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See pages 4 and 5



The people's vote

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The people of Arran have spoken and with one voice have demanded action is taken to improve a ferry service they say is not fit for purpose.

More than 160 residents turned out to a public meeting in Brodick Hall on Tuesday night and, with a series of shows of hands, proved how disgruntled they are with what is supposed to be a lifeline link to the mainland.

Now a new action group has been formed to fight for improvement, not just in the short term, but strategically for the years ahead.

The meeting had been called by a group of 'concerned residents', who were the nine signators of a letter in the Banner last week, who said they wanted to give the travelling public a voice.

At the outset the chairwoman - Dr Sally Campbell said they wanted the public to think they had been 'listened to' and come up with some 'strag suggestions'.

'It is important that we are really clear what we want for the ferry now and think strategically about the services Arran needs in the future,' she said.

She also insisted that calling the meeting was not intended as a criticism of the other organisations on the island, such as the Arran Ferry Committee and the community council working for a better ferry service, but to give the residents themselves a chance to give their views.

After more than an hour of discussion, Robert Cumming from Lochranza was keen the gauge the mood of the audience.

He said: 'Firstly could all those who feel our lifeline service is not fit for purpose in terms of reliability, infrastructure and accountability please show their hands.' There was wide support for all three votes.

Mr Cumming continued: 'In calling this meeting as concerned residents, we have a vision of a new, fresh, progressive, and an apolitical lobbying organisation to represent our communities' interests in service issues.

'The remit would include joining with other representatives to form a west coast ferry action group, as there are huge problems across the network, and also make sure pressure is brought to ensure that future investment in ves-

Continued on page two



The audience unanimously votes for the formation of the action group. 01_B15vote01

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Meeting gives unanimous b

Continued from page one
sels and infrastructure is appropriate.

'The proposed action group would be properly constituted with members elected by the public. It would give an absolute guarantee to keep the public fully informed of its work and progress and respond to their ongoing concerns and suggestions.

'So could those in favour of such an organisation please raise their hands?' There was an almost unanimous show of hands and a rousing round of

applause from the gathering.

Mr Cumming then added: 'So we go forward with a steering group to deliver such an association and we would cordially invite anyone wishing to join the committee to let our secretary, Chris Attkins, know as soon as possible.'

From the outset chairwoman Dr Sally Campbell made it clear this was to be no 'greetin' meetin' and was not intended as a forum to discuss the problems of the past but look to the future as to what the

travelling public wanted the ferry service to deliver.

And it came loud and clear from the gathering that the first priority for the lifeline service was reliability.

The action group members said they were there to listen to the people and after a short introduction that is exactly what they did. There were no speeches, instead it was left to the people to speak.

And Dr Campbell helped keep this structured and succinct with a short time allocated to the range of topics under discussion, with questions and answers kept under a strict time dictat.

The first was in relation to harbours and terminal buildings and while it was accepted that there were problems with the Brodick terminal, particularly in terms of the lifts, walkway and the distance to the buses, what came through loud and clear was a determination the same should not happen with the redevelopment at Ardrrossan.

The topic of a port of refuge provoked a wide discussion

and it was largely agreed that while this had been a 'low key' issue of late it was time it was put back on the agenda with Gourock the largely preferred choice, although Hunterston, Wemyss Bay and Troon were all mentioned in the debate.

Booking and ticketing was another issue which the meeting felt needed urgently addressed with concerns expressed at the lack of capacity, particularly since the introduction of RET, the inflexibility of the booking system, problems with concession tickets and hope that, in future, island residents could get priority bookings.

The meeting then moved on to the ships and there naturally was much discussion about the new MV Glen Sannox with questions asked not just about its deployment, which could not be answered, but about its suitability for the route, given the works needed at Ardrrossan and the use of liquified natural gas (LNG) on the dual-fuel ferry.

There was also concern that



The concerned resident who called the meeting, John Campbell, was not present. 01_B15vote03

the new vessel, described as a 'cruise liner' and her sister ship can only service on the Ardrrossan-Brodick and Uig triangle routes, given their design.

Group member Bob Haddow said the government had hinted it was considering

building six identical ships to serve the west coast routes in the future which could service on a variety of routes and this, given economies of scale and the practicalities of a more frequent year-round, two-ferry service, using smaller vessels, was



Dr Sally Campbell kept a tight reign on proceedings. 01_B15vote04

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Minister is listening

The Arran ferry is expected to use the Irish Berth while major improvement works are carried out at Ardrrossan Harbour.

This was strongly suggested by Islands Minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP during a meeting last week with a delegation from the Arran Ferry Committee and Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson.

The announcement is expected to be made at the next meeting of the Ardrrossan Harbour Taskforce on April 23 despite opposition to the move by Caledonian MacBrayne which has raised safety worries and other concerns over the move.

The Arran delegation, led by community council chairman Bill Calderwood, met Mr Wheelhouse and and Graham Laidlaw of Transport Scotland at a meeting which lasted 75 minutes at Holyrood to express their concern at the crisis of confidence in the island's lifeline ferry service.

The ferry committee was pleased to have an opportunity to offer islander perspective on ferry strategy and the minister pledged to look for more ways to include community in forward planning.

Mr Wheelhouse acknowledged the ongoing situation which the Arran community was experiencing and accepted the issues were compounded by the continued delay in delivery and introduction of the MV Glen Sannox to the service.

He confirmed that he awaited a revised delivery day from Ferguson Marine and shared the concerns of the current dates being achieved.

He confirmed ongoing political and legal discussions between all parties would continue and said the Port Glasgow yard still insisted the vessel would be delivered by the end of 2019.

'We stressed the growing frustration from all sectors of the community and the need for answers, accountability and importantly, future plans,' Mr Calderwood said in a summary of the meeting given to the ferry committee on Monday night.

Contingency measures are being considered and the recent additional sailings over Easter were approved in recognition of the demand.

The delegation highlighted other 'opportunities' to deploy the MV Isle of Arran which were supported.

The minister and Transport Scotland confirmed that CalMac had authority to allocate available capacity where demand was shown to exceed the intermediate timetable in April and subsequently 44 additional sailings were announced.

Additional crewing to allow the current fleet to operate beyond the published timetables was discussed.

CalMac had presented a proposal which currently has not been agreed due to costs and perceived practical limitations.

The minister was asked to support this approach which was also being followed up by another sub group.

Tender
With regards to the booking system, the Scottish government and CalMac were said to be working to replace this. The contract will be out to tender shortly, to be in place by this time next year.

This should make booking a smoother process and mean that people would automatically get an email eg if they were getting moved on to the next boat, should it be full or disrupted.

Recent post annual maintenance experiences were also

ackling to new action group



months, which Lochranza village committee had been pressing for. The meeting, which had been orderly and well run throughout, closed at 8.20pm after one hour and 20 minutes of debate. Questionnaires which went out to the audience to fill in were collected as they left and these will be assessed before the new committee draw up an action plan.

Anyone wishing to get in touch with the new group can do so at: ferry@vision-unlimited.co.uk



The packed hall listen to the discussion. 01_B15vote02

seen, generally, as a sensible way forward. There was also a suggestion of a nightly freight-only sailing to clear up space on daytime sailings.

There was also a brief discussion on extending the Lochranza to Claonaig service over the winter

Government must act on latest ferry delay

West Scotland MSP Jamie Greene this week clashed with the Scottish Government over further delays to the new Arran ferry, which is already 13 months behind its scheduled completion.



In response to a portfolio question in Holyrood, Scottish ministers confirmed to Mr Greene that the Glen Sannox would be delayed past the revised June 2019 timetable.

The MV Glen Sannox was due to launch last summer but was pushed back to 2019 after it was clear that it could not meet the original timetable.

Following a report in the Times that none of the 1,000 seats were yet to be fitted and about an ongoing dispute between Ferguson Marine and Caledonian Maritime Assets (CMA), Mr Greene challenged the Scottish Government in Holyrood to confirm whether the new Arran ferry would meet its revised timetable.

Speaking at Holyrood Paul Wheelhouse MSP said: 'We have concerns that FMEL's

projected delivery timescale for the MV Glen Sannox in June this year cannot be met, so officials have written seeking clarification on delivery timescales for both vessels.'

He subsequently told the Arran Ferry Committee that the government still expected delivery by the end of the year (see story below).

Mr Greene said: 'It is extremely disappointing that the ferry will now be delayed past the revised June 2019 timetable as passengers will have to endure further months of delays and cancellations.'

'The Scottish government must ensure that the MV Glen Sannox is completed in good time and operational so that we can move past these disruptions and let people get on with their lives.'

to island concerns

highlighted as a restriction in providing reliable service. An additional £4m of funding had been announced to improve this, Mr Wheelhouse told Mr Gibson in parliament after the meeting.

The delegation also requested the minister support and facilitate a network meeting with Transport Scotland, CMAL and CalMac to collect and record all ongoing issues in one 'workshop' type forum.

Transport Scotland suggested that it had communicated with the community board, however, the need was for the government to generate and implement a revised 'ferries plan' which recognised the ageing fleet and agreed a build plan providing six major vessels in the timely manner.

These vessels should be of a standard design and able to be deployed to multiple locations if required.

The minister is meeting other authorities, operators and looking at legal guidance to clarify several challenges which are currently open.

Afterwards Mr Gibson said: 'There is an opportunity for more ferries to be built under the Scottish Government's Capital

Investment Infrastructure Mission to boost fleet numbers. Meanwhile, Transport Scotland is looking to purchase second-hand boats and have already looked at 16-17 around the world.

'However, due to the unique nature of Scotland's ports and harbours, all have been rejected as unsuitable.

'The Scottish government is reconsidering its model of shipbuilding, the unique characteristics of each port, eg water depths, means there is no possibility of a 'one-fits-

all' approach.

'The ferry committee was pleased to have the opportunity to offer islander perspective on the ferry strategy.

'The Scottish government will look for more ways to include the community in forward planning.

'Mr Wheelhouse expressed a desire for more work on increasing crew flexibility, and both the committee and I emphasised the need to ensure CalMac is more needs-responsive and customer-focussed.'



Islands minister Paul Wheelhouse MSP.

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Lambing Live down on the farm

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



Alison and David Henderson of Kilpatrick Farm near Blackwaterfoot welcomed hundreds of people to their working farm during one of the busiest times of the year for a Lambing Live charity event.

While extremely busy with lambing and calving, which takes place 24 hours a day, the couple, who also have three children Emma, Lisa and Cara, are intent on introducing farming practices and life to young people while also supporting the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET) charity.

RHET works with volunteers to provide free educational activities and experiential learning opportunities to children throughout Scotland. As a farm host, and with Alison Henderson being a primary school teacher in Lamlash, the Hendersons were happy to open their farm to school

children. On Wednesday April 3 they invited visitors and Arran folk to experience the day-to-day life of farmers during lambing and calving season.

On offer was the chance to be able to handle – under the watchful eye of accommodating farm helpers – the newborn lambs and to learn more about the animals from farmer David, whose friendly nature and love of animals, ensured the children to some of the 45 Limousin and Belgian blue cows and 420 Texel sheep that are kept on the farm.

Learning

Christine Cuthbertson of RHET Ayrshire and Arran joined the farmers in Blackwaterfoot and supplied a life-size cow replica, named Rita, that children could milk while learning about farm produce and milk products.

By far the most popular activity for the children – and adults who stood at the ready with their cameras – was the chance to handle some of the lambs, some only a day old.

Emma and Cara Henderson joined their parents in showing off the animals and took particular care in explaining how to handle them gently.

David said: 'We have been pleasantly surprised by the huge number of people that have visited on our open days. Quite clearly there is a massive interest in learning more about where our food comes from and the children and parents seem to have really enjoyed the experience. Thank you to everyone that has visited and those who donated to the very worthwhile cause and charity, RHET.'

With more than 100 people watching, from a distance, two little lambs were born in the afternoon and a number of other new arrivals were welcomed shortly after all of the visitors had left for the day.

Owing to the popularity of the event the Hendersons hosted a further afternoon session on Wednesday April 10, once again at no cost, but many more donations were gratefully received for RHET.



Christine Cuthbertson of RHET Ayrshire and Arran talks to an inquisitive group of children about milk products. 01_B15farm08

Alba Sabate of Lamlash tries her hand at milking Rita the replica cow. 01_B15farm09



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A young girl gets to grips with holding a wriggling newborn lamb. 01_B15farm05



Euan Fleming gets his chance to handle a lamb after waiting patiently for his turn. 01_B15farm06



'We are here to see the babies' – a group of children pose for a photo before returning to look at the animals. 01_B15farm04



A young boy strikes up a conversation with a friendly cow. 01_B15farm10



Visitors line up along one of the sheep pens to have a look at the expectant mothers. 01_B15farm03



David Henderson shows visitors two of the day-old Limousin calves. 01_B15farm02



Lamber Kirstie Barton shows visitors a lamb which was born less than 24 hours earlier. 01_B15farm01



Cara Henderson manages to hold a wriggling lamb while her sister Emma shows visitors a more compliant baby. 01_B15farm11



David Henderson encourages young children to touch a docile cow. 01_B15farm12

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Arran loses business support services to mainland

Business Gateway, a publicly-funded service which provides access to free business support services, has been closed on Arran and relocated to a branch in Irvine.

Having previously operated from Brodick where its advisory team supported existing businesses, helping them to grow, the team of two previously also worked with individuals interested in starting a business.

In addition to one-to-one support it delivered a range of business workshops and events aimed at entrepreneurs.

Previous representatives of Business Gateway Arran and Cumbrae, Derek Shand and Lauren Johnstone thanked users of the service for all their support over the past 10 and a half years, on social media adding: 'It was good to see your businesses grow and prosper.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'On Monday April 1 the Business Gateway office in Arran changed from being located in Brodick to The Circuit, 22 Quarry Road, Irvine.'

'Support will be provided to our Arran companies by our team of business advisers with regular meetings being held on the island. We look forward to delivering a number of workshops and events on Arran and Cumbrae in the year ahead.'

'The new contact details for the office are 01294 449944 or email business@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

'For further information please visit www.bgateway.com/ayrshire.'

Fantastic opening week for castle

Brodick Castle has had a bumper first week since opening to the public last Friday with visitors pouring through the doors.

The castle, which has been closed since November 2016 for major fire safety upgrades, has been re-presented and protected to create a more interactive and entertaining historical visitor experience for future generations to enjoy.

Fun-filled

Designed to take a fresh approach to telling its rich stories and give guests a glimpse back to the Victorian era, the new experience focuses on the lives of those who previously lived at Brodick Castle and the fun-filled activities they would have enjoyed there.

The castle's treasure trove of period furniture, silverware, porcelain, paintings and sporting trophies have also returned to the castle for visitors to enjoy.

The National Trust for Scotland's operation manager for Brodick Castle Jared Bowers said: 'Our first weekend has been fantastic and we've been happy to see so many people enjoy their trip to the castle. Being



Operations manager Jared Bowers with education guides Catriona Peattie, Natalia McAllister and Stuart Montgomery outside the new castle entrance. NTSMediaPics

able to share this unique part of the country is something we take pride in, not

just for the love of Brodick Castle and Arran, but for the love of Scotland.'

■ Dodo is tasked with saving Brodick Castle, see centre pages spread.

Free personal care extension welcomed

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson has welcomed the extension of free personal care in Scotland, which is not available elsewhere in the UK.

The new legislation is known as 'Frank's Law' after former Dundee United footballer Frank Kopel, who was diagnosed with dementia at the age of 59 and sadly died six years later in 2014.

Until now, the provision of free personal care applied to those aged 65 or older. Now, anyone assessed by North Ayrshire Council or any other Scottish local authority as requiring personal care will now receive it free of charge, regardless of their age, condition, capital asset or income.

Mr Gibson said: 'While certain conditions impact more on older people, such as dementia, there are more than 600 people across Ayrshire and Arran who are not quite 65 years old who also have the condition. Expanding free personal care to them is absolutely the right thing to do.'

'For people in care homes, the SNP government increased personal care payments so that residents are now entitled to £177 per week for their care provider. North Ayrshire Council currently supports 1,590 people with free personal care at home and 320 in care homes.'

'The success of Mrs Kopel shows that in Scotland, grassroots campaigns which begin with a simple petition can deliver real change.'

'I am delighted that more people in Arran, Ayrshire and across Scotland will now be able to access this important service.'

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Rhea Webster of Shiskine Primary School shows off her winning logo.

Shiskine primary pupil designs winning logo

Rhea Webster of Shiskine primary has been selected as the winner of a drawing competition for Eco Savvy, which is looking for a logo to represent its popular food share scheme.

With contributions from both Eco Savvy and Co-op, the two partners in the initiative, Rhea won a prize of £150 for her school to spend on an environmental activity or project.

The Eco Savvy/Co-op food share scheme allows Eco Savvy to redistribute surplus food from the Co-op which would otherwise be sent to the bin. The items are either nearing, on or past their best before date but are still perfectly edible, and most important of all, they are given to anyone who wants them free rather than being wasted.

Since being approved as a food share partner with the Co-op last December, the Eco Savvy food share scheme has been steadily growing and gaining more and more interest across the island.

With the ongoing success and growth of the scheme it was decided to hold a competition for the children on the island to design a logo that could be used in promotion and advertising.

The competition was

launched at the annual Be Green event at Whiting Bay hall where primary school children were asked to design a logo that was simple, bright, colourful, bold and clearly showed the food share message.

Holly Murdoch, climate awareness officer from Eco Savvy, said: 'We received almost 100 entries and had the difficult task of selecting a final shortlist of nine which were sent to our judging panel.'

Judges

Representatives from the Co-op, Visit Arran and Arran Theatre and Arts made up the panel of judges and they selected the winning logo designed by Rhea, who receive the prize money for her school.

Holly continued: 'The schools Eco committee will have the exciting task of coming up with ideas on how to spend it. Very well done to Rhea and all the other children who took the time to enter. Also thanks to the wonderful supportive teachers and mums and dads and carers we are so lucky to have here on Arran.'

More information about the Eco Savvy and Co-op food share scheme can be found at www.arranecosavvy.org.uk

Easter pharmacy opening times

With GP practices closed on Friday April 19 and Monday April 22, Arran residents are being urged to prepare to cope with any common health concerns, as GP practices will be closed for four days in total.

Community pharmacists can answer questions on choosing and using the right medicine and provide easy-to-understand advice on treating everyday ailments such as coughs, colds and flu.

NHS 24 also has a number of pharma-

cists who are able to answer medicine and pharmacy-related questions over the telephone on 111. In addition, NHS inform has valuable advice – visit www.nhsinform.scot.

Advice

Over Easter, when GP practices are closed, people can still get advice from a community pharmacist or NHS 24.

On Good Friday, April 19, all pharmacies will be open as normal on Arran.

On Saturday April 20 all pharmacies

will be open as normal, except Arran Pharmacy, Shore Road, Whiting Bay.

On Sunday April 21 all pharmacies will be closed.

On Easter Monday April 22 the following pharmacies will be open on the island. Arran Pharmacy, Lamash, Arran – open 9am – 3pm; Arran Pharmacy, Shore Road, Whiting Bay, Arran – open 11am – 2pm (pharmacist 1pm – 2pm only); Arran Pharmacy, Brodick, Arran – open 9am – 3pm.

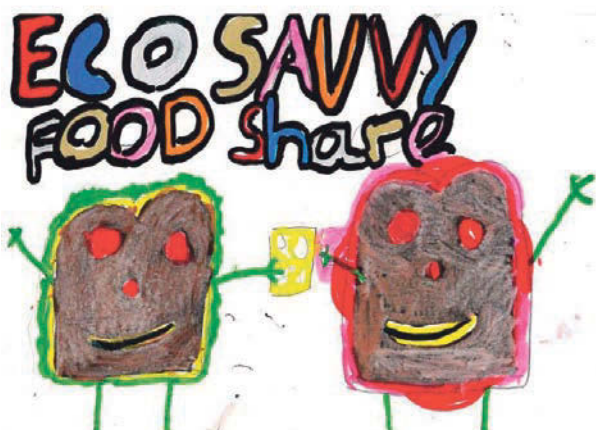


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The winning logo that will be used for the Eco Savvy food share scheme.

LETTERS

Editorial

Ferry action

It was heartening to see such a good turnout at the ferry public meeting this week.

Even the 'concerned residents' who organised it could not be sure of the response it would get. There were grumbles they would be lucky to get 40 and that the meeting would degenerate into a shambles.

What transpired was 163 largely like-minded people having a sensible and constructive discussion about what should be done about the ferry service which everyone in the hall felt was not fit for purpose.

It was indeed good to hear the voices of the people and since the new action group, which was formed on the night, has promised to listen to what the travelling public want, it may well prove to be a forum which can get something done.

Any change is going to need a good deal of political lobbying and lot of persuasion of the powers that be. But as Bob Haddow told the meeting: 'We are not going to shout, we are going to ask them and hopefully common sense will prevail.'

The new action group has certainly been given an overwhelming mandate by the public who made their views clear on the night.

Thought for the week

On the first day of the week the disciples went to the tomb and they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Luke 24: 1

Salmon Q&A will be held in May

Sir,
The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) has had a long-term presence on Arran stretching back over three decades. Our Lamlash Bay site was one of the first fish farms in Scotland and our commitment to local sourcing, investment and engagement has helped underpin Arran's economy and community.

During this time, Scottish salmon has grown into an international success story, boosting Scotland's renowned reputation as a land of high-quality food and drink which, in turn, continues to drive demand in our sector. SSC's own growth in recent years, of which Arran has played an important part, has been because of the focus we place on our core values of pride, passion and provenance.

This has led to our proposal to develop our operations on Arran with a new site off the north east coast near Lochranza and which will bring further benefits to the island. We will look to recruit up to 10 full-time members of staff for this new site. It will support a further 41 jobs in our Scottish supply chain, plus 10 more in the wider Scottish economy, while adding £8-10 million of value to the economy annually. This proposal also has innovation at its heart and has been designed to ensure robust fish health and welfare and environmental sustainability.

We knew our proposals would generate discussion and debate. With that in mind, I want to thank the dozens of residents from across the island who visited our public consultation event at Lochranza Village Hall

last week. These residents engaged constructively with the 22 assembled project team members from SSC and three other companies to ask questions and learn more about our proposals. We are still in the early stages of this project and this feedback, combined with the views of other stakeholders like North Ayrshire Council, SEPA, Marine Scotland and others, will be crucial in determining its final shape.

We take our commitment to Arran's residents seriously. That is why we will be hosting a second public consultation event in Brodick in May to give the community a further opportunity to learn about our plans. A structured question and answer session with project representatives is also planned.

Dates and times for these events are still being finalised but will be communicated in due course.

In the meantime, please visit www.scottishsalmon.com/community/projects-and-developments to learn more about our proposals. We also invite anyone to share any thoughts or questions about the project at any time by sending an email to arran@scottishsalmon.com.

Yours,
Craig Anderson,
chief executive,
The Scottish Salmon
Company.

Gangway use

Sir,
The very comprehensive article on page seven of last week's Banner highlights – among other items – the lack of a problem-solving customer service attitude at Cal Mac.

The frequent resort to use of the 'Irish Berth' at Ardrossan, results in foot passengers using the car deck, delays to

turn around time, and missed train connections.

It was recently suggested that the now redundant gangway from Brodick could be used to deal with this problem; response was that it was 'past its sell by date'.

East wind is apparently the cause for using the alternative berth. The 'knock-on' effect of this practice seems a matter of indifference to Calmac. 'Where there is a will, there is a way?'

Yours,
Robert Kerr,
Lochranza.

Ticking boxes

Sir,
Readers will know of my connection with the Arran Community Council, COAST and Lamlash Golf Club.

I travelled to the advertised Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) consultation exercise in Lochranza village hall on Tuesday April 2 as an individual and resident of the island (born and bred).

The SSC has achieved its aim of holding a public consultation to tick boxes for its planning application of the proposed new salmon mega-farm located near the Fallen Rocks, between Lochranza and Sannox.

The present fish farm in Lamlash was begun locally, purchased by Marine Harvest then Lighthouse Caledonia and now known as Scottish Salmon Company. Its history of promises, regarding employment, fish welfare, protection of wild salmon and environmental health and safety does not stand up to examination.

An independent visitor to one of the Western Isles fish farms run by the SSC recorded and photographed an extremely large number of salmon affected by sea

lice. Yet within a few days later a government inspector reported that the same fish farm had acceptable numbers of mortality, with salmon showing effects of lice and reported that they only saw '100 fish with observable sea lice damage (in the worst affected cage)'.

As a matter of interest, according to freedom of information, the Lamlash fish farm in 2018 had a biomass of 3,909 tonnes. The mortality figure was 44.138 tonnes.

Including the two Carradale sites the mortality rate for the three fish farms was 392.78 tonnes.

The consultation video and documentation, which had almost 20 of the SSC employees attending, did not express the well-known majority view of the community. They refused to answer public questions or make any public statement. One of the documents I read was misleading as based on my personal knowledge only one of the facts they claimed, to support their proposal, was accurate.

An exit poll was taken by a COAST volunteer, as a guideline the overwhelming view of the people who attended the consultation was against the proposed fish farm.

From the sheet, which I signed, the result was 89 per cent against the proposal with 10 per cent ticking the undecided box and 1 per cent for the farm.

So when the planning application for the fish farm is registered with NAC if the island residents and tourists are still against the proposal it is most important that you write and register your objection on environmental grounds and the impact on the island tourism.

Yours,
Jim Henderson,
Lamlash.

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Website launched to promote island living on Arran

A new website has been launched to promote island living to people thinking of moving to Arran.

Commissioned by the Arran Economic Group it aims to further their objective of retaining and attracting new working age people to the island.

The website was developed on Arran by Eyespace Digital and features a video contribution from Chris Atkins of Positive Pictures and also links in the Arran Look Closer series of four Arran videos produced by Argyll

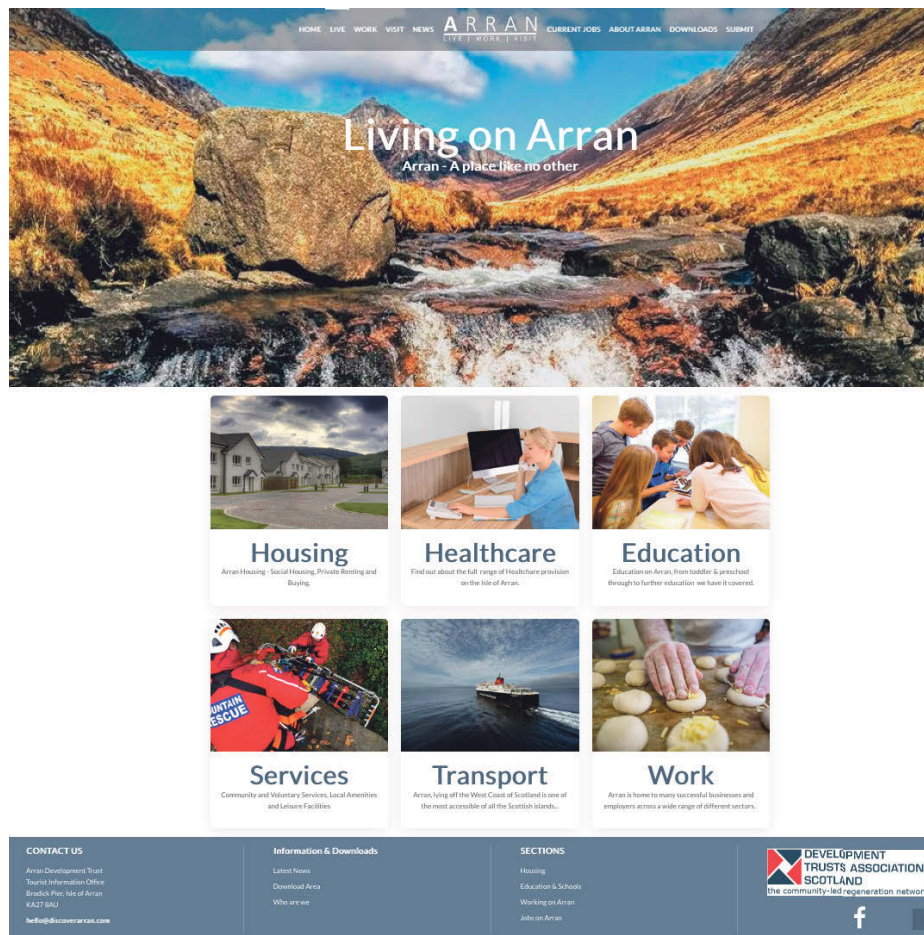
College UHI. The purpose of the website is to promote the island as a desirable place to live and work, and is designed to supplement the VisitArran website which promotes Arran as a place to visit.

As well as featuring a jobs board for vacancies on the island, a downloads section for relevant public documents and a soon-to-be-rolled-out directory for island businesses and organisations, the website will direct visitors to the main information sources on the island around education, health and social care, jobs,

business and community.

The website aims to be as active as possible with updates on local community and business events and it will also be accompanied by an active social media presence on Facebook. As such there will be a section with a focus on local businesses and entrepreneurs outlining their stories.

The website can be found at www.discoverarran.com and visitors can email hello@discoverarran.com to find out more or to contribute content to it.



The Discover Arran website created for Arran Economic Group.

Falling migration threatens future of Arran communities

Arran is facing a demographic double whammy because of an ageing population and falling migration.

The Arran Development Trust estimates the working-age population will shrink by 47 per cent in the next six years alone making in-migration all the more vital to sustain the Arran economy.

The Scottish parliament's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee last week heard evidence from the Scottish government's expert advisory group on migration and population, which provides independent advice and expertise on the implications of policy choices



Kenneth Gibson MSP.

on migration for Scotland.

The group found that migration changes proposed in the UK government's

Immigration White Paper are projected to reduce net European migration to Scotland by 30-50 per cent over the next two decades, exacerbating the gradual decline and ageing of our working population.

The group believes these changes will be particularly damaging to rural and island communities where migration is necessary to avert a downward population spiral already impacted by record low birth rates.

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson asked the advisory group if these proposed changes threatened the long-term sustainability of Arran's communities. In response,

Professor Rebecca Kay, from Glasgow University, stated that there were island communities where the only possible contributor to local population was the in-migration of people of reproductive age, because the death rate exceeded the birth rate.

This so-called 'demographic double whammy' would have far-reaching implications for economic activity, provision of services such as education and healthcare, and levels of general well-being.

The reduction in European immigration would especially challenge sectors reliant on non-UK workers because the White Paper proposes a minimum salary threshold

of £30,000 for those seeking a Tier 2 (General) Visa. This threshold would exacerbate existing labour shortages in tourism and social care, where less than 10 per cent of people in caring personal service occupations earn above £25,000 and none earn £30,000.

Commenting, Mr Gibson said: 'The evidence we heard from the expert advisory group on migration and population was deeply worrying, especially the detrimental impact UK government's proposals could have on Arran's communities.'

'The Tories excluded the Scottish Government from its migration advisory

committee, even though all the evidence suggests that Scotland's migration needs are distinct from the rest of the UK. Scotland needs its own approach. This would form part of the solution to island depopulation, where falling birth rates and out-migration have already had a detrimental impact.'

'Indeed, the same day the expert advisory group on migration and population gave evidence, I asked the Scottish government in the chamber to research and work to overcome the barriers to people raising families too.'

See next week's Banner for a progress report in the quest for more affordable housing.



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Your chance to have your say on Arran Library consultation

People across North Ayrshire are getting the chance to play a pivotal role in the future of libraries, halls and community centres.

These include Arran Library and Brodick Hall and the other council-run community facilities around the island.

Wide-ranging engagement is now underway to determine how the services can best be delivered in years to come. With council budgets coming under sustained pressure, North Ayrshire Council wants to work alongside communities in shaping the future services.

To help make that happen, a working group was set up last year to develop proposals for more effective ways of ensuring people continue to access community facilities in challenging economic circumstances.

Made up from elected members from all political groups on North Ayrshire Council, alongside members of the North Ayrshire Federation of Community Organisations and council officers, the working group identified a range of themes which will now form the basis for engagement with communities.

This will look at how best to deliver services such as libraries, halls and centres in ways which meet the needs of the community.

Consultation is now underway across North Ayrshire and residents on Arran are invited to join in the conversation on Wednesday May 8, at Brodick Hall, from 6.30pm to 8pm.

Invitations are being issued to key stakeholders, such as community groups and service users, and members



The Arran Library and Brodick Hall.

of the public are welcome to join in the consultation on the day.

This will form one part of a

comprehensive engagement which will also include online consultation and workshops.

Residents are encouraged

to share their views at www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/your-community

Cabinet member for com-

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

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

'The purpose of this engagement is to enable us and our partners to gather the views of our communities and capture the aspirations and opinions of the local community on its facilities, including community centres, libraries, halls and any other buildings and venues where activities and events happen.'

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Youngsters initiate St Molios clean-up

Inspired by village clean-ups, both at school and by community groups, a small group of children from St Molios Park in Lamash decided to do a litter tidy outside their own homes.

Accustomed to meeting up to play together or ride their bicycles in the quiet streets of the small estate, the children decided to do something productive with their spare time that would benefit them all.

The children, aged between three and eight, undertook the task without any prompting from parents. They did, however, provide the bags but the children took care

of the rest, including putting a toy tractor and trailer to work to haul away the collected rubbish.

Across Arran children have 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.

Through this initiative and the Wiggly Litterless Campaign, which has seen children undertaking monthly litter picks, they have collectively retrieved more than 320kg of litter from various locations around the island.



The young residents who decided to clean up their community by doing a litter pick.

Brodick dance teacher bows out

Margaret Roxburgh, who has a long history of creating winning dance team entrants for the Arran Music Festival, has retired from teaching the young dancers at Brodick



P7 pupil Jemma presents Margaret Roxburgh with a bouquet of flowers.



Margaret Roxburgh pictured with some of the Brodick pupils whom she has taught over the years.

Primary School. At a special assembly held in her honour, as the school finished up for the spring holiday, pupils had the opportunity to thank her for all of her help over the past 11 years and presented her with a bouquet of flowers to show their gratitude.

Mrs Roxburgh retired from teaching in Kilmarnock, however, she had continued to work with pupils at Brodick primary after coming to live on Arran and often volunteered

her assistance to the school whenever she could. With her assistance, Brodick pupils regularly won trophies for their dancing entries in the music festival, which celebrated its 90th anniversary this year.

Three climbers rescued from mountain crag

Arran Mountain Rescue Team rescued three climbers from the summit of Cir Mhòr in darkness in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The team was called out at approximately 1.30am to assist a group of three climbers, who had become cragfast near the summit of Cir Mhòr. The weather had completely closed in and as darkness fell the safest option was for the climbers to stay put and wait for help.

Three other members of the group, who were staying in Glen Rosa, walked up towards Cir Mhòr to look for the climbers as they hadn't arrived back and were able to assist the team with their rough location.

Team members made their way to the head of Glen Rosa in the Argocats and on foot then made their way to the summit path on Cir Mhòr. The three climbers were located on top of a craggy outcrop and were able to abseil from their location with guidance from the team. Although cold and wet, all three were luckily unharmed.

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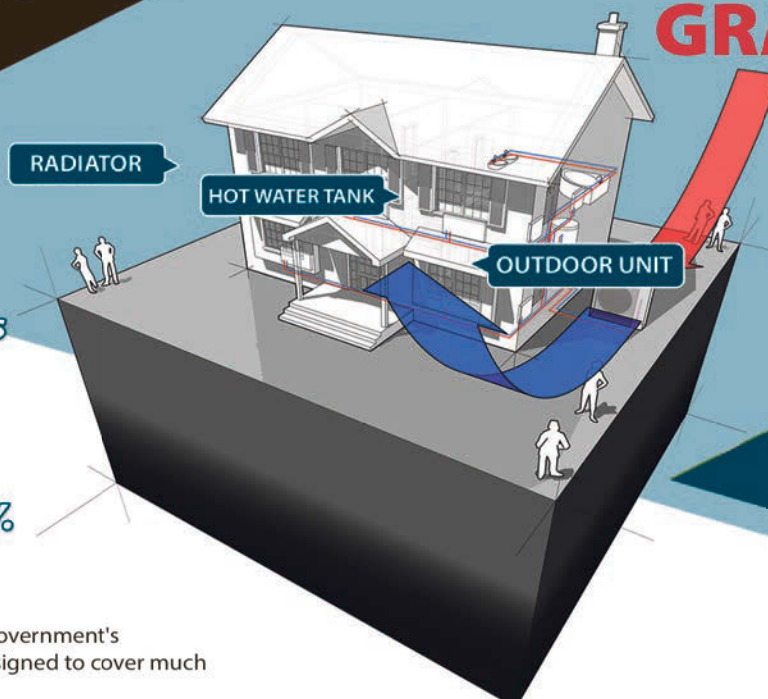
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Dodo is tasked with s



Not a hair out of place – all 87 stag heads are back where they belong in the entrance hall. This is no longer the start of the castle tour. 01_B15castle06

There can be no doubt that Brodick Castle has been turned into a modern living museum. Here *Hugh Boag* gives us a personal guided tour of the new interactive visitor experience.

It has been a long time in coming but Brodick Castle is – at last – open for business again and I for one was excited to see what the promised transformation would look like.

As I had expected, the character and essence of Brodick Castle remains but all its Victorian charm has been brought vividly to life and the history of the generations of Hamilton who called Brodick their home is explained clearly without too much fuss.

As with a lot of modern museums you can spend as little or as much time in one particular room as you like.

As well as the unobtrusive but informative outline

boards, there is a whole host more to find in hidden drawers, interactive displays and of course in discussion with the guides, who look resplendent in their new Victorian garb and will wear it at all times on duty.

Of course Brodick Castle has always been keen to remind people of its elegant Victorian past after the present building was fashioned in 1844, almost doubling the size of the castle which dates back to the 13th century, but the latest incarnation takes it to another level.

There really is something to interest everyone. As I say visitors can take as long as they want to study the fascinating artefacts and the facts and stories surrounding them.

The most interesting are big and bold and told in a simple style and for the younger visitors there is a running trail to find the dodo – which has

become the castle's mascot in a clever marketing move.

The priceless item itself is the only remaining dodo decanter in the world designed by Alexander Crichton in 1895, thought to be modelled on the dodo character in Alice in Wonderland.

Stunning

Exciting too are the sights and sounds which have been added to make the castle really feel like it is being lived in.

The stunning drawing room, which has always been my favourite, is the only room where the shutters will be kept closed, and lit with mood lighting and with a piano playing – an elegant Victorian evening soiree could be just about to start.

Next door, in what was once the library, the centrepiece is still the circular inlaid table given as a wedding present to Prince Marie of Baden and her husband, later to become the



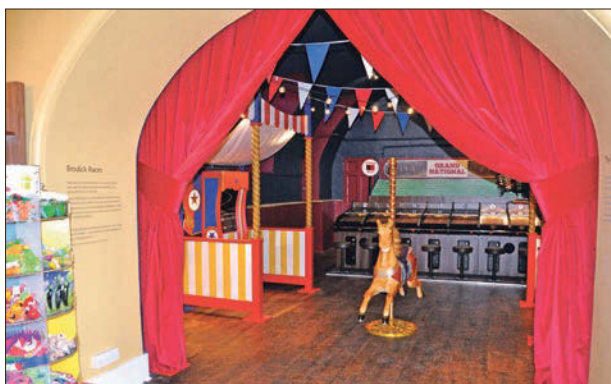
Dodo merchandise lined up on the gift shop shelves. 01_B15castle02



The table groaning with food in the kitchen. 01_B15castle17



The castle's famous Red Gallery corridor. 01_B15castle11



The Victorian games room. 01_B15castle01



The private bedroom of the Duchesses of Hamilton has only been slightly reworked. 01_B15castle08



The 18th century Dutch marquetry bureau cabinet in the boudoir where Princess Marie is writing to her father. 01_B15castle09



The new Meet the Family display board at the start of the tour. 01_B15castle05



One of the new interactive displays with a Victorian slideshow. 01_B15castle07



The dining room table has been stripped of its banquet settings. 01_B15castle12

aving Brodick Castle

11th Duke of Hamilton, on top of which is the Goodwood Trophy of 1882, won by the horse Friday.

A curved display board, with additional information cards, tells the whole story.

Then it is into the dining room where there is no longer a table set fit for a banquet but a single place where one of the Dukes – probably the 12th – has just finished his supper after losing – again – at the races. The room does look a little bare and less elegant than before, but I am sure it is a work in progress.

In the dining room as in most other rooms the splendid paintings which adorn Brodick Castle largely remain where they were, including my favourite above the sideboard which depicts The Dirtiest Derby by J F Herring from 1844 in which the winning horse was running under a false name having

been dyed with hairdresser's dye.

Back into the Red Gallery it is time to head downstairs and even before you see anything you hear the sounds of a busy working kitchen. Food being prepared, bread being baked in the oven, a spit roast and the general clatter of domestic staff at work.

The table is groaning with – pretty authentic looking – Victorian food and there are even the recipes as to how they were made.

We are now downstairs and heading to the wine cellar, where some surprises await, including some of the weird and wacky drinking vessels of the 12th Duke in the shape of seals, sea lions, owls and of course the dodo. It is now home to a pair of fabulous goose tureens of the Ch'ien Lung period (1736-95)

And that's it. Time to head for the gift shop which is

spacious and bright and well stocked.

And of course the shelves are stuffed with branded merchandise much of it featuring that dodo – from bags, to mugs and water bottles, to notebooks, cards and bags and, of course, you can take your very own cuddly dodo home.

Oh, I almost forget, another great new attraction is the Victorian games arcade featuring a range of traditional games which many parents and grandparents will remember from days gone by.

The centrepiece is the Grand National and all castle entrants will be given a free token to have a go and see if they can beat the rest of the field. There are sure to be some fun times in this room.

Outside work is almost complete on the new-look walled garden and the reopening of the Plant Hunters' Walk.



Sarah Beattie, regional curator for NTS Ayrshire and Arran, puts the finishing touches to one of the cabinets. 01_B15castle18



The new Beckford Collection room. 01_B15castle03



The drawing room has been slightly rearranged but still looks stunning. 01_B15castle14



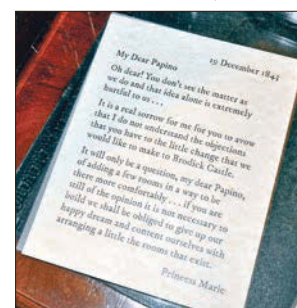
The Goodwood Cup takes centre spot in the room which was once the library. 01_B15castle13



The end of the dodo trail for youngsters. 01_B15castle15



The magnificent library now open to the public which was, in recent times, the administrator's office. 01_B15castle20



Princess Marie's letter, that visitors can hear as it is written. 01_B15castle10



The famous painting of Beckford on his deathbed has pride of place. 01_B15castle04

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN

Arran: Travels, Treasures and Tales hits the shelves

A new book by Kildonan author Ian McMurdo with the title Arran: Travels, Treasures and Tales has just been released and is now available in bookshops and retailers across the island.

Ian's latest book is a lively and upbeat travelogue which takes the reader on a nostalgic tour of the whole island, as seen through the author's own eyes and spoken through the words of many community stalwarts

and worthies.

One early review praises the book's 'lucid description of Arran's breath-taking scenery', and its 'colourful depiction of the larger-than-life island characters and their raucous tales which really brings this book so vividly to life'.

Beautiful

In the book, the author chaperones the reader through Arran's beautiful villages and hamlets, along many miles

of golden sands and over the mighty mountains of the famous Sleeping Warrior. The text is laden with tales of witches and warlocks, whisky-smuggling adventures, ancient historical battles, drunken sea-fishing exploits, life-or-death crises, outrageous pranks from the island's vibrant social scene, unsolved murders, bungled burglaries, celebrated pub landlords, death-defying rescue missions,

badly-behaved dogs, exasperated golfers, nerve-jangling medical emergencies and many other bizarre escapades which 'could only happen on Arran'.

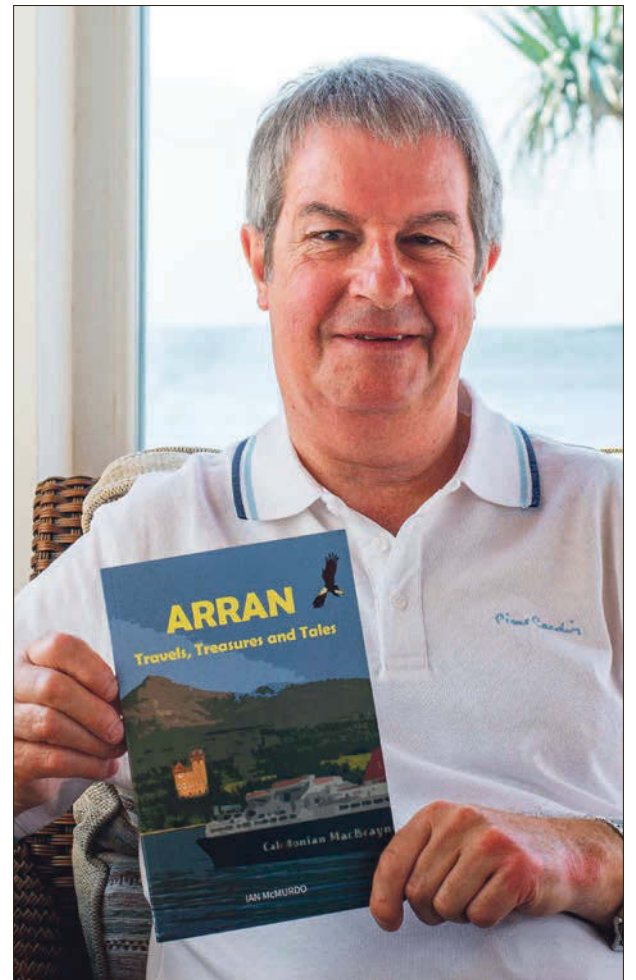
The pre-publication review describes Arran: Travels, Treasures and Tales as 'a real feel-good book, which will delight, inform, entertain and have you laughing out loud'.

To celebrate and promote the book several book-signing events have been arranged over the next few days at which Ian will sign and inscribe copies of his book.

The first will take place on Tuesday April 16, from 11.30am at Auchrannie Spa Resort, Brodick.

He will also be, on Wednesday April 17, at 2pm, at the Book & Card Centre in Brodick and on Friday April 19, at 2pm at the Brodick Co-op. A final event will take place on Thursday April 25, at 5pm at the Kinloch Hotel in Blackwaterfoot.

Copies of Arran: Travels, Treasures and Tales cost £15 and are available at island and mainland shops, on the internet through Amazon, and direct from the publisher's online shop at www.carnpublishing.com



Author Ian McMurdo.



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Clive comes clean on Belgrano affair

There was a big turnout for An Audience with Clive Ponting at the community theatre in Lamlash on Sunday afternoon.

The former senior civil servant was the man at the centre of the Belgrano affair, during the Falklands War, and was put on trial for breaching the Official Secrets Act in 1985.

The General Belgrano was an Argentine warship which was controversially sunk in 1982, with the loss of 323 lives, by a British submarine, despite the fact it was sailing away from an exclusion zone which had been set up around the Falkland Islands.

Clive, who now lives in Kelso, told how he became a central figure in the controversy after he leaked documents to the MP Tam Dalyell, who had been investigating the sinking, which saw him arrested and put on trial. However, despite the best efforts of the judge and the

British establishment to find him guilty he was acquitted by the jury.

It was a fascinating story of spies, skulduggery and the secret workings of the Thatcher government of the time.

Clive later became a reader in politics and international relations at Swansea University. He has also published 15 books on world history, environmental history and 20th century politics.

Invited

Clive had been invited to Arran by the local branch of the SNP after meeting chairman Colin Milne, who heard him speak in Kelso. After his talk he took part in a lively question and answer session covering a wide range of issues.

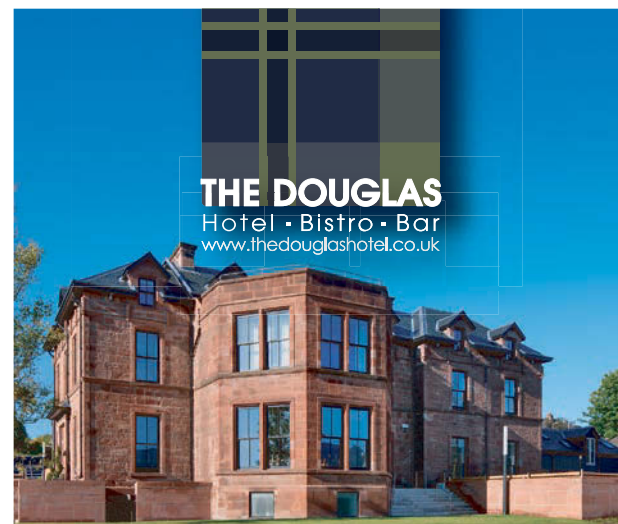
The afternoon finished with a showing of broadcaster Lesley Riddoch's film 'The Nation - Norway the win nation.'



Clive Ponting, centre, with meeting chairman Colin Milne and Arran SNP councillor Ellen McMaster. 01_B15belgrano01



The large audience who attended the talk. 01_B15belgrano03 Inset: Clive tells his remarkable story. 01_B15belgrano02



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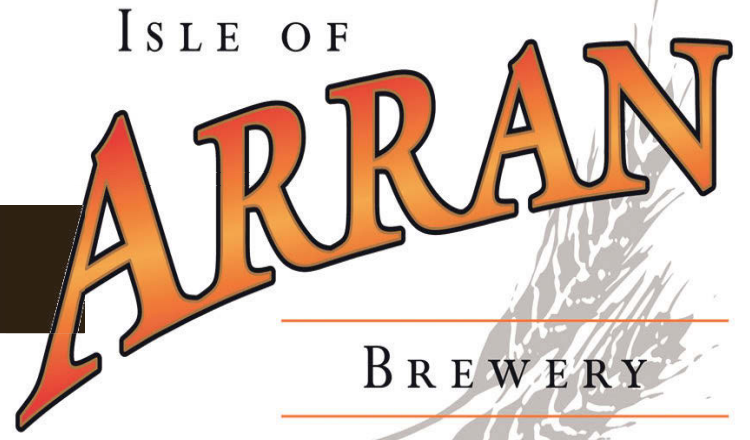
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 Brodick Mini Golf Open seven days, 9am-5pm-ish, ALL weather
 Soap making and candle dipping Arran Aromatics, Brodick, 10am-4pm
 Public swimming Auchrannie Spa Pool, Brodick, 10am-4pm (last entry 3pm) and 6pm-8pm (last entry 7pm)
 Swimming lessons Auchrannie Hotel Pool, Brodick, Monday-Thursday, 4pm-6pm
 Arran Brewery Open Monday, Friday and Saturday, 10am-5pm
 Tuesday-Thursday, 11am-4pm. Tours daily at 2pm
 Arran Active, 10am-5pm Arran
 Rosaburn, Brodick, 10.30am-4.30pm

'Portals' by Mike Bailey
 Heritage Museum

Saturday 13th April

Flow Yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 Rink Bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 2pm
 Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2-3pm
 Gym Induction Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 2.30pm
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3-4pm
 Pop -Up Evening, BYOB (bookings only) The Shore, Whiting Bay from 6pm
 Live Music – TBC Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 The Lynsey Dolan Band - blues and country & a dash of 'Glasgow Soul' The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Over-21s' Disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

Sunday 14th April

Live Music – precooked open mic Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 1pm-4pm
 Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm-3pm
 Gym induction Auchrannie Spa, 2.30pm
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3pm-4pm
 Live Music - The Lynsey Dolan Band The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Brodick Church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
 Folk Music Session Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Monday 15th April

Morning Fitness Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30am-10.30am
 Arran Historical Society, speaker Mr T Barclay Brodick Hall, 2pm
 Adult Tennis Blackwaterfoot, 5pm
 JogScotland mixed ability running group Whiting Bay, 5.30pm
 Circuit training Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6pm-7pm
 Live Music – TBC Crofters' Music Bar & Bistro, 7.30pm
 Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s Brodick Church Hall, 7pm-8.30pm

Tuesday 16th April

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
 Rink Bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 2pm
 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
 Arran Pace Makers – 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 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 17th April

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
 Elderly Forum Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am for 11am
 Knit and Blether Bay Wool & Crafts, Whiting Bay 11.30am-1.30pm

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 Kwondo juniors 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors & adults, AHS, 7.30pm-8.30pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Badger Watch Arran Rangers, Brodick Castle, 8pm
 Family Pub Quiz The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Rock 'n' Pop Bingo Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 18th April

Morning fitness Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 9.30-10.30am
 Chair Yoga Exercise Class Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 10.30am
 Adult Tennis Blackwaterfoot, 5pm
 Steak Night – two steak dinners and a bottle of wine Drift Inn, Lamlash, 5pm-9pm
 Body Blitz (booking essential) Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 6.15pm-7.15pm
 Badminton, All welcome Shiskine Hall, 7pm
 Arran Hockey Club – Seniors (12 yrs +) Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm-8.30pm
 Eco Savvy Food Share Brodick Ormidale Pavilion, 8.15pm
 Eco Savvy Food Share Kilmory Hall, 8.30pm
 The Drift Inn Quiz Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
 Tommy's General Knowledge Quiz Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 19th April

Yoga Auchrannie Studio, 9.30am-10.30am
 Hydrofit Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.30am-10.30am
 Cadbury's Easter Egg Hunt Brodick Castle, 11am - 4pm
 Teddy Bear Picnic Brodick Castle, 1pm - 2pm
 Adult Tennis Blackwaterfoot, 11am
 Gym Induction Auchrannie Spa, 5.30pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Tae Kwondo 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

Saturday 20th April

Flow Yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 Cadbury's Easter Egg Hunt Brodick Castle, 11am - 4pm
 Teddy Bear Picnic Brodick Castle, 1pm - 2pm
 Arran Malt Rugby Sevens Ormidale Park, Brodick, 11.30am
 Lamlash Early Year's Spring Fayre Lamlash Church Hall, 11.30am - 2.30pm
 Rink Bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, 2pm
 Daffodil Tea Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall, 2pm - 4pm
 Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2-3pm
 Gym Induction Auchrannie Spa Leisure, 2.30pm
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 3-4pm
 Pop -Up Evening, BYOB (bookings only) The Shore, Whiting Bay from 6pm
 Live Music – Michael Clark Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Jazz Café Band Whiting Bay Hall, 8pm - 11pm
 Trongate Rum Riots The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Over-21s' Disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm



Bird migrations mark the change of season

Spring is an exciting time of year, awaiting the arrival of our summer visitors and seeing the last of our winter visitors leaving.

The timing of the northerly spring migration is dependent on the weather, not just locally, but throughout the whole length of the migration route. In comparison with February, March was wetter with 70 per cent more rain. In comparison with March 2018, this March was warmer. The mean temperature was 2.6 degrees higher.

The last week of March was dry and settled and it was during this spell that a few pioneer summer migrants did arrive, namely a chiffchaff in Slidery on 23rd, a wheatear in Whitefarland on 24th and five sand martin in Catacol on 31st. These were all the species reported in March.

April should see improving weather and the arrival of other migrants like sandwich tern, swallow, house martin, white wagtail, willow warbler, common sandpiper and cuckoo – all signs of the approaching summer. Please keep me posted.

In March, our winter visitors were still to the fore including: a brambling in a Lagg garden on 2nd, 400 greylag geese and 70 wigeon in the Shiskine Valley on 15th, 52 teal on Cleats Shore on 23rd, a purple sandpiper in Whiting Bay on 24th, a redwing in Auchenhew Bay on 28th, 135 pink-footed geese in Slidery on 29th and a male goldeneye on Mossend Pond also on 29th.

In contrast to last winter

when there were reports of both Iceland gull and glaucous gull, species of uncommon white-winged gulls, none were reported in March. However, causing some interest, a white-winged albinistic type herring gull was photographed in Shiskine on 28th. This bird had been ringed in Slidery on 24 June 2018. Towards the end of the month there were some signs of wildfowl preparing to head north to their breeding grounds including 42 calling whooper swan flying over Whiting Bay on 31st.

Ongoing migration

In March there were many signs of this ongoing migration including: nine siskin in Torbeg on 1st, 14 golden plover in Slidery on 6th, eight skylark in Tormore on 17th, 27 curlew and 15 redshank on Cleats Shore on 23rd, 100 starling in Blackwaterfoot on 27th, 28 turnstone on Dougarie shore on 28th, six linnet on Silver Sands also on 28th, 134 common gull at Clachlands Point on 30th, and on the 31st 45 great northern diver, 20 black-throated diver and 10 red-throated diver were reported between Machriewaterfoot and Lochranza.

In a month in which records were received on almost 100 species, these are a small selection of other interesting records: two common scoter and two Slavonian grebe off Cosyden on 25th, a short-eared owl at the top of the String on 26th, a little grebe and a moorhen on Mossend Pond on 29th and over 140 gannet

in Auchenhew Bay on 30th. In addition the water pipit, highlighted in the February Bird Notes, which was first reported on February 23 on the shore at Machrie, continued to show well throughout March in the area around Machrie Golf Course. This species had never before been reported on Arran. Towards the end of the month the pink flush on the breast began to show as the bird moulted into breeding plumage.

Spring is a great time to be birding, as most birds are getting on with the business of breeding. The business of breeding involves attracting a mate by song, courtship display and ritual, defining a territory, nest building, and generally establishing relationships.

In March the signs were there, including: six black guillemot exploring nest holes in Corrie on 23rd, house sparrow occupying four nest boxes in Kildonan on 24th, 30 eider displaying off Cosyden on 25th, grey heron nest building in Lagg on 26th, great spotted woodpecker drumming in Whitehouse Wood on 30th, 15 red-breasted merganser displaying in Cleiteadh Buidhe on 31st and among many reports of birds singing, there was one of yellowhammer in Slidery on 25th.

If it stays to breed it will be the first confirmed breeding of this once widespread familiar farmland bird on Arran since 1999.

I am interested in all records of arriving summer migrants and any signs of breeding

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

MARCH

birds

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



Brambling, one of the winter visitors still lingering on.

Photo Dave Russell



Wheatear, one of the first summer visitors that have arrived after having wintered south of the Sahara. Photo Robert Lambie



Siskin, a visual sign of migration as they appear at garden feeders. Photo Dave Russell

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THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday April 10 1999

Society struggles

The traditional Gilbert and Sullivan Society show has been called off this year and there is concern that, after missing a year, it may not survive.

Having started in 1978 with an abridged version of *The Mikado*, the society blossomed into performing all the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. Rehearsals ran through the winter and the society became a club and a meeting place for like-minded people.

This year it was meant to repeat its most popular non G and S musical, *Fiddler on the Roof*, set for the end of next month, but it has now come to an abrupt halt.

The reason, poor attendance – a sad reality for many groups on Arran which struggle for numbers. Next week an extraordinary general meeting will be held to see if a rescue package can be put together.

Not ready

Whiting Bay village hall will not reopen to the public this week. It has been closed since October, and throughout winter a comprehensive programme of improvements has been carried out. The main hall has a new acoustic tile ceiling and electric wall heaters

and attractive timber panelling, which all complement the rich pink paintwork. The brand new entrance hall is now on the right hand side of the building and the toilets have been extensively upgraded. A refurbished kitchen is also part of the improvements and will now be able to cater for any event held in the hall.

Scheduled to open tomorrow with a concert by Arran Brass, a completion certificate, which needs to be issued by North Ayrshire Council, will not be able to be issued in time to allow the concert to go ahead. The concert itself will still take place, albeit in Lamlash hall.

In memory

There were many on the island saddened by the death last week of Jim Reid. Although handicapped by a stiff leg as a result of childhood illness, Jim became one of the greatest golfers ever produced on Arran. He was 25 years of age before being introduced to the game but he progressed rapidly, ultimately playing to a handicap of one.

He won the club championship at Whiting Bay Golf Club 11 times in a row and in later years became club champion at Lamlash, Brodick and Corrie Golf clubs, a feat that is unlikely to ever be repeated.



The Arran High School Team who took part in the North Ayrshire School's Athletics Finals held at the Magnum Centre in Irvine. 01_B15twe05



Katy MacDonald draws the winning raffle ticket which will help to raise funds for the Brodick Brownies. Assisting her is Sheena Miller and leaders Caroline Kelly and Sandra McIntyre. 01_B15twe03



Children roll decorated boiled eggs down the grassy slope. This activity was one of many enjoyable games for children and adults at the Easter Sunday event at Brodick Castle. 01_B15twe04



An interesting collaboration has produced the Y2K calendar for the year 2000. The joint venture is between Howard Walker, historian, gamekeeper and warden of Holy Isle, and landscape photographer Audrey Thomson 01_B15twe02



Shauna Watt loads up a second van full of donations from Arran. Heading to the Balkans, the collections are in response to the Kosovo Aid Appeal. 01_B15twe01

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TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS)(SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Applications listed below together with the plans and other documents may be examined at Planning Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine, between 09.00-16.45 weekdays (16.30 Fridays) or at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk *and at The Council Offices, Lamlash

Written representations may be made to the Executive Director (Economy & Communities) at the above address or emailed to eplanning@north-ayrshire.gov.uk by 03.05.19. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

19/00259/PP; Site To South East Of Thornhill, Kings Cross, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Erection of one and a half storey single dwelling and detached garage.

19/00241/PPP; Site Opposite Glenclay Garage, Auchrannie Road, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Planning permission in principle for residential development.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND BUILDINGS IN CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1987

Applications for Listed Building Consent.

19/00257/LBC; Silverbank, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Internal and external alterations including sub-division and erection of extension to rear.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siarachd Air a Tuath

GARDENING SERVICES

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07884 204 885
michaelarran11@gmail.com

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- Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
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CHURCH NOTICES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran, Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together
Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson
Parish Assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.

Sunday 14th April

Lochranza Church, 9.30am Morning Worship
Pirmill Church, 10.15am Morning Worship
Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.
Brodick Church, 10.30am Morning Worship including an informal celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.
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 14th April

Worship for Palm Sunday will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served in the transept after the service.

All most welcome.
Holy Week Services begin on **Wednesday 17th April** at 7pm, when there will be an evening of Sacred Music led by the Arran Singers.

There will be a service on **Thursday 18th**, which will include a commemoration of The Last Supper.

On **Good Friday** at 7pm, there will be a short service of quiet reflection led by the Prayer Group. Tea and coffee will be served after the services.

All most welcome to any of these services.
Easter Sunrise Service – At 5.50am, a service to celebrate Christ's resurrection will take place down on the beach at Sandbraes.

Breakfast served in the Church Hall immediately afterwards.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Sunday 14th April

Palm Sunday
Holy Communion at 11 am.
Rev Canon Simon Mackenzie
Coffee after service
All welcome

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 14th April

Morning Service at 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service at 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"

Sunday 14th April

Rev Dr Ian MacLeod
Kilmory, 10 am
Lamlash, 11.30 am
In Lamlash:
Maudy Communion
Thursday 18th April at 7 pm
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 14th April

Sunday Worship at 11am 'Heather Lodge', Brodick
Left of the Douglas Hotel, opposite the ferry terminal.
Telephone 700346, 820223
Everyone Warmly Invited

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 14th April
Service at 11am
Free Church Building, Brodick (behind the Post office)
Tea and coffee after the service
Wednesday at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.
Telephone 600222
Everyone warmly invited

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 14th April

Shiskine at 11am (church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick at 6pm
Services will be taken by Prof Tommy Mackay

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 14th April

Sunday Mass at 11am

Maundy Thursday 18th April

April

Mass at 7pm

Good Friday 19th April

Witness Walk at 2pm

Liturgy at 7pm

Holy Saturday 20th April

Polish Blessing of Food at 11am

Easter Vigil at 9pm

DEATH

McMASTER: Alf McMaster passed away peacefully in Hill View Care Home, Clydebank on Monday, 1st April 2019, aged 93 years.

A much loved husband of the late Ellan Rankine and also Hilary Town.

Loving father to Anne, Bill, Isobel, John, Ricky, Jim, Geraldine, Quentin, Hazel and Thomas. Granpa Mac to his 24 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Past Master of Lodge St Molios, 774

The funeral service will be held at Lochranza Church on Wednesday 17th April at 12.30 pm to which all friends are warmly invited.

No flowers please but there will be a collection at the church for the S.C.A.A. (Scottish Charity Air Ambulance)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The family of the late **MAIRI TURNBULL** of Glen Rosa, Brodick, would like to thank everyone once again for their kind donations enabling us to purchase two reclining chairs for patients and families use in the Hospice Rooms at AWMH. A further special thanks to everyone involved in the excellent care Mum and the family received



Overall winner of the Winter Cup at Corrie Len Hartley being presented with the trophy by treasurer Robert McLean.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Sunday April 7, The Tor Alvey Greensome. A decent field of 18 golfers took part in the popular early season Greensome competition.

Scoring was good and the post golf clubhouse gathering proved equally entertaining.

The various methods of computing handicaps was, as always, a lively topic of debate but that was perhaps topped by the ingenious methods some pairs (okay, one pair) deployed to make the recording of scores simpler. As one might expect there was much confusion but after the dust had settled the result was found to be as follows – a motion for a people's vote on the issue was roundly rejected by the sitting members and a few who were still standing.

1 Wolfi Kroner and Douglas Auld (17.7)-57.4, 2 Craig Tart and Alan Hill (14.4)-58.6, 3 Gavin Bell and David Brookens (16.8)-60.2. There were no magics twos recorded.

Fixtures: Sunday April 14, Medal, draws at 9am and 11am. Wednesday April 17, Summer Trophy, draw at 5pm.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday April 6, Summer Cup. 1 A McDonald 73-15=58, 2 A Smith 70-11=59(scr).

Monday April 8, Winter



Cup, 1 L Hartley 73-9=64, 2 J McGovern 75-9=66.

Overall winner of the Winter Cup Len Hartley.

Fixtures: Saturday April 13, 18-hole sweep, ballots 9am and 2pm.

Wednesday April 17, Summer Cup, ballot at 5pm.

Brodick Golf Club

Wednesday April 3, Summer Cup, 16 played, CSS 65. 1 Fred Galbraith 83(16) 67, 2 Bruce Jenkins 73(5)68 acb, 3 Finlay Sillars 81(13)68. Scratch Bruce Jenkins 73.

Sunday April 7, Brandon qualifier, 17 played, CSS 64. 1 Douglas Robertson 85(19)66 acb, 2 Terry Raeside 77(11)66 acb, 3 Chris Pattenden 78(12)66. Scratch Matt Keir 74.

Fixture: Sunday April 14, British Legion 36 holes. Entries by notice board only, draw noon Saturday. Also 18-hole sweeps 8.30am and noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Ladies' Section: Wednesday April 3, Fleet, four played, CSS 64, par 65. 1 Sheena

Murchie 83(15)68, Gay Mackay 94(24)70. Scratch Sheena 83.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday April 9, Peter Sutton/Lady Mary sweep, 1 Campbell Laing 64pts, 2 Phil Betley 66pts, 3 Ron Woods 71pts.

Fixtures: Tuesday April 16 Peter Sutton/Lady Mary, tee off 12.30pm/5.30pm.

Arran Ladies Golf Union

The final match for the Drumadon Trophy was played over Whiting Bay in glorious weather on Saturday March 30. Fifteen ladies played on a course which was in lovely condition despite being at the end of a long winter. The ladies also enjoyed a bird's eye view of the naval manoeuvres taking place offshore.

The winners on the day were: 1 Mary Jo Tod 93-24=69 BIH, 2 Gay Mackay 93-24=69 BIH, 3 Sheena Murchie 84-15=69. Scratch Kema Genda 83. Many thanks to Whiting Bay for courtesy of the course and to John for post match refreshments.

Fixtures: Next on the ALGU calendar is the Kiscadale which this year takes place over Brodick. This annual competition begins on Tuesday April 23 when Brodick play Lamlash and Shiskine take on Machrie Bay.

All set for Coral Scottish Grand National

The stage is set for the Coral Scottish Grand National later today (Saturday) at Ayr Racecourse with Lucinda Russell's Big River and Dingo Dollar from the Alan King yard early joint 9-1 favourites.

First ever win

Third favourite is Beware The Bear (10-1) attempting to give champion trainer Nicky Henderson his first ever winner in the race.

This nine-year-old had the Russell horse back in fourth when he won the Ultima

Chase at Cheltenham last month but has to give his rival more weight this time round.

A total of 34 horses are expected to start the race and the two horses who finished first and second in the £100,000 novices' chase at the meeting last year – Crosshue Boy and Dingo Dollar – re-oppose with the former receiving a 12-1 quote.

Other interesting runners include the Sue Smith trained Vintage Clouds, who fell at the first fence at Aintree in last

Saturday's Grand National and this Trevor Hemmings-owned horse came third in the race last year.

Interesting

Paul Nicholls has an interesting contender in Ibis du Rheu (20-1) while Jonjo O'Neill is likely to run Cloth Cap, who sits at 14-1.

The eight-race card on Saturday also features the CPMS Scottish Champion Hurdle and Dan Skelton's NubeNegra is the 11-2 favourite in this.



new SPOT THE SHINTY BALL

Win!
THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £2350

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.

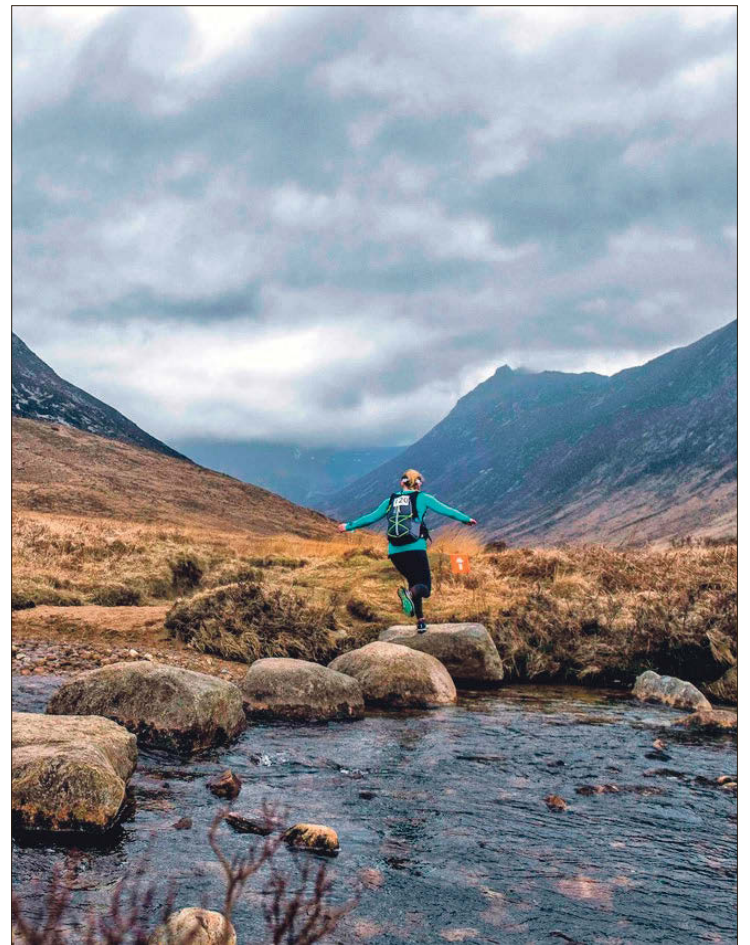
Competition rules

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.



A competitor takes to the hills in Glen Sannox during last year's race.



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)

Big entry for second Ultra Tour of Arran

Hundreds of runners will descend on Arran this weekend for the second Ultra Tour of Arran.

Rat Race Adventure Sports will again stage the audacious 100km off-road running challenge today (Saturday) and tomorrow and with entries up 50 per cent on last year it should be a super event. A quarter of the entrants are woman.

All the entrants are signed up for the two days this year with runners from outside the UK coming from Denmark, Netherlands, Dubai, Germany, France, USA, Canada and Belgium.

The two-day, fully-supported and waymarked, off-road adventure run packs a hefty 100km ultra distance route around the island with an overall vertical gain of 10,679 feet.

Both days start from the green at Brodick beach, Saturday at 8.30am and Sunday at 7.30am, and it is quite a sight to see all the runners heading off.

On day one the entrants head south (between four and eight hours of running) and it is characterised by quiet paths, forest trails, some boardwalk sections, some tarmac sections through villages and a lot of forest dirt roads.

Day two they head north (between six and 12 hours of running) and it is virtually all off-road with some serious mountain sections (there might even be snow on the hilltops), where the going is decidedly rough underfoot.

There will be several scheduled pit stops interspersed on the route each

day, for that much-needed quick rest and refuel.

Jim Mee, MD of Rat Race Adventure Sports, said: 'We are very pleased to be returning to Arran in 2019. The island has so much to offer our Rat Racers and their supporters over and above the huge variety of running terrain from north to south.'

'It has its own whisky distillery, brewery, craft gin, artisan cheese, aromatics, high quality food and drink together with that incredibly special island hospitality.'

Stunning

'What seemed to appeal most to our 2018 participants was setting sail to a stunning and dramatic location where they felt a million miles away, yet they were less than an hour from the mainland; a true adventure weekend.'

The UTA is suited to a range of athletes from elite fell runners to amateur sporting enthusiasts with a good base level of fitness. It is an achievable step up from a marathon into ultra-running territory, for both solos and pairs, who have prepared well and put in the training miles.

As with all of their events, to ensure runners, their families and friends have the best weekend possible Rat Race will operate from a central basecamp for UTA located at Ormidale Park in Brodick where there will be good food and drink, great amenities, friendly and hospitable staff and Saturday night entertainment.

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:

- J Martin**
Isle of Gigha
- K Blair**
Lochgilphead

Arran Bridge Club prize-giving



The Arran Bridge Club prize winners 2018-19 with their trophies.

The prize-giving of Arran Bridge Club was held on Thursday March 28. After an excellent meal the prize-giving got underway, with outgoing president Alison Bilsland and secretary Elaine Duncan at the helm.

Grateful thanks and a heartfelt round of applause for them was followed by a welcome to the incoming president Maureen Cumming.

The club's very grateful thanks went to Brodick Golf Club for the

use of the clubhouse, always with a welcoming fire on and arranged tables and to Little Rock for the use of their premises as well and for the lovely food.

Arran Bridge Club prize-winners 2018-19 were: The Peggy Curry Cup, teams of four: Trish Martin and David Campbell and Maureen Cumming and Fiona Henderson.

The Ann Cook Tray, teams of four runners up: John and Jan Beattie and Janice Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

Adam Morrison Cup, prepared hands: 1 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan, 2 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie.

The Duncan Trophy, aggregate points Brodick: 1 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure, 2 Douglas Hamilton and Trish Martin.

The Adam Morrison Trophy, aggregate points Lamlash: 1 David Campbell and Trish Martin, 2 Anne McKelvie and Janie Maclure.

The Boyd Trophy, match points Brodick: 1 Douglas Hamilton

and Trish Martin, 2 Jan and John Beattie.

The McConnell Trophy, match points Lamlash: 1 David Campbell and Trish Martin, 2 Jan and John Beattie.

Prize-giving evening results fun fame, seven tables: N/S, 1 David Campbell and Micheal Lutz, 2 Tricia Martin and Michel Lemort, 3 Fiona Henderson and Jane Davidson. E/W 1 Ron Culpen and Jennifer Wales, 2 Ellie Jones and Elby Lang, 3 David Henderson and

Margaret McGill. Arran Bridge matchpoints played on Thursday March 21, five tables: 1 Dougie Bruce and Jim Peacock, 2 Jan and John Beattie, 3 Tricia Martin and Douglas Hamilton. AGM Monday March 25, five tables aggregate: N/S: 1 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie, 2 Alison Bilsland and Elaine Duncan, 3 Dougie and Margaret Bruce. E/W 1 Tricia Martin and Douglas Henderson, 2 Jan and John Beattie 3 Elizabeth McKellar and Margaret McGill.

Open day at Arran Kayak Club

Everyone is invited to Arran Kayak Club's open day today (Friday) at the yacht club in Lamlash.

There will be stalls, refreshments and a programme of activities. In the morning, from 10am to noon, there will be indoor coaching sessions on the club ergo by Danny Matthews, a former junior world champion marathon kayaker, and also yoga for kayaking sessions by Gillian.

In the afternoon, from noon to 3pm, weather permitting, there will be the chance to try out a variety of boats on the water. For the outdoor taster sessions, participants should come equipped with waterproofs, shoes for getting wet, a change of clothes and a towel – the club will provide the rest.

There's a one-off £5 charge for participating in any or all of the activities but entrance is free for those who just want to come in for a chat, wander round the stalls and perhaps grab a gourmet burger.



First time on the sea for the new club boats.

Rugby sevens is back

The Arran Rugby Sevens is back this year with the promise of a super day of fast-paced action at Ormidale Park in Brodick on Easter Saturday.

Following last year's Festival of Rugby, Isle of Arran Rugby Club return to their usual format of hosting their annual Isle of Arran Distillery-sponsored seven-aside tournament next Saturday (April 20).

Along with the home team, competing for the much coveted Arran Society of Glasgow Cup first presented in 1982, will be Marr RFC, Ardrossan Academicals RFC, Garnock RFC, Glasgow Academy RFC, Irvine RFC, Bishopton RFC and Strathaven RFC.

Festivities commence at 11.30am, with beer tent and hot food available from noon.

INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Arran Bridge Club
prize-giving

INSIDE THIS WEEK:
Open day at
Arran Kayak Club

Defeat sees Arran finish cup group runners-up

Isle of Arran	2
Killie Athletic	3
League Cup Group A	

Arran finished runners-up in their League Cup group after narrowly going down to the group winners in the final game in Stevenston on Sunday.

Nothing at stake

With both teams qualified, there was nothing at stake and the Arran boys were short of numbers travelling to the away game at Ardeer Stadium with just 11 players.

After 20 minutes the visitors

went down to 10 men with an injury. Things went from bad to worse – at the end of the first half were 3-0 down.

Arran battled hard in the second half to come back and thanks to goals from Johnny Sloss and Ryan Armstrong they dragged the score back to 3-2 but just missed out on getting the draw.

Man of the match was the whole team for their performance, with the manager saying that not one of them had let themselves down.

Well done to Killie on their victory.

Photos by Tam Borland.



A Killie defender clears the ball from a goalmouth scramble.



Goalscorer Ryan Armstrong on the attack.



Nick Emsley jumps highest for the ball.



Joel Small jumps over this sliding tackle.



LAMLASH GARAGE



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