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Arran ferry's 'heavy contact' causes major traffic chaos

A CalMac spokesperson said that customers can claim mileage incurred due to the Caledonian Isles breakdown

by Mark Davey
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

MV Caledonian Isles, the largest ferry serving Arran, has been removed from service following a collision.

At 2pm on Saturday, the vessel was coming alongside the Brodick Pier and its bow thrusters failed, resulting in what Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) called 'a heavy contact being made with the pier fenders'.

Investigation

A service update on CalMac's website states: 'This has resulted in some damage which will require further investigation.'

The Banner understands, from a CalMac officer, that the MV Caledonian Isles has a dent in its bow visor.

The update which will last a week, from last Sunday to Sunday March 24, means that MV Caledonian Isles will be

replaced with the smaller MV Hebridean Isles.

The statement continues: 'We will be unable to accommodate all booked traffic on our sailings due to MV Hebridean Isles having less capacity than MV Caledonian Isles.'

'Please note we will not be able to accommodate any unbooked traffic throughout this period.'

'We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to our customers.'

In addition, MV Catriona is operating an approximately hourly shuttle service between Lochranza and Claonaig to assist with traffic from the Ardrossan to Brodick route.

On Tuesday afternoon, a CalMac Spokesperson added: 'The MV Caledonian Isles is in Garvel and the extent of the damage is being assessed.'

Continued on page two

Arran's Eilidh awarded Provost's prize



Sports volunteer Eilidh Hamill added another arrow to her quiver at the North Ayrshire Provost's Civic Pride Awards 2019. For the first time at the county's premier awards for community heroes, the evening's top honour, the Provost's Award, had joint winners and Miss Hamill joined Corrie Shepherd on the podium with Provost Ian Clarkson. For more on this story, turn to page two. Above are Corrie Shepherd and Eilidh Hamill receiving their awards from Provost Ian Clarkson.

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JUST 3 REMAINING

Sports volunteer scoops Provost's Civic Pride Award

A sports volunteer made history at Irvine's Portal at the North Ayrshire Provost's Civic Pride Awards 2019.

Last Friday, for the first time at North Ayrshire's premier awards for community heroes, the evening's top honour, the Provost's Award had joint winners and Arran's Eilidh Hamill joined Corrie Shepherd on the podium with Provost Ian Clarkson.

Eilidh – a volunteer sports coach and leader in Arran – was a finalist in the North Ayrshire Sports Award category.

Eilidh said: 'I honestly can't believe it.'

'Everyone who is here tonight has done something amazing for the community and I am just so grateful to receive this award.'

It was Corrie's second award of the evening, moments earlier the Largs Academy pupil

had been named The North Ayrshire Young Citizen of the Year.

Corrie's project Clearer Minds aims to empower fellow school pupils to deal with loss, reduce stigma and raise the profile of mental health.

Corrie said: 'I feel absolutely amazing. It's such an honour and I didn't expect it at all. I'd just like to thank my whole family and everyone who voted.'

The glittering annual awards night raised almost £10,000 for charities Cash for Kids and The Ayrshire Hospice, bringing the total charity amount raised from the event to almost £164,000 in nine years.

The public voted in droves, with more than 16,700 votes cast this year.

Provost Ian Clarkson had the honour of revealing the winners of each of the five



All the award winners with North Ayrshire Provost Ian Clarkson.

categories before announcing those winners of his own

Provost's Award.

Provost Clarkson said:

'What a fantastic night yet again, and a fitting celebra-

tion of the work being done in our communities by each and every one of our inspirational finalists.

'We are so fortunate to have these individuals and groups giving their own time so freely to help others, making North Ayrshire an even better place for us all to live and work.'

'This night is to show our appreciation for all that they do, and we hope that they had a night to remember – regardless of the results.'

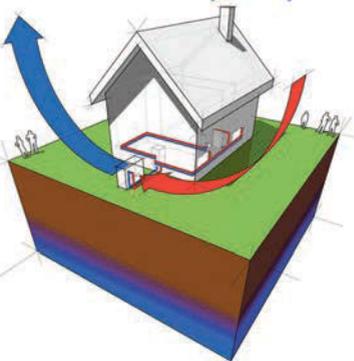
'I'd like to thank our sponsors, the businesses which donated so generously for our auction and raffle, and everyone who nominated or voted for their unsung local heroes.'

'I'd also like to thank the local media for their continued support and all of those who worked behind the scenes to make this event such a success.'

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Arran ferry crash causes traffic chaos

Continued from page one

'At this stage we are aiming for MV Caledonian Isles to be back in service tomorrow or Sunday.'

On Monday afternoon, on board the MV Catriona, there were many customers who had driven the 125 miles from Ardrossan to Claonaig, which takes about three hours.

Existing booking

They were asked to buy a further ticket even if they had an existing booking on the Ardrossan ferry. They were told to sort out any prior bookings and payments

either at the Brodick office or online.

Another passenger, who preferred not to be named, said she had driven round rather than wait at Ardrossan. More than 40 people wrote comments about the disruption on the Banner's Facebook page.

Stevie Flynn wrote: 'My Ardrossan ticket was honoured but I will be claiming the difference in the two sailings back as well as mileage, accommodation and food.'

A CalMac spokesperson said that customers can claim

mileage incurred due to the Caledonian Isles breakdown. Customers can claim this by sending in a passenger rights claim form at <https://www.calmac.co.uk/on-board/passenger-rights>.

Suffer

Commenting on the Banner's web page Donna Young wrote: 'Yet again both Arran and Islay suffer.'

'It should be noted also that MV Finlaggan has a technical fault and is unable to function properly.'

'When will CalMac have ferries that work?'



MV Caledonian Isles with the bow visor raised, photographed by Muriel Crockett.

Brain tumour survivor's Goatfell hike

by Mark Davey
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Goatfell should be a stroll in the park for a Paisley physical education teacher raising funds for Brain Tumour Research.

Already Craig Telfer, 27, who teaches at St Andrews Academy, has tripled his Justgiving target of £1,000 and as the Banner went to press had raised more than £3,245 from 127 donations.

News of the brain tumour survivor's challenge has spread from the Ayr Advertiser and after featuring in the Daily Record, on Tuesday, he hopes a large crowd will join his ascent on Sunday morning.

Craig said: 'I am trying to get as many friends, family, colleagues and more to join me on a hike up Arran's Goat Fell on Sunday.'

'We are meeting at 9am for the 9.45am ferry at Ardrossan.'

Many of Craig's friends know his miraculous story of how a persistent headache turned out to be a life-threatening tumour.

Craig added: 'A bit more than a year ago, on January 3

2018 I underwent brain surgery to have a brain tumour and cyst removed.

'It all began on December 6 2017 when I started to have continuous headaches every day.

'After 14 consecutive days of headaches I went to the GP and over the next week or so tried various pills that treated suspected migraines, cluster headaches and sinusitis but to no avail.

'One GP said: "Look don't worry you are a young fit and healthy guy you won't have a brain tumour".

'On December 29, more than three weeks after the symptoms first appeared, and at the stage where I could barely get out of bed and was being physically sick with the pain I was sent to accident and emergency in Ayr for a CT scan.

'I was diagnosed with a brain tumour that had a cyst attached.'

Craig, who teaches in a school with 1,500 pupils, was amazed because he hardly drinks and does not smoke in addition to being very fit.

He added: 'An ambulance took me straight to the Queen Elizabeth in Glasgow and I

was monitored for four days until I underwent the five-and-a-half-hour surgery.'

After leaving hospital Craig was off work for six months. A physiotherapist had to teach him to walk again, how to cut up his food and relearn many motor skills, such as opening bottles.

'A year on, having made a full recovery and back to full health, I am raising money for Brain Tumour Research.

'I am one of the lucky ones whose tumour was diagnosed and could be removed with no further surgery or chemotherapy.

'It's frightening to think that brain tumours are a bigger killer of children and adults, under the age of 40, than any other cancer.

'My aim is to raise the awareness of brain tumours and raise funds for further research.

'It would be great if as many people as possible could come along and join us on the hike and all donations to the cause will be appreciated.

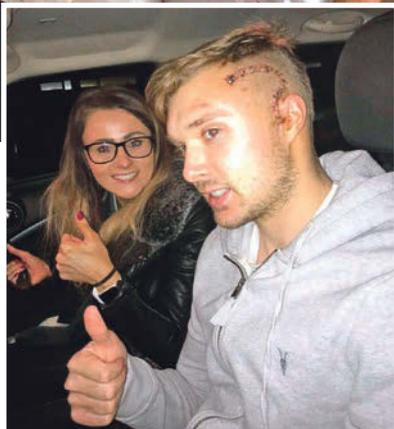
'Yesterday an S2 pupil at school told me he had read my story on the Justgiving page,' Craig added. 'He said: "You are a proper role model!"'



Craig Telfer in hospital after his neurosurgery.



Craig with his parents and brother.



Craig leaves hospital with his fiancée Shelley Neil.

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Lorraine links community with sources of support

Lorraine Hewie, who is the community link worker on Arran, hosted an informative afternoon in the Arran Library last week where she defined what her role entails, what social prescribing is, and what services she is able to provide.

Social prescribing is a way of linking patients in primary care with sources of support within the community. It provides GPs with a non-medical referral option that can operate alongside existing treatments to improve health and well-being.

Based in Shiskine Surgery on Monday mornings, Brodick Health Centre on Tuesday mornings and Lamlash Medical Practice on Wednesday mornings, appointments to meet with Lorraine can be made at GP receptions.

A community link worker can help people to improve

their mental and physical health by providing support and information on a wide range of issues, including managing stress, local activities and support groups, employment, a healthy lifestyle, alcohol and drugs and living with health conditions.

Statistics show that at least one in four people see their doctor for social problems and welfare advice. For these people, social prescribing can help to improve quality of life, emotional state and general well-being, as well as reducing levels of depression and anxiety. Social prescribing can also play an important role in tackling many of the social causes of ill health and provide support to patients living with chronic diseases.

If anyone would like to make an appointment with Lorraine, call or visit a local GP practice which will be able to arrange this.



Arran community link worker Lorraine Hewie held an information session at Arran Library where she provided visitors with details on the services that are available on Arran.

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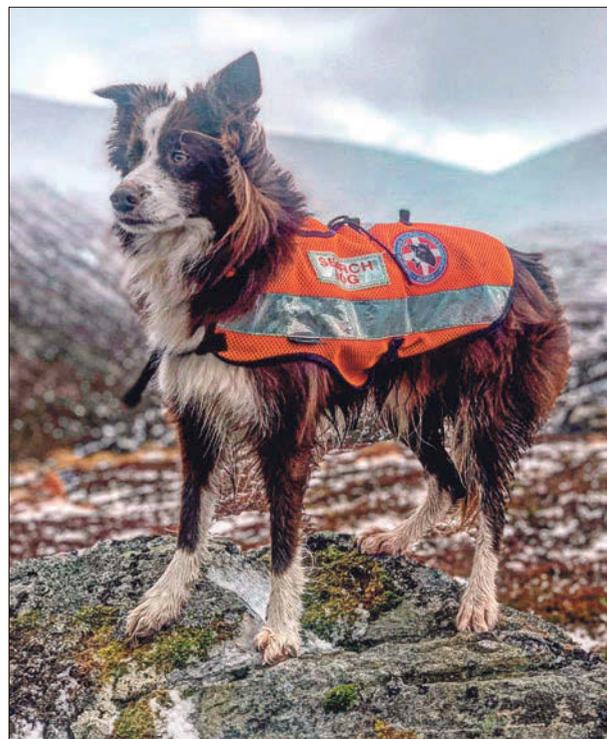
The Arran Mountain Rescue Team (AMRT) is this year's recipients of the Margaret Kay dog class donation in recognition of its dedication and committed work.

Each year Margaret, who runs dog training classes in Whiting Bay, distributes

what surplus monies she has raised to charities.

Donations

Having previously made donations to the RNLI, Montrose House Sunshine Fund and AMRT, along with regular beneficiary Whiting Bay Hall, it was decided that



Caileag the SARDA search dog plays a vital role in the AMRT.



Kirstie Smith from AMRT receives a donation from Whiting Bay.

the entire amount would go to one deserving group.

Margaret said: "This year our decision as to where our monies would go coincided with Mr Leask going missing and the huge, multi-agency, searches around Whiting Bay and Lamlash.

'We decided to donate all

CONTACTUS

email us at editor@arranbanner.co.uk
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Arran High pupils are 100 per cent positive

Arran High School's 100 per cent success rate in pupils leaving for a 'positive destination' has been celebrated.

It is the first North Ayrshire secondary school to achieve such a figure.

According to figures from the Education Analytical Services Division within the Learning and Justice Directorate of the Scottish Government, Arran High School leavers will all be going from their school education into employment, training, further and higher education.

The figures, which are one of the most significant indicators of the success of a school, demonstrate that the young

people have received a sound educational grounding that will see them leaving to make a positive contribution to society and have the skills, knowledge and confidence to do so.

Head teacher Barry Smith said: 'The outcome is of great credit to the hard-working young people and the staff who support them so well to achieve and become positive contributors to society. As head teacher I am immensely proud of the unfailing hard work of all concerned.'

Commenting on the achievement, Andrew McClelland, head of learning, teaching and curriculum, said: 'We are delighted

that the ScotXed data release for positive destinations shows an increase across the whole of North Ayrshire.

'The 100 per cent achieved in Arran High School is recognition of the good work undertaken by Arran High School and Education and Youth Employment in partnership with Skills Development Scotland.'

Arran High School is no stranger to high 'positive destination' scores, but this is the first time that it has achieved a 100 per cent figure.



Arran High School – producing 'positive contributors to society'.



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doggy donation



donation from Margaret Kay and the members of her dog class in

of our funds this year to the Arran Mountain Rescue Team – we appreciate that it was not alone in the searches, but felt the other agencies were larger charities which could, perhaps, command larger donations from a wider source.'

Kirstie Smith from

AMRT visited the class with Caileag, her SARDA search dog, where she was presented with a cheque for £500 on behalf of the club in appreciation of all that the team does. Incidentally, Caileag's first foray into training was at Margaret's class in Whiting Bay.

Douglas delight at the Best Couples Hotel award

The Douglas Hotel in Brodick is delighted to have won the Best Couples Hotel award at a glittering gala event at the Glasgow Marriott Hotel where the Prestige Hotel Awards took place.

Receiving the award on behalf of the hotel, food and beverage manager Craig Lindsay attended the industry event which included a drinks reception, followed by the awards ceremony, entertainment and a specially-selected, three-course dinner.

Celebrate

The Prestige Hotel Awards, now in its third year, aims to celebrate outstanding

achievements within the Scottish hotel industry and highlights organisations rising above the rest.

The Best Couples Hotel award is presented in respect of the offerings and suitability of a hotel for romantic breaks and couples getaways. The Principal Hotel in Edinburgh came highly recommended in the category.

Douglas Hotel managers Elaine and Steve Wood were delighted to receive the award with Elaine saying: 'Our newly refurbished bistro, along with the cosy and intimate nature of the hotel, lends itself to providing luxurious

surroundings for couples and visitors looking for boutique accommodation on Arran.

Gratifying

'We are honoured to receive this award on behalf of all of the team who have made this accolade possible. We always strive to do our best and it is gratifying to receive recognition for all of the hard work and extra effort that we put in to make our guests' visits that extra bit special.'

The Prestige Hotel Awards gala final was attended by more than 400 businesses across Scotland and included many of the top names in the hotel industry.

Participatory Budgeting engagement event

Individuals and groups with an interest in learning about funding and Participatory Budgeting are being invited to attend an engagement event this weekend.

The community engagement event will be held at Arran High School, Lamlash, today, (Saturday March 23), from 10.30am to 12.30pm, with refreshments.

There, people will be able to browse stalls and view presentations from the groups behind the successful bids for both Locality Funding and Green Health Partnership Funding, as well as hearing more about the work of the Locality Planning Partnership, North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, the Green Health Partnership and the Arran Ideas Group.

An officer will be on hand to provide advice on finding additional sources of funding for groups or organisations, and

Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS) will also be in attendance.

There will be a short quiz that can be completed on the day, with one lucky winner taking home a £50 voucher.

Groups and individuals in Arran were invited to bid for up to £1,000 to fund schemes that could help reduce social isolation, improve community well-being or support moving around on the island.

Nature-based

Funding of up to £1,000 was also available from North Ayrshire Green Health Partnership to help improve nature-based activities in the area.

Councillor Louise McPhater, cabinet member for communities, said: 'This showcase event offers a chance to come along, get involved and find out more about the projects benefiting from this latest round of funding.'



Douglas Hotel food and beverage manager Craig Lindsay accepted the Best Couples Hotel award at the Prestige Hotel Awards at the Glasgow Marriott Hotel.

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Health and social care jobs fair



Advertorial

Argyll College, the North Ayrshire Health and Social Partnership and representatives from medical and social care organisations on Arran will all play a part in a jobs fair next week where they will be providing prospective employees with all of the information they need to enter and learn about these fields.

Taking place in Argyll College at the Arran High School Campus, Lamlash on Thursday March 28, from 2pm to 8pm, the event will demonstrate that a career in health and social care can be varied and rewarding and prospective candidates can learn of the various opportunities available on Arran.

Available at the event will be information on general nursing roles in hospital and community settings, care at home, residential care, physiotherapy, occupational health and numerous other roles. In addition to this visitors will be able to meet health and social care staff who work on Arran and receive insightful details about what the daily roles can entail.

Information will also be available on proposed changes to on-island services and

future plans. Between 4pm and 6pm a video conference link will be established with other Argyll College centres where tutors will provide information on the new Access to Nursing course and attendees will be able to participate in a question and answer session.

The Access to Nursing course will be of particular interest to people who would like to work in the health sector but feel that they lack the right qualifications. This one year course is part of the Scottish Widening Access Programme and is an entry route for people who have been out of formal education for at least three years.

Arran services senior manager Ruth Betley said: 'We are very excited about the jobs fair and new courses available at the college.

'We are hoping for a good turn out from people who are either interested in a career change or are just starting out and would like more information on a career in health and social care.

'There are so many options in this area and we will have people there who can chat and give an insight into all



Anyone with an interest in a career in health and social care on Arran is invited to attend the jobs fair where information on these fields will be available to prospective employees. Stock photo: Argyll College.

the different roles. We will also have fun things to try out at the event so please come along.'

To find out more about what job and training opportunities are available visitors can attend on the day on Thursday March 28, however, places in the Access to Nursing session will need to be booked by registering at <http://bit.ly/accesstonursing>

Local council will work with landlords to improve housing

North Ayrshire Council has approved a revised scheme of assistance (SOA) which details how support will be provided to private landlords, tenants and owners to improve property conditions to alleviate the housing shortage.

The scheme is also the primary method through which

empty homes will be brought back into use and sets out the measures the council can take to stop properties lying empty for long periods.

Councillor Jim Montgomerie, cabinet member for place, said the newly-revised SOA would help improve private sector housing conditions, increase housing supply in North Ayrshire, and support individuals to live independently for longer.

He added: 'Residents will be well aware that we are in the middle of a massive house-building programme across North Ayrshire which will deliver more than 1,300 new council properties by 2024.

'Over and above that, it's important that we work with the private housing sector to ensure that property

conditions are the best they possibly can be.

'Our SOA clearly sets out how we can work constructively with the private sector – whether it's an owner, tenant or landlord – to make that happen.'

The newly revised SOA includes a new 'pre-tenancy support service' for landlords, to provide free property inspections and tenancy agreement advice. It also includes a new 'missing shares scheme' to remove barriers where a property owner refuses to meet their common repair obligations.

The council will also use its powers of compulsory purchase orders (CPOs) to acquire empty properties in poor condition which are a blight on local communities to bring them back into mainstream housing stock.

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ACCESS TO NURSING INFORMATION EVENT Thursday 28th March, 4pm-6pm

Would you like to work in the health sector but lack the right qualifications? Come along to our open evening and speak to tutors and staff about the course and available funding.

Register your place by visiting:
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This event will be part of our Health and Social Care jobs fair taking place 28th March 2pm-8pm.



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LETTERS

Editorial

CalMac's
Lochranza
bonanza

If a route is open in the 21st century it will quickly become populated.

So it was on Monday when CalMac's diesel-electric MV Catriona, one of the newest vessels in the fleet, was brought into service on the Cloanaig to Lochranza run.

Its job, almost unbelievably, was to alleviate pressure at Ardrrossan, 125 miles away, where a crash caused a smaller vessel to be operating.

The super smooth, almost silent ferry ran a continuous shuttle and judging by the midday sailing immediately became popular.

Not everyone had driven round, for some Kintyre folk it offered an easy day out on Arran.

A number of Islay and whisky tourists were able to include Lochranza Distillery on their itineraries.

This begs the question: Why not upgrade the single-track B842 between Cloanaig and Kennacraig to improve it for winter?

A year round Cloanaig to Lochranza service may reinvigorate trade between one of Arran's iconic villages, Skipness, Tarbert, Kintyre and Islay.

Springbank and Glen Scotia distilleries have found whisky tourists are not seasonal. The same will be true at Lochranza with an easy route open.

Thought for the week

Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.' John 6:35

Sannox
suspension

Sir,
Sadly we have had to suspend the Sannox Bay Hotel renovation project as chronic and enduring problems getting to and from Arran on the ferry has meant another eight wasted days trying to get back to Sannox from the mainland. I guarantee lots of other folk from Arran will have had this and similar ferry headaches.

The latest ferry mess at CalMac follows the MV Caledonian Isles dent to her bow visor. The replacement ferry is too small and has insufficient capacity. Hundreds of folk were sent a text cancelling their bookings with just 12 hours' notice and told to 'try their luck and just turn up'. But CalMac caveats state passengers have no guarantees they will get on a ferry. Ardrrossan/Brodick now has a free-for-all melee that has replaced the Arran ferry booking system.

Frustratingly, I had spinal surgery and am due for more operations, so have to rely on a disabled driver Blue Badge. So booking a ferry is a vital part of journey planning.

Unfortunately, there is now no way to book a place on the ferry if you are disabled. In spite of pleas to CalMac this week, its company policy on people with disabilities is 'go away'.

This is not good. But it also means we can't sort out the Sannox Bay Hotel site meeting for the Building Warrant and North Ayrshire Council officials. That results in closing down the hotel renovation job for at least two weeks until the MV Caledonian Isles dent in the bow visor is repaired. Because these ferry disruptions are now so common place, firms like ours

are having to postpone or cancel investment decisions on other Arran projects. This will mean lost jobs.

Meanwhile the CalMac shoreside staff, officers and crew are working incredibly hard. My experience is they are doing their absolute best in difficult circumstances and should be commended.

The problem is at CalMac senior management. Even then, Robbie Drummond, CalMac managing director, was kind enough to accept an invitation to attend a future public meeting in Brodick. But will this help? We really need a sophisticated solution to this complex and chronic ferry fiasco. CalMac has £4 million pounds in subsidy every week to keep the lifeline ferry services going and is failing badly. The new build ferry MV Glen Sannox is rotting away, while the warring parties sort that out and is many months away from service on the Arran lifeline route. So I would invite anyone who cares about helping remedy the Arran ferry mess to let me know if it is worth starting a formal petition to the Scottish Parliament to sort out this ferry mess: www.calmac-enigma.co.uk

Yours,
Russ McLean
Sannox Bay Hotel

Coastline concern

Sir
Our 'friends' at the Scottish Salmon Company have asked North Ayrshire Council to consider a scoping study in support of a gargantuan salmon farm between Sannox and Fallen Rocks on the NE coast of Arran. The NAC planners' reference is 19/00182/EIA accessible on the planning website.

The site just north of North Sannox near the Fallen Rocks

will encompass 20 huge cages plus a feeding barge and occupy an area immediately adjacent to the shore equal to three football pitches and extend at least 1km along the shoreline.

But it is not just visual intrusion into one of the most popular wild coastal walks on Arran undisturbed by road traffic. It is what it might do in terms of water quality, marine life, intertidal zone biodiversity that is most worrying.

This is factory intensive farming at its worst without any pollution safeguards.

Waste food and faeces, yes salmon s**t too, will be dispersed along the coast, particularly towards popular Sannox beaches, all 2,000 tonnes or more of it annually.

This is three times more than is generated by the entire resident population of Arran and equivalent to a waste stream generated by a town of 14,000 persons.

This is not only a wonderful recreational area for residents and visitors alike, it is part of the Arran Moor Special Protection Area. It is also of great importance regarding the geological sequence of rocks to trace along the shoreline, an educational wonderland for budding geologists with archaeological history mixed in.

The company sets out to claim the moral high ground in producing food for the ever-expanding world population but it is an entirely false claim. The industry is unsustainable when it comes to food sourcing. All salmon aquaculture companies worldwide are having to battle with spread of disease and parasitic infection, characteristic of intensive farming, using toxic chemicals to try and arrest premature mortality. It is a fact that during the

last two months of last year some 30 tonnes of dead salmon were removed from the existing Lamlash fish farm, the cause being undeclared. Anybody encountering the yellow trucks of the waste disposal contractor on the ferry will have been only too aware of the perils of this industry.

The latest bullet in the armoury is hydrogen peroxide, tonnes of this broad spectrum biocide being deployed to contain the lice that invade the open cages.

Do we want this huge industrial development with its pollution signature invading our pristine coastline?

Whether you are an environmental enthusiast, walker, kayaker, wild swimmer, tourism promoter or simply wish to protect one of the most untouched beautiful coastal areas of this island, this project is not for you. Don't let me influence you, however. There is a chance to hear the company extol the virtues of its proposal at a meeting in Lochranza on April 2.

In the meantime send in your views of the scoping document available via North Ayrshire planning.

It needs to spell out what baseline topics (descriptions of the existing environment) and likely impacts resulting from development would be experienced.

Only when more information and understanding is available will it be seen that this proposal flies in the face of Arran's secure longer term future.

Yours,
Sally Campbell
Lamlash

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

How to
contact us

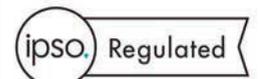
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However, we realise that mistakes happen from time to time. If you think we have made a significant mistake and you wish to discuss this with us, please let us know as soon as possible by any of the three methods: emailing editor@arranbanner.co.uk; telephoning the chief reporter on 01770 302142 or write to the Group Editor at Wyvex Media, Crannog Lane, Lochavullin estate, Oban, PA34 4HB. We will try to resolve your issue in a timely, reasonable and amicable manner. However, if you are unsatisfied with our response, you can contact IPSO, which will investigate the matter. You can call IPSO on 0300 123 2220 or email inquiries@ipso.co.uk. IPSO is an independent body that deals with complaints from the public about the editorial content of newspapers. We will abide by the decision of IPSO.

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Coastguard defends its emergency signs

An Arran Banner correspondent whose letter was recently published questioning the value and usefulness of Coastguard signs – which have been installed around Arran's coasts – has received an explanation from the instigator of the project.

David Lang made it clear in his letter that no-one would object to reasonable measures that increase safety and reduce risk but questioned whether it was a waste of time and tax payers' money and that it all seemed to be part of a 'bigger national move to put signs up everywhere, at every opportunity, regardless of cost and aesthetics'.

Kevin Paterson, station

officer of the Ardrossan Coastguard Rescue Team said: 'I am the person who instigated the project across North Ayrshire working in close partnership with North Ayrshire Council as part of the #KnowWhoToCall campaign undertaken last year by the Ardrossan Coastguard Rescue Team.'

'At present, it's estimated that around 50 per cent of the UK population don't know who to call in an emergency at the coast with many people also unaware that the coastguard is contacted via the emergency 999 system.'

'Seconds count in an emergency at the coast and any delay in the correct resources

getting tasked to an incident can have a significant impact on the overall outcome. The signs have been strategically located to key areas where coastguard assistance would be required if an emergency incident was to take place.'

'The Coastguard Rescue Service has a wide range of operational capabilities and responsibilities which go beyond just dealing with incidents in the water.'

'It is relatively common place for people to default to contacting the police for all manner of emergencies as opposed to contacting the most appropriate emergency service to deal with said emergency. Ultimately other

agencies are notified and attend, however, this will always lead to some form of time delay which can have obvious implications.'

'The advice is relatively straight forward and that's if there's someone at risk or in difficulty along the coast or out at sea then it is always dial 999 and ask for the coastguard.'

David, in his letter, questioned whether there was anyone in the UK who did not know to call 999 in the event of an emergency, including visitors, and questioned the necessity of the signs, ending his letter by saying: 'Common sense is always better than any amount of signs.'



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

ARRAN BANNER ON HOLIDAY



The Arran Banner regularly receives pictures of its readers enjoying their holidays in far flung and exotic locations as well as those closer to home. When space allows we like to print these pictures of people who have remembered to take their favourite paper with them. In this week's edition is five-month-old Cora Day, who is on her first visit to Arran from Glasgow.

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE WEEK



The clouds parted on Monday evening, after a day of incessant rain, to reveal a dusting of snow capping Goatfell. The scene, commonplace to all in Brodick, was a natural draw to the Banner's visiting Campbeltown Courier reporter. For the technically minded a 50mm manual focus lens on a digital Nikon was used. The 400 ISO allowed a shutter speed of 1/125th at f8. A polarising filter on the lens, similar to sunglasses, was used. It boosts the contrast in the sky. It is not possible to exactly replicate the effect of a polariser with computer software. 25_B12potw01

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Sophie takes the honours in



Burns Club secretary Andrew Martin and vice president Douglas Auld present Sophie MacFarlane with her prize.

Sophie MacFarlane of Whiting Bay Primary School has been named as the winner of this year's annual primary schools painting competition sponsored by the Lamplash Burns Club.

With the theme of Robert Burns' poem Scots Wha Hae, Sophie's detailed painting of the Battle of Bannockburn was selected from the 166 entries which were received from all of the seven schools on the island.

Selecting a low-key presentation rather than a formal one, Sophie was presented with her prize at school by Andrew Martin, secretary of the club and Douglas Auld, vice president.

Receiving a limited edition commemorative medal and a gift token, Sophie's winning entry will also be used on the certificates presented to each participant at the Burns primary schools poetry competition.

The Burns Club primary schools painting competition, now in its fourth year, attracts a large number of entries each year.

A group of independent judges select their 10 favourites entries and present a shortlist to the Burns Club committee who, taking into account the children's ages and how accurately it represents the theme, select an overall winner.



The charmingly detailed winning entry from Whiting Bay P6 pupil, Sophie MacFarlane, which won the painting competition.



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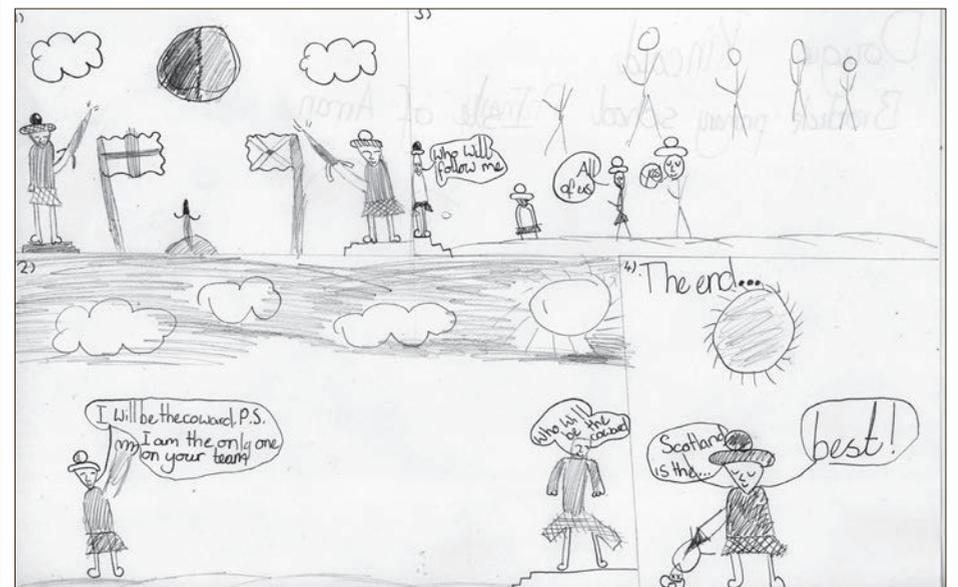
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Bright and colourful, P2 pupil Lucy Young's entry features a large number of Scottish soldiers.



Douglas Kincaid of Brodick impressed with his cartoon strip style picture.

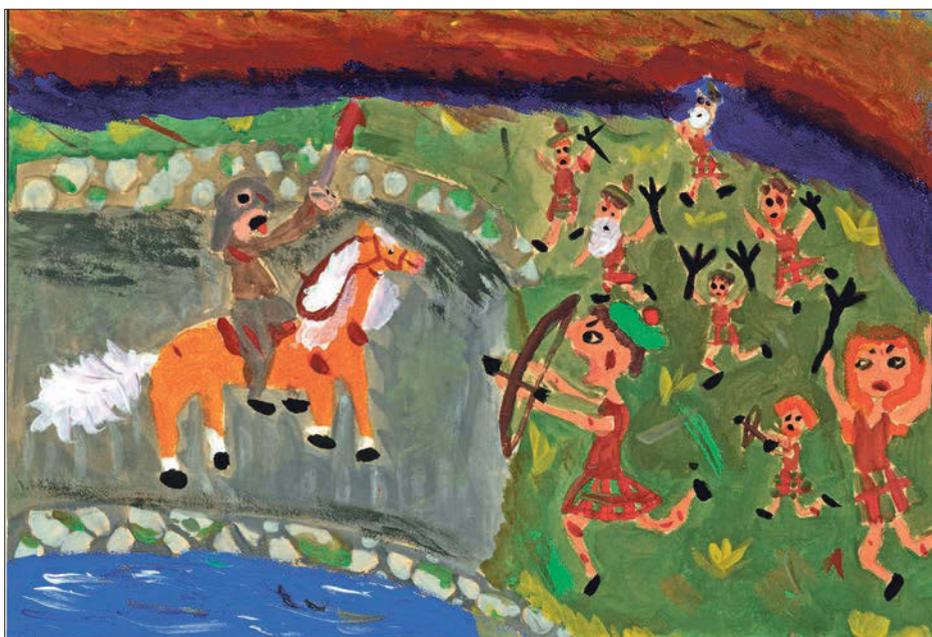
Burns painting competition



Roslin McLean, P6 pupil at Whiting Bay, included numerous focal points in her picture.

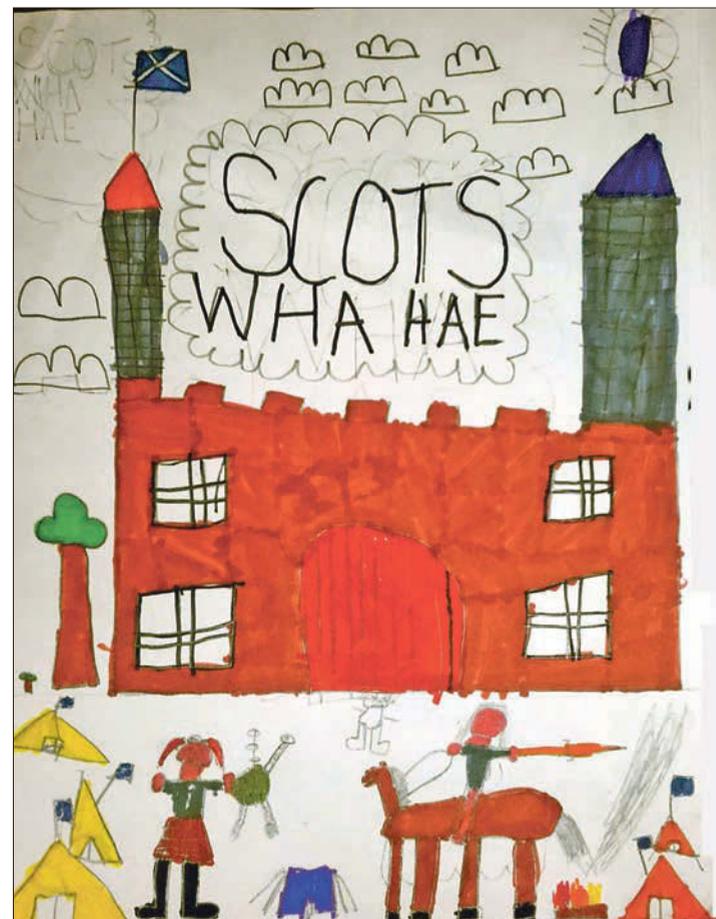


P5 pupil, Ella Bowers of Kilmory, chose a battle scene with a remarkably detailed bridge.



P6 Shiskine pupil Olivia McNeice used vivid colours in her depiction of the famous battle and included tartan kilts.

Millie Dwyer, P3 pupil at Corrie included a castle, bagpipes, trees and tents in her entry.



SCOTTISH FIELD'S APRIL ISSUE OUT NOW

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Banksy... **Secrets of skiff racing...**

A day to celebrate Whiting Bay

The village-wide initiative will take place over two days starting on Saturday May 11.

A group of Whiting Bay residents, who run the online Whiting Bay Memories group, will be hosting a day to celebrate Whiting Bay, past and present, with a large number of organisations taking part in the host of activities planned.

The village-wide initiative, which will take place over two days starting on Saturday May 11, will feature exhibitions, music, a family ceilidh, historic video and numerous other activities.

At the village hall, the mem-

ories group will host a two-day exhibition of Whiting Bay through the decades.

This will be compiled from the vast quantity of photographic history, artefacts and documents with personal memories.

There will also be video and digital pictures covering a decade of fun weeks held across the village.

Special exhibitions will include The Arran Gallery at St Columbus, a show of model boats and some surprise old favourites from the '70s and

'80s arts and crafts and children's activities.

Sunday will include artists and makers offering interactive crafting.

And around the village, many businesses will be offering something special for the weekend, including pop up venues, music, special menus and open events.

In addition there will be excursions to Glenashdale and Giants Graves' excursions in Mogabout's 4x4 Mercedes Unimog. Tickets for excursions and the family



The promotional material advertising the event features an old image of Whiting Bay.

ceilidh will be available from Monday April 1, online from Arran Events or each Monday in the Post Office.

A Whiting Bay Memories event was previously held in 2016. The event was well attended and for many it was a nostalgic trip down memory lane, and one that

was spoken about for many months afterwards.

In an effort to decorate the village with bunting, and especially since the entire event will feature in a DVD marking the occasion, a small group of residents have been busy making community bunting from unwanted fab-

ric whilst talking about their memories.

If anyone would like to join them they can contact 01770 700 411 or if anyone has a photo or video or anything else relevant to Whiting Bay Memories by email at whiteningbay.memories@gmail.com

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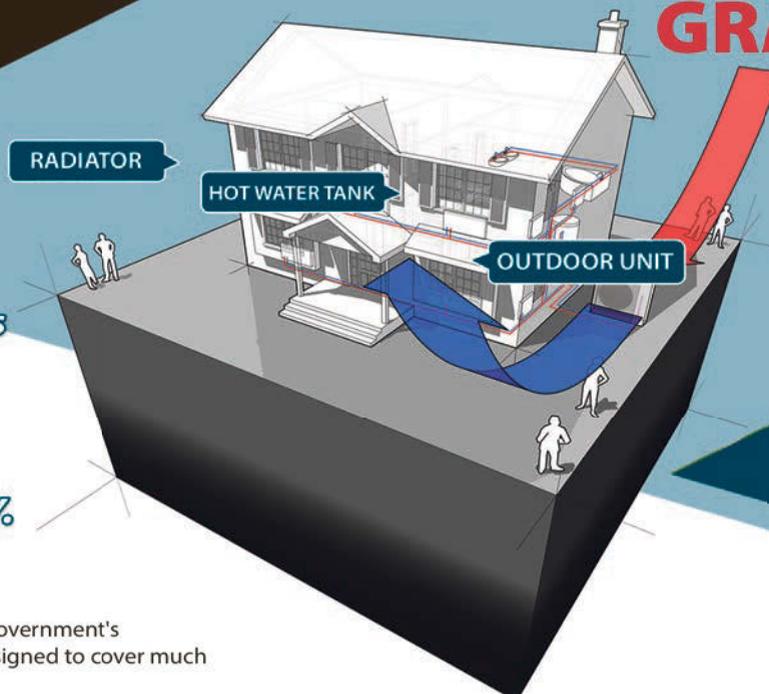
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Arran MP calls for overhaul of disability assessments system

Patricia Gibson, MP for North Ayrshire and Arran, spoke out at Westminster recently against the UK Government's assessment systems for people with disabilities describing them as physically and psychologically damaging.

The assessments for benefits such as Personal Independence Payment (PIP) and Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) are under fire because a quarter of all people who claimed Disability Living Allowance were disallowed its replacement benefit, PIP, after undergoing an assessment. Yet between July and September last year 72 per cent of ESA appeals overturned an unfavourable decision based on a Work Capability Assessment.

Mrs Gibson called on the UK Government to completely overhaul the assessment systems for people with dis-

abilities and said: 'We know that evidence-based reviews conducted on behalf of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) identified a pervasive culture of mistrust around PIP and ESA processes, culminating in fear of face-to-face assessments, creating huge anxiety for many people.'

'PIP and ESA support is essential for people unable to work due to life limiting health conditions.'

'I am appalled that this UK Government believes it acceptable to have private contractors carry out assessments on vulnerable people.'

'Supporting sick and disabled people should not be influenced by how much profit a contractor can make.'

'All three existing contractors failed to meet key performance targets in any given period. In Capita's case



North Ayrshire and Arran MP Patricia Gibson has said the welfare benefits assessments systems need to be overhauled.

as many as 56 per cent were unacceptable. This only contributes to and exacerbates a lack of trust in the system.

'We need to overhaul these punishing assessments which are physically and psychologically damaging to claimants. The stress and bureaucracy claimants are put through – and I see this up close every day here in North Ayrshire – causes real harm to people already struggling with often very serious and debilitating conditions.'

'Sadly, the UK Government has forced those whose poor health prevents them from working to bear the brunt of its punitive austerity agenda.'

'The entire DWP system appears hostile to sick and disabled people and that needs to change, taking greater account of the often very vulnerable people with whom it deals.'

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LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN

Arran primaries join forces in fight against litter

All seven primary schools on Arran have been involved in the Wriggly Litterless Campaign that has seen them collectively retrieve more than 320kg of litter from various locations around the island.

Joining more than 850,620 students from 1,478 schools in 35 countries, Arran pupils have enthusiastically been involved in the Eco-Schools programme which aims to engage and educate children

and young people on the issue of litter, and encourage them to make positive choices.

Having already completed two monthly litter picks, and having committed to do two more over the following two months, some of the schools will continue with the initiative on a month-to-month basis after that.

On the initial pick in January the children were fortunate with the weather, however,

the most recent one saw them persevere despite the cold and windy conditions.

Upon analysing the types of waste that the children have been finding it has been noticed that on beaches the waste has been mostly marine waste and single use plastic that could also have come from the sea. In community areas, it is mostly discarded wrappers and plastic bottles.

Deputy head teacher



Shiskine Primary opted for a beach clean, removing marine waste from the shore.

Quinton Black said: "The schools are very lucky to be able to access pickers and hoops from the council, which is perhaps buying more and borrowing from Eric Kay of King's Cross. The schools are committed to two more

monthly picks but can continue for the rest of this academic session if they wish."

In addition to the litter picks, the participating schools in the Litter Less campaign in the Eco-Schools programme will monitor the waste and litter

produced in schools with the aim of improving the waste management treatment.

They are also formulating plans to work with charities and businesses to continue the progress made in combating litter.



Lamlash primary pupils were suitably attired for their litter pick.



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Pirnmill primary pupils with some of the litter they removed near the school.



Kilmory primary pupils show off their impressive collection of marine litter.



Whiting Bay pupils endured the rain to collect litter from their school surroundings.



Warmly dressed, Brodick primary pupils scoured Fisherman's Walk for marine litter.



Corrie primary pupils get off to a good start at collecting litter.

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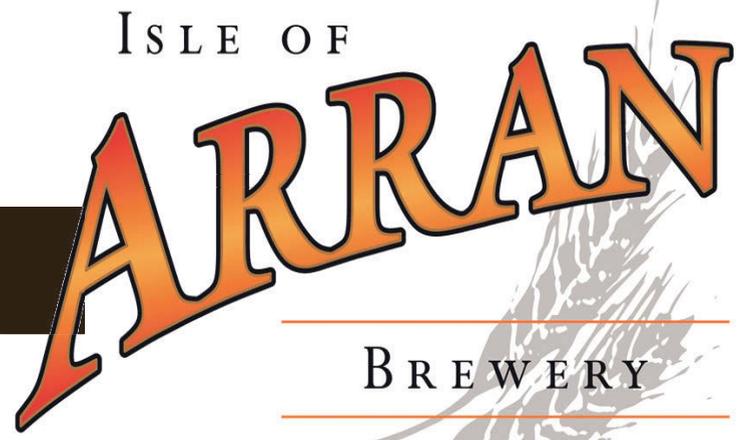
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Every day

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
Brodick Mini Golf	Open 7 days, 9am - 5pm ish, ALL weather
Brodick Castle, garden only	Open 9am-dusk
Soap making and candle dipping	Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am - 4pm
Public Swimming	Auchrannie Spa Pool, Brodick, 10am - 4pm (last entry 3pm) & 6pm - 8pm (last entry 7pm)
Swimming Lessons	Auchrannie Hotel Pool, Brodick, Monday - Thursday, 4pm - 6pm
Arran Brewery	Open - Mon, Friday & Saturday, 10am - 5pm Tuesday - Thursday, 11am - 4pm. Tours daily at 2pm

Saturday 23rd March

Flow Yoga	Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
Heather Lodge Open Day	Heather Lodge, Brodick, 10am - 4pm
Winter Rink Bowls	Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Family games	Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Spring Fayre	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, Brodick, 7.30pm
Live Music - Rigid Soul, solid mix of melodic-pop & blues rock	The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Over 21's Disco	Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

Sunday 24th March

Live Music - Mic Clark	Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 1pm - 4pm
Family games	Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Heather Lodge Open Day	Heather Lodge, Brodick, 2pm - 5pm
Gym Induction	Auchrannie Spa, 2.30pm
Fun in the pool	Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm - 4pm
Live Music - Rigid Soul	The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting	Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
Folk Music Session	Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Monday 25th 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	Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
Live Music - Mike Bailey	Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s	Brodick Church Hall, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 26th March

Body Blitz (booking essential)	Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
Healthy Outdoors Team	Brodick Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
Eco Savvy Energy Surgeries	Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10am - 3pm
Eco Social	Eco Savvy Shop, Whiting Bay, 11am - 3pm
Winter Rink Bowls	Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting	Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
Bridge class (beginners/improvers)	Brodick Golf Club, 2.30pm - 4.30pm
Arran Pace Makers - Jog Scotland Beginners Group	Ormidale pavilion, Brodick, 5.30pm
Steak Night - 2 Ribeye Steaks & bottle of wine	Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 5.30pm
Gym Induction	Auchrannie Spa, 5.30pm
Arran Hockey Club - Juniors (5 - 14yrs)	Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm
Flow Yoga	Corrie Hall, 6pm
Netball	Arran High School Gym, 7pm - 8pm
Scottish Country Dancing	Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
Eco Savvy Pub Quiz and Taco Tuesday	Brodick Golf Club, 7.30pm
Eco Savvy Food Share	Whiting Bay Eco Savvy Hub Shop, 9pm
Trev's Pop Music Quiz	Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm
Traditional Music Sessions	Brodick Bar, 9pm

Wednesday 27th March

Yoga	Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am
Hydrofit	Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.30am - 10.30am
Brodick Gardens Volunteers	Brodick Castle and Country Park, 9.30am - 1pm
Coffee Morning	St Bride's Church, Brodick, 10.30am - 12noon

Knit and Blether	Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 11.30am - 1.30pm
Arran Heritage Museum	Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm
Chair Yoga Exercise Class	St Molios Church Hall, Shiskine, 11am
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	Brodick, 5.30pm
Flow Yoga	Shiskine Hall, 6pm
Live Music - Arran Dawn	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, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 28th March

Morning fitness	Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am - 10.30am
Chair Yoga Exercise Class	
Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 10.30am	
Arran Heritage Museum	Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm
Music Matters	Lamlash Church Hall, 2pm
Steak Night - 2 Steak dinners and a bottle of wine	Drift Inn, Lamlash, 5pm - 9pm
Body Blitz (booking essential)	Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
Isle of Arran Bridge Club, All welcome	Little Rock, Brodick, 7pm for 7.15pm
Badminton, All welcome	Shiskine Hall, 7pm
Arran Hockey Club - Seniors (12 yrs +)	Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8.30pm
Arran Soul Choir	Community Theatre, Arran High School, 7pm - 9pm
Brodick Embroidery Group	
Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm	
Eco Savvy Food Share	Brodick Ormidale Pavilion, 8.15pm
Eco Savvy Food Share	Kilmory Hall, 8.30pm
Tommy's General Knowledge Quiz	Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 29th March

Yoga	Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am - 10.30am
Hydrofit	Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.30am - 10.30am
Coffee Morning	Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, 10.30am
Arran Heritage Museum	Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm
Gym Induction	Auchrannie Spa, 5.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting	Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
Tae Kwon Do	Advanced (Advanced Class) Arran High School, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
Live Music - Shindig	Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
Friday Night Quiz	Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
The Ranzas, New-Wave Indie Rock Fuzz Pop four-piece band	The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Saturday 30th March

Flow Yoga	Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
Arran Heritage Museum	Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am - 4.30pm
Winter Rink Bowls	Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 1.30pm
Annual Spring Flower and Bulb Show	Brodick Hall, 2pm
Family games	Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
Gym Induction	Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 2.30pm
Fun in the pool	Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm - 4pm
Live Music - Mike Edwards	Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
The Jimi Hendrix Re-Experience - technical brilliance & raw power	The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
Over 21's Disco	Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm



Birthday boat berths in Brodick

The MV Hebridean Princess, which has just celebrated her 55th birthday, paid Arran a visit last week as part of her Grandeur and Splendour of Argyll and Bute tour.

Launched on March 12, 1964, under her original name of MV Columba, the vessel arrived in Brodick two days after her birthday and spent the evening at Brodick pier after taking in some of the coastal views.

Carrying just 50 guests, with a crew of 38, MV Hebridean Princess has a reputation for exceptional service and fine food in her 30 well-appointed cabins.

Guests on the first tour of the sailing season enjoyed the benefit of a freshly refurbished interior comprising new marble-style bathrooms, updated interiors and a new look Columba Restaurant.

The seven-day Grandeur and Splendour of Argyll and Bute tour is described as an 'architectural exploration of design styles and features private viewings of stately homes, baronial castles, private apartments and a neo-Gothic mansion'.

Shore visits during the tour included Bute, Troon, Brodick, Strachur, Crarae and Largs, before returning to Greenock. Brodick castle could not be visited as it is closed while upgrading takes place.

Hebridean Island Cruises offers cruises of between four and 10 nights departing mainly from Oban, sailing the waters of the Western Isles and beyond to St Kilda, Northern Ireland, Eire, Isle of Man, the Channel Islands, the Isles of Scilly, Northern France and Belgium.



The MV Hebridean Princess pictured at Brodick Pier two days after the anniversary of her launch 55 years ago.

Natural History Society funds Arran's flora revision

Thanks to funding from the Arran Natural History Society a checklist booklet of Arran's flora - known by the same name - has been thoroughly revised and improved for 2019.

For the first time the checklist, which has gone through several editions since it was first published in the 1980s, has been compiled with an attractive cover and has been thoroughly updated with all of the latest information.

Taking pride of place on the front is a photograph of the iconic Arran whitebeam in flower. This tree species is

one of Scotland's rarest and critically endangered plants that is unique to the island.

The back cover has an equally fine picture of an oyster plant, another iconic native wild flower. Formerly this beautiful plant was widespread around the island's shingle-lined beaches but due to disturbance and the effects of global warming this is now a rarity on Arran's shores.

The checklist is a list of all those flowers and ferns, both native and introduced, that occur in the wild on Arran.

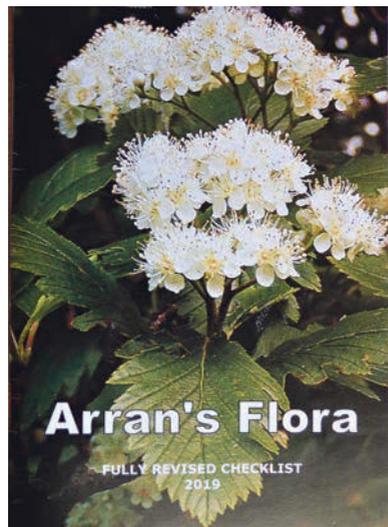
It also indicates their known distribution with reference to

a coloured map of the island on the inside of the front cover. At the beginning of the booklet there is an easy to read introduction to the island's vegetation entitled Arran's Green Mantle. This highlights the richness and variety of the plant life from the shoreline to the mountain tops.

The checklist may not appeal to a wide audience, however, for those with more than a passing interest in wild flowers, it will be a very useful guide and will make for an attractive souvenir at only £3. All profits from the sale will go to the Arran Natural History Society.

The 2019 edition is dedicated to Anthony W Smith, known to islanders as Tony Smith. Tony was a passionate recorder of the island's flora for more than 30 years and his field skills are greatly missed. He was also the joint compiler and editor of the previous additions.

The latest version of the checklist is now available from shops and other outlets throughout the island or through the Arran Natural History Society by contacting arrannaturalhistorysociety@gmail.com



The front cover of Arran's Flora booklet features the rare Arran whitebeam in full flower and is available at selected outlets on Arran.

Music @ the PHT

- Fri 22nd March, 9pm - **The Straw Dogs** - Stiff Little fingers tribute plus more punk
- Sat 23rd, 9pm & Sun 24th, 4pm - **Rigid Soul** - Solid mix of melodic-pop & blues rock
- Fri 29th, 9pm - **The Ranzas** - A New-Wave Indie Rock Fuzz Pop 4 piece band
- Sat 30th, 9pm - **The Jimi Hendrix Re-Experience** - Recreating the legend that is Hendrix with a blend of technical brilliance, raw power & sensitivity that Jimi would appreciate
- Sun 31st, 4pm - **Neil Wilson** - Powerful arrangements of blues, roots and classical guitar
- Sat 6th April 9pm - **Fue Fighters** - A Foo Fighters Tribute band who sound just like them.
- Sun 7th, 4pm - **Charlie Gorman** - Multi talented singer songwriter
- Fri 12th, 9pm - **Myles' Band** - Teenage local has pulled together this exciting new band.
- Sat 13th, 9pm & Sun 14th, 4pm - **Lynsey Dolan Band** - A heady cocktail of blues and country with a generous dash of 'Glasgow Soul' & sultry, smoky tones.
- Sat 20th, 9pm & Sun 21st, 4pm - **Trongate Rum Riots** - an 8 piece dexterous talented troupe of musicians ranging from sea shanties to dirty folk, with pounding rhythms
- Mon 22nd, 4pm - **Mic Clark** - Passionate new music from Scotland, crossing over to Ireland and finding a home for a modern yet traditional Celtic vibe.
- Sat 27th, 9pm & Sun 28th, 4pm - **The Sixth Note** - An energetic and stylish jazz formation playing Swing bebop, Latin, Blues and numbers with funky soul vibes
- Fri 3rd May, 9pm - **Memories of The King Elvis** - Decades of Elvis. A truly stunning Tribute
- Sat 4th, 9pm & Sun 5th, 4pm - **Midnite Hour** - Covers of Santana, ELO, Police Bon Jovi etc
- Mon 6th, 4pm - **Mic Clark** - See above
- Sat 11th, 9pm - **Chasin' the Train** - "Blues with Cojones" delicious harmonica, raw powerful vocals, supercharged guitar and a rock solid rhythm section.
- Sun 12th, A Festival of Jazz
 - 4pm - **Joni Keen & Dan Brown** haunting melodic vocals are iconic and as one of the best female jazz artist in Scotland a treasure who lives on our own soil of Arran.
 - 7.30pm **Ali Affleck** the highly acclaimed 'Jazz Vocalist of the Year 2014' accompanied by New Orleans style pianist Joplin Parnell
- Sat 18th, 9pm & Sun 19th - **Will & The Wild Horse** - Folk n blues with funk & reggae roots
- Sat 25th, 9pm & Sun 26th - **The Splinters** - putting their own stamp on classic & modern tracks from Kate Bush, Blondie, Buzzcocks to The Who, Pink and Radiohead
- Fri 31st - **DJ Tom McGarrigle** keeps the dancing going

THE PIERHEAD TAVERN LAMLASH
WWW.THEPHT.CO.UK 01770 600418 ARRAN

Cut out & keep!

THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday March 20, 1999

Disturbed dyke

Following reports on Kildonan beach on Thursday of phosphorus flares, the Arran Coastguard was called to investigate. They positively identified the objects and called a naval explosive disposal team from Faslane. They arrived later on Thursday and safely disposed of the flares. This incident took place two weeks after the Arran earthquake. After the last earthquake there were similar findings of ordnance being found on Arran beaches. It was thought at the time that an ordnance dumping site at Beaufort's Dyke in the Irish Sea may have been disturbed by the earth tremors. Many are speculating that the most recent discovery could, once again, be as a result of the earthquake.

Music Festival

The 70th Arran Music Festival began on Wednesday and ended on Friday night. Most significantly, this year was that it was held in Lamlash Hall since Whiting Bay Hall is being altered. Largely, people's fears were without foundation and the hall fitted the bill very well. One difficulty was that verse and music

could not continue at the same time because the smaller hall is not sound proofed from the main hall. Yet this avoided the difficulty of trying to be in two places at once. Lamlash Hall did well enough and provide plenty of space and light. The festival was once again a great success, all thanks to the devoted organisers. And especially those young people who get that wonderful taste of standing up and performing and are greatly the better for it.

£4 a gallon

With us all buying petrol in litres and by the ten pound note we are becoming unaware of just how much we are paying. But Neil Arthur of Shiskine has pointed out that diesel fuel in Blackwaterfoot now costs more than £4 a gallon. Mr Arthur is amazed that people are accepting the price of petrol so lamely. The government understands though that petrol is an inelastic product – or one which people buy however high the price. As for Angus Cameron having to charge over £4 he says: 'We're very grateful to Angus that he bought the garage. The fact that he's there keeps three shops open. Some people don't realise what a service he's doing.'



After a devastating flood the Glenisle Hotel is back in business. Pictured on the opening night are: Peter McIntyre, Fiona MacDonald, Isla MacDonald, owners Liz and Fred Wood, chef Davie Symington and assistant chef Stephen Williamson.



Junior drama clubs from Shiskine and Lamlash graced the stage at The Magnum in Irvine to perform their plays from the Arran Drama Festival.



The Corrie dancing team which won the Music Festival Association's Challenge Shield for mixed dancing at the festival. Joining them is teacher Rita Salmon.



New proprietors of the Pillar Box are Alan and Jill Hollick, who have just taken over the sub post office in Whiting Bay. Originally from Staffordshire the couple moved to Dippen last summer.



Arran High School get possession in the lineout against Belmont Academy at the Ormidale Park. Sadly they remain at the bottom of the District League Division One.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

KILDONAN VILLAGE HALL

AGM

MONDAY 1 APRIL 2019

7.30PM VILLAGE HALL

EVERYONE WELCOME

Charity No.SCO16974

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



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siarachd Air a Tuath

Lamlash Moorings Association

A.G.M.

Wednesday 3rd April 2019
at 7.30pm

The Octopus Centre, Lamlash
All members welcome

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.

PERSONAL NOTICE



Jeanette and Peter

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25th March 1959

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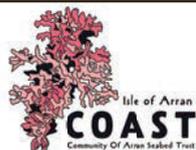
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for a cottage and barn**

Newton Shore, Lochranza

Holiday lets from April - October.

For more information or to apply
please contact

Mrs Kerr - T: **01569 762604**



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

CASKS CAFE·BAR

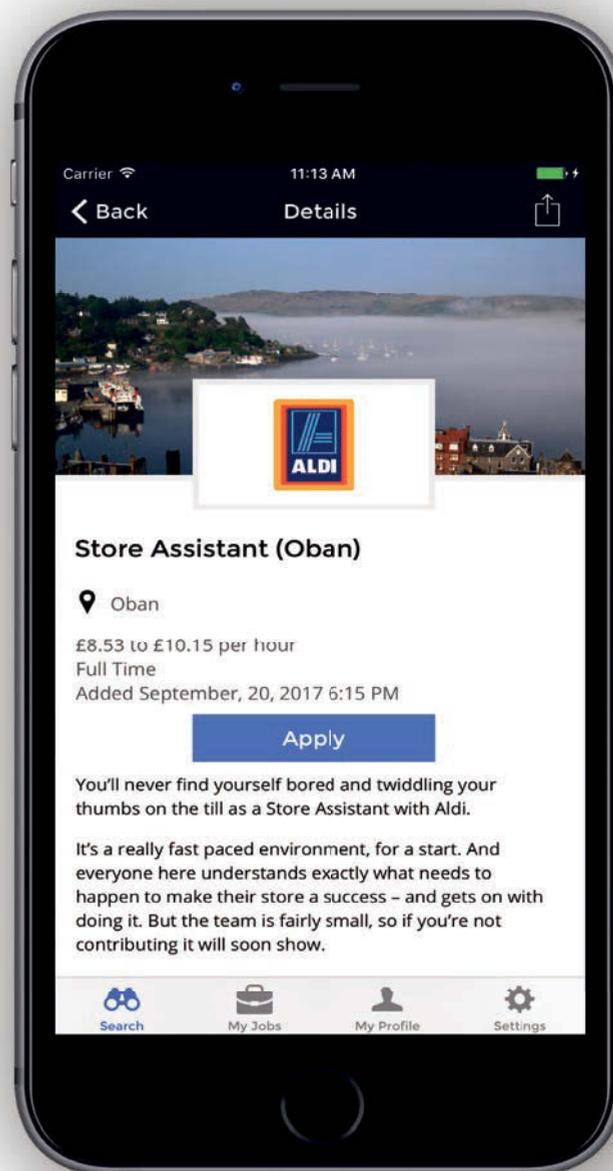
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CHURCH NOTICES

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 24th March

Pirnmill and Lochranza Churches together, 10.15 am. Morning Worship at Pirnmill

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

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

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland,
Charity Number: SC014005

Sunday 24th 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.

All most welcome.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 24th March

Holy Communion - 11 am.
Rev Adrian Fallows
Coffee after service
All welcome.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 24th March
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash

Sunday 24th March

Mrs Aileen Brookens
Kilmory 10 am,
Lamlash 11.30 am
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 24th March

Sunday Worship @ 11am
'Heather Lodge', Brodick
Left of the Douglas Hotel,
opposite the ferry terminal.
Telephone 700346, 820 223
Everyone warmly invited.

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 24th 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 24th March
Shiskine 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)

Brodick 6pm
Rev Benjamin Van Rensburg.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 24th March

Sunday Mass 11am.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bridge results

The results of the match-points competition played on Monday March 11 are as follows: 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan, 3 Dougie and Margaret Bruce.

The results of the aggregate competition played on Thursday March 14 are as follows: N/S 1 Ellie Jones and Liz McKellar, 2 Dougie and Margaret Bruce, 3 Jennifer McArthur and Elaine Duncan. E/W 1 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 Jessmay Peacock and Margaret McGill, 3 Giorsal Kroner and Jane Davidson.

The results of the aggregate competition played on Monday March 18 are as follows: N/S 1 Jan and John Beattie, 2 Jennifer McArthur and Ellie Jones, 3 Jim Peacock and John Baraclough. E/W 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan, 3 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

In anyone is interested in learning how to play free lessons are available at Brodick Golf Club on a Tuesday at 2.30pm.



Machrie Bay's Phil Betley, winner of the Lochranza Hotel Cup.



Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday March 7, Yellow Medal. 1 Jim Young 73-14=59, 2 Derek Harrison 82-22=60. Magic twos, Andy Smith at 4th, Allan Colquhoun at 5th. Thursday March 14, Yellow

Medal. 1 Alan Smith 80-11=69. Magic twos, Alan Smith at 4th, Paul Cowan at 5th.

Sunday March 7, Winter Friendly v Whiting Bay. Overall result, honours

even, draw Whiting Bay 6, Lamlash 6 - Whiting Bay retain the trophy.

Old Cronies trophy, Stan Rainey 37 and 32 = 69, runner up Alan Smith 35 and 33 = 68. Well done Stan. Good scores in difficult conditions.

Fixtures: Sunday March 24, Winter Glenburn Cup, final round, 9.30am and noon. Leading player, Lee Dutton.

Thursday March 28, Yellow Medal, 11am start.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday March 18, Winter Cup. 1 A Smith 66-4=62, 2 L Hartley 81-8=62. Only the above two finished on what became a very soggy day.

Fixtures: Saturday March 23, 18 Hole Sweep, medal tees, ballots at 9am and 1.30pm.

Lochranza Castle Golf Club

Fixture: Saturday March 23, The Alistair MacVicar Memorial Trophy. This will be played for alongside the final match versus Shiskine Golf Club at Shiskine.

Draw at 1.45pm.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday March 19, Lochranza Hotel Cup final day. 1 Phil Betley 39, 2 Campbell Laing 36, 3 Brian Sherwood 29. Overall winner, Phil Betley 188, runner up, Campbell Laing 187.

Fixtures: Tuesday March 26, Winter Cup, final day, tee off at noon.

Brodick Golf Club

Fixture: Sunday March 24, Winter Cup Stableford, 9am and noon.



Lamlash Golf Club.

new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2200

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

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

Easy to enter

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

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

Competition rules

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

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

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



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

Name

Address

Tel No.

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

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:
M Wotherspoon
Oban
A Livingstone
Isle of Islay

On your marks, date

The Arran Junior Triathlon Club (AJTC) which hosts the Island-2-Island Triathlon Festival in Lamlash has announced the dates for its third festival later this year.

Taking place at the Arran Outdoor Centre in Lamlash, the festival will begin on the weekend starting on Saturday June 1.

Hosting

The Triathlon Club will be hosting a full programme of events including a full and half Ironman distance triathlons which will include two swims.

The first will be a 3.8km swim starting at 2.45pm and the second will be a 1.9km swim that will start at 3.15pm. Registration for the events will take place between 12.30pm and

1.30pm with a safety briefing shortly thereafter.

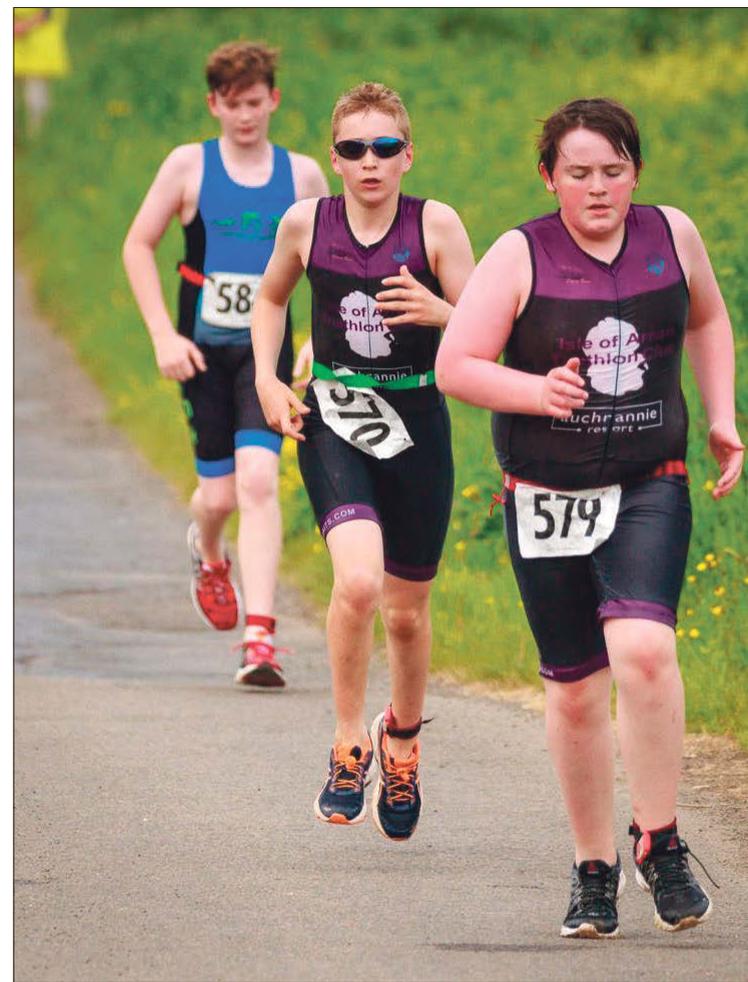
The 3.8km swim will start at Lamlash and go across to the Holy Isle and back again; the 1.9km swim will start at Holy Isle and return to Arran.

The family friendly event naturally includes youth and children's races too and will take on a festival atmosphere with music and a dance event taking place on the Saturday night.

Last year's festival attracted more than 200 entrants and was a huge success for the AJTC which relished taking part in an event on home soil.

Bookings for the event can be made at www.triathlonscotland.org

Photos: Liam Nelson and David Hogg



AJTC members during last year's running portion of the Island-2-Island Triathlon.



Contestants set off from Holy Isle to swim to Lamlash.

announced for Island-2-Island Triathlon Festival



The AJTC pose for a group picture at last year's Island-2-Island Triathlon.



An athlete sets off on the cycling portion of the race at the transition zone.

A smashing £15 million boost for rural tennis



Tennis Scotland and Judy Murray are calling for support from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) and the Scottish government to pro-

vide a lasting legacy for Andy and Jamie Murray.

Judy, whose work focuses on bringing tennis to rural and disadvantaged areas, says

creating a legacy from her sons' success is 'time critical'.

Judy has had a series of discussions with Blane Dodds, the Tennis Scotland chief executive.

They have agreed an action plan for greater levels of participation, better facilities and a workforce of coaches and event organisers to maximise chances for Scotland's next generation.

Judy said: 'The time has to be now. Whatever happens this year, Andy and Jamie won't play for ever, but we can make the most of what they've achieved and we can do that now.'

'We need more public tennis courts, more indoor courts and a much bigger tennis workforce to get more people playing the game - and that is how we should measure legacy.'

'This is not about statues or new, branded tournaments. It's about investing in people.'

Blane said: 'This is time critical. At Tennis Scotland, our strategic plan for the next four years is about delivering the legacy but we can achieve so much more with a collective push at this important stage.'

'We have a £15m commitment from LTA and sportscotland to provide more indoor facilities in Scotland and later this year we will be opening our GB National Academy in Stirling, but we need to look at all aspects of legacy.'

'Facilities are one thing but we need many more people to deliver activity for all ages and stages so we must work more effectively and efficiently to build a nationwide workforce.'

'Today is a statement of intent that we will step up the pace to get things done.'

Exploring

'We are open to exploring new ways of unlocking more funding for the collective benefit not just of tennis in Scotland but for the health and well-being of the country and its people.'

'The path to tennis excellence that can be achieved within this country is through thriving development and a world-class training environment.'

'This is our commitment to working closely together to achieving that and we look forward to conversations with other stakeholders to help us deliver on that promise.'



A team effort, Judy and a Whiting Bay pupil team up for a relay event 02_b44tennis14



Proper racquet technique being demonstrated by Judy. 02_b44tennis02



INSIDE THIS WEEK:

On your marks, date announced for
Island-2-Island Triathlon Festival

Will Arran tennis net any Andy Murray millions?



A £15 million fund for Scottish grassroots lawn tennis aims to capitalise on Andy Murray's legacy. The funding package of £7.5m from the Lawn Tennis Association and £7.5m from sportsotland, to develop 10 new indoor facilities, was announced last Thursday by Murray's mum Judy Murray and Tennis Scotland's chief executive Blane Dodds.

In 2015 Mrs Murray visited Arran schools, during her Tennis on the Road roadshow, to explain what can be done without special facilities.

A Tennis Scotland spokesperson is sceptical whether Arran may benefit. He said: 'This is seed money and local authorities would have to match fund.'

For more see page 23.

Judy Murray and Kris Souter demonstrate the rules of a relay activity during 2015's Tennis on the Road visit to Arran. 02_b44tennis09(2)



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