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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER, 2016 No 2084 70p

Troon makes bid to 'poach' Arran ferry

Transport minister Humza Yousaf discusses bold attempt during recent visit to Arran

REPORT
by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

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Associated British Ports (ABP), owner and operator of the Port of Troon, is offering to invest £8 million to create a state-of-the-art passenger ferry terminal and a new pier to serve Arran. The modern facility would only be built if Troon secured the ferry service linking Brodick with the mainland.

Transport Scotland has confirmed that an approach has been made by ABP about the potential use of Troon Harbour for the Arran route.

And the matter was discussed during transport and islands minister Humza Yousaf's recent visit to Arran.

ABP says that a move

to Troon would help reliability on the service, which, it says, is 'dogged by weather conditions' at Ardrossan.

In contrast, it says, Troon's uniquely sheltered harbour offers the prospect of a reliable service for islanders, largely unaffected by adverse weather conditions. Troon also offers improved road and increased rail connections, with access to the upgraded A77/M77 motorway and four trains per hour to Glasgow, ABP say.

A Transport Scotland spokesman told the *Banner*: 'We are committed to supporting our lifeline ferry services and providing the best possible service for the communities that rely on them.'

'We are looking, in the first instance, at resolving the issues at Ardrossan Harbour and have set up a ministerial taskforce to address this. However, no options

Continued on page 2



VisitArran win top tourism award

VisitArran lifted the tourism prize at the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce Business Awards gala dinner last week. Here we see host Jackie Brambles (centre) handing over the award to chairman Kenneth Bone, Cecilia Paul, Linda Johnston and Sheila Gilmore. Full story see page 3.



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Troon plan would match Brodick development

Continued from page 1
 off the table and we have received an approach from Associated British Ports about the potential use of Troon Harbour for the Arran route. This was brought to the attention of the taskforce last month and was discussed by Mr Yousaf with Arran community representatives during his recent visit.

‘To be clear, no decisions have been made and we will continue to engage closely through the taskforce and with all relevant stakeholders in analysing the various options for delivery of the

Arran services as the process continues.’

Andrew Harston, ABP’s port director for Short Sea Ports, said: ‘For the community on Arran, the connection to the mainland is absolutely vital and this should not be left to the mercy of the weather, as it has been for too long.

Sheltered
 ‘The solution being offered by ABP at Troon, which is one of the most sheltered harbours on the West Coast of Scotland, would represent nothing short of a transformation in the quality of the service on



An artist's impression of the proposed new ferry terminal for Troon.

offer to the islanders and tourists. Not only do we offer reliability whatever

the weather, we are also proposing to build a modern passenger terminal to fully complement the new pier and terminal development under way at Brodick.’

Sea trials were held last year to determine if Troon could be an option in, what was thought at the time, could be a port of refuge.

It is estimated the route, with the new faster vessel currently being built in Port Glasgow, would take 66 minutes to cover the 18 nautical miles compared to 55 minutes to cover 12 nautical miles.



How the new pier could look.

Out with the old in with the new

The Arran Coastguard Rescue Team has taken delivery of a brand new state of the art vehicle.

The trusty Toyota Hilux, which had served the Arran team well for nearly 15 years, has been replaced by a brand new Mitsubishi L200.

Steve Muldoon, senior Coastguard operations officer for the West of Scotland based at Greenock and his colleague Peter Stewart handed over the new vehicle to Lamlash station officer Fiona Laing on a recent visit to Arran.

She said: ‘The new vehicle is a welcome addition to our equipment and will be well used on the island.’



Station officer Fiona receives the keys of the new vehicle from Steve Muldoon. 01_A42coast01



Fiona, Peter and Steve in front of the old and new Coastguard vehicles. 01_A42coast02

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Promoting the island in Spain

Driving business for the island, chief executive of VisitArran Sheila Gilmore will be travelling to Barcelona and Madrid next week in partnership with VisitScotland where she will be promoting Arran as a tourist destination.

The business development mission to Spain will foster international relations with the country. Spain is Scotland's fifth largest overseas market with the country welcoming 146,000 visitors in 2015. Spanish visitors contribute £105 million a year to the Scottish economy.

Last month VisitArran took part in a similar trip to Amsterdam which it said had been a great success.

Guild quiz winner

The winner of the Lamlash Church Guild summer quiz was Heather White of Whiting Bay.

Organisers wish to thank Pat Reid for compiling the quiz and Arran Active, Brodick; the Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash; and Seal Shore campsite, Kildonan, for their help and support and everyone who helped in the distribution of the quiz forms.

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Tourist prize triumph for VisitArran

VisitArran has picked up another award – this time the prestigious tourism prize at the 2016 Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce Business Awards.

The group was presented with the trophy at the gala awards dinner last Thursday in front more than 350 guests at the Seamill Hydro. VisitArran beat the other shortlisted finalists Sugar & Spice/Geraldo's in Largs and the Ballantrae Food Festival.

The Auchrannie were also shortlisted for customer excellence but were beaten on the night by Glenapp Castle.

Ayrshire Chamber chief executive Val Russell said: 'My congratulations to the winners of the Ayrshire Business Awards 2016. What these awards continue to do is highlight the

enormous depth in talent Ayrshire has. Our judging panel have an extremely difficult decision choosing just one winner from each category as this year's awards, like previous years, had so many deserving winners.'

Top TV personality Jackie Brambles, who grew up on Arran, played host for the evening with guests also entertained by a surprise visit from *Britain's Got Talent* finalist Edward Reid.

David Hughes, managing director, from principal sponsor Munro Partnership, added: 'The quality of application within each category year on year is truly outstanding, which pays tribute to the strength in depth of the business community across Ayrshire. 'On behalf of Munro Partnership, I would like to ex-

tend my congratulations to all of the winners in each of their respective categories, and also to Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce for the continued support it gives to the business community in Ayrshire.'

Kind-hearted guests also raised over £2,500 for Alzheimer's Scotland Kilmarnock Dementia Resource Centre during the charity raffle.

VisitArran lifted the tourism award, which was sponsored by Seamill Hydro.

Chief executive Sheila Gilmore told the *Banner*: 'We were up against some



Norman Rennie, general manager of Seamill Hydro, left, and the VisitArran team with their award at the gala dinner.

strong opposition and it was a great honour just to be a finalist, but to win was very exciting. VisitArran believes in business and community working together to benefit tourism, and so this award is really for all the

businesses and community groups that we work with.' As reported in last week's *Banner*, VisitArran and the Glenisle Hotel are both regional finalists in the Scottish Thistle Awards in Glasgow on November 24.

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Enchanting programme expected from celebrated musicians

Organisers of the McLellan Arts Festival have announced an added extra to this year's performances with a concert of works for clarinet and voice performed by Joanna Nicholson and talented Scottish soprano Frances Cooper. The programme is called *Turning the Elements* and is inspired by poetry and music from Scotland with accompanying pictures on screen.

The enchanting programme will be performed in Altachorvie on Wednesday October 19 at 7.30pm and will appeal to anyone interested in music, song, the Scottish tradition and the Scottish landscape. Organisers describe it as 'a real treat'. Tickets will be available at the door or can be bought in advance at the Book and Card Centre in Brodick at a cost of £10.

Poetry alive and kicking on Arran

National Poetry Day this year was well received in the Brodick Bar that has become its venue of choice for the past few years.

Some 30 people listened and took part in an evening of poetry of varied mood last Thursday night.

Some reflective poems, some well-known poems (*The Night Mail*), some ancient poems (*Dunbar*), some entertaining poems (*The Yarn of the Nancy Bell*), and Gillian Lockhart's very personal take on character and politics as well as many Arran poems propelled the evening.

Tim Pomeroy added a musical interlude and David Underdown read several poems from Alison Prince's recent book *Waking At Five Happens Again*.

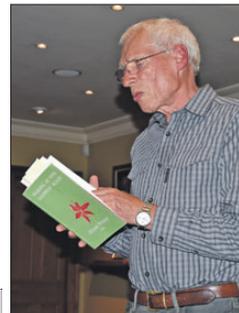
Cicely Gill and David Underdown, who both organise the poetry events within the local McLellan Festival, did sterling work as compères, each presenting a half of the programme.



The audience listen intently to a recitation from David Underdown . 01_A42poetry02



Dave Samuels reads during the evening. 01_A42poetry01



David reads from the new Alison Prince book. 01-A42poetry03

Poetry is alive and kicking on Arran.

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Raising funds for dementia

A fundraising event on behalf of Alzheimer Scotland is being held this weekend.

The event will take place in Lamlash church hall tomorrow (Sunday) from 1.30pm.

It is being organised by care worker Danielle Hughes and teas, coffee, sandwiches and home baking will all be available along with a prize draw with a fantastic range of prizes. Everyone welcome.

Danielle said: 'Thank you so much to all the businesses on the island that gave raffle prizes today for the fundraising event. I'm so overwhelmed at the generosity from absolutely everyone.'

Bus pass meal deal at PHT

The Pierhead Tavern has joined forces with Lamlash Church to offer a bus pass club meal every Wednesday until further notice.

Between noon and 2.30pm anyone who has an older person's bus pass can enjoy a meal deal which includes a free bowl of soup and bread upon presentation of their pass at the Lamlash hostelry.

On a Sunday afternoon everyone can enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee from 3pm to 6pm during the mellow afternoon live music sessions.

Trust in bid for top award

Alison Tosh, who started the Smile of Arran Trust, and who does a sponsored walk round Arran every year, has been nominated for a Pride of Britain Award.

Alison's son Arran died from a brain tumour in 2014 and the charity set up in his name has raised more than £80,000. The Pride of Britain Awards celebrate the achievements of people who through their actions make the world a better place and will be broadcast on STV on November 1.

Club draw winners

The winners of the September draw of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club were: first prize Stella Clarke, second prize Andrew Carpenter.

From rescue dog to Crufts

Does Arran have another champion in the making?

A Yorkshire terrier breeder from Lamlash has taken extraordinary steps to have one of her rescued dogs registered to qualify as a contender at Crufts, the world's largest dog show.

Margaret Kay, whose dog Niamh took third place at Crufts earlier this year, has competed at the prestigious competition for more than eight years and has more recently taken Scarlett along as a spectator, after adopting her two years ago. Unable to take part herself due to her unregistered pedigree, Scarlett has often re-

ceived comments from other breeders that she herself should be in the ring.

At the Belfast Championship Dog Show last year Margaret was told about a scheme whereby the Kennel Club would consider registering Scarlett. She contacted them on returning home last October and initiated the process to have them consider registering her.

This involved almost a telephone book's worth of paperwork, outlining the circumstances of how she got her and obtaining let-



Scarlett the Yorkshire terrier who has been registered with the Kennel Club.

01_A2crufts02

ters from her breeder and from the family who owned her originally. Her DNA had to be sampled and verified and she had to go before two international Kennel Club judges who were specialists in the breed for them to give opinions as to whether they thought she was representative of the breed. And, finally, everything had to go before two final high level Kennel Club committees for approval.

Some seven months after starting the process, Margaret's tenacity paid off and Scarlett was registered on Wednesday April 13 which meant that she could now compete at dog shows. She was entered at the Border Union Championship Dog Show in June and then again at the Scottish Kennel Club Show in August where she was placed at each of these.

Last weekend at the Bel-

fast Dog Show Society Championship Show she was placed third in the Post Graduate Bitch class which qualifies her for Crufts 2017.

Margaret said: 'I am delighted. It made the dreadful sea trip from Cairnryan completely worth it. So just less than a year after starting the ball rolling, we have done it.'

'When she arrived her coat had been complete-

ly cut off, to make her easier to keep, but it has taken tremendous work to get her into a show quality coat. Now the serious practice begins as we have to be completely spot on by March of next year.

'Niamh got a placing last year as a junior and has continued to do reasonably well as an adult so maybe next year we will bring back more than one accolade to Arran,' she added.



Margaret Kay demonstrates her show routine with Scarlett. 01_A2crufts01

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CLOSED SUNDAYS

Operation Joint Warrior is under way in Firth of Clyde

Arran residents might notice an increase in the number of military ships and aircraft around the island as the bi-annual Joint Warrior exercise takes place across Scotland this month.

The UK-led training event, which started last week and continues until Friday October 21, will see various exercises taking place off the Scottish coast and airbases including Prestwick, RAF Lossiemouth and on military

ranges and seas around the country, including the Firth of Clyde.

Close to 6,000 military personnel and 15 different countries will be involved in the training which will see 31 warships and submarines as well as almost 60 aircraft from countries including the USA, Germany, France and Norway taking part.

Running almost concurrently with Operation Joint Warrior will be Operation Unmanned Warrior where 40 companies will be demonstrating the capabilities of unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned underwater vehicles and unmanned surface vehicles, however, the majority of these will take place around the west coast of Wales. Operation Unmanned Warrior aims to showcase the potential and feasibility of the use of unmanned and autonomous systems in a military capacity.

Market report

At its sale last week, United Auctions at Stirling had forward 11,567 store and breeding sheep.

Leading prices: TexX las £65.50 Drumaghinier, £62.20 Whin. SuffX las £70 Drumaghinier, £59 South Feorline, £58 Sheddock, £53 Swallowbank. Mule £54.50 Drumaghinier, £54 Sheddock, £47 South Feorline. Cross £52 Ceither Groithe. BF £45 Drumaghinier, £37 Sannox. Cross Gimmers £70 Sannox. Mules ewes £70 Balgowan. BF ewes £46 Craigview.



Bill Wallace receives a bottle of Arran malt from Alan Bell during his visit to Ardrossan.

Elvis minder delighted with Arran malt

A man, who was once Elvis Presley's bodyguard, was presented with a bottle of Arran malt during a recent visit.

Bill 'Superfoot' Wallace visited Ardrossan to officially open the Scottish Centre for Personal Safety's charity centre in the former Barony St John church hall building on Princes Street.

Bill is a martial arts legend who earned his nickname because of the speed of his kicks which were once measured at more than 60mph.

American-born Bill retired from competition in 1980 undefeated after being the Professional Karate Association (PKA) middleweight champion for six years.

He was Elvis Presley's bodyguard and personal trainer from 1974 until his death in 1977.

Officially opening up the centre, which provides personal safety training and advice to victims of violence, Bill received a bottle of malt whisky donated by Isle of Arran Distillery and said:

'I am delighted to be supporting and officially opening The Scottish Centre for Personal Safety's training hall in Ardrossan. The work Alan Bell and his team do to help victims of violence and to teach the public how to stay safe is wonderful and I hope the local community embrace this facility, the classes on offer and the work this charity does.'

Bill added: 'I'd like to extend my thanks to Arran Distillery for this wonderful reminder of my time in Scotland. Slainte.'

Glamping pods plan for Ardlui site

Newlyweds could soon be glamping on Arran if planning permission gets approved for a development of a small village of tent camping pods at Ardlui near Kingscross.

A planning application has been submitted for the change of use of farmland into a campsite with 10 glamping pods. Offering sleeping accommodation for two adults and two children, the timber framed and canvas covered buildings will also feature a bathroom, kitchen, dining area and an outside deck.

Situated between Lamdash and Whiting Bay, the site offers scenic views towards Holy Isle and already provides a small number of touring caravan and motorhome facilities. The planning application includes two of the pods being allocated as deluxe honeymoon units as well as a separate car park and the relocation of the entrance to the site to allow for easier and safer access.

Extending to approximately 1.8 hectares, the proposed area is situated in what was originally a tenant farm dating back to 1869 and where guests, who arrived by paddle steamer from the nearby Kingscross port, would visit during the summer months.

The application is currently under consideration by North Ayrshire planning officials.

Arran Medical Group

Seasonal Flu Vaccination Programme

The seasonal Flu Campaign will be starting in October. The campaign includes the following groups

- Children 6 months to under 2 year in an at risk group – clinic appointments
- Children pre-school – 2 years to 5 years – clinic appointments
- Primary School children – P1 to P7 - vaccinated at school
- Secondary school children up to 18 years in an at risk group – vaccinated at school
- Aged 18 years to under 65 years in an at risk group, this is for people with a serious medical condition such as lung and heart problems, diabetes, kidney disease, being very overweight or who have a lowered immune system. – clinic appointments
- All pregnant women – clinic appointments
- All people aged over 65 – clinic appointments

If you are unsure if you are in an eligible group please do not hesitate to contact the surgery. All our Flu clinics will be by appointment only.

Appointments will be available in October and November. To make a flu vaccination appointment at any surgery please phone on 01770 600516.



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More works on the String

Resurfacing work will lead to more roadworks on the String Road later this month.

North Ayrshire Council has programmed the work, weather permitting, to resurface a further three section of the String between Glenshurig and the Summit. Hillhouse Quarry have been awarded the contract to carry out the works which will start the week commencing Monday October 24. Traffic management will be manually controlled by temporary traffic lights or stop/go boards.

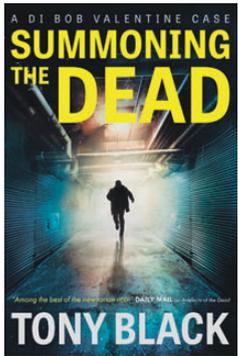
Auchrannie Winter Bowls

starts Tuesday
October 25 at 7pm.

Black takes us to the dark side as he summons the dead

Arran author Tony Black will publish his latest book later this month with a free launch event to be held in Brodick Library.

The crime writer is to launch his new novel *Summoning the Dead* at the



The front cover of *Summoning the Dead*.

event on Thursday October 20 at 7.30pm.

Published by Black & White Publishing, it is the third case for Ayr Detective Inspector (DI) Bob Valentine and it could not be more relevant to today's times as it is inspired by a real life, shocking case.

Set in Ayrshire, the book begins with a young child being found mummified in a barrel. His hands, cable-tied, appear to be locked in prayer. As forensic officers remove the boy they are in for an even bigger shock – he is not alone. With his near-fatal stabbing almost a memory, DI Bob Valentine is settling back into life on the force but he knows nothing will ever be the same.

Haunted by unearthly visions that appear like wak-

ing dreams, he soon understands he is being inducted into one of Scotland's darkest secrets. When the boy in the barrel is identified as a missing child from the 1980s, it re-opens a cold case that was previously thought unsolvable. When further remains are unearthed, the facts point to a paedophile ring and a political conspiracy that leads to the most hallowed corridors of power.

The publishers say *Summoning the Dead* is 'a police procedural with a paranormal edge from Irvine Welsh's favourite British crime writer'.

Shortlist magazine has described Black as: 'The new Scottish noir king you need on your bookshelf ... twisty crime fiction at its best' and the Daily Mail said:

'Amongst the best of the new Tartan noir'.

Black, 44, is the author of 13 books, most recently *A Taste of Ashes*, the second novel in his DI Bob Valentine series. He has been nominated for six CWA Daggers and was runner up in The Guardian's Not the Booker prize for *The Last Tiger*. He was one of four authors shortlisted for the prestigious CWA's Dagger in the Library Award, a prize awarded to an author for their body of work, announced to Tuesday, but did not win the overall title.

An award-winning journalist, he was born in Australia and grew up in Scotland and Ireland. He moved to Arran from Mossblown in Ayrshire 18 months ago and now lives in Kildonan.



Crime writer Tony Black.

At the event on Thursday October 20 at 7.30pm in Brodick Library drinks and refreshments will be provided.

This event is free and

everyone is welcome. *Summoning the Dead* is available in paperback priced £7.99 as well as on Kindle and signed copies will be for sale on the night.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Troon ready for port fight

It looks like Troon is ready to make a solid move to try to secure the main Arran ferry route.

The detail of the proposals highlighted in the *Banner* this week show this is no pie-in-the-sky plan. Associated British Ports, owner and operator of the Port of Troon, has done its homework – and its sums, coming up with an £8 million investment plan for a new pier and terminal building.

The fact that Transport Scotland has confirmed an approach has been made to it and that it has gone as far as being discussed by new transport and islands minister Humza Yousaf with community leaders on Arran shows this is already well off the starting blocks.

And ABP has come out fighting, saying Ardrossan is 'dogged by weather conditions' disrupting services, while extolling the 'uniquely sheltered harbour' Troon offers.

Of course Transport Scotland is keen to point out this is only a proposal and says it is keen 'in the first instance' to try to resolve the issues at Ardrossan with the ministerial taskforce which has been set up. However, it admits 'no options are off the table', which will give Troon hope.

The Caledonian Isles has already had successful sea trials at Troon and a next generation CalMac ferry is presently being built at Port Glasgow for the Brodick to Ardrossan route, which Troon says it is already equipped to handle. It says the new boat could make the 18 nautical miles to Troon in 66 minutes – 10 minutes longer than the present service – and says the town offers good road and rail links. But is that strictly true?

Troon is much further south than Ardrossan, so logistically it is going to take longer to get to Glasgow, Edinburgh or anywhere further north.

However, it is good to see another port throw its hat into the ring and it will be interesting to see how Ardrossan harbour owner Peel Ports reacts.

Could it be all change by the time the new ferry arrives?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.' (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

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your letters

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Letters to the Editor



Stop this eyesore

Sir,
Following John Campbell's letter in last week's *Banner*, we, the Arran Civic Trust, are also very concerned that planning has been given for five wind turbines to be placed at either end of Holy Island.

This has been approved by the planning department of North Ayrshire Council (NAC) and not even considered by the planning committee of elected council members.

The planners have ridden roughshod over the views of the local community. There were objections from the Arran Community Council, the Arran Civic Trust and approximately 100 other protesters.

Holy Island is a Scottish Heritage Island with much history attached to it, and NAC, despite its decision, refers to it as a 'landscape of high sensitivity'.

It is indeed an important part of the Arran landscape where no other wind turbines are allowed. What now can be done to stop this eyesore which will affect everyone who comes to the island?

Yours,
John Inglis,
chairman, Arran Civic Trust, and members
John Roberts, Caroline Fleming, Sally Campbell, Lavinia Gibbs and David Scott.

Parking plea

Sir,
Parking at the ferry terminal has obviously become increasingly difficult in recent months for obvious reasons and more so for those who are less mobile.

Could I through your columns ask drivers kindly not to use the few disabled spaces reserved for blue badge holders? Last week we were

at the car park at 7.30am and, although we did manage to get the last space, a quick check showed none of the cars occupying the spaces displayed the required badge. This is often the case.

Blue badges are not awarded lightly but only to those in great need. Please if you have good pain-free legs, use them and leave these spaces for those who really need them.

Yours,
Norma Davidson, Brodick.

Train challenge

Sir,
I had to laugh at the article last week's *Banner* on the Ardrossan train delays.

It just smacked of a politician looking to get his name in the local press. He quotes many statistics about trains terminating late at Ardrossan South Beach and Ardrossan Town without stating that only two trains per day terminate at South Beach, and neither on every day of the week.

One train per day terminates at Town at 11.03pm, some time after the last ferry has left. So, not too much to worry about there. Surely the measure is how many times the train fails to deliver people to the ferry? Not very often, so where is the issue?

However, if MSP Neil Bibby wants a real issue to address, then perhaps the connections between the ferry and the trains would appeal. Ever since electrification, the train service from Ardrossan Harbour has been determined by the timings of the Largs and Ayr services. Untangling this will be very difficult but perhaps Mr Bibby would be up for the challenge?

Yours,
Lyn Rowley, Torbeg.

School bus goodbye

Sir,
I would like to say a big thank you to all the pupils who have travelled on the String school bus in the morning.

Your behaviour has been exemplary and I will miss you all.

Thank you for all of your cards, presents and good wishes. All the best for the future.

Yours,
Iain Hendry, Brodick.

Breakdown help

Sir,
I would like to say a big thank you to all who helped when my car broke down near Whiting Bay two weeks ago. The help was most appreciated.

Yours,
Norma Russell, Brodick.

Kind hospitality

Sir,
I would like to thank the Rev Angus Adamson, John Lauder and all at St Bride's Church in Brodick for their kind hospitality and welcome I received at their recent coffee morning held on

September 21. Look forward to meeting up again next year.

Yours,
Gordon Waddell, Airdrie.

Grateful thanks

Sir,
Through your pages can I send my grateful thanks to the lovely person who found my purse sitting on a bench on Lamlash Green on Sunday October 9.

You took the time and trouble to hand it in to Lamlash police station on a beautiful sunny afternoon and it was returned to me that evening.

I don't know who you are but I would like to thank you. I am very appreciative of your kindness, honesty and help.

Yours,
Alison Page, Lamlash.

Painting puzzle

Sir,
I am wondering if anyone could identify the house in the painting I have. It is in Kildonan Bay and was painted by David Dunn around 1900.

Yours,
Fiona Hannay, Blanefield.



Does anyone know where this house is?

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Arran is in good hands, says new council leader

Arran's economy, its challenges and its future direction were the topics of choice last week when new North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane spent a day on the island.

The visit formed part of Joe's plans to get out into the local area and meet some of the businesses, groups and individuals making a positive difference in their community. He became council leader when Labour took over the administration of the council last month.

Arran was the first port of call and Councillor Cullinane ensured that a jam-packed agenda was prepared to make the most of his trip over on Tuesday October 4.

First stop was the Arran Outdoor Education Centre, where both the leader and Councillor Jim Montgomerie, cabinet member for place, were warmly welcomed by centre manager Ian Staples for a tour of the facility and introduction to some of the staff.

The visit also included a stop at Brodick Castle, where the leader got a chance to see the centre's services in action as pupils from Dalry Primary were getting ready to take part in an orienteering task.

Councillor Cullinane said: 'I was lucky that my trip tied in with the delivery of a residential outdoor learning programme as it gave me the chance to see first-hand how the team deliver their services.'

'The level of commitment and passion that each and every member of the team displayed was incredible. This was evident in everyone from the centre's bursar, Elizabeth Faulkner, who had just celebrated 21 years' service, right through to their modern apprentices. In fact, it was one young modern apprentice



Elizabeth Faulkner is celebrating 21 years' service.

in particular, Raiyan Strachan, who impressed me the most. I watched as she prepared the group of Dalry pupils for their orienteering course, and you'd think with her knowledge and confidence that she had been in the job for years.'

The leader then chatted with some of the team over lunch of soup and scones handmade by their catering team, and got to hear how the centre had been transformed in recent years with the introduction of ambitious new manager Ian Staples. His vision for the cen-

tre has seen a whole host of services added to its offering, from residential outdoor learning programmes for schools, to leisure holiday packages for couples and families. It also provides all-important conference and meeting space for island residents – and it even hosted its very first wedding ceremony only a few weeks ago.

After lunch, Joe then travelled to the Douglas Hotel to meet Arran Economic Group's development director Sheena Borthwick-Toomey.

Sheena described some of the exciting projects and ideas currently being undertaken or developed for the island, all 24 of them. Projects such as Brodick harbour, Market Road, transportation and affordable housing were discussed. She also spoke about the work being done to ensure Arran's residents stay connected to the rest of the world through high-speed internet connectivity, particularly through utilising 'white space' technology.

Councillor Cullinane said: 'Meeting Sheena was both thought-provoking and inspiring, to say the least. The talent and skills of those involved in the Arran Economic Group is vast and they all have the same underlying desire to make Arran the very best it can be for both residents and visitors.'

'They have some impressive and creative ideas that could help address some of the issues that island-living brings and I look forward to hearing how these ideas develop.'

The last stop of the day was the Auchrannie Resort, where the leader met executive director Linda Johnston to discuss the development of the resort to date, plans for its future and to get a tour of the expansive grounds.

He said: 'With an average of 200,000 visitors during the summer period alone, it's no surprise that Arran's tourism sector is the island's cornerstone industry.'

'It's therefore really encouraging to see business-

es like the Auchrannie Resort going from strength to strength. They've expanded their business ten-fold over almost 30 years in operation to provide high-quality, luxurious services. And this is thanks to the ambitious team who don't let a good opportunity pass by.'

Speaking about his visit to Arran, he added: 'I am hugely encouraged to see first-hand the commitment and effort Arran residents and businesses are putting in to improving the island.'

'It was a really worthwhile trip and I look forward to keeping in touch with those I met and hearing all about their future developments. I'm confident that Arran is in really good hands with these dedicated organisations.'



The council leader is pictured with Ian Staples of the Arran Outdoor Centre and other staff with the Holy Isle behind them.



Sheena Borthwick-Toomey of the Arran Economic Group met with Councillor Cullinane.

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David demonstrates the rings onto which padlocks can be attached at the shelter called Sea Love. 01_B41bus 05



Sea Art features works of other artists including local landscape artist Angela Elliott-Walker. 01_B41bus 07



Artist David Aitchison with the first of the completed bus shelters - Sea Life - finished

The wait is over completes bus

Words and pictures by COLIN SMEETON
Whiting Bay artist David Aitchison has recently finished painting murals on the last of the four historic bus shelters in Whiting Bay. The first one, entitled Sea Life, was completed two years ago and came about after the Whiting Bay Im-

provements Committee decided to save the last of four old bus shelters and to decorate them. Originally six existed throughout the village but two were demolished, and the remainder required urgent remedial work and sprucing up. Self-taught artist David, who has lived in Whiting

Bay for 43 years and who has now retired, originally took on the challenge as an experiment, being more accustomed to photo-realistic art and architectural drawings. With helpful advice and sourcing of the speciality paints from Marriott's Building Supplies, he has painted the shelters as they have been repaired, using various local influences, views, contributions and symbolisms.

The shelter known as Sea Art features faithful reproductions of artworks submitted by Whiting Bay Primary School pupils and four separate images in various painting styles including Scottish artist Jack Vettriano who has seen a photograph of the reproduction and who has given his permission and blessings for it to be used after he



Sea Love features an iconic view from Sandbraes towards the old church. 01_B41bus 06

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er as artist shelter murals

was contacted by David's wife Aileen. On the side of the shelter is another tribute to local landscape artist Angela Elliott-Walker.

Sea Love, which continues with the coastal theme, is the second shelter before entering Whiting Bay from Lamlash and is dedicated to love and peace and includes two rings on which padlocks symbolising eternal love can be attached.

This is a bright and cheery bus shelter that features a rainbow and doves and an iconic view of Whiting Bay church as viewed from Sandbraes.

The fourth and final shelter, the artist's favourite and possibly the most-loved in the community, is the Kingscross shelter known as Sea History. This shel-

ter, which features an iconic view over the bay, is in the style of 1930 railway adverts with the lettering in period style and a typical slogan type of the era saying 'Whiting Bay - The Jewel of the Clyde'.

Paying homage to the area's Viking heritage, the shelter also features a painting of King Hakon of Nor-

way and one of Scotland's Robert the Bruce.

David said: 'I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to complete these murals and it is extremely gratifying they have been so well received by the community and visitors to the village. I have really enjoyed doing them. They add something unique to the village.'



Sea Art incorporates the work of Jack Vettriano and submissions from Whiting Bay Primary School pupils. 01_B41bus 03



Explaining the various elements of the design, David shows how he painted the COAST logo. 01_B41bus 02



Sea History is painted in the style of 1930s railway adverts. 01_B41bus 04

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Learning about recreating a valley of wooded wilderness



Members of the ecology planning group inspect peat erosion in Rotten Bottom.

At a meeting of Arran Natural History Society on October 6, John Savory gave an illustrated presentation on The Carrifran Wildwood Project.

John is a zoology graduate of Aberdeen University. He did his PhD research at Banchory into feeding ecology of red grouse and then had a long career as a poultry scientist researching aspects of their behaviour, welfare and physiology. But his first love was always ecology and in his retirement he feels fortunate to be involved in this Borders Forest Trust's project.

The Carrifran project is seeking to recreate a valley of wooded wilderness in the Southern Uplands with the rich diversity of native species that existed there thousands of years ago before human activities became dominant. The 1,500 acre valley in the Moffat Hills was bought through the hard work of a dedicated team of volunteers and the help of many generous supporters.

On January 1 2000 the purchase was completed, entry to the land gained and the first tree was planted at Carrifran.

Since the start of planting in 2000, more than half a million saplings have been planted. These were derived from seeds collected locally by volunteers, which were mostly then cell-grown in compost plugs by commercial nurseries with stock control procedures rigorous enough to ensure that

only plants from the project's own seeds were planted. Five years is the period normally considered necessary to reach establishment, but on the high ground at Carrifran they find seven or even more years are sometimes needed.

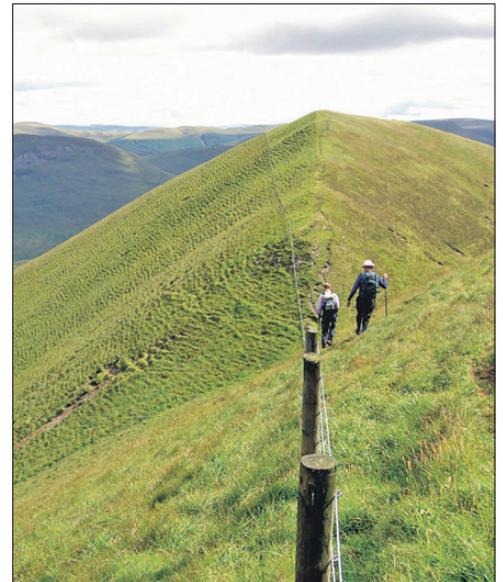
The first ecological restoration project of its kind, it is hoped the Carrifran Wildwood will be an inspiration and an educational resource to many over the next millennium.

John described the background to the Carrifran Wildwood story, the location and purchase of the site, the planting of 600,000 trees and shrubs over a decade and the biological re-

cording there. He then concentrated on describing the gradual colonisation by woodland birds in the developing woodland, based on systematic annual surveys and incidental records.

It was a fascinating evening, with an interesting side story: 6,000 years ago, in the peat bogs of Rotten Bottom at Carrifran a yew hunting bow was abandoned for reasons no-one will ever know.

There it remained, preserved in the peat, until it was found by a hill walker in 1990. The bow is the oldest discovered in Britain and is now on display in the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.



Checking the boundary fence along Saddle Yoke, the narrowest ridge in the Southern Uplands.

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Pension inequality campaign support from MP Patricia

Patricia Gibson, MP for North Ayrshire and Arran, held a street stall in Brodick earlier this month to collect signatures in support of a Westminster petition.

The stall was one of a series held across the constituency urging the UK government to make transitional arrangements for all women born in the 1950s on or after April 6 1951 who have what she describes as 'unfairly borne the burden of the increase in state pension age'.

The petition was presented to Parliament this week. Mrs Gibson said: 'The principle behind equalising the state pension age is something that all parties support.'

However, any levelling must be done honestly and

responsibly, something absent from the UK government's strategy thus far. The state pension is not a benefit, it is a contract, and in terms of women born in the 1950s, the UK Tory government has broken that contract. This has affected 4,800 women in my own constituency of North Ayrshire and Arran.

'This injustice has inspired many to speak out against the Tories' ill-advised plans.

'None has been more vocal than the Women Against State Pension Inequality campaign group.

Their strength and conviction contributed in no small part to the matter being debated at Westminster on several occasions.

'Last week the SNP pub-

lished independently commissioned research proving that Tory figures, supposedly illustrating the 'unaffordable' cost of such a transition, are entirely false.

'The Tories can afford to right the wrong that is impacting upon millions of women because they are being refused access to their pension and, in the interests of social justice, must take immediate action.

'The response from the public to this petition has been very positive.

On Arran alone, hundreds of signatures were collected. There is an understanding these women have suffered a cruel injustice and this petition will send a clear signal to the UK Government that it must think again.'



MP Patricia Gibson joins pension campaigners on Arran.

Sean gets behind winter campaign to curb the misery of burst pipes

Scottish Water is urging householders and businesses to think ahead and follow its simple winter code to protect their pipes, and keep the water cycle running smoothly, before any spells of cold weather this winter.

Their new winter campaign recommends a three-point guide to help avoid the misery, inconvenience and cost of failing to be prepared and take measures to prevent frozen or burst pipes caused by freezing conditions.

The Scottish Water winter code advises anyone with a home, holiday home or business premises to take action to heat, insulate and protect their prop-

erties, whether the property is old or new, ahead of any cold weather.

The campaign is being backed by Sean Batty, the STV weather forecaster, who said: 'The winters of 2009-10 and 2010-11 were characterised by cold, snowy conditions, which brought numerous problems across the country. Since then, we have avoided really cold conditions but instead we've had milder and stormier weather which, of course, brings its own issues. In recent winters, we've had more storm and flood damage as opposed to ice and snow.'

'So, in the last seven years we've had swings from severe cold and ice to severe

storms and floods. This recent experience tells us that we must be prepared for all the elements that can be thrown at us during the winter. It's important sensible and simple actions are taken to protect our homes and businesses against mother nature.'

Campaign

Scottish Water's winter campaign is being supported by an information leaflet - available to download at www.scottishwater.co.uk/winter - that provides important and helpful guidance on what steps to take to help prevent a frozen or burst pipe, how to locate a stop valve, what to do in an emergency and how Scottish Water can help.

This year, Scottish Water is also offering a free stop valve sticker, allowing property owners the chance to write the name and contact number of their local licensed plumber so that it is handily placed in case of emergency.

Customers should visit www.scottishwater.co.uk/winter where they can find winter information, films and advice.



Sean Batty is backing the Scottish Water winter campaign.

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

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The time to expect the unexpected

September was warmer than the same month last year, with mean temperature almost two degrees higher.

But it was wetter with more than twice the amount of rain. It was a little drier than the previous two

months, but not by much. September is the start of the peak migration season, when many birds are on the move. A wide range of species - more than 100 - were recorded during the month. It was certainly the time to expect the unexpected. The

highlight was the first record this year of great crested grebe. Two were seen off shore close to the Fallen Rocks car park on September 23. It is an occasional passage migrant and winter visitor not recorded every year. Other unusual records included an osprey photographed over Glen Chalmadale on 10th with another sighting of perhaps the same bird at Sliderry on 11th and four brent geese at the mouth of the Rosa and Cloy burns on 21st.

Other birds on migration included: 22 black-throated diver off Cosyden on 6th, 70 turnstone at Machriewaterfoot also on 6th, 14 dunlin at Blackwaterfoot on 7th, 20 redshank at Sandbraes also on 7th, one sandwich tern in Whiting Bay



There have been almost unprecedented numbers of Black-throated diver on migration. Photo James Bryson.



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
FOR SEPTEMBER

Bar-tailed godwit: one of many migrant species recorded. Photo Nick Giles

on 10th, eight wheatear at Drumadoon Point on 16th, one Bar-tailed godwit on Shannochie shore on 20th and a greenshank at Cordon on 23rd.

At this time of year birds begin to flock together, often in preparation for migration. Reports included: 200 ringed plover at Machriewaterfoot on 6th, 80 kittiwake in Brodick Bay on 7th, 100 swallow at Balmichael on 15th, 40 goldfinch in Sliderry on 16th, 100 gannet in Whiting Bay on 17th, 152 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot also on 17th, 100 skylark on Cleats Shore on 18th, 300 linnets on Cleats Shore on 21st, 800 manx shearwater off Cosyden on 23rd, 60 pied wagtail on Silver Sands on 25th and 100 starling in Cosyden on 30th. This gives an indication of the numbers of birds that are on the move at this time of year.

Some of our winter visitors began to be reported including: 37 rook in Sliderry on 20th and four wigeon at Cosyden on 23rd. On 11th September there was a report of 58 greylag geese in Shiskine. Whether these were part of the increasing population of naturalised geese that are on Arran all year or early migrants arriving from the north is not known.

Having said that, some summer visitors were still around including: spotted flycatcher at Auchenhew on 11th, whitethroat in Sliderry on 16th, chiffchaff in Lamlash on 17th, sedge warbler in Cordon on 18th, willow warbler in Sliderry on 20th and lesser black-

backed gull in Dougarie on 22nd. The following are the last September reports of the hirundines: six sand martin in Sliderry on 22nd, 10 house martin in Sliderry on 30th and five Swallow in Kilpatrick also on 30th. October should see the last of the house martins and swallows departing south.

Other sightings this month included: 10 common scoter at Cosyden on 6th, 25 black-headed gull at Blackwaterfoot on 7th, one common crossbill in Sliderry on 14th, one puffin south of Pladda on 15th, 13 lapwing on Sliderry Shore on 17th and a little grebe by the Fisherman's Walk on 22nd.

In addition, the Arran Black Grouse Group released a further 40 black grouse.

To try to monitor these birds some have radio tags. Kate Sampson, head ranger at Brodick Country Park, would be delighted to have a note of any sightings of black grouse.

Finally, my thanks to all the 'volunteers' who took part in the eider survey in September.

Total number of birds recorded round Arran was 116, a similar number to last year. Ten years ago it was more than 600.

There was almost total coverage of the Arran coastline. The data on the eider survey contributes to the ongoing research of Chris Waltho who has been monitoring eider in the Clyde Estuary for more than 20. The population trend is down but may be stabilising. For the latest report from Chris visit this website. http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/files/clyde_eider_news_no_14_aug_2016.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 2014 and visit www.arranbirding.co.uk



Black grouse more birds have been released by the Arran Black Grouse Group as part of a re-introduction programme. Photo: Dennis Morrison.

Twenty years ago

If you are looking for the 20 years ago feature please be assured it will be back next week. Back then, The Banner took a two-week break in October, so we do not have any material for the page this week. Apologies, but it will return.

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Annual General Meeting
To be held in Lamlash Church Hall
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Shiskine & Machrie Senior Citizens Committee AGM
Tuesday 25th October at 7.30 pm
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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

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

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 04.11.16. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

16/00879/PP; Levancorach Farm, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of two detached dwelling houses.

16/00922/PP; Site Opposite Ibrox Cottage, Whiting Bay, Brodick; Amendment to planning approval N/12/00530/PP to alter site layout including plot access and amendment to elevations of house type 1.

16/00954/PP; Village Shop, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Formation of terrace and installation of gabions and armoured rock infill to form sea defence.

16/00936/PP; Site to the north of Plantree, Kings Cross, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of two one and a half storey dwelling houses.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
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The Pink Day at Shiskine Golf Club was well attended and raised £430.



Lamlash Golf Club
Thursday October 6, front nine medal. 1 Scott Campbell 38-6.5=31.5, 2 Colin Richardson 41-8=33, 3 Dougie MacFarlane 35+0.5=35.5. Scratch D MacFarlane 35. Magic

twos, C Richardson. Sunday October 9, Glenburn Cup, CSS 64, par 64. 1 Michael MacFarlane 81-18=63, 2 Scott MacFarlane 75-11=64, 3 Alan Smith 77-12=65. Scratch Scott MacFarlane BIH over Andrew Wales. Magic twos, Alan Smith, Billy O'Connor and Ian Bremner.

Ladies Section: Wednesday October 10, medal 9, CSS 64, nine played. 1 Yvonne Brothers 81-19=62, 2 Alison Heron 88-22=66. Scratch Yvonne Brothers 81. Magic twos Alison Heron @16th.

Saturday October 8, Medal final. Due to holidays and family commitments only Alison Heron and Yvonne Brothers played.

Neither lady excelled themselves in the front nine but taking handicaps into account Yvonne was two strokes ahead. Yvonne was level fours for the next seven holes and Alison was one over fours.

Yvonne got into trouble at the 17th so going into the 18th it was all to play for. Again Yvonne put herself in a bit of trouble and Alison played steadily to win by one shot.

A most enjoyable game played on an excellent day for golf.

Well done Alison on win-



Lesley Murray, Alice Anderson and Gay MacKay won at the Pink Day at Shiskine in tough conditions.

ning the Macgill Cup. Fixture: Sunday October 16, Glenburn Cup at 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday October 20, back nine medal, make up own games, see starter for times.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday October 3, Monday Cup. In the first round of the Monday Cup Raymond Burke led the way with an excellent net 56 which strangely must have been slightly disappointing as he was out in a gross 29.

Len Hartley was runner up on 59 which would be good enough to win normally. 1 R Burke 68-12=56.

Saturday October 8, sweep. 1 A Napier 65-6=59, 2 D Logan 70-10=60. Magic twos, D Logan x 3, A Napier x 2.

Fixture: Saturday October 29, Corrie Open. A reminder to Arran golfers to go along and enjoy the Corrie course.

Arrange your own matches and tee off between 8.30am and 1pm. Big prizes.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday October 1, Lochranza Hotel Cup, CSS 65 R/O. 1 B Sherwood 34pts BIH, 2 C Laing 34, 3 P Betley 33.

Tuesday Oct 4, Winter Cup. 1 H Bannatyne 71-6=65, 2 P Betley 78-12=66, 3 C Laing 86-17=69.

Fixtures: Tuesday October 18, Lochranza Hotel Cup at 12 noon. Saturday October 22, Eddie Rankin, gents at 1pm, shotgun start.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday October 5, Wednesday cup. The winner was Derek Roxburgh with Bryce Walker the runner up. C O'Neil had the only magic two at the difficult eighth.

Sunday 2 October, Brandon. 15 played, CSS 65. Iain Keen 79-14=65, Alistair Hume 76-11=65, Terry Raeside 75-10=65. Scratch Matt Keir 72.

Sunday 9 October, Winter Cup, Stableford. 19 played, RO. Kenny McMillan (13) 43pts, Terry Raeside (10) 40pts, Gordon Morris (17) 39pts.

Fixture: Sunday October 26: new look Clochditcher. Details in clubhouse and on club facebook page.



Lamlash captain Jennifer McArthur presents the Macgill Cup to Alison Heron with runner up Yvonne Brothers.

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Last gasp Arran clinch win against tough Moffat side

**Isle of Arran 35
Moffat Rams 32**

Arran welcomed the Borders team to Ormidale Park last Saturday, needing to bounce back after back to back defeats away from home.

It was a middle of the table clash with both teams looking to advance further up the league. Arran, who last year had several retirements, have now lost three of their players who have gone travelling to North America and Canada, further weak-

ening the team. However, there was no sign of being under strength as they took the game to a tough looking Moffat outfit in a closely fought first half.

Seconds

Things remained even for much of the second half but it looked like Arran were heading for another defeat being four points down and only seconds remaining on the referee's watch.

However, the home side were awarded a penalty behind their 22 and Niall Mc-

Master, who must have had a 100 stone hanging off him, crossed the line for a try to win the game. Sam Tattersfield then slotted the conversion home to give Arran a narrow, but vital, three point win.

Arran travel to Bishop-ton today (Saturday) who sit four places beneath them second bottom of the league, but they won't be complacent as they lost to the bottom side Police Scotland-Glasgow two weeks ago.



Arran jump highest at the lineout. 01_A42rugby05



A determined Moffat player tries to catch an Arran forward. 01_A42rugby03



It takes two to try and wrestle the ball from Sam Tattersfield. 01_A42rugby04



Murray Boal shouts encouragement from the sideline at a scrum. 01_A42rugby12



Arran look to have the ball over the line, but it was chalked off. 01_A42rugby10

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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.

Troon plan would match Brodick development

Continued from page 1
 off the table and we have received an approach from Associated British Ports about the potential use of Troon Harbour for the Arran route. This was brought to the attention of the taskforce last month and was discussed by Mr Yousaf with Arran community representatives during his recent visit.

‘To be clear, no decisions have been made and we will continue to engage closely through the taskforce and with all relevant stakeholders in analysing the various options for delivery of the

Arran services as the process continues.’

Andrew Harston, ABP’s port director for Short Sea Ports, said: ‘For the community on Arran, the connection to the mainland is absolutely vital and this should not be left to the mercy of the weather, as it has been for too long.

Sheltered
 ‘The solution being offered by ABP at Troon, which is one of the most sheltered harbours on the West Coast of Scotland, would represent nothing short of a transformation in the quality of the service on



An artist's impression of the proposed new ferry terminal for Troon.

offer to the islanders and tourists. Not only do we offer reliability whatever

the weather, we are also proposing to build a modern passenger terminal to fully complement the new pier and terminal development under way at Brodick.’

Sea trials were held last year to determine if Troon could be an option in, what was thought at the time, could be a port of refuge.

It is estimated the route, with the new faster vessel currently being built in Port Glasgow, would take 66 minutes to cover the 18 nautical miles compared to 55 minutes to cover 12 nautical miles.



How the new pier could look.

Out with the old in with the new

The Arran Coastguard Rescue Team has taken delivery of a brand new state of the art vehicle.

The trusty Toyota Hilux, which had served the Arran team well for nearly 15 years, has been replaced by a brand new Mitsubishi L200.

Steve Muldoon, senior Coastguard operations officer for the West of Scotland based at Greenock and his colleague Peter Stewart handed over the new vehicle to Lamlash station officer Fiona Laing on a recent visit to Arran.

She said: ‘The new vehicle is a welcome addition to our equipment and will be well used on the island.’



Station officer Fiona receives the keys of the new vehicle from Steve Muldoon. 01_A42coast01



Fiona, Peter and Steve in front of the old and new Coastguard vehicles. 01_A42coast02

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Promoting the island in Spain

Driving business for the island, chief executive of VisitArran Sheila Gilmore will be travelling to Barcelona and Madrid next week in partnership with VisitScotland where she will be promoting Arran as a tourist destination.

The business development mission to Spain will foster international relations with the country. Spain is Scotland's fifth largest overseas market with the country welcoming 146,000 visitors in 2015. Spanish visitors contribute £105 million a year to the Scottish economy.

Last month VisitArran took part in a similar trip to Amsterdam which it said had been a great success.

Guild quiz winner

The winner of the Lamlash Church Guild summer quiz was Heather White of Whiting Bay.

Organisers wish to thank Pat Reid for compiling the quiz and Arran Active, Brodick; the Glenisle Hotel, Lamlash; and Seal Shore campsite, Kildonan, for their help and support and everyone who helped in the distribution of the quiz forms.

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Tourist prize triumph for VisitArran

VisitArran has picked up another award – this time the prestigious tourism prize at the 2016 Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce Business Awards.

The group was presented with the trophy at the gala awards dinner last Thursday in front more than 350 guests at the Seamill Hydro. VisitArran beat the other shortlisted finalists Sugar & Spice/Geraldo's in Largs and the Ballantrae Food Festival.

The Auchrannie were also shortlisted for customer excellence but were beaten on the night by Glenapp Castle.

Ayrshire Chamber chief executive Val Russell said: 'My congratulations to the winners of the Ayrshire Business Awards 2016. What these awards continue to do is highlight the

enormous depth in talent Ayrshire has. Our judging panel have an extremely difficult decision choosing just one winner from each category as this year's awards, like previous years, had so many deserving winners.'

Top TV personality Jackie Brambles, who grew up on Arran, played host for the evening with guests also entertained by a surprise visit from *Britain's Got Talent* finalist Edward Reid.

David Hughes, managing director, from principal sponsor Munro Partnership, added: 'The quality of application within each category year on year is truly outstanding, which pays tribute to the strength in depth of the business community across Ayrshire. 'On behalf of Munro Partnership, I would like to ex-

tend my congratulations to all of the winners in each of their respective categories, and also to Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce for the continued support it gives to the business community in Ayrshire.'

Kind-hearted guests also raised over £2,500 for Alzheimer's Scotland Kilmarnock Dementia Resource Centre during the charity raffle.

VisitArran lifted the tourism award, which was sponsored by Seamill Hydro.

Chief executive Sheila Gilmore told the *Banner*: 'We were up against some



Norman Rennie, general manager of Seamill Hydro, left, and the VisitArran team with their award at the gala dinner.

strong opposition and it was a great honour just to be a finalist, but to win was very exciting. VisitArran believes in business and community working together to benefit tourism, and so this award is really for all the

businesses and community groups that we work with.' As reported in last week's *Banner*, VisitArran and the Glenisle Hotel are both regional finalists in the Scottish Thistle Awards in Glasgow on November 24.

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Enchanting programme expected from celebrated musicians

Organisers of the McLellan Arts Festival have announced an added extra to this year's performances with a concert of works for clarinet and voice performed by Joanna Nicholson and talented Scottish soprano Frances Cooper. The programme is called *Turning the Elements* and is inspired by poetry and music from Scotland with accompanying pictures on screen.

The enchanting programme will be performed in Altachorvie on Wednesday October 19 at 7.30pm and will appeal to anyone interested in music, song, the Scottish tradition and the Scottish landscape. Organisers describe it as 'a real treat'. Tickets will be available at the door or can be bought in advance at the Book and Card Centre in Brodick at a cost of £10.

Poetry alive and kicking on Arran

National Poetry Day this year was well received in the Brodick Bar that has become its venue of choice for the past few years.

Some 30 people listened and took part in an evening of poetry of varied mood last Thursday night.

Some reflective poems, some well-known poems (*The Night Mail*), some ancient poems (*Dunbar*), some entertaining poems (*The Yarn of the Nancy Bell*), and Gillian Lockhart's very personal take on character and politics as well as many Arran poems propelled the evening.

Tim Pomeroy added a musical interlude and David Underdown read several poems from Alison Prince's

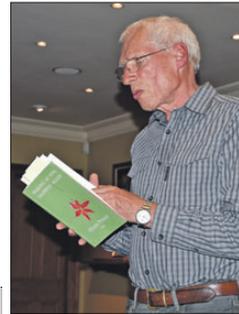
recent book *Waking At Five Happens Again*. Cicely Gill and David Underdown, who both organise the poetry events within the local McLellan Festival, did sterling work as compères, each presenting a half of the programme.



The audience listen intently to a recitation from David Underdown . 01_A42poetry02



Dave Samuels reads during the evening. 01_A42poetry01



David reads from the new Alison Prince book. 01-A42poetry03

Poetry is alive and kicking on Arran.

Friends get update on castle developments

At their September meeting, the Friends of Brodick Castle were updated on the past year at the castle and the future developments by assistant manager Chris Mills, head gardener Tim Keyworth and collections manager Paula McEwan.

The numbers visiting the castle and country park were up on previous years. The ongoing work in the gardens is continuing and everybody agreed the gardens are looking the best they have for a while.

Paula described the ways they will protect the carpets in the future. Chris explained the process for the fire protection of the castle.

The friends have given the castle two picnic benches which have been placed outside the reception and visitor centre, and more funds to the garden team to help with the re-planting of the Tresco border.

Their next meeting will be the Wednesday October 19 when they will be hearing about the work of Ecco Savvy from Barbara I'Anson. Please note the time of the meeting will be 2.30pm as they have access to the tearoom and not 6pm as previously advertised.

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Raising funds for dementia

A fundraising event on behalf of Alzheimer Scotland is being held this weekend.

The event will take place in Lamlash church hall tomorrow (Sunday) from 1.30pm.

It is being organised by care worker Danielle Hughes and teas, coffee, sandwiches and home baking will all be available along with a prize draw with a fantastic range of prizes. Everyone welcome.

Danielle said: 'Thank you so much to all the businesses on the island that gave raffle prizes today for the fundraising event. I'm so overwhelmed at the generosity from absolutely everyone.'

Bus pass meal deal at PHT

The Pierhead Tavern has joined forces with Lamlash Church to offer a bus pass club meal every Wednesday until further notice.

Between noon and 2.30pm anyone who has an older person's bus pass can enjoy a meal deal which includes a free bowl of soup and bread upon presentation of their pass at the Lamlash hostelry.

On a Sunday afternoon everyone can enjoy a free cup of tea or coffee from 3pm to 6pm during the mellow afternoon live music sessions.

Trust in bid for top award

Alison Tosh, who started the Smile of Arran Trust, and who does a sponsored walk round Arran every year, has been nominated for a Pride of Britain Award.

Alison's son Arran died from a brain tumour in 2014 and the charity set up in his name has raised more than £80,000. The Pride of Britain Awards celebrate the achievements of people who through their actions make the world a better place and will be broadcast on STV on November 1.

Club draw winners

The winners of the September draw of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club were: first prize Stella Clarke, second prize Andrew Carpenter.

From rescue dog to Crufts

Does Arran have another champion in the making?

A Yorkshire terrier breeder from Lamlash has taken extraordinary steps to have one of her rescued dogs registered to qualify as a contender at Crufts, the world's largest dog show.

Margaret Kay, whose dog Niamh took third place at Crufts earlier this year, has competed at the prestigious competition for more than eight years and has more recently taken Scarlett along as a spectator, after adopting her two years ago. Unable to take part herself due to her unregistered pedigree, Scarlett has often re-

ceived comments from other breeders that she herself should be in the ring.

At the Belfast Championship Dog Show last year Margaret was told about a scheme whereby the Kennel Club would consider registering Scarlett. She contacted them on returning home last October and initiated the process to have them consider registering her.

This involved almost a telephone book's worth of paperwork, outlining the circumstances of how she got her and obtaining let-



Scarlett the Yorkshire terrier who has been registered with the Kennel Club.

01_A2crufts02

ters from her breeder and from the family who owned her originally. Her DNA had to be sampled and verified and she had to go before two international Kennel Club judges who were specialists in the breed for them to give opinions as to whether they thought she was representative of the breed. And, finally, everything had to go before two final high level Kennel Club committees for approval.

Some seven months after starting the process, Margaret's tenacity paid off and Scarlett was registered on Wednesday April 13 which meant that she could now compete at dog shows. She was entered at the Border Union Championship Dog Show in June and then again at the Scottish Kennel Club Show in August where she was placed at each of these.

Last weekend at the Bel-

fast Dog Show Society Championship Show she was placed third in the Post Graduate Bitch class which qualifies her for Crufts 2017.

Margaret said: 'I am delighted. It made the dreadful sea trip from Cairnryan completely worth it. So just less than a year after starting the ball rolling, we have done it.'

'When she arrived her coat had been complete-

ly cut off, to make her easier to keep, but it has taken tremendous work to get her into a show quality coat. Now the serious practice begins as we have to be completely spot on by March of next year.

'Niamh got a placing last year as a junior and has continued to do reasonably well as an adult so maybe next year we will bring back more than one accolade to Arran,' she added.



Margaret Kay demonstrates her show routine with Scarlett. 01_A2crufts01

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Operation Joint Warrior is under way in Firth of Clyde

Arran residents might notice an increase in the number of military ships and aircraft around the island as the bi-annual Joint Warrior exercise takes place across Scotland this month.

The UK-led training event, which started last week and continues until Friday October 21, will see various exercises taking place off the Scottish coast and airbases including Prestwick, RAF Lossiemouth and on military

ranges and seas around the country, including the Firth of Clyde.

Close to 6,000 military personnel and 15 different countries will be involved in the training which will see 31 warships and submarines as well as almost 60 aircraft from countries including the USA, Germany, France and Norway taking part.

Running almost concurrently with Operation Joint Warrior will be Operation Unmanned Warrior where 40 companies will be demonstrating the capabilities of unmanned aerial vehicles, unmanned underwater vehicles and unmanned surface vehicles, however, the majority of these will take place around the west coast of Wales. Operation Unmanned Warrior aims to showcase the potential and feasibility of the use of unmanned and autonomous systems in a military capacity.

Market report

At its sale last week, United Auctions at Stirling had forward 11,567 store and breeding sheep.

Leading prices: TexX las £65.50 Drumaghinier, £62.20 Whin. SuffX las £70 Drumaghinier, £59 South Feorline, £58 Sheddock, £53 Swallowbank. Mule £54.50 Drumaghinier, £54 Sheddock, £47 South Feorline. Cross £52 Ceither Groithe. BF £45 Drumaghinier, £37 Sannox. Cross Gimmers £70 Sannox. Mules ewes £70 Balgowan. BF ewes £46 Craigview.



Bill Wallace receives a bottle of Arran malt from Alan Bell during his visit to Ardrossan.

Elvis minder delighted with Arran malt

A man, who was once Elvis Presley's bodyguard, was presented with a bottle of Arran malt during a recent visit.

Bill 'Superfoot' Wallace visited Ardrossan to officially open the Scottish Centre for Personal Safety's charity centre in the former Barony St John church hall building on Princes Street.

Bill is a martial arts legend who earned his nickname because of the speed of his kicks which were once measured at more than 60mph.

American-born Bill retired from competition in 1980 undefeated after being the Professional Karate Association (PKA) middleweight champion for six years.

He was Elvis Presley's bodyguard and personal trainer from 1974 until his death in 1977.

Officially opening up the centre, which provides personal safety training and advice to victims of violence, Bill received a bottle of malt whisky donated by Isle of Arran Distillery and said:

'I am delighted to be supporting and officially opening The Scottish Centre for Personal Safety's training hall in Ardrossan. The work Alan Bell and his team do to help victims of violence and to teach the public how to stay safe is wonderful and I hope the local community embrace this facility, the classes on offer and the work this charity does.'

Bill added: 'I'd like to extend my thanks to Arran Distillery for this wonderful reminder of my time in Scotland. Slainte.'

Glamping pods plan for Ardlui site

Newlyweds could soon be glamping on Arran if planning permission gets approved for a development of a small village of tent camping pods at Ardlui near Kingscross.

A planning application has been submitted for the change of use of farmland into a campsite with 10 glamping pods. Offering sleeping accommodation for two adults and two children, the timber framed and canvas covered buildings will also feature a bathroom, kitchen, dining area and an outside deck.

Situated between Lamdash and Whiting Bay, the site offers scenic views towards Holy Isle and already provides a small number of touring caravan and motorhome facilities. The planning application includes two of the pods being allocated as deluxe honeymoon units as well as a separate car park and the relocation of the entrance to the site to allow for easier and safer access.

Extending to approximately 1.8 hectares, the proposed area is situated in what was originally a tenant farm dating back to 1869 and where guests, who arrived by paddle steamer from the nearby Kingscross port, would visit during the summer months.

The application is currently under consideration by North Ayrshire planning officials.

Arran Medical Group

Seasonal Flu Vaccination Programme

The seasonal Flu Campaign will be starting in October. The campaign includes the following groups

- Children 6 months to under 2 year in an at risk group – clinic appointments
- Children pre-school – 2 years to 5 years – clinic appointments
- Primary School children – P1 to P7 - vaccinated at school
- Secondary school children up to 18 years in an at risk group – vaccinated at school
- Aged 18 years to under 65 years in an at risk group, this is for people with a serious medical condition such as lung and heart problems, diabetes, kidney disease, being very overweight or who have a lowered immune system. – clinic appointments
- All pregnant women – clinic appointments
- All people aged over 65 – clinic appointments

If you are unsure if you are in an eligible group please do not hesitate to contact the surgery. All our Flu clinics will be by appointment only.

Appointments will be available in October and November. To make a flu vaccination appointment at any surgery please phone on 01770 600516.



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More works on the String

Resurfacing work will lead to more roadworks on the String Road later this month.

North Ayrshire Council has programmed the work, weather permitting, to resurface a further three section of the String between Glenshurig and the Summit. Hillhouse Quarry have been awarded the contract to carry out the works which will start the week commencing Monday October 24. Traffic management will be manually controlled by temporary traffic lights or stop/go boards.

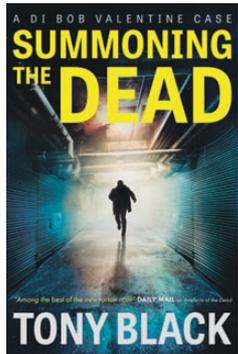
Auchrannie Winter Bowls

starts Tuesday
October 25 at 7pm.

Black takes us to the dark side as he summons the dead

Arran author Tony Black will publish his latest book later this month with a free launch event to be held in Brodick Library.

The crime writer is to launch his new novel *Summoning the Dead* at the



The front cover of *Summoning the Dead*.

event on Thursday October 20 at 7.30pm.

Published by Black & White Publishing, it is the third case for Ayr Detective Inspector (DI) Bob Valentine and it could not be more relevant to today's times as it is inspired by a real life, shocking case.

Set in Ayrshire, the book begins with a young child being found mummified in a barrel. His hands, cable-tied, appear to be locked in prayer. As forensic officers remove the boy they are in for an even bigger shock – he is not alone. With his near-fatal stabbing almost a memory, DI Bob Valentine is settling back into life on the force but he knows nothing will ever be the same.

Haunted by unearthly visions that appear like wak-

ing dreams, he soon understands he is being inducted into one of Scotland's darkest secrets. When the boy in the barrel is identified as a missing child from the 1980s, it re-opens a cold case that was previously thought unsolvable. When further remains are unearthed, the facts point to a paedophile ring and a political conspiracy that leads to the most hallowed corridors of power.

The publishers say *Summoning the Dead* is 'a police procedural with a paranormal edge from Irvine Welsh's favourite British crime writer'.

Shortlist magazine has described Black as: 'The new Scottish noir king you need on your bookshelf ... twisty crime fiction at its best' and the Daily Mail said:

'Amongst the best of the new Tartan noir'.

Black, 44, is the author of 13 books, most recently *A Taste of Ashes*, the second novel in his DI Bob Valentine series. He has been nominated for six CWA Daggers and was runner up in The Guardian's Not the Booker prize for *The Last Tiger*. He was one of four authors shortlisted for the prestigious CWA's Dagger in the Library Award, a prize awarded to an author for their body of work, announced to Tuesday, but did not win the overall title.

An award-winning journalist, he was born in Australia and grew up in Scotland and Ireland. He moved to Arran from Mossblown in Ayrshire 18 months ago and now lives in Kildonan.



Crime writer Tony Black.

At the event on Thursday October 20 at 7.30pm in Brodick Library drinks and refreshments will be provided.

This event is free and

everyone is welcome. *Summoning the Dead* is available in paperback priced £7.99 as well as on Kindle and signed copies will be for sale on the night.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Troon ready for port fight

It looks like Troon is ready to make a solid move to try to secure the main Arran ferry route.

The detail of the proposals highlighted in the *Banner* this week show this is no pie-in-the-sky plan. Associated British Ports, owner and operator of the Port of Troon, has done its homework – and its sums, coming up with an £8 million investment plan for a new pier and terminal building.

The fact that Transport Scotland has confirmed an approach has been made to it and that it has gone as far as being discussed by new transport and islands minister Humza Yousaf with community leaders on Arran shows this is already well off the starting blocks.

And ABP has come out fighting, saying Ardrossan is 'dogged by weather conditions' disrupting services, while extolling the 'uniquely sheltered harbour' Troon offers.

Of course Transport Scotland is keen to point out this is only a proposal and says it is keen 'in the first instance' to try to resolve the issues at Ardrossan with the ministerial taskforce which has been set up. However, it admits 'no options are off the table', which will give Troon hope.

The Caledonian Isles has already had successful sea trials at Troon and a next generation CalMac ferry is presently being built at Port Glasgow for the Brodick to Ardrossan route, which Troon says it is already equipped to handle. It says the new boat could make the 18 nautical miles to Troon in 66 minutes – 10 minutes longer than the present service – and says the town offers good road and rail links. But is that strictly true?

Troon is much further south than Ardrossan, so logistically it is going to take longer to get to Glasgow, Edinburgh or anywhere further north.

However, it is good to see another port throw its hat into the ring and it will be interesting to see how Ardrossan harbour owner Peel Ports reacts.

Could it be all change by the time the new ferry arrives?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.' (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

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

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your letters

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Letters to the Editor



Stop this eyesore

Sir,
Following John Campbell's letter in last week's *Banner*, we, the Arran Civic Trust, are also very concerned that planning has been given for five wind turbines to be placed at either end of Holy Island.

This has been approved by the planning department of North Ayrshire Council (NAC) and not even considered by the planning committee of elected council members.

The planners have ridden roughshod over the views of the local community. There were objections from the Arran Community Council, the Arran Civic Trust and approximately 100 other protesters.

Holy Island is a Scottish Heritage Island with much history attached to it, and NAC, despite its decision, refers to it as a 'landscape of high sensitivity'.

It is indeed an important part of the Arran landscape where no other wind turbines are allowed. What now can be done to stop this eyesore which will affect everyone who comes to the island?

Yours,
John Inglis,
chairman, Arran Civic Trust, and members
John Roberts, Caroline Fleming, Sally Campbell, Lavinia Gibbs and David Scott.

Parking plea

Sir,
Parking at the ferry terminal has obviously become increasingly difficult in recent months for obvious reasons and more so for those who are less mobile.

Could I through your columns ask drivers kindly not to use the few disabled spaces reserved for blue badge holders? Last week we were

at the car park at 7.30am and, although we did manage to get the last space, a quick check showed none of the cars occupying the spaces displayed the required badge. This is often the case.

Blue badges are not awarded lightly but only to those in great need. Please if you have good pain-free legs, use them and leave these spaces for those who really need them.

Yours,
Norma Davidson, Brodick.

Train challenge

Sir,
I had to laugh at the article last week's *Banner* on the Ardrossan train delays.

It just smacked of a politician looking to get his name in the local press. He quotes many statistics about trains terminating late at Ardrossan South Beach and Ardrossan Town without stating that only two trains per day terminate at South Beach, and neither on every day of the week.

One train per day terminates at Town at 11.03pm, some time after the last ferry has left. So, not too much to worry about there. Surely the measure is how many times the train fails to deliver people to the ferry? Not very often, so where is the issue?

However, if MSP Neil Bibby wants a real issue to address, then perhaps the connections between the ferry and the trains would appeal. Ever since electrification, the train service from Ardrossan Harbour has been determined by the timings of the Largs and Ayr services. Untangling this will be very difficult but perhaps Mr Bibby would be up for the challenge?

Yours,
Lyn Rowley, Torbeg.

School bus goodbye

Sir,
I would like to say a big thank you to all the pupils who have travelled on the String school bus in the morning.

Your behaviour has been exemplary and I will miss you all.

Thank you for all of your cards, presents and good wishes. All the best for the future.

Yours,
Iain Hendry, Brodick.

Breakdown help

Sir,
I would like to say a big thank you to all who helped when my car broke down near Whiting Bay two weeks ago. The help was most appreciated.

Yours,
Norma Russell, Brodick.

Kind hospitality

Sir,
I would like to thank the Rev Angus Adamson, John Lauder and all at St Bride's Church in Brodick for their kind hospitality and welcome I received at their recent coffee morning held on

September 21. Look forward to meeting up again next year.

Yours,
Gordon Waddell, Airdrie.

Grateful thanks

Sir,
Through your pages can I send my grateful thanks to the lovely person who found my purse sitting on a bench on Lamlash Green on Sunday October 9.

You took the time and trouble to hand it in to Lamlash police station on a beautiful sunny afternoon and it was returned to me that evening.

I don't know who you are but I would like to thank you. I am very appreciative of your kindness, honesty and help.

Yours,
Alison Page, Lamlash.

Painting puzzle

Sir,
I am wondering if anyone could identify the house in the painting I have. It is in Kildonan Bay and was painted by David Dunn around 1900.

Yours,
Fiona Hannay, Blanefield.



Does anyone know where this house is?

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Arran is in good hands, says new council leader

Arran's economy, its challenges and its future direction were the topics of choice last week when new North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane spent a day on the island.

The visit formed part of Joe's plans to get out into the local area and meet some of the businesses, groups and individuals making a positive difference in their community. He became council leader when Labour took over the administration of the council last month.

Arran was the first port of call and Councillor Cullinane ensured that a jam-packed agenda was prepared to make the most of his trip over on Tuesday October 4.

First stop was the Arran Outdoor Education Centre, where both the leader and Councillor Jim Montgomerie, cabinet member for place, were warmly welcomed by centre manager Ian Staples for a tour of the facility and introduction to some of the staff.

The visit also included a stop at Brodick Castle, where the leader got a chance to see the centre's services in action as pupils from Dalry Primary were getting ready to take part in an orienteering task.

Councillor Cullinane said: 'I was lucky that my trip tied in with the delivery of a residential outdoor learning programme as it gave me the chance to see first-hand how the team deliver their services.'

'The level of commitment and passion that each and every member of the team displayed was incredible. This was evident in everyone from the centre's busar, Elizabeth Faulkner, who had just celebrated 21 years' service, right through to their modern apprentices. In fact, it was one young modern apprentice



Elizabeth Faulkner is celebrating 21 years' service.

in particular, Raiyan Strachan, who impressed me the most. I watched as she prepared the group of Dalry pupils for their orienteering course, and you'd think with her knowledge and confidence that she had been in the job for years.'

The leader then chatted with some of the team over lunch of soup and scones handmade by their catering team, and got to hear how the centre had been transformed in recent years with the introduction of ambitious new manager Ian Staples. His vision for the cen-

tre has seen a whole host of services added to its offering, from residential outdoor learning programmes for schools, to leisure holiday packages for couples and families. It also provides all-important conference and meeting space for island residents – and it even hosted its very first wedding ceremony only a few weeks ago.

After lunch, Joe then travelled to the Douglas Hotel to meet Arran Economic Group's development director Sheena Borthwick-Toomey.

Sheena described some of the exciting projects and ideas currently being undertaken or developed for the island, all 24 of them. Projects such as Brodick harbour, Market Road, transportation and affordable housing were discussed. She also spoke about the work being done to ensure Arran's residents stay connected to the rest of the world through high-speed internet connectivity, particularly through utilising 'white space' technology.

Councillor Cullinane said: 'Meeting Sheena was both thought-provoking and inspiring, to say the least. The talent and skills of those involved in the Arran Economic Group is vast and they all have the same underlying desire to make Arran the very best it can be for both residents and visitors.'

'They have some impressive and creative ideas that could help address some of the issues that island-living brings and I look forward to hearing how these ideas develop.'

The last stop of the day was the Auchrannie Resort, where the leader met executive director Linda Johnston to discuss the development of the resort to date, plans for its future and to get a tour of the expansive grounds.

He said: 'With an average of 200,000 visitors during the summer period alone, it's no surprise that Arran's tourism sector is the island's cornerstone industry.'

'It's therefore really encouraging to see business-

es like the Auchrannie Resort going from strength to strength. They've expanded their business ten-fold over almost 30 years in operation to provide high-quality, luxurious services. And this is thanks to the ambitious team who don't let a good opportunity pass by.'

Speaking about his visit to Arran, he added: 'I am hugely encouraged to see first-hand the commitment and effort Arran residents and businesses are putting in to improving the island.'

'It was a really worthwhile trip and I look forward to keeping in touch with those I met and hearing all about their future developments. I'm confident that Arran is in really good hands with these dedicated organisations.'



The council leader is pictured with Ian Staples of the Arran Outdoor Centre and other staff with the Holy Isle behind them.

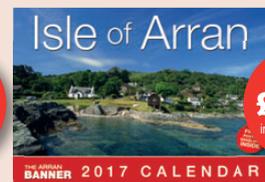


Sheena Borthwick-Toomey of the Arran Economic Group met with Councillor Cullinane.

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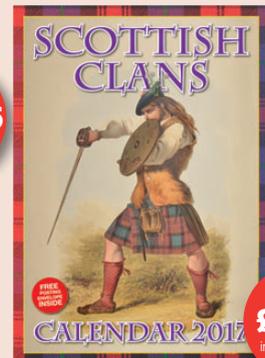


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David demonstrates the rings onto which padlocks can be attached at the shelter called Sea Love. 01_B41bus 05



Sea Art features works of other artists including local landscape artist Angela Elliott-Walker. 01_B41bus 07



Artist David Aitchison with the first of the completed bus shelters - Sea Life - finished

The wait is over completes bus

Words and pictures by COLIN SMEETON
Whiting Bay artist David Aitchison has recently finished painting murals on the last of the four historic bus shelters in Whiting Bay. The first one, entitled Sea Life, was completed two years ago and came about after the Whiting Bay Im-

provements Committee decided to save the last of four old bus shelters and to decorate them. Originally six existed throughout the village but two were demolished, and the remainder required urgent remedial work and sprucing up. Self-taught artist David, who has lived in Whiting

Bay for 43 years and who has now retired, originally took on the challenge as an experiment, being more accustomed to photo-realistic art and architectural drawings. With helpful advice and sourcing of the speciality paints from Marriott's Building Supplies, he has painted the shelters as they have been repaired, using various local influences, views, contributions and symbolisms. The shelter known as Sea Art features faithful reproductions of artworks submitted by Whiting Bay Primary School pupils and four separate images in various painting styles including Scottish artist Jack Vettriano who has seen a photograph of the reproduction and who has given his permission and blessings for it to be used after he



Sea Love features an iconic view from Sandbraes towards the old church. 01_B41bus 06

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er as artist shelter murals

was contacted by David's wife Aileen. On the side of the shelter is another tribute to local landscape artist Angela Elliott-Walker.

Sea Love, which continues with the coastal theme, is the second shelter before entering Whiting Bay from Lamlash and is dedicated to love and peace and includes two rings on which padlocks symbolising eternal love can be attached.

This is a bright and cheery bus shelter that features a rainbow and doves and an iconic view of Whiting Bay church as viewed from Sandbraes.

The fourth and final shelter, the artist's favourite and possibly the most-loved in the community, is the Kingscross shelter known as Sea History. This shel-

ter, which features an iconic view over the bay, is in the style of 1930 railway adverts with the lettering in period style and a typical slogan type of the era saying 'Whiting Bay - The Jewel of the Clyde'.

Paying homage to the area's Viking heritage, the shelter also features a painting of King Hakon of Nor-

way and one of Scotland's Robert the Bruce.

David said: 'I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to complete these murals and it is extremely gratifying they have been so well received by the community and visitors to the village. I have really enjoyed doing them. They add something unique to the village.'



Sea Art incorporates the work of Jack Vettriano and submissions from Whiting Bay Primary School pupils. 01_B41bus 03



Explaining the various elements of the design, David shows how he painted the COAST logo. 01_B41bus 02



Sea History is painted in the style of 1930s railway adverts. 01_B41bus 04

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Learning about recreating a valley of wooded wilderness



Members of the ecology planning group inspect peat erosion in Rotten Bottom.

At a meeting of Arran Natural History Society on October 6, John Savory gave an illustrated presentation on The Carrifran Wildwood Project.

John is a zoology graduate of Aberdeen University. He did his PhD research at Banchory into feeding ecology of red grouse and then had a long career as a poultry scientist researching aspects of their behaviour, welfare and physiology. But his first love was always ecology and in his retirement he feels fortunate to be involved in this Borders Forest Trust's project.

The Carrifran project is seeking to recreate a valley of wooded wilderness in the Southern Uplands with the rich diversity of native species that existed there thousands of years ago before human activities became dominant. The 1,500 acre valley in the Moffat Hills was bought through the hard work of a dedicated team of volunteers and the help of many generous supporters.

On January 1 2000 the purchase was completed, entry to the land gained and the first tree was planted at Carrifran.

Since the start of planting in 2000, more than half a million saplings have been planted. These were derived from seeds collected locally by volunteers, which were mostly then cell-grown in compost plugs by commercial nurseries with stock control procedures rigorous enough to ensure that

only plants from the project's own seeds were planted. Five years is the period normally considered necessary to reach establishment, but on the high ground at Carrifran they find seven or even more years are sometimes needed.

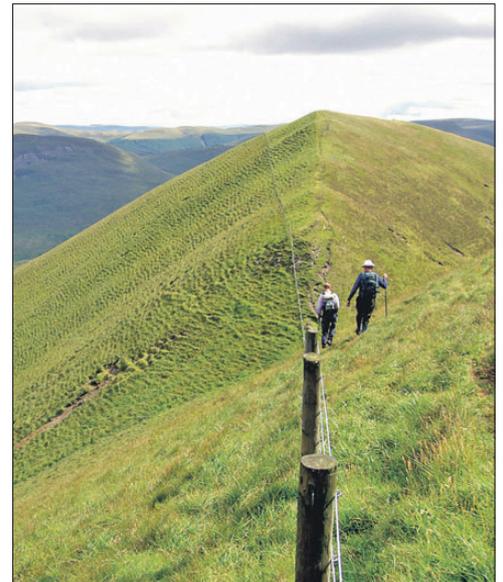
The first ecological restoration project of its kind, it is hoped the Carrifran Wildwood will be an inspiration and an educational resource to many over the next millennium.

John described the background to the Carrifran Wildwood story, the location and purchase of the site, the planting of 600,000 trees and shrubs over a decade and the biological re-

cording there. He then concentrated on describing the gradual colonisation by woodland birds in the developing woodland, based on systematic annual surveys and incidental records.

It was a fascinating evening, with an interesting side story: 6,000 years ago, in the peat bogs of Rotten Bottom at Carrifran a yew hunting bow was abandoned for reasons no-one will ever know.

There it remained, preserved in the peat, until it was found by a hill walker in 1990. The bow is the oldest discovered in Britain and is now on display in the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh.



Checking the boundary fence along Saddle Yoke, the narrowest ridge in the Southern Uplands.

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Pension inequality campaign support from MP Patricia

Patricia Gibson, MP for North Ayrshire and Arran, held a street stall in Brodick earlier this month to collect signatures in support of a Westminster petition.

The stall was one of a series held across the constituency urging the UK government to make transitional arrangements for all women born in the 1950s on or after April 6 1951 who have what she describes as 'unfairly borne the burden of the increase in state pension age'.

The petition was presented to Parliament this week. Mrs Gibson said: 'The principle behind equalising the state pension age is something that all parties support.'

However, any levelling must be done honestly and

responsibly, something absent from the UK government's strategy thus far. The state pension is not a benefit, it is a contract, and in terms of women born in the 1950s, the UK Tory government has broken that contract. This has affected 4,800 women in my own constituency of North Ayrshire and Arran.

'This injustice has inspired many to speak out against the Tories' ill-advised plans.

'None has been more vocal than the Women Against State Pension Inequality campaign group.

Their strength and conviction contributed in no small part to the matter being debated at Westminster on several occasions.

'Last week the SNP pub-

lished independently commissioned research proving that Tory figures, supposedly illustrating the 'unaffordable' cost of such a transition, are entirely false.

'The Tories can afford to right the wrong that is impacting upon millions of women because they are being refused access to their pension and, in the interests of social justice, must take immediate action.

'The response from the public to this petition has been very positive.

On Arran alone, hundreds of signatures were collected. There is an understanding these women have suffered a cruel injustice and this petition will send a clear signal to the UK Government that it must think again.'



MP Patricia Gibson joins pension campaigners on Arran.

Sean gets behind winter campaign to curb the misery of burst pipes

Scottish Water is urging householders and businesses to think ahead and follow its simple winter code to protect their pipes, and keep the water cycle running smoothly, before any spells of cold weather this winter.

Their new winter campaign recommends a three-point guide to help avoid the misery, inconvenience and cost of failing to be prepared and take measures to prevent frozen or burst pipes caused by freezing conditions.

The Scottish Water winter code advises anyone with a home, holiday home or business premises to take action to heat, insulate and protect their prop-

erties, whether the property is old or new, ahead of any cold weather.

The campaign is being backed by Sean Batty, the STV weather forecaster, who said: 'The winters of 2009-10 and 2010-11 were characterised by cold, snowy conditions, which brought numerous problems across the country. Since then, we have avoided really cold conditions but instead we've had milder and stormier weather which, of course, brings its own issues. In recent winters, we've had more storm and flood damage as opposed to ice and snow.'

'So, in the last seven years we've had swings from severe cold and ice to severe

storms and floods. This recent experience tells us that we must be prepared for all the elements that can be thrown at us during the winter. It's important sensible and simple actions are taken to protect our homes and businesses against mother nature.'

Campaign

Scottish Water's winter campaign is being supported by an information leaflet - available to download at www.scottishwater.co.uk/winter - that provides important and helpful guidance on what steps to take to help prevent a frozen or burst pipe, how to locate a stop valve, what to do in an emergency and how Scottish Water can help.

This year, Scottish Water is also offering a free stop valve sticker, allowing property owners the chance to write the name and contact number of their local licensed plumber so that it is handily placed in case of emergency.

Customers should visit www.scottishwater.co.uk/winter where they can find winter information, films and advice.



Sean Batty is backing the Scottish Water winter campaign.

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The time to expect the unexpected

September was warmer than the same month last year, with mean temperature almost two degrees higher.

But it was wetter with more than twice the amount of rain. It was a little drier than the previous two

months, but not by much. September is the start of the peak migration season, when many birds are on the move. A wide range of species - more than 100 - were recorded during the month. It was certainly the time to expect the unexpected. The

highlight was the first record this year of great crested grebe. Two were seen off shore close to the Fallen Rocks car park on September 23. It is an occasional passage migrant and winter visitor not recorded every year. Other unusual records included an osprey photographed over Glen Chalmadale on 10th with another sighting of perhaps the same bird at Sliderry on 11th and four brent geese at the mouth of the Rosa and Cloy burns on 21st.

Other birds on migration included: 22 black-throated diver off Cosyden on 6th, 70 turnstone at Machriewaterfoot also on 6th, 14 dunlin at Blackwaterfoot on 7th, 20 redshank at Sandbraes also on 7th, one sandwich tern in Whiting Bay



There have been almost unprecedented numbers of Black-throated diver on migration. Photo James Bryson.



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
FOR SEPTEMBER

Bar-tailed godwit: one of many migrant species recorded. Photo Nick Giles

on 10th, eight wheatear at Drumadoon Point on 16th, one Bar-tailed godwit on Shannochie shore on 20th and a greenshank at Cordon on 23rd.

At this time of year birds begin to flock together, often in preparation for migration. Reports included: 200 ringed plover at Machriewaterfoot on 6th, 80 kittiwake in Brodick Bay on 7th, 100 swallow at Balmichael on 15th, 40 goldfinch in Sliderry on 16th, 100 gannet in Whiting Bay on 17th, 152 golden plover at Machriewaterfoot also on 17th, 100 skylark on Cleats Shore on 18th, 300 linnets on Cleats Shore on 21st, 800 manx shearwater off Cosyden on 23rd, 60 pied wagtail on Silver Sands on 25th and 100 starling in Cosyden on 30th. This gives an indication of the numbers of birds that are on the move at this time of year.

Some of our winter visitors began to be reported including: 37 rook in Sliderry on 20th and four wigeon at Cosyden on 23rd. On 11th September there was a report of 58 greylag geese in Shiskine. Whether these were part of the increasing population of naturalised geese that are on Arran all year or early migrants arriving from the north is not known.

Having said that, some summer visitors were still around including: spotted flycatcher at Auchenhew on 11th, whitethroat in Sliderry on 16th, chiffchaff in Lamlash on 17th, sedge warbler in Cordon on 18th, willow warbler in Sliderry on 20th and lesser black-

backed gull in Dougarie on 22nd. The following are the last September reports of the hirundines: six sand martin in Sliderry on 22nd, 10 house martin in Sliderry on 30th and five Swallow in Kilpatrick also on 30th. October should see the last of the house martins and swallows departing south.

Other sightings this month included: 10 common scoter at Cosyden on 6th, 25 black-headed gull at Blackwaterfoot on 7th, one common crossbill in Sliderry on 14th, one puffin south of Pladda on 15th, 13 lapwing on Sliderry Shore on 17th and a little grebe by the Fisherman's Walk on 22nd.

In addition, the Arran Black Grouse Group released a further 40 black grouse.

To try to monitor these birds some have radio tags. Kate Sampson, head ranger at Brodick Country Park, would be delighted to have a note of any sightings of black grouse.

Finally, my thanks to all the 'volunteers' who took part in the eider survey in September.

Total number of birds recorded round Arran was 116, a similar number to last year. Ten years ago it was more than 600.

There was almost total coverage of the Arran coastline. The data on the eider survey contributes to the ongoing research of Chris Waltho who has been monitoring eider in the Clyde Estuary for more than 20. The population trend is down but may be stabilising. For the latest report from Chris visit this website. http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/files/clyde_eider_news_no_14_aug_2016.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 2014 and visit www.arranbirding.co.uk



Black grouse more birds have been released by the Arran Black Grouse Group as part of a re-introduction programme. Photo: Dennis Morrison.

Twenty years ago

If you are looking for the 20 years ago feature please be assured it will be back next week. Back then, The Banner took a two-week break in October, so we do not have any material for the page this week. Apologies, but it will return.

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Public Notices

KILBRIDE BENEVOLENT FUND
Annual General Meeting
To be held in Lamlash Church Hall
At 7.30 pm on
Thursday 3rd November, 2016
All are welcome to attend
Scottish Charity No. SC001184

Shiskine & Machrie Senior Citizens Committee AGM
Tuesday 25th October at 7.30 pm
Kinloch Hotel
All welcome

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

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

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 04.11.16. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

Format: Application No; Address; Proposed Development

16/00879/PP; Levancorach Farm, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of two detached dwelling houses.

16/00922/PP; Site Opposite Ibrox Cottage, Whiting Bay, Brodick; Amendment to planning approval N/12/00530/PP to alter site layout including plot access and amendment to elevations of house type 1.

16/00954/PP; Village Shop, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Formation of terrace and installation of gabions and armoured rock infill to form sea defence.

16/00936/PP; Site to the north of Plantree, Kings Cross, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of two one and a half storey dwelling houses.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE


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The Pink Day at Shiskine Golf Club was well attended and raised £430.



Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday October 6, front nine medal. 1 Scott Campbell 38-6.5=31.5, 2 Colin Richardson 41-8=33, 3 Dougie MacFarlane 35+0.5=35.5. Scratch D MacFarlane 35. Magic

twos, C Richardson. Sunday October 9, Glenburn Cup, CSS 64, par 64. 1 Michael MacFarlane 81-18=63, 2 Scott MacFarlane 75-11=64, 3 Alan Smith 77-12=65. Scratch Scott MacFarlane BIH over Andrew Wales. Magic twos, Alan Smith, Billy O'Connor and Ian Bremner.

Ladies Section: Wednesday October 10, medal 9, CSS 64, nine played. 1 Yvonne Brothers 81-19=62, 2 Alison Heron 88-22=66. Scratch Yvonne Brothers 81. Magic twos Alison Heron @16th.

Saturday October 8, Medal final. Due to holidays and family commitments only Alison Heron and Yvonne Brothers played.

Neither lady excelled themselves in the front nine but taking handicaps into account Yvonne was two strokes ahead. Yvonne was level fours for the next seven holes and Alison was one over fours.

Yvonne got into trouble at the 17th so going into the 18th it was all to play for. Again Yvonne put herself in a bit of trouble and Alison played steadily to win by one shot.

A most enjoyable game played on an excellent day for golf.

Well done Alison on win-



Lesley Murray, Alice Anderson and Gay MacKay won at the Pink Day at Shiskine in tough conditions.

ning the Macgill Cup. Fixture: Sunday October 16, Glenburn Cup at 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday October 20, back nine medal, make up own games, see starter for times.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday October 3, Monday Cup. In the first round of the Monday Cup Raymond Burke led the way with an excellent net 56 which strangely must have been slightly disappointing as he was out in a gross 29.

Len Hartley was runner up on 59 which would be good enough to win normally. 1 R Burke 68-12=56.

Saturday October 8, sweep. 1 A Napier 65-6=59, 2 D Logan 70-10=60. Magic twos, D Logan x 3, A Napier x 2.

Fixture: Saturday October 29, Corrie Open. A reminder to Arran golfers to go along and enjoy the Corrie course.

Arrange your own matches and tee off between 8.30am and 1pm. Big prizes.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday October 1, Lochranza Hotel Cup, CSS 65 R/O. 1 B Sherwood 34pts BIH, 2 C Laing 34, 3 P Betley 33.

Tuesday Oct 4, Winter Cup. 1 H Bannatyne 71-6=65, 2 P Betley 78-12=66, 3 C Laing 86-17=69.

Fixtures: Tuesday October 18, Lochranza Hotel Cup at 12 noon. Saturday October 22, Eddie Rankin, gents at 1pm, shotgun start.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday October 5, Wednesday cup. The winner was Derek Roxburgh with Bryce Walker the runner up. C O'Neil had the only magic two at the difficult eighth.

Sunday 2 October, Brandon. 15 played, CSS 65. Iain Keen 79-14=65, Alistair Hume 76-11=65, Terry Raeside 75-10=65. Scratch Matt Keir 72.

Sunday 9 October, Winter Cup, Stableford. 19 played, RO. Kenny McMillan (13) 43pts, Terry Raeside (10) 40pts, Gordon Morris (17) 39pts.

Fixture: Sunday October 26: new look Clochdichter. Details in clubhouse and on club facebook page.



Lamlash captain Jennifer McArthur presents the Macgill Cup to Alison Heron with runner up Yvonne Brothers.



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Last gasp Arran clinch win against tough Moffat side

Isle of Arran 35 Moffat Rams 32

Arran welcomed the Borders team to Ormidale Park last Saturday, needing to bounce back after back to back defeats away from home.

It was a middle of the table clash with both teams looking to advance further up the league. Arran, who last year had several retirements, have now lost three of their players who have gone travelling to North America and Canada, further weak-

ening the team. However, there was no sign of being under strength as they took the game to a tough looking Moffat outfit in a closely fought first half.

Seconds

Things remained even for much of the second half but it looked like Arran were heading for another defeat being four points down and only seconds remaining on the referee's watch.

However, the home side were awarded a penalty behind their 22 and Niall Mc-

Master, who must have had a 100 stone hanging off him, crossed the line for a try to win the game. Sam Tattersfield then slotted the conversion home to give Arran a narrow, but vital, three point win.

Arran travel to Bishop-ton today (Saturday) who sit four places beneath them second bottom of the league, but they won't be complacent as they lost to the bottom side Police Scotland-Glasgow two weeks ago.



Arran jump highest at the lineout. 01_A42rugby05



A determined Moffat player tries to catch an Arran forward. 01_A42rugby03



It takes two to try and wrestle the ball from Sam Tattersfield. 01_A42rugby04



Murray Boal shouts encouragement from the sideline at a scrum. 01_A42rugby12



Arran look to have the ball over the line, but it was chalked off. 01_A42rugby10

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