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No. 2016 Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 18 MARCH, 2017

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Top dog

Caileag is ready to come to the rescue



Loo hope

Four public toilets could be saved from closure



Mind the gap

Local firm builds bridge with local primary pupils

Full steam ahead!



Hugh Boag
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Here is the new Arran ferry which should be in service late next year. This new artist's impression was released this week as it was revealed that the construction of the £48.5 million vessel is approaching a new project milestone.

The first of two dual fuel ferries, currently known as Hull 801, and earmarked for the Brodick to Ardrrossan route, has almost reached the 75 per cent steelwork fabrication stage, Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited (CMAL) has announced.

The second vessel, Hull 802, is following closely behind, currently at 60 per cent steelwork fabrication.

The 102-metre vessels are capable of operating on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and marine gas oil (MGO), reducing emissions to help meet Scottish Government reduction targets across transport. They are being designed to provide a fully flexible, year-round

Continued on page 4

Work on the new Arran ferry continues apace at Ferguson's yard on the Clyde



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Planning bid for Machrie slipway

The Forestry Commission is pressing ahead with its plans to create a timber slipway at Machrie.

A planning application is expected to be lodged shortly to allow construction of the slipway south of Machrie, which has proved controversial.

The Forestry Commission is to hold a public drop-in meeting from 4pm to 6pm on Wednesday March 29 at Machrie Bay Golf Club to update anyone interested in the plans.

The Machrie timber slipway would be similar to the facility at North Sannox and be used to transport wood felled on the west coast of the island, preventing it from having to be brought over The String by lorry to Brodick.

Four public toilets on Arran are saved

... but most will still shut

Hugh Boag
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Four public toilets on Arran are likely to be saved, but the majority will still shut at the end of the month.

Following constructive talks with Arran Community Council and community representatives, it is hoped that ownership of four of the island's public conveniences will come under community control.

Under the community asset transfer scheme, ownership of the public toilets at Kilmory, Whiting Bay, Sandbraes and Glen Sannox are likely to pass from

North Ayrshire Council to local organisations.

However, despite the best efforts of the council, it has not proved possible to find a group willing to take ownership of the public toilets at Blackwaterfoot, Lochranza or Lamlash. As a result, these facilities will be decommissioned and closed on March 31, and marketed for sale. Similarly, the toilets at North Sannox are beyond their useful economic life and will be decommissioned and closed on the same date.

Due to their condition and lack of local volunteers to provide ongoing



The public toilets at Brodick Green which will close at the end of the month.

maintenance, it is currently planned that the public conveniences at Brodick Green will also close. Members of the public will be able to use the nearby facilities in Brodick Hall, but only during opening hours.

Yvonne Baulk, head of physical environment at the council, said: 'Like all local authorities, we are having to balance reducing resources with an increasing demand for our services. Since 2010, we have had to find £73 million of savings

which means that difficult decisions have to be made.

'In light of these reducing resources, a decision was taken by the council in February 2016 to close most of our public toilets, with the closures planned for March 31 to give officers time to work with communities to develop proposals to transfer ownership and operation of public toilets to those communities that wished to maintain provision.

'Since then, we have held

positive discussions with community groups on Arran which may allow the public toilets at Kilmory, Whiting Bay, Sandbraes and Glen Sannox to remain open, subject to a community asset transfer.

'We will continue to meet with representatives of the community council and other local community associations to offer support and advice which would enable them to assume operational responsibility for these four facilities.'

Joining forces to boost economy

Ambitious plans for the formation of a new partnership to boost Ayrshire's economy have taken a step forward.

The Scottish Government has identified Ayrshire as a Regional Partnership Pathfinder which aims to stimulate local economies. That could see North Ayrshire join forces with colleagues in East and South Ayrshire councils to form a single economic body to represent the entire region.

It is also hoped that the partnership would also help build on the progress made through the ambitious Ayrshire Growth Deal.

The project would focus on the structure of a single economic agency between the three Ayrshire councils while the growth deal element would handle specific regeneration projects.

Councillor Alex Gallagher, cabinet member for economy, said the Pathfinder offered fresh opportunities to explore ways to transform the Ayrshire economy.

He said: 'The Pathfinder project is still in the very early stages but it does offer the potential for all three Ayrshire authorities to work together to bring increased employment op-

portunities and economic growth to Ayrshire.

'We know the benefits that the Ayrshire Growth Deal can bring to the region and the Pathfinder would complement the work that has already taken place.'

North Ayrshire Council's cabinet this week agreed to look at options on how a single Ayrshire economic body could be developed and a report on the project will be drawn up for a future cabinet meeting. Agreement will be needed from all three local authorities before the proposals can progress further.

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Museum picks up top award

Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Isle of Arran Heritage Museum was celebrating this week after winning a Civic Pride award.

The Brodick museum, run by a dedicated band of volunteers, picked up the North Ayrshire arts and culture honour at the Provost's Civic Pride Awards charity dinner last Friday.

The annual event was again held at the Seamill Hydro, where finalists were given the red-carpet treatment.

The event aims to celebrate the outstanding talent and generous community spirit which exists throughout North Ayrshire. And charities were also the big winners on the evening with around £17,000 raised for the Ayrshire Hospice and Cash for Kids.

Provost Ian Clarkson enjoyed his first awards dinner as provost and had the honour of revealing the winners of each category before announcing the winner of his own special award to the audience.

In giving the award, sponsored by Saltire Facilities Management, to the museum the audience were told: 'Open since 1976, and run by volunteers, the Isle of Arran Heritage Museum goes from strength to strength.'

'The team are passionate, hardworking and help raise valuable funds that make the museum so popu-



Museum chairman John Sillars with Provost Clarkson and award sponsors Drew Quinn and John Reynolds of Saltire Facilities Management.

lar with islanders and tourists alike.

'The facility was recently given Museum Accreditation – an amazing achievement that recognises the work carried out by the volunteers to enhance the visitors' experience. The heritage of Arran will always be in safe hands and looked after for future generations to enjoy and appreciate.'

Receiving the award for the museum, chairman John Sillars said: 'It is a great honour to be alongside so many other groups that do so much for society. It's a great for our community that we have won this honour. The museum is about the social history of Arran – we are very conscious that what we do today is tomorrow's history.'

Provost Clarkson added: 'From start to finish, this event has lived up to expectations – and then some. Standing up there and presenting the awards to some truly amazing people was an unforgettable and humbling experience. A massive well done to all our finalists and winners.'

'Thanks to everyone who nominated and voted for their community heroes. I hope we gave them a night they will never forget.'

The North Ayrshire Citizen of the Year Award was won by Betty Wilson, who has been a Girl Guide leader with Kilwinning Guides for 40 years – inspiring hundreds of young girls across North Ayrshire. The Young Citizen of the Year was 13-year-old Abby Kane

from Largs who is visually impaired. She was the youngest member of Team GB and captured the hearts of us all with her amazing performance to win silver in the 100m backstroke at the Rio Paralympic Games.

The Community Group Award was won by the Anthony Quinn Trust, which supports those most in need of help – and provides a lifeline to some of North Ayrshire's most vulnerable people. Funky Films, a collaboration between the North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership and Recovery at Work, lifted the Provost's Award.

The museum opens for the season next week.

Rugby star is guest of honour at aspire event

Scotland's top rugby try scorer of all time, Tony Stanger, will be among the guest speakers at a business event in Brodick next week.

Hosted by North Ayrshire Council, Business Gateway and the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce, the event, titled Aspire to Arran 2020, has a number of speakers.

The event, which will be held at the Douglas Hotel on Wednesday March 22 from 11.15am to 1.30pm, will focus on efforts for Arran to be a world class island by 2020.

Sharing their aspirations and secrets to success, speakers will include Tony, who represented Scotland 52 times at rugby union and who was responsible for arguably the most famous try in Scottish rugby history to win the Grand Slam in 1990.

Combining personal experiences as an elite ath-

lete, coach and talent expert with an understanding of the key factors that drive success, Tony hopes to show the audience what it takes to make the most of their ability, how to build effective teams and how to create a 'how we can do this better' culture.

If you are interested in attending this free event, you can contact Business Gateway on 01770 302676 or by email at derekshand@googlemail.com.



Tony Stanger.

Second boss quits at Brodick Castle

Brodick Castle has lost its second boss in just nine months.

The abrupt departure of Hugh Walker from his position as property manager comes less than six months after he was appointed.

He was hired following the departure last June of previous property manager, David Cameron.

The castle is presently closed for major fire pre-

vention works costing £2.6 million, which are due to start next month. The long-awaited adventure playground is also finally taking shape in the grounds and is due to open in mid May.

The reason for Mr Walker's departure is not clear. A spokesman for the National Trust for Scotland said: 'We can confirm that Hugh Walker is no longer

employed by the National Trust for Scotland. Interim arrangements for management of the property are in place pending the appointment of a new manager.'

'Given the central importance of Brodick Castle, Gardens and Country Park to the trust as a priority property, we hope to be in a position to begin the recruitment process as quickly as possible.'

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NEWS In Brief**Backpack theft probed by police**

Police are investigating the alleged theft of a backpack on the MV Caledonian Isles.

The black backpack was reportedly stolen from ferry on Monday March 13. It contained Dell laptop (model Latitude E5450), small red HP laptop, keys, Sony headphones and other possessions to the value of more than £1,000.

It was last seen by the owner, who lives in Shiskine, at 1.25pm as the ferry docked at Brodick by the bottom of stairs next to port-side passenger doors.

The owner believes the backpack may have been hidden then taken off at Ardrossan at 2.50pm.

He added that a Cal-Mac staff member said he had not heard of a theft in more than 10 years before this.

New ferry should be in service next year

Continued from page 1
service for Arran and the Skye Triangle routes.

Last month, the dual fuel engines that will power the vessels were delivered to Ferguson Marine Engineering Limited's shipyard in Port Glasgow, where the ships are being built. The 147m³ LNG tanks supplied by Wartsila – a stand out feature of the new vessels, measuring 20.4 metres in length and four metres in diameter – are nearing completion and are expected to be delivered to the shipyard in June 2017. Work is also under way on the aluminium superstructure that will form the accommodation block



The ferries project is the first of its kind in Scotland.

of the ships. The new ships will be highly manoeuvrable, with Twist Flow Costa Bulb Flap Rudders, three 620 kW bow thrusters and a 480 kW stern thruster, designed to assist the vessel get in and out of Ardrossan, but a decision on the

port it will be using is still awaited.

An innovative stern ramp will slide transversely, allowing the ships to operate on several routes across the service network.

Jim Anderson, director of vessels at CMAL said: 'It is an impressive sight to see the two vessels being built side by side and the stage of fabrication now allows us to see the vessel form taking shape on the slipway at the shipyard. Hull

801 is approaching the 75 per cent fabrication stage, with Hull 802 following closely behind. The yard is now moving into the main equipment installation stage of the vessels.

'The LNG fuel tanks are hugely impressive and their planned delivery reminds us of the scale of the project we are delivering. The design and build of these dual fuel vessels is a highly-complex technical project, the first of its kind in Scotland – and indeed the UK. They represent CMAL's commitment to exploring new technologies for ferries, as well as a wider commitment to innovation in Scotland and consideration for the environmental impact of transport.'

Liam Campbell, managing director at Ferguson Marine Engineering Ltd said: 'We are now en-

tering a stage of the build on the vessels that will see much of the equipment being delivered and allow us to further advance the outfitting of the vessels both on the slipway and in the module hall. These vessels, although complex, allow the yard invaluable experience in LNG vessels and, mixed with the experience we have gained in previous CMAL builds with hybrid propulsion vessels, puts us in a great position to serve the industry with state-of-the-art vessels.'

The new vessels are earmarked for the Arran and Skye Triangle routes, although the final decision on routes is subject to review by CalMac Ferries Ltd, CMAL and Transport Scotland. The first ferry is expected to enter service in the second half of 2018, with the second vessel following a few months later.



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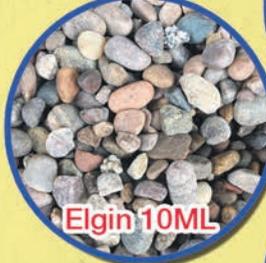
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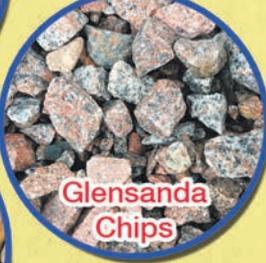
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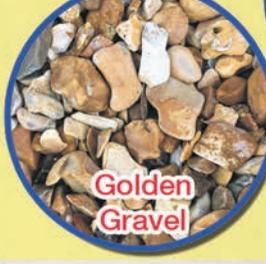
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The LNG tanks are a stand-out feature of the new vessels, measuring 20.4 by four metres.



The first main engine of the vessels arrive on site.

Print at home ticketing on the way

At the Arran Ferry Committee meeting this week, it was confirmed that terms and conditions relating to cancelled sailings are now on the CalMac website – information is also handed out to those affected at the harbour at the time of cancellation, Iain Slorach head of forecasting and planning at CalMac said.

The AFC were advised that the 'technical issue' which saw the first two sailings of the MV Caledonian Isles cancelled on Monday March 13, was due to a faulty propeller, which had since been sorted.

Members were also in-

formed the meeting that 'print-at-home ticketing' will commence around the end of July. This means that passengers will be able to book and print their own tickets at home, or in the terminal building.

Full smart ticketing isn't expected for another two years and is dependant on identifying a vehicle-appropriate scheme that will allow for tickets on phones/tablets etc.

The new ticket systems will also be able to track numbers of cyclists and other users.

Port manager Colin McCort offered his report. He

advised that he had very positive discussions with the organisers of Grinduro, who had developed excellent multiple-bike racks for use on the ferry. Mr McCort also informed the meeting that 600 Scouts are coming to Arran on the May bank holiday weekend and CalMac will have special luggage arrangements in place for this group.

All approved ferry committee minutes are available in Brodick Library, or on the Arran Community Council website.

*See leader comment on page 8.



The walkway is halfway complete. Photograph: John Baraclough

Walkway is now taking shape

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) has announced that the new Brodick ferry terminal is nearing the final phases of its redevelopment and is on track for completion this summer.

This week the prefabricated covered walkway, which the *Banner* revealed had been delivered last week, was installed by manufacturer Adelte, working alongside principal contractor George Leslie Ltd and project manager CH2M. They are also building the Passenger Access System (PAS) which will link the pier with the ferries.

The contractor started work in January 2016 to secure a safe, efficient and reliable ferry terminal and service. The extensive redevelopment includes a new pier, increased marshalling area through reclaimed land and a modern terminal building, with bus stances and parking facilities.

Redevelopment at the terminal is progressing on schedule despite some challenging weather conditions.

The marine piles have been completed to remove the floating barge and 180 tonne crane from the harbour, and work to increase



The finished walkway linking the terminal building with the fire escape building. 01_A11walkway03

the marshalling area, modernise the terminal building, car park and drop off area are under way and progressing well.

The redevelopment project is running on time and on budget with a scheduled completion date of August 2017.

CalMac is to scrap multi-journey vehicle tickets due to abuse

Multi-journey vehicle tickets have been scrapped on the Ardrossan to Brodick ferry route.

The six journey flexi-tickets are being withdrawn when the summer timetable comes into force on March 31 and anyone who has them will have to use them before that date.

The move follows a study which showed that of the 268 booked vehicles that failed to turn up for sailings last December, 240 had been booked by people with multi-journey tickets, showing widespread misuse.

Caledonian MacBrayne had previously said that the move had the support of the Arran Ferry Committee.

However, at their monthly meeting on Monday night it was made clear that the committee had only requested further

clarification and detail on the number of no-shows relating to multi-journey tickets as it was felt there was no conclusive evidence to support this. CalMac's head of ticketing Alan Hood apologised for any public information issued that had misrepresented the AFC's views.

Commenting on the move he said: 'The Ardrossan-Brodick route is now officially the busiest route in our network and demand for vehicle space is very high so we must ensure that our ticketing system is not open to abuse.'

'Anyone who bought a flexi-ticket during the Winter timetable has been made aware that they would cease to be valid after March 30, and are non refundable, but we were keen to remind our customers that they must be used before they expire to get the full value from them.'



Drivers will no longer be able to use multi-journey tickets when booking.

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Ayrshire growth deal is ignored

Arran MP Patricia Gibson has expressed her anger that last week's UK budget completely ignored the Ayrshire growth deal.

Ms Gibson said: 'It was extremely disappointing that the Chancellor announced not a single penny in support of the growth deal, which requires UK government investment of £359.8 million to develop a number of exciting projects and create the conditions to achieve a step change in inclusive economic growth and prosperity across Ayrshire.'

'The deal already has the support of the three Ayrshire local authorities, the SNP government, as well as all four Ayrshire MPs and all four Ayrshire SNP MSPs.'

'Following the debate I led on the deal in the Commons just a few weeks ago, the UK Tory government made some "positive noises" about supporting it.'

'These have come to nought.'

'Despite our disappointment, my colleagues and I will continue to press the UK government to deliver for Ayrshire.'

Mountain team dogs ready for the rescue

Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Two dogs on Arran have earned their stripes and qualified as search dogs.

It now means that the Arran Mountain Rescue Team has three qualified dogs to help with searches in the hills.

Last weekend two of trainee rescue dogs from Arran passed their search dog assessments up in Aviemore through SARDA

Southern Scotland, which is responsible for training mountain rescue teams to handle search and rescue dogs.

Dog team member Darryl Urquhart-Dixon and Mowgli, a black labrador, and dog team's Kirstie Smith and Caileag, a brown and white border collie, are now available to assist with call-outs to search for missing people within the re-mits of search dog status.



Caileag with her rescue dog tag.



Ruby with new rescue dog Mowgli.

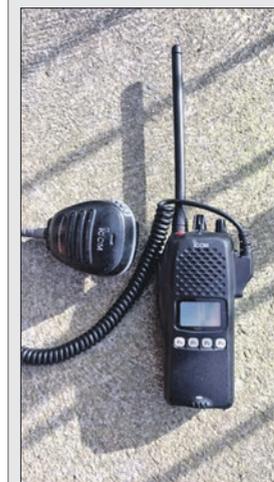
Darryl has another qualified yellow labrador, called Ruby, who has been working with the team for a number of years, and will still be working larger and more complex searches as she is graded as an advanced mountain rescue dog.

Both Mowgli and Caileag

will now gain more experience through call-outs and training to work towards their next grade of mountain rescue dog. Kirstie said: 'Search dogs are a great asset to the team with their acute sense of smell and specialised training to assist in the search for missing or lost people.'

Lost radio

The Arran Mountain Rescue Team has made an appeal to anyone who finds a lost radio set to return it to them. It is thought it was lost along Shore Road in Brodick between Kames Corner and the Royal Bank on Monday March 6. Anyone who finds it is asked to text 07771 846073



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Colin stands for Socialist Party

Colin Turbett is standing as a Scottish Socialist Party (SSP) candidate for the Ardrossan and Arran Ward at the local government elections in May.

Colin, who lives in Shiskine, has been an activist in the area for many years and was, until his retirement in 2015, the chair of North Ayrshire Unison branch.

His last job was as a children and family team manager for the council's social services in the Three Towns, ending a council career that stretched back 40 years, including with NAC itself from its inception in 1996. Colin is therefore familiar with the council and its workings and has a close understanding of the pressures and constraints on the workforce, as well as with the Ardrossan and Arran communities served.

Having argued for many years, with both Labour and SNP administrations as a trade union representative, for a 'no cuts' budget, Colin welcomes the recent council budget announcement – as far as it goes, that is, he said.

He added: 'As a short-term measure of resistance to austerity and assertion of local democracy,

it is good news, but problems lie ahead if a mass campaign involving local trade unions, users of council services and community groups, is not built quickly.'

Colin also believes 'local government finance needs immediate reform with the overdue replacement of the regressive poll tax with a Scottish service tax that will be properly based on an ability to pay'.

As an Arran resident for nearly 30 years, and regular ferry user, Colin has been outspoken and active around the cross-party campaign to keep Ardrossan as the main ferry route.

He was involved in petition activity for the SSP as well as with other activists, both on Arran and in mainland North Ayrshire.

His party was among the first to declare nationally in favour of Ardrossan and he noted with disappointment the 'local view' taken by elected representatives from other parties 'for Troon if from South Ayrshire, and for Ardrossan if from the north'. Colin believes that a future could be planned for both ports if they, and all other transport assets, were returned to public ownership.

Colin is a supporter of Scottish independence,



Scottish Socialist Party candidate Colin Turbett.

from a socialist rather than nationalist perspective, and plans to play a full part in any future referendum campaign.

He said: 'Such a prospect could bin the austerity policies that have resulted in massive public spending cuts and job losses – and offer a future where people get the council services they need.'

Two other Arran candidates are standing for the seat: Timothy Billings for the Conservatives and Ellen McMaster for the SNP.

MSP says port debate is 'dragging on much longer than needed'

West of Scotland Conservative MSP Jamie Greene told a public meeting this week that the Arran ferry port debate had been 'dragging on much longer than needed'.

As a result he said he would be writing to transport minister Humza Yousaf this week asking for a definitive answer to the date of the announcement.

His comments came as Cunninghame Housing Association held a public meeting in Ardrossan on Monday night to keep locals up to date on parliamentary progress on the decision on whether the Arran ferry should move to Troon or stay in Ardrossan.

Conservative council candidate Timothy Billings joined him at the meeting and the Lamlash

hotelier gave the gathered group an update on the background to the consultation and Troon bid, presenting an idea of Arran's point of view on the debate and looking at the pros and cons of the arguments.

He concluded that the majority of Arran supported the status quo but not unconditionally, asking that Peels Ports and North Ayrshire Council commit to beefing up the Ardrossan port facility and looking for improved reliability on the service.

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Editorial

Arran Banner gets a new look

Welcome to your new-look *Arran Banner*.

We all like a spring clean at this time of year and we thought we would take this opportunity to give the *Banner* a freshen up.

We may have given it a bit of a redesign but all your regular columns, news and views from around the island will still be covered in the same depth.

You will also see that we have introduced a new leisure section so that you can find all that is going on entertainment wise on the island in one place.

The *Banner* has been serving the island faithfully for 43 years this month, and is now one of the best performing weekly papers in Scotland in terms of sales.

That is all thanks to our band of loyal readers and we hope you will like the new-look *Banner*.

Let us know your thoughts on the new look.

Thought for the week

'There is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8: 39)

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Why do we need a second berth?

Sir,
Mr Yates from Catacol, in his letter in last week's *Banner*, questions the ability of a ferry to manoeuvre and dock stern onto the linkspan in the inner berth at Ardrossan, the 'Irish berth' as we knew it in the 1970s.

In those days the MV Lion (the Belfast ferry) managed to reverse in on a daily basis, so it is clear that the new Arran ferry could manage the same act, although one ferry front loading at the outer dock and the other rear loading in the inner dock would surely complicate matters when the weather, or other things go wrong and berths need to be changed.

More puzzling is why we need a second berth at Ardrossan. The two ferry summer timetable requires only one berth at Ardrossan, so why spend money on a second? And why spend yet more money on a two-storey terminal building in Ardrossan? Spending a 10th of the money to tidy up the harbour infrastructure would seem to make more sense.

Finally, on the point of the position of the station at Ardrossan Harbour, and as an aside for foot passengers like me, we all know the ABP bus to Troon station will be withdrawn as soon as they can wriggle out of the commitment. Relocating the station would involve building an

expensive level crossing and would almost certainly be rejected from a financial point of view. I think we shall all have to walk the 50m from the train to the ferry for some time to come.

**Lyn Rowley,
Torbeg.**

Troon trial

Sir,
I was really impressed by the letters about the ferry in last week's *Banner*. The basic message from Arran people to the Government, who will make the decision about the future of the ferry service, seems to be this.

Millions of pounds are being or will be spent on facilities at Brodict and Ardrossan.

None of this money is being spent by Peel Ports except to extend the berth for the new ferry and a few minor adjustments to the below water constructions.

Hamza Yousef must insist that if the ferry service is to remain at Ardrossan, Peel Ports must do serious dredging and protection work in order to improve the reliability of the service out of all recognition. If they refuse, then Troon should be chosen or should be made the bad weather port for a trial period of five years.

**John Cruickshank,
Whiting Bay.**

Financial penalties

Sir,
Having listened carefully to all the arguments for and against the Troon, Ardrossan

Port options, I am not at all convinced that the reliability of the service for the residents and businesses of Arran, as well as the tourists on whom so much of Arran relies, is of prime importance, as it should be for the decision makers.

If their clear bias is for the Ardrossan option, then I would assume that all the promises of Peel Ports, should they succeed in their bid, will be cast in stone with very severe financial penalties if they fail to meet their contractual obligations, within a very strict time scale.

**David Hutchison,
Whiting Bay.**

Bus improvement

Sir,
The *Banner* has been dominated recently by the ferry debate, however there is another problem regarding the lack of bus connections for the MV Isle of Arran timetable. Last summer friends decided to visit Lamlash for the day, having spent happy family holidays there many years ago. They travelled on the MV Isle of Arran and to their dismay, discovered no bus to Lamlash for this sailing. Also no notice is displayed at Ardrossan (or Brodict) about the lack of a bus service for the MV Isle of Arran timetable.

I remember this subject being discussed some time ago and was dismissed due to cost. With RET increasing the number of passengers and huge investment in the terminal infrastructure, it is time this short-

coming is addressed, otherwise these sailings may as well be considered as vehicle only. Perhaps a limited service could be introduced to Whiting Bay/Lochranza or altering the timetable could be investigated.

**Robin Gardner,
Lamlash and
Milton of Campsie.**

Arran engineers

Sir,
Thank you very much for your coverage of the children's engineering competition in last week's *Banner*. May I just make it clear that competition was open to every single child in education on Arran and not just to primary school children. We were most disappointed that the high school could not manage to raise an entry – we know there were a number who were prepared to try but for some reason their entries never materialised on the day.

The real reason for the competition was to raise awareness of the importance of engineering to all our lives. There are precious few tangible items you can buy today that have not been touched by engineering in one form or another – from the paint on your walls to a space rocket, just about everything needs an engineering input for it to be produced economically or at all.

Unfortunately this unavoidable fact is lost on so many of us and so Donald McNicol and I have put this competition together

to highlight the need for engineering in our lives and to encourage some of our very able and well motivated young people to consider engineering as a career option. Scotland has produced many fine engineers over the years so why not a few from Arran?

**Rory Cowan,
Kildonan.**

Editor's note: We would like to point out that the winner of the competition was Alec Fraser and not Alec Ferguson as stated last week in material provided to the Banner by the organisers.

Toilet trouble

Sir,
Plans to demolish public toilets on Arran is just farcical. Why try to promote tourism for the tourists only to have no public toilets? I know for a fact that on the west side of the island there are no toilets between Lochranza and Blackwaterfoot. So, for anyone in need of a toilet on the west side it means either using bushes or having to buy a coffee/tea in either The Lighthouse in Pirmill or the tearoom at Machrie. It's time the council in North Ayrshire woke up and faced reality before the island becomes one big toilet!

**Irene Taylor,
Saltcoats.**

Badgers pay

Sir,
I note from your edition of March 11 that North Ayrshire Council is funding a fence around Lamlash

Continued on page 13

Press policy

At Arran Banner, we endeavour to ensure all our reports are fair and accurate and comply with the Editors' Code of Practice set by the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).

We realise, however, that mistakes happen from time to time. 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 chief reporter on 01770

302142 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Cranog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter.

You can call IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body that deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

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Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.



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Visual art and poetry collaboration

Last year, Arran Open Studios (AOS) launched an initiative to celebrate their fifth year with a cross art-form collaboration.

This took the form of local practising poets responding in poems to an art work by an AOS participating artist. The results of this enterprise was the 2016 flagship exhibition which was displayed last year concurrently with the AOS weekend in August.

The exhibition was well received and organisers decided to produce a small permanent publication or chapbook of the exhibits and the

resulting poems. This has now been printed and will be available at various outlets around the island. The chapbook, designed by AOS recent graphic designer, Tony Van Breugel of Glasgow and Whiting Bay, is a must have for collectors of literature and Arran current affairs. There are seven artworks illustrated and seven responding poems. The book costs £5.

If it cannot be found in book/gift shops then interested parties should contact Tim Pomeroy on 600287 or call into Whiterock studio above

Lamlash to purchase a copy. Copies will be made available at Corrie Film Club's showing of *Wuthering Heights* on Sunday March 12. Arran Open Studios welcomes new participants, if you are interested in learning more please contact Ruth Mae on 820373 or by email at ruthmae.nagare@gmail.com.

Tim Pomeroy shows off one of the beautiful illustrations in the new collaborative art and poetry book.



Seven up as Niall and Lorna lift memorial darts trophy



Margaret Mackenzie introduces the prizegiving.

For the seventh year in a row Niall McMaster has won the Donald and James Mackenzie Mixed Doubles Memorial Darts Trophy. Helping him win the title this year was his darts partner Lorna Logan.

The competition, which saw more than 40 people take part including some of organiser Margaret Mackenzie's relatives from the mainland, was held in Kilmory Hall and raised a record amount of £700, which has gone to ArCas.

Runners up in the 29th year of competition were Scott Duffy and Susan Logan. The highest check out was 96, the same as last year, and was won by Lorna Logan to lift the James Cup. It must of been Lorna's lucky night as she also went on to win a raffle, earning herself a hamper.



Natalie Dick and Margaret Mackenzie present winners Niall McMaster and Lorna Logan with the trophy shield.



Margaret's grandson James Mackenzie presents Lorna Logan with the James Cup as Niall and runners-up Susan Logan and Scott Duffy look on.

Getting tuned up for music festival

The Isle of Arran Music Festival is taking place next week, from Wednesday March 22 until Friday March 24 in the community theatre in Lamlash.

On Wednesday, the country dance and verse speaking classes will be taking place on Thursday and Friday, with the music classes being held on Friday evening.

All classes are open to the public at a very small charge and organisers would actively encourage you to come along and support the performers as it can be very daunting singing, playing an instrument or reciting verse in a big empty room.

As the Friday evening session takes the form of a concert, organisers ask that anyone going along, whether in the audience or as a performer, comes at the start and stays until the end out of respect for others taking part.

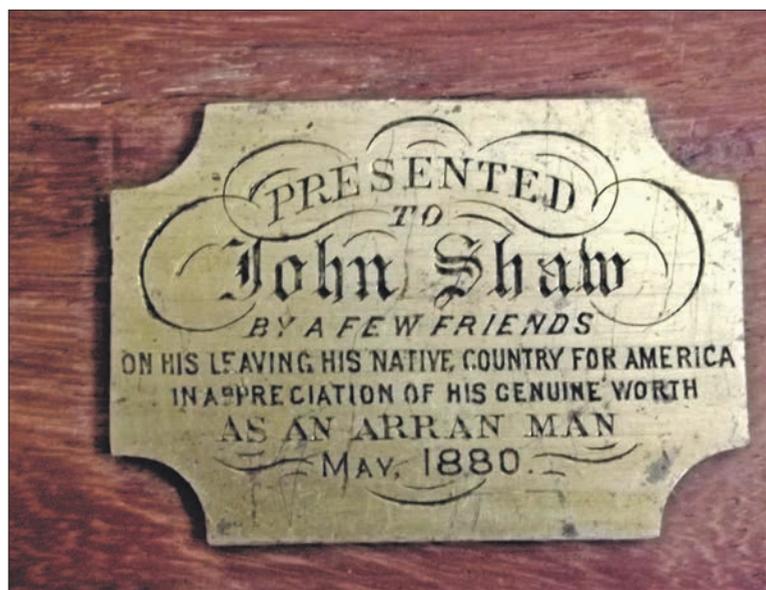
Programmes are available at £1 from the Book and Card Centre in Brodick, Cameron's in Blackwaterfoot, Bay Stores in Whiting Bay, or at the door.

The AGM of the Arran Music Festival Association will take place on Monday May 8 in the Mountain Rescue Hut, Brodick, at 7.30pm and the association would love to see as many new faces as possible.

Clues sought in connection with mysterious Arran box



The inlaid box was discovered at a charity shop in Blairmore by Gerry Burke of Strachur.



A brass plaque provides a few clues to its provenance and previous owner.

‘What is totally intriguing, of course, is how the box ended up near Dunoon’

The mysterious transatlantic return journey of a simple wooden presentation box that heralded a new life in America has got local history buffs baffled.

Nearly 150 years after John Shaw left his native Arran with the box in his luggage, it ended up back in Scotland, being found at Blairmore on Loch Long. A small brass plaque set into the 16in x 10in lid states the hand-crafted, inlaid box was ‘presented to John Shaw by a few friends on his leaving his native country for America’.

The gift was in ‘appreciation of his genuine worth as an Arran man’ and dated May 1880. It was picked up in the Church of Scotland’s Glory Hole charity shop in Blairmore by Gerry Burke of Strachur, who was intrigued by the poignant parting tribute and searched the internet for clues as to what might have become of John.

He contacted Jean Glen at the Arran Heritage Museum, who knows of

present-day Shaws on the island and is keen to find a family connection. Hopefully, this will reveal the story behind John’s departure from Arran and possible return to the Cowal peninsula.

Gerry, who is arranging to donate the box to the museum, said: ‘I asked at the time I bought the box if anyone knew who had donated it but no-one did and further local inquiries came to nothing. I discovered an internet connection that referred fleetingly to a Shaw family who emigrated from a farm in the Glen Sannox area of the island some time after the Arran clearances, but there was no trace of their arrival in America.’

He added: ‘What is totally intriguing, of course, is how the box ended up near Dunoon.’

If anyone has any information on the mysterious box, Gerry would be delighted to hear from them via email at gerryburke2@yahoo.co.uk or contact can be made with the Arran Heritage Museum.

Tapas NIGHT

Eat in or Take away

Wednesday 22nd March

followed by a PUB QUIZ!!

LIVE MUSIC!

SATURDAY 18th
MARCH @ 9PM



& SUNDAY 19th
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Isle of Arran Horticultural Show

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Saturday 25th March
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Teas - Homebaking - Raffle

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Chris Rose at work on South Georgia Island.

Bargains galore at Eco Savvy jumble sale

Bargain hunters were delighted with the wide variety of items at Eco Savvy's jumble and table top sale on Saturday.

The morning was busy and many bargains were purchased, and literature lovers were able to choose from hundreds of books. Whiting Bay hall ladies supported the event and provided teas and coffee with delicious pancakes and scones.

The purpose of the jumble sale was to rehome unwanted items. The event was held as part of Pass it on Week, Scotland's annual re-use week, when everyone is asked to get swapping, sharing, donating or repairing literally any type of item – from clothes to bikes, from books to sports kit, from gadgets to tools.

Eco Savvy raised £135 from the jumble and bric-a-brac, and masses of items were rehomed. The remaining jumble was sorted, returned to Eco Savvy or redistributed to new homes. Some books were recycled but nothing was sent to landfill.



Whiting Bay hall was packed with bargain hunters. 01_A11jumble02



Abigail Kershaw of Brodick with her handmade needlework creations. 01_A11jumble04



Sarah and Abbie Jackson, who ran a tombola to raise money for the Arran Pink Lassies and Cancer Research UK. 01_A11jumble01



New Eco Savvy volunteer Elizabeth Wilkinson at one of the stalls. 01_A11jumble03

A talk by Kenneth Calman *A Doctor's Line*

700 years of medicine and public health in Scotland's literature

**Wednesday 22nd March, 7pm
Arran Library, Brodick**

Free - all welcome

Artists for Albatrosses – an expedition to South Georgia

Award-winning artist at Arran History Society

Arran Natural History Society welcomed Chris Rose, an acclaimed and award-winning artist who specialises in paintings of wildlife, particularly birds within the natural landscape, when they met in the ranger centre at Brodick Country Park on Thursday March 2.

Recognised as one of the UK's leading wildlife artists, he has exhibited widely in the UK and overseas, and has been a member of the prestigious Society of Wildlife Artists (SWLA) for more than 25 years.

His work appears in many books and he was the sole illustrator of the recent guide, *Robins and Chats* (Bloomsbury 2015). A book of his paintings, *In a Natural Light*, was published in 2005 and was chosen as the *Guardian* newspaper's Natural History Book of the Year.

He is a regular contributor to *The Artist* magazine and has himself been the subject of numerous magazine articles.

He has travelled widely in pursuit of his art. In this

talk, *Artists for Albatrosses – an expedition to South Georgia* – Chris described his five-week expedition to the sub-Antarctic island of South Georgia, aboard a 20m yacht, sketching and painting the extraordinary wildlife and landscapes of this remote archipelago.

This project was aimed, in part, to raise funds and awareness for the RSPB's Save the Albatross campaign. Chris talked about some of the pressing conservation issues affecting the marine life of the Southern Ocean, in particular the huge numbers of albatrosses drowned every day after becoming caught on the hooks of fishing lines intended for tuna.

These 'long lines' are many miles in length and carry thousands of large hooks. Because albatrosses, which can have a wingspan exceeding the height of two people, have only one chick every two years, the effect of this level of mortality on their numbers has been devastating.

There are mitigation

measures now being trialled, including an ingenious new design of hook that opens only at a depth beyond that to which the birds dive.

Chris demonstrated this design and explained the attempts being made to get the tuna fishing industry to adopt it.

He also showed photographs of the many other birds, seals and penguins seen on his voyage, and slides of some of the wonderful sketches and paintings he has done of them.

His description of the difficulties of sketching and painting in this extreme environment were fascinating – including curious penguins, aggressive seals, and small birds intent on stealing his paint brushes whenever his back was turned. And, just to round off the trip, they were caught in a hurricane as they sailed back towards the Falklands.

This was an excellent evening, full of interest, information and entertainment. Alan Bellamy

Mother's Day Carvery

Sunday 26th March

12pm until 1.30pm

£10.95 per adult

£8.50 per child (5-11 years)

£5 per child (under 5 years)

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Isle of Aran Distillers take on the Eggheads



They know their whisky but how are the team at the Isle of Arran Distillers when it comes to general knowledge? Managing director Euan Mitchell was joined by Jaclyn McKie, marketing manager; Graham Omand, stillman; Andy Bell, sales manager; and Mark Callachan, planning manager; when they took on the

might of the Eggheads in an upcoming episode.

Jaclyn McKie said: 'Filming was tremendous fun and we think we brought a bit of the Arran spirit to the programme. The Eggheads certainly showed no mercy but we gave it our all.' The episode will air on Monday March 20.

Left to right are Jaclyn McKie, Mark Callachan, Andy Bell, Graham Omand and Euan Mitchell.

WHAT'S ON

Everyday

Trout fly fishing Loch Garbad, bank fishing
Broddick Castle, Garden open 9am-dusk
Arran Brewery Mon, Wed, Sat 10-5pm, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sun 12.30-5pm
Soap making and candle dipping Arran Aromatics, Broddick, 10am - 4pm

Saturday 18th March

Army Cadets Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm
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 - noon
Live music - Buccaneers Fiddlers, Broddick from 7.30pm
Live music - Baby Isaac The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Blackwaterfoot bowls Bowling Club, 2pm
Flow yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Broddick, 9am
Bingo Whiting Bay Golf Club, 7pm

Sunday 19th March

Family games Auchrannie games hall, 3pm-4pm
Fun in the pool Auchrannie spa pool, 4pm-5pm
Open acoustic session at Fiddlers' Fiddlers, Broddick 2.30pm - 5pm
AA meeting Broddick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
Live music - Baby Isaac The PHT, Lamlash, 3.30pm

Monday 20th March

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 and 4pm - 6pm
Arran Vets reception 9am - 2pm and 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 Broddick Church Hall adults and over 10s, 7pm - 8.30pm
Arran Bridge Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm

Arran Citizens Advice Bureau Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30am - 1.30pm
Arran Skinnymalinks Corrie - Breagha Holistic Beauty 5:00pm - 5:30pm
Arran Skinnymalinks Shiskine Church Hall 5:15pm - 5:45pm
Arran Skinnymalinks Broddick Church Kitchen 6pm - 6.30pm
Scottish country dancing beginners/improvers Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm

Tuesday 21st March

Pop quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Broddick Church Hall, 2pm
Youth club Kildonan Hall, 7pm
Arran Vets surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
Arran Vets reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Rotary Club Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 6.30pm
Healthy outdoors NTS Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Blackwaterfoot bowls Bowling Club, 2pm
RunArran run coaching Lamlash, 5.30pm
Bridge class (beginners/improvers) Broddick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Lamlash Junior Drama Club Arran High School, 6.30pm - 9pm
Flow yoga Corrie and Sannox Hall, 6pm
Pilates Kilmory Hall, 6pm - 7pm
Scottish country dancing Broddick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Winter bowls Auchrannie, 7pm
Arran Skinnymalinks Arran Distillery visitor centre 10am - 10.30am

Wednesday 22nd March

Rock and 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 Broddick Church Hall, 7-9pm
Arran Vets surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
Arran Vets reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Yoga Auchrannie studio, 9.30am-10.30am
Hydrofit Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
Heritage Museum genealogy service 10.30-12.30 and 1.30-3.30
RunArran Auchrannie spa, 5.30pm
Yoga-Arran Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
Mixed hockey Auchrannie sports Hall, 7.30-9pm
Dog classes Whiting Bay Hall, 1pm
Flow yoga Shiskine Hall, 7.30pm
Knittery and Nattery Kilmory Hall, 2pm - 4pm

Quiz night The PHT, 8.30pm
Bus pass club meal The PHT, noon - 2.30pm
Chair yoga St Molios Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am - noon
Arran Music Festival Community Theatre, Lamlash, from 11.30am
Coffee morning Broddick Church Hall, 10.30am - 12 noon
Talk by Kenneth Calman - A doctors line Broddick Library, 7pm

Thursday 23rd March

Morning fitness Auchrannie gym, 9.30-10.30am
General knowledge quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
Arran Vets surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
Arran Vets reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
Ladies' hockey Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30-8.30pm
RUNFIT Lamlash front green, 6.45am
Burger and quiz night Felicity's @ Eden Lodge, from 7.30pm
Winter bowls Auchrannie, 7pm
Arran Bridge Broddick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Quilt Arran Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4.30pm
Flow yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Broddick, 6pm
Chair yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Broddick, 10.30am - 11.30am
Shiskine Cub Scouts and Beavers Shiskine Hall, 6pm - 7.30pm
RUNFIT Lamlash green, 6.45am
Broddick Embroidery Group Broddick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Arran Music Festival Community Theatre, Lamlash, from 9.30am

Friday 24th March

Yoga Auchrannie spa leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
Hydrofit Auchrannie Hotel leisure, 9.45am - 10.45am
Arran Youth Foundations Church Hall, Broddick 7pm-9pm
Lochranna children's badminton Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
Lochranna adults' badminton Lochranza Hall, 8pm
Arran Vets Surgery 9am - 10.30am and 4pm - 6pm
Arran Vets Reception 9am - 2pm and 4pm - 6pm
AA meeting Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Tae Kwondo Arran High School, Lamlash adults, 7pm - 8.30pm
Live Music - Tim Pomeroy Fiddlers, Broddick, 7.30pm
Arran Music Festival Community Theatre, Lamlash, from 9.30am
Arran Music Festival Concert Community Theatre, Lamlash, 7pm
Whiting Bay Bowling Club AGM Bowling clubhouse, 7pm
Karaoke and open mic The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Letters

continued from page 8
Cemetery to exclude an invasive species. Shouldn't we be making the badgers pay for it?

**John Baraclough
Brodick**

Arran giftcard

Sir,
Thanks to support from Argyll and The Isles LEADER and North Ayrshire Council, the new pre-paid Arran giftcard will hopefully be launched at end of March. The ArranCard will offer recipients an opportunity to spend in a variety of different outlets on Arran, in much the same way as a gift card for a department store or shopping centre. This is an amazing opportunity for any Arran business, and already we have accommodation, retail, activity, as well as food and drink businesses signed up for the scheme.

My reason for writing is to ask any business wishing to be involved that has not already done so to contact us now for more details.

You can either phone 01770 302043 or email us at info@visitarran.com

Any Arran business that has a credit card facility (regardless of whether they are with VisitArran or not) could be part of the ArranCard scheme and, in addition, be promoted through the ArranCard website, which offers a mapping facility.

Arran is the first island destination to offer such a facility for visitors and residents, so please contact us now for more details on how to become involved.

**Sheila Gilmore
VisitArran**

Earth Hour

Sir,
I'm writing to encourage your readers to join thousands across Scotland and be part of the world's biggest environmental campaign, Earth Hour on Saturday March 25, at 8.30pm.

WWF's Earth Hour is a simple idea that's become a global phenomenon, with hundreds of millions of people turning off their lights to show they want action on the threat posed to people and the natural world by climate change.

**Lang Banks
WWF Scotland
Edinburgh**

Bridging that gap

George Leslie Ltd, in partnership with the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), has been helping to bridge the gap for primary pupils who will shortly be advancing to high school, with a bridge-building workshop.

The fun, hands-on experience was aimed at introducing pupils to civil engineering, teamwork and good communication while also introducing them to more senior type activities and opportunities that are afforded to high school pupils.

Ross Ritchie and Alan Kirkwood, from George Leslie Ltd, who brought the large bridge components over, oversaw the teams building it, providing an interesting overview



An industrious pupil is tasked with fastening one of the spans supporting the bridge. 01_B11bridge07

of loads, weights and suspension while also making comparisons with principals of engineering that are at work at the new ferry terminal in Brodick.

Classes started with an introductory talk before the children were divided into teams, provided with safety equipment and clothing, before they jumped straight into building the bridge that spanned almost the length of the community theatre in Lamlash. Having completed the bridge and having learned various aspects of engineering as they built the various components, the bridge was tested and each pupil involved in its creation crossed over it.

The final part of the exciting lesson for the children was when Richard Paterson and Innes McAlister, who are part of the George Leslie Ltd team at the Brodick ferry terminal, spoke about their work there and provided an insight into the engineering work that the pupils are all familiar with and very interested in.

Staff and pupils that were involved thanked everyone at George Leslie Ltd and the Institution of Civil Engineers for making the event possible.



Pupils learn about the dynamics of loads, represented by two pupils, on the bridge that they constructed. 01_B11bridge01



A pupil gets to grips with one of the suspension cables used in the bridge construction. 01_B11bridge02



Children overcame the engineering challenges that they encountered during the bridge construction. 01_B11bridge06



A George Leslie Ltd employee supervises the construction. 01_B11bridge03



Assured of the integrity of the project, a pupil crosses the bridge that he helped build. 01_B11bridge08

Pick up an Arran Blonde at Aldi's beer festival

Beer from Ayr Brewing and Arran Brewery and Ayr Brewing has been hand-picked by Aldi for the supermarket's Scottish Beer Festival.

Thousands of bottles of Arran Blone and Betty &

The Gardens Blonde are now on sale across all 72 Aldi stores in Scotland and the in-store event is expected to generate sales worth more than £130,000 for the 35 breweries involved.

Aldi's beer festival has

been running since 2012 and has generated in excess of £1.6million of sales for Scotland's craft breweries.

Tom Bradley, Buying Director for Aldi in Scotland, said: 'Scotland's beer industry is booming and

we're incredibly proud to work with many of Scotland's best breweries. At Aldi, we've been supporters of Scottish brewing for many years and craft beer has always had a place on our shelves.

'We've built a strong relationship with each brewery featured in this beer festival and, with demand for local produce higher than ever, we're expecting these local beers to fly off the shelves.'

Winter visitors to Arran

Gardens were havens for many species of birds

The mild winter continued in February with temperatures only dropping below zero on five days.

The mean temperature was a degree and a half warmer and there was 25 per cent more rain than last February but fewer winter storms. There was also about 25 per cent more rain than January. To sum up, the weather was changeable with the coldest spell around February 11.

Winter visitors were to the fore including: nine purple sandpiper at Silver Sands on 8th, eight redwing at Torbeg on 9th, 25 fieldfare at Cnoc Dubh on 23rd, one rook at Slidery on 24th, two brambling at Slidery on 27th and throughout

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

FOR FEBRUARY

the month the long staying greenshank at Clauchlands. The largest group of wintering yellowhammer was 10 at Slidery on 7th but there has been no report of Waxwing since the turn of the year.

Wintering wildfowl were present in numbers including: 120 teal at Kilpatrick Point on fourth, 47 pink-footed geese in Kilmory on 14th, 82 wigeon at Machrie on 15th, 220 greylag geese at Feorline

on 16th and two male goldeneye on Mossend Pond on 18th.

Other wintering flocks included: 42 redshank at Sandbraes on 3rd, 200 common gull at Lenahor Farm on 4th, 100 herring gull at Kilpatrick Point also on 4th, 24 lapwing at Kilpatrick on 6th, 96 curlew at Corriecravie on 9th, 179 jackdaw at Machrie on 12th, 150 starling at Kilpatrick on 18th, 100 chaffinch at Clachaig on 21st and 135 skylark at Slidery on 24th. Some of these flocks may have included birds beginning to migrate north.

The occasional calm days were ideal for sea watching. Reports included: five black-throated diver off Rubha Creagan Dubha on 12th, six great northern diver off Cosyden on 15th and two red-throated diver in Whiting Bay on 18th.



A grey heron in full breeding plumage. Photo by David Hogg.

There were signs of approaching spring with some reports of species in full courtship display including 40 eider off Cosyden on 15th and 14 red-breasted merganser in Whiting Bay on 24th.

With sources of food for some species of bird becoming scarce, gardens were havens for many species. Among the many garden highlights were eight coal tit at Torbeg on 8th, ten long-tailed tit in Brodick on 9th, a great spotted woodpecker at Cordon on 17th and ten goldfinch in Shiskine on 26th. Increasingly, numbers of siskin on their annual journey north began to appear at garden feeders including three in Whiting Bay on 22nd. It was also encouraging to receive more reports of greenfinch. This once common species has been decimated in recent years by the parasitic disease trichomonas.

Other sightings included: a pair of goosander off the Craw on first, two little grebe on Mossend Pond on 3rd, one moorhen also on Mossend Pond on 5th, one water rail at Corriecravie on 9th, one twite at Slidery on 19th and two dipper at Cordon on 24th.

As well as displaying eider and red-breasted merganser on the coast, other signs of approaching spring included: a blackbird in splendid song outside the Co-op in Brodick on first, a grey heron in full-breeding plumage at Strabane on fifth, 20 house sparrow nest building in Lamlash on

fifth, 12 courting Fulmar on the cliffs at Drumadon on seventh, woodpigeon on a nest in Clachaig on 23rd, raven nesting at Clachaig Glen on 25th and returning lesser black-backed gull in Kildonan on 26th. In addition, in February there were reports of returning gannet from 12 locations around the island.

Finally, March could see the start of the arrival of summer visitors including wheatear, chiffchaff, willow warbler, sand martin, even swallow and house martin, but their arrival

will be dependent on the weather. Keep an eye out for these migrants and let me know when you first see them. 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, the new Arran Bird Report 2016 or visit www.arranbirding.co.uk.



Greylag geese and pink-footed geese are typical winter visitors. Photo by Susie Smith.



Fulmar courting on the cliffs. Photo by Elizabeth Smith.



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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday 22 March, 1997

Golfing century

Brodick Golf Club is 100 years old this year. In 1897, the Brodick Hall Company Ltd began the course after setting up a committee to canvas for members. They leased a few fields in Mayish and had a small clubhouse of sorts. About 1912, the club appears to have lapsed for a short spell and, in 1913, Arran Estates set it up again. It set aside 40 acres in what is almost the present course – we say present because of the significant changes last year.

In place of the present clubhouse was a little starter's hut and what is now the chemist shop was used as a clubhouse although any dances usually took place in the Wooley's tea-rooms. During the Second World War, the club again lapsed. It was used as grazing and for mock invasions and war preparations. At the

end of the war, a group of locals arranged to lease the land from Arran Estates and, with an old army hut for a clubhouse, they began once more and have never looked back.

Comet watch

Anyone who has not yet cast their eyes up into the night sky has another week or so in which to do so and see a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Last night, in particular, it was crisp and clear and seen as a bright orb with a tail of light behind it. Named after Alan Hale and Thomas Bopp, the two Americans who first identified it, the comet is a 'small icy molecule' which lights up as it approaches the sun. The tail is melting ice and is due to peak in brightness on Saturday night. Thereafter Hale Bopp will continue to be visible for another week before its shoots off into space, only to return again in another 4,000 years.



Whiting Bay Guides won the John Thompson Memorial Cup for non-school group at the Music Festival. Holding the cup is Jenna Thomson, granddaughter of the late John Thomson. B11twe02



Centenary captain Willie Innes drives off from the first tee last Saturday which marked the start of special events celebrating the 100th year of Brodick Golf Club. B11twe05

Last orders

The application for a public house licence at Isle of Arran Distillery in Lochranza was refused at North Ayrshire Licensing Court last Monday. There were 19 objections to the application, most of which said they would not have objected to a restaurant licence but were totally against a pub licence.

Andrew Currie of the distillery said: 'We are sorry it was refused because we feel that we really want to have a restaurant licence and an off-sales licence and we feel that hasn't really been understood.' In the meantime, the distillery's new restaurant will be opened upstairs in the visitor centre, separate from the off-sales downstairs and there will be a ceilidh to mark its opening.



The Music Festival began with Scottish country dancing on Wednesday. Here Corrie primary school, who won the shield for mixed primary groups, dance The Honeymoon. B11twe01



Co-op shoppers Liz Armit and Helen MacDonald learn about the 'dividend' which has been reintroduced after it was withdrawn in the 1970s. The money-back scheme, known as the 'divi', will be five per cent on all fresh produce and Co-op-branded goods. B11twe04



Corrie Primary School country dancing group show off the shield for mixed primary groups with their tutor Tina Salmon. B11twe03

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Corrie Golf Club

AGM

Wednesday 5th April 2017
in Tearoom at 8pm

Whiting Bay Bowling Club

AGM

Friday 24th March at 7pm
In the Club House
All welcome



MACHRIE TIMBER SLIPWAY

Drop in meeting

at Machrie Golf Club
Wednesday 29th March, 4pm - 6pm
All welcome to pop in

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 COUNCIL TAX

As required by paragraph 96(1) of the above Act, North Ayrshire Council give notice of, in terms of paragraphs 70 (1) and 93 (1) of the same Act, the amounts of Council Tax payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band for year 2017/18.

Valuation Band	Full Council Tax (£)	Council Tax discounted by 25% (£)
A	791.04	593.28
B	922.88	692.16
C	1,054.72	791.04
D	1,186.56	889.92
E	1,559.01	1,169.25
F	1,928.16	1,446.12
G	2,323.68	1,742.76
H	2,907.07	2,180.30

The above figures exclude water and wastewater charges. Scottish Water is responsible for setting its own charges for household water and wastewater services, which are subject to scrutiny by the Water Industry Commission for Scotland. North Ayrshire Council is required by law to include water and wastewater charges on its Council Tax bills and to collect the sums due on behalf of Scottish Water. The level of discount on unoccupied properties for up to 12 months is 10% and 200% levy for greater than 12 months unless actively marketed for sale or let for up to 24 months; second homes no longer receive a discount in accordance with the Council Tax (Variation for unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016. The 2017/18 annual Council Tax Notices will be issued in March 2017.

L Friel
Chief Financial Officer

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

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

17/00234/PP; Cladach, Brodick, Isle Of Arran, KA27 8DE; Erection of 3 silos (retrospective).
17/00028/PP; Eas Mor Waterfall, Kildonan, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Change of use from mobility vehicle store/reception to cafe/mobility vehicle store and erection of toilet block.

Elma Murray
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



Arran Golf Pass

AGM

Tuesday 4 April at 7pm
Brodick Golf Club
all Welcome

Property



Solicitors & Estate Agents

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Clauchlands, Lamlash, Arran

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01292 430555 www.mcewanfraserlegal.co.uk

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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 0.8em;">WANTED</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">Canary birds Tel: 600651</p>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">BANNER</div> <div style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">BANNER</div> </div> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS</p>	

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Project Manager

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Over the next year Eco-Savvy will launch 8 new reuse micro-hubs around Arran. We are looking to recruit a Project Manager to lead and coordinate the creation and roll-out of the new micro-hubs. The role is a fixed term 11 month contract paying equivalent to £21,000 per annum, including 23 days paid holiday.

Candidates will need to be numerate, organised and IT literate – including Spreadsheets, Word Processing and Social Media. You will also need to be a good communicator and willing to work largely unsupervised. A clean driving license would be helpful but not essential. For more details of the job please visit our website www.arranecosavvy.org.uk

To apply please send a CV and covering letter to arran.ecosavvy@gmail.com or post to Eco Savvy Community Shop, Shore Road, Whiting Bay, Isle of Arran. KA27 8PR. Applications close 5pm 31st March. Interviews will be in early April with an expected start date of early May.

This position is funded through the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund and the European Regional Development Fund.



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Winter Cup win for Brookenes



SHISKINE

Sunday March 12, final day of the Ryder Cup. Torbeg 4 & 1/2 v Blackwaterfoot 3 & 1/2, Kilpatrick 4 v Shiskine 4. Torbeg narrowly win the bonus point. Table after the final match – Game 6. 1st equal Kilpatrick 20 & 1/2 pts, Torbeg 20 & 1/2 pts, 3rd Shiskine 20 pts, 4th Blackwaterfoot 17 pts. NP: W Paton @4th, W Paton @10th, H Bannatyne @12th.

So after an anxious wait in the clubhouse, where we enjoyed a very tasty meal provided kindly by Alan, a dramatic finish was the order of the day. A shoot-out.

Four gents from Kilpatrick and from Torbeg went back up to the 18th tee and nearest the pin would be the victor.

With the shot heard round the world, Willie McNally produced the magic at the right moment and, being captain of Kilpatrick, duly went on to lift the Ryder Cup for 2016/17. Well done Willie and all your Kilpatrick squad.

Fixtures: ladies game

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ANDREWS MARGARET JEAN - Susan, Jayne and family would like to sincerely thank those who gave support over the past few weeks including the doctors and nurses who attended our mother. For all the professional and loving care that the staff at Montrose house gave her during the time that she lived there. To Angus Adamson for his support though out and for the service and to Ruth Thompson who played mothers favourite hymns. David and Clair Henry for there professional service and a final thank you to our relations and friends for their kindness and cards. A total of £192 was raised which will go towards Montrose house residents outings.

every Thursday at 10am. Gents: Saturday March 18, Lochranza match @ Shiskine, 1.30pm tee-off. Sunday March 19, 12-hole medal and final of the Winter Cup, 1pm tee-off.

Saturday March 11, gents 18-hole medal, seven played. 1st and scratch Willie McNally 80-17=63, 2 Brian Sherwood 84-12=72. Magic Twos from Willie McNally @10th,

Phil Betley @10th, Brian Sherwood @12th. Well played Willie getting that handicap down.

WHITING BAY

Sunday March 12, Winter Cup round six. Eight played in the final round of this season's Winter Cup. 1 David Brookenes (11) 60, 2 Dougie Auld (26) 42, 3rd Danny Head (5) 63.

Danny bagged the only magic two of the day at @17th, and CSS dropped to 62.

In the overall competition, holder David Brookenes already held a six-shot lead going into the final round. His final round score stretched that to a margin of 14 to retain the trophy. 1st David Brookenes 178, 2nd John Dick 192, 3rd Graeme Crichton 198.

Fixtures: Sunday March 19, friendly v Lamlash at Whiting Bay, 10.30am rolling start. Just turn up before that to be make up pairings. The series is on a knife



Whiting Bay captain Wolfi Kroner presenting David Brookenes with the Winter Cup after his successful defence of the trophy.

edge so a good turnout is a must.

BRODICK

Wednesday March 8, Wednesday Cup. Jim Green was the winner this week with an 82-20=62. Magic twos, Terry Raeside.

Sunday March 12, Brandon qualifier, 13 played, CSS 64. 1 Terry Raeside 74-10=64, 2 Brian Smith 77-12=65, 3 Iain Sillars 81-15=66. Scratch Terry Raeside 74. Congratulations to Iain Sillars on his hole in one at the fourth. Winter Cup, played concurrently with Brandon. Stableford. Terry Raeside (10) 37pts, Brian Smith (12) 36pts, Iain Sillars (15) 35pts. Fixture: Sunday March 19, Winter Cup, final round, 9am and noon. The dinner and presentation of prizes is on Wednesday March 22,

if you would like to attend, please contact D Roxburgh on 303660.

LAMLASH

Thursday March 9, yellow medal, CSS64, par 61. 1 Alan Smith 77-11=66. No magic twos. Sunday March 12, Glenburn Cup. 1 Serge El Adm 77-20=57. Magic twos Hugh McLelland.

Fixtures: Sunday March 19, Lamlash v Whiting Bay at Whiting Bay, 10.30am. With Lamlash leading by one point, it is all to play for in this final match. Thursday March yellow medal, 11am.

CORRIE

Saturday March 11. The final round of the Winter Cup was played in mild, almost warm, conditions. Winner on the day after another very good round was J McLean (time he was cut!). Donald Logan, however, was not to be caught and is the deserved winner overall of the Winter Cup.

Fixture: Saturday March 18, sweep (strokeplay), ballots at 9.30am and 12.30pm.

MACHRIE BAY

Tuesday March 7, Winter Cup, 1 J Pennycott 73-10=63, 2 R Betley 93-28=65, 3rd P Betley 76-9=67

Fixture: Tuesday March 21, Lochranza Hotel Cup, last round, noon. AGM Thursday March 2 7.30pm in the hall.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 19th March
11am Holy Communion.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Sunday 19th March
Lochranza and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am Morning Worship in Pirmill Church Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship
Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting,
12noon Morning Worship
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 19th March
Worship will be conducted by Mrs Sharon MacLeod, Reader, at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service. Also, there will be a sale of Traidcraft goods.
All most welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 19th March
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory 10 am
Lamlash 11.30 am
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 6pm

BACK IN THE CHURCH

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 19th March
Sunday Mass 11am

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 19th March
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 19th March
Service 11am
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

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

DEATH

CRISP - MAURICE - Passed away peacefully at home on 7th March after a short but brave fight with throat cancer. Funeral service at Masonhill Crematorium, Ayr 2pm Tuesday 21st March thereafter to Kilwinning Bowling Club. Bus to meet 11.05am boat returning at 4.30pm from Bowling Club to Ardrossan. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection for Arran Hospital Supporters League. Bright colours NO black please.

CURRIE RENA (CATHERINE) NEE DICKSON - Passed away at home on 10th March 2017. Beloved wife of Allan and loving and much loved mum of the late Tina, Isabel and Wilma. Devoted Gran to Colleen, Leigh, Innes and Finlay. Dear mother in law to Brian, Norman and Alan. Good friend to all. Service at Whiting Bay & Kildonan Church of Scotland on Friday 17th March 2017 at 11.30 am, thereafter to Lamlash Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to ArCaS and the Hospital Supporters League.

TURNER - ALAN - Peacefully at Arran War Memorial hospital on Thursday, 9th March 2017 after an illness bravely borne. Alan, aged 50 years, beloved husband of Sheila, loving son of Joan and brother to Michael, Kaye and Susan. Funeral service at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dregghorn on Friday, 24th March at 1:00 pm to which all are welcome.

America's Cup dream comes true for Neil



Neil Hunter from Lamlash has achieved a lifetime's ambition to be part of the British America's Cup senior sailing team – Land Rover BAR.

The 21-year-old was most recently skipper aboard the Land Rover BAR Academy GC32 competing in the Extreme Sailing Series and Red Bull Youth America's Cup, before he was promoted to the senior sailing team.

He will join Sir Ben Ainslie's British America's Cup

sailing team in Bermuda for training shortly ahead of the 35th America's Cup, which starts in May.

Land Rover BAR sailing team manager Jono Macbeth said: 'There was a position available with the team and Neil is the perfect fit. He is hardworking, incredibly fit and willing to learn.'

'We had a vision for this type of promotion to happen within the Land Rover BAR Academy, but none of us expected it to happen this quickly.'

'Neil can be a great asset for the team, not just this time round but also into the future.'

'We plan to make more promotions, to create a new pathway into the America's Cup.'

'The sailing team are proud of the shirts they wear, the numbers they carry and they can be proud when guys like Neil step up and make one their own.'

Neil added: 'A week after the Academy fitness test, Jono Macbeth asked me to come in and do another fitness test. I was then asked



Land Rover BAR skipper and principal Sir Ben Ainslie presents Neil Hunter with his senior shirt.



Neil Hunter can be seen in action on the Land Rover BAR catamaran.

to join Ben Ainslie and the team for a few days of sailing in the Solent at the end of October.

'A week after that, Jono called me and offered me a place in the America's Cup sailing team, which obvi-

ously was massive, and I'm still stoked about it now, to be honest. Fitness is a huge part of it, and I've put a huge amount of work into that, but it's also just being generally hard working.'

The Sydney Extreme

Sailing Series event will take place in Sydney Harbour beneath the iconic Harbour Bridge and Opera House and will comprise eight teams competing in the finale.

The Land Rover BAR

Academy team currently sits in fifth place in the Extreme Sailing Series and next year, in addition to competing in the series again, will also compete in the Red Bull Youth America's Cup.



Arran come close but the shot went wide. 01_A11hockey04

Right: Arran's Jim Jam in a chase for the ball.



Talk to us

Send your sports news and photographs to editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran Ladies suffer second defeat

Arran Ladies 0
Uddingston Clinetix Ladies 6

Arran Ladies hockey team suffered only their second defeat of the season and their heaviest loss being at the wrong end of a 6-0 thrashing.

They faced their nearest rivals in the game at the Ormidale astroturf last Saturday with a depleted side. With seven regular players missing, the match gave valuable game time to some of the younger players.

But they were to prove no match for the very strong Uddingston team who easily took the three points.

However, despite the defeat Arran still sit top of the West District Women's Hockey League Division 4, but by just one point.

Arran Ladies are at home again today (Saturday) against the University of Strathclyde women's 2s and all supporters are welcome. Passback 11.30am.



Arran defenders try to thwart another attack.

01_A11hockey02

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Proud Kilpatrick captain Willie McNally lifts the Ryder Cup

Support for island's triathlon festival

Arran Junior Triathlon Club joined VisitArran, the Arran Outdoor Education Centre and Arran Tours to promote Arran and the Island 2 Island Triathlon Festival in Glasgow last weekend.

They were taking part in events at the Scottish Cycling, Running and Outdoor Pursuits Show at the SECC.

A great day was had by all the children taking part in all the fantastic activities on offer, including indoor climbing wall, indoor velodrome, mini mountain biking and triathlon challenges. All the parents provided amazing support as usual, including a fantastic performance from one parent in the mini triathlon finishing

third overall in the female category.

Ciara Wood participated in the 'dry tri' which saw her obtain first female with a distance covered of 5.6km in 18 minutes to win a triathlon watch.

The club's first event for the 2017 season will take place tomorrow (Sunday) at the Allander Aquathon.

The children have been training really hard all winter and the club are confident they can continue the brilliant results seen in 2016.

The Island 2 Island Festival is taking place on Saturday June 3 to help raise much-needed funds for the club.



The junior triathlon team had a great day in Glasgow.



Ciara Wood is top of the leader board.

WOMEN'S TOP FIVE	
Ciara W	5.6 km
Lauren W	5.2 km
Isla D	5.1 km
Isla C	5 km
Jackyn A	4.6 km
MEN'S TOP FIVE	
Gregor	7.2 km
Dave C	7.1 km
Sam C	6.3 km
Gary D	6.2 km
Martin P	6.2 km



James McCarthy takes a bike challenge.



The team helps VisitArran promote the island.

SPORTS shorts

Arran Sportive spins in again

Following the success of the Arran Sportive last year, the charity cycle event will take place again this year with the date set for Saturday September 9.

The 52-mile open road event, which completes a full anti-clockwise loop around the island, starts and finishes in Brodick and raises funds for the Ocean Youth Trust Scotland. The charity, whose aim is to empower youth and to discover their true potential through sailing experiences, uses its three sailing ships to take more than 550 young people to sea every year.

The Sportive, which was very popular last year, saw more than 230 riders taking part in the timed, but non-competitive, event.

Bridge results

The latest results the Arran Bridge Club are: aggregate competition at Brodick on Thursday March 9. N/S 1 Jean Barclay and Elizabeth McKellar, 2 Maureen Cumming and Jennifer McArthur, 3 Jennifer Wales and John Baraclough.

E/W 1 Elaine Duncan and Alison Bilsland, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3 Margaret MacGill and Jessmay Peacock.

Match points competition held at Lamlash on Monday March 13. 1 Jim Peacock and John Baraclough, 2 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure, 3 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan, 4 Margaret MacGill and Elizabeth McKellar.

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

The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd), www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 31 December 2015 and 31 December 2016 for combined print and digital editions was 2,922.