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**& MORE INSIDE**

# Police probe worrying rise in sheep attacks

## Stiffer penalties wanted for irresponsible dog owners

**Hugh Boag**  
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

A farmer has called for stiffer penalties for dog owners after he lost two ewes in lamb following a dog attack.

It is one of three incidents in the past four months at the Glenkiln Farm of Kenneth Bone in Lamlash which police on Arran are investigating amid a concerning rise in the number of sheep worrying incidents on the island.

In the attack on Saturday December 8, the two Cheviot ewes carrying lambs were left dead after being thrown about by a large dog. And last September Mr Bone lost two blackface cross Cheviot lambs in an attack.

Then just before Christmas Mr Bone found a dog, which had got out of a

house on its own in a field with 120 sheep. The owner has since been charged.

With 300 attacks across Scotland last year, the three attacks at Glenkiln represent one per cent of the Scottish average.

Mr Bone said: 'I'm just completely scunnered. Irresponsible dog owners have no idea the cost to farmers that attacks on their livestock can have. Even to call it sheep worrying gives the completely wrong impression of what these attacks represent.'

'The situation on Arran has got worse in the past year and something urgently needs done to help the situation which not only causes animals unnecessary stress but can cost farmers serious money.'

He is not alone: farmer

**Continued on page two**

## End of an era ...



Expert in medicine, pharmacist Ruth Parker of the Brodick Pharmacy has retired after nearly a decade of serving the community of Arran. Wishing her well and saying their fond farewells are colleagues Kirsty Connelly, Janet Shand and Karine Stewart. Not pictured are Fionna MacPherson and Caoimhe McCallum. See page three for the full story.

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# Funding bonanza for Arran tourism industry

Tourism on Arran is to receive millions of pounds of funding in two recently announced funding initiatives aimed at celebrating our natural heritage and promoting the area as a top tourist destination.

The Scottish Government announced a £300,000 funding boost for tourism in Ayrshire, Firth of Clyde and Clyde Islands at an industry event hosted by Scottish Tourism Alliance at The Waterside Hotel in West Kilbride on Wednesday.

Attending the event were more than 100 stakeholders from across the region, including Linda Johnston of Auchrannie Leisure Ltd and Alastair Dobson of

Taste of Arran and Arran Dairies.

The event offered local businesses and other stakeholders the opportunity to be among the first to hear about the funding and how to be involved.

Additionally a £7 fund was announced on Monday through the government's European Regional Development Fund programme and match funding from other sources.

And £5 million of that will be from the Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund, which is led by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), which will invest in projects that benefit the Highlands and Islands by improving the experience



Attendees at the funding announcement in West Kilbride included Marc Crothall CEO, Scottish Tourism Alliance; Professor John Lennon, director of the Moffat Centre for Travel and Tourism Business Development, Glasgow Caledonian University; Councillor Alex Gallagher, North Ayrshire Council; Karen Yeomans, director of Economy and Communities, North Ayrshire Council; Alastair Dobson, MD of Taste of Arran/Arran Dairies; Tom Campbell, consultant; Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs; Linda Johnston, founder and MD of Auchrannie resort, Arran; and David Mann, Director of Scottish Maritime Museum and chairman of West Kilbride Community Initiative.

of visitors who go to discover and explore the region's nature and culture.

The fund will invest in around 10 major new projects. In addition to promoting the nature and culture of the area, this investment aims to create and support jobs, helping communities to sustain local services.

Job creation is an important measure of success for the fund and so all projects are encouraged to demonstrate benefits such as creating and sustaining employment, businesses and services in the local community.

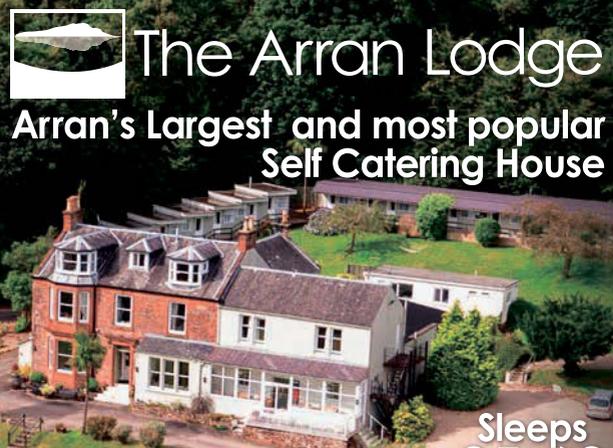
However, the fund is not suitable for applications from the private sector, in-

dividuals, commercial enterprise or organisations run entirely by volunteers.

Kenneth Gibson MSP commented: 'I welcome this significant investment, from which the isles of Arran and Cumbrae have an opportunity to benefit.'

'Projects must be seeking an European Regional Development Fund grant of a minimum of £250,000 with a total eligible project cost of £360,000 or more, so this offers an enormous potential.'

'The funding round closes on Monday April 22. Visit the dedicated Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund website for further information on eligibility and how to apply.'

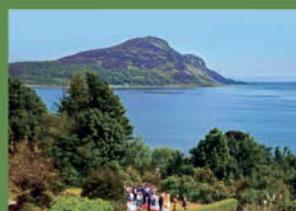


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## Police probe worrying rise in sheep attacks

Continued from page one  
John Murchie also had a recent incident at Strathwhillan when a dog got into his field of sheep, forcing him to move them.

He said: 'There is no doubt that sheep worrying incidents are on the increase. There are more and more dogs on the island and owners have to take responsibility that they know where they are at all times.'

Mr Bone is backing a private member's bill by South Scotland MSP Emma Harper for legislation, including more punitive fines for dog owners. He would also like to see compulsory insurance for dog owners so that farmers can be adequately compensated should they suffer a dog attack.

Mr Bone also appears on the annual Scottish Natural Heritage radio campaign which runs from March to May, urging owners to look after their dogs at lambing time.

Arran police sergeant Dougie Robertson said:

'Regrettably, we have recently seen the consequences when owners fail to keep their dogs under proper control. Owners have a legal duty to keep their dogs under control not only when out and about but also ensuring they cannot stray from home.'

'Locally, we have and will continue to pursue and charge owners who fail in this obligation in an effort to protect livestock, the livelihood of farmers and, of course, the dogs themselves which are placed at risk when not under proper control.'

Meanwhile, Arran is taking part in a five-month multi-agency campaign to highlight the reality of livestock attacks and trauma by dogs which was recently launched by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC).

SPARC is made up of partners from across the rural community, including Police Scotland, NFU Scotland, Scottish Land and Estates, and NFU Mutual. This new campaign

complements work being done by rural organisations to combat livestock worrying and the impact it can have on farmers and landowners.

Chief Superintendent John McKenzie, who chairs SPARC, said: 'Tackling livestock attacks remains a priority for SPARC.'

'Further work requires to be done in highlighting not just the message about an owner or person responsible keeping a dog on a lead if there is livestock nearby, but a more general awareness message regarding responsible dog ownership, both in the home and when outside.'

'To that end, SPARC is launching this campaign with key messages of awareness raising, education and prevention.'

Welcoming the new initiative, Tim Price, rural affairs specialist at NFU Mutual, added: 'Our claims figures show that dog attacks on sheep and cattle in Scotland quadrupled in the past two years and are running at an all-time high.'

# Fond farewell for Arran's retiring pharmacist Ruth

Well-known face at the Brodick Pharmacy Ruth Parker hung up her white coat for the last time this week as she retires after nearly 10 years as the Brodick pharmacist.

A well-respected and dependable character, Ruth has fostered professional relationships with other medical professionals and institutions on the island and, through various changes and modernising of processes in the industry, she has ensured that the people of Arran have enjoyed a consistent and people-focused service.

Frequently going over and above what is expected, Ruth's colleagues are quick to offer their praise, giving various examples of her commitment to serving others by staying open later to accommodate urgent requests, prioritising medical needs, providing useful and sometimes life-saving advice, and being a valuable resource of information and knowledge, not to mention being hands-on in the day-to-day operations of the pharmacy.

Most notably, though, Ruth is known for her sense of compassion and willingness to help others when dealing with related health-care organisations, groups and hospitals. Despite obstacles and time-consuming frustrations in dealing with what can sometimes be unintended bureaucracy and difficulties in the rigidly structured medical field, Ruth has persevered, and with a smile on her face, ensured that customers' needs are taken care of first without them being burdened by the convoluted process in reaching the result.

Having arrived on Arran at the age of seven from Leicester and having spent most of her schooling on Arran, Ruth is familiar with many people on Arran and knows many of her customers on a first-name basis. A benefit that has stood her in good stead,

not only in being approachable and familiar, but also in knowing historical detail that is invaluable in the medical field.

Dr Elizabeth Guthrie of the Arran Medical Group (AMG) said: 'We at AMG, along with the rest of the Brodick community are feeling very mixed emotions about Ruth retiring from the Brodick Pharmacy. Whilst delighted she is leaving to enjoy a new chapter in her life, we are all selfishly wondering how we will manage without her.



Dr Elizabeth Guthrie presents Ruth with a bouquet and voucher on behalf of Arran Medical Group on her last day on Tuesday.

'Ruth is the very epitome of a true community pharmacist: she doesn't have customers, she has real people with real problems she goes above and beyond to help. With our increasingly elderly population and increasingly confusing prescribed medicines, she quickly recognises when some are not taking their meds as prescribed and steps in, literally, to help. Not many community pharmacists give the individual personal attention that Ruth does on a daily basis as part of her normal day. There are many who have benefited from her home visits to sort out repeat or new medicines and get invaluable help on using dosettes or other med-

icine management tools to keep them taking their drugs safely and correctly.

'Holidaymakers more often than not seem to arrive without their medicines or else just need some health advice and Ruth is usually their first port of call.

'She will dispense her sound advice and good common sense to help them enjoy their holiday and help organise their medication. Ruth will use her experience and excellent local knowledge to signpost others to AMG or the hospital.

'Brodick has come to rely on this service and whoever takes her place will have a community full of high expectations waiting for them. AMG and all her Brodick patients will miss her invaluable help. This very kind, modest lady deserves nothing but the best for a long happy and healthy retirement.'

While smiling discreetly, as is her character, Ruth scoffs at the idea of retirement, preferring to call it focusing on her other interests, as she aims to enjoy spending more time with her family and possibly being more involved in Red Door, the boutique gift shop she started with her sister, Stacy Smith, more than 13 years ago.

Ruth will be sorely missed by her customers, colleagues and the people who depend on her. As one nurse, who wishes to remain anonymous, explained: 'Saying goodbye to Ruth is not only a big loss to the pharmacy, but to Arran as a whole. Her work, most of which actually takes place behind the scenes and for which she never receives richly deserved praise, is well appreciated by all who have worked with her and those who have been on the receiving end of her helpful and friendly service.

'The part that Ruth has played on Arran has helped doctors, nurses and carers to provide a cohesive med-



The friendly faces of Brodick Pharmacy, Janet Shand, Kirsty Connelly, Ruth Parker and Karine Stewart. Not pictured are Fionna MacPherson and Caoimhe McCallum.

ical service and there are few people on Arran who have not reaped the bene-

fits of Ruth's knowledge, experience, hard work and compassion.

'The medical fraternity and the people of Arran will miss her dearly.'

## Your cash back in your pocket

Great news! We've just received our quarterly electricity bill and can compare to the same quarter last year for the first time. Energy Usage is down a massive 44% AW, Brodick

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# Castle prepares for a grand re-opening



Brodick Castle and Gardens will re-open to the public on Friday April 5 with the formal opening a month later, castle bosses have confirmed.

The castle has been closed for 17 months to allow £1.5 million worth of fire improvement works which had previously left the castle extremely vulnerable had there been an outbreak of fire.

The devastating fires at the Glasgow School of Art, first in 2014 and again last June, showed just how important the works were. New fire walls will now contain any fire in one area and stop it spreading to the rest of the A-listed building.

The castle also has a new fire detection system as well as a new firefighting lift and the replacement of various doors and windows to bring the castle up to date with the Fire Scotland Act 2005.

When it re-opens, the public will also see a new interpretation of the castle artworks, which are the National Trust for Scotland's most important collection. The official opening will be held during a heritage weekend event planned for May 4 to 6.

Operations manager Jared Bowers said: 'We will be opening in early April for the season and all



The only remaining dodo decanter in the world by Alexander Crichton from 1895 will soon be back on display at Brodick Castle. It was photographed with former castle curator Helen Wyld in 2016. Photograph by Derek McCabe

is currently on track with the castle project but we'll be having a more formal event in May to celebrate the re-opening.'

The castle closed in November 2016 and was originally due to re-open in the spring of 2018 but the works badly overran and castle bosses finally admitted it would be closed for another year.

They said they would use the extra time for a major overhaul of the priceless displays, including the world renowned Beckford collection, which Jarad has told the Banner will be very hands-on and shown using the latest technology.

Changes in the layout and the opening of parts of the castle which were previously offices will also allow for some artefacts which have not been seen for many years to be back on display.

Before the castle closed, the historic collection was given national recognition by Museums Galleries Scotland for the unique insight it given into the social and private lives of one of Scotland's leading noble families, the Dukes of Hamilton. From the 15th to the 20th century, the Hamilton family was central to the cultural and political life of Scotland. They

were Scotland's foremost noble family and claimants to the Scottish throne, and amassed what has been described as the greatest collection of fine and decorative art in the history of Scotland.

Visitors returning to the castle will also see improvements in the gardens where a number of new signs have been erected and new paths and attractions, including the sensory garden. The walled garden is also being given a major makeover, as reported in the Banner last month. The popular Isle Be Wild playpark will also re-open in April.

## Women's pension complaints closed

Women across the country who have been fighting the Department for Work and Pensions for the past three years were left devastated when their complaints were suddenly and unilaterally closed just before Christmas.

The DWP has already closed more than 3,000 Women Against State Pensions Inequality (WASPI) complaints due to a successful legal action being taken by another campaigning group, the Back to 60 group. One of

their barristers, Catherine Rayner, stated that there were no fewer than 60 changes to the date that a 1950s woman could get a pension.

### Thousands

The judicial review at the High Court will mean that thousands of women are left without their complaint being thoroughly investigated by the DWP's own complaints process.

Women will need to contact their

MP for support in taking their complaint to the next stage and the parliamentary ombudsman.

The next meeting of the Cunningham WASPI group will be held in Irvine on Saturday January 26 at 10.30am in Fullerton Community Hub for women affected by the state pension age changes.

For more information please contact by email: [cunninghamewaspi@outlook.com](mailto:cunninghamewaspi@outlook.com)

# Felling aims to address tree disease

Forest Enterprise Scotland is undertaking felling operations around Cnoc na Dail and Glenashdale on Arran in order to slow the spread of a tree disease.

When felling operations are under way, the public is being asked to take note of any diversion or temporary closure notices at the forest trails and car parks.

Phytophthora Ramorum is a tree disease which mainly affects larch and has been largely confined to the south-west region of Scotland. It has affected larch trees on Arran for a number of years and pre-

vious infections have seen trees removed above Brodick cemetery in the past.

Tree felling and associated operations at Cnoc na Dail and Glenashdale will commence on Monday January 21 and are expected to be completed by the end of June.

Andy Walker, beat forester for Forest Enterprise Scotland on Arran, said: 'We'd like to make the public aware that over the next few months they will see some felling in areas affected by this disease. Unfortunately, there's no alternative to felling if we

are to try to reduce the spread of this tree disease.

'While the felling is being carried out, I would urge all visitors to heed the closure and diversionary signs that will be put in place. We'd like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding while the felling is under way.'

Regulations to control the spread of P Ramorum require all the infected trees to be removed and also the uninfected trees surrounding them as this stops the production and transmission of spores.

The public can find out more information on how they can prevent the spread of P Ramorum via the Keep it Clean campaign. The advice states that before arriving at any forest, visitors clean their boots and bikes, any kit they are bringing and even pets' paws if dog walking.

The disease can travel from one forest to another in mud and forest debris so it is important to clean it off before visiting woodlands.



Phytophthora Ramorum on larch paddy.

## Lamlash writer pens winning poem

Helen How of Lamlash has been named as the winner of the 2018 Robin Whyte Creative Writing Award.

Named in memory of the well-respected Irvine lawyer and creative writer, Robin Whyte, the creative writing competition takes place annually with a new theme each year, a cash prize of £200, and an elaborately carved oak and ash trophy for the winning entry.

Last year's theme was Head in the Clouds and attracted a great number of entries from across Ayrshire. The competition is open to anyone in the region who is resident there and over 16 years of age.

Meg Whyte presented Helen How with the trophy and cheque for her



Meg Whyte, right, presents Helen How of Lamlash with the trophy for her entry in the Robin Whyte writing competition.

poem entry at the Christmas meeting of the Writers' Group in the Harbour Arts Centre in Irvine.

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# Arran's soft blue cheese proving hard to beat

Arran Blue cheese, produced by the Island Cheese Company at Bellevue Farm, Blackwaterfoot, has proven once again it is unbeatable by winning the Best Scottish Cheese at the industry recognised World Cheese Awards.

Held in Bergen, Norway, the awards have been in existence for more than three decades and involve more than 230 experts from 29 nations judging 3,500 cheeses from across

the globe. Judging Arran Blue as the best Scotland has to offer for the second year running, the pasteurised semi-soft blue cheese has also won gold awards for two consecutive years and is similar to the French Bleu de Auvern.

Expertly crafted by Bellevue dairy manager Calum Chaplin, the success of the small batch artisan producer is even more remarkable when considering the strong competition from



Arran Cheese Shop's Gordon Kinniburgh and Bellevue Creamery's dairy manager Calum Chaplin last year, along with cheese technician Willie McNally, who have repeated their success by winning the Best Scottish Cheese Award.

01\_B50cheese01

far bigger producers across Scotland.

While crediting the success of Arran Blue to Arran's unpolluted environment and the quality of Arran milk, the quality of the cheese is hugely influenced by the expert knowledge of the cheese maker who knows exactly when and how to adjust the formulas for the changing conditions, keeping a keen eye on the production process which will affect the

rind, body, colour, consistency and taste of the cheese.

Island Cheese Company owner Gordon Kinniburgh said: 'Best cheese in Scotland two years in a row, we must be doing something right.'

'This is testament to the hard work and passion shown by Calum, our head cheese maker, his assistants and the high quality of the local milk.'

## Hillwalker rescued on Goatfell

A hillwalker was rescued from Goatfell by Arran Mountain Rescue Team members last weekend.

The team was called out at 3.45pm on Saturday to help a male hillwalker with an ankle injury on the Goatfell path. Team members reached the casualty quickly and after assessing his injuries, the walker was helped to the team's Argocat then transferred to a team Land Rover. He was then transported to the team base to get warm up.

The team reminds anyone venturing up into the Arran hills at this time of year, that although it is not visibly winter conditions yet, the weather can still be harsh and the correct clothing for the forecast, as well as all other hill walking essentials, are advisable.

## Brewery doubles production capacity

Arran Brewery has more than doubled its brewing capacity with the purchase of a new brewers barrel plant.

The 27 brewers barrels, which each hold 36 gallons, were bought from Dunscair Brewery in Bolton which went into administration last year after 10 years. The Arran Brewery presently has 20 brewers barrels.

Managing director Gerald Michaluk said: 'The addition of the brewing equipment will mean we have

the capacity to brew almost 50 barrels a day (8,200 litres) over our three sites. That translates into a real rise in production capacity from 875,000 litres to 2 million litres a year.

'We have been plagued by not being able to keep up with demand for our beer in Scotland and had to withdraw from international markets as a consequence to meet demand at home. Frequent 'out of stock' situations have seriously hampered our growth in recent years. This new



Arran Brewery managing director Gerald Michaluk with the new plant.

equipment will reverse the situation and we will be focusing on creating the demand for our beers in the rest of the United Kingdom and overseas.

'We have a lot of growing to do and with the introduction of a range of lagers I am confident this can be achieved both domestically and by building our

trade around the world.' The brewery had beer supply issues over Christmas 2017 and again during the early summer heat wave last year.

The new equipment, which should start producing by Easter, will allow the brewery to increase production and eliminate shortages.

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# Shiskine Burns Supper

Shiskine paid tribute to Scotland's favourite Bard at their annual Burns Supper where, in a time honoured tradition, visitors celebrated by reciting some of Robert Burns's works while enjoying a traditional Scottish meal and whisky and the fine company of members of the local community and visitors.

Organised by the Shiskine Hall Committee, and involving many members of the community, the event is held every two years and raises funds for the upkeep and running of the hall.

Addressing the audience of more than 60 attendees,

chairman Charles Currie welcomed the visitors and handed the proceedings over to speakers Iain Currie, Fiona Hume and Nicol Hume.

Perfectly demonstrating the sense of community and tradition, the dinner comprised a starter of cock-a-leekie soup, haggis, neeps and tatties, with the haggis supplied by the Arran Butcher, before a dessert of oatcakes from Wooley's of Arran and cheese from the Isle of Arran Cheese Shop. Crockery and cutlery was provided by the Kinloch Hotel.

Piped in by Rory Currie,



Piper Rory Currie pipes in the haggis.

Ben, Beth and James McCarthy addressed the haggis and raised their glasses of Irn Bru in a toast. Nicol Hume provided the Toast to Lassies and wife Fiona replied with the Toast to the Lads.

Iain Currie then performed the main speech of the evening, the Immortal Memory, which he accomplished with great aplomb and received an enthusiastic round of applause from the audience.

Following this, a community Tam o' Shanter was recited by numerous community figures before a Toast to the Hall was performed by Alison Henderson and



Ben, Beth and James McCarthy address the haggis. Photographs: Stephen Garraway.

the thanks done by Nicola Greig.

Nikki and Andy Surridge

provided the musical entertainment and Irene Currie offered the vote of thanks.

And, as usual the evening concluded with Auld Lang Syne.



Nikki and Andy Surridge perform for the audience.



Iain Currie, the main guest speaker, performs the Immortal Memory.



Fiona Hume performs the Toast to the Lads.



Charles Currie reads verses from Roberts Burns.

Advertorial

## Revamped ArCaS store re-opens

The Arran Cancer Support Trust (ArCaS) store located at the ferry terminal will re-open next week following a closure for some essential works to be completed and a redesign of the shop.

### Updated layout

With a grand re-opening planned for Monday January 21, the store will now feature a new floor, an updated layout and once again be able to receive donations of good quality items for resale.

Funds raised from the sale of donated

goods goes towards providing services for cancer patients on the island, which includes transport to and from hospital appointments on the mainland and on Arran, free ferry travel for patients and a companion, and complementary therapies and counselling.

Established in 1989, the well-supported and cherished charity shop has been located at the pier premises since 2001 and is open from 11am to 4pm from Monday through to Saturday.


 ArCaS  
arrancancersupport.org

Registered charity No. SC027348

## Charity Shop Grand Re-opening

### Monday January 21st at 11am

Donations of good quality items  
once more gratefully received

Thank you to all our customers and donors for your understanding and support.

ArCaS is here to support all cancer patients on Arran.

Even if you don't think you need us just give us a ring and find out how we can help you to get through your difficulties.

01770 302928

## Editorial

### Sheep attacks are a worrying trend

Scotland is a nation of dog lovers and one only needs to take a stroll along any of the many coastal or mountain routes on Arran to see the full extent of it. Day or night, rain or snow, there is always a retinue of walkers enjoying the pleasant surroundings of Arran with their dogs.

While some are regular dog walkers and others are visitors enjoying the fresh air and exercise, they are all entitled to enjoy the scenic routes and vistas and all that Arran is famous for. But if the disturbing trend of sheep worrying continues, Arran may gain a reputation for all the wrong reasons.

Farmers are well within their rights to shoot a dog which is worrying livestock, or poses a risk to livestock, and if you have ever been faced with the sight of such an attack, it is plain to see why. This is not something that a farmer would want, even less so the owners of dogs, and the reputation of Arran as a dog-friendly island would be shattered if the unthinkable were to happen.

As most dog owners have now accepted the responsibility of what occurs at the one end of a dog when in public, hopefully the small minority can also start to accept responsibility for the other, sharper, end.

#### Thought for the week

'Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. 1 Chronicles 16:11-12.

### Barking sheds

Sir,  
I refer to the article about disused buildings on Arran in last week's Banner of January 12, with particular reference to barking sheds.

In the days before synthetic rope, these buildings were used to boil up tree bark to produce a liquid to protect fishing nets. Initially beech and oak bark was used, but later acacia.

Details describing the process can be found on line at: <http://www.historyshelf.org/secf/silver/links/linkc.php> and in the Angus Macleod Archive.

The property adjacent to the barking shed in Catacol is called The Green, as in drying green.

Yours,  
**Peter W Yates,  
Catacol.**

### Bernie's lights

Sir,  
Could I please use your columns to say a big thank you to all the people who kindly donated to the lights this year.

The amount raised was £151 and a cheque for that amount has been sent to the committee of the children's Christmas party.

Once again thank you and I look forward to next Christmas, which will be the 30th year.

Yours,  
**Bernie Jackson,  
Whiting Bay.**

### Imachar slipway

Sir,  
My family and I were horrified to read of the proposed timber slipway plan for Imachar shore (Arran Banner, Saturday November 24, 2018).

## PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



These two beautiful swans, silhouetted against an orange sunset, were snapped by reader Linda Clark of Dumfries who was walking along Blackwaterfoot beach on New Year's day.

I grew up in Imachar and as a child enjoyed the freedom of playing on the shore and walking along the shore path towards Whitefarland and Pirnmill.

This is something my young children also love to do on our frequent visits to see their grandparents. As other correspondents to this paper have pointed out, this part of the island is currently unspoiled and tranquil.

The shore and the coastal path (part of the Arran Coastal Way) are extremely popular with locals and visitors alike. On both Christmas Day and New Year's Day, we met numerous other people out for a peaceful, scenic walk along the shore path.

There are rocks, waterfalls, caves and an old fam-

ily graveyard along the route. It is a popular spot for campers and regular stop-off for cyclists (before tackling the brae) as well as ramblers, dog-walkers and families.

There has been a marked increase in wildlife in Imachar in recent years with otters, seals, swans and even porpoises being spotted – along with numerous species of birds nesting and feeding.

This proposal of a logging slipway and road would be devastating for wildlife, the landscape, tourism and the local residents.

Having a constant flow of heavy lorries and other logging vehicles would render it impossible for children to play freely on the shore or for people to use the path safely.

Imachar is a very small hamlet on Arran but one which has a rich history of tourism.

Over the years hundreds of people have chosen to stay in the boarding houses and self-catering accommodation in this small place, and nearby Balnicken, to enjoy the beauty and peaceful tranquillity of the sea and the shore by the cliffs.

No doubt when the forestry trees in question were planted 40 years ago not much thought was given to how to get them off the island. Perhaps it was assumed the roads would have improved? Surely there must be a better solution than this.

Yours,  
**Eleanor Weir,  
Edinburgh.**

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# Council community facilities face a shake-up

A shake-up of libraries and community centres is being planned across North Ayrshire.

And people across the council area will play a pivotal role in the future of the facilities in the coming weeks and months as wide-ranging engagement will be carried out to determine how the services can best be delivered in years to come.

With council budgets coming under sustained pressure, the council says it wants to work alongside communities in shaping the future services but has admitted that relocation and community asset transfers will be looked at.

While no details have been given, it is clear that Arran Library and Brodick Hall and community facilities around the island will be part of the review which the Conservative opposition has warned could result in the closure of some libraries and affect services at community centres across the council area.

A working group was set up last year to develop proposals for more effective

ways of ensuring people continue to access community services in challenging economic circumstances. Made up of elected members from all political groups on the council, alongside North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations and council officers, the working group identified a range of themes and areas for discussion.

### Engagement

The working group's proposed themes will now form the basis for engagement with communities on how to deliver services such as libraries and community services in ways which meets the needs of the community.

Themes include the potential relocation and co-location of libraries, their opening hours, and exploring further volunteer support where appropriate.

Currently, North Ayrshire is very fortunate that 26 of its community centres are operated by volunteers, with support from council staff.

The working group's themes include further

co-location of partner services within community centres where possible, alongside options for community asset transfers where possible, and the exploration of greater use of facilities to encourage community businesses.

Cabinet member for communities, Councillor Louise McPhater said: 'Residents will be well aware of the financial challenges faced by councils across Scotland – we have to find viable economic solutions which allow us to continue to deliver the services people want.'

'We are proud of the relationship with our communities and that's why we want them to play a key role in helping to shape the future of our libraries and community centres.'

Conservative group leader Councillor Tom Marshall said: 'The Conservative Group has been involved in early discussions on this rationalisation programme and will support sensible proposals that allow savings to be made to enable the council to balance its budget.'



Brodick Hall which currently houses Arran Library. 01\_B03library01

## Away in a manger



The children who performed the excellent nativity play at Brodick Church on Sunday December 23 pose in their outfits with the Baby Jesus.



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# Gordon's sad goodbye to



Gordon joins some of the residents of Arran House on a day out to Nagarkot.



Ngawang works on some artwork.

Arran artist Gordon Davidson, who helped to set up a charity in Nepal and established and nurtured a halfway house, known as Arran House, has reluctantly handed over the reins to a Nepalese team who will continue with the work.

Having fundraised endlessly and making regular visits to Nepal with long hours invested into making sure that it can continue and work towards becoming self-sustainable, the endeavour finally reached the stage where, as he had always planned, he has relinquished responsibility and passes it on to its new custodians.

## Exhibition

The journey has been a long one, starting in 2010 when Gordon was taken to Nepal to produce an exhibition for the Nepalese government. At the resulting exhibition, he joined forces with two retiring Gurkha officers to form Kalaa Jyoti, a project to take art to poor and disadvantaged children across Nepal. In 2015, following the earthquake, Arran House was set up to help poor children to get their year 11 and 12 in a good college. The project became a charity in 2016.

Gordon has just returned from his ninth expedition to Nepal for Kalaa Jyoti. For the first two weeks he was working with the Early Morning Art Club in the Himalaya Boarding School which runs from 7.30am to 8.45am before school starts. Then in the afternoon it was a local bus down into Kathmandu with Dawa and Finjo from Arran House to paint a professional mural in the Bishwonath Hotel in central Kathmandu. The hotel owner has been a great supporter of the project and pays the boys Nepali rates for the work they do – and over the past few years the Arran House boys have painted five murals in the hotel.

During the third week in Nepal, Gordon headed off on a local bus for five hours far into the region of Sindhupalchok. After eat-



Nirjala with one of her paintings.



Singerche girlfriends show off their artwork.

ing in a small town he was taken in a four-wheeled-drive vehicle far up into the mountains to a tiny village called Singerche. It was 20km from the Chinese border. The village was totally destroyed by the 2015 earthquake and is still recovering. A new school was being built by a joint Gurkha and German educational foundation but in the meantime the school was a pile of very small tin huts too small for Gordon to stand up in.

## New experience

The children had never done any art before so it was all a new experience and an exiting adventure. Everyone was helping to rebuild the village. Gordon, as a valued visitor, was put up in the best room in the village, which was really basic.

Breakfast depended on whether the chicken had laid one or two eggs in the morning, along with a beaker of warm buffalo milk. Every meal was rice with vegetables right out of the ground, so it was basic but typical of what is eaten up in the mountains.

Gordon said: 'I've been to some very poor communities on my visits to Nepal but this was the poorest by far. However, everyone was just getting on with trying to rebuild their village and the view down into the valley far below was spectacular, as were the many beautiful waterfalls all around the village. They looked as if they'd come out of a Jurassic Park movie.'

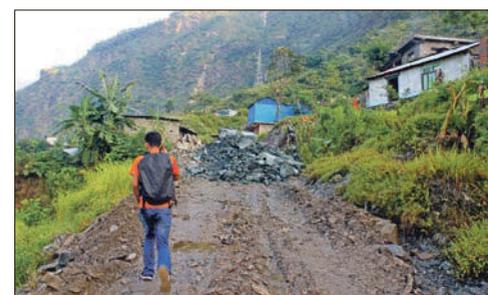
Gordon then headed off to Pokhara, where he worked with the children from the remote region of Mustang for the fifth year running.



The school at Singerche village.



Singerche School pupils accompany Gordon on his walk out of the village to say farewell.



Evidence of the 2015 earthquake is still visible in Singerche, with landslides still taking place three years later.

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# Kalaa Jyoti



Gordon and Aakriti, who is studying nursing in Pokhara with assistance from Kalaa Jyoti.

Gordon affectionately calls these kids his Mustang Monkeys. This gave him the chance to check up on the progress of the first girl in the Arran House set-up. Aakriti is studying nursing in Pokhara and stays with her grandmother near her college and the educational costs are paid for by the Kalaa Jyoti charity. At Pokhara, Gordon also got the chance to work with a youngster called Ngawang. Last summer Ngawang's painting of a monkey sold at the Arran Distillery exhibition, in a silent auction, for £52. His household decided he should get this money as they have secured his educational costs with several donors. Ngawang was so amazed to have so much money and has sage plans on how to spend it wisely.

One of the main aims of Kalaa Jyoti was to make it a Nepali project, run by Nepalis for Nepalis. Over the past two years Ramuna Pun took over Gordon's photography duties and last year her friends in Kathmandu started doing all the filming. In December, Bhim Chantal will take over all the art projects set up by Gordon. Deepak and Bishnu have taken over the running of Arran House, which this year has secured funding for the next two years thanks to a massive fundraising effort by the ladies of the Arran Crafts and Company who helped secure two massive cheques for £1,000 which were donated along with several £100 donations.

### Walked away

On Sunday October 28, while in Nepal, Gordon handed over the reins to the Nepali team and walked away from Arran House for the last time.

Within three days he had received offers for him to continue his art work with poor children in Peru, Ethiopia and Cambodia. And a revolt had taken place in the Mustang hostel when they discovered he wasn't coming back. The Himalaya school also sent a teacher to say he had to come back.

Gordon said: 'The Mustang Monkeys decided that they would form a new organisation. Ngawang came up with the idea of a world badge like the United Nations, and he

showed me how to write our new name in Tibetan. 'Outlook' was a word they liked from their computer.

'So basically Outlook is me with a suitcase of pens and paints going round the world showing poor communities how to paint. I won't have the Gurkhas as my own personal supermen coming to my aid when I'm in trouble, but I do have the Tibetan kids in my corner – and you don't want to mess with a Mustang Monkey!'

### Remote regions

With the seamless change from handing over Kalaa Jyoti to the young Nepalese crew who will carry on the good work, Gordon will now become a self-confessed 'wandering artist with a bag full of art materials'.

He will continue to raise money by selling artworks and equipment at Christmas fairs around the island to fund his travels to remote regions of the world to teach children art and to provide assistance in whatever way he can for those less fortunate.



The scenic surroundings of Pokhara.



Pupils at Singerche School enjoy their first art lesson.



Pupils outside the Himalaya Boarding School.



Pupils show off the results of their first art lesson.

## ARRAN ECO SAVVY SHORT FILM SUNDAY SOCIAL

SUNDAY 20TH JAN 2PM

Corrie Hall Free Event

<b>2:00pm</b>	Welcome & Coffee/Tea
<b>2:15pm</b>	Earthships - documentary showing inspirational ideas for reuse & sustainability in housing
<b>2.45pm</b>	A chance to chat. Project display & opportunity to engage with the different dimensions of Eco Savvy! Refreshments (provided by Ferghan Mhor Vegan B&B & Coop Food Share!)
<b>3.30pm</b>	A selection of short films with themes of consumerism, waste & the implications for our future
<b>4:15pm</b>	Discussions / End

Find out more about Eco Savvy & its future projects including eBikes & the Co-op food share!



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# Arran filmmaker to host cancer fundraiser



Arran film producer, director and actor Craig MacLachlan is hosting a film showcase and networking fundraiser later this month in aid of Marie Curie and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Taking place in Loks bar and restaurant in Glasgow, the event will feature films, live music, cosplay, and a charity auction and raffle that will include prizes and goods donated from Arran businesses, with the main prize being an Arran break for two.

Utilising his skills from the film industry, Craig, who runs Maclachlan84 Productions, is hosting the event in honour of his dad

Douglas who passed away in October last year from lung cancer.

Craig said: 'My dad was an amazing man. He was my best friend and we did so much together. He taught me so much and I'm a better person through the love and guidance he gave me, alongside my mum.'

## Passion

'Football was a shared passion between me and my dad so we have a great football-related prize to auction on the night – two VIP tickets to a very big European game.'

'Other prizes include private fitness classes, private dining experiences and the big prize of the night, Ex-

perience Arran, which will consist of an overnight stay for two, meals in different venues and lots of fun activities thrown in to make it an unforgettable Arran experience.'

'So far, Lamlash Bay Hotel, Taste Of Arran, Arran Gin and the Invercloy Co-op have all contributed to ensure that the winner enjoys an authentic Arran experience.'

Supporters at the event can expect a wealth of film and musical talent including international performer and singer/songwriter Mike Edwards and filmmakers Dragonstone Productions and Magic Monkey Films.



Craig MacLachlan and his dad Douglas are pictured on Arran where Craig has made his home.

In addition, Scottish actress, model and cosplayer Nicolette McKeown will be heading up the cosplay event which will see people dressing up as their favourite film characters, from Wonder Woman to Ghostbusters and more.

Inviting everyone, especially Arran friends and supporters, to attend the

event on Thursday January 24, at the Newlandfield Suite at Loks Bar and Kitchen in Shawlands, Craig said: 'This is going to be a night to remember. We want people to come, have a drink, enjoy the evening and donate money to two extremely important charities.'

'Cancer touches each and

every one of us and this evening is about hitting it where it hurts with positivity, love and the finest talent that Scotland has to offer.'

Further information about the event and the featured artists and filmmakers can be found on the Facebook page of Maclachlan84 Productions.

## Consultation on charity law

The SNP government has launched a public consultation on charity law, which sets out options to increase transparency, accountability and public trust in charities through a regulatory system in Scotland.

Options in the consultation include: an external register of charity trustees; publishing annual reports and accounts in full for all charities on the Scottish Charity Register; removal of charities from the register that are persistently failing to submit annual reports and accounts and may no longer exist; all charities in the register to have and retain a connection in Scotland.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson said: 'Charities play a vital role in our society, from supporting individuals and communities, to informing policy at a national level, they are key to us achieving our ambition of creating a fairer and more prosperous country.'

'Almost everyone donates to charity at some point, whether via a regular direct debit, a one-off coffee morning or a bequest.'

'We do this out of kindness and trust that our money goes to those we wish to benefit.'

'It is therefore important to maintain and in-

crease public trust and confidence in the charity sector and ensure legislation supports that.'

'The 2018 Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) survey showed that 88 per cent of people said that seeing evidence of a charity's achievements and knowing how much of their donation went to the cause would improve their trust in charities.'

'This legislation aims to improve that and I encourage islanders to make their views known.'

The consultation runs until April 1 at: <https://consult.gov.scot/local-government-and-communities/scottish-charity-law/>

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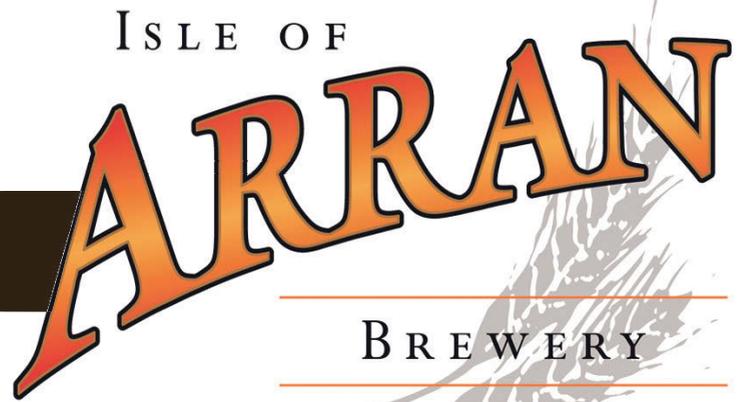
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[www.arranbrewery.com](http://www.arranbrewery.com)



## Every day

Octopus Centre  
Octopus Centre – tennis  
Brodict Mini Golf  
Brodict Castle, garden only  
Soap making and candle dipping  
Arran Brewery  
  
Art exhibition, local artist Jane Nichol

Old Pavilion, Lamlash, Centre Open 7 days, 11am - 3pm  
Old Pavilion, Lamlash Open 7 days, any time  
Open 7days, 9am - 5pm ish, ALL weather  
Open 9am-dusk  
Arran Aromatics, Brodict, 10am - 4pm  
Open - Mon, Friday & Saturday, 10am - 5pm  
Tuesday - Thursday, 11am - 4pm. Tours daily at 2pm  
Isle of Arran Distillery, Lochranza, 10am - 4pm

## Saturday 19th January

FlowyYoga  
Dr Graham's Homes – soup and sandwiches  
Winter rink bowls  
Music Arran presents Pure Brass  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Live music – Shindig  
Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am  
Brodict Church Hall, noon to 2.00 pm  
Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm  
Brodict Hall, 2pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm  
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 7.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm

## Sunday 20th January

Live music – Jamie Angus  
Arran Eco Savvy short film and Sunday social  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting  
Folk music session

Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 1pm - 4pm  
Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 2pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm

## Monday 21st January

ArCaS grand re-opening  
JogScotland mixed ability running group  
Adult tennis  
Circuit training  
Live music – Arran Dawn  
Isle of Arran Bridge Club, all welcome  
Tae Kwon Do, adults and over-10s,

ArCaS Shop, Brodict Pier, 11am  
Whiting Bay 5.30pm  
Blackwaterfoot, 5.30pm  
Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6pm - 7pm  
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 6.30pm  
Brodict Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

## Tuesday 22nd January

Healthy Outdoors team  
Eco Savvy drop-in energy surgery in partnership with Citizens Advice  
Winter rink bowls  
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting  
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)  
Arran Pace Makers – Jog Scotland beginners' group  
Steak night – two ribeye steaks and bottle of wine  
Arran Hockey Club – juniors (5-14)  
Flow yoga  
Scottish country dancing  
Trev's pop music quiz  
Traditional music sessions  
Body Blitz

Brodict Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm  
Citizens Advice Ormidale Pavilion, 10am-3pm  
Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 2pm  
Brodict Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 5.30pm  
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 5.30pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 6pm - 7pm  
Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 6pm  
Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm  
Brodict Bar, 9pm  
Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm – 10.30pm

## Wednesday 23rd January

Yoga  
Brodict Gardens volunteers  
Knit and Bletcher  
Heritage Museum  
Chair yoga exercise class  
Archives and Genealogy Service

Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am -10.30am  
Brodict Castle and Country Park, 9.30am -1pm  
Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 10.30am -12.30pm  
Arran Rosaburn, Brodict, 11am - 3.30pm  
St Molios Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am  
Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm



Dog classes  
Arran Pace Makers running group, mixed ability  
Flow yoga  
Live music – Mike Bailey  
Tae Kwon Do Juniors 6.30pm-7.30pm, advanced juniors and adults, AHS, 7.30pm -8.30pm  
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting  
Family friendly pub quiz  
Rock'n'pop bingo

Whiting Bay Hall, 12.30pm  
Brodict, 5.30pm  
Shiskine Hall, 6pm  
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 6.30pm  
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm  
PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm

## Thursday 24th January

Morning fitness  
Chair yoga exercise class  
Whiting Bay Thursday Club lunch  
Arran Heritage Museum  
ACL volunteer gardening day  
Steak night – two steak dinners and a bottle of wine  
Indian platter  
Isle of Arran Bridge Club, all welcome  
Badminton, all welcome  
Arran Hockey Club – seniors (12 yrs +)  
Arran Soul Choir  
Brodict Embroidery Group  
Body Blitz  
Tommy's general knowledge quiz

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am -10.30am  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10.30am  
Kildonan Hotel, 12-30pm for 1pm  
Rosaburn, Brodict, 11am - 3.30pm  
Golf Course Road, Whiting Bay, 11.30am - 3.30pm  
Drift Inn, Lamlash, 5pm -9pm  
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, from 5.30pm  
Little Rock, Brodict, 7pm for 7.15pm  
Shiskine Hall, 7pm  
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 7pm - 8.30pm  
Community Theatre, Arran High School, 7pm - 9pm  
Brodict Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
Auchrannie Spa Leisure 9.30pm – 10.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm

## Friday 25th January

Yoga  
Coffee morning  
Arran Heritage Museum  
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting  
Tae Kwon Do  
Burns Supper with Tim Pomeroy and Mike Bailey  
'Celebrate the Bard' Burns Supper  
Friday night quiz

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am  
Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 10.30am  
Rosaburn, Brodict, 11am - 3.30pm  
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm  
Advanced class, Arran High School, 7.30pm - 8.30pm  
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm  
The Douglas Hotel, Brodict, 7pm  
Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm

## Saturday 26th January

Flow yoga  
Winter rink bowls  
Family games  
Fun in the pool  
Lamlash Burns Club, annual Burns Supper  
Souled Out concert, Arran Soul Choir  
Live music – The Sensational Biff Simpson  
Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am  
Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm  
Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm - 4pm  
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm - 5pm  
Lamlash Golf Club, 7pm for 7.30pm  
Arran Community Theatre, Arran High School, 7.30pm  
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 7.30pm  
Ormidale Hotel, 10pm



[www.arranbrewery.com](http://www.arranbrewery.com)

# A historical trip on the buses

The colourful history of buses on Arran is covered in a new book which has just been published by retired doctor John Sinclair.

The Buses of Arran, Argyll and environs has some extraordinary colour photographs taken by John, who is a lifelong bus enthusiast, and had the foresight and interest to photograph bus operators large and small in the 1950s, 1960s and later.

The book evokes the memories of the bus companies on Arran such as Ribbeck, Weir, Lennox and Bannatyne.

As a student, John created a technique of low-cost travel and accommodation which would allow him to go to different areas and photograph the local buses operating in their habitat.

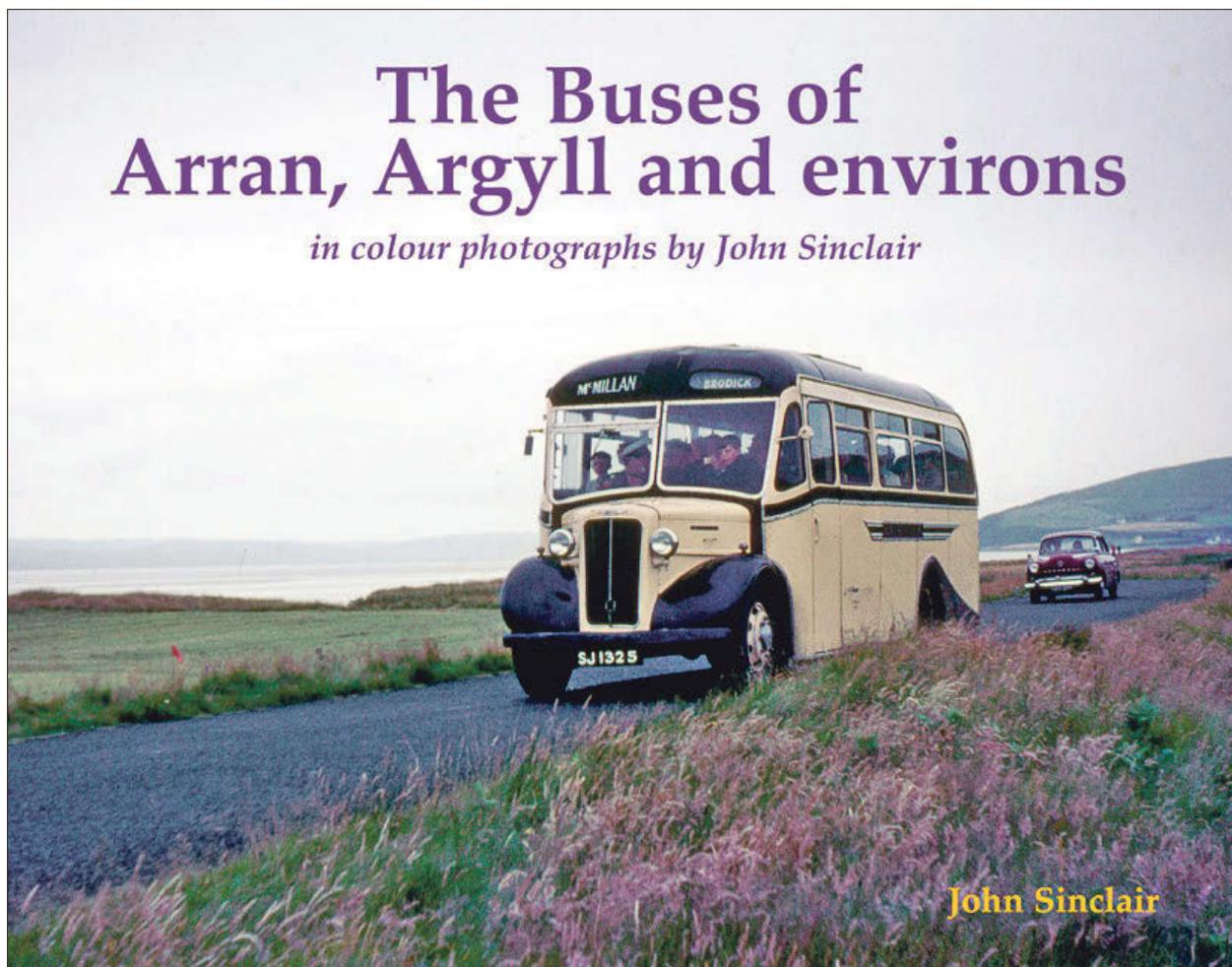
In July 1965, the soon-

to-be junior doctor travelled from his home in Edinburgh to Argyll and the Clyde coast. The majority of the photos in the book date from that trip, with a few others from subsequent decades.

As well as photographs and details of the buses which previously operated on Arran, the book also looks at the services which operated from Campbeltown to Tarbert, Ardrishaig and Lochgilhead to Oban.

Published by Stenlake Publishing Ltd, the book is available by visiting <http://stenlake.co.uk> or in selected shops priced £10.95.

**The front cover of the book shows a Weir of Machrie bus but still bearing the name of the previous owner Peter McMillan and in the livery of Donald Robertson.**



The first of the Albion Victors which ended up in the Bannatyne Motors fleet, right, photographed at Brodick Pier beside one of Lennox Transport's three Duple bodied models, probably in 1965.



An uncommon Maudslay Marathon 111 built in 1949 by Brockhouse of Clydebank in Bannatyne Motors colours but photographed in its final role as a shed at Shiskine Post Office. It features the 'Bannatyne thistle' which was derived from a toffee manufacturer's wrapper.



An AEC Regal 111, built by Prestwick-based Scottish Aviation Ltd, and belonging to Lennox Transport leaving Brodick on the 9.20am service to Whiting Bay on July 26, 1965.

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 ATOM BRANDS

# Looking to make Arran their home

The weather in December was a little cooler and a little wetter than November. In comparison with December 2017, it was milder, 1.4 degrees warmer, and wetter with almost 20 per cent more rain.

Following on from the reports of little egrets from various locations round Arran starting on 27 September there was a further report from the east coast at Rubha Salach on 20 December, giving 13 records in total this year. Given that 2017 saw only the second ever record for Arran, this species may be about to establish here. In a similar vein, following on from no records of red kite on Arran in 2017, December saw two further reports giving six in total for the year and the report on 10 December was for two red kites on the slopes above Corrie and Sannox.

Other visitors in December included: a purple sandpiper at Silver Sands on 3rd, a merlin at Porta Buidhe on 13th, two dunlin at Kildonan on 15th and 19 redwing at Cnocantubha on 16th. In addition the Arctic breeding long-tailed duck on the sea at the north end of Whiting Bay on 7th and 9th was a particular highlight.

Wintering wildfowl were to the fore including: 13 whooper swan at Torbeg on 5th, 82 teal at Kilpatrick Point on 11th, 100 wigeon in the Shiskine Valley on 16th, 480 greylag geese in



Little egrets may be trying to establish themselves on Arran as the northward moving species are being spotted on Arran.  
Photo: Nick Giles.

**Bird notes**  
by Jim Cassels  
DECEMBER

the Shiskine Valley on 28th and with these geese on 31st was a barnacle goose.

Groups of wintering birds included: nine black-throated diver off Cosyden on 3rd, 48 golden plover, 37 turnstone and 100 jackdaw at Machriewaterfoot also on 3rd, six great northern diver off Cnoc Buidhe on 10th, 49 curlew at Cordon on 13th, 24 lapwing at Torbeg on 16th, 110 starling at Blackwaterfoot on 23rd and 56 rock pipit in Auchenhew Bay on 26th.

Other interesting records this month included: two male goosander at Fisherman's Walk on 1st, a moorhen at Port na Lochan on 23rd, a dipper at the mouth of the Glenashdalewater on 27th and three little grebe in Loch Ranza on 31st. There were further reports of shelduck returning to Arran after their annual de-

parture to moult with sightings from Auchenhew Bay, Carlo, Kildonan and Kilpatrick. In addition on 29 December there was a report of a gannet flying west off Silver Sands. At this time of year most gannet are wintering in the Bay of Biscay or off the west coast of Africa!

Finally, here is a date for your diary: the weekend of Saturday January 26 to Monday January 28. That weekend stock up your bird feeders, spend one hour of your weekend watching your garden birds, and note down the highest number you see of each bird species. This is the weekend of the Big Garden Birdwatch. This year will be the 40th year of this survey. Enjoy your birding.

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

For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2017 and visit this website [www.arranbirding.co.uk](http://www.arranbirding.co.uk)

**ART EXHIBITION**  
Isle of Arran Distillery, Lochranza  
**Local Artist - Jane Nichol**  
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**7.30PM**

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ARRAN SOUL CHOIR ARE PART OF THE  
ISLE OF ARRAN MUSIC SCHOOL

POSITIVE PICTURES

## LAMLASH BURNS CLUB No. 2197

(Affiliated to the Robert Burns World Federation)



### Annual Burns Supper



To be held in Lamlash Golf Club

**Saturday 26th January 2019 at 7.00 for 7.30pm**

Want to hear superb Speakers!

Be entertained, well fed and lubricated, then come along to this great Supper.

Ticket £25.00 available from Committee Members:

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**Jake Kerr 302138; Andy Martin 700449 &**

**Jim Lees 810248.**

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[sleep@brodickbunkhouse.co.uk](mailto:sleep@brodickbunkhouse.co.uk)  
BOOK ONLINE £25 PER NIGHT

# THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday January 16, 1999

## Beach barricade

A confrontation near Brodick beach was narrowly avoided this week between Scotsand and Brodick Golf Club.

It arose because, due to this paucity of sand, it was Scotsand's plan to recommence taking sand from Brodick beach at low tide. Club members blame sand removal for erosion of the beach and said that they would not allow a single grain to be removed.

A club tractor and greenkeeper's vehicles then strategically parked at every entrance that a lorry could use to get access to the beach and sat there at the ready for a confrontation if necessary.

But no lorries came and, after a long time waiting in the wind and rain, everybody left thinking the danger was over. But they had been under observation and as soon as the defenders left down came a sand digger and a lorry. But they found their way still blocked because a golf club vehicle had been parked across the ford which would take them to the beach. Scotsand said that the obstruction could be easily moved but they were not into confrontation and they believe that their point was well and truly made. The sand saga will continue, but on another day.

## Leaking roof

Arran High School has been suffering from water ingress from the roof this win-

ter and sixth-year pupils and Moral Issues students have also been noticing a peculiar smell over the past two weeks. After some swift detective work, it was determined that a leaking roof was causing the problem and that dampness had started to appear under the floor. Then water started to appear under people's feet. This led to the class being closed and Mrs Macleod becoming 'classroomless' and having to find alternative accommodation to teach.

However, it does not stop there as in another area of the school where an improvised swimming pool has appeared on the roof, and with the weather not being the best, water has started to pour through the skylight and has been dripping down the walls and lights.

## Ship shape

This year's relief vessel has created a great deal of interest. So much so that more than 200 people, 40 of whom were from Arran, took part in a Clyde cruise on the new MV Clansman. Many of them had come to inspect the facilities and they all had opinions on what they thought of her.

Many people's first impression was that she is luxurious. The seats are softer, there is a dog room and the vessel has more power are some of the other opinions. The one criticism was that there is a lack of open deck space, but thankfully the bulk of opinion has been that the MV Clansman is a very fine ship indeed.



Battle for Brodick beach. Vehicles strategically park at Brodick golf course to prevent any heavy vehicles from removing sand from the beach. 01\_B03twe01



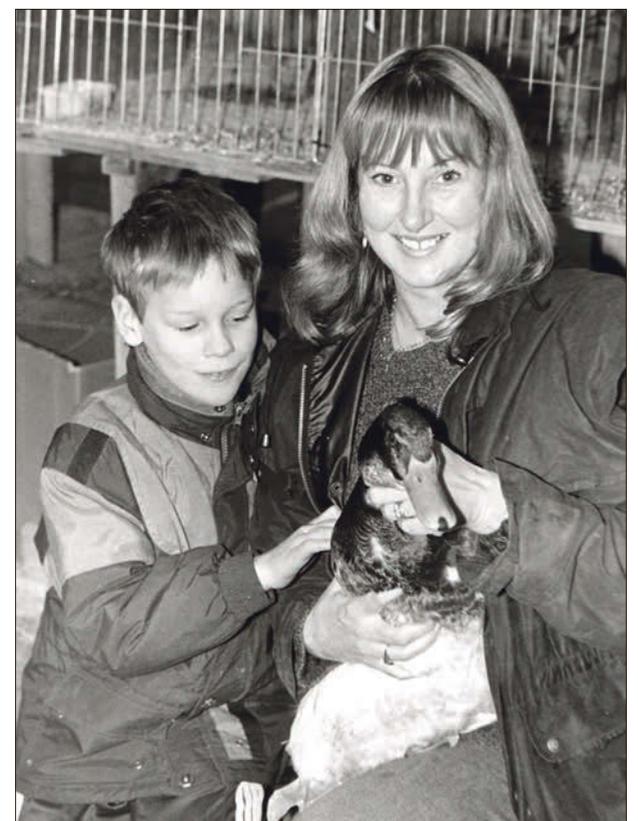
Captain Ian Dewar is pictured on the bridge of the MV Clansman during a special Clyde cruise chartered by the Clyde River Steamer Club. 01\_B03twe03



Scottish Rugby Union development officer Graham Kilgour was on Arran for a few days giving rugby coaching to primary school children. 01\_B03twe05



Geoff Norris chats to John Mackenzie at Windy Corner where cracks have appeared on the road, causing subsidence and the unexpected closure of the main road. 01\_B03twe04



John McGuiness and his mother Liz have recently moved to Monyquil and were delighted to have won prizes at the Chookie Show. 01\_B03twe02

# RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

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## Public Notices

**Arran Coastal Rowing Club**



**AGM**

Wednesday 6th February 2019 in Arran Yacht Club, Lamlash, at 7.30pm.

Nominations for committee (together with the names of a proposer and a seconder) from club members should be sent to the secretary:  
**secretary@arrancoastalrowing.co.uk**  
by **Wednesday 30th January 2019** at the latest

## Property

**LONG LET IN LAMLASH**  
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Modern 2 bedroom, balconied house.  
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References required. Sorry no pets or DHSS.

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**BRODICK**

**For Sale £300k + stock**  
Due to an ageing fleet new wheels are being sought to move this iconic island business forward.

Contact: Mrs Aileen Thomson 01770 302648 (day)  
01770 600227 (night)

**EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE REGISTRATION WEEK**

Parents are advised that registration for the early learning and childcare intake in August 2019 takes place from Monday 28 January 2019 - Friday 1 February 2019. Children with dates of birth between 1 March 2015 and 28 February 2017 can be registered with Local Authority Early Years establishments or Funded Providers of early learning and childcare in North Ayrshire during this time.

Parents wishing to register their child for early learning and childcare should apply directly to the establishment of their choice. A list of all Local Authority Establishments and Funded Providers can be found on the North Ayrshire Council website, [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk) (Education and Learning pages).

The child's birth certificate should be produced at the time of registration. It is not always possible to place all children in the early year's establishment of their choice. You will be asked to state your second and third choice of establishment.

**Please note:**  
there are no 'catchment areas' for early years establishments and parents can choose to send their child to the most suitable establishment, if a place is available.  
attending an early years class within a primary school does not influence whether your child will be able to transfer to that school in Primary 1.  
Please note that North Ayrshire Council operates an Admissions Policy which clearly describes priorities.

Further information on North Ayrshire Council's Admissions Policy and Early Years places can be found on the North Ayrshire website, [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk)  
Caroline Amos, Head of Service (Inclusion), Education & 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 09.00-16.45 weekdays (16.30 Fridays) or at [www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk](http://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](mailto:eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk) by 08.02.19. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

**18/01100/PP;** Kilmory Post Office, Kilmory, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Change of use of post office/tearoom and first floor flat to form one dwelling house.

**19/00001/PP;** Sannox Bay Hotel, Sannox, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Refurbishment, alterations and partial change of use to include village shop.

Craig Hatton  
Chief Executive  
Cunninghame House  
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council  
Comhairle Siarachd Àir a Tuath

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## Classifieds

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### UNDER £50

2 Discs and set of brake pads for Ford Transit Connect Van, new, still in box, fit 02-09 plate. Offers please. Call 07792 452814.

Pair of Highland Dancing Swords, metal. Free to uplift. Please call 01770 600220.

Folding Step Ladders - new with safety handle and rubber steps, £45. TV Table with shelf, very good condition, £15. Cake or ornament stand, very good condition, £10. Please call 01770 830340.

Bosch Microwave Oven, special gift but hardly ever used, in original condition. £25. Please phone 01770 302285.

Pullets, colour hybrid pullets for laying, 5 varieties Tel 01770 860358

### THANK YOU

#### from Ruth at Brodick Pharmacy

As some of you may know, I retired from Brodick Pharmacy this week after over 8 years

---

**I would like to thank all my customers and colleagues for their extremely kind cards, gifts and good wishes - I have been truly overwhelmed.**

---

I will miss seeing my regulars and of course working with the lovely Chemist girls.

---

**I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy 2019**

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- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

## ARRAN BANNER CLASSIFIEDS

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# competitions

## WIN

A COOKING EXPERIENCE WITH NICK NAIRN



*Nick Nairn*  
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Scottish Field have teamed up with the Nick Nairn Cook School to offer two lucky readers the chance to win a 'Just You & Nick' one day cooking experience at the school at Port of Menteith. Winners will receive a telephone consultation with Nick to help design a bespoke menu. They will have the school and Nick to themselves for the entire day. Nick will teach them how to cook their menu and join them to eat and drink.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: *Where is the Nick Nairn Cook School?***

Prize must be taken in 2019. Transport is not included. Any additional costs are not covered by the prize.

## WIN

AN EPICUREAN INDULGENCE AT THE PEAT INN FOR TWO PEOPLE (WORTH £355)



Relax in one of eight luxury suites before heading to the restaurant for a beautifully crafted six course tasting menu. Let us serve you breakfast the next morning before you enjoy a day in the Kingdom. The Peat Inn, by St Andrews, is a 5-star restaurant with rooms and Michelin Star Chef Proprietor, Geoffrey Smeddle, uses the finest Scottish ingredients to create delicious and contemporary cuisine.

**FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN, just answer the following question: *How many suites does The Peat Inn have?***

Valid Tues - Thurs, subject to availability, based on 2 people sharing a room. Drinks not included. Must be taken by 31 May 2019.

To enter, send separate entries (in the same envelope) with your name, address, telephone number and email address to **Scottish Field Competitions, Fettes Park, 496 Ferry Road, Edinburgh EH5 2DL** or enter at [www.scottishfield.co.uk](http://www.scottishfield.co.uk).

Closing date, unless otherwise stated, is 31 January 2019.

**Winners drawn from all competitions also enter a prize to win a bottle of Berry Bros. & Rudd Islay Reserve Whisky.**

Entrants must be 18 or over. Employees of Scottish Field, 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. Usual Scottish Field rules apply. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition - your name, address, telephone number and email address. If you wish to receive news and offers from the third party running the competition, then please mark the words 'OPT IN' on your postcard entry. If you enter various competitions on one card, you will be opting in for every competition running. Unless you opt in to receive further marketing information we will only contact you if you win a prize in the competition. Scottish Field (Wyvex Media) will retain your information for a maximum of 3 months after the competition closes and then it will be deleted. If you have opted in to receive third party information, the data you have supplied will be passed to the third party company running the competition. This may be used for the purposes of the third party contacting you regarding new products and services for a period of 3 months, unless you agree to an extension with the third party company at a later date.

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**CHURCH NOTICES**

**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 20th January**  
Brodick Church, 12 noon,  
Christian Unity Service for all

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

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 20th January**  
Holy Communion, 11 am  
Richard Trewby

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(continuing)  
**Sunday 20th January**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge,  
Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 6.30pm  
5 Glen Road, Brodick  
All welcome

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 20th January**  
There is no service in either church on Sunday.  
You are invited to attend the Service of Christian Unity in Brodick Church at 12 noon.  
Scottish Charity SC015072

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland, Charity Number: SC014005  
**Sunday 20th January**  
There will be no service today at 10.30am as the Arran Churches Together Service for Christian Unity will be at 12noon in Brodick Church of Scotland to which everyone is warmly invited.

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**Sunday 20th January**  
Sunday Mass 11am

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**

**Sunday 20th January**  
Sunday Worship at 11am  
'Heather Lodge', Brodick  
Telephone 700346  
Everyone Warmly Invited

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings  
**Sunday 20th January**  
Joining service of Christian unity  
12noon Brodick Parish Church  
Telephone 600222  
Everyone warmly invited

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Sunday 20th January**  
Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)  
Brodick 6pm  
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**McNICOL:** Ian. Mary and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their cards, flowers, condolences and attendance at Ian's funeral. Thanks also to Rev. Angus Adamson for his moving service, Hendry Funeral Services for their excellent, caring funeral arrangements, Brodick Golf Club for catering and a special thank you to all the staff at Cooriedoon Nursing Home for the love and care shown to Ian. Thank you, too for all donations to Alzheimer Scotland which raised £1103.75.

**MURRAY:** Jane. Norval Murray would like to thank all his friends and neighbours on Arran for their kind messages of condolence which are very much appreciated at this sad time.

**BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
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**Whiting Bay bowls trophy winners**



**Trophy winners at Whiting Bay Bowling Club prize-giving.**

Whiting Bay Bowling Club held their prize-giving and dinner in Felicity's at Eden Lodge on Saturday December 22.

The 2018 trophy winners were: Federation Triples 2018 – Sid Allen, Neil Cook, Robert Frame. Co-op Salver – Keith Kelsall, Neil Cook. Angus Cook Memorial Trophy 2018

– Neil Cook, Neil Pringle, Marette Pringle. Royal Bank Trophy 2018 – Robert Frame, Ann Frame. Anniversary Triples 2018 – Robert Frame, Ann Frame, Kenny Mabon.

Fun Week Shield – Neil Cook, Marette Pringle. Shurig Shield 2018 – Robert Frame, Johnny McGovern, Ann Frame. Kiscadale Shield 2018

– Robert Crawford, Charlie Weir. Gordon MacDonald (nom pairs) 2018 – Keith Kelsall, Jenny Douglas. Jim's Trophy (nom sets) 2018 – Ann Frame, Robert Frame. Tom and Jennie Robison (drawn pairs) 2108 – Marette Pringle, Ann Frame. Gents' singles 2018 – Robert Frame. Ladies' singles 2018 – Ann Frame.



**Brodick Golf Club**

Wednesday January 9, 12 holes Stableford, six played. 1 Chris Pattenden 25pts.

Sunday January 13, Brandon Qualifier, six played, NC. Fred Galbraith 84-19=65, Alastair Dobson 79-11=68, ACB, Iain Sil-

lars 84-16=68. Scratch, Alastair Dobson 79.

Fixture: Sunday January 20, Winter Cup Stableford, 9am and noon.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Wednesday January 2. Ladies course backwards. 1 Kate McAdam, net 33.

Thursday January 10, Yellow Medal. 1 Ian Bremner 64-4=60, 2 Hugh McLelland, 3 Allan Colquoun.

Sunday January 13, Glenburn Cup. 1 Ian Bremner 76-7=69, 2 John O'Sullivan 98-24=74. Scratch, Ian Bremner 76.

Fixtures: Sunday January 20, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon.

Thursday January 24, Yellow Medal, 11am.

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Sunday January 13, Winter Cup round four. A total of six players braved a cold and squally morning for the latest round of the Winter Cup. Reflecting the conditions CSS went up to its maximum of 66. 1 Kevin Jackson 10, 67, 2 Douglas Auld 19, 70, 3 Stan Rainey 11, 74. Tom Paterson shot the lowest

gross with a score of 74. Fixture: Sunday January 20, sweep, yellow tees, draw at 10am.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday January 8, Winter Cup. 1 Hamish Bannatyne 65, 2 Reuben Betley 71, 3 Phil Betley 73.

Tuesday January 15, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Campbell Laing 40, 2 Brian Sherwood 36, 3 Colin Rutterford 34, BIH. Magic twos, Alistair MacDonald.

Fixtures: Tuesday January 22, Winter Cup, tee off at noon.

**Nursery sheep dog trial results**

Shepherds and their dogs enjoyed the first in a series of three winter dog trials at Springfield Farm, Kildonan, at the start of the month.

In the nursery category, Wullie Stevenson judged eight dogs with the points in the various categories as follows: Nursery 1, 1 N McMaster with Gail, 67pts, 2 G Brookes with Rob, 54pts; Nursery 2, 1 G Brookes with Rob, 81pts, 2 N McMaster with Gail, 64pts; Sweepstake, 1 I McConnell with Drift, 80pts.

The next trial will take place at Birchburn, Shiskine, on Saturday January 26 at 11am.



Judging the sheep dog trial was Wullie Stevenson, who has previously represented Arran and Kintyre in the Scottish National Sheep Dog Trials. 01\_B08dog01

# SPORT



## INSIDE THIS WEEK:

Whiting Bay bowls trophy winners



Overcoming the first hurdle, these runners – flanked by jog leaders Lorna and Gordon – have all become the first group of beginner runners who have graduated from the Arran Pace Makers group.

# Runners take giant steps to complete their training

The Arran Pace Makers, a JogScotland group run by Lorna Logan and Gordon McInnes, have seen their first group of beginner runners graduate from their final week of the JogScotland beginners' programme.

### Next level

Having started in October last year, the group, who have attained Level One and are able to run for 15 minutes continuously,

will now advance to the next level of training in order to double their running time.

This achievement is remarkable as some of the participants had only just started running and some could not previously have run for more than a few minutes without having to take a break.

The runners who completed the 10-week course are Mark and Sue Berry, Stephen Brown,

Joan Thomson, Katy Penn, Hazel Currie, Teresa Beckett, Allan Soutter and Dougie McInnes.

### Proud

Jog leader Lorna said: 'Gordon and myself are incredibly proud of the commitment and progress made by the group. They have all done exceptionally well and are ready to step up to the next stage.'

The group meet on a Tues-

day at the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick at 5.30pm and there is also a mixed ability group which takes place on a Wednesday. A JogScotland – Isle of Arran mixed ability group also meets in Whiting Bay every Monday at 5.30pm.

Anyone interested in joining the Arran Pace Makers or anyone who is thinking of taking up running as a sport can contact Lorna

on 07767 704434 or Gordon on 07469 230379.

The classes are all undertaken by trained jog leaders and can accommodate all levels of fitness.

### Information

Further information can be found on the Arran Pace Makers' Facebook page which provides useful information and starting locations which can change owing to various running routes.

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