 - Spring Bank Holiday
 - Summer Bank Holiday
 - 30 November (St Andrew's Day)
 - 26 December (Boxing Day)
- If a Bank Holiday is on a weekend, the following Monday is treated for this Tariff as a Bank Holiday
- From the Zone for which the vehicle is licensed to another Zone in North Ayrshire - if the journey starts or ends in the period 7am to 12am (midnight).
- On Christmas Eve and Hogmanay from 7pm until 12am (midnight)

Fares:

- Initial Charge - For a distance not exceeding 1,320 yards (3/4 of a mile) (or waiting time not exceeding 10 minutes) - £3.20.
- Additional Charge: Each additional 1/19 of a mile (about 93 yards) or additional waiting time of up to 25 seconds - 10p.

Tariff 3 (during night across Zones) (Tariff 7 if more than 4 passengers carried)
From the Zone for which the vehicle is licensed to another Zone in North Ayrshire - if the journey starts or ends in the period 12am (midnight) to 7am.
Tariff 1 charges (Initial and Additional) plus 50%.

Tariff 4 (Festive Periods) (Tariff 8 if more than 4 passengers carried)
All journeys starting or ending at any time on 25 December or 1 January:
Double Tariff 1 Charges (Initial and Additional).

Extra Charges

- If the vehicle starts by carrying more than 4 passengers, the fare is charged as Tariff 1 to 4 (as appropriate) but with 50% added (Tariffs 4 to 8). The higher Tariff applies until the hire ends, whether or not any of the passengers leave the vehicle earlier.
- Soiling Charge £50.

Notes

- The fare scale applies only to journeys which end within North Ayrshire. Fares for journeys beyond the Council area are not set by the Council. They should be agreed between the passenger and the driver before the start of the journey.
- Luggage shall be carried free if it is of a size which can reasonably be accommodated in the car.
- The metered charge is the maximum which can be charged. The driver can always charge less.
- The Tariff 2 and 3 charges apply as soon as the journey starts, and do not change if part of the journey is inside the Night Period, Sunday, Public Holiday, or Zone and part outside.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE

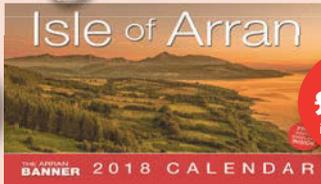


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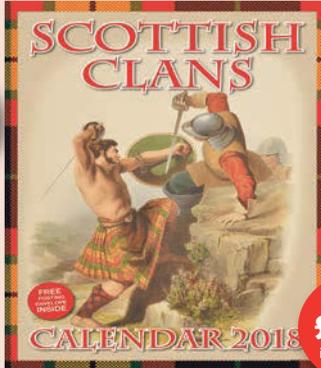
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Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter

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

Sunday 8th October

Lochranza Church, 9.30am
Morning Worship.

Pirnmill Church, 10.45am
Morning Worship.

Shiskine Church, 12noon
Morning Worship.

Broddick Church, 10.30am
Morning Worship.

Corrie Church, 11.30am
Prayer Meeting, 12noon

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

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide
Anglican Church)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 8th October

11am. Harvest Festival with
Holy Communion.

Rev Simon Mackenzie,
Priest-in-Charge.

Coffee after service.

Wednesday 11th October

Holy Communion, 12.15 pm.
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 8th October

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

Evening Service 6.30pm

5 Glen Road, Broddick

All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"

Sunday 8th October

Rev John Webster

Kilmory 10 am

Lamlash 11.30 am

All welcome, including
families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan
Church of Scotland

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 8th October

Worship will be conducted by
the minister, Rev Elizabeth
Watson at 10.30am.

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

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

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 8th October

Sunday Mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 8th October

Service 11am

Ormidale Pavilion

Tea and coffee after

the service

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home

fellowship group for bible

study and prayer.

Telephone 600222

Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 8th October

Shiskine 11am (church on
road between Blackwaterfoot
and Machrie)

Broddick 6pm

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakers meet every

Sunday at 11am

For meeting venue ring –
830622 or 820223

DEATH

CRAWFORD - At the
Three Towns Care Home on
Saturday 30th September
after a short illness Bridie,
widow of Jim, mother of
Drew, Jim and John and
their partners Vanda, Carol
and Lesley, grandchildren
Rachel, Sean, Tom and
Daniel, great-grandchildren
Harvey, Jacob and Esme.
Funeral arrangements please
contact Paul Stevenson 01294
607001.

WALLACE - Alistair
Suddenly, on Friday, 29th
September, 2017. Alistair,
beloved husband of the late
Penelope (Pat), much loved
dad of David and Heather,
much loved brother of David
and the late Andrew, and
proud grandpa of Craig,
Alison, Olivia and Sophia.
Cremation service at
Masonhill Crematorium, Ayr
on Monday, 9th October at
12:00 noon, and a further
memorial service in Whiting
Bay and Kildonan Church
on Thursday, 12 October at
11:30am. All most welcome
at both services. No flowers
please, donations to Whiting
Bay and Kildonan Church,
Arran.

GREENHORN - Alexander
Suddenly, at home on Sunday,
1st October 2017. Alex, aged
65 years, beloved son of the
late Jean and Alex Greenhorn,
dear brother and uncle of the
family. Funeral service at
Clydebank Crematorium on
Wednesday, 11th October
at 10:30 am to which all are
welcome

Corrie club says farewell to Pablo



Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday September 28,
Captain's prize and Summer
Cup final also Eclectic.
Captain's prize presented
by Scott Campbell to winner
Neil Young with a 60 net. 1 N
Young 65-5=60, 2 I Murchie
71-5=66, 3 D Wales 76-9=67.
Scratch Neil Young 65. There
were no magic twos. Winner
of the Summer Eclectic,
Dougie MacFarlane 48pts,
runner-up, Todd Jameson
50pts. Winner of Summer
Cup to be announced.

Fixtures: Sunday October
8, Glenburn Cup, ballots
at 9.30am and 12.30pm.
Thursday October 12, front
nine medal, arranging times
with starter.

Ladies' section: Wednesday
September 27, Medal 9
and Stroke 6, CSS 67 R/O,
par 65. 1 Yvonne Brothers
89-18=71, 2 Elizabeth Sinclair
90-17=73. Scratch,
Yvonne 89. Magic twos
Kate McAdam @16th.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday September 26,
September medal, CSS 65



There cannot be many Peruvian golf course greenkeepers in Scotland. Regrettably there is one fewer now as Pablo Moran celebrated his retirement at the end of September after nearly 30 years of service caring for the Corrie golf course at Sannox. The captain, committee and members wish him a long and happy retirement.

R/O. 1 A Latona 93-26=67,
2 A MacDonald 82-12=70,
3 J O'Sullivan 93-21=72.

Fixtures: Saturday October
7, Lochranza Hotel
Cup at noon. Tuesday October
10, Winter Cup at
noon.

Broddick Golf Club

Wednesday September 27,
Winter Cup, 12-hole
Stableford Competition. 1 D
Robertson, 24pts. Magic
two C O'Neill.

Saturday September 30,
Belhaven Texas scramble,
28 played. 1 Moira Small,
Alistair Hume, Nicol
Hume, Alex Gold. 2 Isobel
MacDonald, Iain Mac-
Donald, Donald McKinnie,
Iain Sillars. 3 Gay MacK-
ay, Ewan McKinnon, Gor-
don Hendry, Iain Keen.

Fixture: Sunday October
8, Winter Cup, combined
with postponed Brandon
qualifier.

Ladies' section: Tues-

day October 3, Pink Day,
12 played and raised £85
for breast cancer care. Ellie
Jones won with 21 points
for 12 holes.

Corrie Golf Club

Correction from last week's
paper. Sunday September
24, Archie Hunter Cup for
juniors. 1 Ruariah Scullion,
2 Reece Ferguson.

Fixtures: Saturday Octo-
ber 7, Captain's prize, shot-
gun start at 1pm.

Bridge club results

The Arran Bridge Club
held their first contest of
the 2017-18 winter season
which was an aggregate
competition at Lamlash on
Monday October 2.

The results were: N/S 1
Alison Bilsland and Elaine
Duncan, 2 John Bara-
clough and Jim Peacock, 3
Ellie Jones and Elizabeth
McKellar. E/W 1 Tricia
Martin and David Camp-
bell, 2 Jean Barclay and
Jennifer McArthur, 3 Pat
Adamson and Eendy Mc-
Niven.



Broddick Golf Club ladies dressed in pink and raised £85 for breast cancer care.

Talk to us

Send your news and
photographs to
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Blackwaterfoot bowlers end the season in style

In a high wind and threatening rain, the Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club played its last tournament of the season on Saturday September 23.

The competition was fiercely contested, but was finally won by Brian Sherwood, in second place was Jenny Douglas and third was Jenny Harper. After the competition, the usual post-match party was held, kindly hosted by John and Christine Robinson, where

the players were joined by friends and relatives.

As the season is now drawing to an end for players on grass, the Blackwaterfoot club have pleasure in inviting winter members from other clubs to join for a nominal payment of £10. They will meet as usual on Saturdays and Tuesdays in the afternoon. Please keep an eye on 'What's on' in the *Banner* as the timings will vary as the nights draw in.



The Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club members are joined by family and friends at the end-of-season party.

Arran plays host to final races in AlpinUltras series

The mountains of Arran will play host to three running events over two days this weekend as part of the final instalment in the AlpinUltras series of events.

Known as the Ultra Trail Scotland, organised by Find Your Adrenaline, the high altitude races will comprise a vertical dash to the top of Goatfell, a 25km Tarsuinn Trail and a gruelling 71km route from Brodick to Lochranza and back.

Given the gruelling nature and terrain of the Ultra

race, only experienced athletes are considered and the race numbers are limited to 100 people. The 25km race and vertical dash are open to 150 competitors in each race with many of the entries choosing to take part in both events. All three events will start at the main hub at the Ormidale Pavilion.

Other races which make up the four in the AlpinUltras series are the 52km Desafio 'El Cainejo', the 93km Ultra Trail Valls d'Aneu and the 100km

Ultra Trail Valls d'Aneu, all of them in Spain.

The event timeline starts today (Friday), with the 6.5km vertical race and a prize-giving at Brodick Golf Club. Tomorrow (Saturday), the Ultra race will start at 6am while the 25km race will begin at 12.30pm, both will have a prize-giving ceremony at the Ormidale Pavilion later in the day.

Noreen Devine, event manager for Ultra Trail Scotland, has involved the landowner estates, Arran

Mountain Rescue Team, police and medical services and the community council, along with North Ayrshire Council, in arranging the event.

Casey Morgan, owner/director at Ultra Trail Scotland said: 'I've competed in Ultra Trail races all over the world as part of the Compressport Team and Arran always plays a huge part in my preparation. I'm really excited to share this race with everyone and to show how stunning this little corner of Scotland is.'

Results from Brodick Bowling Club

Club competitions were finally completed with just a few days of play left in the season after an early start, but delayed due to the poor weather in July, August and September, so congratulations to the winners and commiserations to the runners-up.

The rink games were possible on most planned days last month and the results were as follows: September 2, Kate Nichols, Lavinia Hendry and Geoff Randall (+16); September 4, Charlie Weir, Ernie Stanger and Kate Nichols (+3); September 6, Ian Davidson, Keith Kelshaw and Lavinia Hendry (+8); September 9, Colin Haggarty, and John McConnachie (+9); September 11, David McDonald and Andy McCrindle (+12); September 13 Colin Haggarty, Ernie Stanger and Sid Allen (+10), September 18 Colin Haggarty and John Luder (+12); September 21 Sid Allan and Kenny Mabon (+14), September 25 Jenny Douglas and Sid Allan (+12), September 28 Jim Nichols and Jenny Douglas (+9), September 30, Colin Haggarty, David McDonald and Charles Hendry (+6).



Rowing to victory

ACRC members are jubilant after their hard-fought win in Prestwick.

As the day progressed, sea conditions deteriorated for the rowers.



Rowers line up for the start of the race.

Arran rowers retain their Prestwick regatta crown

Eighteen rowers and two supporters made their way early Saturday morning across the water to Prestwick for their last regatta of the season, taking with them two skiffs for the first time.

After winning the regatta last year, and with many months of training behind them, everyone was asking themselves could Arran Coastal Rowing Club, (ACRC) successfully defend their title against clubs from Troon, Maidens, Largs and, of course, the hosts Prestwick?

During the usual hustle and bustle of crews arriving and catching up with familiar faces, the wind was whipping up the sea into white horses.

There weren't going to be easy conditions to row in. Nevertheless the mood was optimistic and everyone braced themselves for a challenging event involving a 1.5km triangular course with two starboard turns.

Eight races were planned: open women and men, nov-

ice and open mixed, women 200+, men 240+ and two fun sprints, which were very much enjoyed last year. After the coxes' briefing, the first race kicked off at 11am and the Arran ladies fought valiantly in the wild waves: Arran 'A' coming in second against a strong Maidens crew and Arran 'B', with two rowers who were attending their first regatta, fought well to secure a fourth place. Altogether a good start.

The wind was picking up and the organisers chose to shorten the course to one turn rather than risk going too far out to sea. This didn't stop the men's and novice crews in the next two races from continuing the success by coming in a very decisive first and third both times. Arran were three points ahead of the next club, Largs, and feeling confident.

A delicious and well deserved lunch break followed, allowing tired muscles to be rested and lots of friendly chat, during which the organisers decided to



ACRC chairman Angus Campbell receives the trophies.

cancel the last two races due to worsening weather conditions, meaning that there were three more left to fight out.

Next came the open mixed (two women and two men) in rollers so big the spectators could often only see the heads of the rowers above the top of the waves. Arran 'A' battled it out with Largs and, after

a controversial incident at the turn, came a solid second. The gap had closed to two points.

The ladies in the women 200+ (combined ages of all rowers had to be over 200) continued the sterling effort and notched up a second and third, bringing Arran another step closer to victory. With only a four-point lead – and seven

points available for a win – the overall regatta champion was still not decided. Everything hung on the last race.

The pressure on the rowers in the men 240+ race was intense as they waited on the starting line. The experienced Arran 'A' crew powered away, determined to be first over the finishing line. Tossed and

turned by the waves, they battled on, drawing away from the competition in no uncertain manner and putting a large stretch of water between themselves and Maidens. And the victory was sealed: Arran 'A' winning the event for the second year in a row by a convincing seven points while Arran 'B' came a very respectable fourth.

The eight women and 10 men, tired but elated, thoroughly enjoyed the prize-giving ceremony at which the rowers in the winning crews received medals and the ACRC chairman, Angus Campbell, proudly accepted two beautiful trophies, one to keep and one to take back next year and try to win again.

Everyone at the ACRC would like to thank Prestwick for all their tremendous work in organising a very successful regatta.

If you'd like to give coastal rowing a try, please contact Friederike at secretary@arrancoastalrowing.co.uk or visit the website.

Stuart Turner



Men 240+ with cox Emma Ingham.

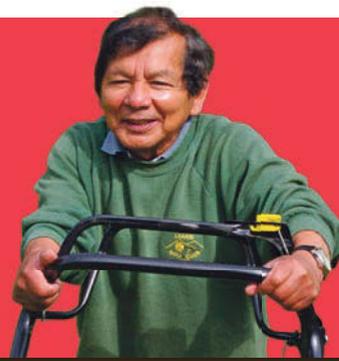


Mixed novice team with cox Cecilia Paul.



Open men with cox Emma Ingham.

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Corrie club says farewell to Pablo

Arran win bruising clash with Ferguslie

Ferguslie Ladies 2
Arran Ladies 3

Arran Ladies boarded the ferry on Saturday morning for the short journey to Linwood, travelling light with only 10 players they faced Ferguslie Ladies, who have recently been demoted from the West District division two. Arran knew the game ahead was going to be tough and it certainly was exactly that.

The match began at a fast pace and Ferguslie quickly capitalised on the depleted Arran squad by finding the back of the net in the first two minutes.

Arran quickly regrouped and put the opposition de-

fence to the test and, after numerous penalty corners, Arran equalised 20 minutes later with a beautiful reverse stick flick from forward Lorraine.

Shortly after the equaliser, Arran's prayers were answered when 'Lofty', having changed all her plans at the last minute, took up the right wing position to take Arran back to full strength.

The half-time whistle could not come fast enough, but not before goalie Ali made a great clearance when the Ferguslie centre forward broke through the defence and headed for the circle, Ali sprinted off her line, no easy task in full goalie kit, to meet her



Jenny Stark and team mates advance in tight formation towards the goal.

at the top of the D, kicking the ball clean out the park.

This left both teams going in level at the break.

The second half began with Arran's defence soaking up a lot of pressure, but within 10 minutes Ferguslie managed to take the lead once again, two shots being cleared by Ali with the third rebound picked up with a super reverse stick flick finding its way past the goalkeeper.

Both sides were evenly matched, but it was Arran's pure grit, determination and team spirit which was to separate the teams. Arran's equaliser came from defence, Mia, Cat, Faith and Ellie working solidly together when they got the ball to midfield where Lor-

raine pressed into the circle, a quick pass to Anne and she flicked it past the goalie.

Arran had Ferguslie on the back foot and quickly found the winning goal, Jenny, Kirsty and Susie worked tirelessly in midfield and it was from there that Anne picked up a through-ball, shimmied past two players then hammered the ball into the back of the net from the top D giving the visitors a 3-2 lead.

Arran had most of the play in the remaining minutes with Anne, Lofty and Lorraine applying plenty of pressure but Ferguslie's defence was very strong,

which Lorraine found out to her peril. With only the goalie to beat, Arran thought another goal was on the cards until the goalie launched herself on top of the ball, but Lorraine was soon back on her feet.

Ellie also received a fat lip from a Ferguslie stick while defending a penalty corner so while a battered and bruised Arran returned home, at least they were still smiling.

The Arran Ladies will enjoy a home game today (Saturday) when they take on Irvine at the Ormidale astroturf with a 2.30pm pass back. Spectators and supporters are most welcome.



Anne Watts blasts the ball past the opposition.

LAMLASH GARAGE

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