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SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER, 2016

No 2093 70p

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Ayrshire and Arran NHS is nation's worst

The performance of Ayrshire and Arran's health service has become the worst in Scotland, figures released this week reveal.

While the acute service administrator for NHS Ayrshire and Arran has vowed to reduce waiting times, MSP Jamie Green says he will be confronting the health minister on the poor performance.

More than one patient in every four has to wait longer than 18 weeks for treatment.

Figures released this week show that in Arran the 18 weeks referral to treatment guarantee from the Scottish Government is more than 12 per cent below the national average.

The health board's director of acute services, Liz Moore, claims senior staff vacancies and high demands on the services have led to Ayrshire and Arran having the worst record in Scotland for appointments.

Ms Moore told the *Arran Banner*: 'NHS Ayrshire and Arran is committed to providing safe and effective

treatment for our patients in as timely a way as possible.

'It is with regret that we have not achieved the 18 weeks referral to treatment guarantee.

'We sincerely apologise to all of our patients who have had to wait longer than they should for their planned treatment. We have experienced vacancies in our consultant and specialists workforce, which affects our ability to provide routine patient appointments within set time frames.

'We are also experiencing increased demand across a range of our service specialities, which means we have to recruit additional medical consultants.

'We continue to do all we can to reduce our waiting times.'

MSP Jamie Greene voiced his concern over the state of healthcare in Ayrshire and Arran.

Mr Greene said: 'These figures are extremely troubling for local people. NHS Ayrshire and Arran has some of the lowest performance figures in Scotland



School bike club celebrates award

Arran High School Mountain Bike Club was presented with the Best Mountain Bike Club by Scottish female mountain biker of the year Katy Winton last weekend.

The club, in operation for two years, was recognised for its commitment to encouraging girls into the sport, for its after-school programme, residential

trips and for its introduction of the sport to island primary schools. Katy, from Peebles, then joined the club on a two-hour trail. Joining Katy on the trail were 16 club members, mountain bike club leaders Robert McNeice, Steve Garraway and Kim Toogood, head teacher Barry Smith and Active Schools co-ordinator Archie McNicol. Photo: Ross Bell.

where we are below the national average by a staggering 12.3 per cent.

'Almost 30 per cent of patients are not seen within four weeks after being referred by their GP. I have

had constituents contact me with genuine concerns over the state of our local NHS and, in particular, waiting times. What is the point of setting targets if they are consistently being missed

and no progress is being made? I will be confronting the health minister, Shona Robison, and submitting a formal parliamentary question on this matter to see what they say.'

Breakwater not on agenda

The new boss in charge of the redevelopment of Ardrossan harbour told a packed public meeting in Brodick that owner Peel Ports would never build a new breakwater, seen by many as the only lasting solution to the problems at the harbour.

Project director Doug Coleman said Peel Ports would not spend the £100 million plus needed to build a new breakwater.

See page three.

All change at care home

It is all change at the Cooriedoon care home in Whiting Bay.

Owner Sandra Butler has retired from the day-to-day running of the home which has been taken over by new manager Gwen Walker.

Matron Daisy Thomas has also left to pursue a career as a theatre staff nurse.

See page five.

Resurfacing String road

Carriageway resurfacing work will take place on the String road from West Glenshurig farm early next year.

See page four.



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Plans revealed for retaining Ardrossan to Brodick ferry

Details are beginning to emerge of the multi-million-pound investment proposals being developed by Peel Ports and North Ayrshire Council to retain the Ardrossan to Brodick ferry link.

High level proposals revealed at North Ayrshire's Economic Development and Regeneration Board aim to save the link as the 'shortest, fastest and cheapest' route to Arran.

The proposals would see Ardrossan Harbour owner Peel Ports invest in significant infrastructure upgrades at the site – including improvements to the navigation dredge pocket, linkspans, harbour walls, bollards, gantries, fenders and signage.

Meanwhile, North Ayrshire Council will complement Peel Ports' investment



Joe Cullinane, leader of North Ayrshire Council.

with improvements to the passenger terminal, roads, car park, the public realm and connectivity within the town centre.

The council investment forms part of the Ardrossan Harbour masterplan and is a key strand of the wider Ayrshire Growth Deal, supported by all three Ayrshire local authorities.

The suite of integrated

proposals would significantly improve passenger and berthing facilities at Ardrossan for the new generation of ferries being introduced by CalMac in 2018.

Peel Ports and North Ayrshire Council will seek input from key stakeholders over the next few days before presenting the proposals to Transport Minister Humza Yousaf before Christmas.

Strength

Joe Cullinane, leader of North Ayrshire Council, said: 'These proposals add real strength to the already compelling case for retaining the Ardrossan to Brodick ferry route and begin to flesh out our ambitious plans for Ardrossan, Arran and the wider area.'

Councillor Cullinane stressed that the council's investment had been ear-

marked earlier this year, prior to the owners of Troon port approaching the Scottish Government with a proposal to 'poach' the ferry from Ardrossan.

'The case for Ardrossan is overwhelming, but if others wish to resort to misinformation and exaggeration, that's their call.'

Gordon McLean, chairman of North Ayrshire Eco-

nomics Development and Regeneration (EDR) Board, said: 'The importance of the Ardrossan to Brodick ferry link to local businesses and the economy cannot be underestimated and the EDR Board calls on all local companies to make their views known to the Transport Minister, Humza Yousaf, and to support the campaign to keep it A to B.'

Ferry steel work at halfway stage

Steel fabrication for the 102-metre ferry that will serve Arran from summer 2018 has reached the halfway point at Ferguson Marine Engineering Limited, Port Glasgow.

The £97 million contract for two ferries will see one ferry for the island and another to serve the Hebrides. The first steel was cut for the vessels in February this year.

Kenneth Gibson MSP said: 'Not only is real progress being made in building Arran's much-needed and anticipated new ferry, construction has ensured the retention of the skills and expertise of the workforce and the continuation of shipbuilding on the Clyde.'

'The new Arran vessel will have a dual fuel system, meaning it will be able to use cleaner fuel, while also future-proofing it for tighter emissions regulations.'

'It's no secret the current ferry fleet is being pushed to its limit in order to provide the increased level of services that communities are looking for.'

'The new ferry was designed specifically for the Brodick to Ardrossan route and will replace the 32-year-old MV Isle of Arran and deliver a safe and more reliable service, with improved windage against bad weather, and bow and stern thrusters three times more powerful than the Caledonian Isles.'

The new Arran ferry will carry 127 cars or 16 HGVs or a combination of both and up to 1,000 passengers.

Port of Troon drop-in event well managed

A well-attended meeting on Monday night at the Auchrannie Resort saw islanders turn out to pose questions to the proposers of an alternative ferry route for Arran.

Staff and directors from the Port of Troon were on hand to answer questions from members of the public in a drop-in session.

At times the small room at the end of the Cruise restaurant was full and at times there was standing room only.

While there were some confrontational moments over the motives for the development of the port as the main point for the Arran

ferry, including questions over the feeling some islanders have that the move is in the interest of the Scottish Government, the meeting was well handled by staff representing Troon.

Islanders shared concerns between each other and with port of Troon staff about a deal having already been done, and the consultation being a sham.

However, port of Troon staff said this was not the case.

While more than 70 people attended the meeting, only a few stayed for the entire time and on the whole the meeting was fairly amicable.

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Harbour boss tells meeting breakwater will never be built

REPORT

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

The new boss in charge of the redevelopment of Ardrossan harbour told a packed public meeting in Brodick that owner Peel Ports would never build a new breakwater, seen by many as the only lasting solution to the problems at the harbour.

Project director Doug Coleman said Peel Ports would never spend the £100 million plus needed to build a new breakwater.

In answer to a question he said: 'It would be unrealistic to make that level of investment with no return.'

He was speaking as more than 100 island residents packed Brodick Hall for a campaign meeting organised by North Ayrshire Council last Thursday to save the Ardrossan to Brodick ferry route.

But despite an assurance it was to give the people of Arran their say, council officials, Peel Ports and politicians took up half the allotted time.

As MP Patricia Gibson shouted at the audience, 'We are listening to Arran', there were serious grumbings of discontent.

In a question, Jock Kelso, a retired mariner, asked: 'Have you any plans to do any dredging at Ardrossan?' Mr Coleman replied that,



Brodick Hall was packed for the campaign meeting.

01_A51meeting02

apart from maintenance dredging, they had none. 'You will never solve the problem in Ardrossan then,' Mr Kelso replied.

Talk at the meeting then turned to the resilience of the ferry service. Audience member Sally Campbell said she had lived on Arran for 13 years and, in that time, she said, the reliability of the ferry had gone down. 'You are never sure it will go,' she said. 'How much money will be invested by Peel Ports to improve resilience?' she asked.

Mr Coleman said the Ardrossan port owner could find 'no records' of the harbour ever having contributed to the disruption of sailings, to much derision from the audience.

There was disappointment expressed that neither ferry operator CalMac nor Brodick port owner Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) was at the meet-

ing to address issues which could have been directed at them.

Much was made of the longer sailing time to Troon and the further distance with warnings that, as a result, there would be fewer sailings which could affect tourism and the Arran economy.

And Arran Dairies managing director Alastair Dobson said that by switching the ferry to Troon it would cost 30 per cent more to bring foodstuffs to the island, and the same to get them off. He also said the island would lose one to three boats a day. 'Are people really prepared to pay more and get less?' Mr Dobson asked.

During the meeting, the audience were polite and even applauded the speakers and there were moments of light relief, particularly when the prospect of 1,000 passengers coming off a

summer ferry at Troon to get on one of the 10 shuttle buses Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson said would be required to take them to the train. 'It would be like the last flight out of Saigon trying to get on one of those shuttle buses,' he said.

The meeting heard that consultants Peter Brett Associates had been appointed to carry out STAG assessment of the two ports ordered by the government. That report is expected to be completed before the end of February next year with a decision taken by the government as to the port of choice by mid March.

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Drivers warned of road closures in new year

North Ayrshire's roads department have advised Arran residents and businesses of the road closures and traffic disruptions that can be expected early in the new year.

Carriageway resurfacing works will take place on the String road from West Glen-shurig farm access road westwards.

Works will take place from Monday January 5 to Friday January 9, with the last day being a contingency in case of inclement weather.

Due to the nature of the

works and existing road widths, legislation requires that in the interest of safety both to the road users and the workforce, a road closure must be put in place for the duration of the works.

Traffic control

Further works are also programmed for the A841 during January, however these will be carried out under traffic control.

On the B880 there will be temporary traffic control for part of the day on Wednesday January 4 while mobilisation and preparatory

works for resurfacing takes place.

The following day until Sunday January 8 there will be road closures from 9am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm with a lunchtime opening from 1pm to 2pm.

Monday January 9 has been added to allow a spare day at the end of the program in case of inclement weather. The times have been determined to suit the ferry timetable and delivery of material to the site.

On the A841 from Monday January 16 to Sunday January 29 traffic management will take place during road widening, and drainage works. In addition to this, resurfacing work on Monday January 30 to Friday February 3 will mean short duration road closures will be necessary and timings are still to be confirmed. However the road is likely to be closed from 9.15am to noon, and 12.45pm to 3pm. All of the works will be weather dependant and can be subject to delays.

A spokesman from North Ayrshire Council commercial services (roads) said: 'We would like to apologise in advance for any disruption these works may cause.'



Fiona Laing of the Community Access Defibrillator Project and Scott Rowan of George Leslie Ltd with the community defibrillator. 01_B51defib01

Advice for prospective councillors offered

POTENTIAL candidates looking to be elected as councillors are being offered guidance ahead of next year's local election.

A briefing session for candidates and their agents is being hosted by North Ayrshire Council's chief executive and returning officer, Elma Murray.

As well as providing advice on the electoral process, the session will also give potential council-

lors an insight into the role and expectations of elected members.

Returning officer Ms Murray said: 'The electoral process can be a complex one so the session is an opportunity for people to see what is required of them before the election on May 4, 2017. The briefing will be held on Monday February 20 in the council chambers, Cunninghame House, at 5.30pm

Pier defibrillator for community use

Pier contractor George Leslie Ltd has, in partnership with the Community Access Defibrillator Project, purchased a public access defibrillator for emergency use by its staff and for the community.

The defibrillator which is located outside the George Leslie site office was purchased by the organisation with the help of Fiona Laing who is a first responder and who has spearheaded the defibrillator project which has seen 21 defibrillators

being installed across the island.

Fiona has also provided training for key staff members on how to use the machine in case of a medical emergency arising with staff or members of the public.

The defibrillator, which is fully automatic, will be handed over to Fiona once building work on the pier has been completed so that it can be relocated and made available in another village or community.

Fiona Laing said: 'The value of the network of defibrillators across the island cannot be underestimated and I would like to thank George Leslie Ltd for their valued contribution to the project.'

'With their help and the assistance of the community and supporters, we now have 21 defibrillators across the island which can be accessed at most villages, large stores and public locations in the event of an emergency.'

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All change at Cooriedoon

It is all change at the Cooriedoon care home in Whiting Bay.

Owner Sandra Butler has retired from the day-to-day running of the home which has been taken over by new manager Gwen Walker.

Matron Daisy Thomas has also left to pursue a career as a theatre staff nurse.

Built in 1900, the home started life as the Whiting Bay Hotel, and in 1988, after an extensive interior renovation it re-opened as Cooriedoon Nursing Home. In 2002 it became a residential and nursing home. It was established by Sandra's mum Celia, who retired 12 years ago when Sandra Butler took over the reins.

With 21 residents it is the only home on Arran providing nursing care and is registered with the Care Commission. At its latest inspection it achieved grades of five across the

Owner retires from day-to-day running of care home

board. In November 2008, Sandra and Cooriedoon were nominated for single care home operator of the year and were one of three finalists at Scottish Care's award ceremony.

This was an enormous accolade for the home and completed their 20-year celebrations.

And if that accolade is not enough, in July 2012 they achieved, for the fifth time, Investors in People Recognition, which awards companies for excellence in staff training and development. Topping it off, founder Celia received an MBE in the Queen's 2011 New Year Honours List for older people services on Arran.

Sandra said she will remain the registered provid-

er but will not now be involved with the day-to-day running of the home, although she will still be involved in special projects.

Asked if she had mixed feelings about the change, Sandra said: 'Not now I know the home is in such safe hands with Gwen at the helm.'

Daisy is leaving to work at the Salford University in Manchester as a theatre staff nurse in neurosurgery which has always been her dream.

Husband Robin, who also works as the administrator at Cooriedoon, will be staying on Arran for another year with their two children Albin, 11, and seven-year-old Anna who go to school on the island.



Gwen, Sandra and Daisy in the garden at Cooriedoon. 01_A51coorie01

Check GP surgery opening times

People are being urged to check when their GP surgery and local pharmacy are open over the festive period.

This year, many GP surgeries will be closed on Saturday December 24 and re-open on Wednesday December 28. The New Year break starts on Saturday December 31 with surgeries re-opening on Wednesday January 4.

Local opening times may vary so it is advisable to check.

NHS 24's Medical Director Professor George Crooks said: 'It is important people know where to go if they need health advice or information over the holidays.'

'GP surgery opening times may vary across Scotland so it is vital you know when your local surgery will be available.'

'Pharmacies can help with treatments for common complaints but again, do make sure that you know when your local pharma-

cy will be open. It's a good idea to have some over-the-counter medicines at home and if you are on any long-term medication make sure you have enough to last over the holidays, order only what you need but make sure you get it in plenty of time.'

NHS 24 will be available throughout Christmas and Hogmanay via the 111 free telephone number and online health advice and information can be found at www.nhsinform.scot

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Kilmory celebrates festive season with market and lights ceremony

The village of Kilmory got into the festive spirit last Sunday with the Kilmory Christmas market and the switching on of their Christmas lights.

Kilmory dignitaries to officially open the event were 'big' Davy Ballantyne, who cut the ribbon to open the well-decorated hall, and charity fundraiser Louise Milroy, who switched on the tree lights.

The switching on ceremony took place for the first time this year and offered visitors a host of things to see and experience along with sampling some tasty bratwurst sausage, chocolate pancakes and hearty hot chocolate.

Inside the hall, stalls sold home baking, festive treats and handmade goods, including woodwork, photographs and clothing. At the entrance to the hall, visitors joined the Arran Brass Band in singing Christmas carols before pupils from Kilmory Primary entertained the visitors with festive songs from the main stage.



Kilmory Primary School pupils performed for the audience. 01_B51kilmory01



Visitors to the Christmas market sang carols along with the Arran Brass Band. 01_B51kilmory02



Davy Ballantyne and his daughter Roisin officially opened the Christmas market by cutting the ribbon. 01_B51kilmory03



Arran Brass Band performed well-known Christmas carols and encouraged audience participation. 01_B51kilmory05



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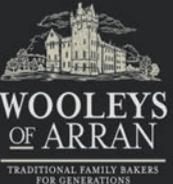
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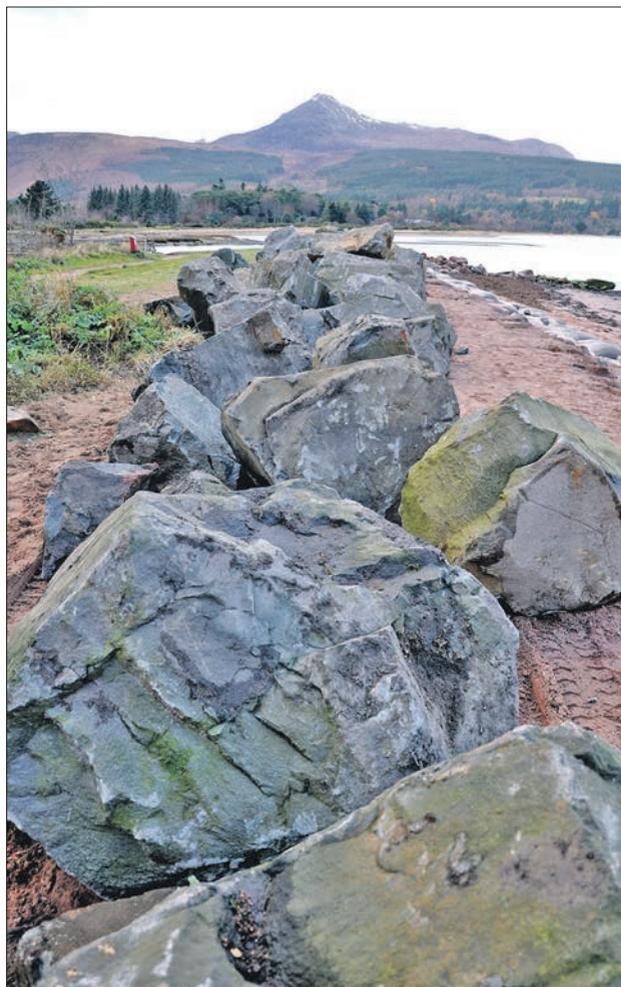



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No stone unturned to save Brodick beach



A number of large stone boulders wait to be added to the groyne. 01_B50stone01

Brodick Improvements Committee (BIC) has taken delivery of large stone boulders to be used in the battle to save Brodick beach.

The stone from North Sannox will be used for the extension of the groyne, adding to the existing defences to prevent the tide from eroding the sand which was deposited on the beach earlier in the year.

Following a successful crowd-funding initiative that saw more than 100 supporters raise £8,290, BIC has received around 150 tonnes of rock armour with help and support from the Forestry Commission work at its North Sannox location, which the committee paid to move to Brodick.

A spokesman for the committee said: 'The new delivery of rock armour will be used to try and shore up the



The stones will be used to extend the stone groyne which prevents further sand erosion. 01_B50stone02

groyne on Brodick beach. We will continue to source further material when possible to contribute to the groyne which is retaining some of the sand being swept from the beach.

'We do not expect any fur-

ther sand from the new terminal work but should anything become available we will distribute on the beach when the weather allows.'

Currently the stone is lying near the end of the beach but it will be added to

the existing limited groyne, extending it before the seasonal storms come and which has already proven effective in retaining some of the sand. The committee is hoping to buy more sand next spring.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

from Waste Resources

Over the festive period collection days for your blue and grey bins will change.

Normal Collection Day	Festive Collection Day
Monday 26 December 2016	Wednesday 28 December 2016
Tuesday 27 December 2016	Thursday 29 December 2016
Wednesday 28 December 2016	Friday 30 December 2016
Monday 2 January 2017	Wednesday 4 January 2017
Tuesday 3 January 2017	Thursday 5 January 2017
Wednesday 4 January 2017	Friday 6 January 2017

The actual time of your bin collection may vary during the festive period. If adverse weather affects your area we will return to uplift your bin when possible.

The Household Waste Recycling Centre will be closed on **Sunday 25, Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 December 2016** and **Sunday 1, Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 January 2017**, but will open as normal every other day. If you have a real Christmas tree you can recycle this at the Household Waste Recycling Centre. You don't need to book in advance.

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For more information on recycling visit www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/recycling
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North Ayrshire recycled 56% of household waste last year. We are currently one of the top performing local authority areas in Scotland for recycling. Thank you for your efforts and let's keep up the good work.



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath

THE ARRAN BANNER

No easy solution to health care problems

Learning that one in every four of us are not getting the health care promised to us by the Scottish Government will not come as a surprise to many islanders who have found themselves waiting – and waiting – for appointments.

While hospital staff work their socks off to meet our needs, it appears there are not enough senior consultants to see us, depending on the care required.

The consultants who are working in our hospitals are dedicated to their patients, coming out in the middle of the night to take away pain or fears, doctors who go to the 'nth degree to find a solution.

What is refreshing is that Ayrshire and Arran's acute services manager can identify where the problem is and what can be done about the problem.

Her solution is more staff. But there are so few consultants who have all round general training that in future the services that are available in Arran and Ayrshire will be delivered in a centre further and further away from the person who needs them.

MSP Jamie Greene is correct in his assessment that the measurements become meaningless because nothing can be done to change the situation we are in.

Unless the Scottish Government increases the funding for training, or the strict rules of the British Medical Association are lessened, the problem will not go away.

With an ageing population and the demand on health services increasing, the health board is not going to find resolving this matter very easy.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on His shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end' (Isaiah 9: 6-7)

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 Wyve 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

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



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Letters to the Editor



Every dog owner should clean up

Sir,
I, like many others, walk my dog regularly along Fisherman's walk in Brodick.

I know there are many responsible dog owners who always clean up after their dog but, judging by the amount of dog faeces around, there are also a lot of people out there who don't bother.

In the past week alone I've seen dog mess on the grass outside the putting green, on the sand beside the Boathouse and today, as I cleaned up after my dog, I realised the grassy patch directly outside the play park is covered with a variety of different dogs poo.

It's absolutely disgusting and the dog walkers responsible should be ashamed of themselves.

Yes, picking up dog poo doesn't rate highly on my list of pleasant things to do but it is our responsibility and, if I'm not mistaken, our legal requirement to clean up after our dogs.

The council supplies free bags, there are dog bins everywhere as well as black bins we can use so there is no excuse.

I do not get the mentality of some people who think it is acceptable to leave their animal's faeces for other adults and children to see, smell, tread or fall in. Come on everyone. Clean up your act.

Yours,
**Nicola Coyne,
Brodick**

Study two ports independently

Sir,
I have been following your information on Troon or Ardrossan.

First thing that is obvi-

ous is the fact Ardrossan did nothing to improve until Troon rattled its cage. Second, and more importantly, the issue has been politicised in favour of Ardrossan without any rational reason for excluding Troon other than ephemeral speculations and misinformation.

You have not as yet published any rational reason that I as a random traveller who monitors the CalMac site would believe.

Remember that having booked to travel and the weather has gone bad, summer or winter, I will be watching CalMac and when the message comes that my sailing has been cancelled and advising me to rebook with no guarantee I will get on the next sailing as opposed to the next available sailing my instant thought is to abandon my visit and go to Loch Lomond or any equally good mainland destination.

I suggest a completely independent firm is tasked to study the pros and cons of both ports.

As the reason for the ports is to service the Arran boats, the local mainland view should only be about what they have to offer the Arran service. In this hard world, Arran is what matters. Sadly the local mainland economy should not be considered. You have to remember tourists wish to come and go as booked and when cancellations take place it is galling to hear an Arranach state Troon had been open for business at that time.

Yours,
**R C McKay
Moray**

Arran concerns not being heard

Sir,
The concerns of Arran residents at the public meet-

ing were not heard because no-one at the 'top table' was there to listen – they had come to tell us.

But North Ayrshire Council, our MSP, our MP and Peel Ports didn't come to tell us how they were going to fix Ardrossan harbour.

They came to tell us about £100m investment in regeneration of the coastal corridor and the north shore. To tell us about poverty, deprivation and CalMac jobs, which in any case would not be lost; they would merely be relocated.

They told us they had been working on all of this for 10 years and that none of this was a reaction to the Troon bid.

They lectured us about how the rich people of Troon didn't need the ferry business and that South Ayrshire Council would slash public services on Arran. All this, ironically, from the same people who are about to close our public toilets.

They came to tell us how bad Troon would be. It was not a pro-Ardrossan meeting, it was an anti-Troon meeting.

They filibustered. They reduced the time for debate and an opportunity for them to listen and learn to 50 per cent of the allotted 90 minutes.

Their presentations were overlong and repetitive, and their responses to questions were aggressive and at times threatening. It must be hard to listen at the same time as you are shouting.

Calmac and CMAL were not present to refute some of the allegations. It was noted that while Arran is partly represented by four North Ayrshire councillors only two were present and neither addressed the key issue of the shortcomings of Ardrossan harbour.

They played down the

number of cancellations to just seven per cent, which does not sound like a lot in those terms but equates to more than 20 days of lost sailings per year.

If they had come to persuade Arran residents and businesses that Ardrossan's resilience as an operational port would be significantly improved, then they failed spectacularly. Not one detail was given.

Yours,
**Neil Arthur
Independent traveller
representative**

Brodick bus shelter appeal

Sir,
Are we who frequent Brodick a race apart? A master race immune to wind and rain, happy to stand at bus stops in the village unprotected from the elements. Why do hardly any of the bus stops have shelters?

From Duchess Court to the ferry terminal there are no shelters on any of the bus stops on the east or shore side of the main road and only two on the landward side. Most other villages and mainland towns have shelters in almost all cases. Can NAC, SPT, Brodick Improvement Committee or Visit Arran start the push for shelters at our bus stops? Come on Brodick, fight for bus shelters.

Yours,
**Alistair Glen
Brodick**

Sorry Megan – you are the winner

The winner of the Santa's Sparkle talent contest in the five to 13 age group was Megan Green and not Sophie Green as stated in last week's *Banner*. The information had been supplied by the Pierhead Tavern who ran the contest.

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Search on for finest woodland

THE SEARCH has begun to find and celebrate the finest and most inspiring woodlands in Scotland.

The 2017 Scotland's Finest Woods Awards are an annual recognition of excellence among those who use, own or manage Scotland's woods and forests – and a celebration of their contribution to the wealth and wellbeing of communities.

'Scotland's Finest Woods Awards reward everything from excellence in educating children about the wonder of woodlands to rewarding highly-skilled forest management, superb new native and commercial woodland creation, and the production of quality timber,' said Angela Douglas, executive director of Scotland's Finest Woods.

Awards

'It is wonderful to see applications coming from all corners of Scotland and the winners celebrating success at our annual awards presentation at the Royal Highland Show in June.'

Applications are now open for 2017, with trophies and almost £7,000 of prize money to be won. There are seven awards in four categories.

Entries are accepted up to March 31, 2017. Full details, including criteria and entry forms, are available at the awards section of www.sfw.co.uk.

Council makes commitment to help its children in care

NORTH Ayrshire Council has agreed to make its biggest commitment yet to help children in care.

At a recent meeting of North Ayrshire's Community Planning Partnership, it was agreed that the council will guarantee five modern apprentice places for care-leavers.

Chief executive Elma Murray has also agreed to be a mentor to a care-leaver and will help and support

them throughout their apprenticeship.

As well as the firm commitment by the council, the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service also confirmed that it will consider making its Firereach programme – designed to help young people understand the job the firefighters do on a daily basis – accessible for care-leavers.

The Community Planning Partnership – which also in-

cludes NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Police Scotland and a range of local partners – has agreed to sign up to the Scottish Care Leavers Covenant. This covenant is a pledge by corporate parents – such as councils – to make change happen for care-leavers to give them the bright and better future they deserve.

All partners will offer work experience to care-leavers and mentor

them so they can progress to a positive destination (employment, further education or training).

The report to the Community Planning Partnership was prompted by the chairman, Councillor Joe Cullinane, writing to all partners to ask for a collaborative strategy to help improve outcomes for care-experienced young people.

The latest proposals come just weeks after the council agreed that the exam results of North Ayrshire's children in care would be published separately to analyse how they were doing and what changes, if any, could help improve their performance.

The council has also recently become a living wage-accredited employer and signed Unison's Ethical Care Charter, which

provides a guarantee that appropriate employment conditions are in place for home care workers.

Councillor Cullinane, leader of North Ayrshire Council, said: 'We are fighting hard in difficult financial circumstances to make a real, tangible difference to some of the most vulnerable people living in our communities.'

'We have a huge responsibility to young people in care. Outcomes for care-leavers are below those of their peers and that means we have much to do to deliver the equity of opportunity they deserve.'

'We're very proud that we are making this commitment and hopefully we can have a positive influence on the life opportunities of many care-leavers through it.'

Lights tradition goes on at Whiting Bay house



Whiting Bay resident Bernie Jackson has been lighting up his home in Montrose Terrace with a glittering array of outdoor Christmas decorations for the past 28 years, and this year is no exception. Every year he raises money for a different charity and the takings for the collection will this year be staying in Whiting Bay for the children's Christmas party.



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Hunt for the Wilderpeople (12A) 101 mins
Named Best Film of 2016 by Empire magazine 17/12 at 5.30pm

The Girl on the Train (15) 112 mins
"spellbinder." Rolling Stone 17/12 at 8.30pm

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I, Daniel Blake (15) 100 mins
"a work of scalding and moving relevance" Vanity Fair 19/12 at 8.30pm

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Way to go! Island coastal



Charlie Todd, of the Scottish Salmon Company, delivered vast amounts of timber and other materials. 01_B50coast03

It has taken six months of hard work from three very weather-worn workers, more than 6,000 boards and 60,000 nails but the coastal path between Cordon and Ardlui has finally been upgraded.

The Arran Coastal Walk is a 105km circular route around the island, and the 2.8km section is part of the ongoing maintenance.

Part of the upgrade is 1.5km of a raised boarded pathway that has now opened the area up with linking boardwalks that overcome the challenging terrain that crosses boggy ground, streams and coastal boulder fields.

The pathway has been constructed by coastal way workers Scott Murdoch, Iain MacDonald and Xabi Landabereg who designed the route taking into consideration the various obstacles, cliffs and rough terrain, as well as the re-

REPORT

by COLIN SMEETON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

strictions of continuity due to building it across various landowners' properties.

Where the boarding was difficult, the area was cleared and the route made accessible by removing undergrowth and overhanging trees.

All of the work had to be undertaken by hand as the location would not allow any heavy machinery into the area but, with support from the Scottish Salmon Company, three articulated lorry loads of wood were delivered to the site via its boats.

Charlie Todd, senior marine operator with the Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'The work that has been undertaken here is phenomenal.

'As a community-minded company, we are pleased

we have been able to help by bringing in boatloads of timber on our vessels between our usual work. The pathway opens up the route and people can now enjoy the varied coastal scenery.'

Iain was the brains behind much of the design, ensuring that the boardwalk did not have too much of an incline or uneven steps, and creating the optimal route while taking in some of the most picturesque areas.

Scott, Iain and Xabi all agreed that the boardwalk would have the bare minimum of impact on the environment by not cutting down trees and keeping the path organic and working with the natural contours of the land.

Scott thanked David Boal, of Claddach Sawmill, for his help sourcing and storing the wood. He said: 'Without David's help we would not have been able to purchase, store and ob-

Our offices will be closed on Friday 23rd and Monday 26th December and Friday 30th December and Monday 2nd January 2017

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- 4pm, Monday 19th December

For the issue dated Saturday 31st December
- 4pm, Thursday 22nd December

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Scott Murdoch demonstrates how they avoided damaging trees. 01_B50coast09



The boardwalk takes out the difficulty of reaching higher areas with convenient steps.

path upgrade is complete

tain the quality of timber we have used.

‘With his help, and with the help of Charlie at the Scottish Salmon Company, we have been able to create this welcome addition to the coastal way.’

The Arran Coastal Way was officially opened in 2003 and the Access Trust, which is responsible for it, secured grant funding in 2014 from the Coastal Communities Fund as well as contributions from the Arran Trust, North Ayrshire Council and Forestry Commission Scotland.

The Access Trust has since created 5.6km of new path, performed major upgrades on 27km of path, provides four year-long paid training positions for local people, waymarked the whole route, installed new interpretation materials in villages and established three new volunteer groups to help maintain the paths.



The workers who built the boardwalk are Iain MacDonald, Xabi Landabereg and Scott Murdoch. 01_B50coast08



On land where permission was not given for the boardwalk the route has been cleared. 01_B50coast07



Users of the new walkway are able to enjoy panoramic views of Holy Isle. 01_B50coast11

Musical talent on show



Peter Alexander Wilson performed various solos and a duet. 01_B51sing05

The Arran Singers performed their annual Christmas concert to a packed Whiting Bay Hall on Sunday with all of the proceeds from the event going to Argyll charity Mary's Meals.

Showcasing the local talent on Arran, the show featured special guests Vivace and Ain't Misbehaving, as well as the musical talents of Lucy and Bethany Welsh, and the angelic voice of Emily Divine.

Tutor of the Royal Northern College of Mu-

REPORT

by COLIN SMEETON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

sic and host of the Arran Summer School, Peter Alexander Wilson stunned the audience with his singing talents, which has seen him performing across the world.

The event was compered with great humour by Archie Cumming and the choir was conducted by Diana Hamilton and Douglas Hamilton as the accompanist who was

ably assisted by Bethany Walsh.

Organisers who were pleasantly surprised by the large turnout, said: 'The choir is very grateful for the donations from Paterson, Arran, and from the Island Cheese Company, and, of course, to the audience, whose attendance will guarantee a considerable donation to Mary's Meals.'

The event raised enough money to feed 60 children for a year through the Mary's Meals charity.



Ain't Misbehavin' perform *The Christmas Song*. 01_B51sing02



The Arran Singers Choir perform *The 12 Days of Christmas*.



Coach Laura Aitcheson times the start of the first group of Santas, elves and helpers as they set off. 01_B51santa02

Festive run takes to the streets of Brodick

Visitors to Brodick last Sunday might have been surprised to see more than 20 Santas, elves and reindeer running through the street.

The group of festive figures were actually Run Arran members who dressed up as Santa for their annual Santa's Dash which involves a 5km fun run through Brodick while dressed in festive attire.

Mirroring the popular Santa dash that takes place in Glasgow every year, the event attracted a large num-

now at Whiting Bay



Days of Christmas. 01_B51sing01



Lucy Walsh whose entire family were involved in the show performed on the flute. 01_B51sing04



Emily Divine sang *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas* and *Let It Snow*. 01_B51sing03



e fun kes to eets dick

ber of participants which included Santas, a snowman and a reindeer, as well as various elves and helpers. The run involves a staggered start so that all participants crossed the finish line in one large group and involved a competition where participants guessed their completion times and the nearest to the estimate won a prize. Festive prizes were awarded and social drinks enjoyed in the Douglas Hotel after the event.



RunArran members prepare for their 5km Santa dash through Brodick. 01_B51santa01



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neighbours from Vera,
Boris, Brenda and
family. Donation in
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and good
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friends &
neighbours
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Christmas and
a Happy New
Year



SEASONS GREETINGS

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their relatives, friends
& neighbours a Merry
Christmas and a Happy
New Year.



*Merry Christmas
& a Happy
New Year*

to all friends and
relatives from
Bessie Sillars,
Montrose
House



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neighbours
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Christmas and a
Happy New Year



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& a Happy
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sent to Christian Aid.



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& a Happy
New Year*

to all our relatives
and friends from
Donald
and Mary
McNiven



SEASONS GREETINGS

to all my relatives,
friends and carers
from J McHarg



*Merry Christmas
& a Happy
New Year*

To all my
friends from
Margaret
Hamilton,
Shiskine



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wish all their
friends &
neighbours
a Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New Year



Friends hold Christmas party at Montrose home



Above: Compere Stuart Gough spots the Banner photographer. 01_A51house04



Left: Festive fun at the care home party. 01_a51house05

The Friends of Montrose House held their annual Christmas party for residents and their families at the Brodick care home recently. Guests enjoyed an evening of varied entertainment, including a turn by pupils from Arran High School, as well as lots of festive treats. The evening was compered by Stuart Gough.



Rosie Cooke brought a smile with her fun costume. 01_A51house01



Singer Mike Bailey entertains guests with an Arran song. 01_A51house06



Ann Lauder and Myrna Boal sell raffle tickets to raise money for The Friends of Montrose House. 01_A51house02

Last chance for families to grab a copy of Arran book

A popular Arran book has been reprinted for the last time.

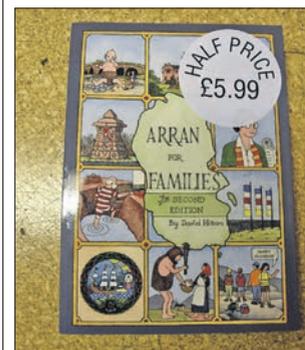
The second edition of *Arran for Families*, by David Hilton, is now in the shops at half price. Once sold out the books will not be reprinted.

The decision to end production comes on the eve of the 10th anniversary of its launch in 2007.

David's wife Joyce said: 'We've decided to call it a day. David is 87 now, so this reprint of the book will be the last.'

The couple, who now live in Edinburgh, have had a close connection with Arran for many years. They retired to the island in 1992 which allowed David, an architect and planner, to fulfill his lifetime ambition to be an artist, and he is grateful to his seven grand children who provided the inspiration for the book.

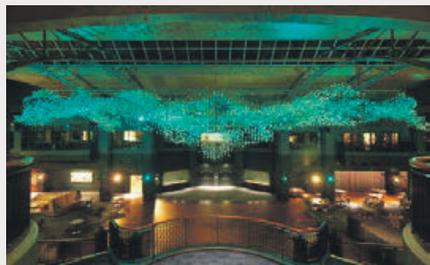
Arran for Families is an illustrated journey around the island and includes some well known, and some not so well-known facts about the island. It is popular with both adults and children and is available in shops around the island at just £5.99 – and would make an excellent stocking filler.



Arran for Families is now on sale at half price. 01_A51book02

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Fairmont St Andrews resort has recently completed renovating their public areas with a rich colour scheme and nautical elements and a lighting installation called *Zephyr* by George Singer. With over 200 luxury guestrooms, the resort has a plethora of facilities, including two championship golf courses and an indulgent spa. There are diverse yet luxurious eating facilities within the resort and the lucky winner can be confident that they will experience the best of St Andrews in luxury surroundings with outstanding service.

FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: What is the George Singer lighting sculpture called?

To enter, send your answer, name, address, telephone number and email address to Competitions, Wyvex Media, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh, EH5 2DL. Closing date is December 31, 2016. Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Wyvex Media, the competition promoters, and their direct families are ineligible to enter. No purchase necessary. The winner will be first correct entry drawn after closing date. No cash alternative is available. The winner will be informed by telephone. Promoter reserves the right to request post publicity. Indicate if you do not wish to receive further information from promoter. Usual Wyvex Media rules apply. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications.



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Arran branch of the Royal British Legion is back again

The Arran branch of the Royal British Legion celebrated being re-formed at a Christmas lunch recently, held at the Douglas Hotel.

More than 24 members and guests attended the lunch on Wednesday December 7, including many previous members who

were with the Legion before it ceased last year.

The Arran branch disbanded due to a lack of members, when, at its height, it had 36 people who were ex-army, navy or air force.

The re-established Arran branch has selected Ted Godfrey as the president and Liz Clarke as chairwoman.

Membership of the Legion is open to service personnel and veterans but it is also open to anyone who is interested and supports the ideals of the organisation.

Support

Help for veterans can be provided in a variety of ways, including advice, support and comradeship as well as an opportunity to meet like-minded individuals.

The legion also supports volunteering opportunities for fundraising, organising remembrance and ceremonial occasions as well as music and sporting events.

If you are interested in joining the Legion, Liz Clarke can be contacted on 01770 860219 or lizahclarke@gmail.com.



Members of the new Legion included familiar faces from last year's membership. 01_A51legion02



Members celebrate the re-formation of the Arran branch after it ceased last year. 01_A51legion04



Legion members lobby the government and media on veterans' issues. 01_A51legion03



Liz Clarke has been chosen as the chairwoman of the Arran branch of the Royal British Legion. 01_A51legion01

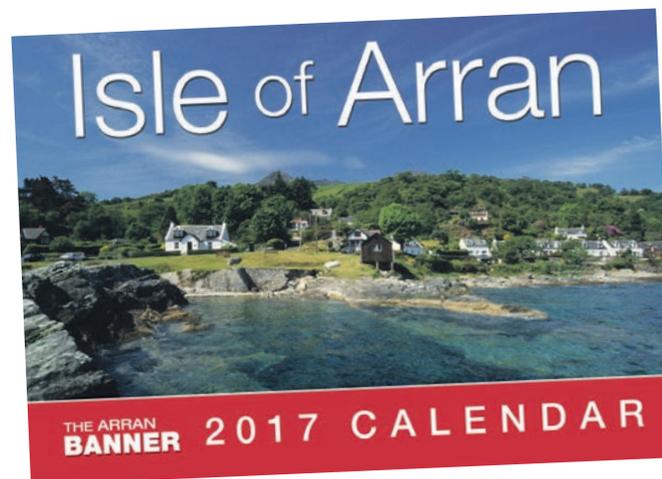
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THE ARRAN
BANNER



Goldeneye is a regular winter visitor. Photo Brian Cooper

Look out for the goldeneye

The goldeneye is a diving duck which is equally at home on fresh or salt water. It is a regular winter visitor to our coast as well as fresh water ponds and lochs. Last

winter there were 26 records from 15 locations, including four goldeneye at Port na Lochan on the west and three at Clauchlands in the east.

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

FOR DECEMBER

The male goldeneye adds a bright note to winter days with its radiant golden eye, glistening green-black head and crisp black-and-white body and wings. The female has a chocolate brown head with the same bright eye that gives this species its name. These distinctively shaped, large-headed ducks dive for their food, eating mostly aquatic invertebrates and small fish.

Most goldeneye which winter here come from north or north-eastern Europe, arriving in October or November. They breed by the lakes and rivers of boreal forests across Canada and the northern United States, Scandinavia and northern Russia. They are migratory and most winter in protected coastal waters or open inland waters at more temperate latitudes, including Arran.

Goldeneye return to their breeding grounds in April, where they breed in tree

holes in woodland beside lakes and large rivers. They first nested in Scotland in the Grampians in 1970, and since then birds have been attracted to nest in specially designed boxes put up on trees close to their favourite lakes and rivers.

Courtship displays begin during the winter and it is common to see groups of male goldeneye throwing their heads back and forward for the watching females.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or email me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk. I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran, purchase the *Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012* as well as the *Arran Bird Report 2015* and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk.

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Twenty greatest locations for birds

The December meeting of the Arran Natural History Society took place on Thursday December 8 in the Rangers Centre in Brodick Country Park where the speaker was Keith Betton.

Keith, a passionate bird-watcher and conservationist, is vice-president of the British Trust for Ornithology. He is a keen birder having seen more than 7,900 species in 102 countries, and is one of only six people to have seen one of the world's rarest pipits. He has a particular passion for Africa, having been chairman of the African Bird Club for the past seven years.

In the UK, he is heavily involved in bird monitoring in Hampshire, where

he is county recorder. His latest book is *Behind the Binoculars*.

Keith's illustrated presentation was called 'Twenty Places to go birding around the world'. He took the group through the highlights of his experiences in the New Forest, focusing on Dartford warblers, goshawks, honey buzzards, firecrests and hawfinches, and went on to describe birdwatching in the Netherlands, Spain, Thailand, Bhutan, China, Kenya, Uganda, Seychelles, Madagascar, the USA, Galapagos, Peru, Papua New Guinea, Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica.

The next meeting will be on Thursday January 12 in the Rangers Centre.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY
YEARS AGO

Saturday 21 December, 1996

Strike action

Threatened strike action by CalMac ferry crew was averted six weeks ago. Now, following a ballot, it has been completely called off. Another threat looms though as ships officers might take industrial action.

At the annual round of wage negotiations, the Western Isles officers agreed to terms but the Clyde officers did not. The present position is that NUMAST, the officers' union, has refused to accept CalMac's terms and the company now awaits the union to come back to them.



There were so many pupils at Pirmill School on Wednesday that they had to have their annual Christmas party in the community hall. Pictured here is Thomas McMaster of Pirmill confiding in Santa what he would like for Christmas. B51twe01

Should they decide on industrial action, it will have to go through ballots and a ratification period.

Pirmill shop

There is no sign of Pirmill Post Office re-opening as either a shop or a post office.

Tom Campbell reported to the community council on Tuesday that the premises would remain suitable as the landowner had refused feu waiver and insisted that it be retained as a shop premises.

Owners Paul and Linda Brown have put the house and shop up for sale, but there has been no interest. The Post Office has also made no moves to re-open a post office in the village, although it is thought that as little as only 10 hours per week may be offered by them, which is a small inducement to any future postmaster.

First lambs

The first lambs of the season seem to be getting earlier and earlier. They used to be reported on the front page of the first *Banner* in January. Then it was the last one in December but now you can't tell when they will come.

Two were born on December 13 at Torrylenn Farm, Kilmory, but it is believed twins were born in High Feorline the week before.

Unsure if the season is starting earlier or if the real reason might be something else completely, one farmer explained: 'The tup got out.'



The Bank of Scotland in Brodick has been judged best in the west of Scotland's Inverclyde group. Celebrating their success are: Joyce Walker, Ann Soutter, Richard Farquhar, Gerry Jameson, Malcolm McCachie, Elizabeth Kelso, manager Jim Hill, Diane Perrie, Keith Howie, Helen Donnelly, Christine McBride, Liz Kennedy and Jill Small. B51twe03



Veronica Woodman, castle administrator, presented Guy Sloan, Louise Marr and Ewan MacKinnon with Arran Young Naturalists regular attendance prizes at the Ranger Centre at Brodick Castle. B51twe05



Pirmill pupils were unusually silent when Santa entered the hall with a sack of gifts for the children. Santa and his assistant Faye Black handed out presents to the children and wished them a Merry Christmas. B51twe02



Phyllis Picken and Gillian Macrae present head teacher Iain Murray with a cheque on behalf of Isle of Arran Parent Teacher Association. The money, which has been raised throughout the year, will go towards lockers for senior pupils. B51twe04

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

ISLE OF

ARRAN

BREWERY

Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, bank fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open 9am-Dusk
 Arran Brewery Fri - Sat 10am - 5pm Sun - Wed 12.30pm - 5pm
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green Open all day
 Soap making & Candle Dipping Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am - 4pm

Saturday 17th December

Army Cadets Auchrannie Road 11am - 1pm
 Over 21s Disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Arran Vets - Surgery 9.30am - 11am
 Arran Vets - Reception 9.30am - 12 noon
 Live music Fiddlers, Brodick from 7.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowls Bowling Club, 1.15pm
 Flow Yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 Live Music - Dead Flowers The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Sunday 18th December

Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Open acoustic session at Fiddlers' Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm - 5pm
 AA Meeting Brodick church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
 Taigi & Oigong Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Carol Singing The PHT, Lamlash 3pm
 Christmas MEGA Mackerel Lottery The Kinloch, 4.30pm

Monday 19th December

Over 50s Badminton Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Morning Fitness Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Badminton Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Arran Vets - Surgery 9am - 10.30am & 4pm - 6pm
 Arran Vets - Reception 9am - 2pm & 4pm - 6pm
 Arran Junior Football Club Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Circuit Training Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Lamlash Aerobix Arran High School Dance Studio, 6.30pm
 RunArran Drift Inn, Lamlash 5.30pm
 Tae Kwondo Brodick Church Hall Adults & over 10s, 7.00pm - 8.30pm
 Arran Bridge Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm
 Arran Citizen's Advice Bureau Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
 Live music Fiddlers, Brodick 7.30pm - 10pm

Tuesday 20th December

Pop Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Youth Club Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Arran Vets - Surgery 9am - 10.30am & 4pm - 6pm
 Arran Vets - Reception 9am - 2pm & 4pm - 6pm
 Rotary club Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm
 Healthy Outdoors NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
 Blackwaterfoot Bowls Bowling Club, 1.15pm
 RunArran Run Coaching Lamlash, 5.30pm
 Bridge Class (beginners/improvers) Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
 Open Cricket Session Brodick Astro Turf 7pm-9pm
 Lamlash Junior Drama Club Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
 Flow Yoga Corrie & Sannox Hall, 6pm
 Live Music Fiddlers, Brodick 7.30pm - 10pm
 Metafit Arran High School, 6pm
 Pilates Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Winter bowls Auchrannie, 7pm

Wednesday 21st December

Rock & Pop Bingo Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Tae Kwondo Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm

Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Arran Vets - Reception
 Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 RunArran
 Yoga-Arran
 Live music
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey
 Dog classes
 Flow Yoga
 Knittner & Natterry
 Winter Warmers Snacks
 Bus Pass club meal
 Arran Skinnymalinks
 Carols for Christmas

Brodick 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
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Auchrannie Spa, Brodick, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 7.30pm - 10pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
 Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm
 Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm
 Lochranza Field Centre, 11am - 2pm
 The PHT, 12 noon - 2.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 4pm - 4.45pm
 Brodick Hall, 7pm

Thursday 22nd December

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Arran Vets - Reception
 Live music
 Ladies Hockey
 RUNFIT
 Burger & Quiz night
 Winter Bowls
 Mixed Martial Arts/XFit
 Arran Bridge
 Quilt Arran
 Flow Yoga
 Chair Yoga
 10th Ayrshire Shiskine cub Scouts & Beavers
 RUNFIT
 Brodick Embroidery group

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

Friday 23rd December

Yoga
 Hydrofit
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Quiz
 Arran Vets - Surgery
 Arran Vets - Reception
 AA Meeting
 Live music
 Tae Kwondo
 Rock Disco

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
 Church Hall, Brodick 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, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Arran high School, Lamlash Adults, 7pm - 8.30pm
 The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm



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OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF HAYSHOLM SCHOOL, JAMES MCFARLANE SCHOOL, JAMES REID SCHOOL, STANECASTLE SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS PROVISION AT ANNICK PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Education and Youth Employment have consulted parents, carers and other interested parties on a proposal on the future of Haysholm School, James McFarlane School, James Reid School, Stanecastle School, and early years provision at Annick Primary School. A report on the consultation will be published on the Council website, www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk on Monday 5 December 2016. Copies will also be available at all schools affected by the proposal, Education and Youth Employment HQ, local libraries and community centres.

JOHN BUTCHER, Executive Director, (Education and Youth Employment)

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 06.01.17. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

16/01139/PP; Co-operative Store, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ; Shop alterations including refrigeration plant.

16/01156/PP; Site To North Of Doonhill, Harbour View, Blackwaterfoot, Brodick, Isle of Arran; Amendment to planning approval N/11/00776/PP to amend house type on plot 10.

16/01179/PP; Auchencar, Machrie, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Extension of car park and formation of outdoor play area (retrospective).

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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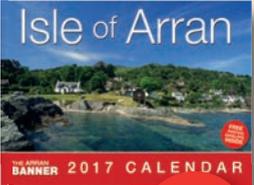


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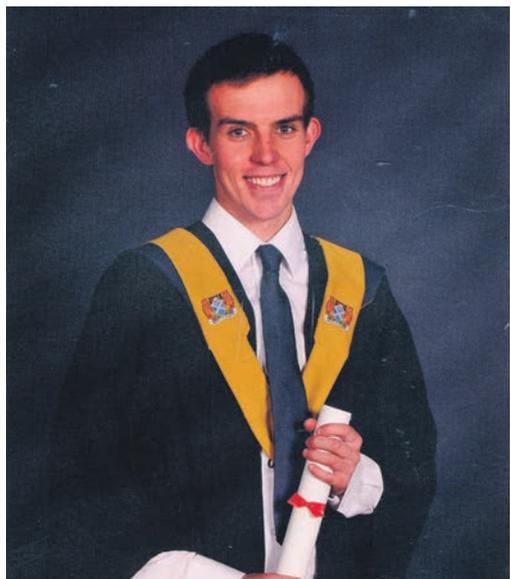
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www.scotsheritagemagazine.com
Official magazine of the Standing Council of the Scottish Chiefs

GRADUATIONS



Cameron Bone graduated from the University of West of Scotland with an HNC in Agriculture which was presented at a ceremony in Bute Halls, at Glasgow University.



Mark Sherwood from Blackwaterfoot, graduated from the University of Cumbria with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Dance Performance and Musical Theatre Performance.

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 18th December
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

Saturday, December 17th:
Carol Singing at the Brodick Co-op, 11.00 am – 12.00 noon.
Collection for charity.
ALL WELCOME TO COME ALONG AND JOIN IN

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 18th December
Lochranza Church and Pirnmill Churches, 10.15am Morning Worship in
Lochranza. Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Family Service with Nativity.
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship. There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 18th December 2016

An all age service for Christmas will be conducted by Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. All most welcome. Tea and Coffee will be served in the transept after the service. There will be the monthly sale of Traidcraft goods available. There will be a service in Cooriedoon at 2.30pm. All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 18th December
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory 10 am
Lamlash 11.30 am
In Lamlash:
Community Nativity
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 18th December
Sunday Mass 11am
Arran Free Church of Scotland (continuing)
Sunday 18th December
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 18th December
Service 11am at Ormidale Pavilion
Tea & Coffee after the service.
Wednesday 21st December
Carols for Christmas in Brodick hall at 7pm
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)
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

DEATHS

BUCHANAN - Dr Robert We are sad to announce the death of our beloved father, Dr Robert Buchanan, (aged 92) on 10th December 2016 at the Arran War Memorial Hospital. The family would like to thank those who were able to attend his funeral and for everyone's support at this difficult time.

VELLA-BOYLE - Tom Passed away at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Saturday, 10th December. All welcome at Lamlash cemetery at 2:00pm on Monday, 19th December, then back to Claveron for a wee dram. No flowers please, any donations to COAST appreciated.

WHITESIDE - Robert Logan. Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital on Thursday, 8th December 2016. Bobby, aged 87 years, beloved husband of Ina, father of Gillian and father-in-law of Andy, loving Grampa of Craig and Jennifer. Funeral service in St. Molios church, Shiskine, on Friday, 16th December at 11:30 am and thereafter to Clachan cemetery to which all are welcome. Family flowers only please.

IN MEMORY

COOPER - NANCY
Died December 17, 2007
Miss you Mum
With love from Lorna, Andy, Bryan, Toni, Liam and Sean.



Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday December 8, yellow medal, CSS 61, par 61.
1 Ian Bremner 67-9=58,
2 Jim Young 75-14=61,
3 Alan Smith 73-11=62.
Magic twos, Ian Bremner at 16th, Alan Smith at 7th and 17th.

Sunday December 11, Glenburn Cup, CSS 64, par 64. 1 Alastair Crawford 71-13=58, 2 Matt Harvey 74-13=61. Best scratch, Alastair Crawford 71. Magic twos, Matt Harvey at 16th.

Fixture: Sunday December 18, winter friendly v Whiting Bay at Whiting Bay at 10.30am.

Thursday December 22, yellow medal, 11am draw.

Monday December 26, Boxing Day game, stableford, 11am start.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday December 11, Ryder Cup, second round, singles. A bit of rain out on the course but good fun was had by all. Kilpatrick 5 and 1/2 v Torbeg 2 and 1/2, Shiskine 5 v Blackwaterfoot 3. The table after round 2; 1 Shiskine 9 pts, 2 Kilpatrick 8 pts, 3 Torbeg 5 pts, 4 Blackwaterfoot 4 pts. Kilpatrick won the bonus point. Nearest

the pins were: at the 4th, H Bannatyne; at the 10th, W Anderson; at the 12th, G McKechnie.

Fixture: ladies golf game every Thursday at 10am.

Saturday December 17, Gents Lochranza Match, 1.30pm tee off.

Sunday December 18, gents competition. 1pm draw.

Monday December 26, Boxing Day charity Texas scramble, all welcome. Mixed teams of four, phone the pro shop on 01770 860 226 to book a time. The prize-giving will be at the Kinloch at 4pm.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday December 11, Winter Cup round three – 13 played on a morning when the course was still recovering from heavy overnight rain. CSS stayed at 63 and winner Ronnie Mann bettered that, and John Dick, by one shot. 1 Ronnie Mann 14, 62, 2 John Dick 14, 63, 3 Graeme Crichton 13, 63, 4 Jamie McKechnie 7, 65 and lowest gross. Danny Head bagged the only magic two of the day at the 7th. At the halfway stage in this year's contest it's still all to play for with no obvious winner yet running away with it.

Saturday December 10, prize-giving buffet. The 2016 prize-giving buffet was a great chance for members to get together and catch up on handing out those trophies that, in a busy summer season, they did not manage to present at the time. Congratulations went to all those who were winners but a special mention had to go to the club champion, Nicol Auld. After a couple of seasons when, for one reason or another, Nicol did not get out on the golf course as much as he would have liked, 2016 proved a fabulous year for him. Apart from first place or podium finishes in many of the regular competitions, he won the club championship for the 16th time and then went on to win the Island Champion of Champions title, beating Ewan McKinnon of Corrie in the process. A fine year for a fine golfer. Thanks must also go to John and Louise behind the bar for the snacks and drinks and for the festive atmosphere in the clubhouse. It was a fine evening and the club will keep an watchful eye on next year's calendar and fixtures.



Winners with their trophies at the Whiting Bay Golf Club prize-giving dinner.

Fixture: Sunday December 18, winter friendly v Lamlash at Whiting Bay at 10.30am with a rolling start. Turn up to be paired. Please note this venue corrects an error on the WBGC fixture list.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday December 3, Winter Cup. A closely fought battle between Billy, Euan and Len, who all finished with an excellent 38pts. 1 W Paton 38pts, BIH, 2 E McKinnon 38pts, BIH, 3 L Hartley 38pts. Scratch, Euan McKinnon 61. Magic twos, B Paton, E McKinnon, M and A MacDonald, M Dobson.

Saturday, December 10, Joe McKenzie Memorial, 13 played with Donald Logan leading the field home. The course was in marvellous condition for the time of year.

1 D Logan, 2 I Keen, 3 R Burke. Magic twos, D Logan and A Napier.

Monday December 12, Monday Cup. Alister MacDonald won this one at a canter.

Stephen Beardsley scored three magic twos and still came nowhere. 1 A MacDonald 67-11=56, 2 J McConnachie 69-9=60, 3 A Smith 66-5=61, BIH. Lots of magic twos.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday December 4, Stableford Sweep, 6 played. Peter McCalla 7, 36pts, Terry Raeside 10, 35pts, John May 20, 34pts.

Sunday December 11, Winter Cup, stableford, 17 played. Brian Smith 12, 40pts, Iain Keen 12, 39pts, Terry Raeside 10, 38pts. Brandon qualifier played at same time. CSS 64. Brian Smith 73-12=61, Iain Keen 74-12=62, Terry Raeside 73-10=63. Scratch, Gordon Hendry 70.



Nicol Auld won the Island Champion of Champions title and the Whiting Bay Club Championship.

Fixtures: Sunday December 18, Clochendichter at 10am followed by Christmas lunch.

Monday December 26, Winter Cup, 9am and noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday November 29, Winter Cup. 1 P Betley 75-12=63, 2 D Brookens 76-12=64, 3 B Sherwood 78-12=66. Magic twos, D Brookens.

Saturday December 3, Lochranza Hotel Cup, CSS 64. 1 B Sherwood 36pts, 2 P Betley 35, 3 J Pennycott 34.

Tuesday December 6, Winter Cup. 1 B Sherwood 79-12=67, 2 P Betley 82-9=73.

Fixture: Tuesday December 20, Lochranza Hotel Cup at noon.

Arran Golfers' Association
Sunday January 8, Winter League / Duncan Trophy, Third round at Machrie. Machrie v Brodick at 8.30am, Whiting Bay v Shiskine at 9.20am, Corrie v Lamlash at 11.50am. Merry Christmas and a prosperous and happy new year from all at the AGA.



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Heavy defeat for island rugby side

Isle of Arran Rugby Football Club were well and truly trounced at the weekend by a margin of 70.

Isle of Arran scored a hard fought six points, while Strathendrick came to the island and took 76 points.

This puts the island club in 10th place, with 18 points, in the BT West Division Three with the last four games lost, but three games in hand.

Strathendrick RFC sit at the top of the league with one game in hand.

The next outing for the club is away to Strathaven RFC today, Saturday December 17.



The five Arran High School boys who played in the Under 18 league fixture, Euan Rains, Sam Hirschfield, Ben Downing, Finlay Aherne and Calum Macalister, with David Morrison of Cartha Queen's Park.

Arran High School pupils line-up for Cartha Queen's Park

CARTHA Queen's Park Rugby Club, Glasgow, played five Arran High School boys in its under-18 league fixture last Saturday.

While the team may have 'lost heavily', the four youngsters are in the running for more games this season.

The five young men were Euan Rains, Sam Hirschfield, Ben Downing, Finlay Aherne and Calum Macalister.

David Morrison from the club said: 'We hope to get them games for the rest of the season and they were a delight to have. It is a long day out for a game of rugby. Thanks to Euan Rains, the Arran captain, for sorting it out at his end.'

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