

THE Aspa

OPEN DAILY FROM
9AM TIL LATE

AUCHRANNIE RESORT, BRODICK
01770 303 303
WWW.THEASPA.CO.UK

THE ARRAN BANNER

Arran ESTATE AGENTS

SOLD

PIER HOUSE, BRODICK
01770 302310
arranestateagents.co.uk

Zoopla
rightmove

Win!
THIS WEEK'S
JACKPOT
£2100

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

FROM 48p PER WEEK

THE ARRAN BANNER

Now delivering news 7 DAYS A WEEK online
www.arranbanner.co.uk

INCLUDES FULL website access and a DIGITAL EDITION of the newspaper

Proud day for pupils of new Arran pipe band

Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Meet the new Arran Schools Pipe Band who will travel to their first competition on the mainland this weekend.

It is just three months since the formation of the band but the youngsters have been practicing their pipes and drums since August 2017 following the setting up of the Isle of Arran Music School.

All of the instruments are provided free of charge by the music school to the youngsters, meaning everyone can get involved.

And, thanks to close ties with the adult Arran Pipe Band, the junior members should provide a steady supply of future pipers and drummers.

It all started with a desire to get piping tuition into the high school with a view to starting up a schools pipe band.

The first approach was to the Scottish Schools Pipes



The members of the new Arran Schools Pipe Band photographed this week. 01_B10pipe01

and Drums Trust (SSPDT) and, with matching private donations from Arran residents and organisations, the Isle of Arran Music School

was set up with £60,000 of initial three-year funding.

This funding allowed the recruitment of two piping tutors from the mainland,

which attracted a lot of interest and, after a full day of interviews, two young pipers, Ross Miller and Thomas Barnes from Glasgow, were

hired to provide weekly lessons. The music school and pipe band work hand in glove and are overseen by a committee, chaired by high

school music faculty leader James O'Neil. The music school is a registered charity.

The committee was set up in August 2017 and has spent the past 18 months quietly going about the business of putting the nuts and bolts of the music school in place.

It was decided to go down the traditional music route and Postcode Lottery funding of £18,000 helped them launch a clarsach project to complement the pipes and drums, which was launched in August last year.

Around 100 students on Arran are now engaged in traditional music making - a fifth of all children on the island. And the music school prides itself that there are 'no barriers' as it is free of charge to all young people.

The tuition is open to all P5 to second S6 pupils with an age range from nine to 17 years, and at a time when music tuition is under threat from budget cuts across the **Continued on page two.**

JTC John Thomson Construction Ltd | 01770 600 242

Cairnhouse Blackwaterfoot

A stylish and highly practical range of six newly constructed detached villas in a picturesque location

McEwan Fraser Legal Solicitors & Estate Agents
Part Exchange Available
NHBC Registered house builder

www.mcewanfraserlegal.co.uk

ONLY 4 REMAINING

Storm brews over ferry cancellations on calm day

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Passengers on both sides of the Firth of Clyde were left angry and frustrated on Wednesday after a calamitous day of ferry cancellations.

The first sailing of the day of the MV Caledonian Isles, which was due to arrive in Brodick at 7.55am, was unable to berth despite coming alongside the new pier and so made a 55-minute return journey to Ardrrossan.

With winds predicted to gust at 14mph, CalMac advised that the weather was worse than expected and, in an online service status update, stated that further ferries would be cancelled pending a review at noon.

Passengers wishing to make use of the service in both Brodick and Ardrrossan, who contacted the Banner by telephone, email and through

social media, questioned the wisdom of the decision to cancel services as current wind forecasts for both Ardrrossan and Brodick were showing winds to be barely above 7mph.

Over in Ardrrossan, too, passengers still trying to get to Brodick were given hope that the 12.30pm ferry would sail, but these were dashed with all drivers being advised to book on the 3.20pm.

Anger reached a crescendo just after noon when 'owing to adverse weather' further cancellations were announced with the first sailing scheduled for 3.20pm. A flurry of photographs and images showing calm conditions with barely a breath of wind started circulating online and were shared with the Banner, many expressing incredulity at the reason for cancellations.

One passenger in



An image taken just after noon on Wednesday shows a flat sea and a vertical windssock in the centre of the image.

01_B10ferry01

Ardrrossan, when questioning why, in calm wind conditions, they were being told the ferry was being cancelled due to the high winds, said

he was told it was conditions in Brodick that were causing the problem. Simultaneously people in Brodick were pointing out that the wind socks

- indicators of wind speed - were hanging vertically and barely moving in the breeze.

With the vagaries of the weather and conditions in the Clyde, outwith the two terminals unknown by those witnessing the sea from the land, it is difficult to assess whether the cancellations were justified or erring on the side of caution but the reaction from the travelling public was one of dismay.

The newly constructed terminal in Brodick was then attacked for being unfit for purpose, claims even started being made that since a shift change was due for staff and that it suited CalMac to not have to run a service - to the detriment of those who needed to use the ferry.

Hinting at further disruption, one email correspondent lambasted the new pier itself, writing: 'In this wind direction (east) there

would previously have been no problem at the old pier. CMAL have spent £31.5M to turn the east wind into a problem at Brodick. This was all well predicted by master and past master mariners prior to construction.'

By 3.20pm, the first ferry to berth successfully at Brodick set off from Ardrrossan, while away from the sea itself, the storm about perceived service levels, ships, ports and terminals, continues to rage on.

A CalMac spokesman said the problem with the first berthing was down to sea swell.

'The master tried three times to berth the first sailing of the day and deemed it too dangerous for both infrastructure and passengers and crew to keep trying. The sea state has since calmed and sailing recommenced with the 15.20 sailing from Ardrrossan,' he added.

KENNEDY ROOFING LTD

For all your Roofing needs

- New roofs and repairs
- Slating
- Tiling
- New PVC fascias and soffits
- Roof and Wall coatings
- Rough casting and rendering

Tel: 01292 428540

Email: kennedyroofing@outlook.com

www.kennedy-roofing.co.uk

8b Alderston Avenue, Ayr, South Ayrshire KA8 9BD



Checkatrade

Proud day for youngsters in new Arran pipe band

From page one.

country, this is particularly welcome news.

Mr O'Neil said the music school has a good partnership with the primary and secondary schools with head teachers, Barry Smith and Shirley MacLauchlan, extremely supportive of the project. They also have a close working relationship with the pipe band and have had assistance from the North Ayrshire Council Music Service, as well as parents and supporters on the island.

As a result, the music school has been able to buy 12 sets of bagpipes at £600 each, eight snare drums at £400 each, two tenor drums and a bass drum. They have also purchased 11 clarsachs at a cost of £1,600 per instrument.

Members of the new junior pipe band made their first public appearance at the Arran High School Christmas musical showcase. And now, with just three months of practice, they are heading to their first competitive event this weekend.

A total of 27 young members will take part in the debut section of the Scottish Schools



James O'Neil.

Pipe Band Championships tomorrow (Sunday) at Inveralmond Community High School in Livingston, where they will face competition from bands from all over Scotland.

Mr O'Neil said: 'This is a really proud day for everyone involved. To see the youth of the island embracing the tradition of the pipes and drums is tremendous and the partnership working which has allowed it to happen has been a pleasure to have been involved in.'

Mr O'Neil, who has been on Arran for three and half years, said the committee now has to continue to look for funding for the music school with a

view to introducing other traditional instruments in the future. And as an indication of the wide community support, Mr O'Neil's other 'baby', the Arran Soul Choir, recently donated its takings from the prize draw at its recent sell-out concerts to the music school.

Mr O'Neil said: 'I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has been involved in making the music school a success and hope to see many more youngsters on Arran being able to access high quality musical experiences.'

Pipe Major Malcolm Wheeler added: 'The Isle of Arran Pipe Band has been involved with the set-up of pipes and drums tuition giving financial support and joining the committee running the traditional music school.'

'It is very rewarding to see the fruits of our and the tutors efforts with a pipe band of pupils capable of entering a competition on the mainland, representing the school. We wish them well and hope they all enjoy the experience. We look forward to this new crop of pipers and drummers joining our band.'

Walkers put their best feet forward for Combat Stress

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A small but dedicated group of walkers on Arran have taken the first steps in a charity initiative known as March in March which seeks to raise awareness and funds for veterans and their mental health.

March in March has been organised by Combat Stress, which delivers life-changing treatment to veterans across the country who suffer trauma-related mental health problems such as anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Organised by Arran campaigner Kirsty Park, who has run various fundraising initiatives for veterans, the Arran walkers started their trek from the stone bridge near the ferry terminal.

March in March involves registering online and completing a 10-mile hike, run or jog



Taking part in the first walk in aid of veterans are: Ann Wallace and Joe the dog, Katrina Poynter-Dalton and Arlo Galloway, Kirsty Park, and Freyja and Linda MacCallum. 01_B10walk01

during the month of March. It can be completed in one day or over several days. Participants pay a £20 joining fee online, of which £15 goes directly towards Combat Stress.

Inviting anyone who is interested in supporting the charity, or even those who wish to get out and enjoy some fresh air and exercise while raising funds for a worthwhile cause, Kirsty said: 'The people gathered here today are walking together for 10 miles, which they will accomplish collectively over the month of March.'

'We will meet every Tuesday morning at 10am and walk from the stone bridge to near the castle and return again. Those wishing to complete their 10-mile challenge can join us and put in some mileage while enjoying a friendly chat with others who are also completing their 10-mile challenge.'

'You can join us for as long

or as little as you like. Today we have mothers with children and walkers with dogs.

'Combat Stress is an invaluable resource for veterans and they deserve our support, so join us on Tuesday mornings at 10am for this very worthwhile cause.'

In the past 10 years, Combat Stress has seen a 143 per cent increase in former servicemen and women seeking its help for trauma-related mental health problems. Its helpline is on 0800 138 1619 and its range of residential treatment programmes have helped thousands of veterans to regain their lives and to provide hope and a future.

If you wish to learn more about the Arran challenge, Kirsty can be contacted on KirstyLouisePark@outlook.com and further information about Combat Stress can be found at <https://www.combat-stress.org.uk/>

Corrie Film Club presents ...

Paterson (2007)

– Cert 15

Corrie Film Club's March showing is Jim Jarmusch's gentle film Paterson starring Adam Driver giving a wonderful performance in the title role.

Paterson is a hardworking bus driver in Paterson, New Jersey, who follows the same routine every day. He observes the city and listens to fragments of conversations while picking up and dropping off his passengers.

Paterson also writes heartfelt poems in a notebook, walks his dog and drinks one beer in a bar after his shift is over.

Waiting for him at home is Laura, his beloved wife who champions his gift for writing, runs a cupcake business and dreams of being a country and western star.

This film is a quiet and moving observation on the triumphs and defeats of daily life and the poetry evident in its smallest details. Highly recommended.

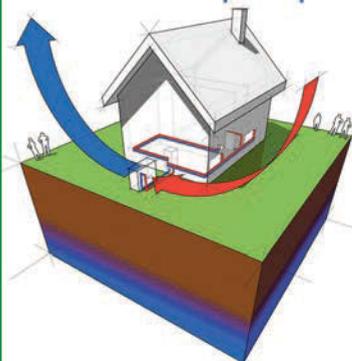
All are welcome at the showing of the film tomorrow (Sunday) at 8pm in Corrie and Sannox village hall.



Looking to reduce your carbon footprint and save money?

Think its not possible?

You could save £000's if you install an air source heat pump



- 1 Air Source Heat Pumps take in air from outside
- 2 The pump heats liquid that then becomes stored heat
- 3 Heat is distributed to central heating, underfloor heating etc
- 4 Remaining stored heat is used for baths, showers, taps etc

SMART
GROUP
ENERGY EFFICIENT HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Below you'll see how much you could potentially save by replacing your existing system with an air source heat pump.

Old (G Rated) Gas Boiler	Old (G Rated) Oil Boiler	Old Electric Storage Heaters	Old (G Rated) LPG Boiler
£400 - 465	£400 - 465	£400 - 465	£400 - 465

Figures above show potential annual savings of installing a standard air source heat pump in an average sized four bedroom detached home. Figures courtesy of Energy Saving Trust website. Accurate as of June 2018

Since installing my heat pump my monthly energy direct debit has reduced significantly and I am using less electricity and my home is much warmer! Love the fact that my new system is greener – doing my bit for the future! I am also receiving over £300 per quarter from my RHI payment
Thanks Smart Group!

RECC
RENEWABLE ENERGY CONSUMER CODE

APPROVED INSTALLER



APPROVED CODE
TRADING STANDARDS UK



www.smartgroup.uk.com

Tel: 01236 341662

Project takes bike skills to



Provost Ian Clarkson and dignitaries join pupils and teachers in the bike shed to see first-hand the work and resources that are available to pupils who will undertake the SQA course in bicycle maintenance. 01_B095QA01

MAINLAND TAXIS
Tel: 01294 463 556
Mob: 0792 199 8457

Glasgow City Centre..£45.00 Kilmarnock..£25.00
Ayr..£30.00 Crosshouse Hospital..£20.00 Ayr Hospital..£32.00
Ayrshire Central Hospital..£14.00
GLASGOW AIRPORT £37.00
PRESTWICK AIRPORT £25.00
EDINBURGH AIRPORT £100.00
RETURN BOOKINGS WELCOME
HOSPITAL TAXI SHARE & OTHER QUOTES AVAILBLE ON REQUEST
Friendly Reliable Service GUARANTEED

6 & 7 Seater Taxis Available on Request

Words and photos by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Provost Ian Clarkson joined pupils and teachers in a celebration at Arran High to commemorate the official opening of a new course in cycle maintenance which will now be offered at the school.

Funded by Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) Ayrshire and the Prince's Trust, the project, known as Radhausarran, will see pupils learning the skills to repair and maintain bicycles to a Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) standard.

Joining head teacher Barry

Smith and the teacher in charge of the Radhausarran project – and head of school's mountain bike club – Robert McNeice, were Walter Smith and Morgan Middlemiss from the Prince's Trust and Claire Baird of DYW.

The delegates joined the pupils to learn more about

the project and were given a tour of the cycle shed facilities which are already well equipped and established by the bike club.

Learning of the success and popularity of the club, the provost expressed his support for the initiative and announced that plans were currently under way to establish a cycle route from Brodick to Lamlash and Corrie to Lochranza which would not only benefit the group but also the wider community of cyclists on Arran.

The idea, which he agreed would be of huge benefit to Arran and the health of its residents and visitors, was



CONTACTUS

email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk
telephone 01770 302142

new level

Have your say in Arran quality of life survey

The Arran Economic Group is asking for readers help to build a picture of Arran's quality of life.

Newspapers and TV often carry features on 'the best place to live' in Scotland. Now the group is keen to find out how Arran compares to those areas regularly listed as having a high quality of life.

The findings from the survey will also help identify

those issues most important to Arran residents and inform the future work of both the Arran Economic Group and the recently formed Arran Development Trust.

The Arran Economic Group is leading on this survey and very keen to hear readers' views.

If you would like to take part, please contact Sheena.borthwick.aeg@gmail.com for a copy of the questionnaire.

Sheena said: 'The questionnaire can be completed in as little as five to 10 minutes and the more people who take part, the better and more accurate the picture we'll have.'

'Your responses and personal details are completely confidential and anonymous - we will only report the results of everyone's responses

as a whole.' The results will be published in the Arran Banner later in the year.

There are a variety of questions covering the local environment, tourism, health, leisure, economy and, importantly this time, housing.

The wide-ranging nature of the questions is required because 'quality of life' involves many different topics.



Utilising a bolt cutter Provost Ian Clarkson cuts the ribbon to officially open the Radhausarran project. 01_B095QA03

first suggested to him by Arran pupil Eilidh Hamill, who, coincidentally, is a finalist in this year's Provost's Civic Pride Awards for her work in promoting and supporting sporting activities in her community.

Mr Smith said: 'We are delighted to take the interest in cycling which exists in the school and community and combine this with an excellent opportunity to develop cycle maintenance, leadership and personal development skills and qualifications through the Radhausarran project.'

'In time, we hope to provide a service to the

community for repairing and maintaining all sorts of bikes as well as encouraging healthy lifestyles for all in our community, from the very youngest children to our older residents.

'Raudhausarran bicycle maintenance, repair and training project complements our existing innovative approaches, including our school of sport and wider achievement programme.'

'We feel the project will provide yet another opportunity for our young people to develop skills and qualifications relevant to the context in which they live, as well as being transferable to other contexts.'



Provost Ian Clarkson addresses the pupils of Radhausarran and announces the introduction of a new cycle path on Arran. 01_B095QA02



HM Government

UK LEAVES THE EU 29.03.19

How will the UK leaving the EU affect me?

The UK leaves the EU on 29 March 2019. To find out what it means for you, visit gov.uk/euexit



Arran beer faces ban for being 'too strong'

Arran Milestone Special Reserve is facing a ban under new rules by the Portman Group.

Arran Brewery's boss Gerald Michaluk is livid at the threat to the brewery's most prestigious – and expensive – beer matured in Arran whisky casks, because it is too strong.

The Portman Group has published the sixth version of its code of practice on the naming, packaging and promotion of alcoholic drinks, aimed at giving new guidance on 'immoderate consumption'. However, it is feared this could be very damaging for independent craft brewers such as the Arran Brewery.

Mr Michaluk said: 'This is ridiculous and anti-competitive. Our Sleeping Warrior 8.3% ABV barley wine sold in a 330ml bottle is OK, while our 6% ABV Arran Milestone Special Reserve, meant for sharing, and sold in a 750ml bottle is to be banned as it contains more than four units of alcohol.'

'This is crazy – wine and spirits all contain more alcohol and are not being banned, so why single out a bottle of very expensive £12-a-bottle beer? If we



Arran Milestone Special Reserve could be banned under new rules.

are looking to consume less alcohol as a society, a switch to beer works.

'Instead of a bottle of wine at 10 units, or more, a bottle of our Milestone Special Reserve is only 4.36 units. However, as it falls just over the four units mark, it will not be able to be sold, while a bottle of wine in the same configuration will be. This is just not sensible. Why do these people not get out more into the real world? Independently produced craft beer is not the problem.'

Arran Brewery puts sale offer to its shareholders

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



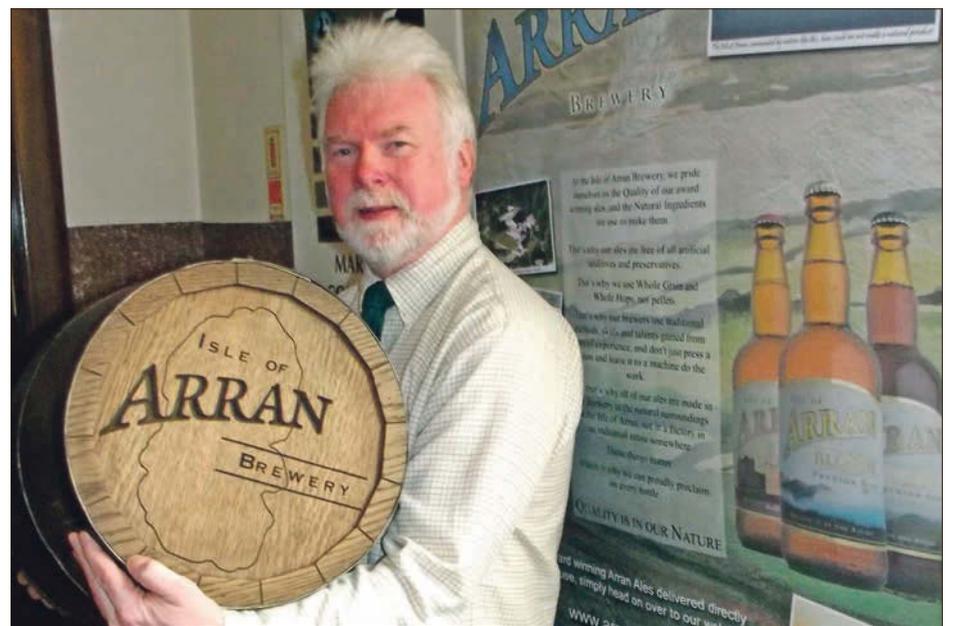
The Arran Brewery has been approached about the possible sale of the business and, despite not being up for sale, the offer to purchase will be considered by the company shareholders.

Managing director Gerald Michaluk said that he has no intention of selling at the moment 'as he is having too much fun', but that he is duty bound to put any formal legal offer to the shareholders who will ultimately decide if the offer is attractive or not.

Mr Michaluk said: 'It is nice to see others value the brewery enough to make an initial inquiry about its purchase. The brewery is not on the market but this is the second approach in as many months. I think there is an anticipation I want to retire. I have no such intention at the moment as I am having too much fun.'

'Over the years we have been approached a few times and I even noticed a video on YouTube promoting our Loch Earn site as a whisky distillery.'

I was really impressed by the video, if a little surprised, as the company behind the video has absolutely no con-



Gerald Michaluk says he has no intention of retiring.

nection with the site or our brewery other than they asked if the site was for sale and were told that any formal legal offer would be considered by our shareholders. No offer was ever forthcoming but a very impressive promotional video has clearly been made.

'While it is immensely flattering to think there are parties interested in purchasing the Arran brands, as it stands

the brewery is not for sale, but never say never.'

The Arran Brewery recently purchased the plant and equipment of the former Dunscair Bridge Brewery in Bolton and has this 3,500 litre-a-day production brewery installed at Loch Earn, where production of both beer and cider is scheduled for later this year. Arran Brewery also bought the Devils Dyke

Brewery equipment and brands from Cambridge and installed this equipment in its Dreghorn site in North Ayrshire.

The brewery on Arran was established in 2000 and produces a wide range of beers, from Arran Blonde, its flagship brand, to Arran Dark, which won the title of the World's Best Dark Brown ale in 2012.

Campbell Fuel Oils

Is your current supplier letting you down?
Why not contact Campbell Fuels for a reliable service

The most frequent service on the Isle of Arran supplying heating oil, tractor diesel, derv and a wide range of lubricants

Call us on 01563 521925
Hurlford Road, Riccarton, Kilmarnock KA1 3LS
www.campbellfuels.co.uk

Sponsored by NFU Mutual
Campbeltown. Call Chris Husthwaite
on 01586 552 428 for your
insurance needs

NFU Mutual
INSURANCE | PENSIONS | INVESTMENTS

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.

NATIVE SPANISH TEACHER
Would you like to learn Spanish with a
Native and Qualified Teacher?

07443 378624
pablo.illera.jimenez@gmail.com
PABLO ILLERA JIMENEZ
Qualified Spanish
and Science Teacher
Isle of Arran, Scotland

07368 342 650

Simply Housekeeping Arran

Holiday home housekeeping specialists

- Any day changeovers

info@simplyhousekeepingarran.co.uk

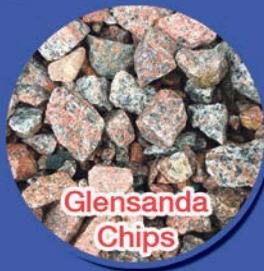
Twelve years of digital archives
Available to Digital subscribers

THE ARRAN BANNER

MURCHIE

Groundwork & Civil Engineering Contractors

DECORATIVE GRAVEL & BUILDING MATERIALS



ALL AT COMPETITIVE COSTS AND DELIVERED THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND

PLANT HIRE

We have a wide range of machines available for hire:

- 1.5 tonne mini digger
- 3 tonne excavator
- 7.5-8 tonne excavator
- 14 tonne excavator
- 22 tonne excavator
- Ride-on Roller
- Telehandler
- Forward Tipping Dumper
- Low Loader for hire
- Tractor & low loader trailer



HAULAGE

Fleet of lorries and commercial skips are available for hire throughout the Island and mainland

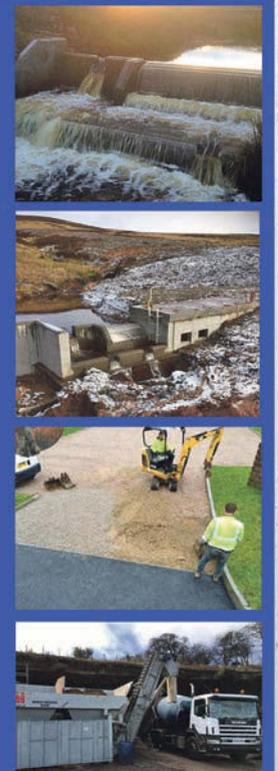
- 4, 6 or 8 wheel tippers
- Low-loaders
- Hiab plant lorries
- Road brushes
- Water bowsers
- Grab lorries
- Commercial Skip Hire
- Bulk Blower service for animal feed, sawdust, animal bedding (Pellets), Biomass Wood Pellets and grain



READY MIXED CONCRETE & GROUNDWORKS

We are proficient in the following areas:

- Ready Mixed Concrete at Competitive prices & delivery throughout the Island
- Site Clearance
- Bulk Earthworks including earthwork remediation.
- Roadwork Construction
- Drainage Installation
- Service installation
- Sub-Structures including foundations and floor slabs.
- Retaining Structures
- Concreting Works
- Hard and Soft Landscaping



Market Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AU

Tel: 01770 303 606 Mob: 07710046991

E-Mail: enquiries@murchiearran.com

www.murchiearran.com



LETTERS

Editorial

Music matters

The formation of a schools pipe band on Arran should be music to the ears of everyone.

And hats off must go to everyone involved in the Isle of Arran Music School for making this happen – not least of all James O'Neil.

But he is the last person to take the credit for the huge amount of work and commitment that has gone into creating the school and the pipe band. Add to that the fact that music school committee has raised the money to buy all the pipes and drums and give all the children free music tuition.

At a time when school music lessons across the country are under serious threat owing to budget cuts, that is welcome news indeed.

The collaboration with the Arran Pipe Band is also extremely important, giving further encouragement to the youngsters to 'graduate' to the senior band.

We wish the schools pipe band every success at their competition this weekend, but this is just the start of what is likely to be a long and fruitful collaboration with the music school which, we predict, will also go from strength to strength.

Thought for the week

Jesus answered: 'Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, You must be born again.'

John 3:5

School bully

Sir,
I don't live on the island of Arran, but have visited on holiday for 12 years and love the place. It seems rude to impose my views with too much force on islanders from my home on the mainland.

Yet in two recent editions of the Arran Banner, I have read some overly forceful words, ultimately emanating from the millionaire property developers of the McLaren Hotel, who are based at Kings Lynn in East Anglia.

In the Banner dated February 16, an ominous public notice relating to a request by developers Mr Fowler and Mr Metcalf resulted in the Lands Tribunal emphasising a disturbing warning to locals on Arran who might want to object about plans for the McLaren site: 'Anyone considering opposing this application may well be advised to seek appropriate legal advice.'

And Arran residents should be right to worry if they had wanted to voice their opinion about these developers.

The public notice went on worryingly: 'The Tribunal will quite often have to decide who should meet the expense of the proceedings.'

Does this mean that if highly paid lawyers and advocates representing these off-island developers are brought in, local people will be forced with a court ruling to pay the Norfolk developer's costs, at the going rate of £1,000 per advocate, per day?

Then my jaw dropped to the basement at reading the words attributed to the Norfolk millionaires in the Banner.

I quote from the front page of February 23 edition ... The Abode Group says that

if its application is granted it will 'undertake not to object to the breaking of the title conditions by its immediate neighbours' – Brodick Co-op and Arran Active/Bilslands.

Is it just me, or does that border on something deeply unpleasant? In other words: give us our multi-million, four-storey, over-developed site permission or we will do the neighbours in to the rozzers and cause a big stink! Maybe even get your Co-op closed down?

Mr Fowler and Mr Metcalf from Norfolk, if that is your attitude, you really do not understand Arran folk very well. I, for one, am tempted to pay the £25 to the Lands Tribunal and to object to your greedy over-development of the hotel.

Your tactics have the aroma of a school bully.

Anyone with a legitimate concern who wishes to exercise their democratic right and question your feu breaking should be able to do so without your implied threat costing them thousands of pounds to exercise their democratic rights.

Yours,
**Andrew MacArthur,
Arbroath, Angus.**

LNG viability

Sir,
I have just read an article on stricter emissions for ships' propulsion systems, including fuel alternatives proposed for hybrid engines, which has been proposed for the new MV Glen Sannox ferry.

Included was LNG and a description of its characteristics. It is cheaper and has greater energy than oil but needs four times more volume for the same range. Also, it is highly inflammable in its gaseous state and has to be stored at very low temperatures.

This means that the storage and handling is complex and has a significant effect on ship design, including tank size and location.

For hazard protection, it must be located away from the side and bottom of the ship. The volume ratio (at atmospheric pressure) between natural gas and LNG is 600 to 1.

Since LNG can be evaporating or boiling-off while in the tank (due to it being stored at very low temperatures), pressure can build up, therefore a plan is necessary to address this issue.

All ships would also have oil fuel tanks for powering the hybrid engines. At October 2018, there were only 31 LNG bunkering facilities worldwide.

I would be interested to know how LNG will be obtained and stored locally for the new Arran ferry. It could also pose problems for the second ferry presently being built.

As a publicly-owned company, surely it is time for CalMac to give details on the new ferry. No doubt all will be revealed when the compensation claim by Ferguson Marine is resolved.

Yours,
**Robin Gardner,
Lamlash.**

Signs sense

Sir,
No one could object to reasonable action that increases safety and reduces risk. However, the signs appearing around the Arran coast do seem to be a bit over the top. Are they a waste of time and taxpayers' money?

Is there really anyone in the UK who doesn't know to ring 999 in an emergency, including visitors? The instruction to 'Ask for the Coastguard'



One of the emergency signs which has been put up on a waymarker on Arran.

presumes the emergency is always for their attention but it may well not be.

This seems to be a small part of a much bigger national move to put signs up everywhere, at every opportunity, regardless of cost and the impact on aesthetics.

Common sense is always going to be better than any amount of signs.

Yours,
**David Lang,
Lamlash.**

Kilmory thanks

Sir,
I am delighted to announce that the public auction held at the Kilmory Village Hall on Sunday February 17 was huge success.

We managed to raise a wonderful £1,176.50 which will go towards the day-to-day running and upkeep of the hall. A great big thank you to all who attended and to all of our volunteers who dedicated so much time and effort into ensuring that the event ran smoothly.

Yours,
**Paula McGuire,
Kilmory village hall
manager.**

How to contact us

Arran Banner,
Brodick,
Isle of Arran,
KA27 8AJ
Phone: 01770 302142

News editor
Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Reporter
Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Advertising
Cecilia Paul
adverts@arranbanner.co.uk

Head office
Wyvex Media,
Lochavullin Industrial
Estate, Oban,
PA34 4HB



Press policy

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

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.

ARRAN DELIVERIES

We deliver the goods, not excuses

Daily collection throughout Ayrshire, Glasgow and surrounding districts

www.arrandeliveries.co.uk



Glasgow Depot

c/o Hebrides Haulage
149 Balmoral Street
Glasgow, G14 0HB
Call us on 01475 676255
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

We've been in our Glasgow depot for 25 years, our long time friends Hebrides Haulage operate it and provide a great service. We can accept all size of deliveries into Glasgow. Our trucks call in daily to collect all goods destined for Arran.

Anything in before 1pm is guaranteed next morning delivery on the Island. Let us know your requirements when you book in with our office, as well as our speedy parcel service, we offer 2 man delivery and Tailift Service throughout the island. Forklift at depot.

Adrossan Depot

Arran Deliveries
Parcelpoint Adrossan
Ayrshire, KA22 8BZ
Call us on 01475 676255
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

We are open to accept all your deliveries large and small. A lot of companies won't deliver to Islands, why not use us as your mainland address and let us bring it to your home. We have all the national parcel companies and pallet networks calling in daily to our Parcelpoint. If you are ordering from a few different companies we can

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.



Escape to the Country presenter Jules Hudson on Arran.

TV gives Arran a property boost

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Estate agents have reported a huge surge of interest in property on Arran following the broadcast of an episode of *Escape to the Country*, which featured Arran as the location for house-hunters.

The popular BBC show aired on BBC1 on Monday February 25 and focused on living a slower-paced lifestyle on Arran.

Showing off three desirable properties on Arran, one in Kildonan and the others in

Corrie and Whiting Bay, the programme also paid a visit to the Lochranza Distillery and Lamlash Bay, where the Marine Protected Area and No Take Zone were highlighted.

Following the programme, estate agents on Arran, and those that cover the Arran area, reported an abnormally large spike in interest in property on the island which they attribute directly to the TV programme.

Darren Lee, who covers the island for McEwan Fraser Legal, said: 'The episode has led to a huge surge in online

searches for properties on the island.

'Some properties seeing as much as 20 times their normal daily activity, which is very encouraging for anyone selling their property in the coming months. We have also noticed that viewing activity for the next few weeks has increased also.'

'We believe that this surge in online interest can be attributed to the show and, with the warmer weather just around the corner, we are confident that buyers who are new to Arran will soon be exploring and living on this

magical island. What a great time to bring your house to market.'

Ann Rhead, of Arran Estate Agents, who are Arran's longest established estate agency, has also seen the effects of the programme, saying: 'We have had interest peaking on our websites and through phone inquiries.'

'We are hopeful that this interest bears fruit in the coming marketing period, which is our busiest time of the year.'

The *Escape to the Country* featuring Arran is still available on the BBC iPlayer.

Reported fishing boat incursion into NTZ was false alarm

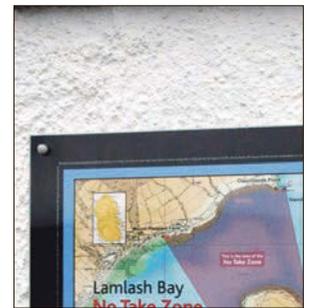
The owner of a fishing boat which was spotted in the Lamlash No Take Zone (NTZ) with its net out has defended his actions by saying that he was sorting his equipment.

The sighting of the prawn trawler on Monday March 4 at 6.30am prompted marine coastal conservation charity Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) to appeal for any witnesses to the incident to report it to it and to enforcer Marine Scotland with any photographic or video evidence.

Concerned that the reporting of the unverified activity can damage the reputation of fishermen, Elaine MacIlleBhàin, of the Clyde Fishermen's Association, who was speaking before the vessel was identified, said: 'We would like to make it clear that we do not support unauthorised fishing in NTZs or MPAs.'

Shortly thereafter, Garry Mackinnon identified himself on a social media as the owner of the fishing vessel, Auriga, explaining: 'When we left our anchor we put a bag in the water to fix some chain in the middle. Our other net was on the drum as we twin trawl, so feel free to get my AST to prove we were doing seven knots leaving the north entrance with one of our bags streaming behind us. Very sorry about this.'

The AST is the vessel monitoring system that tracks and keeps a log of location and other data related to the activity of the vessel. Speed can be included in these logs and can indicate whether fishing is taking place as prawn trawlers usually travel at two or three knots, higher speeds



can suggest normal travel. Ms MacIlleBhàin continued: 'Not actually a Clyde Fishermen's Association boat, but glad it's been established that it was not an incursion in terms of fishing.'

'As we noted, we remain happy to help wherever we can on such issues, but we have a concern that such claims can negatively impact on the perception of all local sustainable fishermen. This can be particularly damaging and in this case it seems to be unfounded.'

'Let's work together on these issues and be respectful with each other's reputations. After all, we are all neighbours.'

In 2017, the captain of a Norwegian minesweeper apologised after dropping his anchor on the sensitive seabed floor of the No Take Zone. While not illegal to anchor in the zone, a maritime tradition of respect for the area means that larger vessels avoid it as an anchorage.

Marine Scotland has limited resources to monitor inshore waters and COAST provides a useful guide to identify and accurately record possible infractions and how to report them.

The guide is known as the KIPPER Guide and can be found online at www.arran-coast.com/kipper-guide/

Selling your Whisky Cask?

If you own a cask of Scotch Whisky and are interested in selling it, we would love to hear from you.

We are always searching for individuals who wish make a return on their casks, making the process simple and easy whilst offering the best market price.

We will also give 3 bottles of any cask back to you free of charge to enjoy.

Please send details to cask@atombrands.com

 ATOM BRANDS



The Brodick waste transfer station.

Lift the lid on island's waste with a Day @ the Dump

Environmental charity Eco Savvy is hoping to sort through the misconceptions of refuse recycling with an invitation to islanders to join a tour of the waste recycling centre and transfer station in Brodick.

Calling the experience a Day @ the Dump, visitors will gain an unusual perspective on what happens to the waste on Arran and it aims to clear up any confusion about what it does, and does not, accept and what can be recycled.

Taking place on Wednesday March 20 at 2pm, the surprisingly interesting event will start with a tour of the facilities, closely followed by a question-and-answer session straight from an experienced waste operative.

Visitors are then invited to more salubrious surroundings at Little Rock in Brodick where they can enjoy cake, coffee and a chat.

While visiting a waste transfer station might not sound like a great day out, visitors may actu-

ally be pleasantly surprised at the well organised facility and the many green initiatives that it is involved in. For instance, around 50 per cent of items disposed of in your black refuse bins gets passed on to an aligned company which recycles it.

Recycling is also completed right at source where operatives are constantly on the lookout for any bicycles that have been sent to the station. The bicycles and components are collected and stored before passing them on to

the Arran High School bike club, which uses components to repair bicycles and build new ones, some using parts from as many as five incomplete bicycles.

Anyone with an interest, or who has unanswered questions about what can be recycled, is welcome to attend the event and you do not have to be Eco Savvy volunteer to join in. Further information about a Day @ the Dump can be obtained from shop manager and volunteer coordinator Val Waite at val.ecosavvy@gmail.com

Modern take on classic play

Review: Macbeth, Theatre Royal, Glasgow, by Arran High School student William Downing

English and drama pupils from Arran High School visited the Theatre Royal in Glasgow to deepen their understanding and knowledge of the play Macbeth by William Shakespeare.

Almost every row was full as the play began. Created by the National Theatre, this production sold out on its premiere in London and is now touring the country. This was my first



The Arran Lodge
Arran's Largest and most popular Self Catering House

Sleeps **25-60**

The Perfect Wedding venue
Family Reunions Special Birthdays Conferences Walking Groups

ALL ROOMS EN SUITE

The Arran Lodge
Lamlash
Isle of Arran
KA27 8LQ
www.thearranlodge.com
info@thearranlodge.com
01770 600468

ARRAN SLEEP HUTS
ARRANSLEEPHUTS.COM

Budget Accommodation for solo or group travellers
All rooms are ensuite with the use of our cookhouse

Arran Sleep Huts
Arran Lodge
Lamlash
Isle of Arran
KA27 8LQ
www.arransleephuts.com
info@arransleephuts.com
01770 600468

Prices from **£35** per night room only or make use of our **3 night offer**

Shakespeare experience – the modern take on the play gave an interesting portrayal of such a globally renowned story. Lights dimmed on the empty stage as the first scene began – the echoing and eerie voices of the witches filling the theatre.

Modern music and cold lighting brought the script to life as the post-apocalyptic setting portrayed the already stark play in a shocking and realistic staging.

Witches were pole dancers who used movement and chanting to create a supernatural mood, with the other main characters dressed in

battle fatigues.

A red suit identified the most powerful character in contrast to the soldiers.

Each scene flowed into the next as the minimalist set moved across the curved stage with each act – a new perspective for each scene. From costumes to characters, the simple adaptation caught the ideas of the play clearly and starkly with little remorse.

From up on the balcony, on the third level, the stage was just as captivating as the story foretold – great soliloquies that captivated the audience, with large battles that

English and drama students from Arran High School at the modern performance of Macbeth at the Theatre Royal in Glasgow.

swamped the stage.

Arran High School English and Drama departments received funding from: Eileen Wilson Kerr (arts coordinator) Arran Theatre and Arts Trust and The Arran Society of Glasgow.

Thank you to all of these people who enabled students to experience a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Eco Savvy's
'Day @ the Dump'
How does the Waste Transfer Station deal with Arran's rubbish?

Join us there on **20th March @ 2pm**
then coffee, cake n climate chat
@ Little Rock
email val.ecosavvy@gmail.com

ARRAN HAULAGE

JEWSON

OPEN DAY

Thursday 21st March 2019

11am - 3pm

VENUE

Arran Haulage
Home Farm • Brodick

We look forward to welcoming you



Cinema in Brodick is given the green light

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Plans for a new permanent cinema on Arran have been given the planning go ahead.

Arran Picture House Ltd wants to convert the former ferry terminal in Brodick into a two-screen community cinema, which it initially hoped to open by Easter.

It is the brainchild of Brian Keating, who already runs The Tower Digital Arts Centre in a converted church in Helensburgh, known as the Clock Tower.

The proposed cinema, which will house two 66-seat screen rooms, was approved with only two conditions: that the 14 parking spaces for patrons are created prior to the cinema being put to use and that a proposed bin store is also created.

The building, which was vacated by Caledonian MacBrayne in 2017 and is being leased to the new owners,



The former Brodick ferry ticket office which is to become a cinema. 01_B48cinema01

will see a minimal amount of change externally, with just a small bin store being created and two fire escape doors being installed.

Internally, changes will see the two cinemas being created in each of the west and south wings of the building, with the box office, concession booth

and toilets in the central hall. Access doors would remain to the north-east and south-west corners, as before.

Three objections to the

creation of the cinema were received, with the main complaint of insufficient parking being negated by the applicant who confirmed that a further four spaces would be allocated to bring the total to 14, and in line with roads development guidance of one parking space per 10 cinema seats.

A further objection, which voiced concerns that the creation of a cinema would damage the operation of the visiting Screen Machine mobile cinema, was not included in the consideration as it is deemed a commercial issue and does not form part of material planning consideration.

While the Arran Community Council did not object to the application, it did note that parking and congestion during ferry times may be problematic, although North Ayrshire Council Active Travel and Transport felt that sufficient parking was available and provided no objection.

Ayrshire diabetes patient conference

NHS Ayrshire and Arran's diabetes managed clinical network is hosting its annual diabetes patient conference.

Local people who have diabetes or who know someone who is affected by the condition are welcome to attend the event in the Alexander Fleming Education Centre, University Hospital Crosshouse, from 9.30am to 2pm on Saturday April 27.

The conference costs £5 per person and includes lunch and refreshments.

To book your place, contact L J Truesdale at the diabetes managed clinical network on 01294 323492 or leave your name and address on the answer machine and a booking form will be sent out to you for completion.

Places are limited, so please book early.

Club winners

The winners of the Lochranza and Catacol 200 Club February draw were, first prize, Gillian Langley; second prize, Ethne Cumming.

WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU WHEN WE VISIT...
ARRAN!

We are hosting a POP UP EVENT giving advice on...

LEGAL, ESTATE AGENCY & FINANCIAL MATTERS

WHEN? Thursday 21st March 2019 from 9am 'til 5pm
WHERE? The Glencloy Suite at Auchrannie Resort
(An events schedule will follow)

Pop in to meet us and have a chat or if you have a particular matter that you wish to discuss privately please telephone us on 01563 533121 or email hello@mcsberryhalliday.co.uk to arrange an appointment slot on the day

Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Caroline Nisbet
Partner/Solicitor

Martha Clark
Partner/Solicitor

Catherine Morrow
Partner/Solicitor

Louisa Doole
Solicitor

Michael Halliday
Estate Agency

Alan Hewitt
Independent Financial Adviser

Connect with us!



Rescue teams take part in joint exercise

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Rescue teams on Arran got together for a multi-agency exercise at the weekend in preparation for the summer season.

Arran RNLI, Arran Coastguard Rescue and the Arran Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT) and their vehicles were seen responding to a number of practice scenarios across the island to locate, treat and evacuate multiple casualties.

In one mock incident on nearby Holy Isle, a climber had got into difficulty on

a high ridge and had to be located and then stretched – owing to a lower leg injury – from their location on the ridge to the slipway for evacuation by lifeboat.

A further two casualties were also reported to be in difficulty along the coast between Brodick and Lamlash, to which the emergency services responded.

The Arran RNLI, along with the Coastguard team, located them and requested assistance from Arran MRT to evacuate one of the more seriously injured casualties – who had a sus-

pected spinal injury – from steep ground.

A lowering system was set up and the casualty was taken to safe ground to be evacuated.

A spokesman from the Arran Coastguard said: 'An excellent and enjoyable day, exercising alongside Arran Mountain Rescue Team and the Arran RNLI.

'The busier the island gets, the more likely that such simultaneous multiple casualty call-outs become so it's great to get everyone together for such an exercise before the tourist season begins in earnest.'



Clockwise from above left: Arran RNLI, Arran Coastguard Rescue and the Arran Mountain Rescue Team are pictured at the RNLI station in Lamlash; a 'casualty' is packaged into a stretcher for evacuation; and rescuers are pictured high on the hills of Holy Isle evacuating a casualty.



AMRT members deliver a casualty to an awaiting RNLI boat.

Arran Active

FOR ALL YOUR CLOTHING, FOOTWEAR, OUTDOOR GEAR AND GIFTS

Now these boots ARE MADE FOR WALKING

Get ready for Spring.
New season styles now in stock for all budgets.
New Styles of Hitec walking boots and shoes, Salomon and Scarpa shoes and boots.

Opening Hours
Mon-Sat 9.00-5.00; Sun 10.00-5.00

Shore Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ
info@arranactive.co.uk T : 01770 302113

Micro-businesses are making

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The full potential of Arran businesses is being significantly constrained by the lack of available, suitably qualified and skilled individuals, a new study has found.

The 2018 Arran Business Survey found businesses on the island have the capacity to employ an additional 107 people – up from 92 in the previous survey in 2016 – if a source of trained and suitable staff was available.

When businesses were asked to confirm what factors were contributing to this lack of suitable candidates, 40 per cent identified a lack of affordable accommodation as a primary contributory factor.

Significantly, the survey found the economy of Arran is heavily weighted towards micro-businesses with fewer than five employees. These businesses, generating less than £100,000, make up 56 per cent of Arran's total business numbers. Most of these are very small one- or two-person businesses, usually self-employed. However, 10 per cent were larger concerns, with an annual turnover of more than £1 million.

It also emerged in the survey that Brexit does not seriously concern businesses on Arran – although that is said to have changed given the present uncertainty with only days to the leaving date. When questioned, only eight per cent of businesses said Brexit was a major obstacle, compared to the Scottish figure of 22 per cent.

Arran is currently experiencing a period of depopulation with a specific and noticeable drop in the percentage of the population under the age of 65. If unchallenged, this demographic trend has the potential to materially impact on the employee numbers that these employers can attract, with subsequent concerns over the level of service these businesses can provide to their customers.

An initial survey of businesses on Arran was undertaken in June/July 2016 by Arranshand Ltd to provide intelligence on how Arran's economy was performing compared to other North Ayrshire locations and identify any specific factors that were inhibiting economic growth.

This survey identified the lack of suitably qualified labour and the lack of affordable housing as significant inhibitors restricting economic growth. The initial survey estimated that 92 full-time equivalent (FTE) posts were not being filled due to the lack of affordable housing.

A second was commissioned in late 2017, and undertaken again by Arranshand Ltd, in February/March 2018, to establish what changes had taken place in the local economy in the intervening 20-month period.

In all, 95 businesses responded using a mixture of online questionnaires, phone calls and face-to-face interviews. This represents 38 per cent of all businesses on Arran registered with Companies House. The businesses which responded employ just over half of the total Arran workforce.

The majority of businesses, 54 per cent, who responded had been trading for more than five years – more than a quarter have been trading for more than 20 years. However, one in six were new businesses which also suggests a healthy start-up rate on the island.

The information identified by this survey will be shared with partners to assist with the drive and desire to ensure Arran remains a vibrant, diverse island that is home to many successful businesses.

Generally, businesses responded positively when asked about current market conditions with 80 per cent reporting that turnover has stayed the same or increased over the past year.

Employee numbers have increased slightly over the past year with a one per cent increase in employee



Shore Road in Brodick houses a range of businesses, including gift shops, a baker's, ice-cream parlour and Chinese takeaway. 01_B10survey01

numbers. However, 47 per cent of respondents indicated they had experienced labour shortages at some point over the past year.

Businesses on Arran are more outward looking that businesses in mainland North Ayrshire as 66 per cent of Arran businesses had sold goods or services to other UK countries, compared to a Scottish average of 44 per cent. When it comes to exporting outwith the

UK, 49 per cent of Arran businesses had traded overseas compared to 16 per cent across Scotland as a whole.

Arran businesses are also more innovative than their mainland counterparts with more than double the Scottish average of businesses having undertaken a major re-engineering or developmental innovation in the past three years.

The 2017 survey quantified, for the first time, the lost opportunity

to the Arran economy due to the lack of affordable housing for those who may wish to live and work on Arran. The 2017 survey put this number at 92 and this figure has risen to 107 in the 2018 survey.

In response, North Ayrshire Council, in partnership with the Scottish Government and local housing associations, has worked collaboratively to develop plans that will seek to deliver more than

Group voices concerns over Brexit

Arran Development Group chairman Tom Tracey said: 'The second Arran Business Survey has confirmed that Arran business is more outward looking and innovative than our immediate neighbours.'

It also confirms that labour shortages and affordable housing are a growing risk to economic development.

'The survey was conducted 12 months ago and at that time it appeared most folk had a relaxed approach on Brexit.

'Anecdotally, recent



Tom Tracey.

developments would suggest island business now reflect the national concern

with impacts on exports, employment and visitors to and from the EU.

'The survey will be conducted again in two years and by that time we will have completed the 34 North Ayrshire Council houses in Brodick.

'With luck and hard work, the Arran Development Trust should be well on its way to another 40 affordable houses in Lamlash.

'This will go some way to retaining our existing workforce and attracting new jobseekers to the island.'



ng the Arran economy tick

Delay to much-needed new affordable homes



Work on the start of the much-needed proposed affordable housing in Brodick has been delayed until the summer, it emerged this week.

The first 34 council houses to be built on Arran in 30 years are to be on a site behind Brathwic Terrace, but the delay means they will not now be complete until the autumn of 2020.

In an update given to Arran Community Council by North Ayrshire Council member Timothy Billings, he said: 'The original start date for the development was the spring of 2019. However, this has been revised to the summer of 2019.'

'The council has been working on three other sites elsewhere in North Ayrshire and wanted to take advantage of economies of scale and work on them together.'

'However, various activities have been happening at the Brathwic site, such as the intrusive site investigations and the draft plans consultation are now complete.'

'This means that the final plans consultation is scheduled for next month after which final agreement can be reached with the contractor.'

'Work is due to start in the summer, with a target completion date of autumn 2020.'

'The contractor is confident that the building work will take less time than originally specified, so there should be no delay to the completion date in spite of the slightly later start date.'

The development is a mix of two-, three- and four-bedroomed houses with eight amenity bungalows

and two wheelchair-adapted bungalows.

Some residents of Springbank are concerned at the extra traffic which will be generated by the new development, but Arran Community Council was told last week that the council had no plans to consider a new road into the development.

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'Work is progressing on the design proposals for Brathwic Terrace, Brodick, following our well-attended consultation event in September last year.'

'We are currently reviewing the feedback provided before holding a final consultation event during spring 2019.'

'The project is due to start on site later this year with an expected completion date in 2020.'

40 homes on Arran by the end of 2021 (see story right).

In addition, the Arran Economic Group has been developing plans to introduce new housing types and tenures to the island and it is hoped further local and national support will be forthcoming to support these developments.

The ADT has just been informed that the Rural and Islands Housing Fund has agreed to fund the first part of the feasibility work for the three sites identified on Arran for housing. That means we are now

starting and on schedule to address the affordable housing shortage on the island.

The survey concludes: 'Arran businesses have generally had a positive year and have demonstrated that they are behaving innovatively and developing their products and services for residents and visitors.'

'In order to continue to support these businesses to grow, pressure must be maintained on funding bodies to ensure this positive opportunity is exploited to its full potential.'



A clothes shop, estate agent, hairdresser and guest house on Shore Road. 01_B10survey02



There was little sign of any progress at the Brathwic Terrace site this week.

TK Murray are proud to announce our second Mitsubishi Ecodan Road Show Event at Arran Coast on Saturday the 9th and Sunday 10th March. 10am - 5pm

Come along and find out about air source heat pumps and how they work. See real world examples in the Arran Coast Offices.

Talk to our qualified heating engineers and domestic energy advisers Find out how much of a Government Grant you could get.

IS your house suitable?

5 Great Reasons to come along:

- Speak to industry experts with proven track records of installing systems on Arran
- Find out how much help the Government will give you
- See real world examples of a Mitsubishi Ecodan.
- Enter our FREE draw for £100 of B&Q vouchers.
- All visitors to the roadshow will receive a voucher for a FREE Energy Performance

ASK THE EXPERTS.

Norman Paterson DipDEA

Norman is an experienced partner with a demonstrated history of working in the renewables and environment industry. Norman will be able to answer all your questions regarding government incentives for installing renewable technologies in your home and how an Energy Performance Certificate fits into the process

Angela Paterson DipDEA

Angela has many years' experience in the renewable field and has been a Domestic Energy Adviser for over five years. Angela is an expert on government grant applications.

Paul Murray TKM Heating Manager

Paul is a qualified heating engineer and knows the Mitsubishi Ecodan inside out. Paul can answer any questions about how we actually install these systems into homes.

Stephen Murray TKM Electrical Manager

Stephen is a qualified electrical engineer and looks after that side of the business. He is available to answer any questions you might have about how the Ecodan works.

Craig Smith Mitsubishi Ecodan Sales Engineer.

Craig is an Experienced Installer and Manager with a demonstrated history of working in the construction, mechanical & electrical industry. He is Mitsubishi's "man on the ground" in Scotland



Since our first roadshow in March 2017 we have installed 65 air source heat pump systems on Arran.

"From start to finish of the installation Norman and the TK Murray team have been fantastic, true professionals in every area from sales to installation and aftercare support. I have been amazed at the level of service I have received" *Gary, Lamlash*

TK Murray has installed OVER 65 AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMPS on Arran in the last two years. You probably know someone with one.

TK Murray Electrical Ltd



Contact Norman Paterson on:
07912 346360

2 U.P. Road, Kilsyth, Glasgow, G65 0BH.
Telephone: (01236) 730 579
FAX: (01236) 730 579
E-mail: info@tkmurray.co.uk

Pirnmill artist has work put on show

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The featured artist for the month of March at Arran Library in Brodick is Pirnmill artist Robert Stevens.

Robert trained in ceramics and three-dimensional design at Wolverhampton in the mid-1970s. Early in his career he spent five years in Sierra Leone, West Africa, with Voluntary Service Overseas developing pottery in a remote village called Mambolo.

There he introduced kiln building and appropriate technologies in pottery and fired clay brick-making.

When he returned to Britain in 1985, he taught in Buckinghamshire and for the next 30 years ran the department of fine art at the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe.

In 2017, the opportunity arose to further his ambition



Robert Stevens at work in his studio in Pirnmill.

to become a practising artist/sculptor and he came to live on Arran with his wife Jane and built his studio beside the burn Allt Gobhlach, which runs alongside his home in Pirnmill.

Describing his work, Robert

said: 'I work using an experimental approach to both drawing and mixed-media, responding to the "process" in order to inform the developments in the work. This more intuitive method is underpinned by my interest

in the patterns, forms and the synthesis or web that connects and shapes our natural world.'

In addition to the exhibition at the library, Robert's work can be seen at his studio as part of the Arran Art Trail and Open Studios.



Author Ian McMurdo has produced a work that is 'a real feel-good book, which will delight, inform, entertain and have you laughing out loud'.

New travelogue due for release by Easter

Kildonan author Ian McMurdo's latest book, which is a light-hearted, tongue-in-cheek travelogue of the island, is in the final stages of production and is due to be released by Easter.

It took Ian more than two years to complete his research for the book, Arran: Travels, Treasures & Tales, involving face-to-face interviews with a total of 87 well-known islanders and senior representatives of 30 different organisations, almost all of whom are quoted in the text.

The book essentially takes the reader on a detailed circumnavigation of Arran,

describing its innumerable beauty spots and landmarks, rehearsing its searing history, heritage and culture, and focusing on the nostalgic recollections and raucous tales of many 'local worthies'.

One pre-publication review describes Arran: Travels, Treasures & Tales as 'a real feel-good book, which will delight, inform, entertain and have you laughing out loud'.

Published by Carn Publishing Ltd, Ian's book will soon be available in the shops on Arran, in national bookstores, including Waterstones, and online through Amazon.

A good sign...or a really great sign!

In 2018 **59%** of the properties sold by Robb Residential were sold to southern based or overseas buyers.

Please contact us for a confidential pre sales consultation to find out how we can promote your home to the largest possible national and international audience.

Robb Residential, planned, pro-active, effective middle to prime market property selling solutions.

Robb Residential.....a whole lot more than just posting property on the internet.

Robb Residential | 150 St Vincent Street | Glasgow G2 5NE | T: 0141 225 3880 | www.robbresidential.com

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN

Historical Society learn about the secrets of Malvina's Grave

Charles Currie was the guest speaker at the Arran Historical Society's February meeting where he spoke about the Neolithic cist grave which is at Drumadoon, formerly the Currie family farm at Blackwaterfoot.

Having always known the site as Malvina's Grave, the information was passed onto him through an aural tradition handed down within the fam-

ily. Charles discussed the various excavations of the grave by archaeologists and the reports written by the experts and the changes which occurred to the site through the years. An urn with burnt bones had been excavated in the past.

Over the years the site has changed but many of stones from the original cist and capped grave and stone circle are still on the site.

There are two types of grave common in Scotland and adjacent countries. On Arran there are similar sites one of which at Sliderry is reputed to be Oscar's Grave and another at Clachaig called Ossian's mound.

Charles also discussed the written records there were of ancient Scottish myths and legends. These are some or parts of the heroic stories and

songs that had been recited or sung by the bards when the Gaels were more powerful, especially when lead by the Lord of the Isles.

He highlighted the English translations which generally dated back to the 18th century. One such translation by James McPherson, whose translation was over-egged and, as such, was easily dismissed by the English scholars of that time. This cast doubt on the other records.

Versions of these stories have also survived by being handed down locally in Scotland and Ireland, as in Charles's family. One strand of Charles's ancestors goes back the historic bards to the Lord of the Isles by the name of McMhurrich.

The story begins with Ossian travelling down Loch Fyne on his way to Ireland. He stopped off at Arran on his way and stayed with Toscar of Torlutha (identified as the Doon fort). Toscar's daughter was Malvina, who took a shine to Ossian's son Oscar.

At that time the Shiskine Valley was flooded by the sea and was called Lochlutha. After some time, Ossian went on to Ireland to aid his allies. During the fighting Oscar



Speaker Charles Currie beside Malvina's Grave.

was killed. His body was brought back from Ireland by Ossian and buried at Sliderry. Malvina was distraught and left her father's home and joined Ossian's household.

Much later, when Ossian is old and blind, he came back to Arran and he went overland to visit Oscar's grave. The party was set upon during the journey and Malvina was killed by an arrow. She was brought back and was buried on a ridge halfway between Torlutha and Lochlutha at Drumadoon. Ossian ailed and died before he returned to Ireland and was buried at Clachaig.

These stories that pass into myth and legends are often surprisingly accurate and advancements in technology reg-

ularly confirms what has been known by locals, but has not been scientifically confirmed.

The archaeologists recorded that excavated from Clachaig tomb were remains of a man near six feet in height. Developments in science can now explain changes in sea level round the island and DNA can trace our genes and ancestors up the Atlantic coast from Portugal to the west coast of Scotland.

The trade routes in copper and tin were the seaways up the west coast.

The next meeting of the society is on Monday March 18 at 2pm in Brodick Hall when Gregor Adamson will speak about the history of Arran whisky – legal and illegal.

Touring Scotland
5 Feb – 16 Mar

★★★★★
The Scotsman

Scottish Opera

OPERA Highlights
A heart-warming new production featuring four singers and a pianist

WHITING BAY VILLAGE HALL
TUE 12 MAR, 7.30PM
From £12/£5 (u26s)

Box Office: The Book & Card Centre
Tel: 01770 302 288 | arranevents.com
scottishopera.org.uk

Supported by
The Friends of Scottish Opera
JTH Charitable Trust
The Scottish Opera Endowment Trust

GET 25% OFF IF YOU'RE UNDER 26

Scottish Government
gov.scot

THE ARRAN BANNER
Now delivering news 7 DAYS A WEEK online
www.arranbanner.co.uk
INCLUDES FULL website access and a DIGITAL EDITION of the newspaper

Shiskine ladies put on their dancing shoes

There was a smaller than usual turnout at the February meeting of Shiskine Scottish Women's Institute partly due to some members taking the opportunity to fly off to warmer climes for some winter sunshine.

Unfortunately for them, they missed not only the usual evening of companionship, fun and laughter, but on this occasion the opportunity to have a go at that most uplifting of pastimes: Scottish country dancing.

The visitors were members of the group which meets on Tuesday evening in Brodick church hall.

Club member Marion Devine gave a short informative history of country dancing before the group demonstrated two traditional dances.

This was followed by the company being invited to have a go and that proved so popular that Marion added more dances to the repertoire.

They may not have been

quite as step perfect and elegant as the dancing club, but the institute ladies nevertheless had a very enjoyable time with all feeling by the end that they had had a good workout.

The competition for shortbread was won by Elizabeth Kelso with Elizabeth Ross coming second.

The exhibition of a favourite brooch was won by Alice Anderson with Piet Johnston coming in second and Angela Cassels third.

Only mediator keen to resolve disputes

Patrick Scott is the only professionally registered mediator on Arran, but his work is not widely understood in Scotland. To find out more, the Banner's **Colin Smeeton** met up with Patrick at his home in Whiting Bay to learn more about the practice and learn what being a mediator involves.

After practicing as an advocate in South Africa for 30 years, and then moving to Arran in 2017, Patrick Scott was faced with major difficulties when trying to convert his qualifications to allow him to continue with his career as an advocate in Scotland.

Not wanting to retire from a working life, he has embarked on a new, but related, career as a mediator.

Although he had already undergone a short training course on mediation in South Africa, at the time he did not envisage becoming a professional mediator. But the move to Arran, coupled with the impracticalities and difficulties of continuing the practice of an advocate, re-focused Patrick's attention on the advantages of pursuing a career as a mediator.

In September 2017, he registered for a Master's degree in mediation and conflict resolution at Strathclyde University, attending classes in Glasgow for six months, and then completing his dissertation, entitled 'Mandatory mediation: golden goblet or poisoned chalice?' which deals with the effect of compulsory me-



Patrick Scott.

diation on the parties insofar as their satisfaction with the process is concerned.

Patrick is now registered as a mediator with Scottish Mediation, the professional body for mediators in Scotland, and he has started his own practice, operating from Arran.

At present, he is the only mediator in Ayrshire who is registered with Scottish Mediation, and he is also the only mediator on Arran. In his practice, he deals with business and commercial mediations, family matters, community, neighbour, housing and property issues, and workplace and employment disputes.

The concept of mediation

Patrick is available to give presentations to any organisation or group on Arran, or on the mainland to explain what it is and what the benefits of mediation are.

is not widely understood in Scotland, and Patrick is available to give presentations to any organisation or group on Arran, or on the mainland, who would like to know more about mediation, to explain what it is and what the benefits of mediation are.

In essence, mediation is a relatively inexpensive and expeditious way of resolving disputes between parties, with the least possible negative impact on the relationship between them.

Patrick is also available to mediate disputes between parties. A typical mediation takes about two hours, with a high percentage of success. As the mediator, he would help the parties talk to each

other about a possible resolution of their problem.

Mediation can be conducted through private sessions with each of the parties, with the mediator acting as an intermediary, or in joint sessions with both parties and the mediator together in the room at the same time, or a combination of both. Mediations can also be conducted by telephone.

What distinguishes mediation from other methods of dispute resolution is that the parties determine the outcome, with the mediator acting as a facilitator, but not passing judgment on the merits of either party's case. The parties retain control over whether or not they want to settle, and the terms of any settlement. An important aspect of mediation is that they are confidential, thereby protecting the privacy of the parties, and enabling them to disclose information without fear of any repercussions.

Any group or organisation interested in a presentation on mediation, or anyone who has a dispute requiring resolution, can contact Patrick on 01770 700516 or 07572 258633 and at adv.patrickscott@outlook.com.

CALL NOW TO BOOK
01770 302968



THE DOUGLAS
Hotel · Bistro · Bar
www.thedouglashotel.co.uk

Could we be your new favourite place to eat out?

ALWAYS A GENUINE
WARM WELCOME
SERVING TEA, COFFEE
Delicious Home Baking
SANDWICHES, MEALS AND
SHARING PLATTERS
ALL FRESHLY PREPARED

FOOD SERVED
UNTIL 9PM (8PM ON SUNDAY)

CLOSED EACH MONDAY
DURING THE WINTER

   Find us on Facebook
Twitter and Instagram



ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Scottish Charity Number SC002089

Rosaburn, Brodick, Open Wed - Fri 11am to 3.30pm



THE ISLAND'S FOUR STAR FAMILY DAY OUT

Learn about Arran's Unique Geology, Farming, Archaeology, Social History, Clearances, etc., and visit the 19th Century Cottage, the 1940's Schoolroom, and the Blacksmith's Forge.

Archive and Genealogy researchers welcomed

(on Wednesdays only from 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30pm to 3.30pm or by appointment).

Children's Quiz and Play Area.
Riverside Picnic Area. Gift Shop.
Lovely Snacks and Meals at Café Rosaburn.

Music Arran

presents

ESCOCIA DUO

Saturday 16th March

7.30pm, Brodick Hall

Adults £10, children plus accompanying adult free.

Tickets available on line from www.arranevents.com, at Inspiratons or at the door.

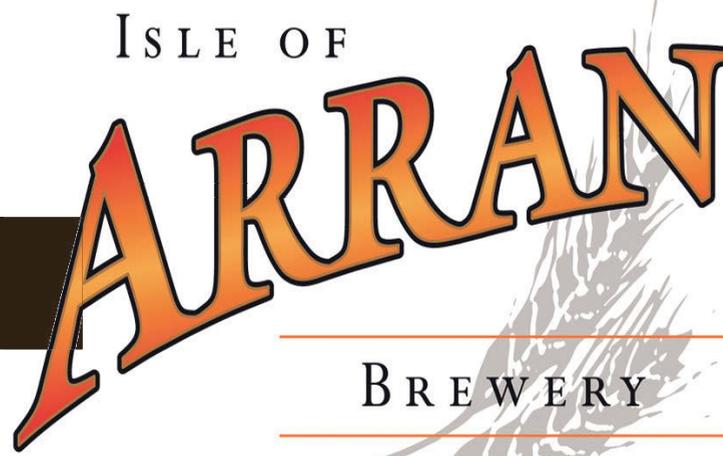
Cafe style seating
BYOB

Krisp Cards
Cards Calendars Gifts
Shop online at www.krispcards.co.uk

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Every day

Octopus Centre
Octopus Centre – tennis
Brodick Mini Golf
Brodick Castle, garden only
Soap making and candle dipping
Public swimming

Swimming lessons
Arran Brewery

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, 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

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

Sunday 10th March

Live music – Ealána Boyle
Family games
Gym Induction
Fun in the pool
Jeremy Moby Levif, currently released his debut album
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Folk music session

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

Monday 11th March

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

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

Tuesday 12th March

Body Blitz (booking essential)
Healthy Outdoors team
Eco Savvy energy surgeries
Eco Social
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
Gym induction
Arran Hockey Club – juniors (5 -14yrs)
Flow Yoga
Netball
Scottish country dancing
Scottish Opera presents opera highlights
Eco Savvy food share

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am – 10.30am
Brodick Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10am - 3pm
Eco Savvy Shop, Whiting Bay, 11am - 3pm
Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Ormidale pavilion, Brodick, 5.30pm
Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 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 Village Hall, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Eco Savvy Hub Shop, 9pm

Trev's pop music quiz
Traditional music sessions

Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Brodick Bar, 9pm

Wednesday 13th March

Yoga
Hydrofit
Brodick Gardens Volunteers
Knit and Blether
Arran Heritage Museum
Chair Yoga exercise class
Archives and Genealogy Service
Dog classes
Arran Pace Makers running group
Flow Yoga
Live music – Shindig
Tae Kwon Do Juniors 6.30pm - 7.30pm, Advanced Juniors & Adults, AHS, 7.30pm -8.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Family pub quiz
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
Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 11.30am - 1.30pm
Rosaburn, Brodick, 11am - 3.30pm
St Molios Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am
Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am -12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 12.30pm
Brodick, 5.30pm
Shiskine Hall, 6pm
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Juniors & Adults, AHS, 7.30pm -8.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 14th March

Morning fitness
Chair Yoga exercise class
Arran Heritage Museum
Lamlash Messy Church
Steak night – two 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
Lamlash SWI
Eco Savvy Food Share
Eco Savvy Food Share
Tommy's general knowledge quiz

Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am -10.30am
Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am
Rosaburn, Brodick, 11am - 3.30pm
Lamlash Church Hall, 3.30pm - 5.30pm
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
Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30
Brodick Ormidale Pavilion, 8.15pm
Kilmory Hall, 8.30pm
Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 15th March

Yoga
Hydrofit
Arran Heritage Museum
Gym induction
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Tae Kwon Do
Live music – Rob Muir
Friday night quiz

Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am -10.30am
Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.30am - 10.30am
Rosaburn, Brodick, 11am - 3.30pm
Auchrannie Spa, 5.30pm
Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Advanced (Advanced Class) Arran High School, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm

Saturday 16th March

Flow Yoga
Shiskine Hall auction
Winter rink bowls
Family games
Gym induction
Fun in the pool
Live music – Tim Pomeroy
Live music – Blues Mama, Glasgow-based blues band
Over-21s disco

Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
Shiskine Hall, doors open at 1pm for 2pm start.
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



www.arranbrewery.com

Chaffinch top the table of Arran's top 10 birds

Bird notes by Jim Cassels

The last weekend in January was the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch, the 40th year of the event.

Individuals, families or groups not only took part in this survey of garden birds but some shared their results with me. This year there were 24 sets of results sent to me. This was a few less than last year. Some participants commented on the negative impact of the unsettled weather on the number of birds that were around but this is not reflected in the overall figures. In fact more species were recorded this year.

The following were recorded this year but not recorded in 2018: song thrush, goldcrest, great spotted woodpecker, common gull and raven. In contrast the following were not recorded this year but were recorded in 2018: blackcap, grey wagtail and mistle thrush. This year in the survey, 30 species were recorded in Arran gardens.

This year chaffinch was reported in every garden except one in the survey. This is similar to the last eight years. Chaffinch remains not only



Robins, above, were recorded in fewer gardens this year. Photograph: Charlotte Clough, while woodpigeon, above right, moved into the top 10 this year. Photograph: Dennis Morrison.



Greenfinch saw a big increase in the numbers reported in Arran gardens. Photograph: Angela Cassels.

the 'top garden' bird, in terms of the percentage of gardens in which it is seen, but also chaffinch had the largest total of birds, namely 181.

From the collation from all the gardens, the top 10 birds this year in terms of the number of gardens in which they were seen are: chaffinch, blue tit, coal tit, great tit, robin, blackbird, house sparrow,

dunnock, crow (hooded/carrion) and woodpigeon. The first eight of these have been in the top 10 in slightly different orders for the last five years. While robin has gone down the order from last year, the tit family has all gone up. Crow and woodpigeon have replaced siskin and goldfinch from the top 10 of 2018. Another notable change from

last year is greenfinch. Last year it was recorded in 17 per cent of gardens whereas this year it was reported in 39 per cent of gardens. This may be reflecting a recovery from the devastation caused to greenfinch by the parasitic disease, *Trichomonas*.

By far the largest total of birds seen was chaffinch with 181. House sparrow was the next most counted species with 105, coal tit was third with 60, closely followed by blue tit on 55. For a collation of all the Arran data from the Big Garden Birdwatch for the last four years visit this webpage <http://www.arranbirding.co.uk/files/arrangardenbirdsummary2019-2016.jpg>

While this information is interesting, too much should not be read into these small samples. It is a fun survey to do but it only covers one weekend in the year. If you enjoyed doing it, there is a garden bird watch that you can join that encourages people to record their garden bird sightings every week of the year, the British Trust for Ornithology Garden Bird Watch (GBW). To find out more about the BTO



Chaffinch were the most spotted birds in the survey. Photograph: Angela Cassels.

Garden Bird Watch visit the website <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw>

Finally in Sweden there is a similar survey to the RSPB survey. The most frequent bird table visitor from the Swedish survey is great tit, with other species at the head of the list taken by tree sparrow, greenfinch, yellowhammer, blue tit and blackbird. (Winter Birds by Lars Jonsson published by Bloomsbury in 2017)

Enjoy your birding. Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at jim@arranbirding.co.uk I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2017 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk

Arran's garden bird top 10

- 1 Chaffinch
- 2 Blue tit
- 3 Coal tit
- 4 Great tit
- 5 Robin
- 6 Blackbird
- 7 House sparrow
- 8 Dunnock
- 9 Crow (hooded/carrion)
- 10 Woodpigeon



THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday March 6, 1999

Arran earthquake

At a few seconds before 17 minutes past midnight on Thursday March 4 an earthquake was felt on Arran which measured 4.0 on the Richter scale.

The epicentre was 4km south of the mouth of Lagg Burn. It was at a depth of 19km. It was also the largest earth tremor in this area since 1927 when 4.1 was felt and the largest in the UK since 1994 when a similar magnitude was felt at Norwich. In fact there are up to 30 earthquakes annually in the UK but only about 30 are actually felt.

While the earthquake was exciting enough, it did not turn out to be the prediction of David Icke who said, in

1991, that Arran would be destroyed by an earthquake of scale eight to nine. No structural damage was reported other than a burst water main at Low Glenclay.

Mark Padfield of Brodick, who experienced the tremor, said: 'We had the floods in October, the hurricane at Christmas, now we've just had an earthquake. I wonder if we will see the year 2000!'

Young winner

The Arran Drama Festival has once again been a resounding success with many participants performing in various plays and an appreciative audience attending every evening.

The Monie Kelso Trophy is

one of the most prestigious awards at the festival. At the adjudicator's discretion, it is given each year to the best actor or actress in any adult play. The list of winners down the years is like a Who's Who of amateur drama on Arran, but on Saturday adjudicator Ron Nicol gave this award to an 11-year-old girl.

Pamela Mason is in Primary 7 at Pirnmill School and on Friday night she acted in Pirnmill Players' production of And Go To Innisfree. So good was her portrayal of young Anna that Mr Nicol felt it deserving of the Monie Kelso Trophy and the accolade of best actor/actress of the festival. Quite an achievement for such a

young lady, but not a surprise to the cognoscenti.

No yellow lines

Astonishingly, North Ayrshire Council has shelved the idea of putting parking restrictions in Brodick. At Wednesday's planning meeting, a recommendation to abandon proposals for traffic regulations, which had taken years to achieve, was approved.

There were eight maintained objections and a number of 'high profile' objectors. Now they plan to have a public consultation, even though this had already been done. The police, in favour of yellow lines for safety reasons, would not comment.



Pamela Mason of Pirnmill Players, who, at age 11, took the best actor award at this year's drama festival with adjudicator Ron Nicol. 01_B10tw01



A healthy gathering of children from Arran villages visited the Brodick Library to meet with author Margaret Ryan who wrote *The Littlest Dragon*. 01_B10tw03



Evelyn Broadis will oversee a skill tasting programme with Argyll Training's Fraser McCowan and Kay Shanks. The scheme will provide a sample of work experience for Arran's unemployed. 01_B10tw02



Arran Mountain Rescue Team leader Alastair Hume breaks open a bottle from butcher Donald Mackay who collected £415.36 from customers for the team. 01_B10tw04



Rugby players selected to play for Ayrshire after successful trials: Andrew Young, Iain MacDonald, James Primrose and Robert Primrose. 01_B10tw05

CLASSIFIEDS

PAINTER AND DECORATOR



FULTON
decorators

LAMLASH
TEL/FAX 01770 600705
Est. 1985

• All paintwork undertaken
• Any job, large or small
• Paper hanging
• Floor sanding & sealing
• Phone Gavin Fulton for a free estimate

PRINTING

Moving home?



Don't forget your change of address cards
01586 554975

Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown
email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk

krispprint

Private sales

free listings for items under £50

Household

SOLID OAK CORNER TV UNIT Oak Furnitureland French Farmhouse. Brand new and still boxed. £125.00 (less than half price) Call 700405.

BANNER CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER CLASSIFIEDS

Poultry

HY-LINE POINT OF LAY PULLETS. Tel Colin: 07968 259502

POINT OF LAY PULLETS Breeding Trio Bluebell pullets. Tel: 01770 860358

BANNER CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER CLASSIFIEDS



SCOTTISH FIELD'S
APRIL ISSUE
OUT NOW

Coastal special

Beautiful Crinan interior...
Coastal walks... Gerard Butler...
Aberdeenshire under the spotlight...
Diesel the fire dog... Stonehaven
Banksy... Secrets of skiff racing...

DRIVE TIMES

CHEVROLET AVEO (2011) 1.1 HATCHBACK



Black with black interior. 74k miles. Just had MOT and Service. Manual, cruise control, digital dash. 4 doors, black alloys. Perfect runabout or first car. Located in Brodick, Arran

£2,500

Tel: 07703 206237 (Graham)

FREEGO MARTIN SPORT ELECTRIC BIKE



(E - Bike) Dark Grey Hybrid, on-off road. Bafang (Hi 80 Nm Torque) Crank Motor. Lithium-ion 36v 11.6Ah battery. Up to 65 mile range with pedal assist. 20" hand-made Aluminium frame. Suntour, front fork hydraulic suspension. Shimano Alivio gears. Tektro hydraulic disc brakes. In "as new" showroom condition

Call 700 405

£1,400

BANNER BANNER

DRIVE TIMES DRIVE TIMES

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

- 1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
- 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
- 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
- 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
- 5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
- 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
- 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
- 8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
- 9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Lamlash Bowling Club
Committee Meeting
14th March at 6pm
A.G.M.
21st March at 6pm

GET SMART

with the Arran Banner
annual digital subscription
AND SAVE

From as little as
48P
per week



THE ARRAN BANNER
www.arranbanner.co.uk



CELEBRATE SCOTLAND'S
COUNTRYSIDE AT THE
2019 SCOTTISH RURAL AWARDS
CEREMONY & GALA DINNER



THURSDAY 21st MARCH 2019
AT DYNAMIC EARTH, EDINBURGH

TICKETS NOW ON SALE AT:
www.scottishruralawards.org/buy-tickets-for-2019

RECRUITMENT IN ASSOCIATION WITH HIJOBS

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERT IN THE ARRAN BANNER:

TELEPHONE: 01770 302142
Lines open: Mon to Fri 9am- 5pm

FAX: 01770
302021

E-MAIL: adverts@arranbanner.co.uk
Please remember to give your name,
address, postcode and phone number.

Visit hijobs.net

CALLING ALL CHEFS AND HOUSEKEEPERS

THE SUMMER SEASON IS APPROACHING!

Fun, sun (we hope...especially on our days off) and a great working environment. WE ARE LOOKING FOR GOOD PEOPLE TO COME AND JOIN US.



Drop in with your CV and tell us a bit about YOU or email us hr@thedouglashotel.co.uk THANK YOU



We are looking for a seasonal housekeeper to join our team, good rate of pay, working with a fabulous wee team, we are looking for someone to work for approx 30 hours per week, over 4 days (including some weekend work) - this job starts around the end of March until the end of October - would you like to join us?



We are also looking for a Sous Chef and a Chef De Partie, both of these are permanent jobs, with excellent salary and accommodation available - if you are interested in joining our busy kitchen brigade please get in touch!

Bell's of Arran

PART-TIME SHOP ASSISTANT / SEAMSTRESS.

Seasonal position. Min. of 2 days, up to full time hrs to cover holidays/ sickness/ busy periods.

Applicants should be good with customers, friendly, cheerful, self-motivated and preferably have good sewing skills. Training will be provided.

Contact Elizabeth Bell at bellofarran@gmail.com or call in to the shop for application form.

Café Thyme at the Old Byre Visitor Centre, Machrie

Full time front of house supervisor required.

Applicants should be customer focussed, friendly and highly motivated. They must have a hands on approach as well as keeping records and checklists up to date. Experience would be preferred.

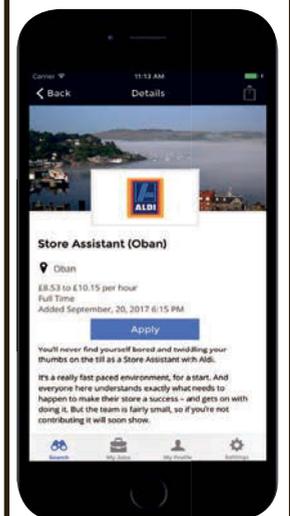
Waiting staff, full time and part time positions available, experience preferred but not essential as training will be given.

Please apply with CV to lorna@oldbyre.co.uk



RECRUITMENT **HIJOBS** RECRUITMENT
RECRUITMENT **HIJOBS** RECRUITMENT

We've made it even easier to find your next job in the perfect location.



Download our app for free at hijobs.co.uk/app

HIJOBS



FROM
48p
PER WEEK

INCLUDES FULL website access and a DIGITAL EDITION of the newspaper

THE ARRAN BANNER

Now delivering news 7 DAYS A WEEK ONLINE

www.arranbanner.co.uk

Hosted by Balcormo Stud and EQy Magazine

MRS BREENS BOYS!

- A Trevor and Shane Breen Demonstration at SNEC

For one night only, brothers Shane and Trevor Breen will be in Scotland showing and telling us their tactics, methods and secrets of what keeps them at the top!

Both at the top of their sport of showjumping but world renowned for being out and out horsemen!

Come along to watch them ride and to listen to the craic!

Date: 19th March

Get your tickets NOW at totaltickets.org or call Balcormo Stud on 07715 545 769

Tickets: £30.00

*A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the RDA.

HENDRY
FUNERAL SERVICES LTD

15 Glen Avenue, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DQ
Tel: 01770 302233 Fax: 01770 302883

Independent Funeral Directors • All Funeral arrangements
Agents for Golden charter Funeral Plans &
Robertson Memorials. A member of S.A.I.F

Telephone David or Clair Tel: 01770 302233

CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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

Minister: Rev Angus Adamson, Parish Assistant: Mrs Jean Hunter: Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

Sunday 10th March Pirnmill and Lochranza Churches together, 10.15am Morning Worship at Pirnmill,

followed by the Stated Annual meeting.

Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship. Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship.

Corrie Church, 11.30am Prayer Meeting, 12noon Morning Worship. There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland,

Charity Number: SC014005

Sunday 10th March Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am with the emphasis on the "Stewardship of Time". There will be a short Stated Annual Meeting at the close of worship for the congregation to receive the accounts. There will be a Soup and Sandwich Lunch served after the meeting. Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service. All most welcome.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 10th March 2019 Service 11am

Ormidale Pavilion Tea and coffee after the service

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer. Telephone 600222 Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Sunday 10th March 2019

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

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH Sunday 10th March 2019

Sunday Mass 11am

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH (Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church) St Margaret's, Whiting Bay. Sunday 10th March

Holy Communion - 11 am. Revd Canon Simon Mackenzie

Coffee after service ALL WELCOME

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

Sunday 10th 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 10th March 2019 Rev Dr Ian MacLeod

Kilmory - 10 am, Lamlash - 11.30 am.

All welcome, including families; children's area

Scottish Charity SC015072

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 10th 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 CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 10th March 2019 Service 11am

Ormidale Pavilion Tea and coffee after the service

Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer. Telephone 600222

Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 10th March 2019 Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)

Brodick 6pm

Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 10th March 2019 Sunday Mass 11am

Weather does not deter Arran golfers

Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday February 28, Yellow Medal. 1 Allan Colquhoun 67-8=59, 2 Andy Smith 73-12=61. Magic twos, Allan Colquhoun at 16th, Jim Young at fifth.

Sunday March 3, Winter League. Lamlash 2.5-Machrie 1.5. Congratulations Lamlash on winning the Duncan Trophy and thank you to all the players, throughout the winter, who contributed to this victory.

Fixtures: Sunday March 10, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon. Thursday March 14, Yellow Medal, Stableford, 11am. Sunday March 18, game at Whiting Bay, 10.30am for 11am.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday March 3, AGA Winter League. Whiting Bay beat Brodick by three games to one to clinch the runners-up trophy again. Well done to all who represented the club this winter and congratulations to Lamlash for winning the Duncan Trophy.

Fixture: Sunday March 10, Winter Cup, final round, draw at 10am. With the best three scores to count out of a possible six, it is all to play for, with several players in with a chance.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday March 4, Winter Cup. 1 J McGovern 71-10=61, 2 A McDonald 74-12=62. Magic twos, L Hartley, A McDonald 2, J McGovern 2.

Fixtures: Saturday March 9, 18-hole sweep, ballots at 9am and 1.30pm. Monday March 11, Winter Cup, ballot at noon.



Taking the AGA Winter League trophy with nine points were Lamlash, who won the title on home soil.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday February 27. Wednesday Cup. A total of eight played on a lovely day and it resulted in a tie with 22pts between G Dobson and R McCrae with Graham winning on countback. Magic twos, D Robertson.

Fixtures: Sunday March 10, Winter Cup, Stableford, 9am and noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday March 2, Stableford Sweep, 1 equal Phil Betley and Brian Sherwood 18 pts, 3 Campbell Laing 15 pts.

Tuesday March 5, Winter Cup, 1 Brian Sherwood 64, 2 Willie McNally 68, 3 Hamish Bannatyne 69. Magic twos, Willie McNally.

Fixture: Tuesday March 12, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee off, noon.

Arran Ladies Golf Union

Saturday February 23,

Shiskine Drumadoon. With the weather forecast to be fair, the 15 ladies who took part were actually set for a really nasty surprise. Around 1pm the skies opened and with the strong prevailing wind, playing conditions became very difficult - as reflected in the scores.

1 Sheena Murchie 15, 76, BIH, 2 Jenni Turnbull 17, 76, 3 Lynda Blair 26, 77. Scratch, Ann May 84, There were five non returns.

Thanks as always to Stuart Fotheringham and his team, to Shiskine Golf Club for courtesy of the course and to Alan Dunlop of The Teerom for the very welcome sandwiches and soup.

Arran Golfers' Association Sunday March 3, AGA Winter League final held at Lamlash. Despite the inclement weather forecast

the day was most pleasant, setting the scene at Lamlash for a good day's golf.

Lamlash were leading by two points and, with home advantage, secured the league with 2.5 games to 1.5 against Machrie Bay, registering nine points from a possible 10.

The runners-up were Whiting Bay, who beat Brodick three games to one with seven points.

Other results: Shiskine beat Corrie by three games to one, Whiting Bay beat Brodick by three games to one, Lamlash beat Machrie Bay by 2.5 games to 1.5.

This left the tables at: Lamlash nine points, Whiting Bay seven points, Brodick five points, Machrie Bay four points, Shiskine four points and Corrie one point.

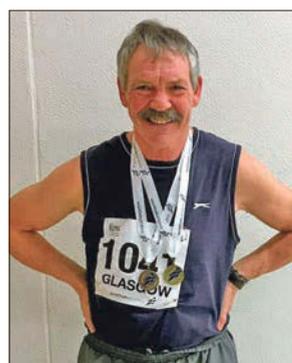
Douglas takes Masters golds

Retired Arran High School head teacher Douglas Auld has continued his long and very successful career in athletics by winning two gold medals.

Taking part in the Scottish Masters Indoor Athletic Championships at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow last month, Douglas, from Whiting Bay, won the two medals in the men's over-65 category.

Having previously won the high jump in the over-40s category, he now continues with the tradition and has taken gold in the over-65 category.

His other gold medal was



Douglas Auld won two gold medals in Glasgow.

for the shot putt, which is unsurprising owing to the fact that he was the former Scottish schools champion.

Arran Bridge Club results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club aggregate competition played on Monday February 25 were: N/S 1 Jennifer McArthur and Helen Thorburn, 2 Margaret MacGill and Jessmay Peacock, 3 Doug Chase and Jennifer Wales. E/W 1 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 Brenda Livingstone and Pat Adamson, 3 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan.

The results of the Boyd Trophy competition played on Thursday February 28 were: 1 Janie Maclure

and Anne McKelvie, 2 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton, 3 Margaret MacGill and Jennifer Wales, 4 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan.

Do you love to play cards, would you like to boost your brain power? Anyone interested is invited to go along for some bridge lessons and chat on Tuesdays at 2.30pm at Brodick Golf Club.

As tennis player Martina Navratilova said: 'No matter where I go, I can always make new friends at the bridge table.'



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/arranbanner

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT
£2100

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph below. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 2pm Tuesday. No refunds will be given for entries received after the deadline.

You may hand it into any of our offices - The Oban Times, Lochavullin, Oban; The Lochaber Times, High Street, Fort William; The Campbeltown Courier, Main Street, Campbeltown; The Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead or the Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the

competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Winners agree to have their photograph taken for publicity purposes. Winners' names and home towns will appear in the newspaper. Employees of Wyvex Media, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter. We will protect your personal data. We only gather what we need for the requirements of this competition. Entry data will be deleted/destroyed within 30 days of the competition entry deadline and in a manner appropriate to GDPR regulations. Entrant's details will not be used for any other activity.



Please remember to enclose £1 for 20 crosses. The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB or hand in to any of our offices as detailed above.

Name

Address

Tel No.

Please
tape your
£1 coin here
(only if posting)

Sally made

Arran woman sailed into uncharted waters as part of first all-female crew in Whitbread Round the World yacht race

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



An Arran sailor who was a member of the first all-female international crew in the Whitbread Round the World yacht race 30 years ago has been back in the spotlight this week.

Sally Hunter - then Sally Creaser - was the only Scot to be part of the phenomenal achievement of the crew, who battled not only the forces of Mother Nature but a macho yachting community and sneering male-dominated sports media which, in one case, referred to them and their yacht as a 'tin full of tarts'.

Now Sally's story is being retold in the documentary Maiden, which goes on general release today (Friday), International Women's Day.

The film has been previewed on TV and in the press all week since its UK premiere at the CCA in Glasgow as part of the Glasgow Film Festival, attended by Sally and skipper Tracy Edwards.

It recalls the astonishing determination of a then 24-year-old Tracy Edwards and the crew to defy critics and sexist attitudes to not simply bring together the race's first all-female crew, but to win the challenging Southern Ocean leg and then end the race in overall second place for their category. As well as shattering a sea-faring glass ceiling, the crew achieved the best result for a British boat in the

race in 17 years, an achievement which is yet to be bettered.

On board the Maiden, and making sporting history, was Sally from Glasgow. Bitten by the sailing bug as a young girl thanks to her parents' sailing boat in Troon, she admits it would be well after the thrill of taking part had subsided that she fully appreciated what a blow for equality it had really been.

'You get caught up in things, and it's just something you are doing,' she told The Herald newspaper. 'It was a bit like my father used to talk about the war. It did not seem outrageous because everyone was doing the same thing, just trying to race. It felt normal.'

'When you look back at some of the things that were said to us and how we were treated, people wouldn't get away with it now.'

But, of course, it was not. While sailor Clare Francis had become the first woman to skipper a yacht in the Whitbread Round the World race in 1977/78, an all-women crew was largely regarded as doomed to fail.

Tracy Edwards endured the bulk of the sneers and sexist questioning.

One incident, captured in the



FROM 48p PER WEEK

THE ARRAN BANNER

Now delivering news 7 DAYS A WEEK online
www.arranbanner.co.uk

INCLUDES FULL website access and a DIGITAL EDITION of the newspaper

history on Maiden voyage



opening sequence of Maiden, shows her gamely responding to photographers' pleas to smile more. Another sees her batting away a question from a female television presenter about packing waterproof mascara for a race in which staying alive and unhurt was a bigger issue than make-up.

Tracy was already determined to skipper an all-female crew when Sally heard about her from a contact she had met during a Scottish regatta.

Having tracked her down, Sally's interview to join the crew was brief and unconventional. 'She walked in through the door, laughed and told a joke and I thought, "She'll be

on the boat"; laughs Tracy.

Even with her crew in place, Tracy faced an uphill struggle to find sponsors willing to throw support behind an all-women team for an endurance challenge that would take them on a five-month, 32,018-nautical-mile journey which in previous years had claimed lives on the way.

Surprisingly, perhaps, it was King Hussain of Jordan who stepped in to offer vital support. A second-hand yacht was secured, and the women took up tools to repair it for the challenge ahead. That they finished the first leg – never mind raced home in third place – stunned many. Their success in the

second leg confirmed they were no fluke team.

Tracy, despite a relative lack of experience as a skipper, had gambled on sailing the shortest but most challenging route. The crew would go on to win another leg of the race, before finishing in overall second place for their yacht's class.

The final finishing line, with Maiden escorted home by a flotilla of small yachts and greeted by thousands of cheering supporters, brought a mix of emotions amid the celebrations.

'It was a strange feeling. It was hard to believe it was just going to end,' reflects Sally.

Tracy went on to become a

figurehead for women in sport, receiving the MBE while, back home in Scotland, Sally continued to sail for enjoyment and sport, to marry husband Iain, move to Arran, have a family and run the couple's business, Hunter Yacht Deliveries.

She now sees the changes that the Maiden's crew inspired.

'We didn't think anything of it at the time. But when you look back at some of the things that were said to us and how we were treated, people wouldn't get away with it now. That's a sign of how things have changed.'

Onboard Maiden, Sally worked mostly in the cockpit, at the helm or winches. However, she told the

Banner this week: 'I sometimes feel that the whole Maiden project is portrayed as being some rather miserable existence which the girls on board had to simply endure to get it done.'

'I remember it as being huge fun. We were a bunch of girls who loved racing yachts and being at sea, and we got the chance to compete in the most iconic yacht race there was. We all got on very well with each other, had a good boat to sail, were sailing round the world ... what's not to love?'

Maiden is being released in UK cinemas today (Friday). Visit www.Maiden.film for more information.



Above: Tracy Edwards, left, and Sally Hunter aboard the Maiden in a shot from the film; left: the crew on board the Maiden celebrate their success; and Tracy, left, and Sally at the UK premiere in Glasgow last week.





INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Sally made history on
Maiden voyage

Hip Flask take a hit from rampant Arran

The Hip Flask AFC	0
Arran AFC	8
League Cup group A	

Still on a high from a huge team celebration the night before, a slightly bedraggled Arran team travelled to Kilwinning Sports Club where they managed to score a stunning victory against The Hip Flask AFC with a convincing 8-0 win.

The team had spent the previous evening celebrating the marriage of their manager William Sillars and his partner Jenna Campbell. And adding to the celebrations, the Arran team pulled off an impressive victory with Archie McNicol and Nick Emsley both scoring a brace.

Christopher 'Babbies' MacNeil opened the scoring for the Arran team and Joel Small, Johnny Sloss and Ryan Armstrong ensured a steady stream of goals continued for the visitors until the full-time whistle blew, with the The Hip Flask being unable to add their own contribution to the scoreboard.

John Drummond was nominated as the man of the match for his competent work on the field during the game. Arran are still top of group A in the League Cup with four wins out of four, scoring an impressive 27 goals and conceding just four.



Clockwise from above: A Hip Flask player slides in to tackle an Arran striker bearing down on goal; Christopher 'Babbies' MacNeil wastes no time in getting the ball back into play from the corner; players leap into the air to win possession.



The next fixture for Arran will be tomorrow (Sunday) when they face Galston AFC at Greenwood Academy, Irvine, with a kick off time of 2pm. All supporters would be warmly welcomed and greatly appreciated.



LAMLASH GARAGE



CAR & MOTORCYCLE MOT TESTING – LASER WHEEL ALIGNMENT
For fast, efficient, friendly service - contact our reception on: 01770 600328

All Makes Serviced & Repaired By Fully Qualified Personnel



NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



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



The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd), www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 31 December 2016 and 31 December 2017 for combined print and digital editions was 2,930.