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Public to view plans for harbour upgrade

Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The travelling Arran public are to be given their first chance to check out the latest plans for the redevelopment of Ardrossan harbour later this month.

A special engagement event is to be held at Brodick Hall on Tuesday October 23 where the plans, costing in the region of £12 million, will be unveiled. Backers say the move will help support a more resilient ferry service between Arran and the mainland.

The aim of the event is to provide an update to residents on how proposals for the harbour are shaping up and what they will mean for the people of Arran. However, it will be in the form of a drop-in session, rather than a public meeting.

It is expected that representatives from Transport Scotland, CalMac, CMAL, Peel Ports and North Ayr-

shire Council will be present, with visitors given the opportunity to pose questions to all the parties involved.

The proposals involve a realignment of the Ardrossan berth to accommodate the much delayed MV Glen Sannox. There will also be a new linkspan, terminal building and other wider infrastructure improvements.

The development works were finally given the go-ahead by the Scottish Government in April but there has been frustration among the Ardrossan harbour taskforce that progress has been too slow because of the number of parties involved.

North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane said: 'The redevelopment of Ardrossan harbour has been complicated process but the organisations involved have been working behind the scenes to get the plans moving.

'Hopefully, these engage-

ment sessions will allow people to see our hopes and vision for the future of Ardrossan harbour as well as the benefits it will bring to residents of Arran.

'The redevelopment of Ardrossan harbour is a major project and remains absolutely key to our ambitions. Not only will it bring economic benefits to North Ayrshire, but it will also support a more resilient first-class ferry service between Arran and the mainland.'

The engagement session will run from 4.30pm to 6.30pm in Brodick Hall on the day, with people welcome to visit at any point and chat with representatives of the various organisations.

The Arran event will be followed by a further engagement session to be held in Ardrossan Civic Centre on Wednesday October 24, between 4.30pm and 6.30pm.

Charlotte's proud day



Charlotte Weir receives the British Empire Medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, Sheriff Iona McDonald, at her home in Blackwaterfoot. For the full story, turn to page three.

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Council is ready for worst of winter

Colin Smeeton
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran's road crews have been out and about across the island in their snowploughs in an effort to ensure their fleet of snow clearing and gritting vehicles are well prepared in advance of the winter weather.

The test, which was carried out on Arran, has been repeated in localities across North Ayrshire, allowing council workers to check out equipment and vehicles, as well as familiarise themselves with routes.

Councillor Jim Montgomerie, cabinet member for place, said: 'This has been an invaluable exercise which allows the roads team to make sure we are as prepared as we can be for what-

ever winter throws at us. We had a few days last winter when the team was tested to its limits but they were well drilled and managed to keep North Ayrshire moving. Parts of North Ayrshire saw their heaviest snowfall in years but the team worked round the clock and deserve a lot of praise.'

On Arran, a dedicated team of six drivers and three multi-purpose vehicles will be available 24/7 to keep the area's priority routes in use throughout winter. These round-the-clock measures will be in place from late October right through to mid-April.

The council will also be on-call over weekends and public holidays from November to February to help treat main

footways in the event of ice and frost. Arrangements are also in place with the Community Justice Service, local contractors and farmers to call upon their assistance in case of severe weather conditions.

Some 1,600 tonnes of road salt will be stockpiled at the depot at Brodick and a further 7,000 tonnes is stocked at the council's mainland storage depot in Kilwinning.

Salt is also stored at strategic points throughout the area for use by residents. On Arran, residents can collect a small amount of salt for personal use on roads, driveways or footpaths from the Recycling Centre at Brodick or at the council offices at Lamash.

Weather forecasts are relayed

three times a day – morning, noon and night – to the roads team who use the information to determine whether or not a snow or ice alert is issued. The String Road on Arran is fitted with cameras, which also helps council workers monitor weather conditions.

Visit <https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/winter-gritting.aspx> for a whole host of information including updates on gritting decisions, where to find your nearest grit bin and advice on clearing snow and ice from public footways.

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 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran Banner stalwart dies

The man who was the linchpin at the Arran Banner for more than quarter of a century has died following a long illness.



Howard Driver, who was 70, worked at the Banner for 28 years, originally in production when he joined the paper in 1985 and later as a feature writer, before becoming a full-time reporter and photographer when The Oban Times group took over the title in 2003.

He retired in 2013 and moved to Gloucester to be nearer his family but still made regular visits back to Arran to see his many friends.

Former First Minister Jack McConnell, now Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale, said: 'In recent times, few people have done as much as Howard for the communities of Arran. He really was a positive, smart, hard working and thoughtful man. I am very sad to hear he has passed away but certain he will not be forgotten.'

■ A full obituary for Howard will be printed at a later date.



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Charlotte honoured for her tireless charity work

Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

An unassuming Arran charity worker has received the British Empire Medal from the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran Sheriff Iona McDonald.

Mrs Charlotte Weir received the honour at a small ceremony at her home in Blackwaterfoot she shares with husband of 43 years, D G Weir, and Arran Deputy Lieutenant Dr Alastair Grassie.

Charlotte, who is 71, received her BEM in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June for her voluntary work with the Glasgow City Mission, as well as on Arran.

She is the City Mission's farthest travelled volunteer making a 130-mile round trip every week to Glasgow to help at the Urban Cafe in the city centre. In addition, she is heavily involved with Arran Baptist Church and for the past five years has given support to an elderly colleague suffering from Alzheimer's.

Before retiring more than 10 years ago, Charlotte was a trained nurse and midwife, and was for a number of years a sister at the Arran War Memorial Hospital, working closely during that time with Dr Grassie. She was also the first Marie



Left: Charlotte receives her certificate from the Lord Lieutenant Sheriff Iona McDonald and Deputy Lieutenant Dr Alastair Grassie. 01_B41medal02; and, above, Charlotte and her husband DG with their guests. 01_B41medal03

Curie nurse on the island. The Lord Lieutenant, making her first official visit to Arran, said: 'Mrs Weir fully deserves the award, having given so much of her own time to help others less fortunate than herself. Like many others, she does not seek personal recognition but chooses to go about her business in her own quiet way. It is important, however, that she is recognised for her work and the BEM is a fitting tribute.'

Charlotte, who has four sons, said: 'It's just a little overwhelming. I am humbled and honoured to re-

ceive this award,' before serving the guests, including the Arran Banner, a splendid afternoon tea.

Graham Steven, marketing and fundraising manager at the Glasgow City Mission, said: 'Charlotte has volunteered at Glasgow City Mission, a charity working with people experiencing homelessness, poverty and isolation, for more than 10 years.'

'She faithfully travels to Glasgow from her home in Blackwaterfoot each Friday to serve in our Urban Café. There, she spends quality time talking and listening with our guests, preparing

and serving food, and helping people to realise they have skills and a purpose in this life. Many of the people who come to Urban are in the process of leaving behind a chaotic lifestyle characterised by homelessness, addiction and mental health issues.'

'At Urban, guests work with us to develop and achieve life goals such as learning new skills, securing a job or accessing college courses.'

'Charlotte is a key part of the team that makes this possible and undertakes her volunteering quiet-

ly and with great humility and faithfulness. In addition, Charlotte has been involved in fundraising for the charity.'

'Among her endeavours, she has climbed to the top of the Finnieston Crane in Glasgow, taking part in a zip-slide across the Clyde at speeds of 35mph, all in the name of raising much needed funds for the organisation. In addition, she volunteers each year at the Big Arran Challenge cycling and hiking event on the island and ensures participants are welcomed, fed and looked after.'

'Put simply, we can't thank Charlotte enough for all that

she does for Glasgow City Mission and the vulnerable people that we serve.'

Sheriff McDonald added: 'I would like to see more people from across Ayrshire and Arran being recognised with an honour and I would actively encourage anyone who is aware of someone worthy of an award to nominate them. This is a fairly straightforward process and further details can be found on the Lieutenancy website, www.lordlieutenantayrshireandarran.org.uk, or by contacting Nigel Martin, Clerk to the Lieutenancy, 2 Wellington Square, Ayr KA7 1EN. Tel 01292 265024.'

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Health board has debt written off in clean slate deal

NHS Ayrshire and Arran pledged to get its house in order this week after £45 million of debt, accrued over the past two years, was written off by the Scottish Government.

All Scottish health boards are having five years of debts, known as brokerage, written off as part of a 'new deal' for their financial planning but it was the rising debt of the board, which runs the health services on Arran, which sparked the biggest crisis.

The auditor general said NHS Ayrshire and Arran spent £859m last year and needed £23m in loans – and is expected to need a further £22.4m this year.

Health Secretary Jeane Freeman told MSPs last week that a new three-year budgetary cycle will begin from 2019-20. If health boards are able to break even over the three-year cycle, the boards will be given the flexibility to over- or underspend by up to one per cent of their budget each year.

This is a change from the current system of budgeting for one year at a time after auditors had raised concerns about the financial health of some boards, which have taken millions of pounds of loans from the government to break even.

The finance director at NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Derek Lindsay, told the Banner: 'We welcome the publication of the medium-term health and social care



Arran War Memorial Hospital.

financial framework. This will allow NHS Ayrshire and Arran to develop its three-year financial plan, which will now be unencumbered by having to repay brokerage received in 2018.'

The health secretary said the 'new deal' would allow health boards more flexibility in delivering quality care and allow more funds to be spent on patients, as the government will not seek to recoup brokerage paid to health boards in the past five years, effectively giving them a clean slate to start again.

Ms Freeman said: 'For this new deal to be successful, it needs a new start. So, to give all our boards clear ground to move forward on that three-year planning cycle, I will not seek to recover NHS boards' outstanding brokerage; the expenditure incurred by territorial boards over the past five years that was above their budget.

'I want all boards to focus on delivering the measures set out in the Health and Social Care Delivery Plan and this financial framework, and to do so safely and appropriately, ensuring they maintain a strong focus on services to patients that is safe, effective, person centred and timely.'

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson added: 'In 2017/18, NHS Ayrshire and Arran received £23 million in brokerage from the SNP government to help achieve an in-year financial balance in the face of challenges such as keeping hospital beds open to manage demand that was not budgeted for. This debt – and that garnered in the preceding four years – will now be written off to give the board a clean slate for better, demand-responsive financial planning as it moves forward.

'The SNP government will continue to engage with NHS Ayrshire and Ar-

ran and other boards to ensure that public funds are used to dispense the high quality health and social care that patients expect.'

West Scotland Conservative MSP Jamie Greene said: 'I sincerely hope that today's announcement will give NHS Ayrshire and Arran the security that it needs going forward and allow it to properly plan for the future.'

'Looking ahead, it will need to ensure that its policies are not only good for the balance sheet but good for the patients too. This is of paramount importance.'

Scottish Labour welcomed the new framework, with health spokesman Anas Sarwar saying it would give boards more time to plan their finances.

However, he questioned how much it would cost to write off loans which he said were needed due to 'financial mismanagement'.

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Historic Arran truck goes under the hammer

A rare and historic Austin pick-up truck, that was first registered on Arran in 1935, has come on the market after the current owner rescued it from a shed on the east coast of Scotland where it languished for 30 years.

With only 36,900 miles on the clock, the vehicle is being advertised by H&H Classics with an estimate of between £14,000 and £18,000 when it goes up for auction on Wednesday October 17 at the Imperial War Museum, Cambridgeshire.

The vehicle, which is in running condition, has

an interesting provenance which is reflected in the paperwork along with its livery, which is emblazoned on the driver's door. It reads M & J Currie, Merchants, Brodick, Telephone 12.

Interestingly, the Austin also served in the war effort during World War Two and was purchased and used by the War Department in 1939. The vehicle's military number is still visible on the bonnet.

The truck was bought new by Mary and Janet Currie of Brodick, who used it to deliver dry goods around the island. Following its use in the war it was purchased at



The 1935 Austin light pick-up still bears the Brodick credentials of the original purchasers. The vehicle is expected to sell for as much as £18,000 when it goes up for auction next week.

Photo: H&H Classics Auction Service.

an auction by Austin agents in Edinburgh and was used in the garage business until 1958 when it was put in a shed for the following 30

years. Since being rediscovered, the truck has been completely overhauled and has been significantly reconditioned and is said to

be in great mechanical condition. It also boasts an unusual body type and solid wheels, rather than spokes, which were specified by the

original purchasers who required the extra durability for delivering heavy goods.

The Austin pick-up is advertised on the H&H website at www.handh.co.uk where a catalogue and further information on the vehicle can be found.

Shop split is given go ahead

Planning permission has been granted to divide a vacant shop in Lamlash into two units.

Owner Jimmy Gordon had applied to North Ayrshire Council for permission for the sub-division of a Class 1 (retail) shop to form two separate Class 1 shop units to aid letting of the premises.

The 68m² existing shop at Llewellyn on Shore Road occupies the ground floor of a detached building and has two shop windows either side of a recessed central entrance door.

It is proposed to form a central corridor behind that front door with separate doors into two smaller units, each c.30m² in area. The corridor would lead to an inter-

nal common store and accessible toilet in the rear areas. A small existing external store to the rear would be removed.

The detached building is of fairly traditional appearance with a slate roof, a rosemary tiled canopy over the recessed entrance and two protruding pitched bay window front dormers to an upper flat. The flat is accessed separately from the side and is unaffected by this proposal.

In their determination, planning officials said: 'The proposal would not increase the total retail floorspace and would not have any detrimental material effect on the external appearance of the building. There would therefore be no adverse effect on the amenity of the surrounding area.'

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Pupils take on poverty challenge

Pupils from Brodick Primary School invited North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane and Provost Ian Clarkson to their special assembly, highlighting their work in raising awareness during Challenge Poverty Week at the start of the month.

The entire school and invited guests listened to a presentation from pupils and teacher Mrs Claire Scott about what poverty is, who it affects and the manner in which action can be taken in alleviating it. Pupils also spoke of their work in supporting the Arran Foodbank – which they have been collecting for over the past week – and their support of the Arran Maternity Support Group, which hosted a discussion about its work the week before.

The pupils also entertained their guests

by singing enthusiastically, before Provost Clarkson and Councillor Cullinane spoke to the children.

The provost congratulated the children on their hard work and for their exceptionally warm welcome at the school before Councillor Cullinane spoke to the children about their opinions on poverty and how they perceived it.

Following the assembly, the guests met with individual classes to hear about the work and lessons that they had been taking part in, to help raise awareness and understanding.

Councillor Cullinane later in the evening met Arran residents at the Ormidale Pavilion where he hosted a discussion dealing with the topic of poverty.



Council leader Joe Cullinane speaks to Brodick Primary School pupils about their perceptions of poverty. 01_B41BP501



Pupils sing and perform actions for the song Welcome Everybody. 01_B41BP502



Pupils raise their hands during a fun activity learning about poverty. 01_B41BP503



Brodick Primary pupils prepare for another fun singing activity. 01_B41BP504

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Lamlash B&B in awards night finals

The owners Carraig Mhòr bed and breakfast in Lamlash have good reason to celebrate.

They have just received news that they are regional finalists in the 'most hospitable B&B/guest house' in the prestigious Scottish Thistle Awards 2018/19.

Since opening in 2014, Andrew and Helen How have developed a unique approach to B&B which offers guests a huge choice of home-made items from their menu packed with the best of Arran's produce.

Andrew bakes craft breads every day and creates delicious breakfasts featuring his own recipes which showcase produce

from their own garden and the Arran countryside.

The owners say Carraig Mhòr has gained a reputation for restful luxury combined with attention to detail.

'We enjoy creating our own dishes. We both love food and we both love Arran so sharing all our gorgeous island has to offer with our guests is a joy,' said Helen.

'It's also really important to us that we are a sustainable business and we are doing as much as possible to reduce our use of plastic.'

Helen and Andrew will be taking their place at the West regional final awards dinner at Oran Mor, Glasgow, on November 29.



Helen and Andrew outside their guest house in Lamlash. 01_B41guest01

Lee forced to abandon walk

A man who tried to walk round Arran in atrocious weather conditions has been left gutted after having to abandon his charity attempt with just 15 miles to go.

Lee Little was forced to give up early on Tuesday morning in Lochranza with a knee injury after walking all night through driving wind and rain. He posted on social media: 'It's with great sadness that I've had to cut short my walk.'

'Having walked from Pirmill to Lochranza with the aid of a broom handle, I started to lose mobility in my left knee and the wind and rain twice knocked me off my feet. To say I'm devastated is an understatement.'

Lee thanked everyone and has offered to refund everyone who donated to the attempt. However, judging from the comments he has received, it appears none of his supporters wants their money back.

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Friday 12th October

18.30 – 20.00 **Talk:** 'Introduction to Arran Geology'
Stuart Blake – Arran Heritage Museum

Saturday 13th October

10.00 – 12.00 **Walk:** Hutton's Unconformity

11.00 – 16.00 **Walk:** The Geology of North Arran

11.00 – 15.00 **Walk:** King's Cave and Drumadoon

19.00 – 20.30 **Guest Speaker:** Dr. Simon Cuthbert (UWS)
'Arran's Journey through Deep Time'

Sunday 14th October

10.00 – 12.30 **Walk:** The Geology of the Corrie Shoreline

10.00 – 13.00 **Walk:** The Glacial Landscapes of Glen Rosa





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Editorial

Two-year wait

Ambitious plans have been revealed to invest £13 million in a bid to secure Ardrossan's ferry link to Arran.

That is not this week's story. That is from the front page of the Banner under the heading '£13 million harbour boost'. The issue was Saturday December 24, 2016.

Two years later, what has happened at Ardrossan? Absolutely nothing. Even the government taskforce – set up to push ahead with the proposals – has expressed its frustration at the delays.

But what's this? Something has been happening behind the scenes. There are a raft of new plans and all the bodies involved are coming to Arran to show us.

So Transport Scotland, CalMac, CMAL, Peel Ports and North Ayrshire Council will be in Brodick later this month to tell us all about them – but not at a public meeting.

Oh no, these days public and private bodies like drop-in sessions which, they say, give everyone the chance to have their say.

It also means they do not have to answer awkward questions on the floor of a public meeting.

We look forward to hearing the answers.

Thought for the week

'As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.' 1 Peter 2:5

Minister replies

Sir,
This is a reply from the office of the Minister of Transport regarding the two issues I raised at the cabinet meeting held at Lamlash High School in August. I believe that this information is of importance to island residents and visitors.

Yours,
**Sharon Shenhav,
Lamlash.**

Dear Ms Shenhav,
Thank you for your letters of 21 and 28 August to Michael Matheson, Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity regarding customer assistance at Brodick ferry terminal and bus timetable alignment on Arran with the ferry timetable. As a member of the Ferries Unit, I have been asked to respond.

I understand you asked Mr Matheson about these issues on 27 August when he attended a public meeting with the Scottish Government's Cabinet on Arran, and also had a discussion with him afterwards.

I can advise that there is already signage for people requiring assistance at the terminal. CalMac advise that notices are displayed in and around the ticket hall, specifically on the glass of the sliding doors, the notice board and the queue barrier tape. There is also signage on the door where passengers can hand over luggage, advising that passengers requiring assistance can request their luggage be taken onto the vessel on their behalf. Additionally, prior to boarding, announcements are made for any passengers requiring assistance to go to the departure gate for pre-boarding and assistance.

When requested, CalMac

staff will accompany and assist passengers with luggage via the passenger access walkway, hold luggage behind the counter and transfer it to the vehicle at the pick-up point. However, as Mr Matheson mentioned at the public meeting, he will discuss where improvements to signage can be made with CalMac Ferries and CMAL, to ensure passengers are aware of these services.

You indicated that the lifts at Brodick terminal are not always available or not of sufficient capacity to cope with the large number of foot passengers. I can advise that the majority of passengers use the stairways, and the lifts have the capacity to carry up to 130 people in five minutes. There have been two instances since opening in March when only one lift was in use due to technical issues. I can advise that lift usage was monitored at the time and communications kept open with both the ferry and buses to ensure no one was left behind.

Regarding connectivity with buses, the timetables for CalMac routes are agreed in consultation with local communities, in this case the Arran Ferry Committee. If the Arran community have any issues regarding the service provided, they should raise them directly with the Ferry Committee, who will share their requests with CalMac.

CalMac advise they are not aware of bus connectivity issues at Brodick being raised at the Arran Ferry Committee, or at the regional Ferry Stakeholder Groups that the Arran Ferry Committee and Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) are represented at. However, if you have any

concerns then you should raise them with the Arran Ferry Committee, and these will be progressed through the usual channels.

CalMac have intimated that communication between ferry staff and Stagecoach staff is excellent at vessel boarding and alighting times. CalMac staff often liaise with drivers ahead of arrivals regarding the numbers of passengers expected, and the Stagecoach controller will often, if busy, check with CalMac staff in the terminal to ensure passengers wishing to travel by bus have not been left behind.

I hope that you find this information helpful.

Yours,
**Alan McCabe,
Ferries Unit,
Transport Scotland.**

Ferry chaos

Sir,
Readers of the Arran Banner will have noticed that our ferries are in somewhat of a chaotic situation. Not only are we dealing a flurry of delays and disruptions, but we are now seeing the construction of the new vessel, the MV Glen Sannox, suffering a similar fate. Cost overruns of £25 million and a secretive £45 million loan from the Scottish Government have raised some eyebrows.

We were told the loan was for business diversification but later found out it was so Ferguson Marine could complete the contract. Now Ferguson want to take CMAL to court over the whole charade. Arran needed a new ferry but instead all we got was a government falling into crisis and a year-long delay to a ferry which will cost the taxpayer over £100 million. Island residents deserve better than we're getting from

Derek Mackay and Nicola Sturgeon.

Yours,
**Jamie Green MSP,
West Scotland.**

Pirnmill memorial

Sir,
Our thanks to Christine Black for putting the record straight relevant to the funding for the WW1 memorial, in last week's Banner letters. Quite right.

However, lest we forget, we need to express our thanks to the Arran groundworks team of North Ayrshire Council led by Mr Stevie Bunyan. At a time when budgets are cut and money is tight, Mr Bunyan was quick to support the self help and enthusiasm that was evident for the whole project and was able to encourage and provide substantial assistance with the rejuvenation of the original memorial garden, raised area and newly developed garden to the rear. An excellent example of community and council working together.

It can honestly be said that without the help of the groundworks team the gardens would not look as they do. On the basis that 'mony a mickle maks a muckle', contributors large and small, practical and financial have enabled a very successful outcome to complement Fiona Laing's vision. Of course, all gardens require tending and to this end Mr Bunyan of NAC has already indicated a willingness to do what he can for the spring of next year.

What a wonderful dedication service, thanks to all the varied efforts and contributions to ensure the remembrance of those eight local men, lest we forget.

Yours,
**Susan Furzer,
Pirnmill.**

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Luke in the running for Young Scot award

A Brodick teenager has been announced as a finalist in the Young Scot Awards for his tireless work to improve Scotland's sea life.

Luke Nelson, who is 14, can often be seen volunteering at many charitable events, including the Arran RNLI. However, he has been nominated in the environment category for his

work with the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST).

But he faces tough competition for the title from two much older environmental champions – Meredith Adams from Edinburgh and Andrew Wilson from Glasgow, who are both 24. Luke will attend the annual awards ceremony,



As COAST's youngest member, Luke Nelson was given the honour of officially opening the Octopus Centre last month. 01_B41Luke01



Luke pictured last year volunteering with the RNLI. 01_B41Luke03

ny, hosted by Love Island's Iain Stirling, on Friday November 30 at the SEC Centre in Glasgow where the winner will be announced. As one of the final events in the Year of Young People, the awards are set to be the biggest in its 12-year history.

Passionate about solving the issues facing marine environments, Luke surveys the waters off Arran's shore and uses his findings to research solutions to preserve the ocean's wildlife. He is continuously looking at ways to help save Scotland's sea life and hopes to make a big impact for

generations to come. Putting his words into actions, Luke has impressed members of the local community with his campaigns to preserve Arran's over fished and damaged seabed and by supporting marine conservation and search and rescue services alike.

Louise Macdonald, chief executive of Young Scot, said: 'This has been a massive year for Scotland's young people and we were inundated with inspiring stories about young Scots across the country. Luke's inspiring story shows how important young people are to Scotland and their

incredible contributions to communities on Arran.'

COAST director Paul Chandler said: 'Here at the Octopus Centre we are very proud to hear that Luke is a finalist in the Young Scot Awards.

'Education on the value of marine conservation is a key aim for us and Luke embodies this.

'He is a passionate and active volunteer at COAST outreach events, the youngest member of our community advisory panel and is great at inspiring young and old with his knowledge of our Arran marine life.'

Arran students among graduates

More than 90 graduating students and their guests assembled in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in Oban, recently for Argyll College UHI's annual graduation ceremony.

Among the 2018 graduates were five students from the Arran campus, two of whom achieved BA Hons degrees, though none was able to attend the ceremony in Oban.

Also attending the event was the first female president of the Scottish Rugby Union, Dee Bradbury, who received an honorary doctorate from the University of the Highlands and Islands in recognition of her leadership work in sport at a local, national and international level.

Market report from Stirling

United Auctions in Stirling had a catalogue entry of 6,186 store sheep at their sale on Monday October 8.

The best prices were: HerdwickX £63 Hillhead. TexeIX £66.50 Altgolath, £60.50 Whin. Mule Lambs £58.50 Altgolath. Suffolk Lambs £57 sheddock. X Lambs £50.50 Ceither Gaoithe. Blackface Lambs £45.00 Ceither Gaoithe.

Club draw

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club September draw were: 1st prize Nanette Waring, 2nd prize Krystyna Baker.

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Geofest reaches into Arran's ancient past

This weekend the third annual Arran Geofest is being held, so there is no better time to find out more about what shaped Arran's spectacular landscape.

Dr Simon Cuthbert, from the University of the West of Scotland, gives this year's main talk on Saturday night in Corrie Hall. Simon is a very well known geologist, and entertaining speaker who will take the audience on a journey, describing the seismic events which shaped the mountains and valleys. His talk, entitled Arran's Journey through Deep Time, will trace the island's early beginnings and explain why Arran has become world famous for its rocks and features. From the ice age to volcanoes, Arran's geological history has plenty of drama.

The festival opens tonight (Friday) with a talk at the Arran Heritage Museum by Stuart Blake from Lochranza CIC. Stuart runs courses throughout the year for students who travel here from all over Britain to learn about the varied geology on show. He will explain why Arran really does live up to the boast of being Scotland in miniature.



Visit the illusive Hutton's Unconformity.

For those who want to see real rock while you learn, there are a number of walks over the weekend, each one on a different geological theme. If you're not quite sure precisely where Hutton's Unconformity is, or why it changed the course of science, then there's a walk for you. Similarly, if you'd like to hear more about how Arran's spec-

tacular mountains formed and how the ice age then cut them down to size, then the Glen Rosa walk is for you. Or you can follow the North Coast and visit the fossilised footprints of a giant millipede-like creature that lived millions of years ago, made famous more recently by Sir David Attenborough.

This is all brought to you

by the Arran Geopark Project. Funded primarily by the Coastal Communities Fund, the aim is to showcase, explain and protect many of the best geological sites on the island. The first year and a half of the project is about building the interpretation facilities and paths so that in April next year the Geopark can officially open.

A number of exciting events will then run through the summer. As an example of the work being done, the new Lochranza Geology Interpretation Centre will be open for everyone to preview this Saturday.

Nial Moffat, Arran Geopark coordinator, said: 'We really look forward to your support this weekend and over the coming year.'

Museum trials winter opening

The popular Arran Heritage Museum is to trial winter opening hours.

The committee of the museum at Rosaburn in Brodick has discussed the growing number of visitors now coming to the island in the winter season, and who find most attractions closed down.

Particularly in inclement weather, there is not a lot for tourists to see under cover, so the decision has been taken to trial three days a week opening over this coming winter, although closing over the Christmas and New Year period.

Seven-day opening ends on Sunday October 20, and thereafter the museum in its entirety will be open every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 11am to 3.30pm, effective from Wednesday October 24, with Café Rosaburn also open during the same hours, providing its usual attractive fare.

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Arran inspired author gives tips on survival

An author, whose new book prominently features Arran, has been visiting the island to promote her work.

Nicky Singer, who has penned the children's book *The Survival Game*, recently visited Arran High School where she talked about her book and answered pupils' questions about being a writer.

The book was part-written during the Nicky's frequent visits to Corrie and she is in talks with producers who are considering turning it into a film, which would most likely be shot on the island.

The *Survival Game* is a moving novel that follows a teenager as she makes her way home to the Arran in a world ravaged by climate change and in the midst of a global migration crisis.

In the book, Scotland is a country controlled by checkpoints and controls attempting to stem the flood of people migrating northwards, away from the worst affected areas.

The main protagonist, teenager Mhairi Anne Bain, owns only two things, a gun with no bullets and

her identity papers. With the world a shell of what it once was, Mhairi has learned the importance of speaking to no one.

But then she meets a young boy with no voice or papers at all, and finds herself risking everything to take him to safety.


The book has been published by the Hachette Children's Group. A spokeswoman said: 'It is an exceptional look at the real-world issues of global warming, migration and trauma for a younger audience and with the world experiencing record high temperatures right now, *The Survival Game* feels devastatingly relevant.'

Nicky has written various novels for adults and children and is a playwright for stage and film. Her first children's novel, *Feather Boy*, won the Blue Peter Book of the Year award, was adapted for TV – winning a BAFTA for Best Children's Drama – and commissioned by the National Theatre as a musical. Her novel *Island* was longlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal.



Author Nicky Singer with her latest book, *The Survival Game*, which is set on Arran. 01_B40survival01


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Remembering at last the ei

A congregation of around 100 people attend the dedication service for a new First World War memorial in Pirnmill on Saturday September 29.

The moving service was led by the Rev Angus Adamson and saw the eight men of Pirnmill and district who died in the war take their rightful place alongside three men who died in the Second World War in the village's memorial garden.

Fiona Laing first proposed the idea of commissioning a WW1 memorial for the village eight years ago and after much research identified the eight men from the area who died in the war.

The men who made the ultimate sacrifice were: John Craig, James McCorma(i)ck, James Thomson, John Stevenson, Robert

Skillen, Archibald McMillan and brothers Duncan and Ronald Robertson.

Fundraising efforts were begun and local architectural metalworker Simon Horne was approached for a design which it was hoped would complement the WW2 memorial already there.

He came up with a truly unique proposal and, over the past three years, fundraising efforts increased while Simon approached digital designer Matthias Mombazet to transform his sketches into a digital reality.

A sheet of admiralty brass was purchased and Matthias' patient work allowed the design to be sent to a jet-cutter who cut the requisite sheet into the component parts. Simon then embarked on weeks of precision work to transform the

flat parts into the beautiful memorial which we see today.

During the memorial service, the hymns Abide With Me and Eternal Father, Strong to Save were sung, Biff Simpson played the Last Post and piper Willie Robertson played the Flowers o' the Forest lament. Following the service, a big crowd returning to the village hall for a great lunch provided by the women in the village.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, the people of Pirnmill have ensured that names of the men from the area who fell in the conflict will live for ever and that future generations will be able to go on remembering them in the years to come.

Photographs by Nick Tinning



Fiona Laing leads a hymn at a memorial service.



Jamie Gibbs recites the poem Will you forget.



Piper Willie Robertson plays Flowers o' the Forest.



The Rev Angus Adamson conducts the dedication service before the large congregation.

The sacrifice of the men

One hundred and three years ago, two young Pirnmill men serving together in the Black Watch were killed in France. They were John Craig aged 29 and Ronald Robertson aged just 20. In fact they were killed not just in the same week, but on the same day, September 25, 1915 ... the first day of the battle of Loos, the largest battle in British military history.

It lasted three weeks and when it was over there were 60,000 British casualties, twice as many as the German losses. It was a disaster, a complete, bloody, failure from beginning to end. On that first fateful day, the carnage was terrible: 8,000 out of 10,000 became casualties in the first four hours. The German machine-guns had a field day.

We don't know the precise fate of John Craig or Ronald Robertson, two out of 500 casualties suffered that day by their battalion, the 9th Black Watch. But we wonder.

Yet until now, only those who died in the Second World War have had their names and their sacrifice remembered here. Previously, you would have had to go along to the village hall to read the list of those who were killed in the Great War.

That never made any sense to me, it didn't feel right; in fact, it felt wrong. Today, thanks to the huge efforts of Fiona and others, a longstanding wrong has at last been righted.

And when we read those names added here of eight young Pirnmill men killed during WW1 and think of what they had to suffer, it stuns us. And they were young men, all bar one of them didn't live to see past 30. Eight young men from one tiny village, five killed in the same fateful year of 1915, two on the same day.

Two of the eight were also brothers, Duncan Robertson, the aforementioned Ronald Robertson's older brother, was killed serving with the Canadian Infantry on the first day of the Second Battle of Ypres in April 1915.

Eight men from Pirnmill lost, a 10th of those from the island who gave their lives fighting for their country. Eighty Arran men left these island shores never to return, not to mention the 80 horses also taken to the slaughter of Flanders and Passchendaele and the Somme. Tragedy on a scale unimaginable to us now. Almost unbearable sorrow for those left behind.

All those now remembered here were beloved sons of Pirnmill, sorely grieved, but the fate of the brothers Duncan and Ronald Robertson perhaps emphasises the utter destruction and waste ... for their deaths marked not only the death of two siblings, but the extinction of a line of Pirnmill men stretching back 600 years.

Their direct forebears had been granted

ght brave men of Pirnmill



Coastguard station officer Fiona Laing and designer Simon Horne at the memorial.



Wilma Morton who gave the bible reading 2 Samuel 2 17-23.



Bill Scott of Lochranza reads the Ode of Remembrance.

who never came home

the land above us at Penrioch by Robert the Bruce for services rendered during the Wars of Scottish Independence. In all probability, the ancestors of these sons of Robert fought with Bruce at Bannockburn in 1314, as had other Arran men fought for Wallace on the fateful field of Falkirk 16 years before when three-quarters of the Scots army were left dead on the field, some 16,000.

Medieval chronicler, the makar Blind

Harry, tells of the 'Westland men of Arane and Rauchline', who formed the fierce band of fighting men known as the Brandani, present both with Wallace at Falkirk and after his execution, out in support of the Bruce.

A call to arms, to 'do or die' answered by the first to bear the name Robertson of Penrioch and answered centuries later by their direct descendants Duncan and Rannald destined to be the last of the Robertsons of Penrioch.

And so that warlike family of Robertsons might have survived the carnage of the Wars of Scottish Independence and wars of centuries since, but it could not survive the carnage of the Great War, the so-called 'war to end all wars'.

There is bitter irony in that 'the war to end all wars' was hardly that, as the names inscribed here of those who died between 1939 and 1945 in the Second World War clearly testify. And consider this: just 21 years after the guns fell silent on the western front in 1918, within a single generation, the whole world was once again at war, the killing and the bloodshed begun all over again.

This should remind us, our independence as a nation, our freedom, the freedom we are privileged to enjoy today was bought dear at a price incalculable in human suffering. *Rev Angus Adamson*



The new First World War memorial in Pirnmill.

The Hon Man turns up on Arran

Retired journalist Bob Tomlinson spoke to members of the Arran Historical Society on his life in journalism, especially his time as the Hon Man in the Sunday Post as their September meeting in Brodick Hall, writes *Hugh Brown*.

Bob spoke without notes or slides, and as well as keeping his audience enthralled, he had them laughing throughout with his hilarious anecdotes.

He began with his early life growing up in Anderson area in Glasgow. If at that time Edinburgh was the Athens of the North, then Glasgow was the Sparta of the North.

His father was a house painter who graduated to

the boss, wearing a bowler hat which made him stand out in the area.

Bob always had a desire to get into the posh school in the area, the one where the boys wore a chocolate coloured blazer.

He had an interview with the headmaster and others at the school and when asked if he had any relatives in the school Bob said: 'My aunty Aida.' His classmates kept in with him as he was always getting an extra at school lunches.

Bob changed his religion frequently to 'get on' and having spells in various sects, he eventually took up 'Congregationalism' to marry his wife 52 years ago.

After his education, he had a job as assistant manager at the Pitlochry Theatre. This did not suit him as he was working 84 hours per week. He began to see himself as the next John Steinbeck. Meeting people at the theatre, he got an opportunity in journalism with D C Thomson in their Glasgow office.

He became a crime reporter, listening to the police band radio in the office and rushing off to the crime scene for the story – even reaching a murder scene before the police and passing on evidence to them.

His journalism was a success and he went from strength to strength. His employer ensured his sal-

ary was adequate for him to get married, set up home and take out a mortgage, telling him who to see and what to do, and increasing his salary as required to cover all the costs.

He became the Hon Man on the Sunday Post when it sold 2.5 million copies each week, though this is now 100,000. He was able to, at the Post's expense, travel round the world first class by air, having all sorts of adventures which he reported on each week in the popular Hon Man column.

The next talk for the society is on Monday October 15 at 2pm in Brodick Hall when David Anderson will talk about his life as a civil engineer in the electricity industry and its history.

David is a past-president of the Scottish branch of the Institution of Civil Engineers.



Former Hon Man Bob Tomlinson at the society meeting.

Sax Ecosse play in Brodick

Music Arran's October concert will feature the vibrant saxophone quartet Sax Ecosse. They will be playing music by Bach, Pierce, Florida, Salazar and Grieg on Saturday October 20 at 7.30pm in Brodick Hall.

Sax Ecosse is a vibrant saxophone quartet which has enjoyed considerable success as a chamber ensemble throughout the UK and Europe. Recent engagements range from the Edinburgh International Festival, the Usher Hall, Emerging Artist Series, Celtic Connections, and Cottiers Chamber Project,

to recitals in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and the St Olav's Festival, Norway, alongside concerts for music societies throughout Britain.

The group was established in 2004 while its members were students at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. They are Karen Dufour on soprano saxophone, Michelle Melvin on alto saxophone, Francisco Sanchez on tenor saxophone and Jay Capperault, baritone saxophone.

After graduation, Sax Ecosse pursued further study in America and Europe with The Rascher Saxophone Quartet and sax-

ophone pioneer Dr Fred Hemke, among others. The quartet were awarded the Enterprise Music Scotland residency project 2008/09, and is now an alumni ensemble of the prestigious Live Music Now scheme founded by Yehedi Menuin. During their career, the quartet has also entertained many dignitaries, including one of the world's most famous enthusiasts of the saxophone, former US President Bill Clinton.

Once again, the hall will be in cafe style, so feel free to bring your own bottle. Tea will be available at the interval.



Sax Ecosse will be playing in Brodick next weekend.



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Saturday 13th October

Flow yoga
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Orca Krafts art classes
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music – Abel Faces
 Live music – Little Miss Debby & The Coyote Rockets - Rock, Blues, Soul, Boogie
 Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 11.00am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm
 Charisma Lane, Brodick, 3pm - 4.30pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

Sunday 14th October

Crafts and Company, October craft fair
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Live music – Abel Faces
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music – James McKay - Singer Songwriter & Multi Instrumentalist
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Folk music session

Whiting Bay Hall, 11am - 3pm
 11.30am and 2.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 1pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Monday 15th October

Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Chantraine dance class for adults
 JogScotland mixed ability running group
 Adult tennis
 Circuit training
 Isle of Arran Bridge Club, all welcome
 Tae Kwon Do, adults and over 10s,
 Live music – The Sensational Biff Simpson

11.00am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm
 Village Hall, Lochranza, 4.30pm - 5.30pm
 Whiting Bay 5.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm

Tuesday 16th October

Healthy Outdoors team
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Castle garden walk
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Blackwaterfoot bowls
 Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
 Flow yoga
 Arran Hockey Club – juniors (5 - 14yrs)
 Scottish country dancing.
 Trev's pop music quiz
 Traditional music sessions
 Body Blitz

Brodick Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
 11.30am and 2.30pm
 Brodick Castle and Country Park, 2pm - 3.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Bowling Club, 2pm
 Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
 Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 6pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall 7.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
 Brodick Bar, 9pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm – 10.30pm

Wednesday 17th October

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Brodick gardens volunteers
 Arran Elderly Forum
 Chair yoga
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Archives and Genealogy Service
 Dog classes
 Lochranza whist drive, all Welcome

Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.30am
 Brodick Castle and Country Park, 10am - 1pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am for 11am
 St Mollo's Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am
 11.30am and 2.30pm
 Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 12.30pm
 Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall, 2pm



Arran Pace Makers running group
 Flow yoga
 Tae Kwon Do
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Live music – Arran Dawn
 Family friendly pub quiz
 Quiz night
 Rock'n'pop bingo

Brodick, 5.30pm
 Shiskine Hall, 6pm
 Juniors 6.30pm - 7.30pm, Advanced Juniors & Adults, AHS, 7.30p - 8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm
 PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Drift Inn, Lamlash 9pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 18th October

Morning fitness
 Chair yoga
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 ACLI volunteer gardening day
 Thursday Club lunch
 Castle Time Travellers
 Quilt Arran
 Adult tennis
 Isle of Arran Bridge Club, all welcome
 Arran Hockey Club – seniors (12 yrs +)
 Arran Soul Choir
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 Body Blitz
 Tommy's general knowledge quiz

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am
 11.30am and 2.30pm
 Golf Course Road, Whiting Bay, 11.30am - 3.30pm
 Stags Pavilion, Lochranza, 12.30pm for 1pm
 Brodick Castle and Country Park, 2pm
 Firestation, Lamlash, 2pm - 4.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot, 5.30pm
 Little Rock, Brodick, 7pm for 7.15pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Community Theatre, Arran High School, 7pm - 9pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm – 10.30pm
 Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 19th October

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 T'ai chi with Sue Thurogood
 2 for 1 fish and chips
 Chantraine dance class for adults
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
 Tae Kwon Do
 Friday night quiz
 Live music – Shindig
 Karaoke

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.30am
 11.00am, 1.30pm and 3.30pm
 Glen Estate Lounge, Brodick, 11.30am
 Felicity's @ Eden Lodge 5pm - 6pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm - 7.15pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Advanced (Advanced Class) Arran High School, 7.30p - 8.30pm
 Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
 Fiddlers' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 8pm - 10.30pm
 The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Saturday 20th October

Flow yoga
 Brodick Castle From the Outside – A guided historic tour
 Family games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music – Mic Clark
 Live music – Dopesickfly - Funk Rock Hybrid with a Hip-Pop twist
 Over-21s disco

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



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Month of the unexpected

The mean temperature in September was very similar to last year and about two degrees cooler than August. Rainfall was less than August but the main weather feature was the storm on September 19. The first named storm of the winter, Storm Ali, came with a marked drop in air pressure. Some trees were blown over on the island and some hedges, heavy with autumn fruits, were scorched.

September is the start of

the peak migration season, when many birds are on the move. There was a wide range of species recorded in September, almost 100. It was certainly the time to expect the unexpected and among the unusual records was a puffin off Pladda on 3rd, an Arctic skua pursuing seabirds off Imachar on 20th and a female scaup on 20th. The Arctic skua and scaup records were the first this year.

Other birds on migra-

tion included: a whimbrel at Cosyden on 6th, 18 turnstone at Silver Sands also on 6th, four dunlin at Machriewaterfoot again also on 6th, a sandwich tern at Cordon on 11th, a wheatear at Porta Buidhe also on 11th and four white wagtail at Kilpatrick Point on 17th.

At this time of year birds begin to flock together, often in preparation for migration. Reports included: 620 kittiwake in Whiting Bay on 3rd, 300 linnet on Cleats Shore on 4th, 100 starling and 250 meadow pipit on Braehead Farm on 5th, 300 skylark on Cleats Shore on 23rd, 40 pied wagtail in Knockenkelly also on 23rd and 100 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot on 26th. This gives an indication of the numbers of birds that are on the move at this time of year.

In September, there were reports of returning winter visitors including two

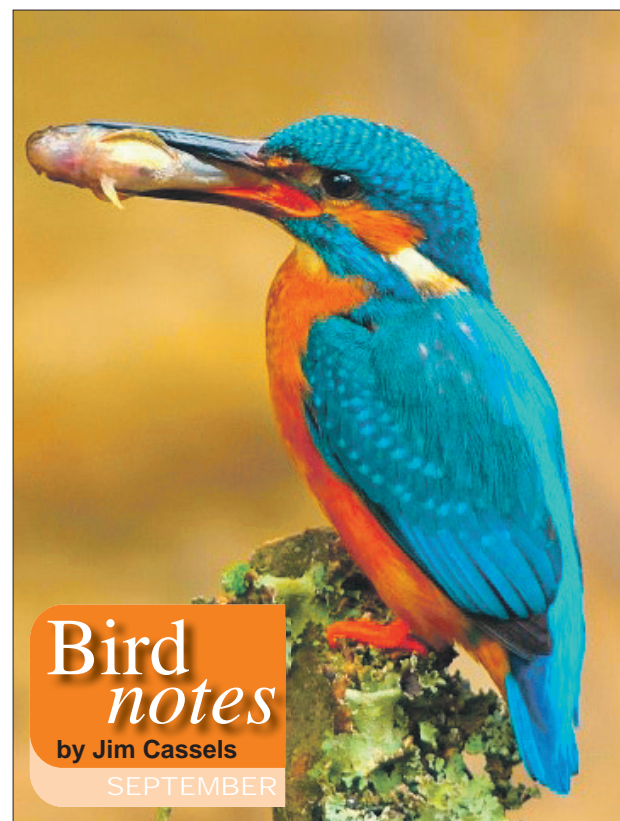
whooper swan and nine pink-footed geese on Cleats Shore on 23rd, 113 greylag geese and a wigeon also on Cleats Shore on 28th and six redwing on Lamlash Golf Course on 30th.

A number of summer visitors were still around in September including: five willow warbler in Lochranza on 5th, two chiffchaff and a spotted flycatcher in High Kildonan on 14th, a common sandpiper and two swallow at Claunchlands on 22nd and four house martin at the Auchrannie Hotel on 26th. October should see the last of the house martins and swallows departing south.

Other sightings this month included: two black-throated diver off Cosyden on 6th, two woodcock on Holy Isle also on 6th, a kingfisher at Cordon on 17th, one moorhen by Sliderry Shore on 20th, two snipe at Sloc Ruandh on 24th, a great



A female scaup, first recorded this year. Photo: Dennis Morrison



Bird
notes

by Jim Cassels

SEPTEMBER

A kingfisher one of almost 100 species seen on Arran in September. Photo Dennis Morrison



Update on the Ardrossan Harbour Project

Ardrossan Harbour Project Communities Update

Arran

Tuesday 23rd October
Brodick Hall, 16:00-18:30

Ardrossan

Wednesday 24th October
Ardrossan Civic Centre, 16:00-18:30

Drop-in Consultation and Update on the Ardrossan Harbour Project.



spotted woodpecker at Cnoc na Dail on 27th and a dipper at Glenashdalewater Foot on 29th.

Finally, my thanks to all the 'volunteers' who took part in the eider survey in September. Total number of birds recorded round Arran was 33. There was total coverage of the Arran coastline. Last year the total was similar, 36.

The previous three September counts had been consistent at around 115. Ten years ago it was considerably more at over 600. The data on the eider survey contributes to the ongoing research of Chris Waltho who has been monitoring eider in the Clyde

Estuary for over 20 years. The population trend is down. For the latest report from Chris, visit this website. <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/files/Clyde-Eider-News-No-16-Aug-2018.pdf>

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 2017 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Big numbers of kittiwake flocking together in Whiting Bay before heading off to sea. Photo Nick Giles

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday October 3, 1998

Dustcart dispute

A public inquiry is to be held next Friday in a dispute involving a group of four people who do not want the field next to their homes to be turned into a refuse lorry yard.

The four neighbours, who live up a narrow track opposite Sandbraes in Whiting Bay, are up in arms about a proposal to use the field as an operating centre for refuse wagons. Secondly, they say the road is merely a track and cannot accommodate the wagons. In fact, it is 10 feet wide and each wagon is 8ft 2in wide. Worst of all, one of the four protesters has had a wall damaged and even his house wall damaged by the wagons.

The applicant, who is in a position to use the field since it belongs to his father-in-law, wants to do so following criticism of the eyesore the wagons have been when parked in full public view at the south of the village.

Farmers protest

Joining 8,000 people at a football stadium in Blackpool were Keith Irving, Jim Climie and Sally Brookes from Arran. The small group were protesting at government decisions in relation to farming in the UK which has seen a marked de-

cline in livestock prices and income for farmers – described as the worst crisis to affect farmers in living memory.

High on the list of grievances was government's failure to secure agrimonetary compensation which all competitors enjoyed, but which UK farmers could not get. Also failing to implement sheep export rules in time for the season which has meant that the ewe trade had collapsed and farmers would be paying more in transport costs than the sheep were worth.

Attending the rally was new agricultural minister Nick Brown, who showed a measure of courage facing speakers from around the UK who levelled every contentious issue at him and Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Firm closure

While it is sad to hear that the Arran Plant firm has closed and that the workers have been laid off, the company no longer has any direct ties with the island.

Although the company was started on Arran in 1990 by David Bannatyne, Stewart Yates and Douglas Stewart, it was later sold to a firm called Adam Bruce and operated from the mainland while retaining its Arran name. Present controller APC has decided to close operations and most staff had already left in recent weeks.



The 24th Glasgow (Bearsden) Scout troop enjoyed three days on Arran, camping out in a dilapidated hut called Brandyburn Cabin above Lamash. The group also visited Catacol where the troop made their first camp in 1913. 01_B41twe02



Sponsored wheelchair push: Stuart Pimblett raised £1,556 for charity with a sponsored wheelchair push round Arran. Here he hands over a cheque to Arran High School head teacher Sue Smith, watched by his brother Richard and friend Chris. 01_B41twe03



Jamie Picken is enthusiastically pelted with wet sponges at last weekend's Kilmory fete. 01_B41twe04



High above Glenashdale Falls, Graham Thomson, Neil Young and Paul Goody have been building a bridge. Making inroads into the forests of the southern half of the island, the new road and bridge will service heavy goods vehicles hauling timber. 01_B41twe05



The first brick of Coralyn Court has been laid. The owners of the house will be Mr and Mrs McCulloch of Prestwick and they are pictured here with builders John Corbett and Freddie Campbell. 01_B41twe01

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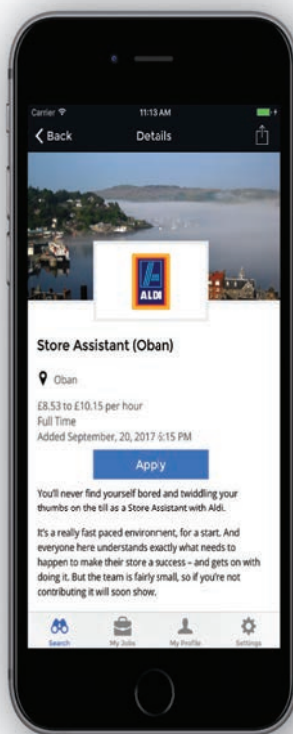
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For more information or guidance on how to apply contact: Graeme Johnston, Youth Work Project Manager, graeme@arrayouthfoundations.org

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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

together
Minister:

Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant
Mrs Jean Hunter:

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

Sunday 14th October

Lochranza Church, 9.30am
Morning Worship
Pirnmill Church, 10.15am
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.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide
Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 14th October
Holy Communion – 11 am.
Coffee after service
All Welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 14th October
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen
Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
ALL WELCOME

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF
FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 14th October
Sunday Worship @ 11am
'Heather Lodge', Brodick
(Next to the Douglas Hotel)
Telephone 700346
Everyone Warmly Invited

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Kilmory linked with Lamlash

"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"
Sunday 14th October
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory - 10am
Lamlash - 11.30am.
All welcome, including fami-
lies; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan
Church of Scotland, Charity
Number: SC014005

Sunday 14th October

Worship will be conducted by
the minister, Rev Elizabeth
Watson, at 10.30am.
Everyone most welcome.
Tea and coffee will be served
in the transept immediately
after the service; please stay
and enjoy more fellowship.

ARRAN BAPTIST
CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 14th October
Service 11am, Ormidale
Pavilion, Brodick
Tea and coffee after
the service
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home
fellowship group for bible
study and prayer.
Telephone 600222

ARRAN FREE CHURCH
OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 14th October
Shiskine, 11am (church on
road between Blackwaterfoot
and Machrie)
Brodick 6pm
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC
CHURCH

Sunday 14th October
Sunday Morning Mass, 11am

MEMORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

McSKIMMING: Lorna Kathryn (nee Morrell), Aug 29, 1939 – Oct 2, 2018, passed suddenly surrounded by her family. Lorna and her Husband Jim, both from the Isle of Arran, Scotland immigrated to Canada more than 50 years ago with their three children. Lorna and Jim spent their holidays exploring the many treasures that Canada has to offer including sharing the beauty of their favourite spot of Killbear Provincial Park with their family. She was very community minded and participated for many years in various volunteer activities.

Much adored wife of almost 60 years to Jim, devoted mother to Jacqueline, David and Carolyn, and mother-in-law to Jim and Blanka. Grandmother to Shannon (Ian), Heather (Ryan), Quinn & Sean and honorary grandmother to Tyler, Corey & Bennett. Sisters Celia & Allison & sister-in-law, Georgie, and all the extended family in Canada, Scotland, England & Australia, will be at a loss without the Facebook commentary and phone calls from our dear Lorna.

Thanks to the exemplary support of the staff at Brampton Civic's ICU unit for their kindness and support and to the ongoing care that Lorna received from her doctors and the pharmacy team at Bolton Zehr's.

A celebration of Lorna's life will take place on November 24th, 2018, please indicate your interest in attending by emailing rememberinglorna@gmail.com. Please also share any pictures or stories that you wish to be included at her memorial to this account. In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to the Heart & Stroke Foundation.

Kayakers keen battle in first race round Holy Isle

Members of the Arran Kayak Club held their first race by circumnavigating Holy Isle in a battle against the elements and strong competition from each other.

Participants set off from Lamlash Pier on a bright but breezy morning. Force three south westerlies made for challenging conditions during the race, with most

boats enjoying some sustained surfing on the east side of Holy Isle, and with paddlers finishing into a stiff headwind on the clockwise circumnavigation.

Officials on the dock clocked Andrew Rigby's winning time as one hour and 21 minutes. Andrew is a strong competitor and a regular sight off the coast in his black and white sea kayak.

Second placed Andy Mc-



All of the participants at the inaugural round Holy Isle kayak race: Andy McNamara, Martin Wood, Fiona Clark, Andrew Rigby and Mark Sadler.



Winners of the round Holy Isle kayak race: Andy McNamara (silver) Andrew Rigby (gold) and Martin Wood (bronze).

Namara managed to keep up with Andrew until Wee Donald (the lighthouse), before falling a few minutes behind during the final

stretch home into the headwind. Andy finished in one hour and 25 minutes.

Hot on their heels was Martin Wood in his super-

light, but less quick kayak, coming home in one hour and 32 minutes. Fiona Clark appeared back not long after in one hour, 45 minutes, with Mark Sadler bringing up the rear.

With the results so close together, participants are already looking forward to a rematch next year, possibly after the kayak volunteers have finished being boat support at next year's Lamlash Splash.

Elanor McNamara

al winner, 2nd Clare Buchanan 66-15=5.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday October 6, medal. 1st B Paton 64-5=59, 2nd C McNeil 80-19=61
Fixtures: Saturday October 13, sweep, ballots at 9am and 1.30pm. Monday October 15, Winter Cup, ballot at noon.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday 7 October, Brandon qualifier, 3 played, CSS 67. 1 Gordon Hendry 73-5=68, 2 Iain MacDonald 79-7=72, 3 Bruce

Jenkins 80-5=75. Scratch Gordon Hendry 73.

Fixture: Sunday 14 October, Winter Cup, Stableford, 8.30am and noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday October 6, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Brian Sherwood 37pts, 2 Phil Betley 34pts, 3 John Pennycott 33pts, CSS 63 = 39pts.

Tuesday October 9, Winter Cup, 1 Phil Betley 66, 2 Brian Sherwood 72.

Fixtures: Tuesday October 16, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee off noon.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Thursday October 4, front nine medal. 1 Allan Colqhoun 41-4=37, better last 6 over, 2. Graeme Andrew 41-4=37. No magic twos.

Fixtures: Sunday October 14, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday October 18, back nine medal, make up own games. See starter for times.

Shiskine Golf Club

Thursday October 4, ladies' 12-hole medal. Silver, 1st and scratch Ann May 49-3=46, 2nd Sally Brookes 58-11=47. Bronze, 1st Fiona Scott 60-14=46 BIH, med-



The eighth green at Shiskine Golf Club



Arran players jump highest in a goalmouth scramble. Photo Tam Borland.

Arran top league after hitting Galston for six

Ayrshire Sunday League

Galston	0
Isle of Arran	6

Arran travelled to Kilwinning last Sunday to play Galston SAFC knowing a win would take them top of the Division One league table and they dominated the game from start to finish.

Grant Adamson was handed his first start and repaid his manager's faith as he opened the scoring after a good ball in from Archie McNicol. The goal had been coming as a fit-looking Arran had already hit the woodwork twice and spurned a few good opportunities.

Johnny Sloss was looking back to his best as he tormented some of the Galston players with his direct style and he also scored a great goal to seal his man of the match award. Archie McNicol was up to his usual tricks and, despite meeting a goalkeeper in

top form, managed to bag a brace which included a cheeky free kick which was recorded on camera and has gone viral online.

Toby Wingham also continued his fine form with a brace which included an impossible looking looping header. The final score of 6-0 flattered the Galston lads and manager Alan Murray now has a selection headache with more quality players returning from injury.

The team travel to Kilmarnock to play Glencairn Thistle on Sunday (tomorrow) with a 12.30pm kick off at Scott Ellis Park. The next scheduled home game is versus league champions Killie Athletic on October 28 with a noon kick off at Ormidale Park.

The club would like to thank Arran Haulage and Armitage Groundworks for their kind donations towards running costs this season.



Arran players turn to celebrate as Grant Adamson scores his first goal. Photo Kirsty Stewart.



Players keep their eye on the ball with Arran on the attack. Photo Kirsty Stewart.



Man of the match Johnny Sloss shows some fine footwork. Photo Tam Borland.



Ryan Armstrong lets fly with a fierce shot. Photo Tam Borland.



A despairing keeper can only look on as Archie McNicol puts the ball past him. Photo Tam Borland.

Hat-trick Hewie makes easy for Arran

Arran Ladies 3
East Kilbride Ladies 2s 0

Arran Ladies played the East Kilbride Ladies 2s at home last Saturday. It was a first time visit to Arran for the newly-relegated team who came with a full complement of players, substitutes and supporters.

The match started with the visitors winning the toss and choosing to put their keeper in the sunshine, giving Arran the ball to play from the whistle.

It was soon evident East Kilbride were going to be a tough team to beat, as they exhibited some excellent set-piece passing and strong runs at the Arran goal.

However, with a solid defensive line – which welcomed sweeper Cat Galbraith back from injury, Ali (Ninja) Mckie, Ellie Woods, Faith McKelvie and Susie Murchie – all their efforts were blocked and returned up the pitch to the waiting midfield players Mia Walker, Hazel Malakoty and the team's youngest player, Isla McKelvie, who is only 13 years old, to drive it onto the team's attacking forwards; captain Lorraine Hewie, Anne Watts and new team member Cerys Herapath.

The first of Arran's three



goals came from Hazel Malakoty sending a free hit to Mia Walker who directed it into the D where captain Lorraine Hewie was in position to finish it off. An excellent display of strong and accurate passing and player placement.

The visitors came back with swift and determined attempts to score. One shot had the Arran goalkeeper showing why she is nicknamed 'Ninja' as she leaped to deflect a cracking shot from the EK forward aiming to put it into the top corner of the net.

Arran continued to repel the ball away from their goal line with Ellie Woods displaying calm and controlled play and the occasional spirited run up the field, helping deliver the ball back to the forward line to try for goal.

Centre back Faith McK-

elvie was able to call for player cover to ensure the defence were still protected from the breaking runs which made the opposition so dangerous. Susie Murchie was position-switching with young Isla McKelvie making it difficult for them to be player marked by the other team.

While covering in defence, Isla was able to sweep attacks clear of Arran's 23m box and blocked a running drive at goal.

After a balanced period of play where both teams won and lost the ball to some great low stick steals, solid defence, smooth linked up play in midfield and strong forward presses, Arran's Hazel Malakoty made a clever shot for goal from the top of the D which the keeper saved, but Lorraine picked up on the rebound and fired it back into

the net. This was followed a short while later with a rocketed back line hit out from Cat Galbraith to Anne Watts in midfield. Anne saw Cerys running into free space just outside the D and passed her the ball. Cerys then hit it towards Lorraine, who was running in on post and deflected the ball into the goal.

A fabulous show of classic back line to goal scoring passes. Captain Lorraine may be getting a new nickname from being Hurricane Hewie to Hat-trick Hewie as this is her second hat-trick of goals in three matches.

With the score 3-0 at half-time, the ladies returned from their break to resume play. The East Kilbride Ladies tried many times to unsuccessfully break through the Arran defence, who were solid and consistent in stopping any challenge and sending it clear of the goal.

'The final match score of 3-0 did not reflect the skills, determination and effort our opponents showed on the pitch today,' said captain Lorraine Hewie. 'They were unable to score as we had such a strong defensive line repelling the ball and determined mid and forward players who kept the ball



Clockwise from top left: Hazel Malakoty makes a determined clearance. 01_B41hockey01; **Arran have to do some last ditch defending.** 01_B41hockey06; **Hat-trick hero Lorraine Hewie is surrounded by two defenders.** 01_B41hockey02; **Mia Walker presses forward for Arran.** 01_B41hockey03; **Isla McKelvie keeps her eye firmly on the ball.** 01_B41hockey04; **Lorraine Hewie, partially hidden, fires in the second goal.** 01_B41hockey05

clear of the Arran goal.

'The effort shown by everyone on the pitch, who played the full match as we had no substitutes to relieve the Arran players and give them a rest, was outstanding, especially from

our young team members for whom this is all still a new experience. Well done, ladies.'

Both teams retired to the Ormidale Hotel, which is generously sponsoring and supporting the Arran La-



it three and



dies for a third year, where Tommy Gilmore and his staff were waiting with a lovely after-match tea prepared by chef Andy Bell and his kitchen team.

While enjoying the refreshments young Cerys Herapath was told she had been voted as dame of the game by the East Kilbride Ladies 2s for her outstanding play as right wing. Congratulations from the whole team, Cerys. The

first of many we are sure. Thanks goes to Pauline Reid for being there to umpire the match – and husband Alan for not going holiday on the sixth as originally planned! Also to all the supporters who came along to cheer the team on from the sidelines. It really helps the girls give their all

hearing all the calls of encouragement.

The Arran Ladies are off for the October holiday but will be back playing in Glasgow against Hillhead 4's on Saturday, October 27. Push back time 1.30pm. All supporters will be very much appreciated and warmly welcome.



Ross was one of the 19 members of the Young People's Sport Panel who recently met at the Inverclyde National Sports Training Centre in Largs.

Ross makes his voice heard on sports panel

Arran teenager Ross Dobson has attended his first sessions at a member of the national Young People's Sports Panel (YPSP), writes *Hugh Boag*.

The new panel, including 16-year-old Ross, recently met at the sportscotland Inverclyde National Sports Training Centre in Largs for a two-day residential programme, where they discussed issues at the heart of Scottish sport and heard from previous members of the panel.

And with 2018 designated the Year of Young People, the panel is determined to ensure that young people across Scotland get the chance to have their voices heard.

Ross said: 'I am delighted that I've been selected to be a part of this amazing opportunity. I

can't thank sportscotland enough for giving me these unbelievable opportunities throughout my sporting career. After meeting the panel during our residential and first monthly meeting, I feel the team has gelled extremely well together.

'I hope that means that we can achieve awesome and life-changing things in our two years in our fantastic positions as Young People's Sport Panel members. I hope to be a voice for young people in Scotland and to be a recognised figure within Scotland's sporting community to be able to help make a positive impact locally, regionally, and nationally.'

Stewart Harris, chief executive of sportscotland, said: 'It is always a great experience working with the Young Peo-

ple's Sport Panel. I have been really impressed by the commitment and passion for sport these young people have, and the impact they've made both at a local and national level. Ross has shown himself to be a true leader in sport and is part of a really inspiring group who I'm sure will continue to have a positive influence on sport in this country.'

Ross, and 18 other young people, were selected from 156 applicants following a rigorous nationwide recruitment process to be part of the team that helps influence and shape the future of sport in Scotland. Over the next two years they will undertake a number of roles including speaking at events, consulting on new initiatives and raising the profile of sport.



Ross Dobson was selected for the Young People's Sport Panel from 156 applicants following a rigorous nationwide recruitment process.

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Ross makes his voice heard on sports panel

Double joy for Toby at Arran football awards

Just prior to jetting off on his international travels, the Isle of Arran Football Association's Danny Head presented the leading players with their trophies at a special celebration marking the end of the season.

The association committee shortlisted a number of players and each squad member of the seven teams on Arran were able to cast a vote to nominate a player, and junior player of the year.

Winner of the players' player of the year with 25 votes was Toby Wingham, who was also the recipient of the golden boot award for his 24 goals during the season. With 26 votes, Cameron Thomson won the young player of



A delighted Gregor Crichton received the runner-up player of the year and the under-18s golden boot with eight goals.

the year award for the second year running.

Ryan Armstrong received the runner-up trophy for player of the year and he also shared the joint runner-up position for the golden boot – with 21 goals – with Lewis Kennedy.

Gregor Crichton received the runner-up player of the year and the under-18s golden boot with eight goals.

The 2018 Arran Dairies League was won by a strong Southend team who also wrapped up the season by claiming the double with victory against Brodick in the Copperwheat's Knockout Cup. Brodick won the Arran Haulage Cup at the start of the season.



Toby Wingham won players' player of the year award and the golden boot for scoring 24 goals during the season. Photos: David Hogg.



Ryan Armstrong receives the trophy on behalf of Lewis Kennedy and himself who were joint runners-up for golden boot with 21 goals each.
Photo David Hogg.



Cameron Thomson of Shiskine won young player of the year award for the second year running.



Danny Head presents Ryan Armstrong with the runner-up trophy for player of the year. Photo: David Hogg

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Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran. Tel: 01770 302142, Fax: 01770 302021, Email: editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd), www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 31 December 2014 and 31 December 2015 for combined print and digital editions was 3,053.