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Brodick takes a direct hit from huge lightning strike

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



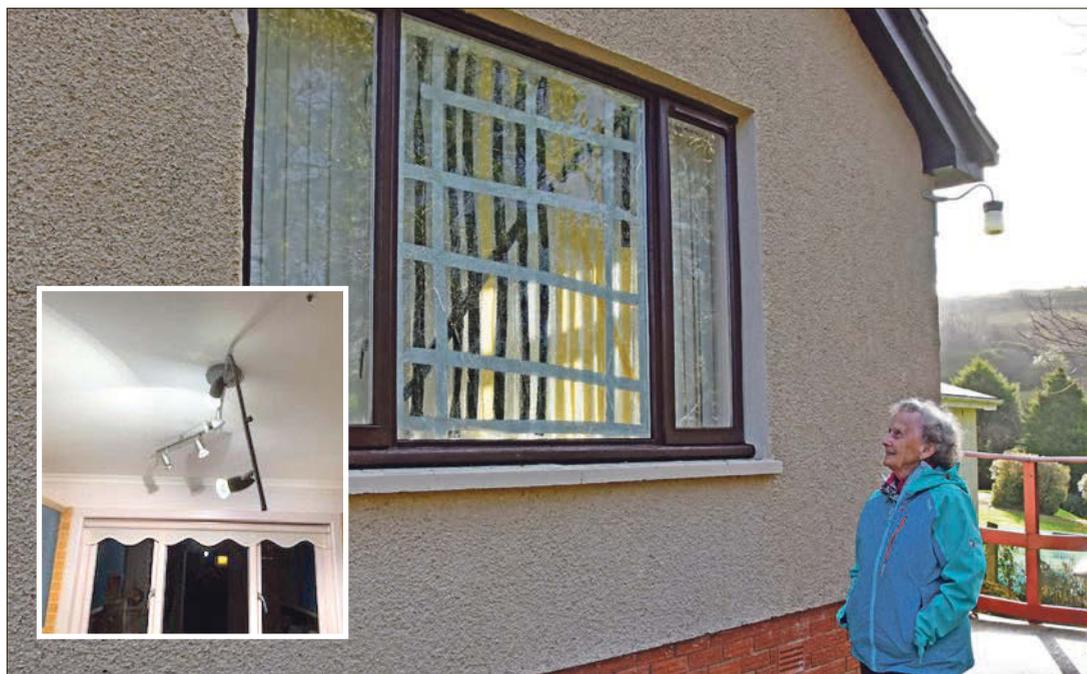
An elderly Brodick resident had a lucky escape during a lightning strike which shook the whole of the village earlier this week.

Taking place shortly after 4pm on Monday, the flash, followed by an explosive clap of thunder, was so loud and powerful that it caused widespread damage across Brodick and was heard as far away as Maidens on the Ayrshire coast, more than 30 miles away.

The intensity of the strike and thunder, which many have described as the loudest they have ever heard, knocked out routers and cordless telephones, and blew telephone sockets off the walls. It even set off car alarms along Brodick shorefront.

Owing to the ferocity and the short time elapse between the lightning and the thunder, many believed their own homes and offices had been hit. However, the actual strike site was at the entrance to Corriegills just outside Carrick Lodge.

Grace Small, aged 92, was busy cutting cake in her kitchen when the bolt made contact with the



Grace Small shows the large window that has been taped up after it shattered from a lightning strike and, inset, the kitchen light fitting which was damaged.

site of the strike near to her front window. A forked gouge in the grass indicated the exact spot the lightning had struck and the nearby embankment which had been blown apart was testament to the power it discharged.

The glass covering of a nearby streetlight and the metal surroundings also exploded from the strike and the metal cover at the base had been ripped off from its fixtures.

Elsewhere across Brodick, residents and businesses were left without internet or telephone service and many businesses faced disruption which lasted until early on Wednesday morning.

Internet network provider Openreach received a number of reports of internet faults and sent specialists to the island to join island front-line engineers who were making urgent repairs to network equipment damaged by

earth just metres from her house at Tigh-Na-Griahnach.

The force of the blast shattered the inside pane of her double-glazed livingroom window and had the force to bend her kitchen light fitting, narrowly missing Grace herself.

She told the Banner: 'It sounded

like an explosion, the loudest I have ever heard in all my days. My immediate thought was what on earth was that? Was it a divine reprimand for indulging in some cake? At 92, I don't get frightened easily but I was startled by the very loud noise.

'The light fitting in the kitchen

was blown loose from the ceiling and when I went in to the living-room, my front window had shattered. It is a double pane window and interestingly enough it was the inner pane that shattered.'

When Grace's sons, Ian and Murray Small, went to check on their mum they discovered the

Continued on page two

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NEW TO THE MARKET - 3 BEDROOM, GREAT VIEW

Brodick Nursery saved as it looks to share library



The packed hall seen from the balcony at the public meeting. 01_B06meeting03

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



A long term solution looks to have been found which will save Brodick Nursery.

North Ayrshire Council has agreed to look into the possibility of the nursery sharing the space in Brodick Hall currently occupied by the library.

It follows a public meeting held last week when there was a near unanimous show of hands backing this option.

Now 'very positive' talks have taken place with council officials, who have told the parent committee they would be willing to support the idea of using the current library space to create a multi-purpose, 'community hub' where both a purpose-built nursery and a new, updated library space could be combined within the current space.

A letter from the interim executive of communities, Audrey Sutton, states: 'This means that we will now commission an architect to scope out further options in relation to the library space and once

these are prepared, present all options to you for full appraisal and consideration. I will share further information regarding timescales etc with you as soon as this is available.'

However, while the council would help with the planning it would be up to the parent committee to complete any building works using local tradesman and volunteers as seen in TV porogrammes like DIY SOS.

Re-build

Chairwoman Jenny Duncan said: 'Although the council are willing to give us use of the space and finance us through the planning stage of this process, the re-build itself can really only be done with the proposition put forward by Rachel Armitage at the meeting of a DIY SOS style approach.

'This is where the whole community will now hopefully come forward to donate their time, resources and labouring skills to help build what essentially will be known as a community hub to accommodate both the library and the nursery,

and perhaps even some other amenities. We are so lucky to have so many skilled workers here on the island as well as businesses which are already offering their help in fundraising and business expertise that hopefully we can create something pretty amazing.

'I am under no illusion of how big this project will be and I know this is just the beginning of a very long journey but it is one that I am personally really looking forward to now, especially when only last week the future of Brodick Nursery was so bleak. We are aware that we will need to call on as many people to help from the local community as possible but from the meeting held the other night this is something I do not foresee as a problem. It is very exciting to think that now we could build something together as a community for everyone to enjoy, that will hopefully last a lifetime and who knows, maybe even my grandchildren may even be able to use in the future.

'For now, the nursery will continue in the hall tempo-

Brodick takes direct hit i

From page one
the lightning.

The CalMac port office in Brodick was also affected by the strike and subsequent outage and, for most of the day on Tuesday, they were unable to take card payments or make or amend bookings owing to a 'technical issue'.

The island's main supermarket, the Brodick Co-op, was also severely affected by the outage and for much of the day on Tuesday was unable to accept card payments. The lottery machines, the PayPoint machine and even the ATM was out of order.

The lightning strike that occurred on Monday was not part of a series of lightning strikes or a thunderstorm but rather a single lightning event known as a flash. As it is a complex multi-stage process it is not fully understood but what is known is that they are typically miles long and that they occur when two electrically charged regions



in the atmosphere or ground rapidly equalise, discharging a huge amount of energy.

The thunder is caused by a sonic shockwave which develops as gases near the

lightning suddenly increase in pressure.

An Openreach spokeswoman said: 'Engineers have now ruled out any major network issues on Arran as a result of

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A near unanimous show of hands at the meeting in support of the library move.

01_B06meeting01

rarily and from August 2020 offering the hours 8.45am to 2.45pm accommodating other hall users when needed. Planning will hopefully start imminently and fingers crossed we can get something in place for this time next year, if not certainly for those starting in nursery August 2021. By then, of course, the hall will be free for other groups to use and hopefully the whole community can benefit from the building.

The nursery committee would like to say a huge thanks to all the parents of Brodick early years over the past week who have supported us on our campaign. There have been countless letters written and their words of encouragement have kept us

going through some fairly tough meetings when all we came across were 'nos' and financial impossibilities. This is a great example of the power of voice and sometimes if you make enough noise, you eventually get heard. On that note we would also like to thank Ellen McMaster and Timothy Billings for attending the meeting and reporting back to the council.'

Delighted

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson has also been thanked for his lobbying on behalf of the nursery.

He said: 'I am delighted that there is no threat to Brodick early years and that while there is room at present and plans for development, there is no pressing need for this

work to be done by August 2020. Brodick Nursery will therefore be able to deliver 1,140 hours from the current accommodation at Brodick Hall which means that the high quality service provided by Brodick Nursery will continue.'

A North Ayrshire Council spokesman said: 'We had a very positive and constructive discussion with the group within the past few days.

'As a result, we have agreed to explore a range of options for the nursery's future. Nothing has been agreed at this stage and we will continue to work with the local community in the coming weeks and months to support the group in finding a solution which works for all.'

Public meeting backs nursery move

by Hugh Boag

editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Relocating Brodick Nursery to share space with Arran Library was the near unanimous view of a public meeting held last week to discuss the future of the nursery which is under threat of closure.

The nursery held a public meeting last Wednesday night and more than 60 parents, grandparents, businesses and others, with an interest in childcare, turned out on a wet Wednesday night to discuss the situation in Brodick Hall.

The meeting was chaired by Sheila Gilmore, who has a granddaughter at the nursery, with chairwoman of the parent committee Jenny Duncan and nursery manager Aileen Brand beside her.

Jenny explained the nursery had been offered a partitioned section of the hall where the stage is at present but it felt this did not sufficiently meet its needs. There was also

worries at what additional works it may uncover during any remedial works.

Concerns were expressed that North Ayrshire Council may be unwilling to find a solution so it could create a 'super nursery' for all the island children, with a suggestion that £300,000 had already been set aside for allocation to the Lamlash early years classes.

But with 34 new council houses due to be built this year in Brodick there was felt to be a pressing need to retain the nursery in Brodick.

There were mixed views over the possibility of the nursery building its own purpose-built facility or taking over an existing property, but the overall feeling was that this was unlikely to be achievable.

Discussion then turned to making the best use of the community facilities available.

The Ormidale Pavilion was ruled out as being too small and too disruptive to the present users.

However, many at the

meeting felt the library premises were underused and felt it may be an ideal long term solution for the needs of the nursery.

The library was said to be underused, closed on two weekdays and its computers not as vital as they once were. While there was no wish to see the library closed, it was felt it could be accommodated in a smaller building – with Alexanders and the empty Scottish Hydro shop both mentioned – and making more use of the mobile library. The computers could be set up elsewhere in Brodick Hall, possibly in little-used storage rooms.

A vote was taken in the hall to 'look at the library as an option' and was overwhelmingly passed with a near unanimous show of hands.

Sheila, in the chair, asked the two Arran resident North Ayrshire councillors, Timothy Billings and Ellen McMaster, who attended the meeting, if they would take this up with officials at the council.

n huge lightning strike



Grace Small inspects the damage to the embankment outside her house and, above, the scar left on the grass at the site suspected to have been struck by lightning.

lightning, but are working through individual faults where strikes have caused damage. All fault reports still appear to be centred around Brodick.

'It is really important that anyone affected reports their fault to their service provider – the people they pay their bill to – as they will arrange for Openreach engineers to

investigate each fault and carry out repairs.

'We are doubling our engineers on the island so we can get repairs done as quickly as possible.'

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Big turnout fo

There was a super turnout to the launch on Tuesday January 28 of the U3A, University of the Third Age, in Brodick.

The organisers watched in amazement as people poured into Brodick Hall for the event.

They had hoped for a good turnout but, despite the inclement weather, around 100 people and one dog arrived to fill up the seats laid out in the hall, and extra chairs had to be brought in and the balcony opened. Tables were set out round the room with lists of subjects, leaders, and groups available with information.

U3A, which has the motto learn, laugh, live, is a worldwide organisation which provides opportu-

nities for people who are retired, or semi-retired, from full time work to meet others and follow new interests, or revisit old ones.

After introductions by Mhairi Smeir, chairwoman of the steering group, details were given about health and safety, fire drills and financial arrangements. The cost of membership of Arran U3A is £15 per year and includes any number of groups an individual may wish to join. There may be a small cost for individual groups depending on circumstances, eg the hire of a room, or £1 each if the group is held in a member's house.

Ann Keating was going to speak about the movement, how it worked and how the central



The hall was packed for the launch. 01_B06uni03

One guest enjoys a cup of tea. 01_B06uni05



Brodick Hall was packed for the launch of U3A. 01_B06uni01

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New members sign up to one of the groups.

r U3A launch

organisation could provide information and advice. However, Ann reached Ardrossan but was unable to get over and back because of the weather.

Mhairi did an excellent job in her stead and Anne hopes to be able to join a monthly meeting very soon.

Next the audience was able to visit the tables and sign up for various subjects of interest. People were also able to suggest other subjects.

Approximately 60 people became members on the day and a large number signed up for the groups.

Five new leaders volunteered and many people

took the forms home to think about what they wished to do. The excitement as people queued up at the tables and waited patiently for their turn was immense. The hall was crowded with people laughing, discussing, making new friends and even arranging lifts.

Despite this they were all in their seats at the requested time to hear a short joyful recital from Ain't Misbehavin'

Isobel Thompson, an original member of the group, gave an interesting introduction to the history and development of the group. Feet tapped and heads nodded and everyone left with a smile.
Mairi S Christie



Isobel Thompson gives an introduction to the history and development of the group.



Chairwoman Mhairi Smeir extends a warm welcome to the audience with the steering committee behind her. 01_B06uni02



The packed hall at the launch.



Ain't Misbehavin' performing at the launch.



The audience enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.

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Work to start at Ardrossan before end of the year

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Work on the redevelopment of Ardrossan harbour is expected to start before the end of the year and take 21 months to complete, it was confirmed this week.

It is four years since the ministerial Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce was set up by the Scottish government. But despite 48 months of talking nothing has been done to improve the port.

Arran MSP Kenneth Gibson has lodged a motion at the Scottish parliament in which he demands to know when the work would start.

The outline design for the upgrade was formally signed off by the ministerial taskforce in May of last year and at that time the next stage – detailed design work and the procurement process – was expected to be finished by the end of 2019 allowing work to start in the spring, but that has now been delayed until autumn, at the earliest.

The work will see the Arran berth closed to allow it to be realigned, a new linkspan installed and a new terminal building constructed.

The Arran ferry is likely to be accommodated at the Irish berth for most of the works, but an alternative arrangement may be required at some point.



The Arran berth at Ardrossan, which will be realigned during the works. 01_B06harbour01

Mr Gibson's motion, lodged on Monday, states: 'That the parliament notes that February 3, 2020 is the fourth anniversary of the first meeting of the Ardrossan Harbour Taskforce, which was formed to improve the operation of

the harbour and consider any infrastructure work required for the entry into service of the new ferry earmarked for the Ardrossan-Brodick route.'

The motion goes on: 'While the taskforce meets

only twice a year, numerous discussions have been held involving stakeholders, such as Transport Scotland, Peel Ports, CalMac, CMAL, North Ayrshire Council and the Isle of Arran Ferry Committee; was heartened when the

taskforce committed to a multi-million pound investment to upgrade Ardrossan harbour, accommodate the new ferry and improve weather resilience on the route by reducing the number of sailings cancelled.'

The motion 'expresses deep frustration, however, at what it sees as the inordinate amount of time taken to agree a design and funding and for work to begin at the harbour, which it believes is leading the people of both Arran and Ardrossan to wonder if, let alone when, this will happen, and therefore urges all partners in the taskforce to urgently conclude their deliberations and to announce the date when work to redevelop Ardrossan harbour will start on site.'

A Transport Scotland spokesman said: 'The Ardrossan harbour project is currently in the planning and design phase, with the marine infrastructure option two – being progressed to exemplar design for tender stage.'

'The marine and land-side infrastructure works are expected to be completed within 21 months of construction commencing with closure of the Arran berth anticipated in Q4 of 2020 until Q2 2022.'

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Calls to scrap ferries and start again

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



There were growing calls this week for the new ferries being built on the Clyde to be scrapped and the work started again.

The MV Glen Sannox should already be in service on the Arran route, but instead lies rusting at the Ferguson Marine yard in Port Glasgow.

The prospect of further delays to a new ferry for the Ardrossan to Brodick route will be a major concern to the travelling public as well as businesses and tourism providers.

The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee, in a written submission to the parliamentary inquiry into the ferry fiasco, claims the delay in delivery of the MV Glen Sannox has cost the island economy £18/£20m. It also says there has been a major impact on the 'quality of life' for residents who have recently been unable to travel when required to satisfy personal,

health and business appointments because of increased ferry cancellations of the older boats on the route.

The full state of deterioration of the MV Glen Sannox and her sister ship, Hull 802, was the subject of a major expose in The Sunday Post last weekend.

Marine experts, who studies photographs of the ferries taken by the newspaper, expressed alarm at the amount of serious damage which was visible including deformed steel plates, extensive rusting and the serious build up of marine growth.

They also said the ships should have been built under-cover but that the yard was never suitable to build the two ships side by side.

The expose came days after the rural economy and connectivity committee of the Scottish parliament held its second day of evidence of the inquiry into the procurement and construction of the two ferries.

Members heard evidence from ferry experts and representatives of commu-



There has been little change to the unfinished MV Glen Sannox pictured at the Ferguson Marine yard last year.

nity/ferry user groups. And it emerged that Ferguson Marine's bid for the vessels was the highest of those submitted.

The partially-built MV Glen Sannox and its unnamed sister ship are now expected to cost £100 million – more than twice the original £97 million price, with fears it could be even higher. They are not expected to be completed until 2022 at the earliest, if at all.

Consultant and author Roy Pedersen told the inquiry they should both be scrapped and started again.

He said: 'If it was me making the decision, I would scrap

both of them.' Alf Baird, a former professor of maritime business at Edinburgh Napier University, said their design should be stripped down to basic vessels with their passenger capacity reduced.

He said the design was 'specifying what is in effect a mini-cruise vessel to run a utilitarian shuttle ferry which is basically a bus'.

He said: 'If we could re-specify the two vessels to carry 500 passengers instead of 1,000 we could take that £110m overspend down to about £50 or £60m.'

'They could just make it a more normal ferry, what I call

a utilitarian island ferry with lino instead of carpets. You don't need the art treasures, the la carte restaurants for a one-hour voyage to Arran. I live on Orkney and we're quite used to just a bacon roll and a coffee.'

Scottish Liberal Democrats transport spokesman and committee member Mike Rumbles said a letter from Scottish Government agency Transport Scotland to infrastructure secretary Keith Brown in 2015 revealed that six shipyards tendered for the contract and Ferguson Marine was the highest-priced bidder.

When he asked why that was, Mr Pedersen told the committee: 'I don't know the answer, but three things spring to mind – one is incompetence, the other is vested interest and the other is corruption.'

On the call to scrap the vessels, a Scottish government spokesperson said: 'Scottish Ministers considered all options when deciding how to proceed. Ministers' commitment is to the vessels, the workforce and the yard. Scrapping the vessels and starting again would not meet those objectives.'

The parliamentary inquiry this week heard evidence from the former management of Ferguson Marine, including former boss Jim McColl, with two further days of evidence still to be heard.

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LETTERS

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Saving nursery is to be welcomed

It is great to see that a resolution looks to have been found which will save the long-term future of Brodick Nursery.

The nursery has received terrific backing from the community after the plight it faced, through no fault of its own, was highlighted by the Banner last month.

Only the extended hours it will have to provide from August gave it an accommodation plight but with support from local councillors, the MSP and the general public, a solution may be on the cards.

That looks like being able to share space currently occupied by Arran Library with a possible extension to create a 'community hub'.

What also has yet to be considered are the wide and varied needs of the library users, which the council has promised to address.

Certainly the mood of the public meeting, reported this week, was very much in favour of the library option, and council architects are now to draw up possible plans.

However, it will be up to the nursery to carry out any renovation works and that is where the help of the community will really come into play.

Taking a leaf out of the book of TV presenter Nick Knowles, the nursery hopes to emulate the work of DIY SOS to provide it with a much-needed new nursery space.

We wish its endeavours well.

Thought for the week

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Matt 5:10

Scotland's choice

Sir,
At 11pm last Friday, Scotland was dragged out of the European Union (EU), against the express will of her people and parliament.

The Prime Minister's deal is now law and the European Parliament sang Auld Lang Syne as they bade us farewell. Our part in an EU that has bound the nations of Europe together in peace and prosperity for decades is, for now at least, over.

The majority opinion in Scotland and indeed here in North Ayrshire and Arran, is to stay in the EU. We value the benefits membership brought and at every electoral opportunity since the EU referendum, including the last general election, the people of Scotland backed parties and candidates who supported remaining.

Given Scotland's support for staying in the EU, while respecting the outcome of the 2016 referendum, the SNP Government sought a compromise to ensure that if we left, it would cause as little economic damage as possible for our nation and people. Proposals to allow Scotland to remain in the Single Market and Customs Union were dismissed out of hand by the UK Tory Government.

The deal that has gone through offers those concessions to Northern Ireland, unquestionably putting Scotland at a competitive economic disadvantage. Every UK nation gets what it voted for or will stay in the single market and customs union, except Scotland, which was ignored.

In 2014, during the independence referendum campaign, Scotland was told that the UK was a union of equals and we should lead, not leave it. No rational assessment supports this fiction. How can the UK be a union of equals when the democratically devolved legislatures in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland all refused to consent to the withdrawal agreement, which will cut jobs, reduce prosperity and damage our relationships with our European partners?

Last week I led a debate on the

Claim of Right for Scotland, the principle which recognises that Scotland's people have the sovereign right to decide how we are governed.

This right is now under attack, as the UK Government disrespects devolution and Scotland's democratic will.

The Tories are ignoring the general election result from last December. They unequivocally urged voters in Scotland to vote for them to stop another independence referendum. We in the SNP stood firmly on a platform of saying no to Brexit and yes to Scotland's right to choose our own future. The SNP won 48 of the 59 Scottish constituencies, the Tories just six.

It is not democratically sustainable or ethical for the Tories to deny the people of Scotland the right to determine our own future. Therefore, a Constitutional Convention to engage with all sections of Scottish society will be convened to take our country forward.

Scotland has reached a pivotal moment. There has been a material change in circumstances since 2014, when Scots were told the only way to stay in Europe was to vote No.

We have a right which we claim in no uncertain terms, to choose our own future and we will not be denied.

Yours,
Patricia Gibson MP,
North Ayrshire and Arran.

Late buses

Sir,
Can the Arran Ferry Action Group, Arran Banner January 11, explain how much more joined up the buses on Arran can be, when they already meet every boat and hold even when the boat is late, making them late too.

I, and other users of buses, are getting fed up waiting in the rain, cold, sleet and snow for late buses due to late ferries. Time and time again this happens and I for one am fed up to the back teeth of boats being late, making buses late!

Also can it explain to us all how it is going to simplify using travel pass

cards when getting a ferry ticket? Sounds to me like some folk are just too lazy or find it inconvenient to take the card out and show staff when they get their tickets!

The first thing that needs action is the removal of the CalMac board of management for dereliction of duty etc, etc, not silly little things like buses or cards. CalMac management is the problem.

PS: Does the action group not realise buses have other duties to fulfil and if the ferry is late it compromises that schedule?

Yours,
Gary Scott,
Corrie.

Book Aid

Sir,
Reading opened wide world portals for me in my own childhood. It allowed my imagination to soar and to travel to places beyond whatever situation I found myself in. Reading is a great equaliser – it inspires us to meet our fellow humans, to understand, empathise and enter landscapes we could never dream of experiencing in one lifetime. Reading contributes to a better quality of life, impacts on our health, spirit, educational opportunities and well being ... it connects us to each other and our own humanity.

I have seen first-hand – through working with refugee children forced to travel and surviving alone, without family – what a transformational impact escaping into a book can have in helping them to keep hope alive in unimaginably unstable situations they should never have to face. To hear a child laugh and reconnect to childhood in these harsh circumstances is life affirming. It is out of this instinct that I created a magical story hive in my book *Where The River Runs Gold*, where the children take refuge whenever they need.

However, for millions of children across the globe, especially those displaced and living in war-torn countries, access to this story hive of books is closed to them.

I want every child to be able to

reach for that book that brings them light.

That's why this World Book Day (Thursday March 5) I'm supporting Book Aid International. Their fundraising efforts mean more children and young people will have access to books. Every day I'm inspired by the stories children have to tell and being a part of World Book Day means we can spread the enjoyment of reading even further.

Just £2 helps send another book, giving children the opportunity to read, learn and have fun. The Book Aid International website (www.bookaid.org) has plenty of exciting World Book Day fundraising ideas for schools and parents. Whether you host a Big Booky Breaktime, have a sponsored Read-A-Thon or run your own unique fundraising event, it will have a positive effect.

Yours,
Sita Brahmachari,
Author,
London.

Playing our part

Sir,
Now that the UK has left the European Union, the responsibility lies with politicians of all persuasions to do our best to make it work. We cannot return to tribal division which has encompassed Scottish politics for so long.

It's time to move beyond constitutional debates and focus on the issues that really matter to people – like fixing our hospitals, creating jobs or ensuring our children have a good education.

I want to play my part in bringing Scotland back together after years of being forced apart.

We are far stronger united than divided against one another.

Yours,
Jamie Greene MSP,
West Scotland.

YOURSTORY
share with us: editor@arranbanner.co.uk
telephone 01770 302142

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

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Call us on 01475 676255
Open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday

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

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

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PRESSPOLICY

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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, by emailing: inquiries@ipso.co.uk.

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Parents should apply for payment

Parents in Scotland are being urged to apply for School Age Payment before applications close at the end of this month.

With applications closing on Saturday February 29, eligible families have less than a month to claim a one-off £250 payment for a child born between March 1, 2014 and February 28, 2015. The funds can be used for anything from educational toys to travel, or after school activities.

Parents who have deferred their child's entry to school from August 2019 to August 2020, or those home schooling, should still apply before the closing date.

The payment is part of the Best Start Grant, a package of three payments for families in receipt of eligible benefits – including Universal Credit, Income Support, Housing Benefit and tax credits – to help at key stages in a child's life.

Social security secretary Shirley Anne Somerville said: 'We've had great take-up for the School Age Payment since it launched last June with almost 20,000 applications in the three months between June and September.'

'We want to reach as many people as possible so are using this campaign to raise further awareness of the School Age Payment to encour-



Parents of children going to primary, like Lamlash primary, shown here can apply for the payment.

01_B51lamlash01

age eligible families who have not applied, to get their applications in before the end of this month.

'Covering the costs of a child starting school can put pressure on family finances. The School Age Payment is there for those who need financial support at this key milestone in their child's life.'

'Making sure that everyone gets the financial support they are enti-

tled to is a clear example of how we are doing things differently, putting dignity, fairness and respect at the heart of our new service.'

Lori Dobie, from Fife applied for the School Age Payment when her daughter started school, she said: 'The application only took five to 10 minutes, it was pretty straightforward.'

'I was quite relieved when I found

out I was getting the money. It takes the pressure off being a single parent and trying to run a household and get your child ready for school.'

'Having the extra money towards her stuff for school was a massive help.'

To find out about eligibility criteria and how to apply more information can be found at mygov.scot or by calling 0800 182 2222.



Keeping Scotland Warm and Cosy For Over 35 Years

Don't Lose out on your chance to claim up to £11500 from the Governments Renewable Heat Incentive



This incentive has helped over 180 of our customers on Arran to install a Mitsubishi Ecodan central heating system at a fraction of the full cost

However this incentive is ending in 11 months time

As it takes at least two months to arrange then if you are interested you really don't have a lot of time left

Contact me today to arrange a home visit and find out if your house is suitable and if you qualify



"At 8.15am 9nine tradesmen arrived at our home to install our air source heat pump and by 5.30pm that same day they had the news system, up and running. Three men returned the next morning to fully commission the system and demonstrate how to use it efficiently. The team of operatives were highly skilled in their various jobs and made the whole installation flow like clockwork.

There was absolutely no mess whatsoever and on completion you would never have known such major work had been undertaken to our home.

I cannot praise the Company highly enough and would definitely recommend them to other interested householders.

We would be pleased to show interested individuals around our home to inspect the new installation."

Call: 01236 730 579
email: info@tkmurray.co.uk

Work on first council houses will finally begin

by Hugh Boag
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



Work should finally start later this month on the first council houses to be built on Arran in a generation.

There have been repeated delays to the £5 million 34-house development at Brathwic Terrace in Brodick.

North Ayrshire Council now says the final piece of the jigsaw is in place for the start on what it describes as 'modern, affordable, energy-efficient homes'.

The council this week signed a £19 million agreement with partners hub South West Scotland to build 116 new homes across four locations. The contractor has been confirmed as Ashleigh (Scotland) Ltd.

As well as the 34 on Arran, there are 50 in Irvine, 18 in Millport on the Isle of

Cumrae and 14 in Saltcoats. The council said work would get underway at Brodick, Irvine and Millport within the month, while the Saltcoats site will start in spring.

The Arran development was originally due to start last summer.

The council has one of the biggest and most ambitious house-building plans in the country and will deliver 1,575 new council homes by 2025. So far, the council has built 345 houses and is well on track to deliver the other homes by 2025.

Councillor Jim Montgomerie, cabinet member for place, said: 'Our massive house-building programme is in full swing and we'll see that really step up this year.'

'These four developments make sure we start 2020 on a positive note. We're reaching every part of North Ayrshire



The site of the new council houses in Brodick.

with our housebuilding programme, even our islands of Cumrae and Arran, which will see the first new council houses for a generation.

'This is a key part of our transformational ambitions for North Ayrshire, helping to regenerate towns and communities and giving our residents high quality accommodation which positively impacts on their health

and wellbeing.' Michael McBrearty, chief executive of development partner hub South West, said: 'Having delivered our first housing project to North Ayrshire Council in October 2018, we are delighted to be expanding upon our housing portfolio with the delivery of these new developments across Arran, Cumrae, Irvine and Saltcoats.'

However, Arran Community Council is still keen to find out if the homes have a secondary heat source, which it sees as vital in the event of a power cut.

At its meeting last week it also said that residents in the area remained concerned at the volume of construction traffic which would be using the only road into the site.

The council has previously

outlined the steps that will be taken to minimise the impact on surrounding residents.

The proposed contractor has agreed to only make construction deliveries to the site twice a week – on Tuesdays and Thursdays – and these would be scheduled during school hours to minimise impact.

The officers also provided further details about the houses themselves and how they would be eco-friendly and cost-efficient.

The council says each home will be fitted with innovative heat batteries which provide affordable heating and hot water.

Other sustainable features include dual zone heating controls, low energy LED lighting and solar photovoltaic panels on homes throughout the site to provide free electricity for tenants.

Show your love this Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is that special one day of the year when we all make a concerted effort to show those that we love, or admire, that we value and appreciate them. Huge unexpected gestures or small and sincere displays of affection - there are many ways of showing your love and affection to partners and friends.

The traditions of Valentine's Day or St Valentine's Day dates back to the 5th century and has continued throughout the centuries to be a popular annual festival to celebrate romantic love, friendship and admiration.

Also known as the Feast of Saint Valentine, the day has traditionally been known for good food, a sentiment that continues today with the presenting of chocolates and sweet treats and going out for a romantic meal.

On Arran Valentine's Day can be celebrated in fine style with just about every restaurant and eatery making a special effort to ensure that your Valentine's Day is both memorable and enjoyable.

Whatever your taste and style or requirements for Valentine's Day, our top three

recommendations are sure to offer something for everyone looking for a unique dining experience.

Starting with the Douglas Hotel in Brodick, couples, friends and lovers can take advantage of a two or three course meal - with Prosecco of course - in the Douglas Hotel Bistro where fine food and a romantic atmosphere will be in abundance on Valentine's Day. The intimate atmosphere of the venue and the discreet service will ensure that the Douglas Hotel Bistro will be a popular choice for many this Valentine's Day.

In Whiting Bay, where romantic sea views and a cosy indoor fire awaits, The Shore is also offering visitors a choice of a two or a three course meal with a selection of tempting options and indulgent treats. And as the venue is BYOB you can take along your favourite tipples and enjoy it with fine company, delicious food and in a friendly and relaxed

environment.

Embracing the sentiment of the occasion at the headquarters of Arran Gin, the Arran Gin Love Shack in Brodick will be celebrating the occasion over the entire weekend. With tastings, cocktails, tunes and love all on the menu, as will be food from the Arran Supper Club, this venue is sure to offer something both unique and special. Not forgetting that the Love Shack is right on the beach, overlooking Brodick Bay, and one of the most romantic locations to visit as the sun fades away and the evening's celebrations begin.

Whatever you choose to do on Valentine's Day, be it indoors or outdoors, at home or at any of these special venues, we trust that it will be special, memorable and an enjoyable occasion for you and your loved ones.

Further details about all of the recommended venues can be found in the accompanying adverts.



THE DOUGLAS

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www.thedouglashotel.co.uk

Valentine's Menu



STARTERS

Soup of the Day

Slow-Cooked Pork Belly, Charred Baby Broccoli, Seared Scallop, Wasabe Gel, Soy & Honey Reduction & Toasted Sesame Seeds

Vegetable Tian, Avocado, Hummus, Cajun Chickpea, Rocket, Radish & Tomato Gazpacho

MAIN COURSE

Pan Roasted Fillet Steak marinated in Coffee, Rosemary & Garlic, Cauliflower Puree, Parsley & Truffle Fries, Mushroom and Shallot Jus, Egg and Spinach Parmigiana

Chicken Supreme served with Chicken Mousse wrapped in Savoy Cabbage, Carrot Puree, Green Beans, Sautéed New Potatoes, Thyme Jus & Confit Shallot

Monkfish Wrapped in Pancetta served with Citrus Pea Puree, Chorizo & Peas, Sautéed Potatoes & Mint Butter Sauce

Cashew Nut Roast, wrapped in Courgette, Black Bean Cassoulet, Green Beans

DESSERT (TO SHARE)

Assiette of Chocolate and Cherry, Chocolate Parfait, Cherry Gel, Sour Cherry Compote, Chocolate Mousse, Marinated Cherries, Chocolate Fondant, Cherry Sorbet, Chocolate Shards, with Cherry Powder

2 Courses & a glass of Prosecco - £34.95
3 Courses & a glass of Prosecco - £39.95
(Based on 2 sharing)

Bistro only - bookings essential Available Friday 14th February 2020

Raising a glass to 20 years of Arran Brewery

by Colin Smeeton
editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The Arran Brewery is celebrating two decades of brewing on Arran since it was opened in February 2000 by Richard and Elizabeth Roberts, as covered in the Banner's 20 years ago page last week.

To mark the anniversary, the brewery will be holding a number of monthly events throughout the year, including a free brewery tour and beer tasting.

Current Arran Brewery managing director Gerald Michaluk, who took over the business 12 years ago, said: 'The first event celebrating this milestone is an invitation for Arran Banner readers to come along with a friend and have a free tour and tasting between now and Tuesday March 31.



The Arran Brewery, based at Cladach, is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

'It must be said the brewery in Cladach near Brodick may have been founded 20 years ago but there has been brew-

ing on Arran for 3,500 years at least. The earliest example of any ale found in Scotland was found at Machrie moor

where analysis of shards of pottery revealed the remnants of an early ale.

'Our claims to fame are win-

ning the World Beer Awards title of World's Best Dark Brown Ale for Arran Dark in 2012 and Arran Blonde, our beer with the highest number of awards, winning Europe's best in class in 2010.

'To taste the beer you have to be over 18 years old but we do have a range of temperance drinks for younger folk to try instead of beer. I hope to see you soon and we can raise a toast to the next 20 years of brewing on Arran.'

To take advantage of this offer all you have to do is take along to the brewery an original cutting of this article which will be valid for a free tour and tasting for you and a friend between now until Tuesday March 31.

Tours are available by appointment or to drop into on Monday, Friday and Saturday at 2pm in February and daily at 2pm in March.

Free cancer support at Heather Lodge

Heather Lodge, the holistic treatment centre and wellness venue in Brodick, will be hosting a free weekly cancer support group for those affected by cancer, including carers and relatives.

The weekly meetings will take place on Thursdays, starting on February 13, in the Garden Room and, as it is supported by funding from ArCaS, it is free for participants.

The group will be relaxed, supportive and confidential and will start with establishing what members would find most useful. This may be a mix of medical information, emotional support and practical advice and some of this will be sourced from visiting professionals.

The cancer support group will be facilitated by Susan Knox and Jan Attkins of CAIM and booking is not required. Heather Lodge is in the grounds of the Douglas Hotel.

The Shore
01770 700161
www.theshorearran.co.uk

Celebrate Valentine's Day with us on Friday 14th February

To Start
Fresh Chilli and Crab Fishcakes, on Robin's Salad, served with a lemon and Garlic Aioli
Soup of the Day (Vegan)
Baked Garlic Field Mushrooms, topped with caramelised Red Onion Marmalade and creamy Goat's Cheese, finished with balsamic
Lamb and Apricot Meatballs, topped with a Bacon Crumb and orange Glaze

Mains
Fish Pie, cooked in a fresh Pea and Lemon Cream Sauce, topped with a Cheddar Mash, served with Vegetable
Pan-fried Pork Fillet, served with a Black Pudding fritter, on creamy Mash, with an Apple Cider Gravy and Vegetable
Roasted Sweet potato and Leek Bake, served with Garlic Bread and Robin's Salad (Vegan)

Dessert
Creme Brulee, served with homemade heart-shaped Shortbread
Indulgent, three-layered Chocolate Cake, served with Chantilly Cream
Vegan Cake
Trio of Arran Ice Cream or Sorbet

BYOB evenings are back - YAY!

3 Courses for £29.50pp
includes tea or coffee (two courses available)

Please make us aware of any allergies

ARRAN GIN LOVE SHACK WEEKEND

TASTINGS COCKTAILS TUNES LOVE

YUMMY FOOD BY ARRAN SUPPER CLUB
FRI 14TH: 3-6PM | SAT 15TH: 12-6PM | SUN 16TH: 12-5PM

CLADACH BEACH HOUSE, HOME OF ARRAN GIN

The Arran Supper Club

LEISURE & ENTERTAINMENT

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON IN ARRAN

Stage set for wonderful drama festival

One of the highlights in Arran's winter calendar is the yearly one-act festival staged by the Isle of Arran Drama Association during the last week in February, this year on February 27-29.

Eight plays are on the programme; three of them junior plays.

The festival will kick off with *Bye Baby Bunting*, performed by Whiting Bay Youths and directed by Allan Little.

Albert, produced by Sheila Gilmore, is one of two entries from Shiskine Drama Club, sporting a cast of young adults.

Whiting Bay Club of Drama and Music stages the last play on Thursday, *Prats*, written and directed by Arran playwright Andy McNamara.

Lamlash Junior Drama will take to the stage first on Friday with the comedy *Murder Thricely*, written and performed by Colin MacDonald.

They will be followed by *Mirror, Mirror*, a comedy directed by Jerry Arthur.

Lamlash Drama will end the evening with a comedy directed by Maureen Smith, *The Baby Machine*.

The festival's last day include *Jump Off*, a high comedy, performed by Shiskine Junior Drama under the direction of Sheila Gilmore, and *Curses, Foiled Again*, produced by Allan Nicol and performed by Whiting Bay



All the award winners at the 2019 drama festival with their trophies. 01_B09awards01

Club of Drama and Music.

This year's adjudicator, Dave Bennet, has more than 40 years of stage experience and has also directed award-winning plays. He has taught acting, directing and technical theatre to degree level, and as an SQA external advisor he is also ensuring that quality standards are

met across the UK in these areas.

Dave is a frequent adjudicator at Scottish drama festivals.

He is also the chairman of the Scottish Association of Speech and Drama Adjudicators and artistic director within his own theatre company.

It is much appreciated that he is fitting the Arran Drama Festival into his surely busy timetable, and the festival is sure that directors, actors and the audience will not only enjoy his comments but also learn a lot from them.

Drama on Arran has a long history. Quite a few young people who started out as ac-

tors in one of the junior plays at the festival, are now acting professionally on the stages around the country. Some appeared in TV series like *The Athena* or *Sex Education*, or on the big screen in films like *Mary Queen of Scots* or *1917*. They are in radio plays and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival or even on the red

carpet in Cannes. But they all have in common that once they stood on the stage during an Arran Drama Festival.

With this in mind, the island is looking forward to a three-day festival with a varied programme that will showcase the great theatrical talent on the island.

Assja Baumgartner

Holistic Therapies at Heather Lodge.
Drop in and see what we offer.

Reception service: Monday to Thursday 10am - 4pm.
www.heatherlodge.scot

COAST Coffee Morning

Saturday 8th February
10am - 12noon
Brodict Village Hall

All welcome for fresh coffee, tea and homemade delights!

www.arrancoast.com

The Shore Cafe
10am-3pm
Wednesday-Sunday
*kitchen closes 2.45pm

Home Baking * On the bus route * Dog Friendly
BYOB Evenings from 6pm

February 7th & 8th
14th
21st & 22nd

March 13th & 14th
27th & 28th

01770 700161
www.theshorearran.co.uk

First Lego challenge

Arran Library has issued an open invitation for imaginative and creative children to take part in its first Super Saturday Lego Challenge this weekend.

The fun event is open to all children, aged from five onwards, and the challenge will be led by library staff. All of the construction blocks will be supplied by the library.

Taking place today (Saturday) from 11am to noon, the fun starts with a few warm up games before the main challenge.

Challenge

The warm up games will include: cram them in, colour stack and tricky balance while the challenge will only be announced on the day.

It might be building the longest or the strongest bridge or it could be a marble maze. It could be an amazing fantasy creature or it could even be something completely different.



Nickey Summer of Arran Library gets creative with some of the Lego that will be used during the inaugural challenge. 01_B06library01

To find out more join the Saturday or telephone the children at the library on library on 01770 302835 for more information or to book a place.

Arran Visual Arts exhibits at library

The exhibition at the Arran Library for the month of February is a varied range of works by amateur and professional artists who belong to the Arran Visual Arts (AVA) group.

AVA promotes and develops art and artistic events on the island.

Founded in December 2001, AVA runs arts and applied arts workshops throughout the year and it is also responsible for organising the popular AVA Summer Exhibition in Lochranza each year.

AVA has a membership of approximately 90 artists who regularly enjoy workshops, predominantly at the Brodick



Various works by artists from Arran Visual Arts are on display at Arran Library. 01_B06AVA01

Castle Rangers Centre, hosted by tutors and artists from work in various mediums and disciplines. Its main objectives are

to develop education and cultural heritage by organising and facilitating events and activities to share knowledge, expertise and experience through demonstration workshops, summer schools and exhibitions. As co-founders of Art in Mind it also provides educational and therapeutic opportunities to island residents through the medium of art while continuing to improve and develop the quality of art resources on the island.

The AVA exhibition will continue until the end of the month and the artworks on display are available for purchase.

Corrie Film Club presents...

House Of Mirth (Cert 12)

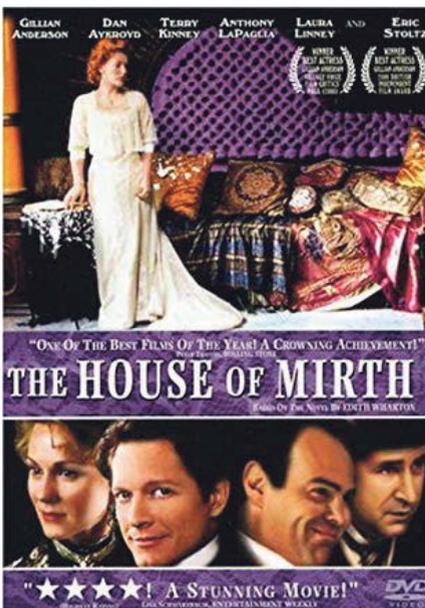
After a really enjoyable screening of Day in the Dark last Saturday, Corrie Film Club has another treat this weekend in The House of Mirth directed by Terence Davies and based on a novel of the same name by Edith Wharton.

A British film, made in Scotland (spot the locations like Kelvingrove museum), it is a tragic love story set against a background of wealth and social hypocrisy in turn of the century New York. Lily Bart is a ravishing socialite at the height of her success who quickly discovers the precariousness of her position when her beauty and charm start attracting unwelcome interest and jealousy. Torn between her heart and her head, Lily always seems to do the right thing at the wrong time. She

seeks a wealthy husband and in trying to conform to social expectations, she misses her chance for real love with Lawrence Selden.

Lily Bart is played by Gillian Anderson in this stunning adaptation and she gives the performance of her life, earning her a richly deserved award from the British Film Awards. The film was made in 2000 and director Terence Davies had not even seen the X - Files when he cast Gillian Anderson, who starred as Agent Scully in the long-running series. See this film tomorrow (Sunday) in Corrie and Sannox Hall at 8pm. All welcome.

Film poster for The House of Mirth.



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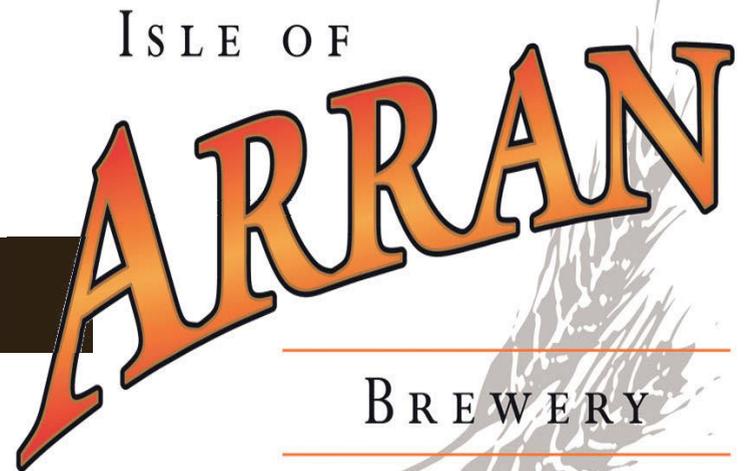
BOOK ONLINE £25 PER NIGHT

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com

CRAFT BREWERY TOURS AVAILABLE DAILY



Every day

Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, bank fishing
 Arran Geopark Information and Activity Centre Lochranza, 9am - 5pm
 Brodick Castle and Gardens Open 10am - 5pm
 Octopus Centre Old Pavilion, Lamlash, centre open seven days, 11am - 3pm
 Octopus Centre - tennis Old Pavilion, Lamlash, open seven days, any time
 Brodick Mini Golf Open seven days, 9am - 5pm-ish, ALL weather
 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, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 11.30am till 4pm
 Sunday, 2pm - 4pm. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday
 To arrange a tour please call 01770 302353
 Open Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 11am - 3.30pm

Arran Heritage Museum

Saturday 8th February

Flow Yoga Ormidale Pavillion, Brodick, 9am
 COAST Coffee Morning Brodick Village Hall, 10am - 12noon
 Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
 Arran Lego Challenge (from five years upwards) Arran Library, Brodick, 11am - 12noon
 Rink Bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, Blackwaterfoot, 1.30pm
 Pop -Up Evening, BYOB (bookings only) The Shore, Whiting Bay from 6pm
 Live Music - Alan Frew Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Live Music - The Café Orchestra - Gypsy Jazz quartet The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Eco Savvy and Co-op Food Share Kilmory Hall, Kilmory, 9.30pm
 Over-21s' Disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm

Sunday 9th February

Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
 Live Music - The Café Orchestra Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 1pm
 Family games Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm - 3pm
 Live Music - The Café Orchestra The PHT, Lamlash, 4pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Brodick Church Hall, 5pm - 6.30pm
 Eco Savvy and Co-op Food Share Shiskine Hall, Shiskine, 9pm
 Folk Music Session Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Monday 10th February

Morning Fitness Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am-10.30am
 JogScotland mixed ability running group Whiting Bay, 5.30pm
 Arran Punch Out Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
 Circuit training Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
 Junior Rugby (P3-P7) Ormidale Park, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm
 Rink Games Brodick Bowling Club, 6.15pm
 Junior Rugby (S1-S6) Ormidale Park, Brodick, 7pm - 8pm
 Winter Bridge, visitors welcome, www.arranbridgeweb Brodick Golf Club, 7pm for 7.15pm
 Live Music - Fatman and the Angel Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Tae Kwon Do, Adults and over 10s Brodick Church Hall, 7pm - 8.30pm

Tuesday 11th February

Body Blitz (booking essential) Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Healthy Outdoors Team Brodick Country Park Ranger Centre, 10am - 1pm
 Eco Savvy Energy Surgeries Home Farm House, Brodick, 10am - 3pm
 Chess Club Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 11am - 1pm
 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
 Steak Night - 2 Ribeye Steaks & bottle of wine Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, from 5pm
 Arran Pace Makers - Jog Scotland beginners' group Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 5.30pm
 Hatton Boxing Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
 The 1st Shiskine Rainbows and Brownies Shiskine Hall, 5.30pm - 6.45pm
 Arran Hockey Club - juniors (5-14yrs) Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 6pm - 7pm
 Flow Yoga Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, Corrie, 6pm
 Mini Kickers 3-5 years (pre-school) KA Leisure, Lamlash, 6pm - 6.45pm
 Scottish Country Dancing Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Eco Savvy and Co-op 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 12th February

Yoga Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Hydrofit Auchrannie House Hotel, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Brodick Gardens Volunteers Brodick Castle and Country Park, 9.30am - 1pm

Kilmory Toddlers Kilmory Hall, 10am - noon
 Arran Heritage Museum Rosaburn, Brodick Open, 11am - 3.30pm
 Archives and Genealogy Service Arran Heritage Museum, 10.30am - 12.30pm, 1.30pm - 3.30pm
 Knit and Blether Bay Wool and Crafts, Whiting Bay 2pm - 4pm
 Arran Pace Makers Running Group Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 5.30pm
 Kettlecise Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6pm - 7pm
 Flow Yoga Shiskine Hall, Shiskine, 6pm
 Brodick Golf Club AGM Clubhouse, Brodick Golf Club 7pm
 Tae Kwondo kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors and adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Live Music - Mike Bailey Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Pub Quiz The PHT, Lamlash, 8.30pm
 Rock 'n' Pop Bingo Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Thursday 13th February

Chair Yoga and Exercise Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 10.30am
 Kettlecise Auchrannie Spa Resort, 11am - 11.45am
 Arran Heritage Museum Rosaburn, Brodick Open, 11am - 3.30pm
 Chess Club Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 11am - 1pm
 CAIM Cancer Support Group Heather Lodge, Brodick, 2pm - 4pm
 Messy Church Lamalsh Church Hall, Lamlash, 3.30pm - 5.30pm
 Arran Youth Soul Choir Community Theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
 Body Blitz (booking essential) Auchrannie Spa Resort, 6.15pm - 7.15pm
 Arran Soul Choir Community Theatre, Arran High School, Lamlash, 6pm
 Winter Bridge, visitors welcome, www.arranbridgeweb Little Rock Cafe, 7pm for 7.15pm
 Arran Hockey Club - Seniors (12 years plus) Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7pm - 8.30pm
 Arran Punch Out Arran High School, Lamlash, 7.30pm
 Lamalsh SWI Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Brodick Embroidery Group Brodick Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
 Open Session Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 8pm
 Eco Savvy and Co-op Food Share Brodick Ormidale Pavilion, 8.15pm
 Tommy's General Knowledge Quiz Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 9pm

Friday 14th February

Yoga Auchrannie Spa Resort, 9.30am - 10.30am
 Hydrofit Auchrannie House Hotel, 9.30am - 10.30am
 ACLI - Friday Garden Club Golf Course Road, Whiting Bay, 10am - 12.30pm
 Arran Heritage Museum Rosaburn, Brodick Open, 11am - 3.30pm
 Arran Gin Love Shack Weekend Cladach Beach House, Brodick, 3pm - 6pm
 Pop-up Evening, BYOB (bookings only) The Shore, Whiting Bay from 6pm
 Alcoholics Anonymous meeting Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm
 Tae Kwondo advanced kids 6.30-7.30pm, advanced juniors and adults, AHS, 7.30pm - 9pm
 Live Music - Mic Clark Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, 7.30pm
 Friday Night Quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, Whiting Bay, 8pm
 Eco Savvy and Co-op Food Share Octopus Centre, COAST, Lamlash, 9pm
 Tom's Open Mic Night The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

Saturday 15th February

Flow Yoga Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 9am
 Q30 Auchrannie Spa Resort, 10.30am - 11.15am
 Arran Gin Love Shack Weekend Cladach Beach House, Brodick, 12noon - 6pm
 Rink Bowls Blackwaterfoot Bowls Club, Blackwaterfoot, 1.30pm
 Live Music - Tim Pomeroy Crofters' Music Bar and Bistro, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Eco Savvy and Co-op Food Share Corrie and Sannox Village Hall, Corrie, 9pm
 Live Music - Raising Bail, 3 Piece blues rock band The PHT, Lamlash, 9pm
 Over-21s' Disco Ormidale Hotel, Brodick, 10pm



THE ARRAN BANNER 20 YEARS AGO

Saturday February 12, 2000

First rescue

The Arran lifeboat had its first call-out of the millennium this week and saved the life of an Arran man who, had it been a little later, may have been lost at sea.

With a force 7 offshore wind blowing, the man tried to get to his boat, which had broken free from its moorings in Lamlash Bay, in a rubber dinghy but got into difficulties and the lifeboat was called.

Launched within four minutes of the call, when the lifeboat reached the sailor he was too weak to row. The crew took him aboard the lifeboat and towed the boat back to the shore.

Goatfell indicators

The history of the Goatfell indicators has been a topic of discussion following a letter to the Banner from a Glasgow schoolgirl. It seems the first indicator at the top of the mountain was erected in 1929 and was paid for by the Daily Record.

This was removed at the start of the Second World War, as were many signposts, in case of invasion and it was not until 1981 that it was replaced, again paid for by the Daily Record. However, this was removed after being vandalised in 1988 and its replacement, which was paid for by Kilwinning Rotary Club, remains in place today.



Some of the Brodick ladies golf prizewinners at their annual dinner and prize-giving last Friday evening. They are, left to right: Pat Adamson, Helen Boyd, Anne MacVicar, Elma Bayne, Janice Gemmell, Kate Robertson, Irene Rollo, Mary Sloss, Aileen Latona, Grace Hamilton and Elizabeth Drummond. 01_B06twe01



Russian folk group Myllarit entertained a full house in Whiting Bay Hall last Saturday night. Literally translated as The Millers, the six men and one woman are from Petyozavodsk in the Republic of Karelia, close to the Russian/Finnish border. 01_B06twe04



Last week Maurice Deighton of Kildonan was presented with a long service award for 20 years' duty with the Coastguard in the Navy Buildings in Greenock. The presentation was made by John Astbury, chief coastguard UK. Also present were David McKinnon of Kildonan, David Shaw, Galloway sector manager, Morag McQueen of Shiskine and Rebecca Lacey of Kildonan. 01_B06twe02



The official unveiling of the indicator board at the top of Goatfell on May 26 1981.

01_B06twe05



Sandie MacLeod on the Hospital Supporters' League receives a cheque for £500 from Murray Small, Brodick's BP oil depot manager. The donation will contribute to the purchase of a portable UV light machine, used for treating people with skin conditions.

01_B06twe03

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GEPARK CO ORDINATOR

Arran Access Trust is offering a seasonal, 30 hour pw post for the period March to October 2020. Based at Lochranza you will be working to further promote and develop the Arran Geopark building on the 2 year project completed in December 2019.

The successful candidate will be self motivated and have a good knowledge of geology and a flexible approach to working.

A salary of £15 per hour and holiday entitlement is offered.

For further details and job Description please contact Stuart Blake at Lochranza Field Centre stuart@lochranzacentre.co.uk

Closing date for applications : **21st February 2020**
Interviews will be held : **9th March 2020**

PUBLIC NOTICES

Kenneth Gibson MSP



Kenneth Gibson MSP will hold advice surgeries on Monday 10 February at:

Whiting Bay Village Hall 14.00 - 15.00
Brodick Health Centre 15.30 - 16.30

To contact Kenneth outside these times, please do so at: 01294 833 687

15 Main Street, Dalry, KA24 5DL Tel: 01294 833 687
Email: Kenneth.gibson.msp@parliament.scot
Facebook: Kenneth Gibson MSP web: www.kennethgibson.org

No appointment necessary

PERSONAL NOTICE

RUBY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Hilary & Bruce Patrick

Wishing the wonderful Hilary and Bruce many congratulations on 40 years of marriage. They may be spotted on the island this weekend celebrating (we hope in style!)

With love from the six of us (five of whom wouldn't be here without your union), Ruth, Martin, Katie, Liam, Nina & Calum

XXXXXX

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Free listings for items under £50

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BRODICK GOLF CLUB

AGM

Wednesday 12th February 2020

7:00PM

in the Clubhouse

BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES BANNER

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

Comments should be made online at www.eplanning.north-ayrshire.gov.uk. Written representations may also be made to the Head Of Service (Economic Development & Regeneration) at the above address by 28.02.20. Any representations received will be open to public view.

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

20/00077/PP; Site To West Of Pirogue, Whiting Bay, Brodick, Isle Of Arran; Conversion of redundant agricultural building to form dwelling house.

Craig Hatton
Chief Executive
Cunninghame House
IRVINE KA12 8EE



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siarachd Air a Tuath

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

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

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- 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
- 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
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- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

BANNER PUBLIC NOTICES BANNER

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:
Sunday 9th February
Lochranza and Pirnmill Churches together 10.15 am Morning Worship including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at Lochranza Church. Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship, including the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Brodick Church, 10.30 am. Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30 am. Prayer meeting, 12noon Morning Worship.
There will also be a Service of Worship in Montrose House at 1.30pm.
All welcome

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church of Scotland
Charity Number: SC014005
Sunday 9th February
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served after the service.
All welcome.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 9th February
Rev Lily McKinnon
Kilmory at 10am
Lamlash at 11.30am
All welcome, including families: children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 9th February
Morning Service at 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service at 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 9th February
Morning Service at Shiskine at 11am
Evening Service, Brodick at 6pm
Service will be taken by Mr Calum Ferguson
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Sunday 9th February
Sunday Worship at 11am 'Heather Lodge', Brodick Left of the Douglas Hotel, opposite the ferry terminal. Telephone 700346, 820223
Everyone Warmly Invited.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Church)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday 9th February
Candlemass
Choral Eucharist with music by Vivace at 11am
Celebrant: Revd Canon Simon Mackenzie
ALL WELCOME
You are invited to stay for refreshments after the service

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 9th February
Service at 11am
Ormidale Pavilion
Tea and coffee after the service
Wednesday 12th February at 7.30pm Home fellowship group for bible study and prayer.
Everyone warmly invited.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday 9th February
Sunday Morning Mass at 11am

DEATH

CLARKE: Joan Mary
Latterly of Ludlow, died peacefully in Hereford Hospital on 25th January 2020, aged 91 Years. A Memorial Service is to take place at St. Laurence's Church, Ludlow, on Friday 14th February 12.30pm. Family flowers only please but kind donations received in Joan's memory will be shared between the St. Laurence's Fabric Fund and The Injured Jockey's fund. All enquiries please to: Victoria Allen Funeral Services, 8 Charlton Rise, Ludlow SY8 1ND. 01584 879035

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WALES: Drew

The family of the late Drew Wales would like to thank the Rev Elizabeth Watson, Claire and David Hendry, all staff at Arran War Memorial Hospital, Arran Medical Practice and District Nurses for their superb care given to us all at this sad time. We have been comforted by the many cards and flowers received.

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Dougie retains shot putt title

Last Sunday keen Largiebeg sportsman Dougie Auld competed in the Scottish Masters Indoor Athletics Championships at the Emirates Stadium in Glasgow with mixed results.

He won the over-65 men's shot putt for the second consecutive year, throwing 9.04m – two centimetres down on last year's winning performance.

However, in the 60-metre sprint he injured his hamstring half way preventing him from finishing and from trying to regain the high jump title, which he previously won in the over 40s' category.



Dougie Auld with his shot putt medal at the Scottish Masters.

A new era for Scottish Golf

The governing body for golf in Scotland has launched its new brand as the organisation gets set to embrace the digital world.

Unveiled at Scotland's Three Sisters in the beautiful Glencoe mountain range, the organisation's new-look logo was digitally projected on to the side of the iconic mountains.

The logo, which maintains the recognisable Scottish Golf brand, has been modernised to create a more digital feel, ensuring the national governing body can be easily identified with a contemporary logo that is fit for purpose across all platforms.

Andrew McKinlay, CEO at Scottish Golf, said: "This is an extremely exciting time for us here at Scottish Golf as we enter a new era and challenge the status quo through the

use of digital technology.

"Our new logo has been designed carefully to celebrate our history while also broadening our horizons to welcome new people into our game. As the governing body for the sport here in its home, we all take responsibility in being custodians of the game and its future.

"We know that it is important that we continue to adapt to changes in an evolving landscape to encourage more people to enjoy the game.

"The new logo is part of a wider rebranding exercise which includes a new Scottish Golf website designed to reflect our vision of making golf Scotland's game for everyone. The new website will provide our audience with a straightforward user experience, where information is at their fingertips."

Iain Forsyth, chief commercial officer at Scottish Golf added: "The new Scottish Golf brand is representative of the journey we are on as a sport in Scotland. We believe that by taking advantage of developments in technology to modernise the game, while also continuing to celebrate our heritage, we can appeal to more people to ensure that the game of golf in Scotland has a bright and prosperous future.

"With our updated website, users will have an enhanced experience with Scottish Golf which we believe will make accessing information about tournaments, news and education far easier for everyone. This is a key step in becoming more accessible to everyone and the new website will also fully integrate with Scottish Golf's new venue



The new Scottish Golf logo is beamed on to the Three Sisters.

management system to make the experience for golfer and golf club seamless and straightforward.'

To visit the new Scottish golf website go to: www.scottishgolf.org



Lamlash Golf Club

Thursday January 23, Yellow Medal: 1 Ian Bremner 66-9=57, 2 Serge El Adm 76-15=61. Magic two Alan Smith @16th.

Sunday January 26, Winter Stableford. 1 Derek Harrison 37pts, 2 Alastair Crawford 36pts BIH, 3 Paul Cowan 35pts. Best scratch Paul Cowan 29pts to Stableford.

Thursday January 30, Yellow Medal: 1 Derek Harrison 79-20=59. Magic twos Alan Smith @16th.

Fixtures: Saturday February 8, Winter League at Corrie, team match Lamlash v Machrie. Sunday February 9, Glenburn Cup, 9.30am and noon starts. Thursday February 13, Yellow Medal, ballot at 11am.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Saturday February 1, Lochranza Hotel Cup: 1 Phil Betley 39pts, 2 Brian Sherwood 25pts, 3 Reuben Betley 23pts.

Tuesday February 4, Winter Cup: 1 Hamish Bannatyne 68, 2 Colin Rutherford 75 BIH, 3 Reuben Betley 75.

Fixture: Tuesday February 11, Winter Cup, tee off at noon.

Corrie Golf Club

Monday February 3, Monday Cup. 1 A Smith 75-9=66, 2 A

McDonald 80-12=68. Magic two A Smith.

Fixtures: Saturday February 8, Winter League. Monday February 10, Monday Cup, ballot at noon. Wednesday February 19, AGM at the Corrie Golf Tearoom at 7pm. A good turnout is requested.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Fixtures: Saturday February 8, AGA Winter League v Brodick Golf Club at Corrie. (Postponed from last week.) Sunday February 9, Winter Cup round five, one draw at 10am.

Arran off to a flying start



Beth McCarthy, right, with her silver medal from the S2 girls' race.

Arran primary and secondary school athletes have made a huge impact at the North Ayrshire Schools Cross Country League, bringing home gold, silver and bronze medals at the first meeting of the year.

The league series consists of four race meetings between January and May with the overall league result depending on each athlete's best three results.

Participants need to take part in at least three out of four races to be placed but any young runner (usually P5 and above) who wishes to take part in either one or all three of the next meetings can contact their primary school for further details.

The first event took place in Saltcoats where all abilities were catered for and every athlete received encouragement from the many supporters as they ran by.

Each race started on the running track and went out across the nearby playing fields before finishing with a final lap of the track and a sprint in front of the crowds of supporters.

Arran was well represented with 33 runners from the

island's primaries and high school.

In the P5 and P6 races, almost 60 athletes per race competed over a 1000m course.

Arran's Freddie Lucas claimed the bronze medal in the P5 boys' race, with Reece Popplewell, Harry Popplewell and Matthew Lindsay-Smith all gaining top 20 spots.

Conor McGarrie also ran a great race to come in the top 30.

In the P5 girls' race, Julieta Gray and Isla McKinnon came in fourth and fifth respectively, with Sera Bibin and Alyssa Simpson also running fantastic races.

Jake Early took second place with Ewan Southwick third in the P6 boys' race while Alfie Gilmour came in the top 10 with Gregor Gunaydi and Brandon Kane close behind. Grace Popplewell took home the bronze medal in the P6 girls' race while Shaila Campbell ran into a top 10 placing.

The P7 races were run over 1,500m with Myles Lindsay-Smith taking fourth place and Logan Park fifth in the boys' race.

Luke Goatley, Ben

McCarthy and Jamie Worthington gained top 20 places, followed by Filip Dybalski and Andrew Currie.

Kirsty Hume took home Arran's first gold medal in the P7 girls' race when she led the field of 36 runners from the outset. Rhea Webster finished in the top 15 while Faye Godwin, Caylyn Miller and Emma Henderson also put in fantastic performances.

The high school athletes ran their races over 2,000m with Ruby Wright claiming third place for S1 girls, followed by Harriet Lucas in fourth. Beth McCarthy brought home a silver medal for Arran in the S2 girls' race while Ruaridh Lindsay Smith brought home Arran's second gold medal with Archie Gunaydi finishing second in the S2 boys' race.

The results and medals bode well for the Arran runners, who will be looking to continue their success at the next race meeting in Saltcoats on Saturday February 22.

Any other young runners, or would-be runners, interested in attending the next meeting should speak to their relevant teacher at school to be included in the league.



Each race was fiercely contested with as many as 60 entrants in each category.

in cross country league



Kirsty Hume won Arran's first gold medal in the P7 girls' race against 36 runners.



Jake Early took second place with Ewan Southwhick coming third in the P6 boys' race.



Isla McKinnon powers towards the finish line just behind Julieta Gray in the P5 girls' race.



Grace Popplewell took home the bronze medal in the P6 girls' race.



Ruaridh Lindsay Smith with his gold medal for his performance in the boys' S2 race.



Freddie Lucas, left, claimed the bronze medal in the P5 boys' race.

Dougie retains
shot putt title

Arran off to a flying start
in cross country league

Six of the best as Arran romp home

Kilwinning	1
Isle of Arran	6
Ayrshire Sunday League	

A much-improved performance by Arran AFC saw them hit six past Kilwinning

AFC at Kilwinning Sports Club last Sunday.

Fine display

Following two recent defeats it was back to winning ways for Arran as they turned in a fine display against a side just above them in the league.

Two goals from man-of-the-match Nick Emsley and one apiece from Grant Adamson, Johnny Sloss, Tony McDowall and Gregor Crichton completed the rout with just a single reply from the home side.



Tony McDowall slots home a rebound for Arran's fifth goal.



Johnny Sloss fires home a fierce shot.



Young Gregor Crichton celebrates his goal for Arran.



Man-of-the-match Nick Emsley shows his close control.



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