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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 3 JANUARY 2015 No 1994 60p



Richard reaches Arran on mammoth coastal walk

Bid to raise a pound for every mile

A former soldier making a mammoth charity hike spent Christmas walking round Arran.

Richard Long is walking 11,000 miles around the coastline of Great Britain in a bid to raise £11,000 - one pound for every mile - for Combat Stress and Help for Heroes.

To make the challenge harder he is carrying a seven stone back pack on his challenge: The 'Long' way around the British Isles.

But he had one of his most challenging days of his whole walk in Ayrshire, the day before he arrived on Arran as a result of flooding.

He said: 'Flooding was a major problem yesterday and I had to detour quite a lot. The river through Irvine looked quite frightening. I normally walk about eight hours a day but yesterday it was 11. What a long day it was.'

But he made it to Ardrossan in good time for the ferry last Tuesday.

REPORT
 by HUGH BOAG
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

Richard, from Tetbury in Gloucestershire, served in the Royal Artillery for 23 years.

However, he was homeless and suffering from depression when he started his walk around the coastline on the 25 May 2014 - 30 years after first joining the army.

He began by walking around the Isles of Scilly, camping on the islands then getting a ferry back to Penzance where he set off on his journey.

He has now completed nearly 3,000 miles so he still has a long way to go.

Arriving in Arran two days before Christmas he spent three days walking round the island and hoped also to have time to climb Goatfell.

He left Lochranza on Boxing Day to start walking the Kintyre peninsula from Tarbert and take in as many of the west coast islands as possible.

Several generous Arran residents offered Richard accommodation after an appeal in The Banner and he stayed with two of them during his stay.

One of them was Liz Rose, who gave him a roof over his head in Lamlash. She said: 'He was a really nice chap and had some good stories to tell.'

Richard said: 'Everywhere I have gone people have been really generous and I can't thank the people of Arran, who have helped me, enough.'

Days before arriving on Arran a man gave him £500 in a pub in Girvan. As a result he has already raised around £4,500 of his £11,000 target he has set himself.

Richard said: 'Initially I started this journey to help me cope with PTSD after suffering a complete breakdown but also as the year now ending was the centenary year of the start of the First World War, I want to complete this



Richard on the Brodick shorefront with Goatfell behind him. 20_b01walk01

walk in memory and honour of all who served, fought, died or survived and their families.

'On my journey I am visiting as many war memorials as I can and recording all of the names on them. I am raising money for the two charities because Combat Stress

has helped me greatly over the past few years and Help for Heroes always does an amazing job with our ex-servicemen and women.'

When he completes the coastline walk he may continue his walk inland to continue to record war memorials before 2018 and the 100th anni-

versary of the end of the First World War.

Anyone wishing to donate to Combat Stress can do so at: justgiving.com/rjl68 or Help for Heroes at www.bmycharity.com/RichardLong or follow Richard on Facebook at The 'Long' way around the British Isles.

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Kids sign up for school

Children on Arran due to start school after the summer holidays should be signed up with North Ayrshire Council this month.

Boys and girls who will reach the age of five years between 1 March 2015 and 28 February 2016 should be registered for education during the week commencing Monday 12 January 2015.

As times vary from school to school, parents are asked to check registration arrangements with the appropriate catchment primary school for the area in which they live.

The child's birth certificate should be produced at the time of registration.

Information on Registration can be found on the Council's web site:

www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages).

Anyone who wishes their child to attend a school outwith their catchment area must submit a placing request which can be submitted online by accessing www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages).

Placing request assistance can also be obtained by telephoning 01294 310000. However, the council say that registration at a catchment area school does not guarantee entry to that school.

Arran Banner
newsdesk
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Bain family returns old golf trophy

A golf trophy, handed down through the generations of one family, has finally been returned to the island thanks to the help of the Isle of Arran Distillery.

Bearing the name of Corricravie and Sliderry Golf Club, the trophy belonged to Jim Bain from Glasgow who inherited it from his wife.

His son Scott said: 'This golf trophy has been in our family for as long as I can re-

member.

'It has always been there and always been on display.

'We understand that it was won by a member of the family on the Cannon side and handed on down through the generations.

'We felt that now was the right time to bring it back to where it belongs, Arran.

'We want to breath new life into the trophy and for it to form a centrepiece for an an-



A close-up of the trophy.



Jim Bain from Glasgow presents the mystery trophy to Campbell Laing, an Isle of Arran Distillery employee and member of Machrie Bay Golf Club.

nual golf competition for the people of Arran. It would be lovely for us as a family to come back and present the winner of the golf competition with this lovely piece of Arran history.'

Both Scott and his father are big fans of the Arran Malt whisky and so they enlisted the help of Faye Waterlow and Campbell Laing at the Lochranza distillery.

Scott added: 'We are thankful to both Faye and Camp-

bell with the help they have given us in trying to find out and understand more about the trophy.

'It gave us great pleasure in handing over this piece of Arran history to our good friends at the Arran Distillery at the beginning of December.'

Although very little has been discovered about the trophy, it has been given to Machrie Bay Golf Club and a new competition will be held

Lamlash restaurant gets the go ahead despite parking fears

A new restaurant proposed for Lamlash has been given the go ahead.

Tom and Felicity Young had applied for planning permission to convert the Studio 4 jewellery shop and sculpture garden into a restaurant by building a large extension.

The plans were approved by North Ayrshire Council this week after concern over parking outside the restaurant were resolved.

There was concern expressed by nearby residents regarding car parking and road safety issues, particularly with regard to the recent changes in location of two nearby bus stops in Shore Road.

An objection letter to the proposal stated: 'People using the two shops, Studio 4 and The Curtain House, have traditionally parked their vehicles on the road or, frequently, half on the road and half on the pavement, and this was usually without problem, other than the odd minor delay, but we have noticed more traffic problems and hold ups when buses stop.'

'On the assumption that the business is successful - and we hope it is - we can only anticipate this getting worse for, despite the fact that there is a fairly large car park only 100 yards or so along from Studio 4, human nature being what it is, people will inevitably park along the road to save their legs.'

Roads chiefs initially also expressed concerns but after the applicant submitted further information they stated: 'Strategic Planning & Infrastructure (SPI) have no objections to this proposal. Parking along the frontage of the proposed restaurant is currently unrestricted but North Ayrshire Council reserve the right to alter parking control measures in the future. Two public car parks are available nearby and a newly installed bus stop is located opposite.'

Council planners approved the application with several conditions mainly relating to the preservation of the conservation area.

Until earlier this month the couple ran Felicity's restaurant at Shiskine Golf and Tennis Club.

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Diehards take a dook on Boxing Day

More than 30 swimmers braved icy sea waters for the annual Boxing Day Dook at Lamlash Pier.

Hardy souls

Many of the diehards were in fancy dress and, while most had wet suits, some hardy souls plunged into the water in their swimming trunks.

The weather was dry and calm and not too cold as, under the watchful eye of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), the swimmers made the short swim from the slipway to the steps at the end of the pier.

And while some quickly made their way to get dried

others enjoyed jumping off the end of the pier. A big crowd of supporters turned up to cheer them on and enjoyed soup, mince pies and mulled wine, with all proceeds going to the RNLI.

Many then made their way along to the traditional Boxing Day quiz in the Drift Inn.



The hardy swimmers complete the dook at the pier steps. 20_b01dook03



Calum McArthur-Gammie (left) and Rory Dickenson are dressed as Salt and Pepper for the dook. 20_b01dook01



Swimmers make their way down the slipway for the dook. 20_b01dook02



Lifeboat crewman Robert Ingham checks Santa Carole Johnston is fine after her pier plunge. 20_b01dook06



Two of the swimmers emerge freezing from the water. 20_b01dook04



The Lifeboatmen take the plunge. 20_b01dook07



One man prepares to take the plunge off the end of the pier. 20_b01dook05

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January Closure
The Hotel & Leisure Club will be closed for refurbishment from Monday 05th January 2015 re-opening on Monday 02nd February
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Round the Rurals

Shiskine SWRI

For the December meeting of Shiskine SWRI, the members met in The Kinloch Hotel with Kilmory SWRI as guests for a wine tasting night.

The Kinloch made them all very welcome and had dressed the room beautifully.

The wines were provided by Forth Wines of Milnathort and their representative Marna gave full information about each wine producer, the grape variety and a description of the flavour.

The ladies tasted six wines which were accompanied by a very delicious dish of food provided by the hotel.

Evelyn Hamilton thanked Marna and The Kinloch for a very enjoyable evening and said they hoped to repeat it some time in the future.

The competition of the best wrapped Christmas parcel (a £3 gift) was won by Fiona Scott, second was Gina Brookes and third Evelyn Hamilton.

The exhibition for a cork screw was won by Kate Mackintosh, second was Sheila Gilmore and third Carole Stewart.

Mitzi Simpson won the raffle.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 7 January in Shiskine Village Hall at 7.30pm when the speakers will be Pat and Jim Simpson discussing Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong. New members will be made very welcome.

Got a story for The Arran Banner?
Call 01770 302142

Arran features in top TV licensing excuses

'Behind every excuse is someone who has been caught watching or recording live TV without a licence'

This island has many claims to fame, but featuring in the list of top 10 excuses for avoiding a television licence is definitely a new one.

A Paisley licence dodger claimed he was related to the Queen and used his supposed royal connection to try and avoid paying, telling investigators: 'I am Lord Stewart of the Isle of Arran and I don't need to pay for a TV Licence.'

Exempt

Another said he was exempt as he would only be watching the live World Cup games in his local pub in Glasgow- and just the highlights at home.

And an Australian argued a licence was not necessary as they only watched Home

and Away and Neighbours, which could be viewed free of charge in his homeland.

These are just some of the far-fetched excuses offered to TV Licensing in 2014 to avoid the £145.50 annual charge.

TV Licence spokesperson Stephen Farmer stated: 'We are effective at catching evaders but it's not surprising a few of those caught will try and avoid taking responsibility.'

'Some of the humour and originality in this year's excuses provided a laugh for our enquiry officers and customer service centre staff, but behind every excuse is someone who has been caught watching or recording live TV without a licence.'

New house refused

An application to build a new house in Auchencairn near Whiting Bay has been refused.

North Ayrshire Council planners ruled that the house would be outwith the settlement boundaries and therefore set an undesirable precedent.

William Watson of Blossom Cottage, Whiting Bay had applied for planning permission to replace an existing static caravan at Eilann Auchencairn in High Auchencairn Road with a detached one and half storey house.

However, planners refused the plan saying there was no specific locational need for the house.

The written decision stated said: 'There is no justification for the dwellinghouse which, if approved, would establish an undesirable precedent for further similar developments and sporadic replacement of unauthorised caravans in other rural locations, to the detriment of the amenity of the countryside.'



Lucky ShopArran winners announced

Three lucky ladies have been named as the winners of the ShopArran prize draw. Lee Adamson, a visitor to the island, is pictured drawing the three prizewinners from the hat. E Somerfield won dinner, bed and breakfast for two at Altachorvie in Lamlash; Jeannette Scott won a Little Rock hamper with a £35 voucher, and Tricia Martin received a connoisseurs' choice cheese hamper from the Isle of Arran Cheese Company worth £55.

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Church youth musicians raise school funds

At the end of term service for Shiskine Primary School last week, a presentation was made from St Molios Church to the school.

Headteacher, Irene Markham, accepted a cheque from the parish assistant, Jean Hunter.

The cheque is the result of donations which were made at the Shiskine 'Youth in Music' concert held in September at St Molios as part of the 125th anniversary celebrations of the church.

Gnasher gets chipped for Dogs Trust campaign

‘The success of the event persuaded us to establish roving ‘chip teams’

Special guests Dennis the Menace and Gnasher joined Arran’s MSP Kenneth Gibson at the Scottish parliament last week as part of the event to raise awareness of the Dogs Trust compulsory micro-chipping campaign.

Mischievous Gnasher was micro-chipped by the charity in ‘The Beano’ comic earlier this year.

So far 8,847 Scottish owners have used the free micro-chipping service offered by Dogs Trust, including 88 in Largs at an event organised by Mr Gibson on 22 November, demonstrating a real enthusiasm for this important aspect of dog welfare.

Mr Gibson – who sponsored the Holyrood event – said: ‘Micro-chipping has a number of benefits, the most important being the ability to rapidly identify a stray or lost dog and return it to its owner.

‘In the last nine months 4,893 lost or straying dogs were picked up by local authorities in Scotland. Compulsory micro-chipping will help to reduce these numbers, thereby cutting kennelling costs for local authorities, reducing the burden on animal welfare charities and reuniting owners with lost pets that for many are part of the family.’

‘Chip teams’

Adrian Burder, Dogs Trust chief executive, said: ‘Since Mr Gibson first invited us to microchip dogs in his constituency - our first such venture in Scotland - the success of that event in Kilbirmie persuaded us to establish roving ‘chip teams’ in September 2013, and also offer free chipping by appointment at our two Scottish rehoming centres in Glasgow and West Calder.

‘Indeed, we would be delighted to visit Arran!’



Kenneth Gibson MSP with Dennis the Menace and the newly micro-chipped Gnasher.

Malt lives up to the name of Scotland’s famous bard

With New Year upon us thoughts at the Isle of Arran Distillery are already turning to the next big national celebration - Burns Night.

The Robert Burns Single Malt, from the award-winning Lochranza distillery, is the only malt to be endorsed by the World Robert Burns Federation.

Named after Scotland’s national poet, this multi-vintage edition of The Arran Malt is, what distillery bosses say, the clear choice to toast the haggis this coming Burns Night, which is Sunday 25 January, around which time events are held across the country.

Made of the finest ex-Bourbon and ex-Sherry casks, with no artificial colouring added, the spirit has a rich and smooth flavour that makes it perfect for cocktails.

Sweet and creamy with notes of honey and toffee-glazed pecans, it’s also delicious enjoyed on its own or over ice.

Re-launched in 2013, the Burns Malt has proved incredibly popular both in Scotland and overseas.

Commenting on the importance of whisky on Burns Night, Arran’s Master Distiller, James MacTaggart, said: ‘Burns Night simply isn’t Burns Night without whisky.’

‘After a bleak January, a good dram with friends is the perfect antidote to the post-festive blues. We were conscious when creating this bottling of appealing to whisky novices and experts alike.

‘That’s why the softer flavours of the Burns Malt work so well. Nuanced enough to please experienced whisky tasters but with a mellow fruitiness that lends itself to cocktails for the uninitiated.’

Managing director Euan Mitchell added: ‘Food and drink go hand in hand on Burns Night and we’re proud to produce a whisky that lives up to the memory of Scotland’s most famous son.’

SEASON’S GREETINGS from Waste Services

North Ayrshire recycled 56.1% of household waste last year and we were the third highest performing area in Scotland! Thank you for your efforts and let’s keep up the good work.

The actual time of your bin collection may vary during the festive period. If adverse weather affects your area, we will return to uplift your bin when possible.

If you have a real Christmas tree we will uplift it alongside your grey bin, on your normal collection day, from week beginning 12 January 2015.

Top tips for recycling in your blue bin:

Yes Please!
 Cardboard
 Paper and cards
 Plastic bottles/trays
 Aluminium cans
 and many more items

No Thanks!
 Polystyrene
 Electrical items
 Black bin bags
 Nappies
 Textiles

Please have your tree in sections of 5ft or less

Please put your bin out for 7am on the morning of your collection

Brodick Waste Recycling Centre will be closed on **Thursday 25 & Friday 26 December 2014** and **Thursday 1 & Friday 2 January 2015**, but will open as normal every other day.

For more information on recycling visit www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

t: 01294 310000



North Ayrshire Council
 Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Tuath



Tasting marshmallows with Andy McNamara of Arran Outdoor Education Centre.



The group enjoying the fruits of their labour with a well earned rest.



The group relax for a moment after a blustery walk to the top of Dun Fionn.

Conservation a top S1 pupils ti

Armed with warm clothes and full backpacks, Arran High School's S1 pupils marked the end of their John Muir Award project in the island's great outdoors on December 12.

The youngsters spent four days in the outdoors, discovering, exploring and conserving various areas throughout Arran, some of them fairly well known, others less so.

One of the main principles behind the John Muir Award

is conservation and as a result the group of pupils spent Friday 12 December in the woods in the Glenashdale area constructing benches and improving paths throughout the woodland to ensure the area can be enjoyed responsibly by all those who use these beautiful areas.

Teacher Brian Donlin said: 'The group have been extremely fortunate and have been able to experience an ar-

ray of activities ranging from fire lighting, shelter building, writing poetry, exploring areas of woodland to spending an evening stargazing with some truly excellent conditions.'

Enjoyed

He added: 'The group has thoroughly enjoyed the experience throughout the John Muir Award and both the pupils and the school would like to offer a large thanks to Andy McNamara and the Arran Outdoor



Ian, Tia and Charlie hard at work bench building.

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Lewis MacVicar becoming 'one' with nature.



nd exploration metable

Education Centre for helping to ensure the pupils have been able to undertake such a worthwhile award programme.

The John Muir Trust exists to conserve and preserve wilderness and has, for example, taken a leading role in the battle against the encroachment of wind farms on the Scottish mountains as well as organising grass level projects, such as restoring and conserving footpaths.



Above: Laurie Miller reflects on her surroundings as she composes some poetry at Cloud Base.

Left: Fireun and Gregor hard at work clearing dead low hanging branches.

Scottish Field JANUARY ISSUE OUT NOW

Daniela Nardini
MY DAYS AS A WILD CHILD IN LARGS

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The bakery will be closed from Monday 05th January 2015, re-opening in late February

Phil & Carol wish all their customers a very happy new year!

THE ARRAN BANNER

Shuddering at the thought

What is it that makes reasonably sensible and sane people want to jump into freezing cold water at this time of year?

While most of us were putting on another layer of clothes and stoking up the fire, a number of people were casting off their garments and jumping into the sea on Boxing Day.

It is easy to understand these actions in the summer when the weather is warm - but to do it when the air temperature is -1 degrees Celsius?

(Imagine how cold the water must have been. Shudder.)

Maybe it is an ancient symbolic ritual representing the change of the seasons as we say goodbye to the year's shortest day and welcome the gradual approach of spring.

But it's also a great way of raising money for local charities, as was proved on Friday.

The first festive dook to grace the pages of The Arran Banner was on New Year's Day in 1985 when Lamlash residents Philip Oakes, Alison Cook and John Stewart took to the sea and declared it to be 'pretty cold'.

Then about 12 years ago Sally Brookes and her granddaughter Katie were photographed by one of our reporters at the Silver Sands in Kildonan.

It was New Year's Day and the pair came running down the steps, stripped off to bathing suits and jumped into the sea!

A breathless Sally explained that it was all down to a late-night bet taken when she should have known better.

For seven years now a growing number of people have been taking to the sea on Boxing Day in Lamlash - a fun, and very well organised event that not only attracts lots of spectators but raises much-needed funds for the Arran lifeboat.

And on New Year's Day it has become customary to see the staff and guests from The Douglas Hotel in Brodick making their way down the slipway for a reviving dip to clear away the headaches from the night before.

In actual fact the people of Arran took a long time to cotton on to this crazy festive escapade.

This madcap practice of a swim in the sea in December and January started in Britain more than 150 years ago.

In 1864 the Serpentine Swimmers Club began its annual Christmas morning swim in Hyde Park, London. It still does it to this day, but being a little inland the swimmers sometimes have to break the ice on their way in.

With a New Year's Day forecast for gales on Arran it is unlikely that there will be many dookers this year.

But where would be the fun in that!

Happy New Year to you all.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

This is how God showed His love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. (1 John 4:9-10)

press policy

WE AT *The Arran Banner* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing a local newspaper.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print.

If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Arran Banner*, Brodick, Arran giving your day-time telephone number where possible.

This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on e-mails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters Page, The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran. E-mail editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The Arran Banner on holiday

Since 'The Banner on Holiday' feature started almost seven years ago, we have been absolutely overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers that have come through the doors.

This week we have a picture of a few recognisable faces, celebrating Christmas on the Gold Coast in Australia.

From left to right are Cameron Ribbeck, Rebecca Coulthard, Matthew Dobson, Claire Taylor, Trina McDonald and Kyle Barbour

catching up with all the news from home.

Don't forget to pack your copy of the Banner if you are going on holiday. It could be from Aberdeen or Auckland, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs. When space permits we will continue to print the photos that we have on file.

Please send them to us either by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8AJ. b01ban01NO

A taste of Arran showcased at Scottish tourism awards

Official caterer of Scotland's tourism awards, Sodexo Prestige, has revealed its show stopping menu it produced for this year's Scottish tourism Oscars.

The menu, which was skilfully put together by its team of executive chefs, featured a delicious cheeseboard featuring cheeses, oatcakes and chutneys from local Arran based supplier, A Taste of Arran, to showcase the quality of the island's produce.

It was served at the three regional award ceremonies of the Scottish Thistle Awards, which were held at Perth Racecourse, Hampden Park and Edinburgh's Royal College.

This year's awards, which recognise excellence by individuals and businesses in the

Scottish tourism sector, saw some of the biggest and best names in the industry enjoy a five star feast during the prestigious regional award ceremonies.

Looking to demonstrate its commitment to fresh, local produce, Sodexo Prestige's team sourced ingredients from across the country to feature on the menu and key components included Highland smoked salmon from Fort William, smoked mussels from the Argyll Smokery in Dunoon and venison from Braehead Foods in Kilmarnock.

The meal was rounded off with the cheeseboard put together by A Taste of Arran to showcase its delicious selection of cheeses, oatcakes and chutneys.

Stephen Carter, the chairman of the Scottish Thistle Awards industry panel, said: 'Sodexo Prestige did an outstanding job creating a three-course meal that celebrated our renowned natural larder and showcased the diverse range of ingredients available across Scotland.'

Finalists from this year's regional awards are set to meet their competitors at the Crowne Plaza in Glasgow in March next year for the final awards ceremony.

The national final will form part of the Signature Programme, at Scottish Tourism Week in March 2015. The Signature Programme will see Scotland's tourism industry descend on Glasgow from 3 to 5 March for six must-attend events.

Free uplift of Christmas trees

Householders looking to dispose of their real Christmas trees can have them uplifted free by North Ayrshire Council.

Trees should be placed next to the grey bin for 7am, on the normal collection day, from week beginning 12 January. Please have the tree in sections of 5ft or less.

Domestic collections will be unaffected over the New Year period. Please put the grey and blue bin out for 7am on the morning of the collection. The actual time of collection may vary during the festive period. If adverse weather affects an area the council will return to uplift bins when possible.

The Brodick Waste Recycling Centre will be closed on 1 and 2 January. Special uplift bookings for the New Year will start on 5 January.

Large items of cardboard can be placed next to the blue bin on the day of collection over the festive period. The contact telephone number of the council's waste collection services over the festive period is 01770 600338 or visit the website www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

A festive afternoon for Contact the Elderly

The annual outing of the Contact the Elderly group to Arran High School took place last week, organised by Sharon Macleod and the sixth year students.

The guests enjoyed mulled wine, soup and savouries then traditional cake and mince pies with tea and coffee.

A festive quiz and bingo game then followed.

The entertainment came in the form of Beethoven's fourth concerto played by Iain Clark on the piano.

Then Finlay Murchie played 'Allegro' by Ramon on the flute - both pupils played beautifully all afternoon.

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A look back at 2014 in pictures

As we prepare to celebrate the start of a new year, The Banner takes its customary look back at the news that has dominated the pages of The Arran Banner throughout 2014.



July to December

Arran High School's leavers pose for one last picture at their dinner in June. 20_b24ahs09



It's not unusual for people to pay a flying visit to the island but few actually touch down in their own helicopter. But Harvey Euridge and his wife Sue from Bournemouth did exactly that when they arrived at The Douglas Hotel in July. 01_b29hel01



Tim and Fran James from Creelers of Arran spent 10 days showcasing the best of Scotland's food and drink at a market in Munich in June.



With dances as flashy as lightning and songs as slick as grease, the youngsters at Arran High School stole the show in June with their summer production of Grease. 20_b25grs06



Arran Cancer Support celebrated its 25th birthday in June with a special garden party at Lady Jean Fforde's home, Strabane. 20_b26arc01



Work on the new yacht club in Lamlash progressed well throughout the summer. 20_b25yacht01



Reece Currie working hard at Angus Lambie's garage in Brodick in June as he completed work experience with Arran high School.



Hairdresser Kate Robinson and beauty therapist Kirsty Galbraith took on the iconic empty Alexanders shop in the centre of Brodick in June and turned it into a successful new business. 20_b27alx01



In June, Clair Fraser and her husband Stuart swapped life in New York for life behind the counter of Bay Stores in Whiting Bay. 20_b27bay01



After 13 years of dedicated service, the Arran RNLI's Atlantic 75 inshore lifeboat The Boy's Brigade was retired in July to make way for a new state-of-the-art Atlantic 85 B-class Inshore Lifeboat called the Rachel Hedderwick. 20_b28rnli01



Muriel Searl and her daughter Linzi found messages in a bottle on Machrie beach which had been sent from children at a school in North Wales. 20_b27bot01



Arran's four baton bearers, from I Rory Hunter, Wallace Currie and J Commonwealth Games relay in J



The MV Loch Tarbert's skipper Gavin Crawford, right, and engineer Charles Weir tried to stop two thieves escaping the island at Claonaig in July. Sadly they still haven't been caught. 20_b27loc01

Andrew Binnie, Andy Telford and Jenni Martin of COAST accept a £3,000 cheque from Sheila Gilmore of the Arran Trust, second right, in July. 20_b29trt01



Hand weaving and the history of this ancient art was explored in a new book written by Lynn Ross of Brodick, a well-known local weaver, in July. 20_b29lyn01



On a rock with the big cheque are Sedman, Stuart Mahony, Brian Ar four employees of the Access Trus received a grant from the Arran T

The James Bone Esquire Memorial Cup for the overhead championship at the Arran Farmers Show in August was won by father and son team Neil and David Henderson of Kilpatrick farm for their Texel gimmer which was homebred out of a scrogton tup. 20_b32far01



1. Get activation code



2. Collect documents



3. Enter data



Left to right, Rona Fulton, John Graham took part in the relay.



Morag Gardner of Lamlash with her best in show shawl, which also won two other prizes at the SWRI Show in August. 02_b32far17



The Arran mountain rescue team completed a stretcher dash around the island in August to mark the team's 50th anniversary and raise much-needed funds.

20_b33stretch01



From left to right, Rachel King and Scott Murdoch - the first Coastal Way project who finished in July.



Bye, bye Bilslands! Arran said a sad farewell to Alastair and Alison Bilsland who closed the doors of their much loved seafront shop in October after 44 years. The store is set to be turned into a Tesco Express. 20_b41bil01



In early November, 100 years after the outbreak of the First World War, wreaths were laid by the younger members of the community to honour the sacrifice of Arran's fallen. 20_b46rem02



Brodick Castle welcomed new head gardener, 26-year-old Tim Keyworth in October. 01_b46david01



4. Submit your Tax Return

4 steps to inner peace.

To do your Self Assessment Tax Return follow these four simple steps. If you miss the 31st January deadline you will get a £100 penalty. So why not do it today, pay what you owe and take a load off your mind?

gov.uk/selfassessment



HM Revenue & Customs

A look back at 2014 in pictures



Above: A demand was made for a cut to the speed limit at the entrance to Whiting Bay in November after Diane Lewis lost one of her beloved pet sheep. 20_b47sheep02



Left: Arran engineering apprentice Stuart McMaster was recognised at the Stagecoach UK Bus tenth annual Apprentice of the Year awards in November.



Above: The Community of Arran Seabed Trust vowed to fight to get the best protection for the waters around the island at a demonstration in November. 20_b48mpa01



Right: Father Christmas arrived in style for the 'Santa's Sparkle' in Lamlash at the end of November. 20_b49santa01



Left: The success of the Shiskine Valley Hidden Talents exhibition in October helped a local craft group. Susie Thompson and Coral Smith present the money to Iris Mansfield as other members of the Machrie Ladies Craft Group look on. 20_b46hidden01



Robin Irving and Murray Boal had the important job of placing Brodick's Christmas tree in the ground at the beginning of December. 20_b49tree13

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The Silent Man

A DCI Daley short story by Denzil Meyrick - part 2

'It's a wean's drawing, Jim. I can't understand why you've been staring at it for the last hour,' said DS Brian Scott, taking a sip from his pint of ginger beer and lime and grimacing.

'You're just fed up that's not a pint of lager, Bri,' Daley replied. 'I don't know . . . there's something about it – about the boy. Just a feeling, I suppose.'

'You and your bloody feelings, Jim. They're not right this time. You know as well as I do there's no way that old man will survive out there tonight. Aye, and that's if he's not dead already.' Scott spoke quietly, anxious that the other customers in the County Hotel bar wouldn't overhear his understandable pessimism. 'It's been freezing or thereabouts for most of the day. Well below it, now. The man's no' in his right, mind. Dementia, a terrible thing. You know the score, Jimmy.'

A red sleeve appeared in between the policemen as Santa placed a small glass of whisky on the table, then sat down heavily.

Frazzled

'I don't know whoot they pay Father Christmas, but whootever it is, he deserves every penny o' it,' declared Hamish. 'I'm fair frazzled efter dealing wae a' these weans.'

'It's your age, man,' said Scott. 'Why did you volunteer?'

'Och, my faither used tae dae it every year. I suppose it's a family tradition. Aye, and that little elf o'er there's quite handy wae a dram or two once it's all over,' replied Hamish, gesturing to Annie, who was in a short green dress and busy pouring drinks for her customers, most of whom were already brimming over with festive cheer. 'Whoot's that ye have, Mr Daley?'

'This?' Daley lifted the boy's picture from the table. 'Och, Calum drew it. Said it was the old man's special place.'

Hamish looked at the picture, took his pipe from his pocket and sucked at it, unlit. 'And is this supposed tae be a cross, by any chance?'

'Yes,' replied Daley, 'how did you know?'

'It's Sorn Bay, jeest along the coast fae Machrie. A sailor was washed up there in the First World War, and the locals buried him on the shingle and erected a cross in his memory. I recognised it straight away,' said Hamish with a self-satisfied smile.



Denzil Meyrick

'There's somethin' else aboot Sorn Bay. I jeest canna bring it tae mind'

'So, it's a real place? I thought it was just something the wee boy had made up. Hmm.'

'See what you've done now,' said Scott. 'He's got that look in his eye again. It'll be another mad idea, that no doubt I'll be up to my ears with any time soon.' He watched as Daley walked over to the bar to buy a round. 'Mind you, you'd be amazed how many times he's right.'

'There's somethin' else aboot Sorn Bay. I jeest canna bring it tae mind,' declared Hamish thoughtfully, scratching his head with the end of his unlit pipe.

She slept fitfully, her father's face in every dream. He never spoke, though; she wasn't sure if she could even remember what he sounded like. It seemed so long since she had heard him say her name.

Suddenly, she felt the hairs stand on the back of her neck

and a tingle ripple down her spine – an ancient instinct that somebody – something – was behind her, watching her. She heard her heart pound in her ears, but she could hear something else.

'Come with me. Come with me.' The voice was soft, no more than a whisper.

She held her breath, too frightened to move.

'Come with me. Come with me.'

Unable to restrain herself, Helen Duncan screamed, screamed at the top of her voice.

'Helen!' shouted her husband, who, now sitting straight up in the bed, turned to reach out and hold her in his arms. It was then he noticed something. Across the room a shadow moved, illuminated suddenly by a shaft of white light coming through a chink in the bedroom curtains.

'Has Calum walked in his sleep before, Mrs Duncan?'

enquired Daley. They were back at the incident room in the town hall. It was seven in the morning, and the woman before him looked shattered. Her eyes were bleary and circled with dark rings.

'Once or twice, but nothing like this. Usually he just gets up and starts crying on the landing and I take him back to bed,' she said. 'This time, he spoke. He just wouldn't wake up.'

'He was staring straight ahead, Mr Daley,' added Mr Duncan, 'just saying the same thing over and over again.'

'Which was?'

'Come with me,' she said quietly. 'Come with me.'

'He didn't remember anything about it this morning,' added Mr Duncan.

As Daley left the distraught couple, he spotted Hamish waving at him from the entrance to the hall.

'I knew I remembered something else about Sorn Bay,' he said breathlessly. 'It jeest came tae mind this morning when I woke up. I

came straight ower tae tell you.'

'Tell me what?'

'When John Sweeney was a wean the family stayed at Machrie. He had an older sister, Maggie, a wee red-haired lassie. He doted on her – they went everywhere together.'

Daley brought the older man a chair, and they both sat down. 'Take your time, Hamish.'

'Aye, well, naebody knew how it happened. But one day the two o' them were out, jeest playing, the way weans do. John came back home hysterical, no sign o' his sister. Their folks were up to high doh. The whole village was oot lookin' for the lassie.'

'Did they ever find her?'

'Aye, they did.' Hamish looked at the floor. 'That's jeest it, her body was found on the beach at Sorn Bay. They reckon she fell off the cliff, lookin' for bird's eggs. Poor wee thing, she wiz only nine. John wid be six at the time, the same age Calum is noo.'

'And why has no one mentioned this, Hamish?'

'Och, well, you know how things are. In wee places like this, when tragedy strikes we a' dae oor best tae move on. I know John wid never speak about it. I'm a bit older than him so I mind it happening – that's the only reason I know anything about it.'

Survived

'But even if he's gone back there, he'll never have survived the night,' said Daley.

'Aye, well, there's the thing. There's a wee hut up on the hillside. It wiz used by shepherds in the old days for shelter – if the weather closed in, ye understand. They tell me walkers use it noo. There's a wee stove, some wood likely. If John Sweeney's gone there – aye, and he'll know about it – he could have got through the night . . . Jeest a theory,' concluded Hamish.

For the concluding part of The Silent Man don't forget to pick up a copy of next week's Banner.



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What's on

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Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open
 Arran Brewery
 Arran Brewery tour
 Lamlash Tennis Courts/Putting Green

Loch Garbad, bank fishing
 9am-Dusk
 Mon, Tue & Thu 12.30-5pm Fri & Sat 10-5pm
 2pm
 Open all day

Live Music
 Bridge for beginners
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Hatha Yoga
 Lamlash Church Guild

Fiddlers, 7.30pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm
 All Stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Brodick Hall, 1.30pm - 2.30pm
 Trust Housing Lounge, 2pm

Saturday 3rd January

Army Cadets
 Over 21s Disco
 Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 Live music
 Brodick Market
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game

Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
 Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa pool, 4-5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm

Wednesday 7th January

Rock & Pop Bingo
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yogalates
 Aquafizz
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 Traditional & Contemporary Ballads with Mike Bailey
 RunArran mixed ability
 Yoga-Arran
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey

Ormidale Hotel 9.30pm
 Arran high School Kids-6.30-7.30pm Adults-7.30-8.30pm
 Lamlash Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7-9pm
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 10.30-12.30 & 1.30-3.30
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie car park, 5.30pm
 Kinneil, Lamlash, 7-8.30pm
 Lamlash, 9pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall 7.30-9pm

Sunday 4th January

Family Games
 Fun in the pool
 AA Meeting
 Mackerel Lottery
 Open Session - All musicians & singers welcome
 Live music

Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Brodick church Hall, 5pm-6.30pm
 Kinloch Bar, 5pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick 2.30pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick from 9.30pm

Thursday 8th January

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Folky, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends
 Yoga
 Bridge Club
 Open Music session
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Men
 Pilates
 Country Park Volunteer Day
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 QuiltArran
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
 Drift Inn, Lamlash, 9pm
 Ormidale Pavillion, 7.30-8.30pm
 Auchrannie Car Park, 5.30pm
 Auchrannie gym, 6-7pm
 Brodick Castle, 10am - 4pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30-9.30pm
 Lamlash Fire Station, 2-4.30pm
 Auchrannie 7pm

Monday 5th January

Over 50s Badminton
 Badminton
 Citizens Advice
 Morning Fitness
 Table Tennis
 Badminton
 Arran Junior Football Club
 Yoga
 Circuit Training
 Live Music
 Scottish Country Dancing Beginners & Improvers
 10/10 Total Body workout
 Hatha yoga

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Ormidale Pavillion, 9.30-1.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12 noon
 Auchrannie Gym, 6-7pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Corrie & Sannox Hall, 2 - 4pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash, 6.45pm
 Brodick Hall, 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Friday 9th January

Aqua Fizz
 Yogalates
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 Family fun night
 Brodick Market
 AA Meeting

Auchrannie Hotel Pool, 9.45-10.30am
 Auchrannie Studio, 9.30-10.30am
 Church Hall, Brodick 7pm-9pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6-8pm
 Lochranza Hall, 8pm
 Brodick Golf Club 4.45pm
 Auchrannie Road, Brodick, 10-4.30pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 7pm

Tuesday 6th January

Pop Quiz
 Auchrannie Winter Bowls
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club rink game
 Session with the Arran Ceilidh Band
 RunArran

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Auchrannie 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm
 Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm

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THE ARRAN

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TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 7 January, 1994

First loyalty card

Curries of Brodick has become the first Scottish Key Store outlet to introduce an electronic loyalty card.

Described as Green Shield Stamps for the '90s customers collect points on a Key Points smartcard and redeem them for gifts.

Manager Alastair Bilsland said: 'We're just making Curries as competitive as possible.'

He is, of course, very conscious of the new Co-op opening next month. As a result the shop will close shortly for 10 days and when it reopens will have almost double the floor space.

Crime spree

Police had a busy time on Arran over the festive season with several break-ins and acts of vandalism.

On Christmas Eve three premises in Brodick were broken into. At the Auchrannie Hotel thieves stole a quantity of drink, two cameras, cigarettes and a charity box. The office of Arran Insurance and Finance Consultants was also broken into, but nothing was stolen, but the third break-in at Creelers Fish Restaurant saw the theft of money, cigars and a car stereo.

In the early hours of New Year's Day three windows at Arran High School were smashed along with the windscreen of a police Land Rover parked outside the Lamlash police sta-

tion. Later two windows were smashed at the doctors surgery in Whiting Bay. Police enquiries are continuing.

Seeing double

Estate agent Bob Brass thought he was seeing double when he opened his new calendar.

For the December photograph in his 1994 Scots Pictorial calendar showed exactly the same picture as his December 1995 picture in his new Arran Tourist Board calendar. The only difference was the caption. One says the deer are pictured at Laggan, Invernesshire and the other as 'Red deer on Arran'.

To be fair the picture is acknowledged to R Weir in each case so it may be that the tourist board was misinformed about which Laggan is pictured.

Dog trial win

Geoff Brookes of South Bank Farm and his dog Mirk won the Lenamhor Nursery Dog Trials this week. That Geoff should win is no surprise as he has already won many competitions on the mainland and competed in Grampian Television's dog trials.

The Lenamhor Trial is one of a series which takes place throughout the winter, the winner of which then represents Arran in an all-Ayrshire trial. The term 'nursery' refers to the dog which must not have previously won any trophies.



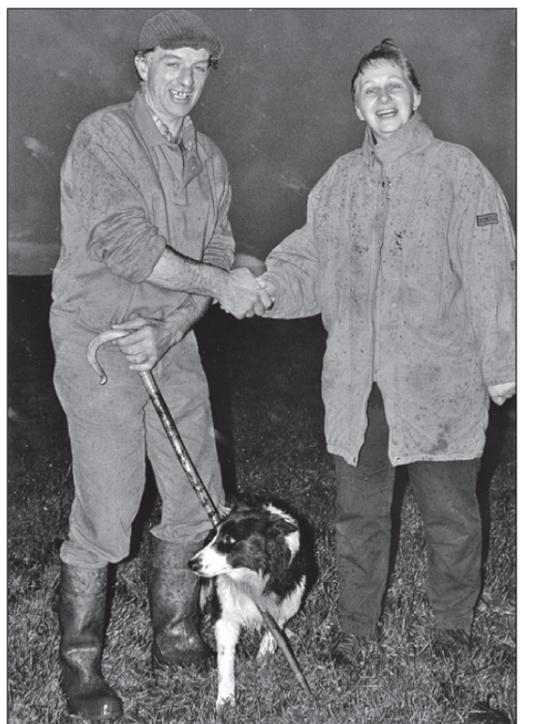
The traditional New Year's Day Old Firm game attracted much controversy this year as it was moved to Wednesday 4 January to suit Sky TV. But it did not stop supporters of both teams on Arran enjoying the game together in Steamers Bar in Lamlash where mine host Billy Currie was handing out free pies and bovril to add to the atmosphere. The game finished in a 1-1 draw. b01twe02



The new Co-op store in Brodick already looks almost finished on the outside and this week The Banner has had a sneak preview inside the store. The picture shows manager Clare Hyndman (right) and Co-op PR manager Joanna McKerracher at the new checkouts. The store is due to be officially opened on 28 February. b01twe04



Maths teacher Jimmy Stewart is the first customer at Currie's to get his Key Points card from Cathy Brazier, who is setting up the system, and Mandy Basford. b01twe01



Geoff Brookes and dog Mirk are congratulated by Phyllis Picken after their win. b01twe03

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Public Notices

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR DOMESTIC AND RECYCLING COLLECTIONS FOR ISLE OF ARRAN

Domestic collections will be unaffected over the festive period. Please put your grey and blue bin out for 7am on the morning of your collection.
 The actual time of collection may vary during the festive period. If adverse weather affects your area we will return to uplift your bin when possible.
 The Brodick Waste Recycling Centre will be closed 25 and 26 December 2014 and 1 and 2 January 2015.
 The last special uplift collection for 2014 will be on 19 December 2014. Special uplift bookings for the New Year will start on 5 January 2015.
 Large items of cardboard can be placed next to your blue bin on the day of collection over the festive period.
 Real Christmas trees should be placed next to your grey bin for 7am, on your normal collection day, from week beginning 12 January 2015. Please have your tree in sections of 5ft or less.
 The contact telephone number of North Ayrshire Council Waste Collection Services over the festive period is 01770 600338 or visit our website www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT CHILDREN ENTITLED TO START P1 - SESSION 2015/2016

Children who attain the age of 5 years between 1 March 2015 and 28 February 2016 should be registered for education during the week commencing Monday 12 January 2015.
 As times vary from school to school, parents are asked to check registration arrangements with the appropriate catchment primary school for the area in which they live. The child's birth certificate should be produced at the time of registration.
 Information on Registration can be found on the Council's web site: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages).
 If you wish your child to attend a school outwith your catchment area then you must submit a placing request which you will be able to submit online by accessing www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk (Education and Learning pages).
 Placing request assistance can also be obtained by telephoning 01294 310000.
 Registration at your catchment area school does not guarantee entry to that school.

John Butcher
 Executive Director
 (Education and Youth Employment)



Katy Clark MP SURGERY NOTICE

Katy Clark MP will hold a surgery on Saturday 10th January 2015



Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick 11am

No appointment required

Tel: 01294 605040
 Email: clarkk@parliament.uk
 Web: www.katyclark.org.uk

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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 4th January
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mr John Roberts.
Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran
Brodict, Corrie, Lochranza,
Pirrmill 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 4th January
Lochranza and Pirrmill
Churches. 10.15am Morning
Worship in Pirrmill.
Shiskine Church, 12noon
Morning Worship.
Brodict Church, 10.30am
Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 11.30am
Prayer Meeting,
12noon Morning Worship.
A Service of Worship will also
be held in Montrose House
at 1.30pm.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash
"A faith to proclaim ~ a
fellowship to share"
Sunday 4th January
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Both Churches:
Rev. Dr. Ian MacLeod
All welcome, including
families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)
Sunday 4th January
Morning Service, 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen
Estate, Brodict
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodict

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 4th January
Worship will be conducted
by the minister Rev Elizabeth
Watson at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be serviced
in the transept after the service.
All welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

New Year's Day mass 11am
Sunday mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 4th January
11am Morning worship
in the Ormidale Sports
Pavilion, Brodict
Tea and Coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30pm
Home Fellowship Group for
Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no 600222
Everyone warmly invited

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 4th January
Shiskine 11am (Church on road
between Blackwaterfoot and
Machrie)
Brodict 7pm (Church behind
post office)
Rev David Ford

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

Quakes meet every Sunday at
11am. For meeting venue ring -
830622, 820223

BANNER ANNOUNCEMENTS
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Brodict Castle was basking in glorious winter sunshine on Monday morning. 20_b01sun01



Brodict Golf Club

Sunday 21 December, third
round of the Clochendichter
was rained off which leaves
Alma at the top of the league
going into 2015: Alma 9,
Knowe 6, Street 5, Village 4.
The Christmas dinner was
held as usual. A big 'thank
you' to Trish, Rosie and Isla
for a delicious meal.

Sunday 28 December, Win-
ter Cup, 16 played. A beauti-
ful sunny day, greens a trifle
lively, but some great scoring.

1 Bryce Walker (19) 42pts,
2 John McKean (12)36pts
BIH, 3 Alan Hart (18)36pts.

There were two twos, one
each from Jimmy Armit and
Terry Raeside.

Fixtures: Thursday 1 Janu-
ary, Hirsell Trophy and New
Year bottle, make up your
own game or draw at 12 noon.

Friday 2 January, play the
course backwards, make up
your own game or draw at
12noon.

There are still a few tickets
left for the Hogmanay cele-
brations, speak to Douglas or
Trish in the clubhouse.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

Happy New Year to all mem-
bers and friends of Whiting
Bay Golf Club. Sunday 28
December, eight played in
the third round of the Winter
Cup on a bright and frosty
morning, CSS64. 1 Ronnie
Mann (13)61, 2 Wolfi Kroner
(12)65, 3 Gus MacLeod 67.
Ronnie also won scratch with
74.

Fixtures: Friday 2 January,
nine-hole Cross Country. One
start at 10am. Open to Ladies,
Gents and Juniors. Sunday 4
January, Winter Cup Round
4.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 23 December,
Winter Cup. 1 Campbell

Laing 66, 2 Mark Sherwood
68, 3 Elizabeth Ross 71,
Scratch Mark Sherwood 72.
Fixtures: Saturday 3 January,
Lochranza Hotel Cup and
freebie final, tee-off 12noon.
Tuesday 6 January, Winter
Cup tee-off 12noon.

Shiskine Golf Club

Sunday 21 December, 12
Hole Medal and Winter Cup.
1 Donald Logan 48-5=43,
2 Lachlan Jones 53-9=44
BIH, 3 Willie McNally 57-
13=44. Scratch D Logan 48.

Sunday 28 December, Sta-
bleford, 25 played. 1 Gavin
Faulkner 30 points, 2 Jimmy
Morrison 25 points, 3 John
Salton 24 points BIH. Great
to see so many out.

Historical records

There are a number of historical
booklets on the birds on Arran,
for example 'The Birds of the Island
of Arran' written by JA Gibson in 1956
published by Bute Newspapers Lim-
ited.

In this booklet Gibson refers to an
earlier leaflet by Dr Martin Barry in
1863: 'A List of the Birds that have
been observed to breed on the island
of Arran since the year 1835'.

This three page list with species
like slender-billed tern and great
black-headed gull is not to be taken
seriously but is thought to have been
produced with the purpose of selling
Dr Barry's egg collection to better
advantage.

While historical records are inter-
esting, Arran bird records are sparse
until the Arran Natural History So-
ciety published its first annual Arran
Bird Report in 1978.

These reports provide a unique re-
cord of the bird life of this special
island over the last 30-plus years.

In 2006, the responsibility for writ-
ing the annual Arran bird report fell

to me. To do this effectively I appre-
ciate that I require the support of a
great many people.

I have been encouraged that in
2014 to date, I have received more
than 8,000 bird sightings from
around 300 contributors.

Some of these contributors are res-
idents and some are visitors but all
share an interest in the birds of Ar-
ran. Their sightings will form the ba-
sis of the 'Arran Bird Report 2014'.

This is an end of year prompt to en-
courage all Banner readers to share
their Arran bird sightings with me.

All contributions are welcome.

I am not just interested in rare or
unusual birds, but common birds:
where there are significant numbers
of common birds, which birds come
to the garden at different times of
the year, where breeding birds have
been seen, when our summer or win-
ter visitors have arrived or departed,
and what sightings have given indi-
viduals particular pleasure.

I know that a number of people
keep, for their own interest, all sorts

of bird notes and I would encourage
these people to share this informa-
tion with me, so that the basis of our
annual Arran Bird Report can be as
comprehensive as possible.

Best wishes for 2015.

Enjoy your birding.
Please send all sightings for 2014,
giving 'what, when, where', by
Monday 12 January to me at Kilpat-
rick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwa-
terfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at
james.cassels@virgin.net

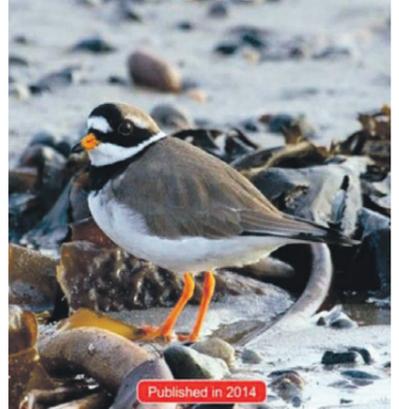
I look forward to hearing from you.
For more information on birding on
Arran purchase the 'Arran Bird At-
las 2007-2012' as well as the 'Arran
Bird Report 2013' and visit this web-
site www.arranbirding.co.uk

Bird notes

by Jim Cassels

JANUARY

ARRAN BIRD REPORT 2013



Jim is encouraging people
to share information about
Arran's birds so that the
basis of the annual Arran
Bird Report can be as
comprehensive as possible.

Published in 2014

A look back at the sporting achievements of 2014

July to December



Scott Clark, an international Highland Games champion, announced his intention to move back to Arran, where he was born and brought up, with his family, just before the Brodick Highland Games in August. 02_b32scott01



Winners Geoff Brooks, Stuart Davidson and Jessie Main with their trophies after the annual trials of the Kildonan and District Sheepdog Association. 20_b27dog02



A 5-0 defeat of Shiskine FC in August secured the Arran Football League 2014 for winners Brodick. 20_b32bro01



A total of 79 entrants took part in the Brodick Castle 5K fun run in July making it the biggest event of its kind ever held on Arran. 20_b27run06



The boys at Arran Rugby Club certainly had a spring in their step at pre-season training in September. They had a new secret weapon in their bid to perform at their best in their up and coming fixtures - Metafit. 20_b38rug02



More than 1,000 people, including 200 quad bike racers, attended the Connor Smith Memorial Meeting in Cumbria to remember the Arran teenager who was tragically killed in a racing accident last year.



Some rather ingenious costumes were on show back in August when the annual cricket fun day took place in Brodick. 20_b32cricket01



The 2014 Arran Golfers Association junior Kelso Cup winning team from Lamlash: Scott and Michael Macfarlane, left, Dylan Smith with the cup, and Fraser Mackenzie.

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A look back at the sporting achievements of 2014

July to December



In July, hill runner Kirstie Smith of Lamlash was off to the Alps for some elite mountain training as she joined the Trail Running Team 2014.



The Arran Bowling Federation trophies were presented to the winners in July.



Arran Riding Club's junior champion in July was Lizanne Dixon and her trusty steed Bolt, left, and reserve champion was Jasmine Scorey and usher.



The Arran Ladies Hockey Club reformed in September and so far have recorded not one single loss in the league.



Young jockey Nicola Currie from Shiskine on her horse Kilburn, which she raced at Newbury in July.



The ninth Allsop Memorial cricket match took place at the Sannox Oval in mid-July under gloriously sunny skies.

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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.