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Arran's Weekly Newspaper SATURDAY, 11 JANUARY 2014 No 1943 60p



Relief vessel the MV Clansman battled force nine gales on Friday but still sailed to Gourock. Photo by Stuart McKillop

Ferry confusion over Gourock bad weather sailings

Ardrossan Harbour fix 'not on the agenda'

REPORT
by JENNIFER LYON
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

There was joy but also consternation on the island this week when the relief ferry MV Clansman made regular sailings to Gourock during dreadful weather conditions. After weeks of cancelled sailings between Brodick and Ardrossan this is now the first time an Arran vessel has sailed to a relief port since February 2012, when the MV Isle of Arran completed a return journey from Brodick to

Wemyss Bay. This week Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson admitted that engineering works to improve access at Ardrossan Harbour for the MV Caledonian Isles are no longer an option. As a result many are now questioning why the vessel no longer uses Gourock when conditions in Ardrossan are too poor to sail. Despite severe weather warnings all week, since last Thursday the MV Clansman has made regular trips to the relief port of Gourock and there have been no ferry

cancellations since. This is in direct contrast to the festive period when many of the MV Caledonian Isles' crossings were cancelled and she failed to sail at all on Christmas Eve. **Annual refit** The Clansman has replaced the island's usual vessel as she goes into dry dock for her annual refit. Sheila Gilmore, executive director of VisitArran, said: 'Whilst VisitArran recognises that the current weather is not ideal for travel to and from Ardrossan, it used to be

the case that the boat would (as a worst case scenario) sail to Gourock. 'If it is the case that MV Caledonian Isles is not appropriate for diversion to Gourock (or even Wemyss Bay), might there be another suitable vessel within the fleet that could be used instead, in order that there is a lessened danger of there being no sailings at all on certain days.' She added: 'I was recently marketing Arran (and therefore by default CalMac) in Princes Square, Glasgow, and several people stated they

wouldn't come during the winter because they didn't know they would get back now - so this is lost revenue to both CalMac and the island as a whole. 'As someone who has lived on the island all my life, days where the boat didn't sail used to be few and far between. 'We might not be able to avoid the fact that there will be disruption but this may be managed if there is one 'guaranteed' sailing - even if that is to another port.' A spokesman for CalMac told The Banner that 'wires

are being crossed' about the two vessels. He said: 'As previously indicated we will use Gourock when it is appropriate to do so taking into account the conditions at the time and have been doing so during this period of extreme weather. 'The different vessels is irrelevant and there are no issues with the qualifications of the Masters.' The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee will meet on Monday night and both Ardrossan Harbour and Gourock will be on the agenda.

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Road to be closed at Witches Bridge

Drivers are reminded that the Boguille will be closed for six hours on Sunday (12 January) for roadworks. The road will be shut at the Witches Bridge on the A841 south of Lochranza from 9.30am to 3.30pm. North Ayrshire Council is to carry out bridge deck and abutment repairs on the bridge and following the closure there will be temporary traffic lights with a one way traffic flow for the remainder of the work, which is expected to take up to 10 days.

Arran Life winner announced

Laura Murchie from Blackwaterfoot is the lucky winner of the competition in the recent issue of Arran Life. Laura from Bailemargaidh has won the chance to enjoy a 'pampering' session at Auchrannie's luxury ASPA in Brodick. She and more than 50 entrants correctly guessed that Auchrannie celebrated its 25th birthday last summer. Well done Laura!

Banner newsdesk
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The water holds no fear for this dooker.

Douglas Dook for hardy swimmers



Annual swim on New Year's Day

More than 20 hardy souls took to the water on New Year's Day for the annual Douglas Dook. The swimmers had to brave the rain as they made their way from the Douglas Hotel to the Brodick slipway, but it was a lot wetter where they were going. As they disrobed, some plunged straight into the sea, while others took a more cautious approach. Passers by looked on as the participants enjoyed a quick dip before dashing back to the hotel for some well earned refreshments.

Swimmers take the plunge at the Douglas Dook. Photos by Stewart Macfarlane

Fury as historic propeller is put up for sale

The owner of the historic Queen Mary steamer has come under fire after one of the ship's propellers was put up for sale online. Businessman Ranjan Chowdhury pledged to launch a restoration programme of works after buying the only surviving Clyde-built turbine steamer three years ago. But the ship still lies rusting in an English dockyard and it has now emerged that one of her brass propellers was offered for sale at £15,000 on auction website eBay last month. Iain Sim, a trustee of the charity Friends of TS Queen Mary, which wants to buy the ship and bring her home to Govan, said: 'If we had the ship, the propeller would be kept as it's part of the ship's heritage. 'We have made our intentions very clear that we want to bring the ship back to Glasgow and would pay a fair price for her.' The Queen Mary ferried thousands of passengers 'doon the watter' for four decades to resorts such as Brodick, Largs, Rothesay and Campbeltown. But since being auctioned off in 2011, she has been left to languish at Tilbury Docks in Essex.

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Drop in and learn about community land bid

A bid to buy a disused farm at Whiting Bay for the benefit of the community has taken another major step forward.

Following discussions with local residents, the Arran Community Land Initiative has completed a draft feasibility study which will be explained at a drop in session at Whiting Bay Hall on Friday 17 January.

Juliette Walsh, founder of the initiative, said: 'We will be on hand from 2pm to 7pm to update all those who call in on the plans so far and hear what they have to say about the proposals.'

'The project is all about creating a community asset which is of benefit to Arran. We are very keen to hear additional views and comments which can be incorporated into the final plan.'

That plan will then form part of the funding bid to be submitted to the Scottish Land Fund. This is a chance in a lifetime opportunity to acquire the land and we hope to see lots of folk on the 17th.'

Also in attendance will be Malcolm Whitmore, community engagement officer and David Warnock, the consultant who is preparing the feasibility study into the viability of the project.

For more information Malcolm can be contacted on malcolmonarran@hotmail.com or by calling 01770 700367.

• Do you have a story for **The Arran Banner?** Call our reporters on 01770 302142

Flooded Brodick golf course is 'soul destroying' to see

Golfers in Brodick looked on in dismay as their course was flooded twice in a matter of days this week.

It is the first time it has happened in the 10 years head greenkeeper Keith Aitken has been on Arran and he admitted it was 'soul destroying'.

The first high tide and tidal surge saw the vast majority of the course under water on Friday when the water spread as far as the Auchranie road end. The water on the course drained over the weekend but after Monday's high tide three quarters of the 18-hole course was lying under water again.

Looking out over the course, Mr Aitken said: 'This is the fourth time I have seen it like this, but never twice in the same week.'

'It is soul destroying to see all the work that we have done literally washed away.'

Two new tees at the 12th and the 17th have been wrecked



Keith Aitken surveys the damage after Brodick Golf Course is submerged for a second time in a week.

20_b02green02



The damage caused to the course and first hole tees at Machrie Golf Course by Friday's storms.

by the surging waters along with the steps to many of the tees.

Mr Aitken said it would take him and the two other greenkeepers two or three weeks to get the course back in shape, although he was confident it would be playable a couple of days after the Banner spoke to him.

Meanwhile at Machrie Golf Course two tees at the first hole which have been there for 100 years have been damaged beyond repair.

The low lying part of the course was completely swamped by sea water on Friday and was deluged for a second time on Monday.

Head greenkeeper David Jeffrey said it was the first time in more than 20 years he had seen the course under so much water.

'The forward tee and the gents medal tees on the first hole will need to be completely rebuilt. The tees which have been there for 100 years are damaged beyond repair.'

However, he said there would be temporary tees further up the fairway to make a shorter hole and added: 'They will be out playing tomorrow (Tuesday).' Before the storm the club had already started work creating a new first hole and Mr Jeffrey has already built a green and fairway.

Support group plans move forward

Following an initial meeting last month to discuss a new support group for socially isolated people on the island, Arran Visual Arts and the Arran Community and Voluntary Service (ACVS) will be exploring options for developing ideas.

Morag Campbell, development worker for the ACVS, said: 'We would like to thank those who attended and registered interest in the proposed activities.'

'We will be exploring these ideas and in particular looking for premises and people who might have time to spare to help run projects.'

'Many skilled and talented people attended in December although many were unable to do so.'

'In light of this, we have arranged a meeting for Monday 20 January at 2pm in the Ormidale Pavilion to take the project forward and update you on recent developments.'

To attend the meeting or contribute, please contact the ACVS on 600611 or email bobbi.adamson@arrancvs.org.uk

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Salvation Army lunch club postponed

The Arran Salvation Army would like to convey its heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the meal on Christmas day possible.

A number of wonderful folk gave up their own day to make sure that others could come together and enjoy good company and a traditional Christmas lunch.

Every one of those who helped are so much appreciated. Thanks go to them all!

The re-start of the lunch clubs which was due to begin on Monday 13 January has had to be postponed until the following week.

Lexie Andrade of the Salvation Army said: 'We want to let all our regular customers know that we very much look forward to seeing them again on the 20th and are sorry that we have had to push the date back by one week.'

'See you in Lamlash at noon on the 20th!'

Found

Would the person who left a coat at Strabane House on December 18 like to call and claim it.

The gent's coat is almost new.

Oban Times' director stands down

The Oban Times' editorial director, Stewart MacKenzie, has decided to stand down from his position.

Mr MacKenzie had been with the company for 25 years and was one of The Oban Times' longest serving editors, taking up the role in 2001.

He said: 'Following a series of tragic family incidents I can no longer devote the necessary time to the role. I have had to devote all of my time to my family.'

Mr MacKenzie began working for The Oban Times in sales, working on the Scottish World title, before becoming involved in print buying and editing the farming and sport sections.

As editorial director he had responsibility for The Oban Times and its sister titles The Arran Banner, The Argyllshire Advertiser and The Campbeltown Courier.

His achievements included

producing The Oban Times' 150th anniversary supplement in 2011.

Mr MacKenzie, whose father Donald and uncle Alex both worked for The Oban Times before him, said: 'I was always surprised by the wide coverage that The Oban Times enjoyed. The newspaper has allowed me to speak to both local communities and those further afield.'

Community stories

'The stories I remember most are not always the big events. I can immediately think back to the train crash at Cruachan and a burning boat at Glensanda but the community stories are the ones that tend to stick in my mind.'

'It was a privilege and an honour to have been asked to direct editorial operations at the company.'

Howard Bennett, chairman of The Oban Times, added: 'We are all sorry to hear of Stewart's resignation under

editorial



Stewart MacKenzie is standing down as The Oban Times' editorial director.

very difficult circumstances but understand the reasons for his decision.

'I have known Stewart throughout his long career with the company as indeed

I knew Donald and Alex as valued members of the team and it was a great pleasure to work with them. Stewart leaves us with all our good wishes.'

Expansion plan for oyster firm

LOCH Fyne Oysters, which farms mussels on Arran, has announced a significant expansion of its business.

The Mid Argyll firm has struck a deal to buy over the Isle of Lewis based Hebridean Mussels and Hebridean Seafood operations as part of an ongoing strategy to increase shellfish production.

However the company will continue its mussel farming and processing in Lamlash Bay.

Both the Hebridean brands are well established mussel farming and processing operations, founded by Cree MacKenzie in 1992.

Cree said: 'I am pleased to announce the sale of our mussel farming operations to Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd. We see Loch Fyne Oysters as the ideal company to continue to develop mussel farming and processing in Loch Roag on the Isle of Lewis and Lamlash Bay, with their proven track record of rearing and supplying a variety of shellfish to the highest quality standards and will secure and increase employment in the local area.'

Loch Fyne Oysters became an employee-owned company in 2003.

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Expansion plans in the pipeline for brewery

Moving into a 'different league' of production

Arran Brewery is to press ahead with major expansion plans in the coming months.

The proposals will see upgrading work at the Cladach brewery in Brodick which will see the company move into a 'different league' of production.

Packaging of the beer will be moved off the island to create more space. Gerald Michaluk, managing director of Arran Brewery Ltd, said: 'The brewery has had great success and Arran Blonde has reached the top 10 best selling ales list in Scotland and arguably number one in the craft ale market - quite some achievement for an island based brewery.'

'This has meant that we now have to realistically plan to move into a different league of production and the

brewery on Arran will need to produce more beer than ever before at a lower price.

'To achieve this we need to make several upgrades and sacrifice packaging on the island to create the space for expansion.

'And to expand we will need to install new malt storage hoppers, a malt mill and more storage tanks for finished beer. This will mean more brewing and bulk movement of beer.'

But Mr Michaluk admits the present site at Cladach may not be big enough for longer term plans.

He said: 'We have looked at alternative sites but potential sellers have wanted unrealistic money for their property, which remain unsold or empty, and we do not want to lease without an option to purchase.'

'We have this unsatisfactory arrangement at Cladach, where we own the buildings but not the land they stand on, so in the longer term we will re-locate the brewery to another location on the island, if the right site can be found at a realistic price. Part of the funding of the production expansion will be met through the crowd funding initiative launched at the end of last year which the company hopes will raise £4 million.'

Mr Michaluk said: 'We have great support from the Bank of Scotland but the brewery will require additional funds and we are offering our shares to the public and hope that those in the West of Scotland particularly will want to support the development on Arran and will consider purchasing shares.'



George Fullerton and Betty Roberts enjoy a game of dominoes. 20_b02dom02

MacKelvie Road team is on the look out for opponents

Betty Roberts is an island domino champion and has the trophy to prove it.

The pensioner picked up the MacKelvie Road Cup after a competition among the residents of the Lamash sheltered housing complex.

Residents play dominoes three times a week in the communal area linked to the 21 flats.

They also have a team of three who are open to challenges from teams across the island.

The team is made up of Mrs Roberts, who has stayed in the complex for a year, George Fullerton, a three-and-a-half-year resident, and Husyein Ali, who unfortunately is in hospital.

'The last time we organised an event everyone chickened

out at the last minute,' Mr Fullerton said.

The domino events are organised by Michael Fisher, who said: 'There is a real community spirit at MacKelvie Road and the domino events help bring the residents together.'



Betty Roberts with her domino trophy. 20_b02dom01

Missing cat

A male tabby cat has been missing in the Brodick area for the past two weeks.

Stripey, who has distinctive marks on his tail, was spotted close to Montrose House this week.

Please contact 303779 if found or seen.

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Corrie Christmas party thanks

The organisers of the Corrie and Sannox Children's Christmas party would like to thank all who contributed generously to the event.

It was a fun time for all who were there and a special thank you goes to Santa, the Corrie and Sannox Golf Club tearoom, Bilslands and the Corrie and Sannox Village Committee.

Bridge results

Arran Bridge Club held its first competition of the new year on Monday 6 January.

The aggregate points results were: N/S 1 Tricia Martin and Alison Bilsland, 2 Ellie and Mel Jones, 3 Janie Maclure and Anne McKelvie. E/W 1 John and Mary Dick, 2 Jessmay and Jim Peacock, 3 Helen Boyd and Jean Murchie.

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THE ARRAN BANNER

Polar vortex extreme weather worries

Well 2014 has certainly started with a bang as extreme weather systems cause havoc both in the UK and worldwide.

Unusually high tides and gale force winds this week resulted in a lot of flooding on Arran but thankfully no homes were damaged.

The rest of the country hasn't been so lucky as many places have suffered mass destruction at the hands of Mother Nature.

We've had a rocky ride weatherwise recently.

Wednesday was the first time since December 15 that the 7am ferry sailed from Ardrossan to Brodick.

This caused mayhem with our postal service and other deliveries in the lead up to the festive period - Royal Mail is still dealing with the backlog.

Christmas and New Year were also marred by ferry cancellations and disruptions which stopped many people making it to Arran for the holidays.

There has been what can only be described as 'polar bear weather' for much of the Midwest of America this week.

Temperatures reached between -28°C and -35°C in eastern Montana, North Dakota, northeast South Dakota, Minnesota and northern Iowa.

In the stiff wind, it's even worse with wind chills reaching -40°C and -45°C common across Minnesota and North Dakota, cold enough for exposed skin to suffer frostbite in just five minutes.

And of course earlier in the year Typhoon Haiyan caused mass destruction and killed thousands of people in the Philippines.

The devastation caused two months ago has dropped out of the headlines but the massive relief effort is expected to carry on for years.

Dr Keiran Hickey, a climatologist at the National University of Ireland in Galway, said that the big issue is the number of severe weather extremes we're seeing around the world, including in the UK and in Europe but also in North America as well.

He believes that they fit nicely into the predictions for climate change and global warming in that we could see more severe big weather events which seem to be getting worse as climate disturbance, less so-called 'normal' weather and more extremes take place.

Whatever the cause of these freak high tides and the increasingly stormy weather it is a worry - especially for those of us living on an island!

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

'Because Jesus has Himself passed through the test of suffering, He is able to help those who are in the midst of their test.' (Hebrews 2:18)

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

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Letters to the Editor



Ferry answers needed

This is a letter sent to Kenneth Gibson MSP on Tuesday by Neil Arthur from Kilpatrick.

Sir,
I am sure you are aware of at least some of the issues about the Arran ferry over recent weeks and it is a major concern on the island from a number of different perspectives.

I wonder if you would be able to assist in getting some details in order to enlighten the island residents and our many loyal regular visitors.

The main points raised seem to be:

1 Apparently CMAL have stated that the 'port of refuge' continues to be Gourock and will be used in the event of Ardrossan being unusable for any reason.

However it is considered locally that Gourock has not been used for that purpose for approximately two years until the relief vessel (MV Clansman) arrived on January 3, 2014.

There were several days with no Arran service in the four weeks or so before that when the usual vessel, the MV Caledonian Isles was in service.

2 Since the Caledonian Isles and the Clansman are almost identical i.e. only three metres difference in the overall length, identical beam, identical draught and a small percentage difference of approximately 200 tonnes in the gross tonnage of 5,400 tonnes, it begs the question about how suddenly Gourock has come back into use assuming that both crews are similarly qualified.

The skipper and crew of the Clansman are to be applauded but none the less this question requires an answer.

3 Let me make it clear that it is acknowledged that where a passage to Ardrossan would be dangerous or not possible for technical reasons a sailing to Gourock is better than no sailing but this also highlights concerns about the imminent proposed investment of £20m at Brodick if no engineered solution is to be found for the

problems at Ardrossan. This needs to be addressed.

4 If there could be no safe passage to either Ardrossan or Gourock on December 24, 2013 why was there not at least one sailing on the morning of December 25 (Christmas Day) as there was I believe to Uist and Harris demonstrating that, that with some goodwill there can be flexibility where required. An explanation from the company about the inconsistency of this is required.

5 For a change these ferry matters, rather than the island's roads, are probably the main local talking point - because of the impact it has on businesses, island economy, reputation for tourism, pleasure, missed hospital appointments and flights etc.

In addition, recent figures showed that Arran is one of the few, or perhaps the only island, with a falling population and an insecure or unreliable transport system may only accelerate that decline.

Of course CMAL is not responsible or to blame for the weather and recent weather events have been exceptional.

I am sure that CMAL statistics will prove that it achieves the vast majority of its sailings on time - that is not disputed and on those occasions the efforts and service of the crew members of the Cally Isles and shore staff are very much appreciated but the points raised above do require some answers.

Yours,
Neil Arthur
Kilpatrick

Below is the very prompt response Neil Arthur received from Kenneth Gibson MSP.

Thank you for this Neil. These matters will be discussed at Monday night's Isle of Arran Ferry Committee.

The obvious long-term solution is better vessels, designed for the waters to be traversed and that's what we intend to deliver.

Sadly, the UK government has cut Scotland's capital budget by 27.9 per cent over three years and our predecessors did not invest enough in

fleet renewal.

Thus - and with numerous routes affected - we cannot deliver these expensive new vessels as quickly as we would like but will do so as speedily as we can!

There are no quick fixes.

I spoke to Transport Minister Keith Brown only an hour ago. He may be able to deliver sooner than currently anticipated but discussions are at an early stage so I cannot comment further at this stage.

Incidentally, I spoke to Euan Jamieson, property director at Clydeport this morning. He is in discussion with CMAL about how the port can be improved, including berthing new vessels and in anticipation of RET from October.

A 'fully engineered solution' is not on the agenda though!

Yours,
Kenneth J Gibson MSP
Cunninghame North

Ferry disservice

Sir,
As I sit here this morning looking out over a choppy Kilbrannan Sound I reflect upon the ferry service we haven't had for a good while now.

For the last umpteen nights now, the ferry has sat alongside in Brodick, reason: 'Because of an overnight forecast of winds in excess of 40/45/50 mph the ferry will remain in Brodick overnight and as such the 7am sailing from Ardrossan is cancelled'.

Right, stop there, winds in excess of whatever overnight?

The ferry doesn't sail at night so why sit on an exposed berth when they could be in the shelter of Ardrossan and when the overnight winds die away the ferry can sail on schedule and bring us our newspapers, mail and victuals instead of having to wait till midday at best and more often than not, the next day for mail.

The first chance we're going to have of getting today's mail (31 December) will be January 2 or even January 3. Why?

Now that that grumble is out of the way may I ask, through

the columns of your newspaper, which agency CalMac use for their weather forecasts because it's not the Met Office or XCWeather because they are nearly always in contradiction of CalMac's pie in the sky weather reports/forecasts/predictions.

Case in point, today's sailings are on amber alert because of forecasted winds in excess of 45mph.

Checking both the Met Office site for Ardrossan and XCWeather's Prestwick the next forecasted winds over 35mph is on January 3 so watch out people it also coincides with afternoon high tides of 3.3 metres a/c, so passengers may well have to embark via the car deck for the 1.50pm sailing, if indeed it does.

Yours,
John Lawson
Cairngorm
Catacol

Ferry rights

Sir,
Do squatters' rights apply on ferries?

If so, may I respectfully suggest we assemble on board MV Clansman when she is due to leave these waters - and do what we can to keep her here?

Not only can she reach places where other more familiar vessels evidently can't, she is a much more pleasurable ship in which to sail.

Yours,
David Kelso
Sannox

Winter resilience

Sir,
Professor Sir John Beddington (government chief scientific advisor until April 2013) has repeatedly warned that the trend of worsening weather will continue; the effect on transport over the Christmas period is minor in implication by comparison to the hazard to life and property - that must be the primary consideration for the captain of the MV Caledonian Isles before he decides to sail for Ardrossan.

In February 2013 Robert Davie, policy manager at

Continued on Page 7

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Letters to the Editor



Continued from Page 6

Transport Scotland, stated to me that there would be engagement between CMAL, Clydeport, CalMac and Transport Scotland to chiefly ensure improved winter resilience at Ardrossan.

In fact there is a difference of assessment between CalMac and Clydeport (Ardrossan).

a) Arran Community Council minutes of June 2012 report: Clydeport carried out an analysis of the cancellations over a several year period and also confirmed that they had carried out marine simulations of 'the berthing of the Caledonian Isles at Ardrossan in a variety of conditions'. They used technical data of the Caledonian Isles provided by CalMac.

It states the simulations have established that 'it is safe to berth or depart at 35knts in South Easterly and South Westerly winds'.

b) Arran Banner on April 14, 2012 quoted the DML response on behalf of CalMac 'for a two boat service to be viable, a significant upgrade of Ardrossan Harbour is necessary'.

The Brodick berth requires major renovation, but the proposed £18m development does nothing to address the priorities, indeed the terminal design is ugly and the proposed berthing is based on a simulation package Clydeport have used to dispute with CalMac.

I suggest it is incumbent on Transport Scotland to accelerate measures to improve the winter resilience at Ardrossan, but such measures seem unlikely to manifest improvement in our winter ferry service for several years - get used to it.

Yours,
Alasdair Stewart Hall
Largymore
Whiting Bay

Wrong boat, wrong harbour

Sir,
I would like to point out that we all now know that not only do we have the wrong harbour but we also have the wrong boat - Ardrossan which is not safe in a wind stronger than a zephyr and the MV Caledonian Isles which can't dock at Gourrock the port of refuge.

If the MV Clansman had not been relieving the Caledonian Isles, Arran would not have had a ferry for four days from January 4.

The situation is not acceptable and it is up to the Scottish government, who are the owners, to show some leadership and solve this problem.

Yours,
Lindsay Keir
Wooleys of Arran Ltd
Inverclyde
Brodick

Overwhelming opposition

Sir,
Your last 2013 editorial stated: 'the proposed biomass plant... is continuing to divide opinion on the island'.

I'm not sure what your definition of division is, nor the statistical evidence on which you base your assertion.

The only publicly available statistical evidence, until such time as Jackson Carlaw's survey results are published, is available on the NAC planning website, where over 99 per cent of the feedback - from over 500 respondents - is hostile to the application. Opposition to the plant may

not be unanimous, but it is certainly overwhelming.

Yours,
Douglas Templeton
Whiting Bay

Common sense praised

Sir,
Thank you Captain 'Hurricane' McCrindle for finally using some common sense and sailing the Arran ferry to Gourrock.

Instead of being stranded in Brodick for hours on end waiting for the MV Caledonian Isles to sail - as has happened many times during the festive period - we were able to get off the island as planned.

Is it possible for Arran to keep the Clansman and send the Cally Isles, which in my opinion is not fit for purpose, to the scarp heap?

Yours,
Ken McCrindle
(no relation)
Belfast

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Corrie Film Club

January film of the month:
Scarecrow (Cert 12)

Corrie Film Club welcomes 2014 with an intriguing film by American director, Jerry Shatzberg starring Gene Hackman and Al Pacino in great and unusual form as two drifters crossing America in pursuit of their dream of running a car wash business.

Max (Gene Hackman) is an ex-con who's been saving money to open a car wash in Pittsburgh. Lionel (Al Pacino) is a sailor who's returning home to the midwest to see the child born while he was at sea.

The story revolves around the odd relationship between the two vagabonds who meet on the road in California and agree to become partners in a business, once they reach Pittsburgh. Lionel is on his way to Detroit to see the child he has

never met and make amends with his wife Annie, to whom he has been sending all the money he made while at sea.

Max agrees to make a detour on his way to Pittsburgh, where the bank that Max has been sending all his seed money is located.

Profound effect

His plans are to open a car wash, with Lionel as a partner. The two have a profound effect on each other, with Lionel becoming more of an adult and Max loosening up his high-strung aggression.

At times very amusing and, at times very poignant, this is an interesting film which you can see in Corrie Hall this weekend, on Sunday at 8pm.

All welcome.
Also - a date for your diary - Day in the Dark - this year's mini film festival is Saturday 1 February. Details to follow.

Christmas party success

The Shiskine and Machrie Senior Citizens Committee would like to thank everyone for coming along and making their Christmas party such a success.

Special thanks to Shiskine School and Nursery, Kinloch Hotel, John Robertson, Shiskine Hall, Fiona and Santa.

A spokesman said: 'We had a great afternoon of entertainment, dinner and raffle so generously contributed. 'We look forward to seeing you at our coffee afternoon on Saturday 1 February at The Kinloch Hotel. 'All the best for 2014.'

The Arran Banner on holiday



Pictured reading The Banner at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida are Pamela Jack - who is seen below the Apollo 11 rocket engines - while husband David is pictured in the cockpit of the original space shuttle Atlantis.



'The Banner on Holiday' feature started five years ago, and we continue to be absolutely overwhelmed by the number of fantastic photographs of our readers that have come through the doors.

Don't forget to pack your copy of The Banner if you are going on holiday.

It could be from Falkirk or Fiji, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs.

Please send them to us either by email to editor@arranbanner.co.uk or to The Arran Banner, Douglas Centre, Brodick KA27 8AJ. b50florida01NO and b50florida02NO



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The sea flooded Brodick Golf Course and reached the Auchrannie road end. 20_b02flood14



The Boathouse is marooned by water on all sides. 20_b02flood11



Shore Road in Brodick is completely flooded. 20_b02flood09

Storms bring chaos across Arran

Highest tides for more than 20 years

A major clear up operation is underway after Arran was hit by the worst flooding in more than 20 years.

Roads were damaged as waves lashed the coastal roads around the island.

A tidal surge at high tide on Friday combined with severe gale force winds caused extensive flooding problems.

Homes and businesses around the island took precautions ahead of the predicted storms, with those most at risk prepared with sandbags.

The tides on the island were the highest seen since January 5 1991. And, despite some close calls, there were no reports of flooded properties on the island.

On Friday SEPA issued a flood warning - the second highest category - for Arran seafront and there was particular concern for parts of Brodick, Whiting Bay, including Montrose Terrace, Lamlash and Cordon.

Kildonan was also badly hit where a stretch of road at The Keys housing estate had the tarmac ripped from the surface such was the strength of the waves. Part of the road also collapsed into the sea.

And just south of Corrie part of the road also collapsed in

a repeat of damage caused in 1991.

High tides combined with a surge of 1.5m hit early on Friday afternoon. And these coupled with strong south westerly winds caused huge wave and spray problems across the island. However, the westerly direction of the winds saved Arran getting the worst of the storm.

At one point roads on the islands were closed at six different places and driving was treacherous with waves washing seaweed and debris on to the roads.

North Ayrshire Council workers were out across the island issuing sandbags and offering advice to properties at risk of flooding.

Waters began to rise before noon with a 1.15m high tide on Friday with Brodick Golf Course already badly flooded.

As the tide rose the entire low lying ground at Invercloy began to flood leaving The Boathouse looking like a floating shop surrounded by water with the putting green and car park of the smaller Co-op flooded to within inches of the shop.

On Shore Road the entire street was flooded at the slipway with water spilling into

Bilslands car park. In Lamlash the entire pier disappeared under the waves and people scrambled to get their boats out of danger.

Donald Johnston of Johnston's Marine Stores said it was the highest tide he had seen since 1991 when the water reached the door of his shop.

It did not reach quite as far on Friday but was not far away.

'A 3.5 metre high tide, combined with a 1.5 metre tide surge is huge amount of water,' he said.

At the Drift Inn owner Ewan Henderson watched with trepidation as the waters continued to rise with waves almost reaching the beer garden

Emergency sandbags were brought in but the high tide passed without the water reaching the pub.

Ewan said: 'That is the highest I have seen the tide since we came here in April. It was worrying for a while but we are prepared with sandbags now.'

Flooding closed the main road into Cordon for several hours and while the sea came close to several houses there were no reports of any flooding.

In Whiting Bay The Village Shop had a close call. Manager Sheena McDonald had

www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Unlock your empty home's potential



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For more information on our loan fund, or to discuss your individual circumstances, please contact North Ayrshire Council on:

01294 324644

psadvice@north-ayrshire.gov.uk





Waves lash the back of the shops in Whiting Bay. 20_b02flood03



It is hard to see where the sea ends and the car park begins at Brodick Pier. 20_b02flood16



The sea comes closer to the road end at Montrose Terrace. 20_b02flood06



Lamlash pier was completely submerged by the high tide. 20_b02flood02



The stretch of road in Kildonan which has been badly damaged by the storms. 20_b02flood23



The storms damaged a stretch of the road just south of Corrie. 20_b02flood20

ing flood is Arran than 20 years

sandbags at the back door with the sea inches from the shop. 'We escaped by the skin of our teeth,' she said.

And along at Montrose Terrace council workmen were out with sandbags after the Glenashdale Burn threatened to burst its banks, but again while the water came close it did not reach any houses.

And the storm was not finished yet. A second high tide on Monday again led to a flood warning for Lamlash and Cordon and all coastal schools on the island were closed at lunchtime. The shore road at Margnaeglish took the brunt of the storm which also flooded The Boat-house car park in Brodick and the golf course.

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Jim is not just interested in rare or unusual birds, but common birds too.

Arran Bird Report

There are a number of historical booklets on the birds on Arran.

For example there are two with very similar titles, one 'Birds of Arran' written by Robert Gray in 1872 published by Bell and Bain of Glasgow and 'The Birds of Arran' written by JA Gibson in 1956 published by Bute Newspapers Limited.

While historical records are interesting, Arran bird records are sparse until the Arran Natural History Society published its first annual Arran Bird Report in 1978.

These reports provide a unique record of the bird life of this special island over the last 30 odd years.

In 2006, the responsibility for writing the annual Arran bird report fell to me.

To do this effectively I appreciate that I require the support of a great many people.

I have been encouraged that in 2013, I have received almost 6,000 bird sightings from around 300 contributors.

Some of these contributors are residents and some are visitors. All share an interest in the birds of Arran.

Their sightings will form

the basis of the 'Arran Bird Report 2013'.

This is a start of year prompt to encourage 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 winter visitors have arrived or departed, and what sightings have given individuals 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 information with me, so that the basis of our annual Arran Bird Report can be as comprehensive as possible.

Best wishes for 2014.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send all sightings for 2013, giving 'what, when, where', to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net

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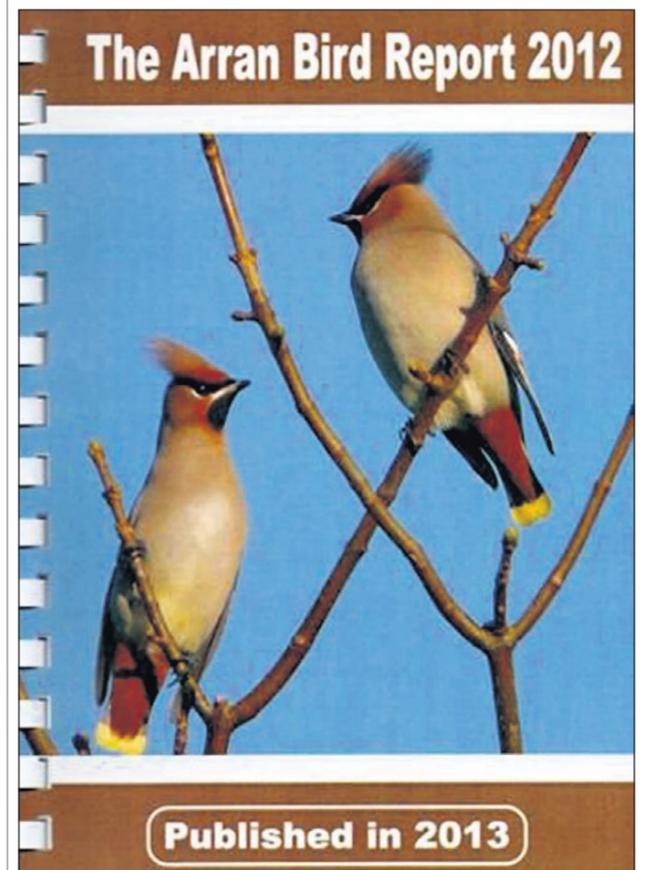
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For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Report 2012.

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 15 January, 1994

Long player

Hamish Cook played his last hymns as Whiting Bay Church organist last Sunday after 59 years.

In that time he has seen seven ministers come and go and he said: 'They were all different.'

At the end of Sunday's service the present minister the Rev Elizabeth Watson made a short speech of appreciation and presented Hamish with an oil painting of Mayfield, Kings Cross where he was born and brought up his own family.

Stella honoured

Miss Stella MacCrae of Lamlass was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List for services to the British Red Cross on Arran.

But Stella has been a tireless worker for many charities for a number of years including Arran Brass, Cancer Research, local churches, the Junior Mountain Rescue and Guide Dogs for the Blind. A list which indicates the wide spread of her work since coming to Arran in 1954 having left the Diplomatic Service to look after her ailing parents.

But she said modestly: 'I never started anything. I just try and help.'

Last stand

Arran may yet remain in a unitary Cunninghame authority rather than become part of North Ayrshire.

A week before the second reading of the Local Government (Scotland) Bill is due to start in parliament, two moves from the local authorities due to make up the new authority may yet bring about a change of plan.

The first is from Cunninghame District Council where councillors of all parties want their authority to remain as it is. The second is from the two other authorities which would make up North Ayrshire - Kilmarnock and Loudoun and Cumnock and Doon Valley - who want to unite to form one unitary authority.

A survey conducted for CDC on Cunninghame as a unitary authority suggests the council has adequate facilities within its existing boundaries to provide most of its services.

Ferry misery

A farmer has missed out on the chance of a coveted prize because the judge could not get to the island on the due day.

On Wednesday the MV Caledonian Isles sailed to Gourrock in the morning but did not get back to Brodick until 4pm after having difficulties berthing at Gourrock.

As a result an agricultural judge on his way to Clauchlands Farm in Lamlass was unable to make the trip.

Farmer Alex Reid had reached the final in a competition for animal feed and silage but was disqualified when the judge could not travel. To make matters worse the same thing happened last year.

New dentist

Following the departure of Morag Nelson last month Arran has been without a resident dentist.

At present Mrs Fay Storey is undertaking locum work, but next month a new resident dentist will start on the island, employed by Ayrshire and Arran Health Board.

Miss Nelson has moved to a practice in Stevenson.



Hamish Cook is presented with a painting by the Rev Elizabeth Watson on his retirement as Whiting Bay Church organist after 59 years. b02twe01



In another panto scene Flip and Flap (Mary Crawford and Pam McKinnon) help Dame Drinkup (Allan Little) to paper the parlour. b20twe04



It's panto time again and Lamlass Drama Club are performing Little Miss Muffet in the community centre. Here we see Sheila Gilmore as Captain Jack Dauntless coming to the aid of Eilidh Campbell as Little Miss Molly Muffet. b02twe03



Right: Stella MacRae of Lamlass who received an MBE for her charity work in the New Year's Honours List. b02twe02

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

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Everyday

Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, Bank fishing
 Brodick Castle, Garden Open Daily 9am-Dusk
 Arran Brewery Open Mon-Fri 12.30-5pm, Sat 10-5pm Closed Sunday
 Arran Brewery tour 2pm

Saturday 11th January

Army Cadets Auchrannie Road 11am - 1 pm.
 Over 21s Disco Ormidale Hotel, 10pm
 Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am-12.30pm
 Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Arran Dancers (4yrs & up) Arran High School, 10am
 Junior Football P4s and upwards, Arran High School, 11am-12.30pm
 Beer Tasting 7pm, PHT, Lamlash

Sunday 12th January

Family Games Auchrannie Games Hall, 3pm-4pm
 Fun in the pool Auchrannie Spa Pool, 4pm-5pm
 Cocaine Anonymous (& all other drugs) Ormidale sports pavilion, 2pm - 3.30pm
 AA Meeting Brodick Church Hall, 4pm - 6pm

Monday 13th January

Quiz Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm
 Over 50s Badminton Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Citizens Advice Ormidale Pavilion, 9.30-1.30pm
 Senior Fitness Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Table Tennis Corrie Hall, 6.30pm
 Badminton Auchrannie Sports Hall, 7-9pm
 Arran Junior Football Club Ormidale Park, 6-7.30pm
 Yoga Corrie Village Hall, 11am - 12noon
 Lunch club Lamlash Sheltered Housing, 12 noon
 Yoga - Arran Kinneil, Lamlash, 3-4.30pm
 Shirley & Sarah fitness class Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm

Scottish Country Dancing
 Bridge Club
 Metafit

Tuesday 14th January

Pop Quiz
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Youth Club
 Rotary club
 Streetly Dance pre school
 Streetly Dancing minis P1-3
 Streetly Dancing Juniors P4-7
 Streetly Dancing Seniors
 Weight Watchers
 Junior Hockey Club
 Healthy Outdoors
 Food and craft market
 Winter bowls
 SFA Early Touch Football
 Metafit
 Scottish Country Dancing

Beginners & Improvers Corrie Hall, 2-4pm
 Lamlash Golf Clubhouse 7pm
 Shiskine Hall, 5.15 -5.45pm

Wednesday 15th January

Hockey
 Tae Kwondo
 Alcoholics Anonymous
 Arran Brass Rehearsal
 Yogalates
 Aquafizz
 Music Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones
 Arran Heritage Museum Archives & Genealogy service
 RunArran mixed ability
 Yoga-Arran
 Sports Club
 Elderly Forum
 A week in Orkney (Friends of Brodick Castle)

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.45-2.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4-4.45pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 4.45-5.30pm
 Auchrannie Gym Hall, 5.30-6.15pm
 St Molios Church Hall, 7pm
 Auchrannie Sports Hall, 6-7pm
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
 Ormidale Pavilion, 11am - 4pm
 Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm
 P1-P4s, Arran High School, 6-7pm
 Arran High School, 6pm - 6.30pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm

Thursday 16th January

Senior Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Lochranza Craft Club
 Live music
 Weight Watchers
 Yoga
 Shirley & Sarah fitness class
 Brodick Embroidery Group
 Winter bowls
 Metafit
 Bridge Club
 Explore Christianity

Auchrannie Gym, 9.30-10.30am
 Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Lochranza Hall, 2pm
 Eden Lodge, Whiting Bay 8.30-11.00pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 5.30pm
 Corrie Village Hall, 6pm - 7pm
 Lamlash High School, 6.30-7.30pm
 Brodick Library, 7.30pm
 Auchrannie sports hall, 7pm
 Auchrannie sports hall, 6pm - 6.30pm
 Brodick Golf Clubhouse, 7pm
 The Courtyard, Smiddy Brae, WBay, 7pm

Friday 17th January

Aqua Fizz
 Yogalates
 Arran Youth Foundations
 Lochranza Kids Badminton
 Lochranza Adults Badminton
 RunArran Coaching
 Active Buggies
 Overeaters Anonymous
 Arran Ceilidh Dancers
 Arran Community Land initiative

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
 Ormidale Park 9.30am
 Ormidale Park, 10am
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick 11.30-1pm
 Lamlash church hall, 8-10pm
 Whiting Bay Hall, 2-7pm

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Reader Photos



Iain MacLean of Lochranza sent us this incredible picture of the lunchtime bus making its way through the high tides in the village last Friday.

Trust to hold open day at Lamlash and Brodict sites

Isle of Arran Homes is holding an open day tomorrow (Saturday 18 January) from 10am to noon at their Glen Estate development in Brodict and then from 1pm to 3pm at their MacKelvie Road development in Lamlash.

The open day is for potential tenants and their families and the local community.

Ann Reid, coordinator at Glen Estate, Brodict said: 'Working daily with our tenants I fully believe that we provide the most practical housing option for many retired people; to have a place they can call home, with no

responsibilities for repairs and maintenance, and as little or as much care and support as they need. Moving to sheltered accommodation can help older people to remain independent for longer.'

The day will give people the opportunity to talk to staff and find out more about Housing Benefit, the nomination and application processes, have a tour of the development and get the chance to speak to experts.

Anyone who is interested in attending should contact Ann Reid on 302 716 or Mary Adams on 600100.

Property

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Public Notice

ARRAN MEDICAL GROUP

The Lamlash Medical Centre will be

Closed for redecoration from Monday 20th January

and will re-open on Thursday 23rd January

During the closure of Lamlash Medical Centre appointments will be available in Whiting Bay and Brodict for the duration of the work.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL: EDUCATION AND SKILLS CHILDREN ENTITLED TO START P1 - SESSION 2014/2015

Children who attain the age of 5 years between 1 March 2014 and 28 February 2015 should be registered for education during the week commencing Monday 13 January 2014.

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.

Elderbank Primary School, Irvine will combine the current catchments of Broomlands, Fencedyke and Towerlands Primary Schools.

If your child is due to attend the new school in August 2014, you should contact Broomlands, Fencedyke or Towerlands Primary School to arrange a suitable date and time for registering your child.

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.

Carol Kirk
 Corporate Director (Education and Skills)



NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

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transporter/trailer £200 ono, Tel:
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- 72cm high x 34cm wide.
Very Good Condition. £30. Tel:
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Beekeepers hat with veil, gloves,
smoker etc £29 Tel: 700367

Scarpa winter boots size 11 (47)
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CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(in full communion with the Church of England)
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.
Sunday, 12th January
11.00 am, Holy Communion.
Mrs Janis Gallagher. Coffee after service.
ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

Sunday, 19th January
at 12.00 noon in Whiting Bay and Kildonan Church.
With Arran Brass.
Preacher: Mr Kieran Turner, Public Policy Officer, Evangelical Alliance.
BE THERE! EVERYBODY IS MOST WELCOME.
COFFEE WILL BE SERVED FROM 11.15 IN THE CHURCH HALL.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Parishes of North Arran Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirmill and Shiskine Independent but working together
Minister:
Rev Angus Adamson
Parish assistant:
Mrs Jean Hunter:
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times to which all are invited.
Sunday 12th January
Brodick Church, 10.30am, Morning Worship.
Corrie Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.
A Service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm
Lochranza and Pirmill Churches, 10.15am, Morning Worship at Pirmill Shiskine Church, 12noon, Morning Worship.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Kilmory linked with Lamlash "A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"
Sunday 12th January
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Both Churches:
Mr Ian Watt
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
(Charity Number: SC014005)
Sunday 12th January
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service.
All welcome.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday morning masses 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings
Sunday 12th January
11 a.m. Morning Worship in The Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea & coffee after the service.
Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.
Home Fellowship Group for Bible Study and Prayer.
Contact phone no. 600222.
Everyone warmly invited.

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Sunday 12th January
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)
Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Mr Martin Haworth

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)

Sunday 12th January
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge
Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6-30 pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Wednesday 15th January
Prayer Meeting 7pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
All welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

SALVATION ARMY

House Group/Bible Study.
Mondays 2.30pm.
If you are interested in joining us please ring 810251 for more information.

DEATHS

STONE - Loving and happy memories of Chris who passed away peacefully in Lamlash hospital on 30/12/2012. Will never be forgotten by his wife and family. We would like to thank Doctors, nursing staff at Lamlash hospital, District nursing, Home care and a very special thank you to all the girls at Stronach day care.

ENGAGEMENT

GRAEME TOD (Balgowan Farm) and CATRIONA ALLISON (Tighnamara, Blackwaterfoot)
Both families are delighted to announce the engagement between Graeme and Catriona. Our hearty congratulations to the happy couple - watch this space for further news of stage 2



Shiskine Golf Club

The Mahogany Trophy was held on Tuesday 31 December when 24 played.

First Class: 1 and Scratch Ken McKinlay 46-3=43, 2 Colin Allison 49-4=45, 3 Jimmy Morrison 51-5=46 BIH. Second Class: 1 John Clark 54-8=46, 2 Michael Maxton 59-12=47 BIH, 3 David Ritchie 55-8=47. Magic twos by J Morrison, D Ritchie and K McKinlay. Congratulations Ken on winning the trophy.

A good turnout for the ladies in the Alan Smith Plate on New Year's Day, getting round okay. However the Gents Colditz Quich was abandoned half way round as the weather turned for the worse.

Plate results: 1 Fiona Malcolm 56-15=41, 2 Fiona Crawford 53-7=46, 3 Mairi Ritchie 62-16=47. Well done Fiona M on winning the plate.

D S Bannatyne Shield - Mixed Foursomes played on Tuesday 2 January. A record turnout of 58 enjoyed this New Year tradition. 1 Lesley Murray and Willie McNally 56-15=41, 2 John Culpan and Marilyn Muirhead 53-10.5=42.5. Very well done to Lesley and Willie.

A rearranged game following bad weather on the 1st. An early start proved correct as the rain started just as the last few finished.

Sunday 5 January, Colditz Quich/Winter Cup/12 Hole Medal, 13 played. 1 and Scratch Gordon



Ken McKinlay won the Mahogany Trophy on the last day of 2013 and Fiona Malcolm won the Alan Smith Plate on New Year's Day at Shiskine.



Winners on Boxing Day in the Charity Texas Scramble at Shiskine Golf Club were Jock Kelso, Joe Faulkner, and Elizabeth and Willie Kelso.

Stewart 50-6=44, 2 Alan Bannatyne 58-13=45, 3 Willie Kelso 51-4=47 BIH. Only Magic Two of the day was Brian Sherwood at the 7th. Congratulations Gordon on winning the Colditz Quich.

Fixtures: Thursday 16 January, Ladies 18 Hole Medal, 10.30am tee-off. Saturday 18 January, Gents 18 Hole Medal, noon tee-off. Sunday 19 January, Gents Ryder Cup.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday 29 December, Gents Winter Cup, 18 played (non handicap counter). 1 K McMillan (13)41pts acb, 2 E McKinnon (+1)34pts, 3 D Hendry (13)39pts.

Wednesday 1 Jan Hirsch Trophy. Winner: 1 Macdonald (7)35pts acb. Runner Up: J Armit (7)35pts.

Thursday 2 January, Course Backwards Competition. 1 R McCrae (7)34pts, 2 D McKinnie (9)30pts, 3 J Harvey (18)29pts.

Sunday 5 January, Winter Cup, 11 played (non handicap counter). 1 G Hendry (6)42pts, 2 I Sillars (13)39pts, 3 D Hendry (3)37pts.

Fixtures: Sunday 12 January, Sweep. Open draws at 9am and 12noon. Sunday 19 December, Clochendichter, singles first round. Sunday 26 January, Brandon and Winter cup. Class draws at 9am and 12noon.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 17 December, Lochranza Hotel Cup 1 Brian Sherwood 34pts, 2 David Wilkinson 32pts BIH, 3rd Elizabeth Ross 32pts BIH.

Saturday 28 December, Two Club Competition. Despite the course being slightly damp the competition went ahead. Ladies, 1 Elizabeth Ross 39.5, 2 Mary Wilkinson 47.5, 3 Denise Sherwood 48.5. Scratch Elizabeth Ross 50.

Gents, 1 Brian Sherwood 32, 2 John Milesi 44. Scratch Brian Sher-

January 2 was won by Colin Nisbet with a super score of 31.5.

Sunday 5 January, 11 braved the rather daunting elements to play in the fourth round of the Winter Cup. 1 Dave Hackett (13)62, 2 Ronnie Mann (11)68, 3 Graeme Crichton (12)71 (acb). There were magic twos by Graeme Crichton and Jamie McKechnie and scratch was won by Dave Hackett with a score of 75.

Fixtures: Sunday 12 January, AGA Winter League at Lamlash, 10am.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 28 December 1 E McKinnon 64+1=65 (BIH), 2 A Smith 75-10=65 (BIH), 3 B Rooney 77-12=65. Monday 30 December 1 A Mac Donald 68-6=62, 2 D Price 81-10=71. Wednesday 1 January 1 D Logan 71-9=62, 2 J McGovern 73-9=64, 3 J McConnachie 71-6=65. Magic twos D Logan-2, R Logan-2, D Jeffries-2, J McGovern, P Moran and B Rooney.

Saturday 4 January Winter Cup 1 J McGovern 67-9=58, 2 A Smith 71-10=61, 3 A MacDonald 73-10=63 (BIH). Scatch E McKinnon 62. Magic twos E McKinnon-2, J McGovern, R Jeffrey, A Napier. Mon 6 January 1 J McConnachie 61-4=57, 2 A Burke 69-11=58. Magic twos J McConnachie-2. Fixtures: Saturday 11 January Sweep 8.30am and noon. Monday 13 January Tee Off noon.

Arran Golfers Association

Fixtures: Sunday 12 January, Winter League/Duncan Trophy, third round, Lamlash Golf Club.
Draw: Lamlash v Whiting Bay at 10am, Brodick v Corrie at 10.50am, Shiskine v Machrie Bay at 11.40am.



Willie McNally and Lesley Murray who won the D S Bannatyne Shield (Mixed Foursomes) at Shiskine on 2 January.

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THANK YOU

THANK YOU MACHRIE

Alistair and Barbara Black wish to express their warmest thanks to all those kind folk in Machrie who contributed to such a surprise gift during Hogmanay night celebrations at Machrie Hall.

After 40 years we will be really sad to leave this beautiful island and all the friends we have made along the way. We were presented with a wonderful painting of a Machrie sunset, painted so dramatically by the artist John Knox and, without a doubt, it will remind us of the stunning views from our home and all the shared happy memories.

70TH BIRTHDAY

Happy 70th Birthday Steve Williams!

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Hunter wins Decklight trophy

Sailors took to the high seas on New Year's Day to compete for the annual Arran Yacht Club Decklight Trophy which has been held annually since 2006.

The forecast was less than promising with very high winds forecast. However seven club members turned up at 12noon on New Year's Day and despite very windy conditions, it was deemed safe to sail.

Iain Hunter got off to the best start in the first race with the defending champion Neil

Hunter caught at the wrong end of the line.

Iain was the first to make it around the first mark but he was closely followed by Greg Hamill, Angus Campbell and Neil Hunter.

Greg pushed Iain hard for the remainder of the race while Neil closed down on the leaders.

At the finish Iain won and Neil just squeezed past Greg to take second place.

At the start of the second race winds increased to the safest limits for racing.

Neil Hunter had the best boat speed in race two and avoided capsizing during the contest.

Iain Hunter chased him but had a serious capsize gybing on the second down wind and finished in second, while Greig Hamill unfortunately had to retire and was then demasted on the way in.

John Leckey sailed a courageous race and managed to finish third and was the last finisher of this race securing him a third overall.

The fleet was having repeat-

ed capsizes by this point and conditions had deteriorated to the point that a third race was deemed imprudent. Neil Hunter deservedly won the Decklight Trophy for 2014.

A huge thanks to Alwin Hoelzl who not only manned the committee boat and ran the racing but also supplied the safety boat cover which was definitely required.

Results: 1 Neil Hunter, 2 Iain Hunter, 3 John Leckey, 4 Greig Hamill, 5 Angus Campbell, 6 Uel Leckey and 7 Gus MacLeod.

No Hogmanay hangover for rugby teams

Arran's rugby team didn't let their Hogmanay hangovers get in the way of a kick-about on January 1 as they took on Glasgow Accies in a seasonal friendly.

The team from Glasgow were on the island for the wedding of one of their players and the game was organised as part of the celebrations.

Despite a good game with Ben Tattersfield scoring two tries and Frazer Barr converting one of them the local team were beaten 15-12.

Iain Williamson of Glasgow Accies said: 'A massive thank you to the Arran select who pitched up to play us on New Year's Day at Brodick.'

'It was a great laugh and it rounded off a brilliant four-day wedding 'rammy.'

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



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The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.