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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 22 OCTOBER, 2016

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Cremation plan is mooted to ease pressure on graveyards

It is estimated four of the island's cemeteries will be full in six years

A proposal to consider building a crematorium on Arran is being explored.

The move comes after a study into the islands graveyards found that four of them will reach their capacity in just six years. Now North Ayrshire Council is to consider the feasibility of building a crematorium on the island, to ease the pressure on the islands graveyards.

At present any cremation has to be held on the mainland, usually at Holmsford Bridge near Dreg-horn or Masonhill outside Ayr. But if there is also a church service on Arran, this whole process can take two days, leading to further stress on the bereaved.

At a recent meeting of Arran Community Council Councillor John Bruce gave details of a cemetery report which has been produced outlining the future capacity of Arran's six cemeteries.

This led to a discussion about the possibility of a small crematorium being created which Councillor Bruce said he would raise with North Ayrshire Council's director of place Craig Hatton.

REPORT
by **HUGH BOAG**
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Councillor Bruce said: 'This is a sensitive issue but a crematorium is certainly a serious question which should be investigated.'

It is estimated four of the island's cemeteries will be full in six years. Brodick New Cemetery has 32 lairs left, Kilbride Cemetery in Lamlash has nine, Sannox Cemetery has seven, while Shiskine New Cemetery has 10 lairs remaining.

Efficient use
The council's estates team have looked at all six cemeteries on the island to try to find a more efficient use of space within the current layout, including the potential creation of additional lairs through a number of activities such as the removal of shrub beds, trees or buildings.

There is no issue with Arran's other two cemeteries. Kilmory Churchyard has 190 remaining lairs and, with an average of just two burials a year, is expected to last 95 years. Lochranza has a 142 lairs and also, with two burials a year, is

expected to last 71 years.

Clair Hendry of Hendry Funeral Services in Brodick has doubts, however, a crematorium on Arran would prove financially viable.

'On average we arrange 60 to 70 funerals a year, less than half of which are cremations, so I have my doubts if a crematorium would really be financially viable. I have no doubt it would be used, but the running costs would have to be seriously considered,' she said adding that cremations were more popular among people who have come to the island than those who were born and bred here.

'If it were council run I suppose it could be operated by the existing cemeteries staff and only open on days when it was required. Alternatively a private operator like Dignity, who operate the Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, may be interested.'

The cost of cremations has risen sharply in recent years with Holmsford Bridge now charging £885 and the South Ayrshire Council run Masonhill nearly £800.

A council spokeswoman

Continued on page 2



Ramsay Muirhead, Annique Armstrong, Malcolm Roughead and John Quinn in front of the new Brodick ferry terminal. 01_A43visit02

New ferry terminal is fantastic facility

VisitScotland chief executive Malcolm Roughead visited Arran on Wednesday his first stop was the new Brodick ferry terminal which he described as a 'fantastic facility for the island'.

He was given a tour of the site by Caledonian Marine Assets Ltd (CMAL) head of civil engineering Ramsay Muirhead and construction project manager John Quinn to hear about the progress of the project.

And afterwards he told the Banner: 'The emphasis is very much on the experience for the visitors and locals alike and the way it is being developed is very forward looking to ensure a positive all round experience.'

Malcolm, who was joined on his trip

by VisitScotland regional director Annique Armstrong, then went to the Arran Outdoor Education Centre before having lunch at The Douglas Hotel with VisitArran and the Arran Economic Group followed by a round the table discussion with a group of island business owners and entrepreneurs. He then visited the Brodick iCentre before leaving on the ferry.

His first Arran trip is the latest in Malcolm's 'listening tour' visits around the country. The visits enable him to see and experience some of the latest local tourism developments, engage with industry representatives and also provide them with an opportunity to speak directly to him.



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Graveyards with nowhere to expand

Continued from page 1
said: 'Following a discussion with Councillor Bruce about the possibility of a crematorium being introduced on Arran, we will carry out some research to establish if this is a cost-effective proposal.'

The council report into the Arran cemeteries stated:

Brodick New Cemetery
There are 32 lairs remaining and it is estimated that five new lairs are required per year. Therefore it has capacity for another six years. The land available within the cemetery is

challenging to manage given its topography. However, further work will be carried out to test the site to ascertain if more plots can be made available. The estates team has reviewed options for acquiring land in the area, but none has been identified that is suitable for a cemetery. This work will continue.

The plan is therefore to test dig land within the existing cemetery to assess its suitability for burials; continue to review potential sites within Brodick and, if none of the above is possible, burials be accommodated at Kilbride Cemetery, Lamlash.

Kilbride Cemetery, Lamlash

There are nine lairs remaining and, as it is estimated that 17 new lairs are required per year, it therefore has capacity for another six months.

The cemetery is being extended and the land adjacent to the graveyard is being purchased from the Church of Scotland. At a cost of around £700,000, this will provide an additional 436 plots and will extend the capacity of the cemetery for another 22 years.

This takes account of addi-



The topography of Brodick New Cemetery is a challenge. 01_A42cemetary01

tional burials from Brodick, if required.

Sannox Cemetery

There are seven lairs remaining and it is estimated that three new lairs are required per year, so it therefore has capacity for another two years. There is no means of extending the cemetery and no scope to increase capacity by removing shrub beds, trees, buildings, paths and roads.

The estates team has reviewed options for acquir-

ing land in the area, but none has been identified that is suitable for a cemetery as the surrounding land is boggy. There was an offer of land adjacent to the cemetery to be gifted to the council, but this was not considered to be suitable for burials. It is therefore proposed that once the cemetery is full, burials be accommodated at Lochranza Churchyard which has capacity for the long term. While it is acknowledged

there are issues in Lochranza Churchyard due to a high water table, burials can still be accommodated in a number of areas within the churchyard.

Shiskine New Cemetery

There are 10 lairs remaining and it is estimated that three new lairs are required per year, so it therefore has capacity for another three years.

There is no means of extending the cemetery and no scope to increase capac-

ity by removing shrub beds, trees, buildings, paths and roads.

The estates team has reviewed options for acquiring land in the area, but none has been identified that is suitable for a cemetery as the surrounding land is very wet.

It is therefore proposed that once the cemetery is full, burials be accommodated at Kilmory Churchyard which has capacity for the long term.



Councillor John Bruce.

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It pays to advertise in the Banner

Danielle raises funds for Alzheimer's charity

A fundraising event held at Lamlash church hall last Saturday raised more than £634 for Alzheimer's Scotland. The coffee morning was well attended by visi-

tors and supporters, including Cooriedoon residents who enjoyed a large variety of cakes, pancakes and other treats, as well as a prize draw.

The event was organised by care worker Danielle Hughes who said: 'Alzheimer Scotland is a charity that is dear to my heart and something that I

am passionate about, particularly as my father was diagnosed with dementia last year aged 52.

'I would like to say a big thank you to the many people who supported the event and to everyone including local businesses that donated prizes. Well done to the raffle winners, it was a fantastic day all round.'



Left: Cooriedoon residents enjoy a cup of tea and cakes with Danielle Hughes, in white, and other care workers. 01A_B43church02



A wide variety of tasty and tempting treats were available at the fundraiser. 01A_B43church01

Reward offered

A reward is being offered for the return of a pair of black Oakley sunglasses and a National Trust of Scotland bag of magazines and personal belongings, both lost in Brodick.

The items were lost at different times but by the same owner who would love to hear from anyone who might have found either of them. Alan Dunn of Largs can be contacted on 07791 992335.

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Committee is working hard

While the main activity this year focused on the beach, the annual general meeting of Brodick Improvements Committee also reviewed its other activities.

These were varied and the chairman thanked and recognised the generous support from residents and visitors over the last year.

The New Year ceilidh was again supported by the String Road Pot Hole ceilidh band and was a popular event to start the year. The band covered the usual seven week summer ceilidhs which proved popular with visitors.

The treasurer's report showed that the summer ceilidhs had generated a small profit but the committee agreed the main aim was to provide a 'good experience' for visitors coming to the island. The summer activities concluded with a delayed beach BBQ which was enjoyed by local and visitors.

The committee was all re-elected and the meeting closed at 8.15pm with the chairman recognising all the individuals on the committee for their work.

Sad sight as bags are exposed again at Brodick beach

Public support will see defence work start

Public donations will allow work to start on sea defence work at Brodick beach, the annual meeting of Brodick Improvements Committee heard last week.

And it can't come soon enough. As our pictures show, a lot of the sand laid over the summer has already been washed away leaving the geotextile bags exposed again, even before the start of the winter storms.

As previously reported in *The Banner*, the committee in July launched a crowdfunding initiative with a view to raising an initial £5,000 for beach improvements.

But members heard that in just four months the JustGiving page had raised almost £9,000 'very generous' support from more than 120 individuals and

businesses. This appeal will close on October 27 which, together with some other donations from businesses and residents who preferred to use conventional methods to donate with cash and cheque, will enable the committee to purchase rock armour and install an initial stage of the rock groyne.

Services

The committee also recognised that several groups had supported the work by providing services rather than financial contributions and the community will benefit from their selflessness. Chairman Harry Davidson said he specifically wished to acknowledge these very generous donations.

North Ayrshire Council supported the application to Marine Scotland to erect groynes and replace the sand and George Leslie Ltd supplied a large quantity of sand recovered from the work at the new ferry terminal.

Members heard the committee was working with various sources for the material but availability is scarce due to demand from other building projects.

They hope to secure a supply in the next few weeks and have it delivered to the shore before the winter takes its toll.

There is concern at the loss of sand since it was spread on the beach, but since only 20 per cent of the initial 26,000 tonnes of

sand the initial licence covers it was always known it would required 'topped up'.

That is why the committee has prioritised the procurement of rock armour for the groyne as the initial structure, although damaged, appears to be partially working, but more sand will be lost over the winter.

On a positive note, it appears to be drifting out and at low tide the shore line has much more sand than the previously rocky surface and there is still a depth of sand above some of the bags on the beach.

The committee hope to get a few more loads of sand from the ferry terminal which they will store over the winter.



The geotextile bags lie exposed again as the beach crumbles into the sea.

01_A43beach01



The bags are back on the beach. 01_A43beach02

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e back on



A sad sight as the full extent of the bag exposure can be seen.



Flashback: how the beach looked when the first sand was laid in May.



The initial groyne, although damaged, is doing some good. 01_A43beach03



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Arran performers encouraged to get involved in musical talent showcase

Budding performers and musicians will be given a chance to shine at an Arran musical showcase organised by the Pierhead Tavern.

The event, at the annual Santa's Sparkle in Lamlash on Saturday November 26, offers people the chance to perform in front of a crowd with the support of professional and amateur musicians.

Entrants will be judged by a panel of judges and prizes will be awarded in three categories: young musician aged 5 to 13, teenage musicians aged 13 to 19 and adult entertainers.

To take part, an application form can be downloaded from www.thepht.co.uk where applicants can state their performance type and

song, request additional band members and any other musical accompaniments needed to complement their performance.

Jane Howe from the Pierhead Tavern has always had a passion for music and she wishes to share the enthusiasm for live music with others on Arran with this competition.

Jane said: 'Music has always played a large part of my life which is why when I had the opportunity of buying the Pierhead Tavern, I was keen to ensure music would be involved.'

Our Mellow Sunday afternoons incorporates mixed genres including classical, jazz and easy listening and includes pianists, harp players, guitars and more.'



The Arran flat at Crosshouse Hospital. Image from Google Street View

Arran flat closes at Crosshouse Hospital

... but new accommodation promised

Arran families and patients have voiced dismay at the news the relatives accommodation at University Hospital Crosshouse, known to many as the Arran flat, is to close its doors early next month.

The decision was taken because of the dilapidated state of the building, however, the chief executive of NHS Ayrshire and Arran John Burns has issued a reassurance alternative accommodation will be provided.

Located in Simpson Street within the grounds of the hospital, the two bedroomed flat was available

to island residents free of charge. It enabled visitors to be close to their loved ones when visiting the hospital or when a medical emergency left them stuck on the mainland without a place to stay.

The property comprised two rooms, each with two single beds, a kitchen, a lounge area and a bathroom.

Arran residents who used it were asked to make a donation to the Arran War Memorial Hospital in lieu of payment.

Following an inspection by hospital chiefs, the building will be closed

but Mr Burns assured patients and visitors the closure would not leave people without accommodation.

He said: 'NHS Ayrshire and Arran is committed to continuing to provide accommodation for relatives of patients who have had to travel significant distances for treatment. This includes relatives of patients who have been transferred from Arran.'

'Historically, this accommodation was provided in the grounds of University Hospital Crosshouse. Following a recent inspection of this accommodation, the flats have been deemed unsuitable for use. There is a

significant cost associated to bring these buildings up to the appropriate standard as well as ongoing maintenance costs. As a result, we have plans in place to fully vacate and decommission this accommodation by early November.

'We would like to reassure patients and their families that we will continue to provide suitable accommodation within close vicinity of University Hospital Crosshouse.'

'The details of this accommodation are currently being finalised and will be communicated directly with people who will require it in the future.'

Arran Medical Group Seasonal Flu Vaccination Programme

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

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- 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

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Loss of ferry would be cataclysmic for Ardrossan

'If a vessel can't get into Ardrossan due to weather, it can't get into Troon. The weather that affects Ardrossan affects Troon'

Ardrossan came back fighting this week after the audacious move by Troon to secure the Arran ferry route.

The new North Ayrshire Council leader Joe Cullinane called it 'predatory and disingenuous' as hastily arranged talks were held between North Ayrshire Council and Ardrossan port owner Peel Ports on Tuesday. He said the loss of the service would be 'cataclysmic' for the port.

As revealed in last week's *Banner*, Associated British Ports (ABP), the owner and operator of the Port of Troon, has approached the government offering to spend £8 million on a new pier and ferry terminal to serve the main Arran route.

Business leaders on Arran have been quick to reject the move on the grounds that it would cost more for passengers, there was no guarantee of better reliability, it would increase journey times and there were no integrated transport links in Troon. However across the island views are mixed.

Councillor Cullinane and chief executive Elma Murray met with Peel Ports' chief operating officer Gary Hodgson to examine investment options for significantly improved passenger and berthing facilities at Ardrossan for the new generation of ferries being introduced by CalMac in 2018.

Councillor Cullinane said there had been 'significant and meaningful progress' at the meeting and expressed his confidence that the economic, social and environmental case for the service being retained at Ardrossan was 'overwhelming'.

He said: 'We have been speaking to Peel Ports for several months to take forward the regeneration of the harbour and the ferry terminal, and we are greatly en-

couraged by these latest discussions.

'We are now seeking an early meeting with the Scottish transport and islands minister Humza Yousaf to underline the enormous benefits of retaining Ardrossan as the shortest, fastest and cheapest route to Arran.

'The announcement from Associated British Ports last week that they wanted to hijack the Arran service and operate it from Troon was both predatory and disingenuous. Their claim that Troon offered a more appropriate harbour simply isn't backed up by fact.

'In fact, a senior CalMac executive, speaking at a recent public meeting organised by the Arran ferry working group, stated quite clearly: 'If a vessel can't get into Ardrossan due to weather, it can't get into Troon. The weather that affects Ardrossan affects Troon.'

Peel Ports' Gary Hodgson said the reason why the service had operated successfully from Brodick to Ardrossan for more than 180 years is because it is the fastest, shortest and most convenient service linking Arran to the mainland.

He said: 'A return journey to Brodick from Troon would be significantly longer – anything between 45 and 55 minutes longer – which could seriously curtail the number of daily sailings which local people and visitors rely on.

'When you take into ac-

count the statutory Road Equivalent Tariff formula – which determines ticket prices – the additional distance means passengers or the taxpayer would have to pick up the extra cost for an inferior service.

'The introduction of two new £43.5 million CalMac hybrid ferries in 2018 represents a new era in the long-standing links between Ardrossan and Arran and we are committed to ensuring we have the appropriate facilities to complement these new vessels.

Only one of these will operate on the Arran route.

Council Cullinane added: 'A Ministerial Task Force was established earlier this year to identify and work through any issues arising from the introduction of a new 100-metre ferry vessel on the route in 2018 and ensure that the Ardrossan terminal continues to be able to support the lifeline ferry services to Arran.

'Our studies show that the ferry terminal supports 165 jobs in the area – equivalent to £4.4 million per annum in wages – and that's not counting other income to the area in the form of tourism and resident shopping patterns.

'The loss of the ferry port would be nothing short of cataclysmic for our area. We do, however, remain positive that common sense will prevail and that the Arran ferry will continue to run from Ardrossan for many, many more years to come.'

Elderly charity award bid

A charity which offers a vital lifeline of friendship to older people in the local area has had its work recognised by being shortlisted for a national award.

Contact the Elderly, which has 110 groups across Scotland, including one on Arran, is in the running for the older people's project award at The Herald Society Awards.

The ceremony will take place on Wednesday November 2 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow.



Council leader Joe Cullinane, right, at Ardrossan Harbour with Peel Ports' chief operating officer Gary Hodgson.



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THE ARRAN BANNER

A matter for serious thought

Death is never an easy topic of conversation but to have a level-headed debate about cremation and burial on the island is a sensible one.

North Ayrshire Council has put a lot of work into a report on future cemetery provision at all operational cemeteries to identify options for potentially increasing burial capacity to ensure they remain available for new interments for at least 10 years.

However, the situation on Arran is that four of our six cemeteries will be at capacity in six years and some even sooner than that. A further problem on the island appears to be that there are very limited options to extend them.

That makes consideration of a crematorium all the more pressing. Of course, it must always be the individual's choice, but looking at its feasibility is no bad thing.

With an average of 60 to 70 funerals on Arran a year, the obvious question is: would it pay for the council to run it? Possibly, if it only opened when it was required.

But there are other options. The Holmsford Bridge Crematorium at Dregghorn is a well-managed and well-run private facility owned by Dignity. So would a private firm consider a crematorium venture on Arran? It is certainly worth finding out.

Of course the burial situation will be eased by the new 436-plot extension at the Kilbride cemetery at Lamdash and there is still plenty of capacity in Kilmory and Lochranza. However, it may be concerning to some in Brodick, Shiskine and Corrie and Sannox at the thought of being buried anywhere but their 'home' cemetery.

The council says that work will continue and that it will assess any land available for the potential siting of new cemeteries, as well as make more efficient use of available space.

There is also now a commitment by the council to carry out research into the possibility of a crematorium being introduced on Arran.

All we ask is that the matter be given some serious thought.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Seek the Lord while He may be found, call on Him while He is near.' (Isaiah 55:6)

press policy

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your letters

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

Letters to the Editor



Letters special on the Troon ferry debate

No evidence to support a move of this magnitude

Sir,
I write in response to recent publicity highlighting the potential of a possible move of the current ferry serving the community on Arran from the port at Ardrossan to Troon. The Arran Economic Group, along with local business leaders, community council representatives and political representatives, wishes to reflect the current opinion of the Arran community which was expressed at a recent meeting with transport and islands minister Humza Yousaf on Arran.

The AEG members, along with the chairman of the Arran Ferry Committee and above mentioned representatives, met with the minister recently on Arran, when this topic was discussed. However, it was intimated by the minister that the topic was not in the public domain at this time. Mr Yousaf confirmed it was incumbent on his role to consider every proposal tabled.

The collective representative voices confirmed the community of Arran was not in favour of this move for many reasons but in the main because there was no evidence the move would improve the reliability of the service; it would be more costly for passengers/haulage firms due to the application of the Road Equivalent Tariff; and it would increase journey times. Finally, and importantly, the route was not fully integrated with forward transport links.

Given these four main points and many more following through from them,

there did not appear to be any evidence to support a move of this magnitude.

Given the Scottish Government's track record of supporting and engaging island communities, putting their opinions and views to the forefront of all activity, the AEG members would ask that all parties recognise the current thinking and views of the Arran community and local representatives.

Associated British Ports made a recent approach to speak with the Arran community. However, due to annual holidays, this meeting has not yet taken place, hence the Arran community's surprise and timing of the recent press coverage and the breaching of confidentiality surrounding any proposal.

Yours,
Sheena Borthwick-Toomey,
development director
Arran Economic Group.

Proper investment in Ardrossan

Sir,
Whatever the apparent attractions of an all-weather terminal to replace Ardrossan, the opportunistic bid by Troon port for the Arran ferry service must be rejected.

There are numerous reasons for this. Journey times will be extended by one-third and probably more for foot passengers seeking a rail link as the rail lines to Troon Harbour were removed in the 1970s and cannot be replaced due to land developments since. The journey to Troon station is more than a mile – equivalent to travel to South Beach for the rail link to the present ferry; a bus service

could only make up for this by adding significant travel time. This would all be impractical for many travellers, particularly those who commute to work on Arran from North Ayrshire on a regular or even daily basis. This includes council staff and workers in the Co-op.

The main reason, however, is the impoverishment this plan would bring to Ardrossan – a community already suffering the chronic effects of decay and de-industrialisation. This might not seem a concern to islanders who only pass through and enjoy relative affluence by comparison, but the reality is that as we share council services, further stress on services will impact on our own. This is already the case as Arran's economic fortunes and quality of life are not replicated in many other communities in North Ayrshire.

We cannot afford to put further strain on resources.

All this should be recognised by political representatives of all parties – Joe Cullinane, Labour NAC leader has already issued a robust statement opposing the proposal and I would hope that our SNP representatives at parliamentary level will take the same view. The answer surely is proper investment in the Port of Ardrossan – a project that would bring jobs to the area as well as security and improvement to our ferry service. That would be a proper compliment to our new ferry terminal in Brodick.

Yours,
Colin Turbett,
Shiskine.

Buck up ideas

Sir,
I have been travelling to

Arran for nearly 70 years. During that time, in poor weather, I have been diverted to Fairlie, I have been diverted to Gourrock and I have been stranded on Arran. Accordingly, I am delighted to learn that Troon harbour wishes to compete for the mainland ferry berth. I would be quite happy to spend an extra 15 minutes on the boat if it meant guaranteed crossings. If nothing else, it might provoke the powers-that-be in Ardrossan to buck up their ideas and do something about their unsatisfactory harbour and its approaches.

Yours,
John N E Rankin,
Whiting Bay.

Ferry double

Sir,
Why should we not have ferries running from Ardrossan and Troon? There is plenty of space for competition on Scotland's busiest ferry route, and competition would do wonders for customer service.

Yours,
Eamonn Butler,
Lamlash.

Happy memories

Sir,
Your tributes in the *Banner* of October 8 rightly called the Trafalgar Restaurant an institution, which indeed it was. Its significance for the people of Arran was obvious, but for plenty of us visitors it was just as important.

Looking back, we first ate in the Trafalgar about 28 years ago, not quite when it first opened, but not long afterwards. It became a holiday tradition to eat there on our final night, as we could be assured of great food

Continued on page 9

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Continued from page 8

cooked by Gigi, while Wolfie always made the evening memorable.

I ate there for several years with my late wife before she was pregnant with our daughter, during her pregnancy and then when Wolfie put us in the side room when my daughter was just six weeks old. We ate there several times with my parents and in-laws, now all gone, with good friends, including my best man and his wife quite a few times, and family, and latterly my second wife. I always ate there and introduced her two grown-up daughters to its delights.

The Trafalgar has so many memories for me, and for my family, all of them really good ones. I well recall an evening when Wolfie announced to the packed room: 'I hope you've got plenty of time because the kitchen's in the ****!' Of course it wasn't, but the look on the faces of the young couple who had booked for a romantic dinner for two was a total picture.

On our final visit, we were the last people to leave, and there aren't any other restaurants I know where the proprietor would have insisted on giving us a run home.

On behalf of my family, and I'm sure hundreds of other visitors, I'd like to thank Gigi and Wolfie for all those meals over the years, and wish them the very best in their well-deserved retirement.

Yours,
**Colin Boag,
Winchester.**

Judicial review

Sir,
It is difficult to understand how, with such wide opposition and very little support, that it came to be that planning approval has now been granted for the erection of wind turbines on Holy Isle.

Ross Middleton was the planning officer delegated to consider this approval and it seems to me that there is an assumption of approval of this application. That said, Mr Middleton has been most open and helpful in answering my questions on this matter. The outcome has been that a very controversial decision has been taken under 'local' procedures and approval has been granted, endorsed by one other plan-

ning officer and the head of planning.

There is apparently no remedy which can be taken – other than judicial review. Yet when making application for such a proposal, applicants can make multiple applications as often as he, she or they like.

Looking at the report provided by the council, it is clear that there is overwhelming opposition to this application and very little support – yet the application has sailed through 'without touching the sides'. It seems to me that most but not all objections have been 'considered' and dismissed perfunctorily without due consideration, and, similarly, the supporting letters have been equally treated but with the opposite result. The remaining objections do not appear to have been addressed at all. Surely if there is the same or similar objection to elements of a proposal, this would not diminish the weight of the argument – rather the reverse – and this aspect does not appear to have been taken into account.

One of the arguments used to justify the installation of these permanent eyesores on Holy Isle is the existence of the masts of sailing boats in Lamlash Bay. Well, for those who need it explained, to many, masts and sails do hold an element of nostalgia and tradition and are seen as things of beauty and tradition. They also move and thus are not around all the time. We are, after all, a seafaring nation. By contrast, a windmill, whether made in this country or not, is a permanent eyesore and in this instance will be a desecration of an iconic view much cherished by residents and visitors alike.

The report does acknowledge that vegetation cannot be taken into account as a mask for windmill towers, yet it goes on to do just that. The report also declares that it is not the planning officer's function to consider alternatives to windmills – and it does not. How can those two things be right? With regard to alternatives, there is a large number of roofs and areas on Holy Isle where solar panels could be positioned unobtrusively all

over the island, and with battery backup the power generated could be stored and released in a controlled manner. In short, with a little care, the whole island could be taken off grid using a photovoltaic solution. Or are we looking at an application designed to make the most of feed-in tariff?

It was clear from the outset that this was going to be a controversial decision, particularly if it went the way of approval, yet the four councillors with particular responsibility for representing the views of people on Arran, collectively and individually failed to ask that the matter be taken to a full planning committee decision.

Those councillors have seriously failed the people of Arran. It is now for those councillors to take action to see that this matter is sent for judicial review so that it can be considered properly and not be perfunctorily approved by a few individuals. I cannot believe that when MSPs and MPs are so concerned at the submission of such a planning application and write to object, that councillors could possibly fail to be aware of the importance of this issue and their responsibility to the people of Arran.

Councillors are representatives (not delegates) of the people in the wards they serve and, in doing their job, they surely must canvass opinion and represent the views of the people in that ward. To fail to do so is a dereliction of duty.

Having already failed the majority of residents of Arran over this matter once, by not asking that this matter be called in for consideration at a meeting of the full planning committee, we should now look to the councillors – namely, John Bruce, Anthony Gurney, John Hunter and Peter MacNamara – to put the matter right and demand a judicial review of this application. Will they do it? Who knows.

Yours,
**H R Cowan,
Kildonan.**

Kilmory thanks

Sir,
A huge thank you to everyone who baked, donated

and attended our Macmillan coffee morning on Friday September 30. Once again we are overwhelmed by the amount of support we receive when hosting these charity events. We raised a magnificent £342 for the Macmillan nurses.

Thanks again.

Yours,

**Kilmory Primary staff
and pupils.**

The husky and the hedgehog

Sir,

I thought that your readers might be interested in the unusual sight that takes place in our living room every evening. At dinner time a hedgehog walks across the living room and joins our husky where they share dinner together before

leaving for the evening and returning the following day.

Yours,
**Sandy Cheyne,
Whiting Bay.**

Letters to the Editor



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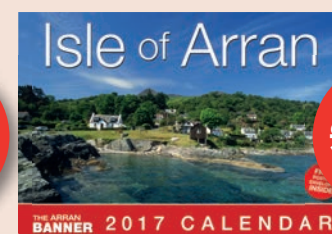


The husky and the hedgehog enjoy their dinner together.

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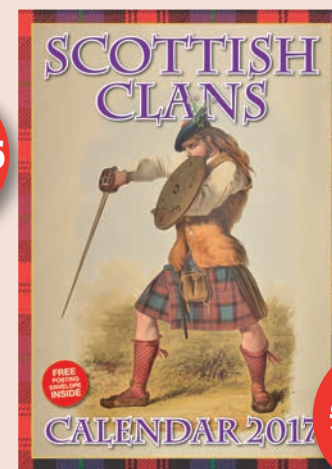


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Fish farm expansion likely to get go ahead

Opponents of a proposed extension to the St Molios Fish Farm in Lamlash have received notification from the Scottish Environmental Agency (SEPA) that it proposes to approve and grant a licence for the application.

The determination of the final decision allows objectors 21 days to notify Scottish ministers in writing of their objections. The application, if approved, will allow an increase in the maximum weight of the fish held in the fish farm as well as an increase in the limitations on the use and discharge of medicines and chemicals from the farm.

The Scottish Salmon Company, which submitted the application in September 2015, operates various sites throughout Scotland,



The salmon farm in Lamlash Bay which has applied to SEPA for additional fish holding capacity.

01_B42sepa02

including the one in Lamlash Bay, which is located in the South Arran Marine Protected Area.

Before determining the application, SEPA assessed the risk to the water envi-

ronment, the social and economic impacts on the environment and to other users of the environment, while ensuring sustainable and efficient water use. With various conditions and varia-

tions attached to the original application, SEPA will proceed with the determination if no objections are received by the Scottish ministers.

The impending decision has not been well received by everyone though, with many local people and the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) strongly opposing the expansion.

Executive director Andrew Binnie said: 'COAST is against the enlargement of the Scottish Salmon Company's fish farm in Lamlash Bay. Its application to increase the size and capacity of the farm is strongly opposed by many local people and by COAST on environmental grounds. These are outlined in our consultation response sent to SEPA in October 2015.

'An environmental impact assessment for this farm, which is within one of Scotland's most important MPAs, has never been carried out. As well as being an unsustainable method of fish production, there is evidence that it will be detrimental to the recovering maerl beds in Lamlash Bay.

'We will be asking the Cabinet Secretary to 'call in' and oppose this decision, which we believe will be detrimental to sea life in the bay.'

A spokeswoman from The Scottish Salmon Company said: 'We submitted an application to SEPA to increase the net depth at St Molio's Fish Farm in September 2015. SEPA has proposed to grant this licence.'

Halloween fright night at castle

The team at Brodick Castle are running their popular annual scare fest on Friday October 28.

Described as a family night of fear and fun that is full of surprises, the staff will be donning their best undead outfits to ensure everyone has a night to remember.

Running through some of the less well known areas of the castle and out into grounds beyond, the event promises to be an evening of screams and scares.

The earlier tours are more suited for younger fright seekers, while later on in the evening the tension increases. These later tours not recommended for under-sevens.

Waterproofs, stout footwear and a torch are highly recommended.

As tours are strictly limited and demand is already running high, booking is essential. You can book via the NTS website by visiting nts.cloudvenue.co.uk/halloweenhouseonthehill.

For more details please contact the castle administration office 01770 302202 or email: brodickcastle@nts.org.uk

Community council meet

The next meeting of Arran Community Council will be held on Tuesday October 25 at 6pm in the Ormidale Pavilion.

This will be the last meeting of the current membership, with November now being scheduled for the annual meeting with newly elected members on conclusion of the North Ayrshire Council election process.

Topics to be discussed will include the proposed SEPA decision to approve an extension to the fish farm at Lamlash – see main story. The council will also receive updates from its sub groups as appropriate.

As usual all members of the public are welcome to attend.

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Some of the children at Dr Graham's Homes in India.

Super soup event to raise cash for homes

Arran Friends of Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong, India hold their annual 'Super Soup' and sandwich lunch in Brodick Church hall today (Saturday) from 12noon till 2pm.

Previous occasions have been greatly enjoyed by all not least because the 'Super

Soup', along with the 'Korrie Koffee' event held in June raise sufficient funds to provide nurture, education, foot and boarding for a full year in Dr Graham's Homes for a child rescued from the slums of Kolkata. This is one way of showing love in action.

Market report

United Actions at Stirling had forward 2,766 store cattle, cast cows and bulls and store and prime sheep of all classes.

Leading prices: AA blks £610, 195p/kg, Glenkiln. CharX hfrs £1030, 211p/kg, Moor. AAX Blks £560, Glenkiln. Cast cows £905, 125p/kg, Kilpatrick

Sheep: SuffX las, £70, Drumaghiner. Easycare las £54, Ceither Gaoithek; £59, Braehead. BF las, £43, Braehead. TexX, £78.50, Moor; £72.50, Craigdu; £64.50, Springfield Cross, £51, Sheddock. Chev gmrs, £82.00, West Glensherraig. Chev ewes, £40, Cosyden. TexX cast ewes, £75.00, Moor; £70, Drumaghiner. Mule cast ewes, £55.50, Lenrhor; £55, Craigdhu, £54.50, Drumaghiner. Chev cast ewe, £50, Moor. BF cast ewes, £32.50, Drummaghiner.

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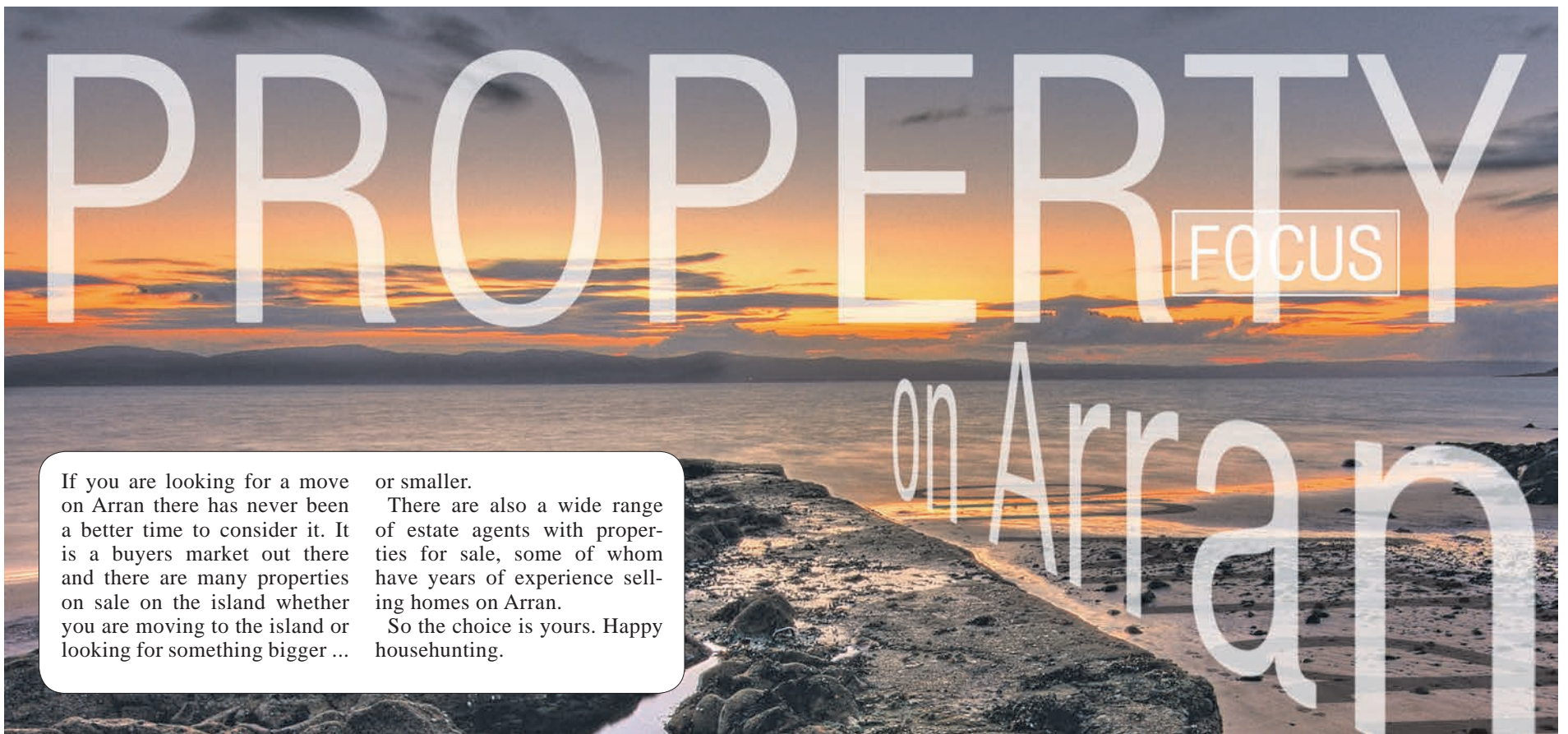
Glen Cloy Suite, Auchrannie Spa Resort, Brodick
Expert talk & Q&A session with Connor Heath,
Renewables Specialist and
Abbe Cusack, Resource Efficient Scotland 5.30pm-7pm

Friday 4th November

Whiting Bay Hall, Whiting Bay
Drop in advice session and exhibition, 11.30am-3.30pm

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Moving checklist

Some say that moving is one of the most stressful events of all, so be prepared for the whole process long before you begin.

- Decide on a moving date (usually the completion date) as soon as contracts have been exchanged. Try to avoid Fridays and bank holidays when removal firms are in high demand and may be stretched. For a less stressful move, opt for off-peak times such as mid-week. It's more likely your chosen removal firm will be available for that day.**
- Call in the professionals. Ask friends or relatives who have moved recently to recommend removal firms.**
- Get at least three estimates from different firms and don't automatically accept the cheapest.**
- Establish a written timetable with the removal firm and check the foreman has all the necessary details.**
- Make sure the removal firm has a clear map showing how to find your new home.**
- Ensure your possessions are insured for transit. Most removal firms provide such insurance. Check what it covers and whether there are exclusions. Remember that anything you pack yourself may not be covered by the removal firm's insurance. If you are planning to transport any precious items yourself, check that these are covered when in transit by your contents insurance.**
- Hire professional cleaners to give your new place a thorough going over before you move in. Some removal firms will arrange to do this. This will make the whole move a more comfortable process.**
- Before the big day, have a clear out. Valuable items that are no longer needed can be auctioned or sold to a dealer in second-hand furniture. Other items can be donated to charity shops or recycled.**
- Get someone to look after the children for the day. The same goes for pets – or book them into kennels or a cattery. Make sure they have identity tags with their new address.**
- Compile a fact file for the people who are moving into your property, such as instruction leaflets and service information for the heating system and appliances you're leaving, together with details of rubbish collection etc.**
- Round up all the keys to your home, including those left with neighbours, nannies and relatives, and give them to your solicitor or estate agent.**
- If the move is going to be spread over a couple of days, arrange accommodation and pack a bag for an overnight stop.**
- Make a scale plan of each room in your new home to give to the removal team so, in theory, they know exactly where everything is to go. Colour-code packing cases and furniture in the hope that this will mean it ends up in the right rooms.**
- Make a complete inventory of everything to be moved.**
- Advise the post office to redirect your post.**
- Cancel milk and newspapers.**
- If you are moving to a different area, register with a new GP.**
- Get change of address cards printed**
- Notify Utilities: water, gas and electricity providers; telephone and internet service providers; contact TV licensing in order to transfer your licence to your new address; bank, building society, pension provider and company you have loans or investments with; credit card and store card companies; local council regarding council tax; subscriptions to magazines, charities, etc; employers; the schools your children attend; DVLA - it is a legal requirement to notify DVLA. You will need to renew your driving licence and vehicle registration document; friends, family and colleagues.**
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Arran lifeboat crew rescues sailors from drifting yacht

Two people were rescued from a sailing boat off Arran in poor conditions in the early hours of last Wednesday morning.

The yacht was drifting without power and one of the crew was suffering badly from sea sickness.

The Arran RNLI in-shore lifeboat *Rachel Hedderwick* launched at 11.30pm and made way to the coastline south of Pladda. Once on scene, the lifeboat crew searched the area as the stricken vessel had minimal radio contact and its exact whereabouts were unknown.

After around two hours of searching, the use of multiple parachute flares and with co-operation of both the local and national Coastguard teams, the vessel's small navigation lights

were spotted and Arran's RNLI lifeboat made best speed to the vessel and her occupants' aid.

Upon approaching the vessel, the sea state made boarding extremely difficult for the Arran RNLI lifeboat crew.

However, they persisted and managed to board the vessel safely and perform an assessment of the vessel and her occupants.

Evacuate

With one of the occupants suffering badly from sea sickness and conditions worsening, the decision was made to evacuate both casualties to the shore aboard the *Rachel Hedderwick*.

After transferring the casualties to Lamlash and to an awaiting ambulance crew, the Arran RNLI Life-

boat was stood down while Campbeltown RNLI Lifeboat was tasked to recover the vessel.

Arran RNLI Helm Martin Wood said: 'With conditions worsening as time went on, it was a huge relief when we finally located the vessel.'

Challenging

Also transferring the casualties to the lifeboat in the prevailing sea state was quite challenging, so we are all happy with the final outcome.

'We would like to remind everyone taking to the sea as the year moves on to make sure they have essential emergency equipment, such as a VHF radio, flares and mobile phones, and that they understand how to use them, as this equipment can prove lifesaving.'



Demi at her desk in Gourock.

Demi gets special commendation at UK awards for saving Arran weddings

Caledonian MacBrayne has won two highly commended accolades at the National Transport Awards (NTA).

Held in London, the NTA awards are the 'Oscars' of the UK transport industry, recognising achievement and innovation across all modes of transport.

Nominated in both the frontline employee of the year and ferry operator of the year categories, CalMac was delighted to be singled out for commendations in both categories.

Demi Wylie was part of CalMac's customer services staff in Gourock during a period of industrial relations unrest last year.

A strike threatened to derail seven weddings and the travel plans of hun-

dreds of guests – but Demi was determined to keep everything on track for the distressed couples. And she succeeded – making alternative arrangements for more than 600 people and ensuring the big days went ahead as planned.

Two of the weddings were on Arran, two were on Mull, one on Bute, one at Portavadie and one in Inverness, but the bride and her family, as well as many friends were travelling from Stornoway.

The company as a whole was given special mention in the ferry operator of the year category for developments across the network, as it worked towards submitting the bid to retain the Clyde and Hebrides Ferry Services contract – a contract which it has since won.

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All-year arts trail plan

Following the success of Arran Open Studios weekend, the group is developing an all-year arts trail for Arran and is looking for any artists who wish to be included.

The Open Studios weekend offers visitors the opportunity to visit local artists studios and workshops over four days between August 11 and 14. This will now be extended to all-year round.

The aim is to promote Arran's arts and crafts and there has already been more than a dozen studios who

have expressed an interest in being part of the Art Trail. The opening days and times will be decided by each studio.

If there are any Arran-based galleries, artists, photographers or crafts people that would like to join, they can contact: arranarttrail@gmail.com for details or telephone Angela Elliott-Walker on 01770 303906 or Ann Hume on 01770 302807.

Please contact them by Thursday November 10 if you would like to find out more.

Bridge club results

Results of the Arran Bridge Club aggregate competition at Brodick on Thursday October 13 were: N/S 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 3 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton. E/W 1 Margaret McGill and Jessmay Peacock, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Morag Gardner and Eendy McNiven.

The results of the aggregate competition held at Lamlash on Monday October 17 were: N/S 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Jennifer McArthur and Jean Barclay, 3 John Baraclough and Doug Chase.

E/W 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 John Dick and Ian Andrews, 3 Margaret and Douglas Bruce.

THE ARRAN BANNER

... on holiday

The Arran Banner regularly receives photographs of readers enjoying their holidays in far flung, exotic locations, as well as closer to home.

As Arran residents often go on holiday in the first two weeks of October, we thought it would be fitting to include a Banner on Holiday special in this edition featuring islanders enjoying their holidays across the globe with their favourite newspaper.

From China, the Kuwait desert, Amster-

dam and in Cornwall, the readers of the Arran Banner can be found catching up on local news far and wide, not forgetting those enjoying the beauty and splendour of our own shores.

When space permits we enjoy printing the photos we have been sent. If you have a photo taken on your recent travels that you would like to share, please email it to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or get in touch through Facebook or Twitter.



Imogen Downing of Kilmory introduced pupils to her local paper while teaching English at Hanshan High School, Anhui Province, China, during the summer.



Lamlash residents Zoe, Max and Emma Girbow, with mascot Stingray Steve, at St Michael's Mount, Cornwall.



Kerry and Dougie Russell read their Banner outside Central Station, Amsterdam.



Andrea Leng, who spent time working at the Lochranza Field Studies Centre, reads a copy of the Banner with Qas Al Mousawi in the Kuwait desert.

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MP delivers pension petition signatures to Westminster

North Ayrshire and Arran MP Patricia Gibson has delivered a petition on behalf of Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) constituents calling on the UK Government to take immediate action to help the millions of women whose retirement plans have been impacted by rapid increases to the state pension age.

The 1995 Pensions Act brought the state pension age for women in line with men over two decades but the 2011 Pensions Act rapidly accelerated the original timetable and the 2.6 million women affected by the changes – born in the 1950s – were not informed. Of these, 4,800 live in the North Ayrshire and Arran constituency.

Patricia and local SNP volunteers together collected 2,534 signatures over an eight day period earlier this month from every corner of her constituency, including Arran. Strict rules meant that non-constituents could not sign and neither could signatures be collected online.

The petition was presented in the House of Commons chamber before being sent to the UK Government for a formal response.

Mrs Gibson said: 'I am delighted that the people of North Ayrshire have shown the strength of their feelings on an issue that affects so many local women. Indeed, the petition I submitted on behalf of my WASPI constituents was the largest in Scotland and the second

largest in the UK. No-one is arguing against the equalisation of the state pension age. However, these women have paid National Insurance contributions and are due their pension. It is not a benefit but a social contract that the UK Government has broken.

'The Tories must do the right thing and listen to the voices of the WASPI women. By using the surplus in the National Insurance Fund for transitional measures the UK Government can afford to right this wrong and provide relief and dignity in retirement for millions of women.'

The UK Government has so far refused to act, claiming that transitional measures would cost £30,000 million. However inde-



MP Patricia Gibson is surrounded by the 2,534 signature petition.

pendent research has found that it would cost significantly less to help these women at £8,000 million.

The National Insurance Fund will be a whopping

£26,300 million in surplus at the end of 2016/17 and £30,700 million at the end of 2017/18, based on pre-

valuing National Insurance rates.

Any surplus within the National Insurance Fund can only be used for contributory benefits. The state pension falls into this category.

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01770 302142 For mail order, the total cost is £8.50 including postage and packaging.

THE ARRAN BANNER

Half way to summit for footpath appeal

Conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland is more than halfway towards its target for its annual footpath fund. In just four weeks, supporters have pledged more than £85,000 to support the charity's work to care for Scotland's mountains.

But, with more than 400 kilometres of footpaths and 46 Munros under its care, including Goatfell, the trust is calling on people to show their love for the hills by making a donation, and by sharing their experiences of Scotland's stunning natural heritage and landscapes online.

Bob Brown, upland path manager said: 'Scotland's hills are close to many of our hearts, explored by millions every year. Managing the impact of so many visitors is essential if we are to protect these important landscapes and the habitats which support rare birds, animals and plants.'

'By restoring paths and keeping them in good condition, we are playing our part in

maintaining our landscapes for future generations. This essential work comes at a cost for our charity – an average cost of £37 to repair one metre of path. A donation of only £3 a month to our footpath fund will help repair that piece of path for a year.'

Walkers and users of the countryside cause inadvertent damage as unattended erosion can devastate areas of fragile vegetation. Trust staff and volunteers brave all weathers to repair and maintain the paths which help halt the effects of erosion.

As well as the Goatfell range, the trust cares for some of Scotland's finest mountain landscapes including Ben Lomond, Ben Lawers, Grey Mare's Tail, Torridon, Kintail and West Affric, Glencoe and Mar Lodge Estate.

To make a donation, find out more about the footpath fund and upload your story, visit www.footpathfund.org.uk.

Brass quintet make all the right musical tracks

In the Arran High School theatre last Saturday, a very appreciative audience were treated to a delightful variety of music, brought to us by a brass quintet going by the name of Brass Tracks, writes Diana Hamilton.

These are five very talented professional musicians who, apart from excelling in their own instruments, play as one when they are together. Brass Tracks gave us a taste of a huge variety of styles, from Renaissance dances and sonatas right through to this century, covering some pieces from the classical and romantic periods along the way, and touching on Dixieland jazz, tango and some of Gershwin's 'classics' from the 20th century.

Their sense of fun showed through in Beethoven's *Turkish March*, Debussy's *Golliwog's Cake Walk*, and two novelty items, both of which were arrangements by the talented horn player in the quintet, Robert Newth. Both of these had the audience spellbound by the virtuosity of trumpeter John Sampson, although neither was played on the trumpet. In the first, *The Post Horn Galop* by Hermann Koenig, John played a genuine posthorn which is 100 years old. His articulation on this valveless instrument, and at such speed, was truly amazing. For the second, *The Fairy Dance*, a traditional Irish dance, John produced a soprano recorder from his pocket and proceeded to wow the audience once more with his virtuosity, firstly unaccompanied and then with a wonderfully suitable 'cushioned' oom-pah accompaniment from the other four players in Robert's arrangement.

Robert Newth's talent for arranging was also displayed in his own version of *Amazing Grace*. This, in its haunting beauty, did indeed bring out the spiritual element contained in the words.

As is fitting for a brass group, the second half of the concert opened with a *Fanfare (La Peri)* by Paul



Brass Tracks performed music from the Renaissance through to modern-day.

Dukas, and to those of us who only knew Dukas's music from *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*, this was a surprise in its seeming modernity.

The serious side of this versatile quintet was displayed in their rendering of Victor Ewald's *Quintet No 1* from the 19th century and *Quintet* by Michael Kamen, a 20th-century composer better known for his film music.

The lighter side of 20th-century music was presented in the form of medleys – Four songs from *A Chorus Line* by Marvin Hamlisch, and Four hits for five, a medley of Gershwin songs, including 'S Wonderful, *Embraceable you*, *The man I love* and *Strike up the*

band – and another Gershwin number, *Love is here to stay*. Brass Tracks, obviously comfortable in any style, seemed even more at home in these renderings, which they gave with a true sense of the style.

This most enjoyable and entertaining evening was rounded off with an encore of *Spread a little happiness* by Vivian Ellis.

Indeed they did – more than a little.

After the concert, we learned that you can see them playing in a modern version of *10 Rillington Place*, to be shown on BBC 1 sometime in November. Look out for it.

The evening was organised by the Isle of Arran Music Society.

Free music workshop for Arran pupils

A pipes and drums extravaganza is set to take place on the mainland later this month and school pupils from across the area, including Arran, are being encouraged to get involved.

The afternoon of non-stop music has been arranged by North Ayrshire Council's music service on Sunday October 30 from noon to 5pm at Auchenhavie Academy in Stevenston.

Led by Pipe Major Chris Armstrong and Jake Jorgensen, lead drummer with the Scottish Power Pipe Band, the session will provide the pupils with a musical masterclass.

The event is free but places are limited and must be booked by Monday October 24 by contacting the music service on 01294 470172 or email music-service@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

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Hawkers compete in their 20th flying visit to Arran

The Arran Hawking Club once again held its annual meeting earlier this month with visitors from the Scottish Hawking Club attending the event.

Now in its 20th year of hosting the visitors, local hawkers Ian Struthers and Murray Boal have been reminiscing on how things have changed since that

first visit when members brought across their large birds of prey standing on the deck of the ferry as they made the crossing.

Opinions on hawking have also changed since those early days, with Ian adding: 'To quite an extent hawking has been regarded as a game for old men but the appeal is much wider than that, with the group this year comprising ages from 12 to 72.'

Once again, the weather was on the side of the hawkers and a thoroughly enjoyable time was had by all who attended. Iain and Murray thanked all attendees for bringing their exotic and majestic birds of prey and to the farmers and landowners who allowed them to make the visit possible.



Making the visit was an African crowned eagle bred and flown by Andrew Knowles Brown.



A group photo of the Arran hawking event. Photo by Jamie White



Showing the variety of birds that have visited, Elvan Foot is pictured with Gorby an import from Gorbachev's Russia more than 20 years ago.



Visiting from Penicuik was an immature male goshawk flown by Dougie Thompson.



Jim Burrell and Graham Denning are pictured during their visit to Arran.



This image of Mirran Struthers and Andrew Knowles Brown taken six years ago and at the meeting, illustrates how long the members have been visiting.

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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 26 October, 1996

Club criticism

There is some dissension within Lamlash Golf Club over plans for a £200,000 addition to the clubhouse and exactly how it should be funded.

Two extraordinary general meetings have been held and a substantial majority of members have voted to accept a financial package.

Recent awards of £85,000 from the lottery and £20,000 from AIE were received. To put the plans into action, the club need to match the lottery money.

At the two EGMs a package of ideas were put forward to fund the proposal but club captain Nigel Marshall admitted that despite the clear majority, he has been severely criticised both at the meetings and in the street.

Beef crisis

Lord Lindsay, agricultural minister at the Scottish Office met Arran farmers to discuss the ongoing beef crises and other farming matters. The meeting had been

set by in response to an invitation from the Arran National Farmers Union who had concerns about beef and dairy matters.

The meeting was one of a series Lord Lindsay is having with farmers around the country to hear specific concerns at grass-roots level and to let them know that they are not being forgotten. At the meeting in Lochranza, Keith Irving made the point that consumption of quality beef was almost back at the same level as before the BSE crises.

Watery problem

Torrential rain over a short period on Thursday evening caused short-term flooding and considerable mess, if not actual damage. Alma Road in Brodick looked as if the entire hillside behind has been deposited on it. Several properties at the foot of the hill found water pouring off the hill and drains blocked by autumn leaves caused water to spread, at a considerable depth, right across the front. At least one house had to have water pumped out by the fire brigade.



Lord Lindsay, agricultural minister at the Scottish Office, chats to farmers at Lochranza yesterday. From left, Iain Howatt, Keith Irving, Alex Reid, Lord Lindsay, George Tod, Margie Currie, Neil Henderson. B41twe01



Married at the Free Church, Bennecarrigan, on October 5 were Midge Allan and Willie McAllister. Residents of the Southend marked their wedding day by hanging out flags. This, apparently, is an old, though now seldom practised, Arran custom. B41twe02



The Jerry Pot, the first trophy of the winter season at Corrie Golf Club, has been won by George Morton. The trophy is competed for by the over-60s. George is pictured receiving it from club treasurer, Allan Parkin. B41twe05



Grace Kay and John Satterley, a community psychiatric nurse, work with helpers on a large multicoloured tablecloth that will be sold to raise funds during mental health awareness week. B41twe04



Well-known language teacher at Arran High School since 1974 and latterly assistant manager at the Auchrannie, Douglas Mutch and his wife Hilary left Arran this week after Douglas accepted a position at the Stakis Royal Deeside Hotel. B41twe03

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
Brodict Castle, garden open
Arran Brewery opening hours
Arran Brewery tour
Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green
Soap Making and Candle Dipping

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

Saturday 22nd October

Army Cadets
Over-21s Disco
Family Games
Fun in the Pool
Arran Vets – Surgery
Arran Vets – Reception
Live music
Lamlash Bowling Club Rink Game
Whiting Bay Bowling Club Rink Game
Blackwaterfoot Bowls
Brodict Bowling Club Rink Game
Flow Yoga
Live Music – Simple October

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

Sunday 23rd October

Family Games
Fun in the Pool
Open acoustic session at Fiddlers'
AA Meeting
Live Music – Simple October
Taigi and Oigong

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

Monday 24th October

Over-50s Badminton
Badminton
Morning Fitness
Badminton
Arran Vets – Surgery
Arran Vets – Reception
Arran Junior Football Club
Circuit Training
Lamlash Aerobix
RunArran
Tae Kwondo
Arran Bridge
Arran Citizen's Advice Bureau
Live Music
Scottish Country Dancing – beginners and improvers

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
9-10.30am and 4-6pm
9am-2pm and 4-6pm
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm
Drift Inn, Lamlash 5.30pm
Brodict Church Hall Adults and over-10s, 7-8.30pm
Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am-1.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30-10pm
Corrie Hall, 2-4pm

Tuesday 25th October

Pop Quiz
Alcoholics Anonymous
Youth Club
Arran Vets – Surgery
Arran Vets – Reception
Rotary Club
Healthy Outdoors
Blackwaterfoot Bowls
RunArran Run Coaching
Bridge Class (beginners/improvers)
Open Cricket Session
Lamlash Drama Club
Flow Yoga
Live Music
Garden Walk
Metafit
Scottish Country Dance
Winter Bowls
Shiskine and Machrie Senior Citizens AGM

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Kildonan Hall, 7pm
9-10.30am and 4-6pm
9am-2pm and 4-6pm
Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm
NTS Ranger Centre, 10am-1pm
Bowling Club, 1.45pm
Lamlash, 5.30pm
Brodict Golf Club, 2.30-4.30pm
Brodict Astro Turf 7-9pm
Arran High School, 6.30-9pm
Corrie & Sannox Hall, 6pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30-10pm
Brodict Castle, 2-3pm
Arran High School, 6pm
Brodict, Church Hall, 7.30pm
Auchrannie, 7pm
Kinloch Hotel, 7.30pm

Wednesday 26th October

Rock and Pop Bingo
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass Rehearsal
Arran Vets – Surgery
Arran Vets – Reception
Yoga

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Brodict Church Hall, 7-9pm
9-10.30am and 4-6pm
9am-2pm and 4-6pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am

Hydrofit
Arran Museum Archives and Genealogy Service
RunArran
Yoga-Arran
Whiting Bay Bowling Club Rink Game
Live Music
Unplugged Music Night
Drift Inn Quiz
Mixed Hockey
Dog Classes
Flow Yoga
Bus Pass Club Meal

Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45-10.45am
10.30am-12.30pm and 1.30-3.30pm
Auchrannie Spa, Brodict, 5.30pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30-10pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Lamlash, 9pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm
The PHT, noon-2.30pm

Thursday 27th October

Morning Fitness
General Knowledge Quiz
Arran Vets – Surgery
Arran Vets – Reception
Live Music
Ladies Hockey
RUNFIT
Burger & Quiz Night
Winter Bowls
Tennis senior Club Night
Mixed Martial Arts/XFit
Arran Bridge
Quilt Arran
Flow Yoga
Chair Yoga
10th Ayrshire Shiskine Cub Scouts & Beavers
RUNFIT
Brodict Embroidery Group
Music Matters

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
9-10.30am and 4-6pm
9am-2pm and 4-6pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30-10pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
Lamlash Front Green, 6.45am
Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
Auchrannie, 7pm
Shiskine Golf & Tennis Club, 5.30pm
Balmichael Centre, 7pm
Brodict Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 6pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30-11.30am
Shiskine Hall, 6-7.30pm
Lamlash Green, 6.45am
Brodict Library, 7.30-9.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 2pm

Friday 28th October

Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Youth Foundations
Lochranza Kids Badminton
Lochranza Adults Badminton
Quiz
Arran Vets – Surgery
Arran Vets – Reception
AA Meeting
Live Music
Tae Kwondo
Factory Tours
Frydays @ Lochranza Field Centre
Coffee Morning
Isle of Arran Pipe Band AGM
Halloween at the Castle
Legion Scotland (Arran Branch)

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45-10.45am
Church Hall, Brodict 7-9pm
Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, 8pm
9-10.30am and 4-6pm
9-2pm and 4-6pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Fiddlers, Brodict, 7.30pm
Arran high School, Lamlash Adults, 7-8.30pm
Arran Aromatics, 11am-3pm
Lochranza field centre, 5.30-8pm
Corrie & Sannox village hall, 10.30am
Brodict Library, 7.30pm
Brodict Castle, 6.30-9.30pm
Douglas Hotel, Brodict, 2pm



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ISLE OF ARRAN PIPE BAND
AGM
 Friday 28th October
 Brodick Library 7.30pm
 All Welcome

Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall sco1838
AGM 7pm
 Wednesday 9th November 2016
 All welcome

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142
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CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

- 1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
- 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
- 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
- 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
- 5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
- 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
- 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
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- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Classifieds

UNDER £50

1 gents mountain bike dual suspension shimano 21 speed 19 inch never used £40, 1 Eco style kitchen table and 4 chairs 37 inch x 27 inch £40, 1 hall stand £30, 3 3ft hexagonal table £20, 1 bedroom stool £5, 1 small occasional table £10 Tel: 600448

Kenwood chef mixer with accessories i.e Mincer, Liquidiser, juice extractor, high speed slicer etc £50 ono Tel: 700236

Indesit electrical spin dryer good condition £35, 20inch flat screen sanyo tv £50 please text 07788681139

OVER £50

Freezer miele 3 years old immaculate condition - buyer uplifts £70: Tel: 303998

Quality kitchen worktop from Wren. Breakfast bar 5ft 7in x 3ft 6in. Worktop 6ft 5in x 2ft and 3ft 3in x 2ft. Brand new, surplus to requirement £90 ono Tel: 302806

WANTED

Old van mot failure, must run, to be used as a store - Tel: 303505

Childs Accordion Tel: 07740 986803

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8 Louvre doors. Free to uplift. Four 24" x 18" and four 66" x 18". Tel 600 280

Single bed - mattress and headboard Tel: 07745204259

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 23rd October
Holy Communion, 1 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME
No Wednesday Service

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together
Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

Sunday 23rd October
Lochranza Church, 9.30am Morning Worship.
Pirmill Church 10.45am Morning Worship.
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Harvest Festival Service.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Harvest Festival Service.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 23rd October
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30am
In Lamlash; 'Music Matters'
Thursday 27th October
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 23rd October
Worship will be led by Mrs Sharon MacLeod, Reader, at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service. All most welcome

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 23rd October
Vigil Mass 7.30pm
Morning Mass 11am

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 23rd October
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge,
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30 pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 23rd October
Service 11am at
Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and Coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30pm
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 23rd October
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 6pm (Church behind post office)
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WALKER (SILLARS)

Pat and Susie would like to express their sincere thanks to family, friends and neighbours for their kindness and the cards received following the death of Veronica. Grateful thanks for help and support from social services, Rev. Lily MacKinnon, David and Clair Hendry and Arran Police. Gratitude to Meg and Serge of the Lamlash Bay Hotel for their kind and generous provision of soup and sandwiches for the many friends, family and Veronica's colleagues who had attended the service in Lamlash church. The generous sum of £548.96 collected has been forwarded to 'Mind' the Mental Health Charity.



Jamie Macpherson and Kieran Aherne receive the Taylor Trophy from Whiting Bay captain, David Brookens.



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday October 9, the Taylor Trophy. Ten played in this popular greensomes competition on a day when the autumn weather had left the course drier than it has been for some time. The recent top dressing of the greens made little impact as Stewart and his helpers had done a fine job of brushing the mixture in and the greens were running well. First place went to Jamie Macpherson and Kieran Aherne. It's been a few weeks since Jamie featured as a winner so clearly picking the right partner paid off. Well done, Kieran, on your first major. 1 Kieran Aherne and Jamie Macpherson 15, 51, 2 Douglas Auld and John Dick 18.8, 59.2, 3 Wolfie Kroner and Ronnie Mann 14, 65. Despite this plethora of golfing talent, there

DEATH

KING - ANGUS

Peacefully at home on Friday, 14th October 2016. Angus, of Whiting Bay, formerly of Corrie, beloved husband of Margaret. Funeral service at Sannox cemetery on Tuesday, 25th October at 12:30 pm to which all are welcome.

were no magic twos.

Sunday October 9, ladies stableford medal. While the boys were enjoying themselves in the Taylor Trophy greensomes, four ladies played in the ladies medal. Jean Davidson carried her winter sweep form into the Sunday game, prevailing by two stableford points over Lesley Wood. 1 Jean Davidson 24, 34, 2 Lesley Wood 20, 32, 3 Christine McLeod 22, 31.

Sunday October 16, The Hamilton Salver. Nine played in tricky conditions that forced the CSS out to 65, which, by happy coincidence, was Ronnie Mann's winning score. 1 Ronnie Mann 14, 65, 2 Stan Rainey 10, 67 and lowest gross, 3 Peter Smith 18, 68, 4 Stuart Paterson 12, 70. Ronnie and Graeme grabbed the only magic twos of the day @17th.

Fixture: Sunday October 23, stableford.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday October 13, front nine medal. 1 Alan Smith 39-6=33, 2 Iain Murchie

37-2.5= 34.5, 3 Ian Taylor 43-8=35. Best scratch Iain Murchie 37.

Sunday October 16, Glenburn Cup, CSS 67, par 64. 1 Jon Smith 80-12=68, 2 Lee Dutton 91-20=71. Magic two Scott Campbell @16th. Best scratch, Jon Smith 80.

Fixtures: Sunday October 23, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and 12.30pm starts. Thursday October 27, back nine medal, make up own groups.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday October 11, Winter Cup. 1 H Bannatyne 71-5=66, 2 I Buchanan 83-16=67, 3 C Laing 86-17=69, BIH.
Fixture: Saturday October 22, Eddie Rankin gents 1pm shotgun start. Tuesday October 25, Lochranza Hotel Cup, noon start.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday October 15, sweep. Another victory for Raymond Burke with an excellent net 58. 1 R Burke 70-12=58, 2 A Napier 66-6=60. Scratch, E McKinnon 63. Magic twos, R Burke 2, B Paton and A Napier.

Fixture: Saturday October 22, E Rankin Trophy at Machrie Golf Club. Shotgun start at 1pm sharp. Saturday October 29, Corrie Golf Club open competition. Tee times from 8.30am to 1pm. Organise your own games.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday October 12, Wednesday cup. 1 Charles O'Neill 84-17=64, 2 Douglas Robertson 78-13=65.

Arran Golfers' Association

Sunday November 6, winter league/Duncan Trophy, first round at Corrie Golf Club. Draw: Corrie v Whiting Bay at 8.30am, Shiskine v Machrie at 9.20am, Brodick v Lamlash at 11.50am. Following a cancellation due to weather, the game will take place the following Saturday with a team of four instead of eight, two games in each match. If cancelled again, one point each will be awarded. Handicap allowance is 90 per cent of the handicap difference from the low man in the four.



Lamlash golf course.

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Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

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Junior hockey club going from strength to strength

Arran's Junior Hockey Club is continually expanding with more than 40 players now training at the Ormidale astro turf pitch every Tuesday evening under the guidance of professional coaches.

The club, which trains boys and girls aged between five and 14 years old, has grown rapidly over the last six years with many of the children watching the success of the Arran's Ladies Hockey Team and wanting to take part in it.

Professional coaches Lorraine Hewie, Cat Galbraith and Dawn McKinnon teach the children ball skills, game rules, sportsmanship and team spirit at the coaching club, whose emphasis is centred on having fun.

Aspiring hockey stars are divided into age groups of five to 10 and 10 to 14 and games are played under the

astro turf floodlights, as the nights get darker, and peals of laughter can be heard as the matches take place.

The junior players go on hockey trips to the mainland and visited the Scottish under 19 hockey squad as well as the National Hockey Centre in Glasgow.

They also take part in friendly matches against other junior clubs, often receiving additional coaching from the other Arran players including Pauline Reid and Mia Walker.

Skills

Head coach Lorraine Hewie said: 'Hockey has always been a passion of mine so it is very rewarding to see the youth learning and developing these skills.'

'For many of the children who have been with us for years, hockey has provided an alternative to football with a new range of skill



Members of Arran Junior Hockey Club range in age from five to 14 years. 01a_B43hockey01

sets and challenges and it is a fantastic social event that they can look forward to.

'Children are welcome to join the club. Equipment can be provided and adults can also help the coaches or give one-on-one tuition. Assistance would also

be helpful for our team outings.' Anyone interested in taking part, being active and enjoying a social sport should go along to Ormidale Pavilion on a Tuesday evening from 6pm to 7pm, where new players are always welcome.



Kaitlyn Haddow practises her goal strikes with Keyleigh Easton. 01a_B43hockey02



The under 10s are still energetic, even after hockey practice. 01a_B43hockey03



Kayla Hewie demonstrates her ball control skills. 01a_B43hockey05

Arran go down fighting

Arran Rugby Club suffered another defeat last Saturday in what has been a mixed season for the club.

They travelled to Renfrewshire to play Bishopton at Holmpark but after a close game were beaten 20-12 by the home side. Arran are at home today (Saturday) against Loch Lomond at Ormidale Park and are hoping for a good turnout to support them. See club Facebook page for kick-off time.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.