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Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER, 2016

No 2086 70p

Community fund offered if ferry switches to Troon

... but MSP lodges motion saying service must stay in Ardrossan

REPORT
 by HUGH BOAG
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The company bidding to take the Arran ferry to Troon has made a proposal to donate around £50,000 each year to good causes on Arran if the island's lifeline ferry service relocates to its Port of Troon, the *Banner* can reveal.

Associated British Ports (ABP) has included plans to create a new Arran Community Fund in its ferry bid to the Scottish Government which it says would benefit the local community to around £1,000 a week.

ABP has already announced plans to invest £8 million in Troon to create a state-of-the-art passenger ferry terminal and new pier – if it gets the route.

However, Peel Ports, which owns Ardrossan, hit back this week pledging it too would invest in the port if it secured a long-term pledge from the government that the ferry would continue to cross to Ardrossan.

In other developments this week, Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson has tabled a motion at the Scottish Parliament entitled: Arran ferry service must remain at Ardrossan.

In his motion, he urges the Ardrossan Harbour operator, Peel Ports, to be more cooperative in its negotiations with the Scottish Government regarding potential investment, and welcomes the minister for transport and the islands' recently reiterated statement that Ardrossan remains the Scottish Government's priority and is confident that, based on the facts, the Arran ferry service will continue to be run to and from Ardrossan Harbour for many years to come.

Argue

Troon continues to argue that its uniquely sheltered harbour offers the prospect of a reliable service for islanders, largely unaffected by adverse weather conditions. Troon, it says, also offers improved road and increased rail connections, with access to the upgraded A77/M77 motorway



Generating for generations . . .

Kenneth Bone proudly stands in front of the top inlet of his new Glenkiln Hyrdo scheme high in the hills above Lamlash. The project, which officially opens today (Friday), has taken two years to complete and will power as many as 500 homes on Arran. See full story and more pictures on the centre spread.

and four trains per hour to Glasgow.

One criticism of the Troon bid has been the fact that the railway station is a mile away from the port, but ABP says it is in discussions about providing

an electric shuttle bus service for the short hop direct from the ferry terminal to Troon mainline station, which offers trains every 15 minutes to Glasgow and Ayr and six trains a day direct to Edinburgh. This en-

hanced connectivity on the mainland also promises to generate more tourism for the island, it claims.

ABP's port director of short sea ports, Andrew Harston, said: 'We understand that this service has to

deliver robust reliability for the people of Arran, who have endured an unreliable link to the mainland for too long. That's why we are confident that our proposal to relocate the service to Troon will be a game-changer. **Continued on page 2**



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Arran MSP says ferry service must remain at Ardrossan

Continued from page 1
Troon represents a compelling offer.

'Not only does Troon offer comparable journey times and all-weather capability, but a step-change in the quality of onward connections. For islanders, Troon represents a transformation in their service. That's also good for visitors to the island too.'

'Relocating the ferry service will undoubtedly be good for Troon's economy and we are determined to maximise the benefits for the island's community. That's why we are setting up a new Arran Community Fund that will generate

£50,000 every year, opening up all sorts of new possibilities for co-operative initiatives and good causes on the island.'

'It is worth remembering that we are proposing to deliver all of this without recourse to the taxpayer, who faces what is likely to be significant cost that we understand is in the order of £20million to £30million to maintain the harbour at Ardrossan. Our proposal represents a better deal for the people of Arran and the Scottish Government.'

Gary Hodgson, Peel Ports' chief operating officer, who met with North Ayrshire Council chiefs last week,

said: 'A long-term commitment to maintain the ferry on the fastest, shortest and cheapest route would be the catalyst for Peel Ports launching a multi-million-pound investment programme at Ardrossan.'

'We're working closely with the council on plans to completely transform the marine infrastructure and the passenger facilities, matching the world-class vessel which will sail the route from 2018.'

'No-brainer'

Local councillor John Bruce said that it was 'a no-brainer' that the service should remain in Ardrossan and dismissed talk of its possible relocation as ABP 'touting for business'.

Councillor Bruce, who lives on Arran, said: 'I travel almost daily to council and only in adverse weather does the ferry not run. By and large, the weather will always affect sailings whether it's in Ardrossan or Troon. I think it's a no-brainer that Ardrossan will continue to have the service. I've not got any serious worries.'

West of Scotland Conservative MSP Jamie Greene and North Ayrshire and



Peel Ports' Gary Hodgson Right with NAC Leader Joe Cullainne.

Arran Conservative and Unionist Association have also declared support for the retention of Ardrossan as the home port for the Arran ferry. In a joint statement, they highlighted moving the home port to Troon carried significant risks to the local economy and consumers.

Mr Greene also called for an end to party politicking over the matter in order to work towards a cross-party, non-partisan approach to dealing with the issue at hand.

'I think while Troon's ambitious pitch is courageous, we really have to think about the effect this would

have on the Ardrossan coastline. I think this is no time for party politics and a common sense, cross-party approach should be accorded to this important issue.

'It's vital that we get a consensus on the matter and work in the interests of the local community above all else,' he said.



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

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Food waste mix up in new guide

Residents on Arran should continue to use their grey bin for food waste, despite the advice in a new recycling guide.

The booklet, produced by North Ayrshire Council, has been dropping through letter boxes on the island over the past few days.

It states that food waste is the 'wrong stuff' for the grey bin leaving residents scratching their heads about what to do with it.

However, now council bosses have admitted it was a mistake.

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'We are committed to ensuring that Arran residents can play their part in reducing the waste we send to landfill which costs the council over £2.5 million each year.'

'However, we do understand there will be unavoidable food waste which could be deposited in the grey non-recyclable waste containers and would like to apologise for any confusion caused by stating this was not the case in the guide.'



Remember to put your clocks back one hour this weekend

Hey, Jude – you've made it back home at last!

The full power of social media and community spirit was shown this week when a lost teddy bear was located in less than a day following a plea for it to be found.

On returning home to Newton Mearns outside Glasgow after a weekend away on Arran, parents Kathleen and Darren Bruce realised their seven-year-old son Cole did not have his favourite toy with him.

A quick search and an enquiry with CalMac ferry staff came up empty in the search for Jude, the teddy bear which has been Cole's faithful companion since he was born, and who has travelled all over Europe with the youngster.

Kathleen, in a last ditch attempt to find Jude, posted her message on Facebook but, by her own admission, thought that the chances

of finding him were slim. To Cole and his parents surprise the plea was reposted to community notice boards and shared with others on the internet more than 2,600 times within hours.

More than 200 comments and commiserations were made, including ones from the housekeeping staff at the Auchrannie Hotel who began a search for the errant bear.

Within 19 hours of the initial post Danuta Gryka, a housekeeper at the hotel, found the bear and offered to return it to a very grateful Cole who had not been separated from it since he was two weeks old.

A relieved Cole and delighted Kathleen told the *Banner*: 'I cannot believe this, I am overjoyed, the power of social media is phenomenal and so are all

of the good kind-hearted people who have made my wee boy the happiest ever by taking the time to comment and share. I cannot thank everyone enough from the bottom of my heart.'

Jude was returned by special delivery and arrived back home within days after his extended holiday on Arran.



A delighted Cole is reunited with his much-loved bear, who found his way back home – with a little help.

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Council unhappy at boundary changes

North Ayrshire Council is disappointed at the Boundary Commission's plans for the UK parliamentary constituencies in its area.

The proposals were revealed last week and would see the number of constituencies in UK reduced from 650 to 600 and from 59 to 53 in Scotland.

It is proposed that North Ayrshire will now be split among three constituencies, rather than the existing two. Only one of these, comprising Arran and the Three Towns (Kilwinning, Irvine and Dalry) will be within North Ayrshire.

Two of these constituencies incorporate areas outside Ayrshire, namely Inverclyde and West Renfrewshire. The former has placed the North Coast and Cumraes in with Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow (Inverclyde), while the latter includes the

north part of the Garnock Valley, namely Beith and Kilbirnie, along with Johnstone and Erskine (Renfrewshire).

The proposed boundaries also don't align to the six localities of North Ayrshire or to the ward boundaries recently determined by Scottish ministers.

A public hearing is scheduled to take place in Ayr on December 1 to discuss the proposals and will be chaired by a sheriff principal.

A 12-week public consultation period, which ends on Wednesday 11 January 2017, has already begun.

A spokesman for the council said: "We are disappointed that the Boundary Commission's proposals split North Ayrshire into three UK parliamentary constituencies, two of which are largely outwith Ayrshire."



During her visit to the Arran Heritage Museum, Elaine met John Sillars, John Lauder, Tom Macleod and Jean Glen. 01_B44burdz02

A Burdz Eye View of island

Arran is featured in the last episode of Elaine C Smith's STV show *Burdz Eye View* which airs next Friday November 4 at 8pm.

It shows of the actress and comedian's visit to the island, which wraps up the six-part series.

The second series saw Elaine continue her travels across Scotland with her stand-up tour as she got to meet the people who live, work and laugh in some of Scotland's favourite holiday destinations.

The Arran episode will see Elaine taking in some

of the local scenery, learning some of the local history and enjoying some Arran delicacies. She also took part in soap making and enjoyed the children's day at the Arran Heritage Museum where she was presented with a birthday cake.

The funny and nostalgic series is made for STV by RPM Arts and Solus Productions, with Elaine providing a colourful narrative in her unique style as she meets the people of Scotland.

Elaine said: 'I'm delighted that a second series of

Burdz Eye View will be broadcast on STV and hope that viewers enjoy it as much as they enjoyed the first series.

'I've been bowled over by the response from the public and I'm glad we have given the audience in Scotland a chance to look at their country through my travels and to see what a beautiful place we live in and also to meet some of the fantastic folk who live here - especially the women, who all too often don't get their fair share of airtime.

'The best response for me came from a wee woman in the supermarket who said she didn't get out much and didn't get away on holiday. She told me the programme is "like getting a wee bus run every week, hen". So here's to a new series of bus runs!'

Public to be consulted on Arran cemeteries

The residents of Arran will be given the chance to have their say on the future provision of cemeteries on the island.

North Ayrshire Council's cabinet this week considered proposals which would see the number of cemeteries on Arran consolidated due to a lack of suitable available land, as reported in last week's *Banner*.

However, public consultation will be held before any final decision is taken.

The council has looked at all of the cemeteries on Arran to establish the best way forward but, as it currently stands, each of the cemeteries faces different challenges. 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.

As a result, a feasibility study is being undertaken by the council over the viability of a crematorium on the island.

At Brodick, Cemetery, there is capacity for future burials for the foreseeable future but little scope for future expansion because of the topography of the land. Nevertheless, tests will be carried out to assess the area's suitability for burials in addition to reviewing other potential sites within Brodick and a report will be prepared for a future cabinet meeting.

Details on the public consultation on the future of cemetery provision on Arran will be published in due course by the council.

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Community groups get cash from new funding initiative

Arran's communities came out in force last Saturday for their chance to fund their dreams.

More than 100 residents gathered in Brodick Hall to secure their slice of a £13,000 budget.

Local groups were invited to present their bids to the islanders who had the final say on whether the groups should be awarded funding for their projects or not. The maximum bid for any one group was £850 and 17 projects got the green light from an enthusiastic show of hands.

These included the Alzheimer's support group Music Matters – a dementia support group, a junior mountain bike club, a teenager who is pursuing his very own Dungeon and Dragons Club, a Healthy Outdoor Environment scheme supported by the National Trust, the Arran Junior Triathlon Club and The Cooriedooners to create a sensory garden at the Cooriedoon nursing home in Whiting Bay.

Of particular interest was the bid from a member of Arran High School's mountain bike club. It captured the interest of the voting audience as the bid went into detail about the obstacles hindering female participation in the sport.

The money would help buy female-specific equipment and allow young women to focus on developing their skills while taking part in a challenging sporting environment.

Shortlisted

At the pilot event in Brodick Hall, each of the 22 groups who had been short-listed for potential funding from new government initiative had to give a short presentation as to why they should get the money. Those attending on the day all had the chance to vote for their favourites at the event dubbed Decision Day.

The event was the fifth of six participatory budget-

ing (PB) events to have taken place across North Ayrshire. PB is another step towards achieving local democracy by empowering communities to decide how best to spend a small pot of public money. Arran's £13,000 pot was funded by North Ayrshire Council, the Scottish Government, The Ayrshire Community Trust, the Big Lottery Fund and the Youth Action Fund.

Delighted

Councillor Louise McPhater is the cabinet member for communities and was delighted to see so many groups receive the funding they need. She said: 'Arran was democracy in action on Saturday and it was encouraging to see so many residents take a vested interest in their community.'

'Local groups sometimes need critical funds to exist and achieve their objectives and participatory budgeting is a way of breathing life into them. The diverse mix of projects that received funding reflects the variety of pursuits taking place across the island and I am



Dr Greg Hamill makes a bid for funding with members of the Junior Triathlon Club.

01_A44budget05

confident that these will enhance the wellbeing of the community.'

Those who took part in the island's PB event spoke positively about it and those groups which were unsuccessful in their bid for funding were signposted to the range of support available on the day.



Jim Lees makes a plea for funding for the Corrie and Sannox Village Body to the packed hall.

01_A44budget02

Left: Members of the audience listen intently to a pitch from Sandra Butler of Corriedoon.

01_A44budget06

String work rescheduled

Contractor Hillhouse Quarry have had to reschedule the resurfacing works on the B880 String Road. They are now planning to undertake the work in the week commencing November 14, but this date is still to be confirmed.

North Ayrshire Council had originally programmed the work, weather permitting, to resurface a further three sections of the String between Glenshurig and the Summit this week. Traffic management will be manually controlled by temporary traffic lights or stop/go boards.

Market report

United Auction at String had forward 5,315 store lambs and feeding sheep at their latest sale.

The leading prices were: Store Lambs - Cnoc and Drumla (TexX) £72; Lenamhor (TexX) £65.50; Auchenhew (SuffX) £65; Craigraineach (suffX) £63; Glenkiln and Auchenhew (TexX) £60; Craigraineach (mule) £58.50; Bellvue (TexX) £54.50; Sheddock (Mule) £53.50; Bellevue (Mule) £52; Kilpatrick (TexX) £50; Balnacoolle (SuffX) £47; North Sannox (BF) £42; Ceither Gaoithe (Cross) £40; Bride (BF) £40; Whin (Cross) £39; Cosyden (Chev) £36.50.

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Douglas Deli takes shape in Brodick

Lovers of continental and speciality foods could soon be enjoying their favourites on their doorstep as work gets under way on a new delicatessen in Brodick.

It is being created on the site of the former dental practice at the Douglas Centre, next to the Douglas Hotel, and will include a hot food takeaway, fresh foods, quality coffee, cheeses, olives, pickles and cured meats.

Besides the usual delicatessen offerings, the shop, to be known as the Douglas Deli, will also sell breakfasts-to-go, pre-made meals for self-catering visitors, baked potatoes and au-

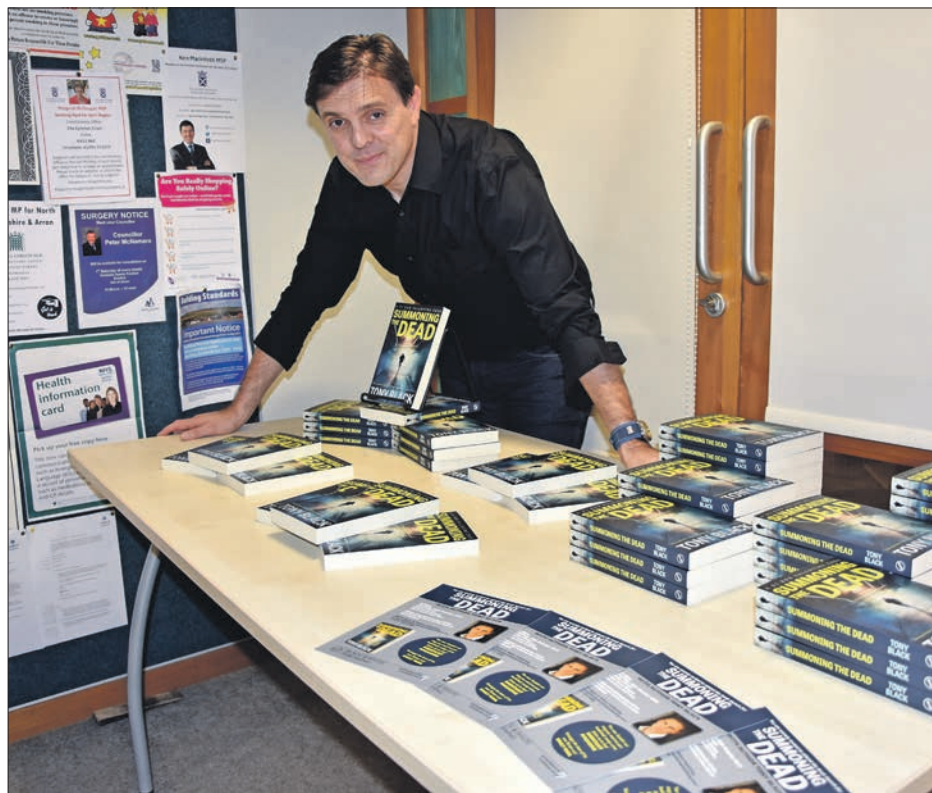
thentic Italian fresh pizza. It is expected to be widely used by visitors to the hotel which is owned by the nearby Brodick Bunkhouse.

Quality

A spokeswoman for the Douglas Hotel said: Our product lines will be Douglas Hotel quality and we are open to suggestions and requests to stock particular items for customers.'

Planning permission, which has been approved, includes an alteration to the building to form an entrance on the Douglas Hotel side as well as on Alma Road.

The anticipated opening date is in March next year.



Tony Black at the launch of his new book. 01_A44black01

Book launch

Arran author Tony Black launched his latest book at Brodick Library last Thursday.

Before signing copies of his new novel *Summoning the Dead*, he held an entertaining question and answer session with John Divine acting as compere. He spoke not only of his new book, which is the third case for Ayr Detective Inspector Bob Valentine, but also his inspiration, writing style and his other non crime work. He also read extracts from the new novel. Published by Black & White Publishing, it could

not be more relevant to today's times as it is inspired by a real life, shocking child abuse case in Northern Ireland, but is set in Ayrshire.

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

14 books and 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. It was announced earlier this month, but Tony did not win the overall title.

An award-winning journalist, Tony was born in Australia and grew up in Scotland and Ireland. He moved to Arran from Mossblown, Ayrshire, 18 months ago and now lives in Whiting Bay. *Summoning the Dead* is available on paperback, priced £7.99, and is also available on Kindle.

Kilmory SWI first meeting

Kilmory SWI had an interesting first meeting on how to use the public access defibrillator in the village hall. Their next meeting will have Barbara I'Anson making candles in Kilmory Hall on Monday November 14 at 7.30pm. Competition prizes for the night are a candlestick and a gingerbread. Names for the rally on Thursday November 10 to Buppa on 870515.

Hallowe'en party

The annual Hallowe'en party at Montrose House at the Stronach Day Care entrance will be held on Monday October 31 between 5pm and 7pm.

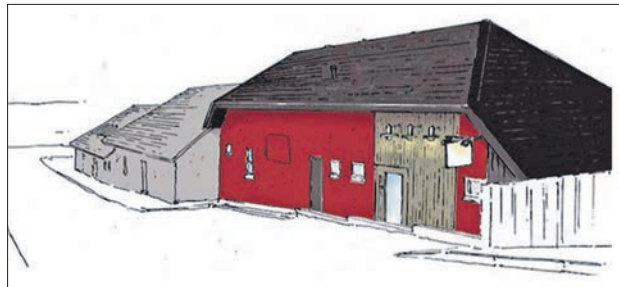
Witches, wizards, ghosts and other fancy-dressed babies, boys, girls, mums, dads, grannies and grandpas will be made welcome.

The residents always look forward to an evening of fun.

Lamlash coffee morning

The Macmillan Cancer Support coffee morning at Lamlash Church hall last month raised £353.10 for the charity.

Organiser Rosemary Roberts thanked everyone for their generous support and everyone who helped and donated to the event which will help the charity provide support to those affected by cancer and related illness.



An artist's impression of the Douglas Deli, shown in Grey.

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A whole new look for Arran Aromatics range

Arran Aromatics today (Friday) relaunches its entire product range.

The Brodick shop will be the first in the country to stock the new products which will be introduced from today. The range has also been completely re-branded with the emphasis on Arran.

The rebranding was first revealed by the *Banner* in June and for the past few weeks there has been a huge sale at the Home Farm outlet with the range of discounted products getting bigger by the day.

Busier

Normally there are queues in the summer, but October school week was even busier with one member of staff saying it had been their busiest October ever.

For more than 18 months,

Arran Aromatics has been quietly working on re-launching the brand. Since the arrival of new chief executive officer Jacqui Gale in March 2015 the entire organisation has been working hard.

New products

All the packaging has been re-designed and there are new products along with a new Christmas range including an impressive 2016 advent calendar.

Brand director Andrew Russell was keen to allay fears the company was taking away anyone's favourite fragrance and while After the Rain remains, many of the products have new names associated with the inspiration of the island. Every formulation has also been improved.

Since the arrival of the



The Brodick factory and shop where the new range will be launched today. A_44aromatics01

new packaging at the end of the summer the factory has been running seven days a week on occasions, with the office team lending a hand in the factory on top of their day jobs.

Head of Operations Duncan Russell was very complimentary of the team on Arran who have all stepped in to help.

'It has been challenging to be able to recruit on

the island so we needed the whole team to pitch in and help so that we could launch the new brand.'

Camaraderie

Duncan also mentioned that his mother Janet, who founded the business with her husband Iain in 1989, had volunteered to help for a few days and ended up working on each of the production lines.

'Mum really enjoyed working with the teams and is already missing the camaraderie, but she still has her steel toe cap work boots so can come back in any time to help.'

Arran Aromatics will showcase its new branding and products from today (Friday) in the Home Farm store and from Tuesday November 1 at their other stores.

An evening of sheer delight

The Saltire Society on Arran enjoyed an evening of sheer delight as Mary Fleming led members on a humorous and highly informative journey through the Sang of Scotland in a talk entitled Ballads and Blethers.

Rich in anecdote, Mary opened up 800 years of social history and rural life. Minstrels were the journalists of the day, services were held in Scots and social reform ensured education for boys and girls across the country.

Mary gave generously of her time and knowledge and members are keen to have her return for an event to be filmed. In the meantime she has started The Saltire Shelf with a copy of her book, Clarsach, Cramasie and Crowdie.

The next Saltire event will be on Friday November 18 at 7.30pm in Altachorvie. By popular demand, Alan Riach will return to share some 'sang' of his own.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Arran must come first in ferry debate

The debate over the future destination of the Arran ferry shows no sign of abating.

However while there is considerable talk on the mainland – in newspapers, campaigns, radio and TV coverage – much of it focuses on the respective ports of Ardrossan and Troon.

So perhaps it is time to remember who has to come first in this debate – Arran.

At least the Troon bid has offered something to the island, even though a community fund may seem something of a sop, given how important this decision is for the whole future of the island.

Peel Ports at Ardrossan say they are now ready to invest in Ardrossan if they are given a long-term assurance from the government that the ferry will continue to use their port. But as Daniel Bowles said at the Arran Community Council meeting this week why now ‘as for years they have sat on their hands doing nothing’?

Politicians of all parties in North Ayrshire are vehemently backing Ardrossan, and Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson has gone so far as to lodge a motion in the Scottish parliament demanding that service remains in Ardrossan. However in South Ayrshire, politicians there are, naturally, backing Troon.

What must not be allowed to happen is for this to become a political tug of war between the two mainland ports with Arran caught as piggy in the middle. It is the needs of the island which must come first.

The interest of another port has certainly prompted the Arran ferry to be pushed into the spotlight and given higher priority on the political agenda, which can only be a good thing.

Despite politicians and business leaders backing Ardrossan, there are some on the island who support the move to Troon. We just hope in the weeks and months ahead there can be a reasoned and sensible debate on the merits and drawbacks of both ports, and a decision reached which is in the best interest of the people of Arran.

Let's then make our voices heard.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

‘Blessed is the person who puts his trust in the Lord.’ (Psalm 40:4)

press policy

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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 Wyvek Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB.

We will attempt to resolve your issue in a timeous, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can either telephone IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body which deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers and magazines. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

your letters

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Letters to the Editor



Primary focus

Sir,

Along with North Ayrshire Council and Patricia Gibson MP, I am completely opposed to changing from Ardrossan to Troon as the mainland harbour from Ayrshire serving Arran.

Not only would it have a negative economic impact on Ardrossan, with job losses from the harbour possibly extending indirectly to other business that benefit from traffic to and from Arran, such as Asda, it makes no sense in serving Arran.

Firstly, there is no difference in terms of weather-cancelled sailings. If there was, Troon rather than Gourock would be the port of refuge. And with the sailing distance increased by 50 per cent from 12 to 18 nautical miles, the number of sailings to Arran would fall, hitting ferry capacity and tourist income. Arran's economy grew by a thumping 10 per cent last year. Nothing should be done to jeopardise this.

On September 26 Humza Yousaf MSP, minister for transport and the islands made it clear at a meeting of the Arran Economic Group attended by myself, Ardrossan and Arran councillor John Bruce, Karen Yeomans, executive director (economy and communities) NAC, Arran Community Council, VisitArran and others that Ardrossan remains the SNP government's priority.

Unlike Troon Harbour, which does not even have a train station, Ardrossan is best placed to continue the Arran ferry service.

The SNP Government has, of course, actioned its commitment to improving island ferry services by the introduction of the Road Equivalent Tariff which led to a huge reduction in ferry rates to and from the

Isle of Arran, increased summer sailings, the new £12.3 million MV Catriona which entered service from Lochranza last month, a new £47 million ferry being built at Port Glasgow and, of course, the £28 million upgrade of the pier, marshalling area and terminal building in Brodick, with the jobs such solid investment provides. This would be largely undone if Ardrossan was no longer the connecting mainland harbour.

In addition, the Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce was set up in February to improve the operation of the harbour through significant investment.

It should be said that harbour operator Peel Ports, which is represented on the Taskforce, has so far not been the most accommodating in terms of negotiating a multi-million pound investment from the SNP Government if an agreement is reached.

I will continue to press this important matter with the transport minister, who has made it clear that although all proposals must be considered, Ardrossan Harbour remains the government's primary focus as mentioned above.

Yours,
Kenneth J Gibson MSP
Cunninghame North

Change of mind

Sir,

There have recently been complaints in the national press about the poor welcome at Luss on Loch Lomond where the many visitors are required to pay for access to the public toilets and the difficulties that presents. I sympathise with them and support their view.

But our own local authority, North Ayrshire Council (NAC), is taking an even more draconian step

by having agreed to shut all public toilets on Arran as from next year, while at the same time CalMac, through the heavily subsidised road equivalent tariff scheme (RET), has greatly reduced ferry fares in a successful bid to attract more visitors.

It gets worse. On pointing out the stupidity of this policy to NAC, we have been advised that there is no statutory requirement for the authority to provide public toilets but that they do have a statutory duty to provide dog bags and bins for the disposal of dog poo. What kind of country are we living in? No-one at NAC, or indeed at Holyrood appears to see either the irony or stupidity of this initiative.

There is still time for a change of mind.

Yours,
Neil Arthur
Kilpatrick

Grateful thanks

Sir,

Through your paper may I send our grateful thanks to all those who attended to my elderly cousin following his fall outside the Drift Inn on Friday October 14.

To the kind gentleman who initially cradled him in his arms despite the flow of blood from his head wound; the manager and his staff who promptly phoned for an ambulance and brought a first aid kit and towels; the two off duty paramedics who interrupted their dinner and administered first aid until the arrival of the ambulance; and finally the ambulance crew, doctors and nurses at the Arran War Memorial Hospital.

My cousin subsequently received further treatment on the mainland and has now returned home to Yorkshire. A big thank you also to our wonderful, often unfairly maligned, NHS.

My wife and I have re-

cently moved to the island and the way everyone readily helped has confirmed that we certainly made the right decision to live here.

Yours,
Frank and Ruth Stewart
Cordon

Time to get real

Sir

What with Brexit, appalling war in Syria and a refugee crisis, I never got around to responding to the Holy Isle windfarm consultation – maybe a mistake – but I was reassured by the positive attitude of some of the correspondents in the *Banner*. I know there are many of us on Arran who believe that the looming energy crisis must be addressed by all of us wherever we live and that such initiatives have to be supported.

Like it or not we need windfarms and other forms of renewable energy and we should embrace them as nearby Gigha has with its community-owned facility. Living on the west side of the island I have become quite used to those on the Kintyre peninsula.

The suggestion by your recent Lamlash correspondent that the council decision should be subject to a judicial review seems ridiculous: what about challenging the similarly ‘undemocratic’ decision not to allow such developments on Arran itself?

Wind may not power the gas guzzling four-wheel drive vehicles many amongst us seem obsessed with, but its harnessing points to a better way of doing things and sooner or later privileged people in favoured places such as Arran will have to catch up and get real.

Yours,
Colin Turbett
Shiskine

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Soup lunch raises cash for Dr Graham's Homes

Ten ladies must have spent the whole of last Friday in their kitchens preparing soup and sandwiches, having already secured donations for the raffle and bric

a-brac stalls for the annual Kalimpong 'super soup' and sandwich lunch last Saturday.

Their efforts were not in vain as an excellent £962 was raised and, as a result, one child from Kolata's slums will be nurtured and educated for another year at Dr Graham's Homes.

Response

These ladies, and others, form the Arran Friends of Kalimpong. All have taken part in the annual 3Ks tours and visited Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong and this is their response.

Arran Friends thank everyone who attended, all those who were unable to attend but who gave donations and Brodick Church for the use of the hall.

This year's 3Ks tour leaves on Thursday and



The super spread at the soup and sandwich lunch. 01_A44soup01



Shona Hume and Janice Small at the bric-a-brac stall. 01_A44soup02

next year's 17th annual tour will leave on Friday November 3.

The three-week tours are organised and escorted throughout by John Webster of Kingscross, formerly the chaplain and farm manager at Dr Graham's Homes.

The tour takes in Kolata, Kathmandu and Kalimpong.



Former homes chaplain John Webster organises the 3Ks tours. 01_A44soup03

Second release in history inspired Smugglers' Series from distillery

The award-winning Isle of Arran Distillery continues to celebrate the whisky-making heritage of its island home with the highly-anticipated second release in its Smugglers' Series.

The series honours the tradition of the illicit whisky trade that operated from Arran and up the Clyde to Glasgow. Each release is

'smuggled' in unique packaging reminiscent of the hiding places used in the 18th and 19th centuries. Smugglers' Series Vol. 2 'The High Seas' is presented in packaging that mimics a beautiful hardbound book, complete with a cut-out compartment that conceals the bottle.

This dram is a powerful marriage of whisky ma-

tured in the finest rum casks with time-honoured peated spirit and a rich layer of first-fill Bourbon barrel adding sweetness and fruit.

The use of rum casks in the maturation process serves as recognition of Arran's importance, in years gone by, in the trade of diverse, black market liquor. The resulting liquid is complex, full of character and a perfect tribute to these independent characters of Arran.

Master distiller James MacTaggart said: 'Smugglers' Vol.1 'The Illicit Stills' was a tremendous success, selling out within days. There is a real desire for whisky with a story, something the Smugglers' Series has in abundance.'

Bottled at Natural Cask Strength 55.4 per cent abv, Smugglers' Series Vol.2 'The High Seas' is a limited edition release of 8,700 bottles worldwide. It is available online at arranwhisky.com and at specialist whisky retailers.

The second release of the Smuggler's Series.



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Artistic talent on show at Brodick art exhibition

Arran Active, which regularly exhibits the works of artists in its upstairs gallery at its shop in Brodick, is currently hosting the works of two artists.

They are Heather MacLeod from Whiting Bay and Peter Ribbeck from West Kilbride whose photography work often brings him to, and features Ar-

ran as a subject. Heather, who is well-known on Arran as a harp player and Gaelic singer of considerable talent, is also renowned for her Steampunk art. The steampunk genre is an aesthetic inspired by 19th century steam and mechanical designs and Heather, who is a fan of fantasy and science fiction, reflects this in

her art. She said: 'As a musician I have always been fascinated by the beautiful shapes of instruments. My steampunk creations incorporate instruments, clock bits, engine parts, copper and brass, anything with an interesting shape and contour.

'My artwork is a collage of all these things. I would never break up an instrument that could still be played, so only when they have reached the end of their present life, do I give them a new one, reincarnated into a piece of art.'

Peter, whose work has been commended in the Landscape Photographer of the Year competition for six years in a row, has also been exhibited at the National Theatre in London and has been published



Some of the artwork of Heather MacLeod on show at the Arran Active gallery.



One of Peter Ribbeck's well known images called Milky Way over Holy Isle.

in the Sunday Times magazine. He is a self taught amateur photographer with no academic training. Most of his skills have been honed by trial and error, reading photography magazines and many hours practising.

A recent picture of the Milky Way over Arran and Holy Isle featured in a Scottish newspaper. Peter said: 'It is a real honour and privilege to have my images exhibited in such a great location and it is fantastic to

give you the opportunity to see my work up close and in print form.'

The exhibition is open until Tuesday January 31 in the upstairs gallery where many of the items are available for sale.

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Goatfell climb raises funds for diamond anniversary challenge

In a celebration of the Duke of Edinburgh's diamond anniversary, the charity issued a 'once in a lifetime challenge' to supporters to overcome a personal challenge while raising money for the group.

Paul and Noelene Warnock from Northern Ireland, who have been coming to Arran with their parents since 1976, chose climbing Goatfell as their challenge which they recently completed while on holiday on Arran.

Also taking part in the anniversary challenge this year was Sophie the Countess of Wessex who cycled 445 miles from Edinburgh to London and TV personality Julia Bradbury, who camped on top of the O2 Arena in London.

Register

People wanting to take part in the challenge can visit www.dofediamondchallenge.org where they can register their challenge and help raise funds for the charity.



Paul and Noelene Warnock from Northern Ireland smile after completing their diamond challenge on top of Goatfell.

Charity collection tin appeal

Marie Curie is appealing to the people of Arran to help raise thousands of pounds by looking after collection tins..

The charity needs more people to help manage collection tins in shops, bars and restaurants throughout the area, especially on Arran, and replace these with their great daffodil collection boxes during their appeal in March 2017. The money raised from these tins and boxes helps to provide one-to-one nursing care for terminally ill people in their own home.

Elma Mitchell, local community fundraiser, said: 'Looking after the collection tins and boxes is a really effective way to help support local Marie Curie nurses. We're looking for people who can go around sites in their local area once every three months to replace the full tin with an empty one, then count and bank the money raised.'

If you would like more information and can spare a few hours to help fund local care contact Elma on 07798 638151.

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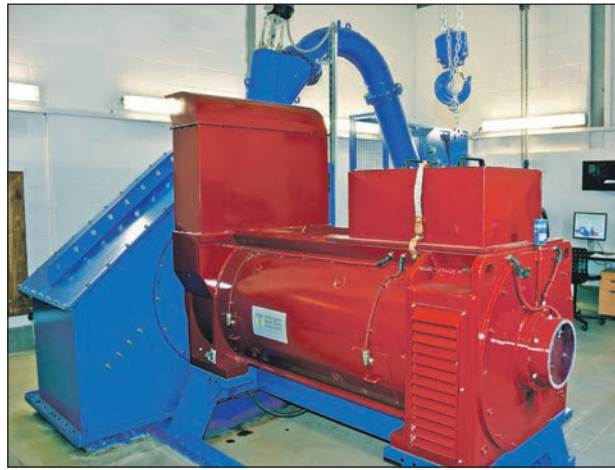
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The powerhouse where the water is turned into electricity. 01_A44hydro13



The Czech built turbine in the powerhouse.

01_A44hydro12



The powerlines carry the electricity to homes on Arran. 01_A44hydro14



The water of the Benlister Burn flows over the inlet.

01_A44hydro08



Kenneth inspects the top and



The end of the road. The last 200 metre stretch before the top inlet. 01_A44hydro09



Two of the three bridges which had to be built to carry the road. 01_A44hydro11

Generating for hydro dream co

Project is the longest hyc

Words and photographs by
HUGH BOAG

A farmer has realised his dream of harnessing the abundant water supply from the hills above Lamlash to power homes on Arran.

Glenkiln Hydro, which has taken nearly two years to build, takes its power from the Benlister Burn and its tributaries to generate enough electricity to power up to 500 homes.

The man behind the project Kenneth Bone gave the *Banner* a tour of the completed project ahead of its official opening today (Friday) and admitted he was 'proud' of his achievement but also that he was 'relieved' it was finally built and generating power.

A 4.2km support road had to be carved through the hills to build and service the pipeline, making it the longest hydro scheme in Scotland.

The size of the three intakes which collect the water from the burn and three of its

13 tributaries may surprise some, but this was preferred by the authorities over a single dam. 'It is not the volume of water, but the pressure that is important,' said Kenneth.

The water is fed into the powerhouse, after falling from 1,000ft, and is converted into electricity which is fed into the national grid. Its 500kw output will supply up to 15 per cent of Arran's electricity.

Kenneth said: 'There is a myth that when the power goes into the national grid it can go anywhere, but the truth is it will go to the nearest houses to the supply.'

The hardware of the hydro scheme should last 100 years and Kenneth said he considered he was: 'Generating for the generations to come. There is a lot of uncertainty in agriculture and in the world and I feel this is an insurance policy to safeguard the future of the farm.'

Not that he has seen any income so far. He had to come

up with the funds for the project, which is a joint venture with MEG Renewables, and will not get the first feed in tariffs until February next year. It will then take seven or eight years before the scheme starts to make a profit.

Kenneth only just made the cut off date for the higher feed in tariffs before they were cut in September 2014. He says the present rates make hydro schemes unviable.

He said: 'Arran could return to being a self sufficient island for power, which it was until the 1960s, with more hydro schemes but at present there is not the political will to allow this to happen.'

Kenneth admitted: 'There were a lot of sleepless nights at the start because of the weather. Work started in January 2015, which was the wettest month on record for Arran, and the persistent rain continued into Febru-



largest of the three inlets. 01_A44hydro07



Kenneth with the Glenkiln Hydro sign showing the date of commission with the powerhouse in the background. 01_A44hydro01



The smallest of the three inlets takes water from a tributary. 01_A44hydro10



The site of one of the quarries where the whinstone was excavated. 01_A44hydro04



The stunning view of Lamlash Bay from the top of the new road. 01_A44hydro06

generations as comes on stream hydro scheme in Scotland

ary so the scheme was slow to progress.' However, over the course of the project, despite some dismal days, there was steady progress leading to the scheme being finished and commissioned in July.

He added: 'I am relieved it is finished and up and running as we were up against quite a tight timescale. We had two years to build it which sounds a long time, but we were unable to work for six months of the year during the summer because of the hen harrier breeding season, meaning the scheme was effectively built over two winters with the extra weather difficulties that brings.'

Kenneth said he believed if they had been allowed to work between April and August they would have completed the project quicker and with less costs, without disturbing the hen harriers.

They were allowed on site last July after he paid for an expert to rule there were no

breeding hen harriers. But Kenneth says this has been the case since he began keeping records in 1999.

He said the development, far from harming bird life in the Arran Moors Special Protection Area and the two sites of special scientific interest, in which the scheme lies, had actually encouraged it.

'We now have a sparrow hawk nesting up there and the disturbance of the ground has brought smaller birds looking for insects and worms as well as the predators who prey on them.'

Mr Bone was delighted to have been able to use local contractor Murchie Sand and Gravel for both the road and civil work contracts and the construction saw around a dozen men on site seven days a week to complete the work under the watchful eye of project managers Green Cat.

He admits the project had its challenges, not least the enormous amounts of stone

needed for the base of the road.

But natural whinstone dug from quarries along the route saved time and the expense of bringing the material to the site. And a 1,200 metre section is built as a floating road across the peat and heather.

The road, and the area surrounding the pipeline, are already showing signs of returning to nature with grass and shrubs starting to grow, which is the plan going forward.

But the road will be used regularly for maintenance work.

An added benefit for the farm is there is now easier access on to the hills where the sheep graze. They could previously only be reached by off-road quadbikes or on foot.

For Kenneth it is the end of a 17-year dream but only the start of a new renewable energy resource for the island.

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

FOR OCTOBER

The secret world of the oystercatcher



The familiar sight of an oystercatcher in flight. Photo by Carl Reavey

The oystercatcher is one of the most widespread and familiar birds round our coast. With its striking black and white 'pied' plumage, long red beak and legs and that piping call, it is one of most easily recognised of our shore birds.

Oystercatchers are a group of waders with a single genus *Haematopus*. This name comes from the Greek *haima* meaning blood and *pous* meaning foot. The name oystercatcher seems to have been first used in 1731 and gradually it replaced an older name, sea pie. There are 12 species worldwide. Four are black and the others are pied, including our familiar one, the Eurasian oystercatcher, which breeds on the coasts of Europe and north Asia and winters as far south as Africa and south Asia.

Oystercatchers do not just eat oysters. The diet is more varied and they can be seen feeding on a whole variety of types of shore from rocky to sandy. While predominantly eating bivalves like cockles and mussels, they take a wide variety of other food, including gastropods, worms, limpets, chitons, fish, crabs and, on inland sites, they will take earthworms and insect larvae. There is a suggestion

that individuals specialise by either hammering the bivalve open through the shell (these birds have blunt bills), or prising the two shells apart (these birds have pointed bills).

On Arran, the oystercatchers that you see in the breeding season are not necessarily the same birds that you see in the winter. From ringing records, most Scottish birds migrate south to winter in England, Ire-



Oystercatchers are easy to recognise due to their distinctive features.

Photo by Keith Betton

land and the continent and are replaced by wintering migrants from further north like Fennoscandia, Iceland and the Faroes. Also from ringing information, there is a record of a bird living for 40 years but the typical lifespan is about 12 years. While the sexes are similar, males on average have shorter bills and out of the breeding season both sexes have a distinctive white chinstrap.

In the early 19th centu-

ry, oystercatchers in Scotland bred almost exclusively on the coast. By the 20th century, they had begun to colonise inland lochs, river valleys, meadows, upland moors and even flat roofs, particularly those that resemble gravel beaches. This may be in response to coastal habitat loss and human disturbance.

Oystercatchers do not start breeding until they are at least three years old. There is strong mate and site fidelity, with one record of a pair defending the same site for 20 years. A single nesting attempt is made per breeding season, which is timed over the summer months. The nests of oystercatchers are simple affairs, scrapes in the ground which may be lined, and placed in a spot with good visibility. The eggs of oystercatchers are spotted and cryptic. Between one and four eggs are laid. Incubation is shared but not proportionally, females tend to undertake more incubation and males engage in more territory defence. Incubation usually lasts between 24 and 27 days. Oystercatchers are precocial – that is, the young hatch, not helpless like blackbirds, but relatively mature with eyes open, feathered and ready to run. Two or three chicks are raised each year, and the chicks rely on their parents for food for several months. Throughout that lengthy breeding period, from early spring to mid-summer, birds breeding on the shore are particularly vulnerable to disturbance. It would be a great help if dogs on the shore were kept on leads at this time.

Enjoy your birding

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at jim@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 2015 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



The non-breeding plumage of the oystercatcher showing the little white chin strap. Photo by Dennis Morrison

Lamlash Bonfire Night & Fireworks

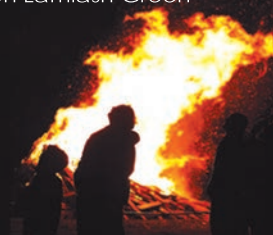
Saturday 5 November on Lamlash Green

Contribute items for the fire

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Bring them on the day.
Contact us to discuss collection.

12noon - meet to build the fire
7:00pm - light the bonfire
7:30pm - fireworks

Lamlash Improvements www.lamlashimprovements.co.uk
Email: info@lamlashimprovements.co.uk Tel: 01770 600559



BRODICK CASTLE

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for Scotland
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Halloween

The House on the Hill...

28th October 6.30 – 9.30

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

nts.cloudvenue.co.uk/halloweenhouseonthehill
for more details contact the Castle - 01770 302202

CASTLE OPENING THROUGHOUT OCTOBER

GUIDED TOURS ONLY: Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Thursday through the whole of
October – a range of Family & Adult
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Friday to Sunday **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**
For more details please contact the Castle
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Learn about energy efficiency in your home

Arran Energy Drive

Come along to our **FREE** events to:

- ✔ Get free, impartial advice on how to save energy in your home
- ✔ Learn about generating your own heat and electricity using renewable technologies
- ✔ Arrange a **FREE** home visit with one of our property experts
- ✔ Speak to our qualified energy advisors and meet accredited installers in your area
- ✔ Attend an electric car demo and pick up fuel efficient driving tips

HOMEENERGYSCOTLAND.ORG
0808 808 2282
FUNDED BY THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Where we will be:

Thursday 3rd November

Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Shore Road, Brodick
Drop in advice session and exhibition, 11.30am-3.30pm

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

For clear and impartial advice call
Home Energy Scotland on **0808 808 2282**
or visit homeenergyscotland.org
Follow us on Twitter
@HESSouthWest #Energy Drive





Learn about energy

Arran Energy Drive

Come along to our FREE events to:

- ✓ Get free, impartial advice on how to save energy in your home
- ✓ Learn about generating your own heat and electricity using renewable technologies
- ✓ Arrange a FREE home visit with one of our property experts
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Drop in advice session and exhibition.

For clear and impartial advice call Home Energy Scotland on **0808 808 2282** or visit homeenergyscotland.org
Follow us on Twitter @HESouthWest #Energy Drive



GREENER SCOTLAND
LET'S GO GREENER TOGETHER

Arran's Energy Drive

Thursday 3rd & Friday 4th
November 2016

Energy Saving in Brodick and Whiting Bay

With the nights drawing in and boilers firing up in homes all over Arran, you've probably started thinking about how to stay warm without spending a small fortune. If you're keen to save money on your heating bills or are just curious about renewable technologies and electric vehicles, come along and meet the experts in Brodick and Whiting Bay on November 3rd and 4th. Home Energy Scotland's specialist advisors will be on hand to answer your questions and give you free, impartial tips and advice on all your energy needs. They can even ar-

range a free home visit if you'd like more personalised renewable energy advice tailored to your home.

We'll be joined by a number of accredited installers who work throughout Ayrshire and Arran, so if you're thinking of switching to a greener form of affordable energy, this is your chance to find out more.

And if you're busy during the day, come along to the Glen Cloy Suite at the Auchrannie Spa Resort in Brodick on Thursday evening for a free event between 5.30 and 7pm where we'll be welcoming you to a warmer winter with a bowl of hot soup. Connor Heath, Renewables Specialist and Abbe Cusack of Resource Efficient Scotland will be giving two presentations, sharing their hottest tips and examples of local projects which have been successful for homeowners and businesses on the island.

Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and managed by the Energy Saving Trust.



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01770 870 207 ArranEnergy@online.no www.ArranEnergy.co.uk



efficiency in your home



Resource Efficient Scotland

Resource Efficient Scotland is offering a free, impartial advice service to businesses and non-domestic properties on the Isle of Arran who are interested in boosting productivity, competitiveness and profits by using less energy, water and raw materials.

Come and meet Abbe Cusack, our local implementation advisor, on November 3rd and 4th to chat about how your business can benefit from advice and funding support.

Resource Efficient Scotland is a programme delivered by Zero Waste Scotland, funded by the Scottish Government and the European Regional Development Fund.

Whiting Bay Village Hall

After the 2013 snowstorm forced Arran residents to take refuge in the Whiting Bay Village Hall, the Hall committee decided to make it more comfortable for the community. The hall is managed by 9 volunteers including Chairman Sandy McGovern, and is used every week throughout the year by various local groups. Keeping a large listed build-

ing warm and dry in all weathers can be a challenge and the old LPG-fired system and electric heaters were expensive and inadequate.



Following a consultation with Resource Efficient Scotland, an interest-free loan was easily arranged and McRoberts Heating & Gas Services of Galston installed a much more efficient oil fired central heating system with 7-day heating controls. Sandy has never looked back and the committee are expected to save over £2,500 and 3.6 tonnes of CO² per annum. Sandy says 'I would advise any business or community building to just do it! Find ways to raise funds and speak to Abbe. She really made it happen for us.'

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THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY
YEARS AGO

Saturday 2 November, 1996

Pirnmill shop shuts

Pirnmill is experiencing a feeling of collective hurt after they lost their shop last week. On Wednesday this was compounded by the fact that postmistress Linda Brown resigned, leaving villagers without a shop and a post office.

At a community council meeting this week Tom Campbell of Pirnmill spoke of the feelings of the village and how the proposed new position for the post office was unsuitable. Meantime, Jim Primrose of Lochranza Post Office will pick up the slack and will cash pension books stamped Pirnmill. As for provisions, two vans will service the area and Jim will be happy to deliver orders.

Head count

Friday 10 January 1997 will be census day on Arran. Every one of the estimated 2,300 houses on Arran will receive a questionnaire and over the following week 73 volunteers will collect them. North Ayrshire Council will input the data into a computer, collate and analyse the information, before publishing the final document. With a large proportion of holiday homes on Ar-

ran, the data will be incomplete until those reports come in. They will be added to the final report as an addendum.

New mail route

Mail has returned to the Tarbert to Lochranza route now that the ferry is on its winter timetable. This was tried experimentally at the end of last winter and now it is the norm. The mail arrives at Lochranza at 8am and is sorted as soon as it gets to Brodick. It then waits until the ferry arrives so that the very small residue of that day's mail can be sorted. The postmen then leave the sorting office around one hour and 15 minutes earlier than they would have in the past or if they had waited for the ferry. It means both earlier mail and an earlier finish for the posties.

Bombs away

Bomb disposal experts visited Arran again last Wednesday after an explosive was found at Drumadoon. A controlled explosion was carried out. When explosives appeared on Clyde beaches some months ago, it was believed the source was Beauforts Dyke where munitions were dumped during the war.



Angela Fisher was the winner of the guess the pumpkin's name competition held by Barbara I'Anson of the Whiting Bay Village Shop who raised £132 for Yorkhill Sick Children's Hospital. Angela correctly guessed the name as Patsy Pumpkin. B44twe04



Douglas I'Anson, Colin Campbell and Joseph I'Anson recently qualified as Royal Yachting Association sailing instructors after a week long sailing school in Great Cumbrae. B44twe03



Master builder Ian Leach is almost finished building his own house at Rosaburn. Having bought the property five years ago, the elegantly proportioned building is a fitting neighbour to the distinctive Rosaburn Lodge. B44twe05



The ferry may be on strike from Tuesday morning if an agreement over pay is not reached between CalMac and the RMT Union. The strike has been scheduled after pay talks broke down. B44twe01



Christina Rockenbach from Germany came to Arran last weekend to discover the new Arran Estates 'No Camping' signs. With the Fisherman's Walk area completely flooded, she was happy to comply. B44twe02

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

ISLE OF
ARRAN
BREWERY

Everyday

Trout fly fishing
Brodict Castle, garden open
Arran Brewery
Arran Brewery tour
Lamlash tennis courts/putting green
Soap making and candle dipping

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

Saturday 29th 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
Flow Yoga
Over the Lyne Comedy club

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
9.30am - 11am
9.30am - 12 noon
Fiddlers, Brodict from 7.30pm
Lamlash Bowling club, 2pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 2pm
Bowling Club, 1.45pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am
Lochranza Village Hall, 7.30pm

Sunday 30th October

Family games
Fun in the pool
Open acoustic session at Fiddlers'
AA meeting
Live music - Simple October
Taigi & Oigong

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

Monday 31st 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
Hallowe'en party

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
9am - 10.30am & 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm & 4pm - 6pm
Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm
Drift Inn, Lamlash 5.30pm
Brodict Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm
Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30pm - 10pm
Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Montrose House, Brodict, 5pm - 7pm

Tuesday 1st November

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

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

Wednesday 2nd November

Rock and pop bingo
Tae Kwondo
Alcoholics Anonymous
Arran Brass rehearsal
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Yoga
Hydrofit

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
9am - 10.30am & 4pm - 6pm
9am - 2pm & 4pm - 6pm
Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am

Arran Heritage Museum archives and genealogy service 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
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
Legion Scotland (Arran Branch)
Coffee morning

Auchrannie Spa, Brodict, 5.30pm
Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club, 6.30pm
Fiddlers, Brodict 7.30pm - 10pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Lamlash, 9pm
Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm
The PHT, 12 noon - 2.30pm
The Douglas Hotel, 2pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15 - 12noon

Thursday 3rd November

Morning fitness
General knowledge quiz
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
Live music
Ladies hockey
RUNFIT
Burger and 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 and beavers
RUNFIT
Brodict Embroidery group
Thursday Club

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

Friday 4th November

Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Youth Foundations
Lochranza kids badminton
Lochranza adults badminton
Quiz
Arran Vets surgery
Arran Vets reception
AA meeting
Live music
Tae Kwondo
Factory tours
Frydays @ Lochranza Field Centre

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



Trade Classifieds Drive Times

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Companion for a lady residing in Lamlash £10 per hour plus expenses - approx 6hrs per week

For more information please contact in writing to:

Box no: 220 - Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ

Vacancy For A Trainee

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CV's to info@arranworkboats.co.uk

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Help required for elderly couple in Brodick with general housework.

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Public Notices

FRIENDS OF BRODICK CASTLE & COUNTRY PARK

SC033817

AGM

Wednesday 16th November 2016
2.30pm Castle Tearoom

Arran Community Land Initiative AGM + CURRY NIGHT

Monday 7th November, 7.30pm

Whiting Bay Golf Club

£8 per person (vegetarian/vegan options)

Tickets from Arran Active in advance

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 18.11.16. 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

16/00712/PP; Site to North of Woodlea Cottage, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of 12 No detached & semi detached dwelling houses.

16/00470/PP; Helipad, Kilmory, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Erection of helicopter arrival building on site of existing landing pad.

16/00982/PP; Site to West of Northern Heights, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Amendment to planning permission 14/00714/PP to change house type on plot 2 and erect an outbuilding to be used as a garage and workshop.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay
Sunday 30th October
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service
PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

There will be Taizé worship on
Thursday 3rd November
at 7.30 pm, in St Molios' Church, Shiskine.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:

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

Sunday 30th October
Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches, 10.45am Harvest Festival Service in Pirnmill Church.
Shiskine Church, 12noon Harvest Festival Service.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship.

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

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 30th October
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory 10 am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Guild Dedication Service in Lamlash

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

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 30th October
Worship will be conducted by the minister,
Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.
All most welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 30th October
Sunday Mass 11am

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 30th October
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick.
All welcome

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 30th 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

Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 6pm
in ORMIDALE PAVILION (due to renovations at church)
Preacher - John Taylor

DEATH

LECLERC - RICHARD
Richard, Architectural Glass Worker, died peacefully on Wednesday, 19th October at Arran War Memorial Hospital.

Funeral service on Friday, 28th October at Sannox cemetery, 12:45 pm to which all are welcome.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS



Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday October 23, stableford sweep. Another glorious, if sometimes chilly, autumn morning welcomed 15 players to the sweep from the yellow tees.

Course conditions matched the weather with the greens playing dry and true thanks to Kieran Aherne, who switched all the greens dry prior to the start of play. It made quite a difference.

Scoring was good with all competitions scoring 30 points or more but the highlight of the morning was an astonishing score of 45 stableford points from John Pennycott.

1 John Pennycott 13, 45pts, 2 Adam Kelso 14, 39pts, 3 Jamie Macpherson 6, 38pts. John bagged the only magic two of the day at the seventh.

Fixture: Sunday Octo-

ber 30, yellow tees sweep, medal play.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday October 22, The Eddie Rankin Memorial Trophy. A very good entry of 24 turned out at Machrie Golf Club to play in the memorial trophy named after Eddie Rankin, who was a great supporter of both clubs.

The team event was won comfortably by Machrie. The individual winner was David Jeffrey on 35pts, followed closely by John Pennycott on 33pts.

A bottle of whisky was kindly donated by the Rankin family which is normally presented to the winner. On this occasion it was decided to present it to a deserving cause, so they gave it to Pablo Moran, who came in at the other end of the field.

Fixture: Saturday October 29, the Corrie Open. Another reminder to all Arran golfers and visitors that they are very welcome to turn up on the day at any time between 8.30am and 1.30pm and enjoy the great wee course.

Entry is only £10 plus an optional sweep. Lots of prizes.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday October 20, back nine medal. 1 A Winship 34-7=27, 2 M Wren 32-4.5=27.5, 3 A Wales 35-4.5=30.5. No magic twos.

Sunday October 23, Glenburn Cup, CSS 66, par 64. 1 Alan Smith 76-12=64, 2 Serge El Adm 86-21=65, 3 Andrew Wales 78-9=69. Scratch D MacFarlane 71. Magic twos: Alan Smith and M Wren both at the 16th.

Fixtures: Sunday October 30, stableford competition, 9.30am and 12.30pm. Thursday November 3, 18-hole competition, yellow tees. 11am draw. Make up own games, see starter for times.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday October 18, Lochranza Hotel Cup, CSS 65 R/O. 1 H Bannatyne 36pts, 2 C Laing 35pts, 3 B Sherwood 31pts BIH.

Saturday October 22, the Eddie Rankin Trophy was contested in glorious sunshine by teams from Machrie Bay and Corrie.

Machrie Bay won with 293 points to Corrie's 271. Corrie having won last year, they decided to keep the cup a little longer and will produce it for presentation in good time.

The sweep result was 1 D Jeffrey 35pts, 2 J Pennycott 33pts, 3 R Woods 32pts. David Jeffrey scored a magic two and the CSS was 65 R/O.

Fixture: Tuesday November 1, Winter Cup at noon. Saturday November

5, Lochranza Hotel Cup at noon.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday October 19, Wednesday Cup. 1 Jim Green 82-20=62, 2 John Beattie and Terry Raeside with net 63s, John having the better inward half. Magic twos: L Keir, J Green and D Roxburgh.

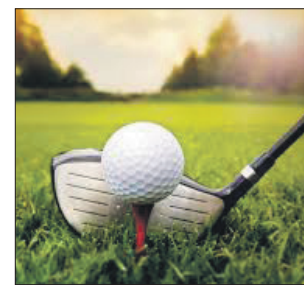
Sunday October 23, Winter Cup, stableford. 1 Chris Pattenden 13, 36 pts, 2 Ian McDermid 17, 33 pts, 3 Bruce Jenkins 7, 31 pts. Fixtures. Sunday 30 October. Winter Cup, note draw times now 9am and noon. Saturday November 5, Saturday Cup, arrange own games and tee times.

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 games 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.



Bridge results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club aggregate competition at Brodick on Thursday October 20 were as follows. N/S: 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 2 Jean Barclay and Elizabeth McKellar, 3 Jan and John Beattie. E/W: 1 John Dick and David Campbell, 2 Fiona and David Henderson, 3 Maureen Cumming and Jennifer McArthur.

The results of the aggregate competition held at Lamlash on Monday October 24 were as follows. N/S: 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Jan and John Beattie, 3 Maureen Cumming and Fiona Henderson. E/W: 1 Margaret and Douglas Bruce, 2 Jennifer McArthur and Jean Barclay, 3 Ellie and Mel Jones.

60TH ANNIVERSARY



Mick & Isla

Congratulations on your 60th wedding anniversary

2nd November 1956 - 2016

With love from all the family xx

CORRIE GOLF CLUB

£30 Winter membership now available

(Courtesy of course only)

1st November to 31st March

Application forms from clubhouse

THANK YOU

THANK YOU

Donald and Mary would like to thank all family and friends for the kind cards and gifts on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. Also thank you to the Kinloch Hotel for their hospitality.

Arran hockey victory puts team in league top three

Arran Ladies 2

Dumfries Ladies 2s 1

Arran Ladies hockey team played their re-scheduled match against Dumfries Ladies 2s last Sunday.

The match was due to be played at the end of September but had to be postponed because of weather issues and the ferry being on amber alert.

Arran started the game strongly with three attacking short corners within the first 15 minutes. Anne Watts, who plays centre forward, scored from the top of the circle during the second short corner play.

The home side held the play in the Dumfries half for most of the first period, but Dumfries hit Arran on a break and scored an equalising goal putting Arran back under pressure.

Arran had an opportunity to go ahead just before half time, but the goal was disallowed because the ball had not travelled five metres be-

fore entering the circle.

The team talk at half time was positive and encouraging and, with all to play for, both teams came out fighting in the second half.

Dumfries gained more running breaks than they did in the first half but Ali Hollingworth played a fearless and phenomenal game, charging oncoming attackers and stopping attempts on goal before they could even enter the circle.

Arran's midfielders, Abbie McKelvie and Susie Murchie, pushed the play up to the forwards giving Arran more attempts on goal, but the Dumfries goalkeeper proved to be a steadfast barrier.

Arran's Juliette Walsh got a touch on a deflected ball right in front of the goal, scoring the final and winning goal of the match.

This 2-1 win has added another three points to Arran's league table standings, placing them third in



Anne Watts and Lorraine Hewie stand at the ready to prevent a Dumfries advance on goal. 01_B44hockey04

the table of 11 teams in the Women's West District 4th Division.

Arran's team captain Cat

Galbraith announced that Abbie McKelvie had been named man of the match and dame of the game was

awarded to Ali Hollingworth.

Arran Ladies are at home again today (Saturday)

against Loch Lomond 2s at 2pm at the Ormidale astro-turf. All supporter is appreciated and welcomed.



Bethany Tetlow puts an abrupt end to a Dumfries attack. 01_B44hockey05



Team captain Cat Galbraith thwarts a Dumfries attempt on goal. 01_B44hockey01



Arran's Elyse Aitken blocks a Dumfries from taking possession of the ball. 01_B44hockey02



Lorraine Hewie powers the ball through the opposition towards team mate Abbie McKelvie. 01_B44hockey03

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Narrow defeat as Loch Lomond take the spoils

**Isle of Arran 13
Loch Lomond 16**
Arran RFC took to the field on a beautifully bright day on Saturday at the Ormidale Park for a match against Loch Lomond, who are placed third in the BT West Division 3.

The match started off ominously for Arran as the opposition scored within the first 15 minutes but, despite this, the home side managed to fight back, equalise and hold their own against their opponents.
This indomitable fighting

spirit continued to be the theme of the match right through to the final whistle when Arran RFC were narrowly defeated with a respectable score of 13-16.
Arran now sit fifth in the league and their next game takes place today (Saturday) away to Wigtownshire RFC who sit second bottom of the league.
Arran's next home game will be on Saturday December 10 when they face Strathendrick RFC, who are so far undefeated this season.



With his eye on his target, Sam Tattersfield challenges an opposition breakaway. 01_B44rugby03



Right: Sean Higgins delivers the ball from an Arran-dominated scrum. 01_B44rugby04



Loch Lomond players attempt to bring down Donald Murchie within metres of their try line. 01_B44rugby05



Ghouls on the run ... and a Minion too!
Anyone out in Brodick early on Wednesday night was in for an early Hallowe'en fright as around 20 members of RunArran took part in a fancy dress jog through the village. They stopped to pose for a picture outside the Douglas Hotel at the start of the event. 01_A44run01



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