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THE ARRAN BANNER

No. 2117 Arran's Weekly Newspaper

SATURDAY 2 MARCH, 2019

www.arranbanner.co.uk

Price 80p

Big council tax rise for island households

Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Council tax bills are to rise by 4.79 per cent on Arran after North Ayrshire Council set its 2019 budget this week, the highest increase allowed.

Householders in band A properties could face an increase of around £39 a year while band D owners will pay around £58 more from April. This increase keeps North Ayrshire broadly in line with the average council tax level in Scotland.

Freeze

It follows a three per cent rise in North Ayrshire last year, after a nine-year council tax freeze came to an end. Attempts by the SNP and the Conservatives to limit the rise to 3.7 per cent and three per cent respectively were both voted down.

And despite facing what they describe as 'a deeply challenging financial settlement' the council's Labour administration say there will be no compulsory job cuts and that it will even create a few new jobs.

Since 2010/11, North Ayrshire Council has cut

£92m from its revenue budget as funding has failed to keep pace with the rising costs and demand for council services.

The budget for 2019/20 – which was approved by elected members on Wednesday – required £8.5m of further reductions in order to deliver a balanced budget.

These reductions are likely to see less maintenance of school buildings and other council-owned properties and they are likely to hit street cleaning and ground maintenance on Arran.

There are also plans to increase fees for the Garden Tidy scheme by 25 per cent.

However, on a positive note, the council says the 2019/20 budget will result in a net increase of about 24 new jobs.

While there will be a reduction in a number of posts, this will be more than offset by the creation of around 74 whole time equivalent (WTE) posts as a result of the expansion of early learning and childcare and a further 21 WTE posts from planned

Drama winners take a bow



All the award winners at the 2019 Arran Drama Festival show off their trophies at the end of the three-day event on Saturday night. Full coverage starts on page 11. 01_B09awards01

investment in health and social care. Any reduction in posts will be managed through vacancies, redeployment, voluntary early retirement and voluntary redundancy.

Council leader Joe Cullinane said: 'There's no doubt that with every pass-

ing year, it gets more difficult to balance the budget while protecting jobs and our frontline services.'

'In the face of austerity, it's remarkable that we will actually be creating jobs this year, with new posts opening up in social care and in early years.'

'But that doesn't take away from the fact that if local government continues to be underfunded, year after year, services will inevitably suffer.'

The £343m revenue budget – which pays for the day-to-day running of council services – is fund-

ed largely through the settlement from the Scottish Government.

For 2019/20, this core funding has decreased by £3.8m (1.4 per cent of the overall budget) with £9.4m ring-fenced to fund new

Turn to page two



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Arran could have second ferry for Easter holidays

Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Arran could have a second ferry on the Ardrossan to Brodick route before the Easter holidays, it emerged this week.

While the summer timetable starts on March 29, the second boat is not due to begin service until May 2 – nearly two weeks after Easter.

However, Caledonian MacBrayne told the Banner this week that they hope to have the MV Isle of Arran ready to go into service on the Arran route for the holiday weekend.

The move follows a re-



The MV Isle of Arran could be back for Easter.

quest made by the Arran Ferry Committee for extra capacity on the route for Easter, the one of the busiest weekends for visitors of the year. It has emerged that many of the sailings over the Easter weekend

are already full, with the 7.20pm ferry from Brodick on Easter Monday said to be the only sailing still with availability that day.

Chairman Bill Calderwood told Arran Community Council on Tuesday

that both Transport Scotland and CalMac had been asked that the planning was put in place if a vessel became available nearer the time, even if they could not confirm an additional boat at the moment.

A CalMac spokesman said: ‘We appreciate that Easter is an important weekend for the island and are keen to support the community as much as we can. This is, however, dependent on our dry docking schedule. If fleet dry docking goes according to plan and the MV Isle of Arran is available, our intention would be to review putting her into service on the Ardrossan-Brodick route for the holiday weekend.’

Meanwhile, a trial is to be launched of a procedure to allow car passengers leaving their cars at Ardrossan and returning later to col-

lect them, to return to Arran on the same ferry.

At the moment the 30-minute check-in restricts this. However, if prior notice is given in Brodick this will be communicated to port staff at Ardrossan who will allow the cars to join allocated lanes late in these circumstances.

As previously reported in the Banner, a 2.4 per cent increase will apply to all fares when the summer timetable starts. A foot passenger return journey will cost £8, 20p more, with the price of the car or small motorhome rising to £31.90, up 80p.

Big council tax rise for island households

Continued from page one
commitments such as the expansion of early learning and child care, and health and social care.

Some £3.48m of cuts had previously been approved for 2019/20 and further reductions in service were required to plug the funding gap.

Approval was also given for the use of some council reserves, while keeping to

the fiscal rule of maintaining unearmarked reserves at the approved minimum of two per cent.

Despite the financial pressures facing the council, elected members made a continuing commitment to support its lowest earners, those living in poverty and North Ayrshire’s children.

Among the range of measures passed included

increased investment in the services that support the most vulnerable residents with additional funding of approximately £1.39million for the Health and Social Care Partnership.

The capital budget will deliver a £255million programme of works by 2027/28, supporting investment in buildings, infrastructure and regeneration projects.



There is concern the upkeep of the flower bed and picnic area outside the Post Office could be hit by ground maintenance cuts. 01_B09budget01



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Couple chose Arran as idyllic retreat

Arran was in the TV spotlight again this week when an episode of the BBC1 daytime property show Escape to the Country was devoted to the island.

Presented by Jules Hudson, the episode featured a house hunting couple who were in search of an idyllic Arran getaway and a less hurried way of life.

And The Arran Banner even featured in the show when the presenter handed the couple the paper to aid their search for local builders.

With a budget of £375,000, the couple, a romance writer and a retired truck driver, were shown two houses that matched their criteria, and one wildcard option – a house that did not match their requirements exactly but one which the presenter thought they might be tempted by.

In addition to viewing houses in Whiting Bay, Corrie and Kildonan, viewers were also given a glimpse of some of what Arran offers visitors.

This included a trip to Lochranza Distillery, where the visiting couple from Yorkshire sampled Arran whisky, and a short boat ride in Lamlash Bay with marine



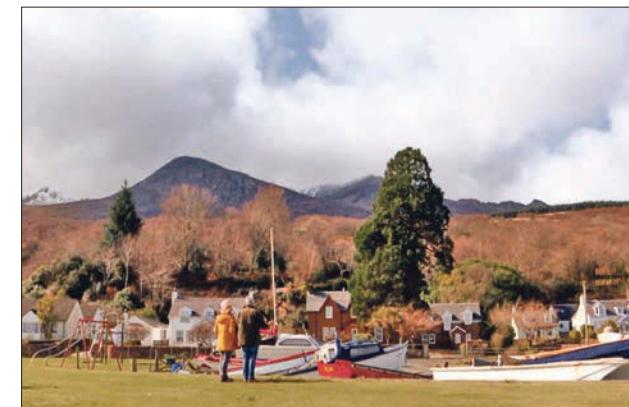
Above, presenter Jules Hudson is pictured on Brodick beach; top right, the house hunters and Hudson prepare to view a house in Corrie; and below right, Hudson presents the couple with a copy of the Banner in Kildonan.

conservationist Don Macneish telling viewers about the work of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) and the Lamlash No Take Zone.

Enamoured with two of the houses that they visited, the couple made an offer on the Corrie property. However it was not accepted, leaving them to continue their search on their own accord.

Such was the interest in the show, a social media post on the Arran Banner Facebook page, reminding people that the programme was due to be aired, received a huge response, with 16,500 people reading the update and 163 sharing it with others.

For those who missed the broadcast on Monday it is still available to watch on BBC iPlayer.



Castle call to inspire artists

Brodick Castle is hosting a community-focused event happening in July called the Makers' Festival and has made an open call to all local artists to get involved.

Makers refers to all manner of hands-on crafts and creative experiences and this event will celebrate the artistic activities of island craftspeople. Focusing on the theme of sustainability, the festival will include an exhibition of work inspired by Brodick Castle and gardens.

This is an open call



for makers on the island to submit their ideas for work to be included in the exhibition.

Organisers would like makers to consider the sustainability of their piece in terms of processes, materials or message. This is part of a commitment to Arran being a sustainable

tourist destination. The exhibition will be held in the castle itself and there is an option to sell if appropriate and makers can submit up to two applications. The hope is that everyone will have work represented in the exhibition but that will be dependent on the number of applications.

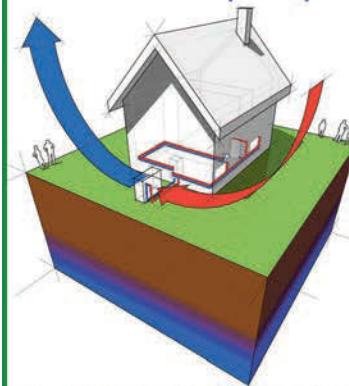
The castle, which has been closed for 17 months for fire improvement works, is due to reopen to the public on April 5.

The Makers' Festival to be held on the weekend of July 12 to 14.

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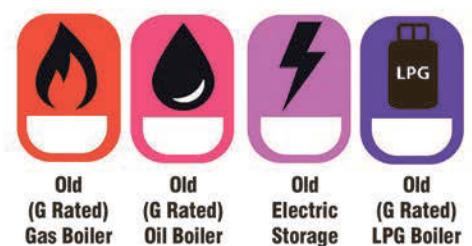
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Restaurant named at Lagg Distillery

The restaurant at the Lagg Distillery has been named as The Shieling Bistro following an online competition seeking an innovative name for the upstairs dining area.

The winner who came up with the name, which describes a hut or simple building in a remote Scottish landscape, has not been named but will receive a lunch voucher for four people in the new bistro.

The Shieling Bistro will offer relaxed dining with panoramic views and a whisky and cocktail bar with an impressive balcony.

The name was selected from 320 suggestions and The Shieling Bistro will play a role in attracting visitors to the distillery – set to open in spring this year.

Rogue builder warning after resident duped

Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Islanders have been warned to be extra vigilant when having building work carried out after a recent incident on Arran.

An elderly resident paid a mainland builder more than £7,000 to repair a leak in her roof, which was never repaired, and the builder has failed to return calls or respond to emails for more than two months.

North Ayrshire Trading Standards says it has been in touch with the woman and is providing support. The incident happened in mid-December but officials declined to say where it happened.



The door sticker warning sign, which is available to people who want one.
01_B44petition01

Councillor Alex Gallagher, cabinet member for economy, said: 'People say they will never get caught out but yet they do, as they let their guard down or decide they will get work done, despite many promises from

a family member that they will do it.'

'This elderly lady has been extremely unfortunate. The builder may have some level of experience but this job appears to have been too much for them – yet they have charged a lot of money and not solved the problem. The fact they have gone to ground is also evidence that they are not interested in providing a good and proper service.'

'Rogue traders in general target vulnerable residents and carry out little or no work, charging exorbitant sums of money. They will usually offer roofing, driveway or gardening services at a re-

duced price, but work is often unnecessary or badly done and the trader later increases the price.'

'While it might be tempting to agree to low prices being offered on the doorstep, it doesn't add up.'

Trading Standards says this incident has strengthened its desire to make Arran the first island to become a 'no cold caller zone', as highlighted by the Banner in November last year.

Zones are established to protect residents from unwanted doorstep callers. They are designed to act as a deterrent to stop businesses cold calling in areas that are clearly marked and empower residents to feel con-

fident about sending unwanted callers away.

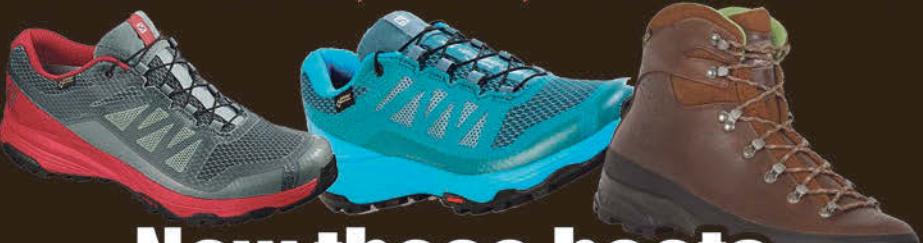
Councillor Gallagher added: 'We are trying to make Arran a place that cold-callers and scammers won't want to visit. If we have support from the local community, backed up with messages displayed everywhere – on lamp-posts and people's doors – it will send a message that cold callers are not welcome in Arran.'

'The outcome is then a reduction in overall crime, including less doorstep crime and distraction house breaking.'

Police Scotland confirmed that this was not a criminal act but was a civil matter.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Consultation aims to protect livestock

NFUS backs move to help farmers and crofters

At the Scottish Parliament last Thursday, South Scotland MSP Emma Harper launched a public consultation ahead of a proposed member's bill to tackle incidents of dogs attacking livestock.

The proposed Protection of Livestock (Scotland) Bill aims to give police, courts and potentially other agencies more powers to properly tackle offences of dogs attacking livestock.

Livestock attacks continue to be a blight on Scottish agriculture, and NFU Scotland launched a campaign earlier in February to influence a change in behaviours of irresponsible dog owners and encourage them to keep their dogs on a lead when walking on farmland.

It comes just weeks after the Banner highlighted the worrying rise in sheep attacks on Arran, which saw three serious incidents in four months, the worst of which led to a dog killing two Cheviot ewes carrying lambs at Glenkiln Farm in Lamlash.

Last year Police Scotland had 338 incidents of attacks on livestock by dogs reported to them. Out of 340 responses from a recent NFU Scotland survey, 72 per cent said they had an issue with livestock worrying on their land, while 84 per cent felt the outdoor access code requiring 'on a lead or under close control' did not provide sufficient protection to them or their livestock.

Ms Harper said: 'Livestock worrying/attack is an enormous issue which is of concern to people across the agricultural sector.'

'Irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to roam the countryside, while not under close control, and worry, attack and mutilate livestock is harmful not just to animal welfare but can have severe implications for farmers.'

'Research has indicated that current legislation

simply either doesn't adequately make reference to livestock and wildlife worrying/attack or is not strong enough to prevent the issue.'

'I am therefore bringing forward a consultation for a new Bill which would increase penalties and provide additional powers to investigate and enforce the offence of livestock worrying.'

Martin Kennedy, vice president of NFU Scotland, said: 'This public consultation is welcomed by NFU Scotland. Last year the union outlined "key asks" that it would like to see within a bill – in particular higher fines, a ban on owning dogs and additional powers for the police – so we are delighted that some of these asks are included within the proposed bill.'

'Farm animals worth more than £750,000 have been savaged by dogs in Scotland over the past four years'

'We would encourage as many farmers and crofters as possible to fill out this consultation within the 12-week window to provide a true reflection of the extent dog attacks on livestock continue to have on our industry.'

Meanwhile, according to claims figures from NFU Mutual, which insures three quarters of farmers, farm animals worth more than £750,000 have been savaged by dogs in Scotland over the past four years. Although there was a fall between 2017 to 2018, figures remain high with an 80 per cent increase in the cost of attacks since 2015.

Consultation on the bill closes on May 15. Comments can be made via the member's bill section of the Scottish parliament website.



Emma Harper
MSP with PC
Ben Rushden
at the launch.

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New owners hope restaurant venture will be a Shore thing

Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The Shore restaurant is set to make a welcome return to Whiting Bay when it officially opens for business later this month.

The business is conveniently housed on the shore front in an iconic building which has been a village landmark for many years having previously been a bank, a butcher's, the village shop and, more recently, a coffee shop and take-away, which closed last May.

The new owners are Adam and Charlotte Martin, who have returned to Arran with their 20-month-old son. They plan to run The Shore as a community restaurant serving the needs of residents and visitors to Whiting Bay.

Serving a variety of breakfasts, including vegetarian and a full Shore breakfast, the Shore will also offer an extensive lunch menu with daily specials, and for two evenings a week, a pop-up restaurant, held twice a month, and offering an ever-changing, unique and varied menu. The Martins



are no strangers to Arran and island life as Charlotte, who was the first manager of the Auchrannie Play-barn, has previously lived and worked on Arran. Now, following a stint as a teach-

er in Aberdeen, she is back on the island she developed a love for, returning to be a part of the community in Whiting Bay.

Joined by her husband Adam, who has been a

head chef in Cumbria for 14 years – six of them at the Hare and Hounds in Bowlands Bridge, where he played a major role in setting up a successful and award-winning restaurant.



Offering stunning views, visitors will be able to sip a coffee and enjoy a bite to eat while taking in the sights.

Left: Charlotte and Adam Martin outside The Shore restaurant.

The down-to-earth couple say their food can best be described as 'relaxed gastro pub'. Charlotte said: 'Our aim is to offer good food, locally sourced and fresh, at affordable prices in relaxed and beautiful surroundings.'

'The Shore has lovely views directly over the beach and is a welcoming place, with a warm wood burning stove and comfortable seating to enjoy tasty and affordable food with friends, family and visitors.'

'Situated in the heart of the community we hope

to play a part in community life and an active role in village activities.'

The Shore officially opens on Wednesday March 13, although they will open, by local request, the day before for an early bird evening dinner menu to coincide with the Scottish Opera performance at Whiting Bay hall.

Booking for the event is essential by calling 700161 and a full copy of the menu, along with opening times and future events, can be found on their website at www.theshorearran.co.uk



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THE ARRAN BANNER

Provost presents award to finalist Eilidh

Provost Ian Clarkson presented Eilidh Hamill with her finalist certificate for the Provost's Civic Pride Awards during a visit to Arran this week.

While attending another event the provost met with the Arran High School pupil and wished her the best of luck with her nomination for the North Ayrshire Sports Award for her contribution to sport through sporting achievements and by encouraging and supporting others.

There is still time to vote for Eilidh, which can be done online at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/civicpride19vote and voting closes at noon on Thursday March 7. The winners will be announced at the prestigious annual awards ceremony at the Portal, Irvine, on Friday March 15.



Flu vaccine plea to those at risk

The recent flu outbreak, which has floored a number of people on Arran, is a greater risk to those with existing health conditions.

As a result NHS Ayrshire and Arran is urging all those with existing conditions to make it a priority to get their flu vaccine as soon as possible.

The vaccine is available free to those with health conditions of any age, those who will be aged 65 or over at the end of March, and pregnant women, and remains the best defence against the virus. If anyone is eligible and they have not received the vaccine, they should not delay in making an appointment with their GP.

Figures show that, on average, 1,918 people have been hospitalised for flu or its complications each year in Scotland. To meet

higher demand for the vaccine, the Scottish government has bought more of the vaccine this winter than last year.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran, consultant in public health medicine Dr Elvira Garcia said: 'It is extremely important that individuals at risk from the dangers of flu take up the offer of the flu vaccine now.'

'Make an appointment today, and you have a better chance of not developing the complications that can lead to hospitalisation.'

'It is not too late to get vaccinated against flu. The vaccine is still being offered at GP practices, is safe, and provides protection for up to a year.'

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Editorial

Drama talent

This year's drama festival once again showed what a depth of talent there is on the island.

The fact that both the junior and adult winning plays were written by local talent is further testament to that.

Great, too, that for the second time in as many years the number of junior plays outnumbered the adult ones, showing that youngsters on the island still hold a passion for performing live.

Some of the youngsters performing this year are already young adults, such as The Young Ones in their own production, and their involvement in amateur dramatics will surely stand them in good stead as they head out into the big bad world.

An enormous amount of work goes into not just the staging of the drama festival but into every single play performed on the stage both by the actors and everyone behind the scenes.

And it is good to see that the people of Arran turn out in their droves to watch as the drama of the three nights unfold and see if, at the end of it all, their winners match that of the adjudicator – the man, this year Ronnie Mackie, with the hardest job of the festival.

Roll on next year.

Thought for the week

'Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.'

Colossians 3:13



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Winter service

An open letter to Roy Bran-nen, chief executive officer Transport Scotland.

Sir,
I write as chairman of our local community association and ask you to revisit the recently rejected proposal for a Lochranza/Claonaig winter ferry service.

We firmly believe that the potential strategic benefits of piloting such a service would, given time, prove highly significant.

Businesses on Arran and Argyll, of all kinds, would benefit greatly and the through-Arran route would open up lines of communication and closer ties in terms of tourism, transport and infrastructure.

The perceived benefits would be felt on Arran, but more so on the mainland, particularly in Kintyre and Argyll, which have much to gain from an enhanced all-year-round service.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that this service seems, in terms of weather and technical reliability, to have significantly better resilience than the Brodick/Ardrossan service.

Offering a year-round alternative means of getting on and off the island, particularly in unforeseen circumstances, is in the views of many, not only desirable but essential.

I have copied this letter to other interested parties. We hope they will support this initiative by communicating their support to your organisation, their elected representatives, and the wider communities.

**Ken Thorburn, chairman
Lochranza and Catacol
Community Association.**

Real burden

Sir,
As reported in the Banner of February 23, the owners of the McLaren Hotel have made application to the Lands Tribunal for Scotland to discharge a condition of title obliging the erection only of a building two storeys in height.

Such a condition of title is a real burden affecting the property. The owners wish to erect a four-storey building. In support of the application it is stated that planning permission has already been obtained for such a building and that owners of surrounding buildings have breached similar conditions of title concerning a limited building height.

Apart from notions of relevance, acquiescence and prescription in relation to objecting to the height of these other buildings, it is worth noting that an application to the Lands Tribunal is somewhat different from an application for planning permission.

Sections 8 and 95 of the Title Conditions (Scotland) Act 2003 are relevant provisions in any application to the Lands Tribunal for the discharge of such a real burden. It is clear from these sections that, unlike a planning application to the local authority, the wider public is not entitled to make representations to the Lands Tribunal in seeking to enforce the condition of title. It is only enforceable by any person having title and interest to enforce it.

This would include the owner or tenant of a property benefiting from the burden and with an interest in enforce it. This concept of interest to enforce is a question of whether a breach of

the burden or a discharge of it would have a detrimental effect on the property securing the benefit.

Anyone claiming an interest is well advised to seek legal advice.

**Jamie Gilmour,
Brodick**

Long division

Sir,
I would like to correct the statement made by North Ayrshire and Arran MP Patricia Gibson in last week's Arran Banner.

In an article on the scrapping of free TV licences for the elderly, she stated: 'According to the BBC's own figures, scrapping the over-75s concessionary licence will take an average of more than £22,000 a week out of the pockets of over-75s in every single UK constituency.'

I would rather you do the long division, but you will find that it is just less than £3 per week per person, still a significant amount for those who cannot afford to go to the pub, particularly in Arran. You may have meant the average total amount of extra licence fees per constituency, but you certainly did not say so.

**Kelvin Appleton,
Beverley, Yorkshire.**

Dementia care

Sir,
As we discover more about dementia and develop a better understanding of the disease processes which cause dementia, it is crucial that we reflect on how we respond to the needs of people living with this progressive terminal illness. Our improving understanding is not reflected in current policy and practise; the increasing health care needs of people with advanced dementia

are not recognised or met.

Every day people living with advanced dementia, their carers and their families are dealing with a complexity of physical, emotional and psychological challenges, and ever-changing health care needs. However, people with advanced dementia do not receive the health care they should be entitled to and instead face significant social care charges.

By recognising and identifying advanced dementia we can work towards ensuring people living and dying with advanced dementia can have equity of access to the health care they need to those who have other progressive terminal illnesses, and which is free at the point of delivery.

Alzheimer Scotland Fair Dementia Care campaign calls for a number of reforms and is leading the way to highlight the unfair inequalities that are a reality for so many families. While we understand that it will require significant effort and dedication to fully transform our health care system, we ask that the Scottish Government leads the way by delivering fair dementia care for those with advanced dementia without delay.

To join the campaign, visit www.alzscot.org/fairdementiacare. Anyone who has experienced issues in accessing care for advanced dementia, should email publicpolicy@alzscot.org. Only by sharing your experiences can we show why we need change, to make sure that Scotland delivers fair dementia care.

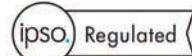
**Jim Pearson,
Director of policy and
research, Alzheimer
Scotland**

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However, we realise 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, Crannog 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.

THE EDITOR welcomes letters for publication on this page. The Editor reserves the right to shorten, amend or to refuse to print them. Names and addresses MUST be supplied to indicate good faith, although these details can be withheld from publication. Telephone numbers, if available, should also be included. Anonymous letters will not be considered. Please write to: Letters, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ. Fax: (01770) 302021. Email editor@arranbanner.co.uk. Emailed letters can only be considered if they have a name, full address and phone number.

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hold it until all your goods have arrived and deliver it all together to your home. If you're needing special arrangements for your delivery we can help. Just let us know your requirements when you book in. Forklift on site for pallets and as well as our speedy parcel services, we offer a 2 man and tailift service throughout the Island.

A well-earned retiral for rescue dog Ruby

Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Ruby, Arran Mountain Rescue Team's (AMRT) search and rescue dog, has retired after nine years of dedicated service, having played a big part in saving lives and assisting in rescue operations during her long career.

A highly-trained National Search And Rescue Dog Association (SARDA) canine, Ruby is the companion of Darryl Urquhart-Dixon and the two of them have attended hundreds of call-outs over the years.

Retirement

In a moving message in appreciation of Ruby's unfailing service, a spokesman from AMRT said: 'Happy retirement to our mountain rescue dog, Ruby.'

'Ruby has been a big part of the AMRT for the past nine years, helping to assist the team with numerous searches for missing people and not forgetting providing endless cuddles to team members at the base and on the hill during training.'

'Ruby has been a big part of the team and always will be. She has been very hard working and a joy to have around.'

In a message SARDA, which is very familiar with Ruby and her dedication



Ruby is pictured with her handler Darryl Urquhart-Dixon, above; and right, from top, through all weathers Ruby joins her team mates during a training exercise; working in remote locations, Ruby is airlifted to a search location. Photograph: David Hogg. Ruby takes great delight in her work on a snow-covered hillside.

over the years, said: 'SARDA Southern Scotland would like to say a massive thank you and a very happy retirement to mountain rescue search dog Ruby.'

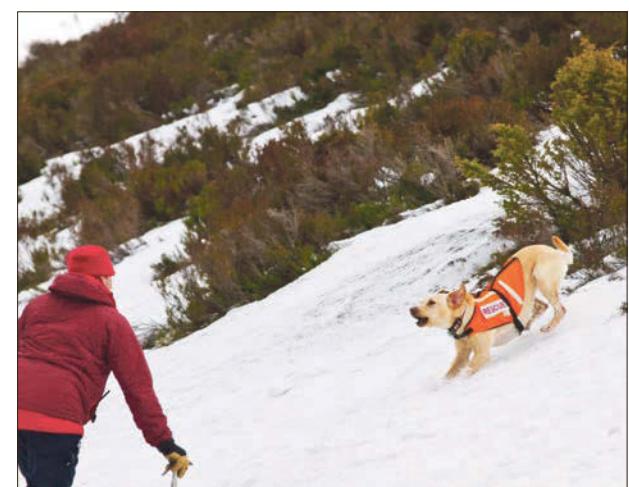
'Ruby, alongside her handler Daz, has served many

a call-out and given an incredible amount of time and effort over the past nine years, always with that famous doggy smile and a real love for doing what she does.'

'Enjoy the sofa when the

phone goes for a call-out, Ruby, you've earned it.'

Darryl continues to work with the AMRT with his other dog, Mowgli, who qualified as a mountain rescue dog last year.



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 ATOM BRANDS

Leading Scots architect talks to Saltire Society

Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Leading Scottish architect David Page will be on Arran next week to talk about his practice, Page and Park, which he set up in the 1980s with partner Brian Park.

The talk, to the Arran branch of the Saltire Society, promises to cover many of the partnership's major influential projects over the last 30 years, including the Inverness Maggie's Centre, Glasgow's Italian Centre, The Museum of Rural Life, East Kilbride and many more.

Page and Park revived the (then) dormant practise of



working on major schemes in collaboration with artists such as Alexander (Sandy) Stoddart, Shona Kinloch, Jack Sloan, Peter Howson and many more. Making the 'art' component integral with the building and not a bolt-on at the end of a scheme. One excellent example of this is in the Ingram Street façade of the



Architect David Page, above left; and the Page and Park-designed Maggie's Centre in Inverness.

Italian Centre. This architect/artist collaborative working was a path-finder initiative picked up by many other practices across Scotland.

Interior spaces, exterior spaces and townscaping have all been undertaken by Page and Park and David Page will be giving insights into many projects, beyond the obvious. A drive around Glasgow is an encounter with many Page and Park creations. The Museum of Religion, Glasgow Cathedral Square and the renovation of St Andrews RC Cathedral are only three of such.

Page and Park were also appointed to oversee the

restoration of Glasgow School of Art in 2014 and David will be happy to try to answer any comments about the situation with GSA at present.

This illustrated talk, by one of Scotland's leading architects, promises to be fascinating and informative and will give background context to many well known Scottish buildings of the last 30 years.

The talk takes place at the Ormidale Pavilion in Brodick on Wednesday March 6 at 7pm. Entry free but donations are always welcome. Wine and fresh juice refreshments available. Come early to ensure a good seat.

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Raffle winner Iain McLean is presented with his whisky prize by Gregor Adamson.

Iain takes home prize at whisky talk

Kildonan SWI held an open meeting on Monday February 18, when Gregor Adamson gave an interesting talk on the illicit stills of Arran, which was very well attended.

Gregor explained that he had a book coming out in the summer about the history of whisky making on the island.

There was also a fantastic prize of a bottle of The James MacTag-

gart Anniversary Single Arran Malt for the raffle, which was won by Glasgow-based freelance photographer Iain McLean, who has visited Kildonan every February for some 22 years, staying in the same cottage.

Iain said: 'This is a great surprise and I'd like to thank the distillery for making such a generous donation and for making an island visitor extremely happy.'

A spokeswoman for Kildonan SWI said a big 'thank you' to all who attended and added: 'We raised more than £100 on the raffle which was for a bottle of whisky kindly donated by the distillery.'

'All the money raised was passed on to Reverend Angus Adamson for the church.'

'We also passed on the many bags of food that were kindly donated for the food bank.'

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Local plays clean up at drama festival

Two original plays written on Arran were the big winners at the 2019 Arran Drama Festival held over three nights last week, taking home six awards between them.

Andy McMamara's comedy *Numquam Non Paratus* took the top prize, the Archie Kerr Wooley Trophy, along with acting prizes for Andy and Alan Nicol in the lead role in the play, performed by Whiting Bay Music and Drama.

The winning youth play, written by Arran's own Rory Morrison and performed by The Young Ones, was *Between a Writer's Block and a Hard Place*. Shannon Galbraith picked up the trophy for best youth performance and they also won the best moment of theatre award.

This year nine plays, four adult and five junior, took part in the festival, which was held over three packed nights in the community theatre, with many agreeing it was the best for a number of years.

Following the presentation of the trophies by adjudicator Ronnie Mackie, Sheila Gilmore added: 'It was a super fes-

tival, with great audiences throughout. Ronnie Mackie's adjudication offered detailed production advice which the audience and clubs appreciated.

'It was great that two local playwrights had their works premiered at the Arran festival this year, and they also won the majority of the accolades. Rory Morrison and Andy McNamara are to be congratulated for their unique scripts, and hopefully both will continue to write for our enjoyment in the future.'



Writer Andy McNamara, left, and the cast of winning play *Numquam Non Paratus* with their award. 01_B09intro03

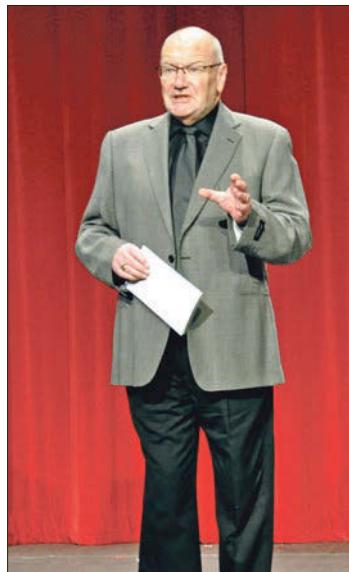
on Saturday night, a special presentation was made to Mary Young who is retiring from producing junior plays after 35 years.

Sheila Gilmore, chairwoman of the Isle of Arran Drama Association, said: 'Mary has brought many a young actor up through the years, ably assisted by her husband Jim and Iain Parker, who, we hope, will continue to help out with the juniors when Colin Macdonald takes over.'

On the festival, Sheila added: 'It was a super fes-

The cast of *The Young Ones* receive their award from adjudicator Ronnie Mackie.

01_B09intro02



Top left, adjudicator Ronnie Mackie. 01_B09intro01; **above, chairwoman Sheila Gilmore presents a retirement gift to Mary Young.** 01_B09intro04; **left, James Smith and Shannon Galbraith received recognition from the festival adjudicator for their believable characters and their delivery of lines.** 01_B09intro06

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A feast of comedy deli

Hugh Boag and Collin Smeeton

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

The plays presented over the three nights in order of performance were:

A Dog's Life

Performed by the Lamlash Junior Drama Club, the play – written by Pam Valentine and set in an animal shelter – offered a charming and humorous perspective of life as seen through a dog's eyes.

Focusing on the four main canine characters, a mongrel played by Freya Campbell, a German Shepherd played by Lewis Campbell, a pampered and overweight Poodle played by Zara Wilson, and a puppy played by Alysia Gray, the story details the previous lives of the dogs and the sometimes tragic tales of their previous owners.

Cleverly written to con-

vey an underlying message while using humour and insight, the cast was joined by Jemma Totty as the warden and Heather McLintock as a visitor to the pound.

Describing the actors as being clear and expressive and with creative and original acting, adjudicator Ronnie Mackie praised all the players for a convincing performance. A Dog's Life was directed by Mary Young.

Marigold Mews

A farce written by Peter Rolls and set in a dirty back street, the experienced cast of Deborah Robertson, Sheila Gilmore and Alice Anderson expertly portrayed the characters of homeless ladies and their interaction with officialdom in the form of actors Fiona Henderson, Ruth Betley and Joan Stewart.

Driven by the characterful and roguish Bo, played by Deborah, the story had the audience laughing at the well-rehearsed interactions between the characters, most noticeably with that of Clovis played by Sheila and Ez played by Alice.

An enjoyable comedy with a good set, adjudicator Ronnie Mackie singled out the actors for their sustained character representation, great enthusiasm and good pace.

Marigold Mews was produced by Jerry Arthur.

Numquam Non Paratus

A comedy written by Arran actor, Andy McNamara, and produced by David Simkin, the visually appealing play featured the acting talents of Alan Nicol, Patrick Scott, Zoe McGovern, Val Waite and Andy himself.



Andy McNamara, Patrick Scott and Zoe McGovern in a scene from *Numquam Non Paratus*. 01_B09intro05

Vampires, played by some of the youngest actors in the festival, surround a sleeping victim in *Home at Last*.

01_B09drama11



Zara Wilson played a pampered poodle in *A Dog's Life*. 01_B09drama08

A humorous look at the comedic interactions of Scottish Highland warriors, the sparsely decorated set featured elaborately dressed actors who were stylishly outfitted in Highland attire.

Opening with a piper, which set the tone for what was to come, the play continued at a fast pace with a fight scene, before the pace once again slowed and a funny narrative took over.

Descending into farce, the play then took another abrupt change of pace and in the final minutes surprised the audience with an unexpected but hilarious twist in the tale.

Numquam Non Paratus received praise from adjudicator Ronnie Mackie for its originality, costumes and sense of fun.

Home at Last

A macabre comedy written by Eileen Brandon and produced by Allan Little, this production by Whiting Bay Youth Group thrilled the audience with elaborate costumes, a well-designed set and charming performances by some of the youngest actors in the festival.

Set in a castle in Transylvania the story naturally involved vampires, a bat, a countess, unsuspecting visi-

tors and a cast with a desire for drinking blood.

Well rehearsed and well performed, actors Greta Litton, Tilda Litton, Daisy and Rosy McNamara, Alec Fraser and Jamie Worthington were joined by a delightful group of young actors playing howling vampires.

Extolling the virtues of the play, adjudicator Ronnie Mackie made mention of the



Bickering couple, Innis Thorborn and Iona Summer in *Between a Writer's Block and a Hard Place*.

01_B09drama15

impressive set, the 'spot-on' costumes which he said the actors 'wore well' and the good and clear interpretation of the characters.

Rest in Pieces

An upbeat comedy written by James Cooke and produced by David Simpkin,

Rest In Pieces tells the story of a brother, played by Andy McNamara, and sister, played by Tilly Armstrong, who visit their mother, played by Bev Scott, in a retirement complex.

The haughty attitude of San, played by Tilly, and the juxtaposition of Andy's laid back character of Frank, is sharply contrasted with that of their mother, Betty, portrayed by Bev, who surprises and pleases at every turn.

Unexpected scenarios and raucously funny scenes, the comedic value was increased exponentially with the character Yvonne, played by Val Waite, who injected straight faced humour into the storyline at every opportunity.

Deserving of the praise by adjudicator Ronnie Mackie, who described the Whiting Bay Music and Drama Club's play as a 'good, fun production' and a 'well-presented piece.'

Between a Writer's Block and a Hard Place

A comedy written by Arran's own Rory Morrison, who also produced and directed it, Between a Writer's Block and a Hard Place, is an original and creative play, performed by The Young Ones, that amusingly tells the story of a writer and simulta-

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Fights Arran audiences



Far left: Rachel Brown, Amelia Robertson and Ellie Ewing
01_B09drama03; centre: Colin MacDonald, Ryan Wilson
and Stacey Gordon in a scene from Chips with Vinegar
01_B09drama05; above: homeless pals Deborah Robertson and
Sheila Gilmore engage in a literary discussion. 01_B09drama10

neously the characters in his novel.

Using a split stage effect allowed the story to be easily played out and provided numerous laughs, many owing to comedic timing and the admirable vocal skills of the two experienced main actors, James Smith and Shannon Galbraith. Innis Thorburn acting as the writer and Iona Summer as his wife, added the further dimension to the play and contributed positively to its success with their roles.

Displaying a large degree of rehearsal to perfect, adjudicator Ronnie Mackie heaped praise on the production describing it as a 'good piece of original theatre with good, believable characters with very good vocal skills'. The play is a rousing tale set in a room in the Scots mansion house which is the Tower of Tarrasholm at the end of the 16th century.

The cast is made up of four girls and four boys who are at loggerheads over the wayward ways of the men going 'a reivin' – plundering cattle. As a result their wives go on strike leading to a hilarious showdown.

The adjudicator said the young cast had coped well with the adult theme of the play and praised the lavish set and the acting, particularly of the older, more experienced, performers. It was produced and directed by Maureen Smith.

The play is a spooky affair which centres around an empty swing which can be seen swinging by itself through the French doors of a grand house.

It features Janet, played by Zara Wilson, her brattish

daughter Fenelia, excellently portrayed by Jemma Totty, and her Aunt Rose played by Freya Campbell.

Adjudicator Ronnie Mackie commented on the fact that there was a lot of dialogue for the three young actors, which they handled well, building the tension of the play to its dramatic climax. It was produced and directed by Mary Young.

We'll Go No More A'Reivin'

Written by James Scotland, whose plays were at one time a standard on the amateur dramatic circuit, the young actors from Shiskine Junior Drama had to get their tongues round some tricky Scots dialect.

The play is a rousing tale set in a room in the Scots mansion house which is the Tower of Tarrasholm at the end of the 16th century.

The cast is made up of four girls and four boys who are at loggerheads over the wayward ways of the men going 'a reivin' – plundering cattle. As a result their wives go on strike leading to a hilarious showdown.

The adjudicator said the young cast had coped well with the adult theme of the play and praised the lavish set and the acting, particularly of the older, more experienced, performers. It was produced and directed by Maureen Smith.

Chips with Vinegar

Harry Glass, who wrote the play, is another well-known Scots playwright and this, one play of a trilogy, is set in a Clydeside tenement in 1938, just before the war.

The main characters were well portrayed by Colin MacDonald as dad Neil McCrae, Ryan Wilson, as his son Alex, while his daughter Maisie was played by Stacey Gordon.

There is much talk of the impending war and a bombshell when we learn that the family's other son has joined the Navy and is serving on board HMS Hood, which sank in 1941 with the loss of 1,418 crew.

Alex has another bombshell when he reveals his girlfriend is in the family way but, after discussing it with his father, asks 'will you tell her' referring to his mum, before heading to the pub.

Back up to the main focus of the play was Nickey Summer in the role of visiting aunt Liz Paterson, the sister of Neil's wife Maggie, played by Kelly Henbery.

The play ends with Neil about to tell his wife the pregnancy news, but the audience does not see this delivered as the stage falls into darkness in a dramatic ending. It was produced and directed by Maureen Smith.

Commended for their costumes, sisters Daisy and Rosy McNamara and Greta and Tilda Litton, impress in Home at Last.



01_B09drama12



01_B09drama14



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All the trophy winners



Daisy McNamara receives her award for best supporting youth performance from adjudicator Ronnie Mackie.

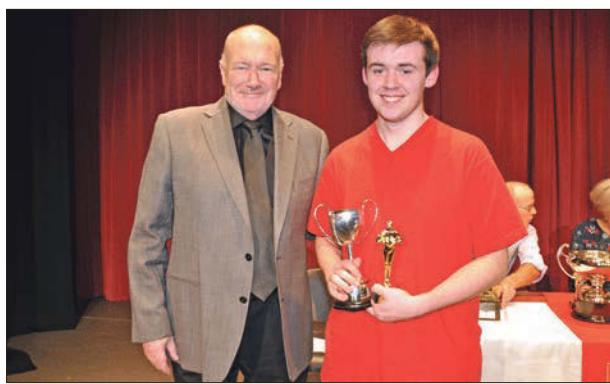
01_B09winners02



Andy McNamara receives the award for best supporting performance. 01_B09winners03



Producer David Simpkin with the winning Archie Kerr Wooley Trophy. 01_B09winners09



Writer Rory Morrison picks up the award for best moment of theatre. 01_B09winners05



Producer Mary Young holds the Millhill Players Trophy with the cast of Girl on an Empty Swing and adjudicator Ronnie Mackie.

01_B09winners08

The following trophies were awarded at the end of the three-day drama festival:

- Jean Bannatyne Trophy for best supporting youth performance – Daisy McNamara
- Douglas Sillars Trophy for best youth team – The Young Ones (Between a Writer's Block and a Hard Place)
- Mattie Gillies Trophy for best supporting performance – Andy McNamara
- Monie Kelso Trophy for best performance – Alan Nicol
- Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music Golden Anniversary Trophy for best moment of theatre – The Young Ones
- Mary Stewart Orr Trophy for best youth team – The Young Ones (Between a Writer's Block and a Hard Place)
- Millhill Players Trophy for best contrast play to winning production – Lamlash Juniors
- The Archie Kerr Wooley Trophy for most points gained in the festival – Whiting Bay Club of Drama & Music (Numquam Non Paratus)
- Shiskine SWI (Marigold Mews) for best SWI entry on behalf of Shiskine SWI. Shannon Galbraith was not there to pick up her award.

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Alan Nicol receives his best performance award. 01_B09winners04; Producer Jerry Arthur receives the trophy for the best SWI entry on behalf of Shiskine SWI. 01_B09winners07



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Every day

Octopus Centre
Octopus Centre - Tennis
Brodick Mini Golf
Brodick Castle, garden only
Soap making and candle dipping
Public Swimming

Swimming Lessons
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Saturday 2nd March

Flow Yoga
Clothes Sale, in aid of Tanzania
Winter Rink Bowls
Family games
Gym Induction
Fun in the pool
Live Music - Nicola Evans
Dopesick Fly, lyrically explosive, musically diverse, Funk Rock Hybrid
Over 21s' Disco

Sunday 3rd March

Live Music - Nicola Evans
Family games
Gym Induction
Fun in the pool
Live Music - Dopesick Fly
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Folk Music Session

Monday 4th March

Morning Fitness
JogScotland mixed ability running group
Adult Tennis
Circuit Training
Isle of Arran Bridge Club, All welcome
Live Music - Tim Pomeroy
Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s

Tuesday 5th March

Body Blitz (booking essential)
Healthy Outdoors Team
Eco Savvy Energy Surgeries
Winter Rink Bowls
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)
Arran Pace Makers - Jog Scotland Beginners Group
Steak Night - 2 Ribeye Steaks & bottle of wine
Gym Induction
Arran Hockey Club - Juniors (5 -14yrs)
Flow Yoga
Netball
Scottish Country Dancing
Eco Savvy Food Share
Trev's Pop Music Quiz
Traditional Music Sessions

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Old Pavilion, Lamlash Open 7 days, any time
Open 7days, 9am - 5pm ish, ALL weather
Open 9am-dusk
Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am - 4pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, Brodick, 10am - 4pm (last entry 3pm)
& 6pm - 8pm (last entry 7pm)
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, Brodick, Monday - Thursday, 4pm - 6pm
Open - Mon, Friday & Saturday, 10am - 5pm
Tuesday - Thursday, 11am - 4pm. Tours daily at 2pm

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
Arran High School, 11am - 1pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 2.30pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm - 4pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 1pm - 4pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Auchrannie Spa, 2.30pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm - 4pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am -10.30am
Whiting Bay 5.30pm
Blackwaterfoot, 5.30pm
Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6pm - 7pm
Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am – 10.30am
Brodick Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10am - 3pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Ormidale pavilion, Brodick, 5.30pm
Auchrannie Spa, 5.30pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm
Corrie Hall, 6pm
Arran High School Gym, 7pm -8pm
Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Eco Savvy Hub Shop, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Brodick Bar, 9pm

Wednesday 6th March

Yoga
Hydrofit
Brodick Gardens Volunteers
Coffee Morning
Knit and Blether
Arran Heritage Museum
Chair Yoga Exercise Class
Archives and Genealogy Service
Dog Classes
Parkinson's Support group
Arran Pace Makers Running Group
Flow Yoga
Saltire Society - Talk with David Page of Page and Park
Live Music - Fatman & the Angel
Tae Kwon-do Juniors 6.30pm - 7.30pm, Advanced Juniors & Adults, AHS, 7.30pm -8.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Lamlash SWI
Save the Children - Cheese and Wine Buffet
World's Biggest Pub Quiz fundraiser for prostate Cancer
Rock 'n' Pop Bingo

Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am -10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.30am - 10.30am
Brodick Castle and Country Park, 9.30am -1pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12 noon
Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 10.30am -12.30pm
Rosaburn, Brodick, 11am - 3.30pm
St Molios Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am
Whiting Bay Hall, 12.30pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 2pm - 4pm
Brodick, 5.30pm
Shiskine Hall, 6pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Lamlash Fire Station, 7.30pm
Brodick Golf Club, 8pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 7th March

Morning fitness
Chair Yoga Exercise Class
Arran Heritage Museum
Whiting Bay Thursday Club - Burns Recitations W/Bay School
Steak Night - 2 Steak dinners and a bottle of wine
Body Blitz (booking essential)
Isle of Arran Bridge Club, All welcome
Badminton, All welcome
Arran Hockey Club - Seniors (12 yrs +)
Arran Soul Choir
Brodick Embroidery Group
Eco Savvy Food Share
Eco Savvy Food Share
Tommy's General Knowledge Quiz

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am -10.30am
Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 10.30am
Rosaburn, Brodick, 11am - 3.30pm
Lesser Hall, Whiting Bay, 2pm
Drift Inn, Lamlash, 5pm -9pm
Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Little Rock, Brodick, 7pm for 7.15pm
Shiskine Hall, 7pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8.30pm
Community Theatre, Arran High School, 7pm - 9pm
Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Brodick Ormidale Pavilion, 8.15pm
Kilmory Hall, 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 8th March

Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Heritage Museum
Gym Induction
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Tae Kwon-do
Live Music - Shindig
Friday Night Quiz

Advanced (Advanced Class) Arran High School, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm

Saturday 9th March

Flow Yoga
Young Naturalists' Club - Feather & Fur
Winter Rink Bowls
Family games
Gym Induction
Fun in the pool
MacKenzie Memorial Mixed Doubles Darts Competition
Live Music - Joni Keen Duo
Restart - 4 piece mod revival /Britpop guitar band playing covers
Over 21s' Disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
Rangers' Centre, Brodick Castle, 10.30am
Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 2.30pm
Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm - 4pm
Kilmory Hall, 7.30pm for 8pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm



www.arranbrewery.com



Light shed on old postcard

Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk

New light has been cast on the old postcard printed in the Banner of 'young golden eagles in their eyrie in Glen Catacol, Lochranza' last month.

Arran's bird recorder Jim Cassels had asked for any information about the composite postcard, with two images, which came from a time before it was felt necessary to have a licence to be at a golden eagle's nest.

Now avid postcard collector Stuart Gough has come up with some of the answers. He has his own copy of the postcard which is part of the Steen's Series of Real Photo Cards, which shows at least two men and a woman at their eyrie holding the young eagles.

He also has a postcard showing Steen's shop which was on the foreshore in Lochranza near



Right, the postcard of the young golden eagles in their eyrie which started the mystery; and above, Steen's shop, far left, with Orinbeg, Woodside and Tigh-Na-Mara, now the Lochranza Hotel, pictured.

the Lochranza Hotel, but is long gone.

Steen's was one of several local shops on Arran which in the 1920s and 1930s took or commissioned photographs of the island to be turned into postcards each with their own imprint. Steen's, which produced at least 56 numbered postcards, and perhaps many more, cov-

ered the north and west of the island from Lochranza to Imachar.

Stuart has a number of their postcards, but also has a number of gaps, but knows nothing about the Steen family or the shop. 'Perhaps there are some older residents of Lochranza who can shed light on the Steen's,' he said.

Stuart's copy of the eagle

photo, which surprisingly is not numbered, has an interesting message on the back, part of which reads: 'What do you think of the birds we have in Arran? The nest was found in Catacol Glen by Donald Brown and some visitors who were staying in their house. Everyone was trying to get a photo of the young eagles, but this was the best one.'





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A man of the sea

Tom Kelso – September 9, 1930 to February 18, 2019

A former president of the Arran Society of Glasgow, Captain Tom Kelso, has died at the age of 88.

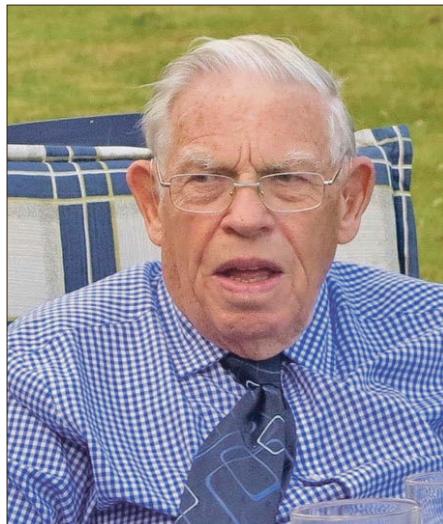
Though not a native of the island, he had strong family links with Corrie and Sannox stretching back many generations.

Tom was the only child of well-known couple Ebenezer and Daisy Kelso.

He spent much of his childhood and early teenage years in Corrie, part of that period as a wartime evacuee from Jordanhill, Glasgow. He attended Corrie School for a time, where he was 'knocked into shape' by the apparently omnipotent Miss Gracie.

His fascination for the sea and ships paved the way for a distinguished profession in the merchant navy. His first big step came in 1947, when he was indentured as a cadet with the British India Steam Navigation Company in London.

Just short of his 17th birthday, he suddenly found himself on board the MS Dwarka, inching out of the Victoria Dock, bound for Bombay. He spent the next three years learning maritime skills while ply-



Former sea captain, Tom Kelso.

ing the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf on Dwarka, and then other BI vessels such as SS Amra, SS Talmara and SS Chantala.

The day after his 19th birthday, Tom was awarded his third mate's ticket. Following a series of voyages on Chantala, he was positioned to the SS Kenya, which was to become his favourite floating home from home.

Kenya was on the regular London to Durban via Suez route, carrying passengers and cargo on the two-month round trip, with as many as 15 stops on the way. He had a spell back on the Indian coastal services before being pro-

moted to second officer on Chantala. It was not long before he was further elevated to first officer and then chief officer with the Kenya.

His next leap up the ladder was in 1967 when he became staff captain on the SS Nevasa, one of the BI's famous school cruise ships. With the swallowing up of BI by the P&O line, he was transferred to become master on various cargo ships. The shipping industry began to hit rough waters and Tom saw out the rest of his working days with the Maersk Line.

Tom had joined the Arran Society of Glasgow in 1954 and during his retire-

ment he was appointed as a director. This led to him serving a five-year stint as president from 1989, after which he remained as a life member.

Recently, asked to nominate his favourite among all the locations he had visited throughout the world, he unequivocally replied, 'Arran – and Corrie in particular'.

In his later years, he remained in close touch with his lifelong chum Ian Moles, still resident in Corrie. Captain Kelso, who latterly lived in Troon, died on February 18 in the Biggart Hospital, Prestwick, following a short illness.

He is survived by son David (Sannox), along with daughters Valerie (St Boswells, Scottish Borders) and Janice (Glasgow), in addition to grandchildren Roddy, Duncan, Katie and Jack – plus great-granddaughter Darcie.

The funeral service was held at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium on Thursday past. Tom's wish was for his ashes to be scattered into the North Sannox Burn, just upstream of the old stone bridge on the Bouguille.

MARKET PRICES

United Auctions in Stirling had forward 1,489 store cattle, 204 cast cows and 1,380 store and feeding sheep at its sale on Wednesday February 20.

Leading prices were: LimX blks £1,100, 221p from Craigview; LimX hfrs, £950, 205p from Craig-

view; in-calf cows £950, from Craigview; cast cows £845, 119p from Altgolath, £735, 115p from Craigview.

Easycare hgrs £70, from Braehead; Chev hgts £64.50, from Glenkiln, £56 Brandon. SuffX hgts £55, from Brandon; £54.50, from Broomfield;

BF hgts £54.50, from Glenkiln; TexX ewes £79, from Bellevue, £49.50, from Bridge; Mule ewes £55.50, from Bellevue, £54, from Bloomfield; Chev ewes £51, from Cosyden; Easycare ewes £50, from Braehead; Tups £55, from Brandon, £49.50, from Dougarie.

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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday March 6, 1999

Planning persistence

Going through the red tape of planning and building warrants is onerous enough but when apparently insurmountable problems arise it requires great tenacity to go further and appeal to the Scottish Office.

Yet that is what a potential home owner, who wants to build in Silverhills, Whiting Bay, has had to go through.



Kerr Robertson, Arran's head forester since 1985, is set to retire next month. The man who will take on the post, Andy Walker from Moffat, will be moving to Arran shortly and has already been working with Kerr.

The bizarre situation saw Ian Edwards being refused planning permission owing to a condition that he makes a roadway to the house.

Yet this was impossible because a neighbour's wall extended into the centre of the space where the road was to be constructed. It was recognised that the wall was in breach of planning but the authorities were time barred from taking any action.

Thus Mr Edwards, through no fault of his own, was unable to build on his property and the council unable to enforce the rules to correct the situation. A lengthy and frustrating stalemate meant that neither side could progress.

Thankfully the story has a happy ending as a Scottish Office reporter has now visited the site, decided that the road condition is incompetent, and stated that he supports Mr Edwards' appeal to get permission to build his house.

Homework help

For a few weeks now there have been three successful study or homework clubs running on the island for high school pupils to go along to, for help with homework, a place to study and meet with their friends.

The three groups meet in Lamlash, Corrie and Shiskine. The teachers who run the clubs point out that there is not a representative for each subject but that most questions can be answered and positive peer support has helped with anything which has been beyond the teacher present.

The idea of the clubs is to work for half the evening and then to socialise, listen to music, play games and relax.

So far the groups have been reasonably mixed with standard grade and higher pupils but it is proving very popular and gives Arran's youth something constructive to do.



Holly and Vicky Tulika spent Saturday morning helping their grandmother, Vera Kirk from Corriegills, with cleaning and polishing items in preparation for the summer reopening of the Arran Heritage Museum.



Kicking off this year's drama festival are participants from Whiting Bay who joined Shiskine Junior Drama Club in presenting the first two plays of the festival.



Winner of the Young Musician of the Year, Mhairi Holmer, second left, with Miriam Gough, who had been runner up in the Arran heats, and schoolteacher Sue Smith and on the right, music teacher Anne Lee who is holding the trophy.



At the first meeting of the new tourist board committee Ronnie Mann was elected chairman and will represent Arran at the Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board.

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PERSONALS



Ruth and Tom Cotton would like to thank neighbours and friends for all their support after Tom's accident and subsequent complete hip replacement operation.

Very special thanks must go to the Dobson family whose support to Ruth was invaluable.

Also thanks to George and Jean Boal for their concern and offers of help from their family and thank you Jean for the delicious shortbread.



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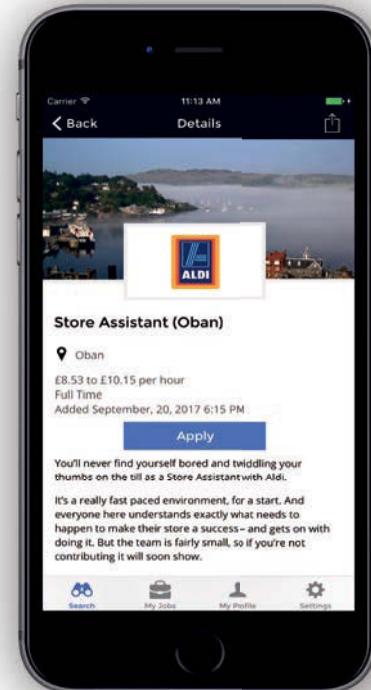
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CHURCH NOTICES**ARRAN CHURCHES****TOGETHER**

Taize Praise

Thursday 7th March5.30pm Holy Cross Church,
Brodick**ALL WELCOME****CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**
Parishes of North Arran,
Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza,
Pirnmill and Shiskine
Independent but working
togetherMinister: 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 3rd March 2019**Lochranza and Pirnmill
Churches together, 10.15am.
Morning Worship at
Lochranza
Shiskine Church, 12noon
Morning Worship
Brodick Church, 10.30am
Morning Worship, including
an informal Communion.
Corrie Church, 11.30am
Prayer Meeting, 12noon
Morning Worship
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 3rd March
Holy Communion - 11 am.
Richard Trewby
Ash Wednesday 6th March
Holy Communion - 11 am.
Coffee after service
ALL WELCOME**ARRAN FREE CHURCH**
OF SCOTLAND
(continuing)**Sunday 3rd March 2019**
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 3rd March 2019
Mrs Sharon MacLeod
Kilmory - 10 am, Lamlash -
11.30 am.All welcome, including
families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**Whiting Bay and Kildonan
Church of Scotland, Charity
Number: SC014005**Sunday 3rd March 2019**Worship will be conducted
by the minister, Rev
Elizabeth Watson, at
10.30am. Tea and coffee will
be served in the transept
after the service. All most
welcome. There will be a
service in Cooriedoon at
2.30pm to which all friends
are warmly invited.**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF****FRIENDS (QUAKERS)****Sunday 3rd March 2019**Sunday Worship @ 11am
'Heather Lodge', Brodick
Left of the Douglas Hotel,
opposite the ferry terminal.
Telephone 700346, 820 223
Everyone Warmly Invited**ARRAN BAPTIST**
CHURCHMinister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 3rd March 2019Service 11am
Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and coffee after the
serviceWednesday at 7.30pm Home
fellowship group for bible
study and prayer.Telephone 600222
Everyone warmly invited**ARRAN FREE CHURCH**
OF SCOTLAND**Sunday 3rd March 2019**Shiskine 11am (church on
road between Blackwaterfoot
and Machrie)
Brodick 6pm

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC
CHURCH**Sunday 3rd March 2019**

Sunday Mass 11am

DEATHSPOLLOCK, David - ArCaS
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death of David Pollock, one
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have benefitted from his
kindness whilst taking them
to hospital appointments and
he will be missed.**BANNER**
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Date set for Grinduro cycling festival 2019

The wheels are in motion and the date has been set for the third festival of cycling known as Grinduro which is making a welcome return to Arran this summer.

Taking place over the weekend beginning Saturday July 13, Grinduro is a celebration of cycling with as much emphasis on the enjoyment of the event as the riding. With good food, an impressive display of art and handmade bikes, live music, free camping and a festival atmosphere on offer, Grinduro differs from other cycling events.

Limited to 400 riders, Grinduro only has four timed events. The remainder of the rides are for the sheer enjoyment of cycling, along with taking in the stunning views and cycling routes Arran has to offer.

Camping is provided free of charge for entrants and a Grinduro village is set up

at Lamlash High School which is transformed into a base camp from where most of the action takes place.

At roughly 45 miles long, the bulk of the routes are along forestry roads and fire roads and other road users face a minimum of inconvenience because of this, as do neighbours and occupants of houses surrounding the village owing to strict rules regarding beer tent opening times and noise levels during the evenings.

While the date for the event has been announced, the date for registrations is yet to be finalised, along with the actual routes which are only announced two weeks before the event. Cycling events are open to entrants only, however, many of the exhibitions and displays can be visited by the public.

Further details for registration, confirmed events



Participants set off on a ride at last year's Grinduro event.



An aerial shot from the TV Adventure Show coverage shows Grinduro cyclists sweeping through Lamlash.

and performing artists and exhibitors, will be made nearer the time.

Last year the race was tel-

evised by the BBC and later shown in an hour-long edition of The Adventure Show in November.

ballots at 9am and 1.30pm.
Monday March 4, Winter Cup, ballot at noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday February 21, Yellow Medal. 1 John O'Sullivan 89-24=65.

Sunday February 24, Winter Stableford. 1 Ian Bremner 35pts, 2 Iain Murchie 34pts. Scratch, Iain Murchie 29pts. Magic twos, Iain Murchie @5th and 7th.

Sunday February 24, Winter Cup Stableford, NC. 1 Fred Galbraith 19, 40pts, 2 Douglas Robertson 19, 38pts ACB, 3 Brian Smith 13, 38pts.

Fixture: Sunday March 3, Sweep, 9am and noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday

February

26,

Winter Cup. 1 R I McMillan 71-15=56, 2 L Hartley 71-12=59.

Great score from 'Young Bung' whose handicap will be greatly altered. Magic twos, A Napier and A Smith, who also shared best scratch of 66.

Fixtures: Saturday March 2, 18-hole sweep,

80s and who is still sadly missed. Ballot at 1.30pm.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday February 26, Winter Cup, 1 Phil Betley 62pts, 2 Alistair MacDonald 63pts, 3 Kema Genda 65pts.

Fixtures: Saturday March 2, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee off noon, Tuesday March 5, Winter Cup, tee off noon.

Arran Ladies Golf Union

Saturday February 16, Machrie Drumadoon. At last, after two cancellations, because of rain and storm damage on the ninth Green, the Machrie Drumadoon was played in fair weather. A total of 12 Ladies played. 1 Kema Genda 13, 69, 2 Liz Kerr 16, 72. Scratch, Ann May 80.

Thanks to David Jeffries for all his hard work on the course and to Machrie Bay Golf Club for the courtesy of the course, and thank you to the Machrie ladies for the very welcome soup.

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Sunday February 24, Sweep. A beautiful morning for golf saw 11 take part in what has become a traditional Whiting Bay format for a winter Sunday morning, a Yellow Texas Medalfordsome. It is very flexible. No-one knows what's going on so the only thing to do is play the best you can, putt everything out and someone will tell you how to mark the scores at the end. We all had a great time and scoring was generally good, but Stan Rainey had the winning score of 41 Medalfordsome points.

1 Stan Rainey 11, 41pts, 2 David Blair 15, 40pts, 3 John Pennycott 15, 38pts. Magic twos, Stan Rainey at fourth, Gus Macleod at 11am.

Fixtures: Saturday March 2, 18-hole sweep,

Arran are up for the cup with three wins

League Cup group A

Irvine No1 CSC	2
Arran AFC	3

Arran travelled to St Matthew's Academy in Saltcoats to try and continue their unbeaten run in the League Cup group A section.

A tricky test awaited them against a strong Irvine Celtic team, with both teams taking points in previous meetings this season.

Arran were without four influential defenders from their starting line up.

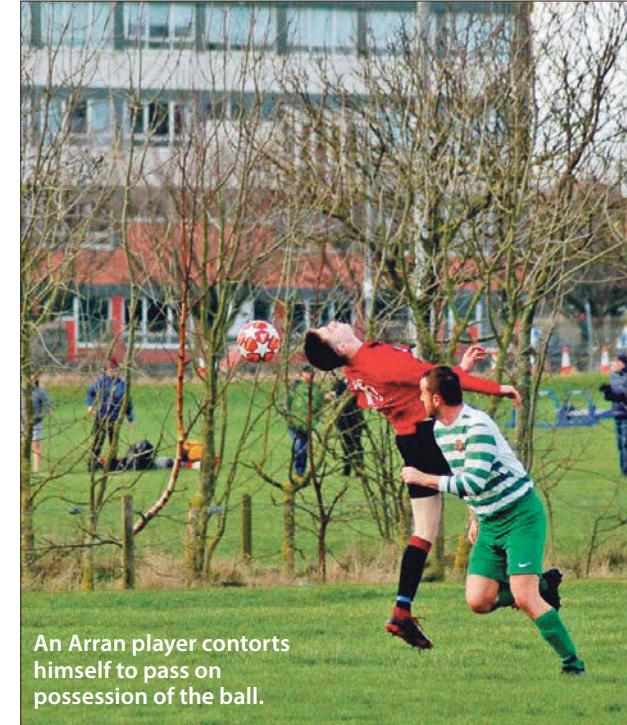
Electricity

Sam Tattersfield was on call to ensure the island was provided with the kind of electricity Arran were hoping for, and which thankfully was provided by Donald Park and Grant Adamson on the wings, Fraser Gilbert was still sidelined, Christopher 'Babbies' MacNeil was away on a romantic weekend, and Martin Hynes was injured in the warm up.

Full of optimism Arran started the game with a more familiar 4-4-2 system, which saw the boys come into the game full of confidence and playing some great football.

After missing a few good chances, the opener came for Arran from an Irvine head, as a superb Willie Sillars free kick was headed into his own net by the Irvine centre half. Arran kept dominating the game and their second came soon after from a great strike at

Players from both sides leap into the air to head the ball.



An Arran player contorts himself to pass on possession of the ball.



Arran players look dejected as Irvine manage to get a surprise goal past the keeper.

the edge of the box from Donald Park, crashing in off the underside of the crossbar and leaving the Irvine goalkeeper stunned.

Before half time the game was getting a bit scrappy as the referee was pulling

players up for what they believed were minor infractions. Arran kept their composure, however, and didn't let this affect their game, which the boys deserved great credit for. Before the first half came

to a close Irvine's striker pulled his hamstring and could not continue. With no available substitutes Irvine had to play on with 10 men for the entirety of the second half.

As the second half start-

ed it was clear that the Arran boys had not. Although Joel Small was holding the ball in well, upfront the gaps between midfield and attack were getting larger and Arran were beginning to lose possession far too easily. Irvine snatched a goal back out of nothing and suddenly the Arran boys needed to get themselves going again as the game had become incredibly flat.

An uncharacteristic mistake from Stephen Judge saw Irvine bring the game back to 2-2 as a corner slipped through his hands and was scrambled home by an Irvine CSC player.

This was the wake-up call

that Arran needed, and they suddenly burst into life.

A great pass from Nicky Emsley saw Archie McNicol breakthrough on the goalkeeper, however, his shot was saved. From the resulting corner an Arran head powered the ball past the Irvine CSC goalkeeper but the actual goal scorer of the third goal is unclear and can be best described as a combined effort between Matthew Dobson and James Todd.

The game finished 3-2 to Arran, continuing their unbeaten run in the League Cup to three games, sitting on top of the group on goal difference.

A team spokesman said: 'All the boys would like to wish the gaffer Willie Sillars and his better half, Jenna Campbell, all the best for their wedding day today (Saturday). We would also like to thank Jenna for her understanding on releasing Willie the next day for football duties with the lads.'

The next league cup fixture is tomorrow (Sunday) against The Hip Flask AFC at St Mathew's Academy, Saltcoats with a noon kick off.



Matthew Dobson and James Todd both contributed to Arran's third goal with the actual goal scorer unclear; Donald Park makes a powerful shot into the top left corner of the goal.



Glen heading for British Open at Royal Portrush

Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Shiskine greenkeeper Glen Mlotek has been selected as one of the volunteer support team members who will be heading to Northern Ireland for The British Open being held this year at Royal Portrush Golf Club.

The prestigious Open Championship, now in its 148th year, will take place from Thursday July 18 to Sunday July 21 and it will be the first time since 1951 that the competition takes place on Irish shores.

Selected as part of the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), Glen will be able to see all of the action from close-up while maintaining the bunkers for the duration of the tournament.

Each year The Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St



Andrews, which organises the Open, receives help from BIGGA members which has allowed them to be on hand to witness some of the Open's great-

est moments, including Francesco Molinari's incredible bogey-free final round that brought Italy its first major championship in 2018.

Shiskine greenkeeper Glen Mlotek will be working at the Open Championship at Royal Portrush Golf Club this year. 01_B09glen01

Glen said: 'Being part of the BIGGA support team involves helping to prepare the course each morning for play.'

'Each game has a bunker raker so I'll be so close to the actual play. I feel this will be an amazing experience to be involved in the Open.'

'I am extremely grateful to Shiskine Golf Club for taking me on and for helping to make this possible. I am looking forward to it.'

BIGGA chief executive officer Jim Croxton said: 'Excitement is building for The Open at Royal Portrush and having

spoken to course manager Graeme Beatt, I know he's looking forward to welcoming the BIGGA members to the course for the duration of the event.'

'Royal Portrush is going to be a stern challenge for the world's best golfers and I'm delighted that BIGGA members have played such a vital role in preparing the course. Graeme and his team have been working hard for a number of years to ensure the Dunluce is in world-class condition, with a lot of restructuring and course improvement taking place. The pressure to perform will never be higher, but they're a fantastic example of what a talented, passionate team can achieve.'

'The Open is a long week and everyone works extremely hard, but the rewards are incredible. Everyone at BIGGA is looking forward to giving

our all to make sure the 148th Open is a tremendous success.'

The Dunluce Links at Royal Portrush is famous for having the world's largest and tallest bunker in the world, known as Big Nellie, the giant sand trap measures a massive 25 feet high.

The BIGGA volunteers will be provided with accommodation, food, refreshments and uniform for the event, and they may also be called upon to assist course manager Graeme Beatt and his team with early morning preparation work and divotting duties.

With early tee times and golf being played until nightfall, the week is intense and physically demanding. But it is also a great opportunity to get an insider perspective on the game and attend one of golf's most prestigious events.

Hat-trick for Judith as Arran settle for a point

Continued from page 24

blocking and redirecting attacking shots from the opposition. Elyse made an excellent goal line clearance on a ball that had come behind the keeper, but the Hillhead forwards returned time and again and eventually picked up their second and third goals late in the second half.

With the scores tied at three all both teams gave it their all to try and break the deadlock, but both goalkeepers were fabulous at sending goal shots back into the field of play, leaving the end whistle declaring a draw.

The teams retired to the Ormidale Hotel, where Tommy Gilmore and his staff were waiting with a lovely after-match tea prepared by chef Andy Bell and Lindsey in the kitchen. Ali McKie was



Above, Ali McKie makes an important stop in the Arran goal as the home side defend in numbers. 01_B09hockey04; **Elyse Aitken takes up defensive duties.** 01_B09hockey01

voted dame of the game by the Hillhead ladies for her outstanding goalkeeping skills during the match.

Thanks went to Pauline Reid for being there to

umpire and to all the supporters who came along to cheer the team on from the sidelines. It really helps the girls give their all hearing all the calls of encourage-



ment. The Arran Ladies are due to play GHK Ladies 4s in Glasgow today (Saturday), weather permitting.

The game will be at Glas-

gow High School Old Anniesland pitches with a push back time of 12.30pm.

All supporters would be very much appreciated and warmly welcome.

Spot the Ball is back!

Next week sees Spot The Ball return to the Arran Banner.

We listened to our readers who asked us why the Banner didn't carry Spot The Ball like our other newspapers. Well it will now.

From next week we join forces with our readers of the Campbeltown Courier, Argyllshire Advertiser and Oban Times and give one lucky reader a chance to win more than £2,000.

As a bit of added fun, we have opted to go for spot The SHINTY Ball over the more traditional football option.

All the rules and regulations will be in next week's paper, so don't miss out on a chance to win more than £2,000 - get the Arran Banner next week.

SPORT



INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Glen heading for British
Open at Royal Portrush

Hat-trick for Judith as Arran settle for a point

Arran Ladies 3
Hillhead Ladies 4s 3

Arran Ladies Hockey team played host to the Hillhead Ladies 4s on Sunday with a full team plus a couple of substitutes to help keep the energy high.

Returning to the Ormidale astroturf pitch to play their first home game since November last year, captain Lorraine Hewie won the toss and chose the push back over direction, wanting to start strongly from the off. With Judith Ross on her right wing, young player Isla McKelvie was sharing match time with Hannah McCartney on the left wing. This was another game experience opportunity for Isla, who knew she had a lot of support around her.

Susie Murchie and Mia Walker took up their positions on the mid-field wings, with the versatile Jenny Stark covering the vast area of the centre-mid player – the whole central column of the hockey pitch. A strong and experienced defensive line were going to make it as hard as possible to get the ball near goalkeeper Ali McKie.

Once Lorraine heard the first whistle she was off up the pitch with the ball, passing to Judith to sprint past the defenders and



Susie Murchie attempts to thwart a Hillhead attack. 01_B09hockey02

press into the 'D'. The ball rebounded out and Hillhead were very quick to send it back into mid-field where their young teammates were waiting to show off their excellent inter-passing play and stick skills that were so obviously practised time and time again in training.

Strong blocking skills from Elyse Aitken at left back stopped any charge from the Hillhead right

field players, and anyone trying to come down left field soon saw how incredibly strong and accurate Helen Thomson's rockets shots were, as they often whizzed past the mid-fielders and into the visitors' defensive quarter. Young Megan McCartney as centre back, also enjoying some more game experience, demonstrated the skills she had learned in the junior hockey club,

by collecting balls, darting round opponents and getting the ball to her teammates.

With two evenly matched and very determined sides, the ball flew up and down the pitch until Jenny was able to break through the Hillhead defence and made a super pass to Judith running in on the right. Continuing to press forward and with a fluid single strike, Judith fired the ball

into the back of the net 12 minutes into the game.

Knowing how quickly Hillhead could respond, Arran did not relax their concentration and another opportunity was created 10 minutes later, when Lorraine ran a sweeping line from mid-field to the 'D' where she was met by a solid wall of defenders. With a quick change of direction she saw a path for a well-placed ball for Judith

to collect. Aware of her target, Judith once again took another shot at goal that the keeper was unable to stop, taking the score to two-nil where it stayed until the half time whistle.

Coming out quickly after the half time break, the Hillhead forwards were rewarded with an early short corner for a foul in the Arran 'D' and executed a well-practised, superb set piece which found the net, bringing them satisfaction for all the hours of training they had put into it. Never ones to give up, the Arran Ladies came back with a strong attacking press and young Isla McKelvie prised the ball from her opponent and ran down the left wing into the 'D'. A fabulous pass to Judith saw her use this cracking goal-making pass to find the back of the net once again with a lovely strike into the left corner, giving Judith her hat-trick.

Hillhead returned pressure with a heavily manned attacking line into the Arran defence to be met with Cat Galbraith, returning as sweeper, who cleared many a running challenge on the goal. Ellie Wood had moved up into centre back and was rarely seen off the ball in the last 20 minutes of the game,

Continued on page 23



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