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Saturday 16 March, 2019

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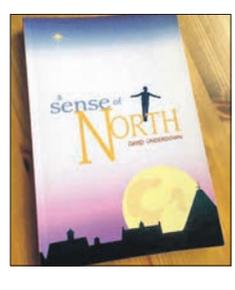
80p

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT

Win! £2150

SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

David launches second book



Students memorial benches unveiled



Castle countdown begins

'The whole effect is to make the castle feel alive and to transform visitors to another place and another time'

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

site of the former cafe, and there will be a new route through the castle itself.

The much-anticipated re-opening of Brodick Castle is just a matter of weeks away.

The castle has been closed for two years to allow extensive fire prevention works and for the design of a new castle visitor experience, both of which are now nearing completion.

And castle bosses have pledged that the new interactive exhibits will only enhance the visitor experience to what is – and always has been – Brodick Castle.

All of the artefacts of the collections, many of which had been stored on the mainland, have been returned and, while many of the favourites will be back on display, visitors can also expect to see some new items, which have long been in storage, and a few surprises.

Operations manager Jared Bowers and his team are hard at work training staff and putting the finishing touches to the castle ready for its grand reopening to the public on Friday April 5, with a special sneak preview for local stakeholders two days earlier.

All castle guides will now be in traditional Victorian costumes, there will be music in some of the rooms and special lighting, all to tell the story of the castle and the people who lived there.

The first change visitors to the castle will see is a new pay booth at the entrance to the car park. The previous visitor centre has been revamped into the new Woodland Cafe, in the style of a modern coffee shop.

Jared told the Banner: 'The whole effect is to make the castle feel alive and to transform visitors to another place

At the castle itself, visitors will enter through a spacious entrance hall, created on the



Brodick Early Years book bugs

The Brodick Early Years class were all smiles as they joined librarian Nickey Summer for an afternoon of reading, singing and dressing up as their favourite literary character at the Brodick Library on World Book Day last week.

Continued on page two

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JUST 3 REMAINING

Lambing season sparks new police warning to dog owners

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Police on Arran have launched a new initiative, working with partners across Scotland, to remind dog owners of their responsibilities when exercising their pets in the countryside.

'Your Dog - Your Responsibility' is a five-month campaign being run by the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC) to ensure dog owners understand the distressing nature, as well as emotional and financial impact, dog attacks on sheep can have.

Arran Sergeant Dougie Robertson said: 'Although incidents of livestock worrying are mercifully rare on Arran, with lambing season under way it should not be underestimated the impact an out-of-control dog can have in a field. Even the stress of being merely chased can lead to sheep losing their lambs, or sheep themselves dying.

'The vast majority of dog owners who either reside on or visit the island are responsible. However, it is important to remember that regardless of whether a dog has been let off a lead and is not obeying commands, the owner is always responsible.

'Arran has some of the finest scenery in Scotland, and islanders are rightly proud of their home. Although a leisure destination for many, the island is a workplace for others and I would ask that dog owners are mindful of livestock, respect the access code and remain vigilant.'

Further information regarding the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and dog ownership can be found at www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/practical-guide-all/dog-walking

Pregnant sheep are particularly vulnerable at this time of year.

Photograph: Dougie Robertson.



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Checkatrade

Castle countdown begins

Continued from page one and another time. While we believe the new interpretations will help tell the history of the castle, and its people, we can assure visitors that every essence of Brodick Castle remains.'

There will be a new single admission price to the castle and gardens of £13.50 for adults and £9.50 children/concession which allows access to all areas, including the Isle be Wild playpark, just £1 dearer than the pre-closure price, but there will be no gardens only admission.

'Amazing value'

Jared said he believed the price was 'amazing value for money' and still cheaper than similar attractions on the mainland.

And there is a lot happening in the gardens too. A new fairy and legends trail has been created behind the playpark.

Aimed at younger children, this short woodland walk is a celebration of Arran's magical folklore, especially its close links with the fairy world.

The work around the sundial and the walled garden, as highlighted by the Banner in January, continues apace and, in another exciting development, the long-closed Plant



Operations manager Jared Bowers in the grand entrance hall of the castle which is unchanged. The 87 stags heads here, all but one from Arran, were removed and cleaned while the castle was closed. 01_B11castle01

Hunter's Walk is nearing completion for reopening.

While the castle is reopening to the public next month, the official launch will take place on the weekend of May 4 to 6, as part of the Tales of Brodick event, which will be a fun and interactive family event inside the castle. Featuring special characters on the castle tour, these performers will share some of the more interesting stories about life at Brodick over the

centuries, of which there are many. Before then the castle will stage their ever popular Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt over the Easter weekend from April 19 to 21 which this year will also feature a teddy bears' picnic.

A full programme of events has also been drawn up for the rest of the year which will culminate in a special Christmas at Brodick extravaganza which is still in the planning stage.

Students set benchmark with memorial creation

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

After nearly a year of toil, woodworking students at Arran High School have completed work on two memorial benches and presented them to the patron of the project at a moving, but joyous, presentation.

The commission, by Graham Chappell of Brodick, was offered to the Arran High School's woodworking class to design and create two benches in honour of his mother Jean, who passed away in 2016 and father, Peter, who passed away in 2017.

The solidly built and creatively designed benches were designed by the children themselves, with the inlaid features sourced by Graham, and all under the watchful eye of teacher, Steve Garraway.

The design features a quilt



pattern – Jean's major interest – and a real Canadian maple leaf encapsulated in acrylic

which was sourced from Moira Lake, Ontario, where some of Graham's parents'

ashes are scattered. The wood is Canadian Douglas fir.

The link to the inlaid leaf

Teacher Steve Garraway and some of the Arran High pupils who designed and created the memorial benches for Graham Chappell, who is seated on the left with Dusty the Irish setter.

and the choice of wood is owing to the family having strong connections to Canada and it is also the reason behind a grand 10,000-mile journey undertaken by Graham last year.

Prior to scattering the ashes of his parents, Graham took his parents for one last Canadian road trip, driving the entire Trans Canada Highway, one of the longest roads in the world, from St John's, Newfoundland, to Victoria, British Columbia, and back again, in 25 days. A book detailing the journey

is due to be published in December this year. Speaking at the presentation attended by some of the students who helped to create the benches, Graham said: 'The students at Arran High did an awesome job and a lot of thanks must also go to their teacher, Steve Garraway, for guiding them through the design and construction process. It has been such a pleasure to involve the school in the bench project and in the road trip last year.'

One of the benches will be situated outside Graham's shop, Arran Graphics, near the busy start of the Goatfell walk and the other will be placed in his garden for quiet remembrance.

YOURSTORY
share with us: editor@arranbanner.co.uk
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The Healthy Outdoors Team celebrate their seventh birthday with a cake, enjoyed outdoors in a copse near Glen Rosa.

Volunteers celebrate seven years of being HOT

The Healthy Outdoors Team (HOT) who volunteer their time to take part in the care and maintenance of the National Trust for Scotland's country park in Brodick celebrated their seventh birthday recently.

The group, whose emphasis is on mental and physical health and friendship through healthy exercise and being outdoors in nature, has played a huge role in conservation activities in the Brodick Castle grounds.

Led by volunteer Jo Totty, who helped to establish the group in 2012, the aim of the volunteer organisation has stayed true to its goals of giving everyone the op-

portunity to improve both their physical and mental health, improve their local environment and, more importantly, to have fun and make new friends.

During the seven years of existence, they have helped with clearing rhododendrons, painted bridges, created hedges, built a tree nursery and maintained flowerbeds and gardens among many other activities.

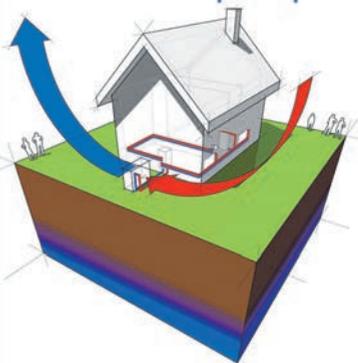
Another valuable contribution they have provided has been taking hardwood cuttings and nurturing a huge number of trees in their nursery that will be planted in Glen Rosa as

part of a major regeneration project for the glen.

Long-term volunteer Jo said: 'Since the start of the group we've had over 20 different volunteers who have contributed more than 3,200 hours to conservation on Arran – the equivalent of one full-time person working for 20 months. Keep up the amazing work and dedication.'

Anyone is welcome to join the HOT team and will be warmly welcomed. Meetings take place at the Ranger Centre every Tuesday at 10am. Further details about the group can be obtained by calling 01770 302462.

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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
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Left: a portion of the rubbish that was collected by volunteers at Corriecravie; above, the boggy terrain is littered with flotsam and jetsam which is carried ashore.
Photographs: Douglas Cook

Coastal clean-up at Corriecravie

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by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Volunteers from the Arran Access Trust spent a morning tackling the huge amount of beach litter that has accumulated on the shore near Corriecravie.

Joined by staff from the Lochranza Field Centre and the Geopark footpath team, the group decided on the location, which is an alterna-

tive route for the Coastal Way Walk owing to its remote location, which means that it does not get the attention from bigger villages and their beach cleaning groups.

Scouring the littered terrain, the group gathered a large amount of detritus, which included a large proportion of plastic, and filled 10 bulk bags with the marine litter.

Local farmers Charlie

McAlaster and Pete Brown helped with the operation by transporting the bags to the roadside for removal by the council.

The Arran Access Trust has more beach cleans planned and would be keen to hear from anyone who is willing to lend a hand. Malcolm Whitmore can be contacted on 700367 and can provide further information on future events.



Volunteers collect coastal litter from the shores and further inland at Corriecravie.

ARRAN HERITAGE MUSEUM
A.G.M.
Thursday 21st March at 2pm
in Brodick Church Hall.
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David's second poetry book is launched in Corrie

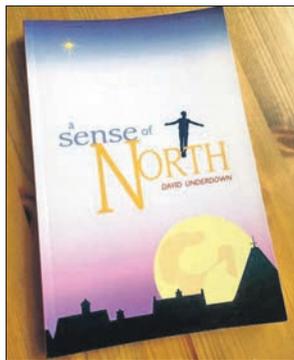
This weekend will be an important milestone for local poet David Underdown who launches his second poetry collection called *A Sense of North in Corrie* and Sannox village hall tomorrow (Sunday).

David has been living – and writing – on the island for more than 20 years. He says that after moving here he always had a plan to make more time for writing but he never imagined that what he would write would be poetry.

'I've Alison Prince to thank for that,' he explains. When, soon after arriving, he joined her writing group, it was to work on short stories that he hoped might one day lead to a full-length novel. Then, after a while, he decided that story telling wasn't his thing and that what he really enjoyed writing was poetry. 'Perhaps it's the perfectionist in me,' he says.

A poem is about distilling things down to express them in the most powerful and concentrated way that you can.

Those who have read his 2011 collection, *Time Lines*, will remember the diversity of subjects and their strong feel for the natural world. His new book also draws on some unusual topics, which range from an old shirt and the migration of painted lady butterflies to what it might feel like to be a lugworm and the vagaries of footpaths. He sees the title of his new book, *A Sense of North* as being



A Sense of North is the second book of poetry from Arran author David Underdown.

a nod to the influence of Scotland where he has spent over half his life.

The book has been a long time coming, more than seven years in fact. David explained that his publisher, Cinnamon Press, is a small cash-strapped independent based in North Wales and that there is a limit to how many books it can publish. When he sent the firm the manuscript the reply was: 'We love the poems, but you will need to wait three years.' He is hoping that it will have been worth the wait.

A Sense of North will be available from David himself, the publisher, Cinnamon, at www.cinnamonpress.com, and on Amazon, and in time, a few local outlets on Arran. You can also hear David read a selection of his poems at the free launch event on Sunday March 17, at 2.30pm.



David Underdown.

Customer opinion on CalMac service sought

An independent market research company is conducting a survey on behalf of CalMac to gain an insight into customers' views on the service that it provides.

Anyone who wishes to contribute to the survey, which can be completed online at www.calmac.co.uk/survey, can voice



their opinion and they will be entered into a prize draw to win an iPad if a name and email address is entered.

A spokesman from CalMac said: 'The purpose of the survey is to gather customer views on what we do well, what we don't do so well and areas where improvements can be made.'

'The survey results will be used, along with other forms of customer insight gathered, to drive change and improve our service.'



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Castle friends meet ahead of busy summer season

The next meeting of the Friends of Brodick Castle will feature a number of guest speakers who will outline a long list of improvements and changes at the castle and provide supporters with details of upcoming events.

In addition, a drive to seek donations for the adults' or children's tombolas for Easter will be initiated. A box will be set up in the Rangers Centre for donations.

At the meeting, Patrick Hayes, the head gardener, will be talking about the changes in the garden and the new walks that have been developed. Gardens and designed landscapes manager Tim Keyworth will answer any questions about trees that were discussed at the last meeting.

Linda MacCallum will explain the upcoming castle events with special emphasis on the Easter Sunday event, and Fiona Doubleday will provide further detail about the Makers Festival in July and what role the friends might play.

Everyone is invited to the meeting, which will take place at the Rangers Centre on Thursday March 21 at 2pm.

CONTACTUS

email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk
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David Hughes of the Gin School Scotland shares his secrets on making the perfect martini.

Gin School is just the tonic for martini lover

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



On a quiet Wednesday night back in November, the Gin School Scotland held its first event with minimum fanfare at the Drift Inn, Lamlash, treating handpicked regulars to free craft Scottish gins and banter in return for their feedback on the new venture.

Fast forward to a bustling Friday night at the start of March and the Gin School Scotland was back, this time wowing a sold-out Drift Inn



crowd to a fantastic evening of gin, food and live music. Set up by former whisky

distiller and occasional Drift barman, David Hughes, the Gin School's mission is to in-

form, educate and entertain. The excellent relationships David has built within the burgeoning Scottish gin sector were in evidence at the event as Colin McLean and Stuart McVicar, head distillers from McLean's and Biggar gin, were in attendance, telling the unique stories behind their remarkable spirits.

Dealing exclusively in craft Scottish gin and tonics, the Gin School delivers its message through bespoke tasting events nationwide, training for the hospitality sector and

lecturing hospitality students at the City College, Glasgow.

Keep an eye on this flourishing Arran-based enterprise as it goes from strength to strength – next up on Arran is an evening showcasing island gins and new season menu at Crofters in Brodick on Tuesday March 26, and a not to be missed G'n'Tees event at Lamlash Golf Club.

Details about upcoming events and future developments can be found on Facebook by searching for the Gin School Scotland.

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LETTERS

Editorial

Brodick Castle

Making a welcome return, like a long lost friend, we eagerly await the imminent reopening of the Brodick Castle after its two-year closure.

And it is not just a return to form, it is now bigger and better – and its safety and economic viability secured for many years to come.

As a valued member of the Arran family, it alone brings in visitor numbers estimated to be around 45,000 per year – a figure that is destined to soar ever higher with the modernising efforts and added attractions on offer.

As a tangible record of the history of its occupants and that of the people of Arran, Brodick Castle tells an important story, not only of our heritage, history and culture but also, in a wider context, that of Scotland itself.

Congratulations to everyone who has been involved in preserving and enhancing this much valued Arran asset. And thanks, too, to the staff and volunteers of the Arran Ranger Service whose work in the vast grounds and within the community sometimes goes unnoticed, but is hugely appreciated by many.

Thought for the week

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. John 3:16

RNLI fundraiser

Sir,
The Arran branch of the RNLI held its annual soup and sandwich lunch at the Kinloch Hotel on Monday March 4. It was well attended as usual and raised the sum of £1,112. Many thanks to the Kinloch staff and Ran Robertson who entertained us all with local anecdotes and songs. Our president, Pat Adamson, organised this successful event as she has done year after year. Grateful thanks to all who supported us.

A new initiative for Arran was the introduction of the RNLI 5p pot collection. Supporters are asked to fill little catering jam jars with 5p pieces and return them to us. Little Rock Cafe and the Auchrannie are saving their empty jars for us, which is a great help. Arran Active, Brodick, has very kindly agreed to receive the filled jars for us and also to give out empty jars. The little pots are very attractive and we hope will appeal to all, even children on holiday.

Yours,
Tricia Martin,
Arran RNLI.

Foodbank appeal

Sir,
On behalf of all at Arran Churches Together, a grateful thanks to the generosity of the members of Kildonan WRI for their donation of food items for the foodbank brought to their February meeting at which Gregor Adamson gave his talk on the history of Arran whisky. Grateful thanks also to Arran Distillers who donated a bottle of 'Arran Water', for the raffle, the proceeds of which will be used to further the work of food distribution.

It couldn't have come at a better time. Despite the wonderful response by so many fellow islanders at Christmas time who donated so generously to our Christmas box appeal – allowing dozens of Arran residents in need of a bit of extra help to enjoy a much better festive period than would otherwise have been the case – currently the foodbank is running desperately short, indeed has completely run out of certain essential items. These include long-life milk, jars of pasta sauces, cooking sauces such as sweet and sour for rice dishes, tinned fruit and vegetables, tinned meat and fish, cereals, cooking rice and tins of pudding rice and custard, tea and coffee.

It is wonderful that the Christian festival of Christmas still brings out the best in human kind, but three months on at the end of a long winter, the need to help many of our fellow islanders is perhaps now even greater, a fact flagged up by our partners at social services who are currently experiencing a high demand for assistance.

Your help would be very much appreciated and any food items can simply be left inside the front door of Brodick Church which is always open. It will make a huge difference. Thank you.

Yours,
Angus Adamson,
Minister at Brodick Church.

McLaren champion

Sir
When I read Mr MacArthur's letter in the Banner of Saturday March 9, I sat bolt upright with interest and was proud of the Banner for

publishing it.

In July last year, I sent in a letter to the Banner expressing concern on the Abode proposal and felt confident it would not be passed. I also mentioned about the good letters opposing the Abode proposal and the nervous fact that there is only one bidder for one of Arran's major site developments. My letter disappointingly did not stimulate responses.

However, Mr MacArthur's very good, bold and incisive letter could change all that. Is there a dark reason for the lack of responses and more importantly the lack of any other proposals for this prime site? Of course, maybe I am in the dark if negotiations have already been sealed in favour of Abode, part of AA group. How wise it was to read of the maximum two-storey clause but the single bidder has the strength to overrule? Four stories high is so incongruous.

I have been saddened over these many months and praying for a champion. My limited knowledge of Arran affairs makes me rely on the good common sense of the Arran people. Can we get a harmonious, coastal friendly alternative? I hope so.

Yours,
Edward Jackson,
Glasgow.

Diabetic Support Group

Sir,
I don't think a week goes by without some section of the media raising concerns about the increase in the number of people who suffer with diabetes.

I should imagine that most people are aware that this illness can not only be life changing but life threatening as well.

The reverse of this of course if diagnosed early and with the right advice the condition can in fact be reversed.

Based on the fact that as much information that can be obtained can only be beneficial to everyone, attempts are being made to set a diabetic support group here on the island.

Following recent advertising in all the surgeries and on social media it was surprising that out of nearly 300 diabetics on the island only a handful – ie, about five) indicated any interest in supporting such a group.

Setting up such a group is not a criticism of the work carried by the excellent medical team we have here on the island but would help them by getting extra support from the mainland in the way of speakers with a greater depth of knowledge.

Given sufficient interest, the first step would be simply set up a meeting to discuss the pros and cons of such a group before hopefully moving on with its formation

Can I therefore ask anyone who is interested to get in touch with either Lorraine Hewie directly at ACVS (600611) or your local surgery who will pass on your interest.

Given sufficient support, a venue and date together with a speaker will be arranged at the earliest opportunity.

Yours,
Peter Randell,
Whiting Bay.

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Waverley pictured near Lochranza. Photograph: Stuart Whiston.

Paddle steamer owners celebrate 60th birthday

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The owners of the paddle steamer Waverley are celebrating their diamond jubilee this year as final preparations are being made to the spring Clyde and Western Isles sailing schedule.

The Paddle Steamer Preservation Society (PSPS), a registered charity founded in 1959, has about 2,500 members and, through its

associated charitable companies, it operates the only two working paddle steamers in Great Britain – PS Waverley and PS Kingswear Castle.

Of particular importance for supporters of the PS Waverley is the Scottish branch of the PSPS, which was formed in 1969 by Douglas McGowan, now the honorary branch president.

It was in 1973 that Mr McGowan was part of a meeting with CalMac which

resulted in PS Waverley being gifted to the PSPS for £1. On Thursday August 8, 1974, PSPS took ownership of the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world.

Without the work of the PSPS, which has five branches across the United Kingdom, there would be no PS Waverley or PS Kingswear Castle – the latter being Britain's last coal-burning river paddle steamer. Built in 1924 and operating on

the River Dart, she was purchased by the PSPS in 1967.

The flagship of the fleet, though, remains PS Waverley. Built on the Clyde in 1947 for the London and North Eastern Railway, she is named after Sir Walter Scott's first novel and carries a portrait of Edward Waverley on her paddle boxes.

She is powered by a triple-expansion marine steam engine and sails between April

and October each year in the waters of Scotland, England and Wales.

PS Waverley is operated on behalf of the PSPS by Waverley Excursions Ltd. The 2019 timetable is still being prepared but her sailings this year will, as usual, include trips to visit Arran, Dunoon, Rothesay, Tighnabruaich and Tarbert, with cruises of Loch Fyne, Loch Long and Ailsa Craig also available.



Meeting to set out changes to NHS on Arran

The Arran Elderly Forum will be hosting two guest speakers at a talk next week to outline future changes that will affect service users of the NHS on Arran.

Taking place at the Ormidale Pavilion on Wednesday March 20, starting at 10.30am, speakers Dr Greg Hamill and Arran services senior manager Ruth Betley will discuss the changes with the audience.

Dr Hamill and Mrs Betley have previously spoken at five open meetings around the island. However, following the last Elderly Forum meeting, many members said that they were still unaware of what the proposals are.

To keep everyone informed of what changes can be expected and why they are necessary, Dr Hamill and Mrs Betley will hold another talk for anyone with an interest. The discussion will start at 11am and tea and coffee will be served from 10.30am.

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Public to have their say on fish farm plan

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



People on Arran will be given the opportunity to have their say on a proposal to develop a fish farm on the north-east coast of the island by the Scottish Salmon Company (SSC).

Taking place at Lochranza Village Hall on Tuesday April 2, representatives from the SSC will outline their plans for the new development near Millstone Point and will engage with members of the community to receive their feedback.

The initial stage of the application, a scoping report, has already been submitted for North Ayrshire Council to

consider. Under the proposal, the SSC hopes to construct 10 120-meter pens, arranged in two rows of five, and with a linked feed barge and associated equipment.

SSC, which already runs a fish farm in Lamlash, employs seven full-time members of staff and with this proposed development it is looking to recruit a further 10 full-time members of staff. The company estimates that the development could support a further 41 jobs in the Scottish supply chain, plus a further 10 jobs in the wider Scottish economy.

In addition to described economic benefits, SSC has proposed that the pens will

be painted dark grey or black to minimise visual impact and that they will employ the latest innovative techniques to ensure robust fish health and welfare and environmental sustainability.

The site in particular, it says, lends itself to deliver responsible development by operating securely in a higher energy site with stronger tides and a more exposed location.

Craig Anderson, CEO of the Scottish Salmon Company, said: 'The Isle of Arran has played a long-term role in our business and, as part of our programme of responsible development, we are looking to further develop our operations.



SSC are proposing a fish farm on the north-east coast of Arran, near Millstone Point.

'We have recently submitted a scoping report to North Ayrshire Council as part of the planning application process for a proposed new site off the north-east coast of Arran.

'Under the new proposals, we are looking to recruit up to 10 more full-time members of staff, and the development is estimated to support a further 41 jobs in the Scottish supply chain.

It is estimated that this would bring an additional £10 million to Scotland every year.

'We are holding an open day at Lochranza Village Hall on Tuesday April 2, where we welcome feedback on our proposals and look forward to discussing our plans with our local community.'

News of the proposal has not been welcomed by all on Arran, though, with the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) being particularly vocal in its opposition to the development, and any other proposals for open-cage fish farms around Arran.

SSC head of site development, Marc Browne, requested a meeting with representatives from COAST to discuss the proposal but COAST chairman Russ Cheshire responded by saying that they do not believe it is appropriate for COAST representatives to meet directly with the SSC at this time.

They did, however, signal their intention to engage, along with members of the Arran community, at the public meeting with the SSC,

Fishing boat incursion was 'not a false alarm'

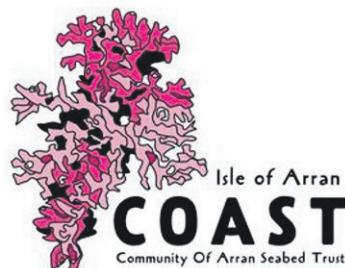
by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) has issued a statement saying that the fishing boat incursion in the Lamlash No Take Zone (NTZ), as reported in the Banner last week, has not been established as a false alarm and that no final conclusions have been drawn.

The statement came after a request was made by COAST last week for information on a prawn trawler that was spotted in the NTZ which an eyewitness described as having one of its nets out.

Members of the Clyde Fishermen's Association and the owner of the vessel itself followed the request for witnesses by proffering an explanation for the activity in the area, saying that



the vessel owner was working on fixing some chain to his equipment and that he was not fishing.

COAST countered this argument by stating that, in accordance with article 4 (3) of the Marine Protected Area order, 'While a fishing vessel is within the protected area the master of the vessel must ensure that any fishing gear, passive gear, pelagic trawl, rod and line, or handline carried on board the vessel is

properly lashed and stowed in such a way that it may not be readily used.'

In a bitter war of words that followed between proponents for the Clyde Fishermen's Association and COAST - in comments made on social media platforms - the discussion became increasingly heated, highlighting the strong opinion felt by both sides.

A spokesperson from COAST said: 'Despite the opinions to the contrary, which were published in the Arran Banner last week, COAST would like to reiterate that the incident is still under investigation by Marine Scotland Compliance, who took it very seriously and responded very quickly. The witnesses have not yet been interviewed and no final conclusions have been drawn.

'COAST will not be commenting on the details of this incident

until further information from Marine Scotland is forthcoming. In addition, COAST are removing all comments to this post on their own Facebook page, while the investigation is ongoing.'

Elaine Whyte of the Clyde Fishermen's Association (CFA) said: 'While the vessel was not a member of our organisation, we do feel in the wider context that the public should understand that local fishermen in the CFA strive to be sustainable and proactive, and indeed helped create the NTZ 20 years ago, and more recently provided data and input to create the original Scottish Natural Heritage preferred option for the South Arran MPA. We are against incursions and illegal fishing and indeed have done much to help sustainably manage fisheries in the Clyde. 'We are, however, concerned

with the current level of local reports of alleged illegal incursions which can prove to be unfounded in the area, mainly due to the sheer volume and the public resource this takes to pursue mistaken claims, and due to often unnecessary and unfounded reputational damage to local fishermen.'

The Banner will report on the findings by Marine Scotland once the investigation has taken place.

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01770 302142



adding that they are hoping for an open public discussion and not just a drop-in session.

A representative from COAST said: 'We wish to make it clear that we are opposed to any open-cage fish farms in any of the waters around Arran. We stand for a transition to closed containment systems by the industry and for a move to shellfish farming, or other forms of non-polluting aquaculture, to ensure employment is maintained and grown sustainably.'

'We are therefore also opposed to the three major developments proposed by MOWI (Marine Harvest) in Kilbrannan Sound, the four

sea trout farms off Cumbrae and the plethora of farms existing in Loch Fyne.

'The Scottish Government, Scottish Environment Protection Agency and local planning authorities have no idea of the cumulative effects of these farms on the health and welfare of our seas and our health and yet the industry is encouraged to expand.'

Local business owner Lucy Wallace, of Arran Wild Walks, who regularly takes visitors along the route at the proposed site, said in an online public forum: 'The location is one of the last wild and tranquil corners of the island's coast, with no road

or modern development. 'It's also an important haven for wildlife, including seals and otters, and steeped in history and heritage. It's one of my favourite walks and our clients love it at Arran Wild Walks.'

'A fish farm is basically the antithesis of what this stretch of coastline represents. I've written to our three councillors to express my alarm.'

Anyone who wants to learn more about the proposal or who wishes to contribute to the discussion is invited to visit the public meeting at Lochranza Village Hall on Tuesday April 2, between 1pm and 7pm.



COAST is against any open-cage fish farms in any of the waters around Arran, above.



COAST says Marine Scotland Compliance is investigating the incident and no final conclusions have been given.

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Huge support for Save the Children fundraiser

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A very healthy attendance of more than 50 people joined family and friends to support the annual Save the Children cheese and wine evening held at Brodick Golf Club.

Raising £818 for the charity, visitors enjoyed a fun quiz, raffle and a sumptuous buffet with a table laden with tempting food and treats.

The Save the Children Fund, commonly known as Save the Children, is an international non-governmental organisation that promotes children's rights, provides relief and helps support children in developing countries.

The Arran branch of the organisation regularly hosts events to raise valuable funds for the parent organisation which last year helped to bring 1.6 million children out of extreme poverty.

Funds raised go towards providing assistance to vulnerable children, educational opportunities and a concerted effort at reducing child mortality.

Save the Children's Arran members raised £818 at their cheese and wine.



Foster carers needed in North Ayrshire

Children's charity Kibble is calling for people on Arran to consider a rewarding role as a foster carer for children aged five and over.

Kibble provides a range of support services for children and young people with a history of trauma and/or neglect – with 20 per cent of its current carers based in the North Ayrshire region.

Local people interested in fostering are being asked to put themselves forward regardless of age, gender, sexuality or race. The charity is particularly keen to hear from potential foster carers who could look after a young person as a dedicated, full-time, paid role.

All Kibble foster carers are given extensive training, including a SVQ in Social Care. In addition, they will be given 24/7 support.

Neil McMillan, head of community services at Kibble, said: 'If you have what it takes, we'd like to chat to you.'

Visit www.kibble.org/fostering.

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Glasgow architect inspires Arran's Saltire Society

David Page, the renowned Scottish architect and one of the founders of Page and Park architects, gave a measured and impressive talk to members of the Arran Saltire Society, writes Tim Pomeroy.

He began by contextualising the birth of his practice back in the 1980s as a natural inheritor of his architectural antecedents, J Burnet (Corrie Church) and CR Mackintosh, but his immediate influences were the movements of the 1960s and 1970s. He described himself as an 'angry' young architect, inferring like-minded others around him and that this anger was a propellant.

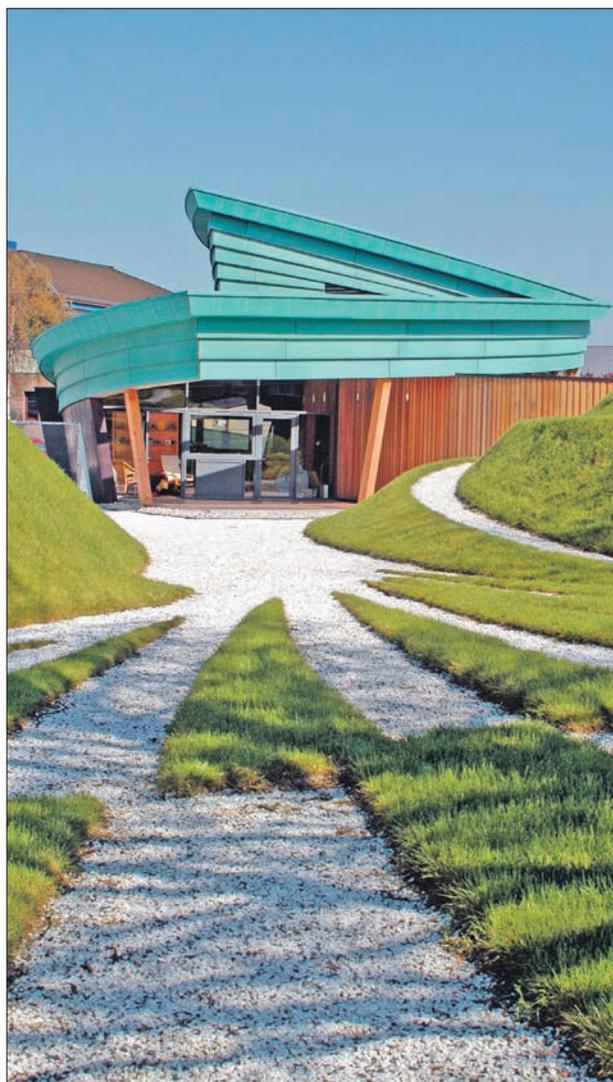
He began by referencing The Italian Centre in Ingram Street which he saw as a way of re-energising the tired and run-down Merchant City area of the larger city. In this scheme he created a piazza-like courtyard crowned with ambitious

'He introduced the idea of the colour green as a fundamental to the human feeling of wellbeing'

sculptural projects by Jack Sloan whose Ride of Phaeton is triumphant and tragic at one and the same point. Alexander (Sandy) Stoddart made several monumental neo-classical sculptures and window surrounds, Shona Kinloch made idiosyncratic figures and dogs looking upward, all looking to the light.

Posing questions to the audience, he introduced the idea of the colour green as a fundamental to the human feeling of wellbeing which eased his talk into the Maggie's Centre in Inverness. Careful to stress the individual design creativity of his team, he credited by name many of his 40-strong team of architects.

With characteristic modesty, he repeated regularly that it was the time for the next generation, the younger ones, the up-and-coming ones. He cleverly tore a piece of paper to illustrate the architectural principle of outward sloping walls employed in the Maggie's Centre, allowing the



head and shoulders a sense of more light and space.

In Page and Park's addition to Mackintosh's Lighthouse building, he talked of the soaring, the verticality and the flowering. And as he talked of the National Museum of Rural life in East Kilbride, one could sense a distinct passion for both natural materials, wood, stone, glass and a sense of the beauty of functionality.

David's descriptions of ploughs and combine harvesters was an infectious enthusiasm. The museum, designed in a spiral, is set in secluded grounds – for East Kilbride – and is an obvious flagship building of the practice.

Page and Park had been given a role in restoring Glasgow School of Art (GSA) after the first fire, and David was visibly moved as he talked about the destruction of this iconic building.

While unable to comment directly as to the future of the

structure, through slides and original drawings and of the forensic archaeology – and thoroughness of his young team – he was able to demonstrate that it was completely feasible that GSA could be rebuilt as it was. He had great faith that the skills still exist in the population and that essentially what is needed is the political will.

David finished his fascinating and informative talk by fielding questions from the floor. John Bruce of Corrie concluded the evening with a vote of thanks.



Above, Scottish architect and founder of Page and Park architects, David Page gave an impressive talk to members of the Arran Saltire Society; and, left, one of the buildings the company designed was the Maggie Centre in Inverness, with its outwardly sloping walls allowing the head and shoulders a sense of more light and space.

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Arran children learn the



Kilmory Primary pupils take part in an interactive lesson on poverty.



Kilmory Primary pupils enjoy testing the Fairtrade bananas.



Kilmory Primary pupils take part in fun activities while enjoying a nibble of Fairtrade chocolate.

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Children in primary schools on Arran have been learning about the benefits of Fairtrade products and ethical trading practices as part of a campaign highlighting, among others, the plight of women cocoa farmers.

Taking place during the recent Fairtrade Fortnight, the initiative is aimed at celebrating the farmers and workers who grow the food we eat and promote a living wage through fair trade and there were displays at the Arran Library and the Big Co in Brodick.

The children enjoyed learning about the campaign by taking part in various fun activities with the favourite undoubtedly being the tasting of Fairtrade hot chocolate, chocolate and bananas which were donated by the Brodick Co-op.

The Fairtrade Foundation's

'She Deserves' campaign reveals that women cocoa farmers carry the greatest burden and yet get the least reward. It aims to raise awareness among consumers of the challenges facing them. They work in the fields, look after children, do all the chores and the lion's share of labour involved in bringing cocoa crops to market but have fewer rights than men and rarely own land, and therefore get even less of the profits from cocoa.

Shocking

Michael Gidney, CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation, said: 'As a nation of chocolate lovers, it is shocking that the women who grow and harvest the cocoa that goes into our treats are barely able to put food on the table or send their kids to school – the majority of us think the exploitation they suffer is unacceptable.'

'We can all take action today by supporting this campaign

and by putting Fairtrade chocolate in our shopping baskets.

'Everyone is entitled to a decent income, it is a human right. As a country we've signed up to end poverty by 2030, but that won't happen unless people earn more for the work they do.'

The UK chocolate industry is worth £4 billion each year. Cadbury's, the largest chocolate maker, is now working in partnership with the Fairtrade Foundation, to develop its Cocoa Life programme. Launched in Ghana in 2008 as the Cadbury Cocoa Partnership, Cocoa Life has already been rolled out across more than 795 cocoa farming communities around the world and independent verification shows that farmers' in the Cocoa Life programme in Ghana have seen their incomes increase 49 per cent more than farms outside the programme.

Mr Gidney added: 'We are proud to have worked closely



Shiskine pupils present their lesson on the poverty endured by farmers and children.



benefits of Fairtrade

with Cadbury since 2009 to improve the lives of cocoa farmers and their communities.

'But the reality is that life for too many cocoa farmers remains a daily struggle against poverty, while their communities still lack many essential services and climate change poses increasing threats to their livelihoods and future.

Impact

'The evolution of our partnership with Cadbury and Cocoa Life is an exciting development as it embeds Fairtrade, our values, principles and unique relationships with farmer networks into the whole programme. In doing so, together we can increase the scale and impact of Cocoa Life, towards a common goal - one in which cocoa farmers, their organisations and communities are empowered, can invest in their own futures, and go from just surviving to thriving.'



Corrie Primary pupils were more than happy to taste test Fairtrade chocolate.



Shiskine Primary pupils tuck in to Fairtrade products during their Fairtrade coffee morning.



Pupils at Shiskine Primary are joined by parents and teachers during a lesson on Fairtrade.



Engaged in fun learning activities Corrie Primary pupils act out a short sketch.

Council consider travel and transport boost

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Active travel and transport could be given a major boost on Arran over the following two years if a range of proposals being discussed by North Ayrshire Council are given the go-ahead.

Following a cabinet meeting in June last year, an agreement was reached to consider a number of funding applications for projects in the period 2019 and 2020.

In the 2018 and 2019 period, a sum of more than £3 million was secured and it is anticipated that a similar amount could be raised for the current period.

Funders could include Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Capital Programme, Smarter

Choices Smarter Places and Sustrans Scotland's Community Links.

Covering a wide variety of strategies and key projects for various areas, the ones that would have relevance for Arran include an improved Brodick to Lochranza ferry link upgrade on the A841 for buses, paid for by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT); the construction of two new paths for non-motorised traffic between Brodick and Lochranza and Lamlash, funded by Scottish Natural Heritage, SPT, Sustrans and North Ayrshire Council; and a two-metre-wide multi-use, off-road path from Brodick to Corrie as part of the National Walking and Cycling Network, paid for by Sustrans and SPT.

The Brodick to Lochranza ferry link upgrade would seek to relieve pinch points and sharp bends in the route which makes it difficult for buses to pass and which will include the widening and reconstruction of certain parts of the carriageway.

The National Walking and Cycling Network project from Brodick to Corrie, in addition to the two-metre-wide off-road path available to users of all abilities, could see the installation of signage, cycle parking and seating.

The outcome of these funding applications and proposals will be announced later this year and a further report will be submitted to the North Ayrshire Council cabinet to approve and accept any grant offers.

Lochranza residents and island visitors can expect disruption to their commute if the Bogullie shuts for repairs.



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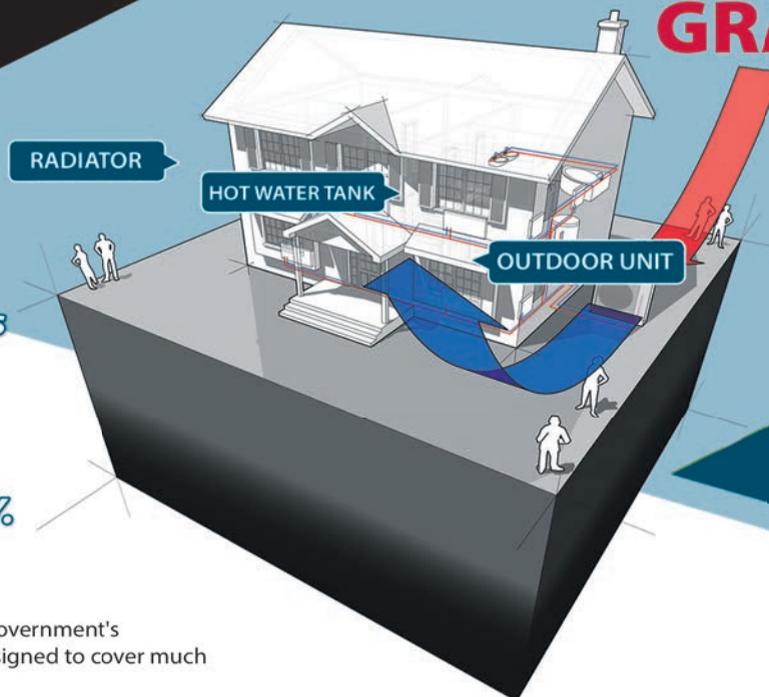
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Arran Brass meet for a friendly and informal practise every Wednesday at St Brides Church, Brodick.
01_B10brass01



Brass band on look out for new members

The band known as Arran Brass are on the lookout for new members to join their group.

Arran Brass may be down but they are not out, and despite rumours to the contrary, are still very much alive and kicking, and meet every Wednesday night at

7.15pm in St Brides Parish Church hall in Brodick.

Currently the band have up to 11 experienced and competent players and have a diary of events to play at in the coming months.

However, they are in search of new members, or experienced previous

members who wish to return to performing.

If anyone requires an instrument, they have plenty in store.

Of particular interest are cornet players but they also have trombones, baritones, flugels and tubas available.

If you would like to join

the band, you can contact Derek on 01770 302676 and he would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN

Music Arran finale concert will finish on a high note

The final concert of Music Arran's season is destined to finish on a high note as the group welcome Escocia Duo to Brodick Hall.

Taking place on Saturday March 16, at 7.30pm, the concert will feature the musical talents of Katrina Lee (violin) and Roberto Kuhn Versluys (classical guitar) who formed in 2017 and who met while both studying for their masters of music at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

As a duo, they made their debut performances touring in Chile, South America, last May and since then have performed recitals in Scotland where they are based. They have a real ambition to increase the repertoire available to them by arranging and transcribing music that is not normally heard on the particular mix of bowed and plucked instruments. Alongside recitals, they have also held workshops in

schools, focusing on helping to deliver aspects of the curriculum to children and bringing live music into a learning environment.

Their Arran concert will include music by Nicolo Paganini, Eddie McGuire, Bela Bartok, Peter Maxwell Davies and some Argentinian tango.

Roberto Hernan Kuhn Versluys is a recent graduate of the Master of Performance at the Royal Conservatoire



Katrina Lee and Roberto Kuhn Versluys, known as Escocia Duo, will perform

of Scotland, studying with renowned Scottish classical guitarist Matthew McAllister. Roberto also holds Bachelor titles in composition and education as well as classical guitar performance from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile.

His work as a soloist and as a chamber musician has taken him to different parts of

the world including Mexico, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Spain, Germany and the United Kingdom

Katrina Lee is a Yorkshire violinist, who began studying from the age of eight at the Kirklees Music School with Ralph Barker. In 2010, Katrina received a scholarship to study at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

graduating with first class honours in 2014 and masters in 2016 under the tutelage of Andrea Gajic, receiving the highest mark for her final recital.

Katrina was appointed the principal second violin position with Scottish Ballet in February 2017 and has enjoyed learning all of the rich ballet repertoire including Swan Lake, Nutcracker and most recently Highland Fling. She now looks forward to the winter season of Prokofiev's Cinderella.

Her playing work has taken her to lots of countries including most recent the Lincoln Centre in New York. Other places include China, South America, Hong Kong, Canada, Iceland, Italy and Prague. Katrina is also a member of the very popular Brodick Quartet.

Tickets for the concert are £10 at the door, or from Inspirations or www.arran-events.com. Young people under 18 are free, along with an accompanying adult. BYOB Café Style.



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Musicians gear up for 90th Isle of Arran Music Festival

Musicians and dancers from all across Arran are practising their routines and polishing their performances in anticipation of the Isle of Arran Music Festival, which is set to take place next week for the 90th time.

Incorporate

Taking place in Whiting Bay Hall from Wednesday March 20 to Friday March 22, the festival includes musical performances, singing, dancing, recitals and, for the first time this year, the festival will incorporate Lamlash Burns Club's Schools Burns Verse Speaking competition.

There are a great variety of classes to be enjoyed starting with Scottish country

dancing, followed by choric and solo verse speaking on Wednesday.

Thursday is 'traditional' day with Lamlash Burns Club hosting the schools competition, followed by fiddle, then pipes and drums classes.

Friday is vocal and instrumental – solos, duets and groups, including piano, brass and woodwind. Friday evening sees the open section, but will take the form of a concert, including some of the winning performances from the previous classes.

Programmes are now available throughout the island and visitors are warmly invited to go along to support the entrants and help to celebrate the festival's 90 years.

Holistic haven hosts open day

Heather Lodge, Arran's newest holistic health centre, will be hosting a number of open days over the following two weekends to allow visitors to go and see the facilities and to meet the practitioners.

Based in the former stables of the Douglas Hotel, the newly refurbished Heather Lodge has been attractively upgraded and expanded to provide several therapy rooms and a relaxing secluded garden.

Therapies

Heather Lodge is a cooperative of several therapists, all based on Arran, who provide a range of treatments, therapies and support services ranging from hypnotherapy, counselling, reiki, psychotherapy, holistic massage to reflexology and herbal medicines, and much more thanks to the multi-skilled abilities of the nine practitioners who all bring something special to the team.

Providing a healing and nurturing environment conducive to health and wellbeing, the centre is dedicated to the treatment of the whole person, including social and emotional factors, and not just the symptoms of disease.

Commenting, Malcolm



The cooperative of committed therapists and counsellors provide a wide range of treatments, therapies and support services.

Kerr, who owns Heathers Lodge with therapeutic counsellor and trained psychotherapist Susan Knox, said: 'Islands are often regarded as "special places", both by residents and visitors, with a different atmosphere and way of life. It is not unusual for visiting tourists to see Arran as an environment for recreation, rejuvenation and health.'

'Increasingly over the years, Arran has become a place for healers. Practitioners of massage and other holistic therapies have been working in hotels, clients' homes, their own homes and adopted premises, but often felt they lacked therapeutic

space created explicitly for their purpose.

'Holistic services have been made available to some Arran residents on a basis of need and by GP referral through the work of ArCaS (for cancer patients) and the Mary Davis Trust (for carers).

'Over the past year, work has been undertaken to satisfy planning conditions and improve disabled access at Heather Lodge. Several practitioners have already been working in the centre, providing a wide range of holistic and psychological therapies, predominantly on a "health" rather than "recreational" model. Space is provided for individual

consultations and treatments and also for small group work.'

Each therapist runs their own appointment diary so bookings do need to be made with the individual therapist in advance. The centre caters for Arran residents as well as short-term visitors, and treatments and sessions can be tailored to your individual needs.

The open days will begin on Saturday (tomorrow) from 10am to 4pm and on Sunday from 2pm to 5pm. The same times apply for the following weekend but which will also include Friday and visitors can either just drop in or schedule a time by emailing info@heatherlodge.scot.

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90th Isle of Arran Music Festival

incorporating
Lamlash Burns Club Schools Burns
Verse Speaking

Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd March

 WHITING BAY
HALL
Admission
session £2 day £4
season £6

Heather Lodge Open Days

Saturday 16th March, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Sunday 17th March, 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Friday 22nd March, 5.00pm to 8.00pm

Saturday 23rd March, 10.00am to 4.00pm

Sunday 24th March, 2.00pm to 5.00pm

Heather lodge, Brodick
(beside The Douglas Hotel)

www.heatherlodge.scot

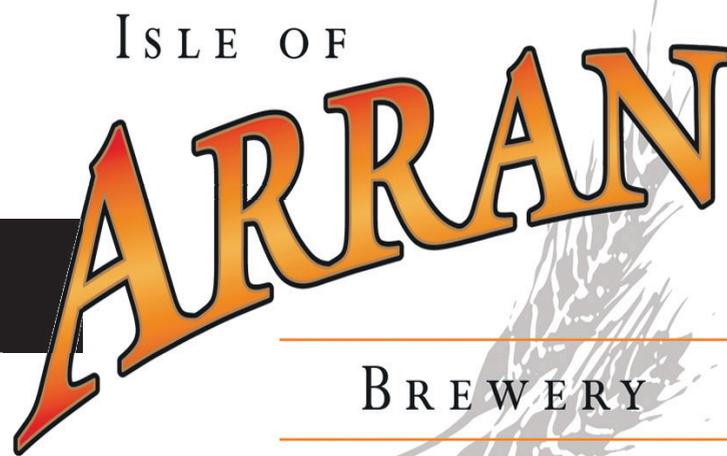
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What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



Every day

Trout fly fishing Loch Garbad, bank fishing
Octopus Centre Old Pavilion, Lamlash, Centre Open 7 days, 11am - 3pm
Octopus Centre – tennis Old Pavilion, Lamlash Open 7 days, any time
Brodict Mini Golf Open 7days, 9am - 5pm ish, ALL weather
Brodict Castle, garden only Open 9am-dusk
Soap making and candle dipping Arran Aromatics, Brodict, 10am - 4pm
Public swimming Auchrannie Spa Pool, Brodict, 10am - 4pm (last entry 3pm)
Swimming lessons Auchrannie Hotel Pool, Brodict, Monday - Thursday, 4pm - 6pm
Arran Brewery Open - Mon, Friday & Saturday, 10am - 5pm
Tuesday - Thursday, 11am - 4pm. Tours daily at 2pm

Saturday 16th March

Flow Yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am
Heather Lodge open day Heather Lodge, Brodict, 10am - 4pm
Six Nations rugby live Drift Inn, Lamlash, from 12.30pm
Shiskine Hall auction Shiskine Hall, doors open at 1pm for 2pm start.
Winter rink bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Gym induction Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 2.30pm
Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm - 4pm
Music Arran presents Escocia Duo Brodict hall, 7.30pm
Live music – Tim Pomeroy Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 7.30pm
Live music – Blues Mama, Glasgow-based blues band The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Over-21s disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 10pm

Sunday 17th March

Live music – Hingin' By a Threed Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 1pm - 4pm
Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Heather Lodge open day Heather Lodge, Brodict, 2pm - 5pm
Gym induction Auchrannie Spa, 2.30pm
Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm - 4pm
Live music – Blues Mama The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Brodict Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
Folk music session Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm

Monday 18th March

Morning fitness Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
JogScotland mixed ability running group Whiting Bay 5.30pm
Adult tennis Blackwaterfoot, 5.30pm
Circuit training Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6pm - 7pm
Isle of Arran Bridge Club, all welcome Brodict Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Live music – Fatman & the Angel Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Tae Kwon Do, adults and over-10s Brodict Church Hall, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 19th March

Body Blitz (booking essential) Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
Healthy Outdoors Team Brodict Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Eco Savvy energy surgeries Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 10am - 3pm
Eco Social Eco Savvy Shop, Whiting Bay, 11am - 3pm
Winter rink bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Bridge class (beginners/improvers) Brodict Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Arran Pace Makers – Jog Scotland Beginners Group Ormidale pavilion, Brodict, 5.30pm
Steak night – two ribeye steaks and bottle of wine Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 5.30pm
Gym induction Auchrannie Spa, 5.30pm
Arran Hockey Club – juniors (5 - 14yrs) Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 6pm - 7pm
Flow Yoga Corrie Hall, 6pm
Netball Arran High School Gym, 7pm - 8pm
Scottish country dancing Brodict Church Hall, 7.30pm
Eco Savvy food share Whiting Bay Eco Savvy Hub Shop, 9pm
Trev's pop music quiz Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm
Traditional music sessions Brodict Bar, 9pm

Wednesday 20th March

90th Isle of Arran Music Festival Whiting Bay Hall
Yoga Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am
Hydrofit Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.30am - 10.30am
Brodict Gardens volunteers Brodict Castle and Country Park, 9.30am - 1pm

Arran Elderly Forum
Knit and Blether
Arran Heritage Museum
Chair Yoga exercise class
Archives and Genealogy Service Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am - 12.30pm & 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Dog classes Whiting Bay Hall, 12.30pm
Arran Pace Makers running group Brodict, 5.30pm
Flow Yoga Shiskine Hall, 6pm
Eco Savvy pub quiz Felicity's@Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 7.30pm
Live music – Mike Bailey Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Tae Kwon Do Juniors 6.30pm - 7.30pm, Advanced Juniors & Adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
Family pub quiz The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
Rock'n'pop bingo Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm

Thursday 21st March

90th Isle of Arran Music Festival Whiting Bay Hall
Morning fitness Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
Chair Yoga exercise class Ormidale Pavillion, Brodict, 10.30am
Arran Heritage Museum Rosaburn, Brodict, 11am - 3.30pm
Whiting Bay Thursday Club lunch and AGM Kinloch Hotel, 12.30pm for 1pm
Friends of Brodict Castle meeting Rangers Centre, 2pm
Arran Heritage Museum AGM Brodict Church Hall, 2pm
Steak Night - 2 Steak dinners and a bottle of wine Drift Inn, Lamlash, 5pm - 9pm
Lamlash Bowling Club AGM Lamlash Bowling Club, 6pm
Body Blitz (booking essential) Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Isle of Arran Bridge Club, all welcome Little Rock, Brodict, 7pm for 7.15pm
Badminton, all welcome Shiskine Hall, 7pm
Arran Hockey Club – seniors (12 yrs +) Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 7pm - 8.30pm
Arran Soul Choir Community Theatre, Arran High School, 7pm - 9pm
Brodict Embroidery Group Brodict Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Eco Savvy food share Brodict Ormidale Pavilion, 8.15pm
Eco Savvy food share Kilmory Hall, 8.30pm
Tommy's general knowledge quiz Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 9pm
Arran Churches Together Prayer Meeting St. Margaret Episcopal Church, Whiting Bay, 3pm - 4pm

Friday 22nd March

90th Isle of Arran Music Festival Whiting Bay Hall
Yoga Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am
Hydrofit Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.30am - 10.30am
Arran Heritage Museum Rosaburn, Brodict, 11am - 3.30pm
Heather Lodge open day Heather Lodge, Brodict, 5pm - 8pm
Gym induction Auchrannie Spa, 5.30pm
BYOB 'pop up' evenings (bookings only please) The Shore, Whiting Bay, from 6pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Tae Kwon Do Advanced (Advanced Class) Arran High School, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Live music – The Sensational Biff Simpson Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Friday night quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
Live music – Straw Dogs The PHT, Lamlash, 10pm

Saturday 23rd March

Flow Yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Brodict, 9am
Heather Lodge open day Heather Lodge, Brodict, 10am - 4pm
Winter rink bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Spring fair Shiskine Hall, 2pm - 4pm
Arran CND group Ormidale Pavilion 2.25pm
Gym induction Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 2.30pm
Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm - 4pm
BYOB 'pop up' evenings (bookings only please) The Shore, Whiting Bay, from 6pm
Live music – Mic Clark Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodict, 7.30pm
Live music – Rigid Soul, blues, rock band from Scotland The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Over-21s disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodict, 10pm



First water pipit recorded on the island

The cold weather in January continued into February, but around 10 February the wind started to come from a southerly direction and the temperature rose. With the persistence of the southerly winds, temperatures continued to rise with double figures being reached on several days. The contrast with the freezing blast of last February was marked. While the rainfall in February this year and last year was similar, the mean temperature this February was more than three degrees higher than last February.

Lower altitudes

February's birding highlight was the first ever record of water pipit on Arran. Water pipit breeds in the mountains of southern Europe and southern Asia eastwards to China. It is a short-distance migrant; many birds move to lower altitudes or wet open lowlands in winter and a few have been turning up in Scotland. In recent years one to three records in winter has been the norm, but this year there have been over 30 mainly on the coasts of Lothian and Ayrshire with eight this winter in Ayrshire. The first official record for Scotland was in 1968. At that time it was considered a sub-species

in the rock pipit family but in 1987 it became a full species.

On Saturday 23 February around noon a water pipit was seen on the shore at Machrie. To help confirm identification it was then legally trapped, ringed, photographed and released. For the rest of the month, many were able to enjoy good views of the bird feeding along the tide line, from the road without disturbing the bird on the shore.

In February, reports of winter visitors included: eight purple sandpiper at Silver Sands on 1st, a brambling in a garden in Kiscadale on 9th, 20 redwing at Torr Righ Beag on 15th, two rook at Corriecravie on 16th and, unusually, a solitary rook in Lochranza from 16th to 24th. In contrast to last February when there were reports of both Iceland gull and glaucous gull, species of uncommon white-winged gulls, none was reported this February. However, a returning lesser black-backed gull was reported from Torrylinnwater Foot on 17th, an early sign of approaching spring.

Wintering wildfowl continued to be present including: 100 wigeon at Torbeg on 7th, 60 teal at Cosyden also on 7th, nine whooper swan at

Torrylinnwater Foot on 16th, and over 300 greylag geese with six pink-footed geese in the Shiskine Valley on 23rd. One of the greylag geese had an orange identifiable collar. When this data was passed onto EURING, the information came back that the collar had been fitted in Nordfjordur breeding grounds on the east coast of Iceland in July 2016 and while the bird had been reported again from there in the summer of 2018, the record from the Shiskine Valley was the first record from a wintering area.

Other wintering flocks included: 120 common gull at Blackwaterfoot on 5th, 31 woodpigeon at Glenkiln on 9th, 25 lapwing on Cleats Shore on 11th, 80 starling at Kilpatrick on 12th, 24 turnstone at Drumadoon on 18th and 50 curlew at Sandbraes on 20th. Some of these flocks may have included birds beginning to migrate north.

Calm days were ideal for sea watching. Reports included: six great northern diver off Cleats Shore on 11th, five black-throated diver and one red-throated diver off Cosyden on 14th, two gannet in Auchenhew Bay on 16th, 60 guillemot off the Craw on 17th and a pair of common scoter at Machriewaterfoot on 27th. The last Arran record of this sea duck was four off Pirnmill in September 2017.

Reports

Other sightings included: one kingfisher at Fisherman's Walk on 2nd, one little grebe in Loch Ranza on 10th, 20 greenfinch in Shiskine on 11th, one dipper at the mouth of Glenashdale Water on 15th, one moorhen on Brodick Golf Course on 24th and 10 reports of goosander, often in pairs, from various locations round the island.

There were some signs of approaching spring including: six grey heron nest building in Lochranza on 20th, greenfinch, song thrush and wren all singing in Kilpatrick on 21st, great spotted woodpecker drumming in Stronach Wood on 27th, 26 eider displaying at Machriewaterfoot also on 27th, eight red-breasted merganser courting in Auchenhew Bay on 28th and a pair of starling nest building in Catacol also on 28th. By the end of the month it felt that spring was on its way.

March could see the arrival of some of our summer visi-

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

MARCH

tors like wheatear, chiffchaff, willow warbler, sand martin, even swallow and house martin, but their arrival will be dependent on the weather. Keep an eye out for these migrants and let me know when you first see them.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or 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 2018 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



Water pipit, this is the first Arran record of this species.

Photo Alex Penn



Last Arran record of this common scoter sea duck was September 2017. Photo Robert Lambie.



Greylag goose with collar showing that this bird breeds on Iceland and this year it is wintering in the Shiskine Valley.

Photo by Dennis Morrison



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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday March 13, 1999

Going bananas

Arran Aromatics, probably the island's largest employer, has been caught up in an international trade dispute.

At present the firm has not yet taken any steps to reduce overheads or pay anyone off. But if agreement cannot be reached between America and Europe on bananas, there will be a large knock-on effect on Arran, since the US is threatening to levy a 100 per cent duty on certain luxury products.

Widely publicised has been the effect on cashmere, but less well known are that sweets, biscuits and many toiletries will also be affected.

Arran Aromatics, whose products are sitting in warehouses at docks awaiting shipment to America, can do nothing but let them sit

there until a resolution is reached. With 50 per cent of their products destined for the export market, and a 100 per cent duty levied on their products, the entire American market would cease to exist with dire consequences for the company.

Longboats built

Two replica Viking longboats are to be constructed by the Arran Viking Longboat Association. And if the speed at which plans have progressed is anything to go by, it could be very soon that construction starts.

At a well-attended and enthusiastic meeting at Corrie Hall, a committee was formed and a constitution approved in very short order. A mould for making the boat has already been found, a place to build them identified and skilled craftsmen have volunteered their skills.



Men of the Arran RNLI pose with their lifeboat to mark the 175th birthday of saving lives at sea. 01_B11twe01



A farewell party was held at Brodick Castle to say goodbye to administrator Veronica Woodman, who is leaving for Peebles. On her left is successor Ken Thorburn and head gardener Nigel Price. John Simcock of Friends of Brodick Castle is to her right. 01_B11twe03



Staff from the Royal Bank present Arran High maths teacher Jimmy Stewart with travel vouchers worth £500. Jim was one of four people nationwide to win a prize in a Royal Bank competition. 01_B11twe02



Derek Shand of the Royal Bank gives Mike Lunan an umbrella as a symbol of the sponsorship that the bank is providing for the annual conference of the Federation of Small Businesses at which Mike is to be a delegate from Arran. 01_B11twe04



Susan Mills, licensed bat handler and volunteer country park ranger, is looking to start up a bat group. Offering interesting information on habitat and habits, the group will be formed if there is enough interest. 01_B11twe05

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC EXHIBITION: NORTH ARRAN MARINE FISH FARM, NORTH ARRAN, FIRTH OF CLYDE – Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997

The Scottish Salmon Company is proposing an Atlantic salmon fish farm at North Arran, Firth of Clyde, approximately 4.4 km north west of Sannox at a site to the East of Millstone Point. This exhibition provides an opportunity to discuss and comment on the planning and development of this site.

**The Public Exhibition will be held on:
Tuesday 2nd April 2019 from 1pm – 7pm at Lochranza Village Hall, Lochranza, Isle of Arran, KA27 8HL**

Any person wishing to submit comments can do so by contacting: arran@scottishsalmon.com by 30 May 2019.

Please note, comments at this stage do not replace the planning application process, where representations should be made directly to the planning authority.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992 COUNCIL TAX

As required by paragraph 96(1) of the above Act, North Ayrshire Council give notice of, in terms of paragraphs 70 (1) and 93 (1) of the same Act, the amounts of Council Tax payable in respect of chargeable dwellings in each valuation band for year 2019/20.

Valuation Band	Full Council Tax (£)	Council Tax discounted by 25% (£)
A	853.80	640.35
B	996.10	747.07
C	1,138.40	853.80
D	1,280.70	960.52
E	1,682.69	1,262.02
F	2,081.13	1,560.85
G	2,508.04	1,881.03
H	3,137.71	2,353.28

The above figures exclude water and wastewater charges. Scottish Water is responsible for setting its own charges for household water and wastewater services, which are subject to scrutiny by the Water Industry Commission for Scotland. North Ayrshire Council is required by law to include water and wastewater charges on its Council Tax bills and to collect the sums due on behalf of Scottish Water.

The level of discount on unoccupied properties for up to 12 months is 10% and 200% levy for greater than 12 months unless actively marketed for sale or let for up to 24 months; second homes no longer receive a discount in accordance with the Council Tax (Variation for unoccupied Dwellings) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2016.

The 2019/20 annual Council Tax Notices will be issued in March 2019.

L Friel, Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Support)

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL – GRASS CUTTING SCHEME 2019

North Ayrshire Council is now accepting applications to the Council's Grass Cutting Scheme, which is limited to grass and hedge cutting.

The scheme covers cutting grass of an area no bigger than 150 square metres and hedges where they border a path. No weeding or planting is provided for. However, we will maintain gardens to an acceptable standard up to a maximum of seven grass cuts and one hedge cut. Due to the limited number of gardens to be included on the scheme, applications will be accepted on a "first come first served basis".

To be eligible, the applicants must permanently reside at the property and meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be aged 75 and over.
- Or Aged 65 and over and in receipt of Attendance Allowance (higher rate) or free personal care.
- Or Aged under 65 and in receipt of DLA mobility (higher rate) or care (highest rate).
- Or Aged under 65 and in receipt of PIP mobility (enhanced rate) or daily living component (enhanced rate).

To apply contact the Council online at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/grasscuttingscheme or by telephone from Monday 18 March 2019 on 01294 310000. An assessment of eligibility will be made during the application process and payment for the scheme will be taken.

The charge for the scheme is £80.00 including vat.
Applications will close on Friday 5 April 2019. Applicants from previous years are not automatically re-enrolled on the scheme and are required to re-apply.
The grass cutting scheme will commence w/c Monday 8 April and terminate Friday 4 October 2019.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



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Casks Cafe, at the heart of our Visitor Centre, are looking for hard working, proactive staff to join our enthusiastic team. Experience not essential as training will be provided.

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Please apply to: Lindsay Patrick,
Lochranza Distillery Visitor Centre, KA278HJ
cafe@arranwhisky.com 01770 830264



COAST are seeking a part-time Centre Administration Assistant to help with the day-to-day management of Arran's Marine Activities and Learning Centre.

For full details and to apply visit:
www.arrancoast.com/vacancies
Application closing date 31st March 2019

New Guest House and Coffee Shop
requires full and part - time staff

Please contact T: 07557 638501
or E: ohwy45@hotmail.co.uk



Arran Community and Voluntary Services
Development Officer
Salary: £18,782.28
30 hours per week
Fixed term to March 2020

We are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic team member with the ability to establish, promote and develop community projects.

Knowledge of Health and Social Care is essential.

It is also important that the applicant has computer experience as well as verbal and written communication skills.

For a recruitment pack contact Carol Kane, Operations Manager via email carol.kane@arrancvs.org.uk
Closing date for applications
Tuesday 25th March 2019

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

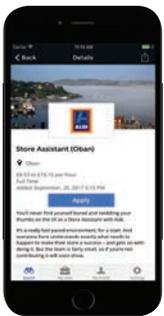


We are looking for a **CHEF DE PARTIE**, this is a permanent job, with excellent salary and accommodation available. As a seasonal (summer/weekends) role, we are also looking for an experienced **KITCHEN PORTER** - if you are interested in joining our busy kitchen brigade please get in touch!



We are also 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 weekends) - this job starts end of March until the end of October - would you like to join us?
hr@thedouglashotel.co.uk
or call us on
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Shop Manager - Full time
Retail Assistant - Part time (3days)

We are looking for friendly engaging people to join our existing team. Whilst some knowledge of DIY, gardening is an advantage, it is not essential.

A clean driving licence is also required.

Please apply in writing to: Mrs Aileen Thomson
Homestyles, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8AJ



TEAM WINEPORT IS LOOKING FOR SEASONAL STAFF!

If you have a great sense of humour, are friendly and your customer service skills are fabulous we want to hear from you!

We're looking to add to our front of house team over the busy coming season. Over 18 and experience preferred but happy to provide training if necessary. We're looking for someone to start by the end of March if possible.

Send your interest to Gina either by email to info@wineport.co.uk, message our facebook page or pop in for a chat!

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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 17th March
Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches together, 10.15am
Morning Worship at Lochranza
Shiskine Church, 12noon
Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am
Morning Worship, followed by the Stated Annual Meeting.
Corrie Church, 11.30am
Prayer Meeting, 12noon
Morning Worship, followed by the Stated Annual Meeting.
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 17th March
Worship will be conducted by Mrs Sharon MacLeod, Reader, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service. Also, there will be a sale of Traidcraft goods. All most welcome.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 17th March
2nd Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion - 11 am.
Richard Trewby
Coffee after service
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 17th March
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 17th March
Rev Dr Ian MacLeod
Kilmory 10 am,
Lamlash 11.30 am
In Lamlash:
Annual Stated Meeting at end of worship
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 17th March
Sunday Worship at 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 17th March
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 17th March
Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 6pm
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg
HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH
Sunday 17th March 2019
Sunday Mass 11am

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

Prayer Meeting
St. Margaret Episcopal Church, Whiting Bay,
3pm - 4pm

DEATH

SCOTT - Douglas (Ted), aged 91 years. Passed away peacefully after a short illness at Birchmere Care Home, Solihull, Birmingham. Beloved husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. He will be very sadly missed and remembered with much love. Private cremation, Family only.



Machrihanish club members approve plans

Members of one of the world's most historic golf clubs voted heavily in favour of a clubhouse design by Glasgow firm G1 architects.

Machrihanish Golf Club's clubhouse was completely burned down in a devastating fire on December 19 last year, which also destroyed the family home of its steward.

A club extraordinary general meeting was held on March 1 in the Argyll Arms Hotel, attended by 137 members, of whom 117 had voting rights.

The club committee put forward proposals by Glasgow architects G1 and 109 members voted in favour of the principle design, five against and there were three abstentions.

At the meeting a sub-committee, which will administer the club's side of the project and see it through the two-year build period, was formally announced.

The sub-committee is the current captain Calum MacMillan, vice-captain Willie Ross, Keith Crawford and Willie Livingstone.

G1 will project manage and employ the necessary professionals to see the project through.

Speaking exclusively to the Courier, Calum MacMillan said: 'We hope to be open by or before December 9, 2020, as the club has a two busi-



McFadyens Contractors have demolished the Machrihanish clubhouse. In the background, right, are portable changing facilities. 50_c11machgolf02

ness interruption insurance policy.

'The architects are already working day, night and at weekends.

'In the new clubhouse everyone will be in together. It is the perfect opportunity to make everyone feel part of the club, with ladies, gents and juniors in one clubhouse.

'It will have a lift and accessible toilets and showers. In future, for every 20 car parking spaces we will require one accessible space.

'We hope to have access at the front of the building.

'The current design is a

principle one but it is open to change, the club's constitution says that if there are substantial changes to the clubhouse or course there must be an EGM.'

A portable unit village has been erected behind the ladies' clubhouse paid for through the club's insurance and it has 260 lockers, changing facilities, an office and a meeting room.

Mr MacMillan added: 'We would like to give particular thanks to McFadyens Contractors for their professional work and their quotation at a very competitive

price. We are constructing a temporary car park across the back wall which McFadyens will start in the near future.

'We also want to thank the Argyll Arms for hosting the EGM and G1 Architects for their excellent presentation.'

Next Saturday the Machrihanish 2019 season kicks off with the Peace Cup, a medal play for gents, ladies and juniors.

The club's annual general meeting is on Friday April 5 at the Argyll Arms Hotel, Campbeltown.

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2150

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 Campbelltown Courier, Main Street, Campbelltown; 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)

RECENT WINNERS:

- T Campbell** Sept '18 **£2500**
- S Campbell** Sept '18 **£2550**
- L Currie** Nov '18 **£800**
- L Nicolson** Dec '18 **£3900**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



The two entries who got nearest the ball and each receive £25 are:
G Roberts
Isle of Islay
J Daye
Ardrishaig

GOLF

Corrie Golf Club

Monday March 11, Winter Cup. 1 L Hartley 68-11=57, 2 A Napier 64-3=61. Magic twos, L Hartley x2, A Napier, Q Oliver and A Smith. Great score from Len in blustery conditions.

Fixtures: Saturday March 16, 18-hole sweep, ballots at 9am and 1.30pm.

Monday March 18, Winter Cup, ballot at noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday March 12, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 Campbell Laing 38, 2 Phil Betley 30, 3 Reuben Betley 24, BIH.

Fixtures: Tuesday March 19,



Lochranza Hotel Cup, final day, tee off at noon.

Thursday March 21, AGM, 7.30pm.

Brodick Golf Club

Fixture: Sunday March 17, Brandon Qualifier. Postponed from Sunday March 10, combined with scheduled Winter Cup, 9am and noon.

INTERNATIONAL RUGBY



Magnus Bradbury in action for Scotland against Wales on Saturday. Photograph: SNS Group/SRU.

Scotland teams run Six Nations leaders close

The nerves of Scottish rugby supporters were again stretched to the limit on Saturday as Gregor Townsend's men ran Six Nations favourites Wales to the wire.

Oban back row man Magnus Bradbury put on another abrasive display, but the Scots were beaten 18-11 in the penultimate game of the campaign.

Wales scored two tries in the opening half with Finn Russell keeping the Scots in touch with a brace of penalties.

Despite upping their game in the second half, with Borderer Darcy Graham scoring his first try for the national side, the hosts failed to capitalise on possession and a penalty from the hosts in the last kick of the game sealed the win.

Oban's Abi Evans saw 10 minutes of action during Scotland Women's 15-17 defeat to Wales.

The ladies were looking good for their first win in this year's tournament as the final whistle approached, but were left heart-broken as Wales snatched the victory in extra time.

BRIDGE

The results of the aggregate competition played on Monday March 4 are as follows: N/S 1. Giorsal Kroner and Tom Kelly, 2. Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 3. Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan. E/W 1. Elizabeth McKellar and Margaret McGill, 2. Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 3. Jan and John Beattie.

The results of the aggregate

competition played on Thursday March 7 are as follows: N/S 1. Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2. Jan and John Beattie, 3. Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton. E/W 1. Jessmay Peacock and Margaret McGill, 2. Jennifer Wales and Jim Peacock, 3. Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan.

Anyone with an interest in learning how to play bridge can visit Brodick Golf Club on a Tuesday at 2.30pm.

Arran Cycle Challenge will include third route

The Rangers Charity Foundation will be hosting their third annual Arran Cycle Challenge in June which will raise money for charitable organisations and will also include a third route option to cater for cyclists of all abilities.

Taking place on Saturday June 8, organisers have added the third route for beginners and families. Cyclists will now be able to take part in either a 34-, 55- or 72-mile cycle.

Affording all cyclists stunning views of Arran, the newly introduced 34-mile route will take place on the south island loop at a leisurely pace. For the intermediate riders, the 55-mile route will take in a full loop of the island and should take between four and six hours to complete. Experienced riders who undertake the 72-mile challenge will complete a figure of eight route across Arran, starting and ending in Brodick.

Organisers will provide support vehicles, snack and water stops, lunch and return ferry tickets within the registration fee and participants will also have the option to stay the night before and/or after the cycle.

A spokesman from the Rangers Charity Foundation said: 'Funds raised will help the foundation



make a real difference on behalf of the Rangers family – whether we're supporting our charity partners or our own community programmes, every penny raised will go a long way.'

Registration for the event can be completed online at the Rangers Football Club's website at <https://rangers.co.uk/>

Riders get ready to take part in the cycle challenge in 2017. Left to right are Caroline Casson, David Fleetwood, James Britton, Lorcan Mooney and Alex Thomason.



Foul weather plays havoc with hockey fixtures

Winter weather, including rain, snow and ice, have all played a large part in disrupting league fixtures for the Arran Ladies' Hockey Club.

With a scheduled game against University of Strathclyde Women's 2s, the Arran team took the first ferry of the morning, knowing that it was liable to disruption, but they were keen to fulfil the fixture.

In a blow to morale and those who decided to risk the journey – and risked being stranded away from home – the team were notified once on board the ferry that the pitch at Strathclyde Uni was unplayable owing to snow.

The team returned home

and the match, for the second time, had to be postponed.

A previous game the week before, against GHK 4s, also had to be called off owing to inclement weather and the game will be rescheduled for next month.

The next fixture for the Arran Ladies' Hockey Club will be against Dumfries Ladies 2s today (Saturday) with a passback time of 2.15pm.

All supporters would be very much appreciated and warmly welcomed.

The ladies' team had already got on the ferry when Strathclyde informed them the pitch was unplayable.





INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Arran Cycle Challenge
will include third route

Arran rewarded in Irvine after storm does its worst

Galston AFC	0
Arran AFC	3
League Cup group A	

Running the risk of being stranded on the mainland owing to weather-related ferry disruption, the Arran side pressed on and made the journey to Greenwood Academy, Irvine, to take on Galston AFC in what was to be terrible weather.

Despite the miserable conditions, Arran secured another win, with Ryan Armstrong, Johnny Sloss and James Todd all adding to the scoreboard and leading the team to victory with a final tally of 3-0 at the full-time whistle.

Hard-working player Joel Small was nominated as man of the match for his efforts on the pitch. As suspected, the players were unable to return home after the game as ferries were cancelled for the remainder of the day, but spirits were running high as the latest result meant that Arran have maintained their top position in the league cup group and, with only one game left to play, will now go into the semi-finals once all of the teams have played their games.

Marc Head, speaking on behalf of Arran AFC, said: 'I attended a recent league meeting and pressed the case for games on Arran but we can't force the issue. Hopefully, we can negotiate a better arrangement next season. We have pushed for



Above, Galston players rush forward as Arran breach their defence and attempt to score.

Photographs: Tam Borland

home games at Saltcoats to kick off at 12.45pm which will let us get back on the 3.15pm ferry if there happens to be one.

'Can I take this opportunity to thank again all the sponsors, contributors and supporters? If we've missed thanking you personally, it was an oversight, not that we've taken you for granted, from the main sponsors to those putting in a £1 at the matches, it has all helped keep the team going. Thank you.'

Arran AFC make a return to league games tomorrow (Sunday) with a match



against league leaders Kilbirnie United at Ardeers Junior Stadium, Stevenston, with a kick off at 12.45pm. All support is welcome and appreciated.

Above, goal scorer Johnny Sloss avoids a challenger to claim possession of the ball; and, right, players narrowly avoid crashing into each other.

Man of the match Joel Small put in a spirited performance.



Ryan Armstrong leads a small pack of players towards the goal.



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