

THE Aspa
A UNIQUE ISLAND ESCAPE
GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE
AUCHRANNIE RESORT, BRODICK
01770 303 303
WWW.THEASPA.CO.UK

THE ARRAN BANNER

Arran
ESTATE AGENTS
See all our properties on
s1homes.com
Zoopla.co.uk
Smarter property search
primelocation.com
www.arranestateagents.co.uk
Tel: 01770 302310

Action call to make more aware of cut price fares

'I would like to see more from VisitScotland' says MSP Kenneth Gibson

REPORT
by HUGH BOAG
editor@arranbanner.co.uk

More needs to be done to promote the cut price ferry fares which have been introduced to Arran.

Local MSP Kenneth Gibson says there are concerns on the island that more than 99 per cent of potential visitors are unaware of the new RET fares which have slashed journey prices.

He has been in touch with VisitScotland and Caledonian MacBrayne to press for enhanced promotion of the route.

Mr Gibson, the SNP representative for Cunninghame North, said: 'The Isle of Arran Ferry Committee is concerned that more than 99 per cent of people in Scotland are unaware that fares to Arran have been slashed. Given that fact, visitor numbers will be slow to increase.'

As a result, both Cathy Craig, CalMac's commercial director and Annique Armstrong, regional director VisitScotland will come over to meet with VisitArran later this month to discuss how to maximise the opportunities presented by RET.

The move comes as CalMac starts taking bookings for the

summer sailings which start on 3 April.

The summer fares have also emerged which, despite fears, show only a slight increase from the introductory winter RET fares - 20p more for passengers and 50p for cars.

Since its introduction on 27 October last year there has already been a big increase in both vehicle and passenger traffic to and from the island with predictions visitors could increase by as much as 40 per cent over the summer.

Arran also has just nine months to pull in visitors before it will meet a challenge from Bute when RET starts there in October.

However, Ms Craig has confirmed to Mr Gibson that CalMac is working closely with VisitScotland and will promote Arran in all destination promotions throughout 2015.

She told Mr Gibson that it has already featured it on Facebook to its 20,000 followers and to 6,500 on Twitter and included Arran in its Go Explore brochure, distributed across VisitScotland visitor information centres and their English equivalent.

CalMac also features Arran in travel trade promotions in the UK, Canada, USA and Germany, and will profile Ar-



Douglas dookers bring in New Year

Susan Brodie from Abu Dhabi was just one of around 50 people who made the rather chilly leap into Brodick Bay on New Year's Day to celebrate the arrival of 2015.

For more pictures of this crazy New Year tradition, see pages 10 and 11. Photo by Christopher Hogge.

ran RET on its new website to be launched early in the year.

It will also promote local provenance, featuring Taste of Arran and further initiatives will be discussed later this month.

Mr Gibson said: 'I am delighted that CalMac is working hard to encourage visitors from other parts of Scotland, the UK and indeed overseas to come to Arran and take advantage of the greatly re-

duced fares RET offers.

'RET will greatly increase Arran's year-round popularity as long as prospective visitors know about it.

'Whilst CalMac is 'doing its bit' I would like to see more from VisitScotland to ensure the benefits of RET accrue early to Arran, its people and communities.

'I'm sure it is an opportunity they will want to grasp with both hands.'

Ms Armstrong said: 'We are very aware of RET and the expected impact on the island economy.

'We work closely with VisitArran and have discussed RET and its promotion with it and we have been weaving the message into our autumn regional campaign.

'This will continue through our spring regional campaign which we are currently finalising and there will also be a

national VisitScotland campaign to encourage visitors to explore Scotland's islands, which will include Arran and will include RET messaging.

'We are confident we are getting the message across about RET as well as, of course, what visitors can enjoy and experience on Arran throughout the year in our continued seasonal promotions and marketing campaigns.'



JTC John Thomson Construction Ltd
New Homes on Arran
We have several properties nearing completion, and land also available for bespoke development

Arran youngsters to benefit from free school meals

Arran's MSP Kenneth Gibson has welcomed the Scottish government's decision to provide healthy free school meals to all pupils in primaries one-three.

As part of a £114 million package for young people over two years, every one of Scotland's P1 to P3 children has the option of a free school meal from this month, improving health and well-being, increasing attainment and saving families at least £330 a year for each child.

On Arran 129 children are eligible.

Mr Gibson said: 'I was pleased to vote for the rollout of healthy free school meals to all children in primaries one to three and a significant expansion of childcare provision. It means that every Arran child in P1-P3 is guaranteed a nutritious, healthy meal. Not just that, it removes the perceived stigma from the 20 per cent of children who are already entitled to free school meals.'

Got a story for The Arran Banner?
Call 01770 302142

Community buyout relaunched as Eden Lodge goes up for sale

A community group has relaunched its campaign to save the last traditional pub in the village.

Eden Lodge in Whiting Bay has just gone on the open market for £300,000 and now cash pledges are urgently being sought from the public which would allow a community buyout in the event the hotel is not taken over by a private buyer.

Around 10 volunteers will be going door to door this weekend delivering more than 600 leaflets to drum up support.

The Eden Lodge Hotel Community Group was formed following a public meeting held in the village last November attended by more than 50 residents who were concerned that the village had been left without a traditional pub.

Joint chair Sandra Butler said: 'Although we've been quiet we have been busy behind the scenes. We are now asking for the pledges to restart in earnest. Those who have already pledged are on our database, but if you would like to increase your pledge then please get in

touch. We will also be emailing those on our database to kick start the campaign. We aim to have all pledges in by the end of January so we need the pledges fast.'

The minimum pledge is £250 and there is no maximum amount.

The hotel shut its doors almost without warning at the end of September. It is on the market with estate agents Miller Stewart which says it has seven bedrooms, two bars, including the famous Shurig basement bar which has not been open for some years, a 40 cover restaurant and a games room.

If the community buyout plan was to go ahead the group would be looking for tenant to run it and the committee insists that it does not intend to interfere in the day to day running of the business or attempt to micro-manage the pub.

Committee member Jon Hollingworth said: 'This was the last remaining pub in Whiting Bay and its closure has left a void. The village has a large resident population as well as a large number of holiday homes and

self-catering establishments and guest houses - the success of all these businesses rely on there being an open pub/eatery at the heart of the village.

'The hotel is now advertised for sale on the open market and we are hoping it will be bought by someone who will re-open it as it is. However, should this not happen, a contingency plan of a community purchase is being considered.

'Community purchase would involve getting lots of people to each purchase 'shares' in the building by agreeing to invest an amount of money. Interest would be payable on an annual basis that would be in the region of 2-3.5 per cent.

'This form of incorporation was chosen because it allows for members to invest in the enterprise, whilst at the same time it ensures that the enterprise has a social purpose,' he added.

The group has a new Facebook page or can be contacted by e-mail on edenlodgecommunitygroup@gmail.com to make a pledge or for more information. Pledge forms can also be handed in at Bay News.



The MV Hebrides leaving Brodick earlier this week. bo2ferry02

MV Hebrides drafted in to cover for annual refit

The MV Hebrides has been drafted in for the first time to cover the Ardrrossan to Brodick ferry route while the Caledonian Isles is away for her annual refit.

The ferry usually operates from Skye on the Uig-Tarbert-Lochmaddy triangle.

She began service on the Arran route last Saturday.

The MV Hebrides was built at the recently rescued Ferguson Shipbuilders in Port Glasgow and launched by the Queen in August 2000. She can carry 612 passengers and 90 cars.

The ship carries the bell of the first Hebrides, an 1898 steamer, which also graced the second Hebrides built in 1964, which was the first car ferry operated by CalMac.

MV Hebrides' design is very similar to that of her half-sister, MV Clansman, built in 1998, which has previously covered the Arran route, but there is more open deck space, the majority of it being covered.

A Caledonian MacBrayne spokesman said the refit was expected to take 'a few weeks'.

ARRAN HAULAGE SERVICES LTD
Home Farm, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DD
Tel: 01770 302777 Fax: 01770 302500
Email: info@arranhaulage.co.uk

NFU Mutual
Campbeltown call Chris Haran on 01586 552 428 for your insurance needs.
Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



HENDRY FUNERAL SERVICES LTD
15 Glen Avenue, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8DQ
Tel: 01770 302233 Fax: 01770 302883
Independent Funeral Directors • All Funeral arrangements
Agents for Golden charter Funeral Plans, Robertson and MacIntyre Memorials
A member of S.A.I.F.
Telephone David or Clair Tel: 01770 302233

PARCELS Daily mainland collections and deliveries

CALOR Gas GAS DEALER FOR THE ISLAND

ANIMAL FEED

GLASGOW DEPOT Competitive rates for all building materials

Coal merchant TEMPERATURE CONTROLLED

ANDREW GRAY & CO. (FUELS) LTD
PORTLAND DEPOT • LONDON ROAD
KILMARNOCK • KA3 7DD
TEL: 01563 525215 FAX: 01563 541146
Email: andrew@graysfuels.co.uk
www.graysfuels.org.uk
Heating Oil Gas Oil Farm Fuels Derv
'Due to popular demand, we are offering a regular fuel delivery service to Arran'




DIRECT TAXIS
01294 60-2005
8-seater taxis available
Ardrossan Harbour to:
Glasgow Airport £35.00
Prestwick Airport £25.00
Return bookings and other prices on request.

Like

like us on facebook

www.facebook.com/arranbanner

It pays to advertise in the Banner

New owners turn former hotel into holiday home

A former Arran hotel is to be converted back into residential use.

The seven-bedroom Royal Arran Hotel in Shore Road, Whiting Bay, which closed its doors last year, is to be converted back into a private home.

The elegant Edwardian two-storey villa built circa 1904 in the Arts and Crafts style had been on the market for more than two years and is believed to have been sold

for around £475,000. The new owner, James Buchanan, has now applied to North Ayrshire Council for a change of use of the building from a commercial hotel to residential use, although, if given the go ahead, the private letting of the property as a seasonal guest house is likely.

The conversion will involve internal and external renovation, space planning and an extension to accommodate new utility, boot room,

gym, and other facilities.

The application also seeks permission for a detached garage with a residential apartment over it, for private use by the owner.

According to a design statement prepared by architect Paul McShane, the property has not been operating as a guest house and hotel for approximately a year and requires ongoing repairs and maintenance.

He states that the property

is 'potentially ideal' for the owner's personal requirements as it offers occasional lodging for extended family, seasonal recreation and a retreat for holiday use.

Mr McShane states: 'The main property will occasionally be let as a guest house - intended for families or a large party of guests. It is intended that any letting will be limited to seasonal use only.'

'It is not intended for the property to function as a res-

taurant or hotel and boarding will be limited to self-catering only.

'We believe that the proposals have been designed sympathetically to address the issue of 'marrying in' with the existing architectural style. We believe that scale and massing of the proposed development is appropriate in terms of compliance planning policies - ensuring that there is an adequate area of garden/curtilage around the buildings.

'Arguably, continuation as a hotel has less of chance of survival, without substantial investment. As a residence, there is opportunity for a degree of flexibility from privately hired seasonal accommodation to private residence, and far less intrusive to this area of Whiting Bay.'

The application is currently under consideration by planners.

ARDROSSAN HARBOUR
TO YOUR DESTINATION

Mainland Taxis
07921 998457
01294 463556

Glasgow City Centre	£42
Glasgow Airport	£35
Prestwick Airport	£25
Irvine Central Hospital	£14
Crosshouse Hospital	£20
Ayr Hospital	£32
Troon Harbour	£22
Kilmarnock	£23
Ayr	£28

For other quotes just ask!
Friendly Reliable Service
www.mainland-taxis.co.uk

7 SEATER WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE AVAILABLE 



AMRT escapes the clouds for first exercise of the year

It may have been cold and dark underneath the clouds on Sunday, but for Arran Mountain Rescue Team there were glorious conditions atop some of the island's highest mountains.

The team headed out for its first exercise of 2015 which involved a winter ridge walk traversing Coich na h-Oighe and Mullach Buidhe, before coming off at High Corrie.

'It was a windy day with sunny spells and we were able to get some good practise scrambling the ridge in those conditions,' said Kirstie Smith, spokeswoman for AMRT.

Photo by Ewan McKinnon

New trainees for medical group

There will be some new faces at the medical centres on the island in the new year.

Next month two students will be starting their training with the Arran Medical Group.

Alexander Drewett from London will be on the island for eight weeks and Fiona Morrison from Dundee for four weeks. Both are in their final year at university and just months away from qualifying as doctors.

Two new trainees are also starting in February.

Dr Alex Czerniewski and Dr Andrew Gaw will be at the

practice for six months and will return again in the future at the later stages of their GP training.

Delighted

Practice manager Ruth Betley said: 'We are delighted to welcome them to the practice. Our students are always supervised by a GP, and our trainees have ready access to assistance whenever they require it.'

'This is an important part of attracting doctors to work in rural and island practices, and we are grateful for our patients' involvement in their training.'

neil young Joinery and Building Ltd

Joinery and Building Ltd
Tel: 01770 600500
Mob: 07855 758978

New Builds, Renovations, Garages, Conservatories, UPVC & Timber Windows, Kitchens, All roof work

www.neilyoungjoineryandbuilding.co.uk

24-hour Service. Free Quotations. Friendly Reliable Service

Email:- yneilly@aol.com - Lamlash, Isle of Arran

BEST WESTERN
Kinloch Hotel
Isle of Arran

KEEP CALM AND ENJOY TAPAS NIGHT & THE ARRAN JAZZ CAFE BAND

Friday 16th January, 7pm - 11pm
Tickets £5

Booking is essential
Please book before Monday 12th January

THE DOUGLAS
Hotel • Bistro • Bar
www.thedouglashotel.co.uk
Tel: 01770 302968

Join us on Sunday 25th Jan
THE DOUGLAS HOTEL WEDDING FAIR
From 2 until 4pm

BOOKINGS BEING TAKEN FOR OUR BURNS SUPPER ON SAT 24TH JAN

OPEN ALL DAY for BAR MEALS
Speciality Coffees & Teas, delicious HOME BAKING Cocktails, Wines & Whiskies
NIBBLES, SHARING PLATTERS & SNACKS
BISTRO BOOKINGS TAKEN EACH EVENING FROM 6PM

BEST WESTERN
Kinloch Hotel
Isle of Arran

Isle of Arran Open Darts Championship

Sunday 18th January
Kinloch Hotel at 2pm

Tournament entry: £5
Top Prize: £100
Runner up: £50

Blackwaterfoot
Isle of Arran
01770860444



Altachorvie
Island Retreat

Bar and Restaurant
Open to Non-Residents

RESTAURANT WINTER HOURS
THURS, FRI, SAT, SUN LUNCH
12.30pm till 2.30pm
THURS, FRI, SAT DINNER
6.30pm till 9.30pm

Altachorvie
Lamlash
Isle of Arran
KA27 8LQ
www.altachorvie.com
01770 600 468



Dairy farmers hit with further cut in milk prices

The island's three dairy farms supplying First Milk received an unwelcome start to the New Year with news of further price cuts in February

The Glasgow-headquartered firm, which is 100 per cent owned by UK dairy farmers, will cut both its manufacturing and liquid standard litre prices on February 1.

The dairy co-op will cut its manufacturing pool price by 2.43 pence to 20.47 pence a litre, while its liquid price will reduce by 1.6 pence to 20.1 pence a litre.

Farmers supplying First Milk, which produces brands such as the Isle of Arran Cheddar at Torylinn Creamery in Kilmory, and Mull of Kintyre cheddar in Campbeltown, have already had their prices cut this year.

On January 1, the manufacturing price fell by 1.1 pence, while the liquid price was

cut by 1 pence, in line with a price cut announcement at the end of last year,

'During meetings which we held across the country in November, we shared our view with members that this market was likely to get rougher before it gets better. Unfortunately prices for core dairy products have softened further since the start of December,' said First Milk chairman Sir Jim Paice.

'The rest of the board and I remain acutely aware of the difficulties that the extreme market volatility is causing our members and dairy farmers around the world.

'We do not know how long this current downturn will last, however our priority is to make the business and our manufacturing assets as secure as possible in order that we can continue to process and market every litre of members' milk.'



Air chief marshal Sir Stuart Peach presenting Guy Dale-Smith, head of marine at CalMac and Royal Navy veteran, with the SaBRE Silver Award.

Cal Mac scoops award for supporting armed forces

Arran's ferry operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has received a Silver Award from SaBRE (Supporting Britain's Reservists and Employers) in recognition of its efforts to support military personnel and their families.

SaBRE status is awarded to companies which support the

armed forces by employing reservists and veterans.

CalMac was recognised for providing flexible working arrangements for reservists and delivering career development opportunities for veterans.

Under the SaBRE scheme, launched by the Prime Min-

ister David Cameron in July, private and public sector organisations can be nominated for gold, silver or bronze awards. The award was presented to Guy Dale-Smith, head of marine at CalMac and Royal Navy veteran, at a gala dinner in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle.

Christine Roberts, human resources director of CalMac, said: 'We're honoured to have received this prestigious award. Members of the armed forces and their spouses play an important role at CalMac and this recognition is as much theirs as the company's.'

CalMac, which employs more than 1,300 people, is one of the largest companies headquartered in Scotland.

Gillian in VIP show at Celtic Connections

Award-winning Arran musician Gillian Frame will be performing alongside her husband Findlay Napier at Celtic Connections in Glasgow next weekend.

Findlay, a folk singer songwriter, will be performing his brand new album titled VIP: Very Interesting Persons in the Strathclyde Suite of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Saturday 17 January.

The show will feature an all-star cast, which along with wife Gillian, will include Boo Hewerdine, the album's producer and co-writer, Findlay's brother Hamish, Admiral Fallow's Louis Abbott and Kevin Brolly and pedal steel maestro Alan Train.

Folk Radio UK gave the album five stars and said it contained: 'Songs full of earthy humour, hopeless love and biting satire... more Michael Marra meets Elvis Costello than contemporary tradition.'

Findlay, from Grantown on Spey, is one of the most highly-regarded performers and creative forces on the Scottish music scene.

He made his name touring and recording with multi-award winning traditional Scottish folk band Back of the Moon.

In his more recent projects 'Queen Anne's Revenge' and 'The Bar Room Mountaineers' his song-writing took centre stage and was described by The Sunday Herald as: 'Genuine songcraft and wit following in the Dufford & Tilbrook tradition'.

The Very Interesting Persons Show is on as part of Celtic Connections at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, (Strathclyde Suite) on Saturday 17 January at 8pm.

Like like us on facebook
www.facebook.com/arranbanner

Campbell Fuel Oils DISTRIBUTOR
Your local, family run, oil distributor for prompt and efficient service

We are now operating a weekly top-up service on the Isle of Arran supplying Heating Oil, Tractor Diesel, Derv and a wide range of Lubricants.

Call us on 01563 521925

Hurlford Road, Riccarton, Kilmarnock KA1 3LS
www.campbellfuels.co.uk

ASPIRE UPHOLSTERY

Full re-upholstery and recovery
Bespoke furniture designed and built
Loose covers
All types of upholstery repairs
Extensive range of fabrics and leathers
Free estimates

Visiting Arran on Saturday 17th January 2015
T. 01475 744477 M. 07879 636764
EMAIL: ASPIREUPHOLSTERY@GMX.COM
WWW.ASPIREUPHOLSTERY.CO.UK

MARRIOTT (BUILDERS) Registered house builder
ESTABLISHED 30YRS

New Builds from planning to completion
BUILDING PLOTS AVAILABLE

SPECIALISTS IN:
Extensions, Conversions, Renovations, all trades service
Plumbing and Heating Services, Bathrooms, Multi fuel Stove Installation.
NO JOB TOO LARGE OR TOO SMALL

Building Preservation Specialists
Protect Your Property

Approved Specialists in Woodworm & Wet & Dry Rot
Damp Treatments - Full Survey and Quotation
Registered for all bank and building society requirements
30 Year Guarantee

THE OLD PIER, WHITING BAY
TEL: (01770) 700202 FAX: (01770) 700711
MOB: 07711 297674 EMAIL: mbsbuild@yahoo.co.uk

ARMITAGE Call now for a FREE QUOTATION!
Building & Groundwork Contractors

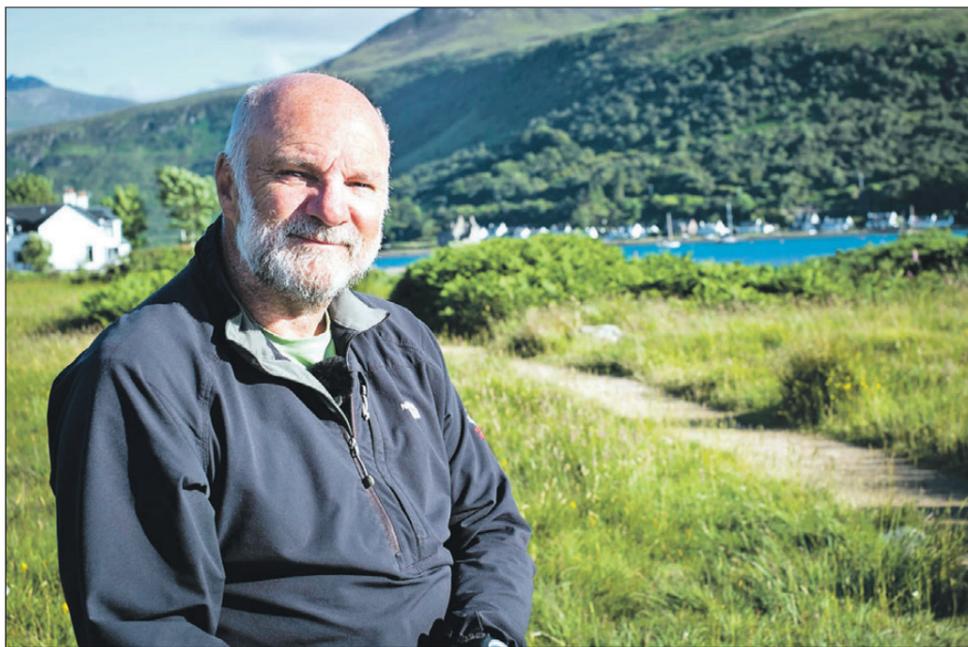
New Build Foundations
Renovations
Hard Landscaping
Extensions

All forms of Drainage
Plots and Renovations available
Concrete works
Design Service
Plant Hire

W: www.armitagegroundworks.co.uk E: info@armitagegroundworks.co.uk

T: 01770 303971
F: 01770 303847

The Pier, Brodick, Isle of Arran. KA27 8AU



Cameron at Lochranza at the end of the leg of his walk on Arran.

Photographs courtesy of the BBC

Cameron tells of his love of Arran on long walk show

The success of the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) was highlighted on television last week.



Cameron met Buddhist nun Ani Lhamo on Holy Isle.

Scots wilderness hiker and author Cameron McNeish visited Arran as part of his walk along what he called The Western Way taking him from the Mull of Galloway to Oban.

And the island, along with Holy Isle, featured prominently in the two-part series on BBC2.

Fallen in love

Cameron told how he had fallen in love with the hills of Arran in his late teens and had regularly been back over the years.

In Lamlash he found out about the work of COAST and met manager Andrew Binnie, who explained what the group was trying to do.

The programme also used underwater footage supplied by COAST to show the damage which was being caused

to the seabed by inshore fishing.

Cameron then visited Holy Isle which he said reminded him of trekking in Tibet and met Buddhist nun Ani Lhamo, a former computer programmer from Fort William who explained why the island was so important to them.

He then climbed Goat Fell in what he said were ideal conditions before heading along the ridge to North Goat Fell and down Glen Sannox.

In the north of the island he visited Hutton's Unconformity before taking the ferry from Lochranza to Kintyre for the next part of his journey.

The Western Way - an Adventure Show special is still available on the BBC iplayer. Arran features in the first of the two shows.

Bridget awarded CBE in New Year Honours List

Dr Bridget McConnell has received a CBE in the Queen's New Year Honours List for services to culture.

The wife of former First Minister Jack McConnell and Baron of Glenscorrodale, she represented Glasgow City Council on the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games board.

As chief executive of Culture and Sport Glasgow, she leads a staff of 2,600, with an annual budget approaching £100 million, in the de-

livery of cultural and sports activities on behalf of the city. In her 10 years in charge of the sector, highlights have included the £35 million refurbishment of Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, a revamp of the Mitchell Library and a radical overhaul of the city's sports and leisure facilities.

She was an integral part of the bid team which won the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, chairing the All of Glasgow Group and

a key adviser to the All of Scotland groups. Bridget is now said to be focused on delivering a substantive legacy for the games.

She is vice chair of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD) and a member of the Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for Scotland. She is also a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and has been awarded honorary doctorates from both St Andrews and Aberdeen universities.

Floodline

GET FREE FLOOD MESSAGES DIRECT TO YOUR PHONE

Floodline in Scotland is a free 24/7 telephone and website service operated by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency that can give you advance notice of flooding in your area and advice on how to be prepared. By registering with Floodline you receive free flood messages for your area direct to your phone.

IN NORTH AYRSHIRE, 8 FLOOD WARNINGS ARE AVAILABLE.

See map for details.

Flood Warnings will generally be sent 3-6 hours in advance of expected flooding. Receiving advance notice of flooding gives you time to prepare and reduce the impact of flooding on your life.



Sign up now to receive messages direct to your phone by visiting floodlinescotland.org.uk



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath



Sale

friday's child

NEW WINTER HOURS 9.30 -5.00pm jan. & feb. then back to normal

25% OFF

ALL CHRISTMAS STOCK, LSA VASES, ECO CLOCKS, WEDDING PLANNERS, DIARIES, NOTEBOOKS, MUGS, KITCHEN & BAR, CANVAS SHOPPERS & MUCH MORE

HOME FARM • BRODICK • KA27 8DD • 01770 303987 [facebook.com/FridaysChildArran](https://www.facebook.com/FridaysChildArran)

Council leader reflects on a successful year

North Ayrshire Council leader Willie Gibson reflected on an award-winning 12 months as he made his final speech of the year last Wednesday.

Cllr Gibson praised the efforts of a host of groups, services and schools as they helped make it a year of celebration for the local authority.

The council leader - who also commended the excellent work carried out to support the White Ribbon Campaign - finished by thanking all staff for their efforts this year.

He concluded: 'I think it's important that I take this moment to thank all of our employees who are dedicated in their effort to provide the best possible services to the residents of North Ayrshire.'

Youngsters benefit from commitment to STEM

Pupils at Arran's primary schools are set to reap the rewards of the council's commitment to science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

On Tuesday, the council's cabinet were updated on some of the initiatives which have been implemented across the council's schools to promote STEM and raise pupils' attainment levels.

It is hoped that this will ensure that North Ayrshire's

young people will be well placed to take advantage of job opportunities in STEM industries in the future.

There has also been an emphasis on making sure pupils have strong numeracy and mental maths skills so that they are able to apply their knowledge and skills in order to succeed in STEM subjects.

Currently, North Ayrshire Council is one of 12 local authorities taking part in the national Raising Attainment For All (RAFA) collaborative pilot which aims to support consistent improvement.

Efforts are also continuing to promote STEM related careers and last month around 80 third year girls from across North Ayrshire attended an event designed to highlight STEM opportunities available to them.

There are also plans to develop an industry recognised qualification to enhance the



Council leader Willie Gibson helps some of Hayocks Primary School pupils with their STEM experiment during a recent visit.

employability skills of pupils studying construction crafts.

Councillor John Bruce, cabinet member for education, attainment and achievement, said: 'I'm delighted to see the great amount of work which has already been carried out to promote STEM throughout our schools and especially the initiatives to assist girls into STEM careers. I hope this good work is something

we can build on in the future. 'Making sure we promote STEM and ensuring our pupils have the knowledge to succeed in these subjects is one of our priorities.'

'There are a number of exciting careers in the STEM sector and it's important that our pupils are given the best possible chance to take advantage of these fantastic job opportunities.'

Support services to help you stay independent

Ayrshire Independent Living Network (AILN) have launched a new logo, social media channels and an information video about Self-directed Support (SDS).

These were developed with support from the RNIB and a focus group of people from across Ayrshire, who use their valuable support services. The video shows real people talking about their experiences of SDS in Ayrshire, and describing the positive experience it has had on their independence. The video will be available via the AILN website from January.

The launch was made at the AILN agm and Christmas party held in the Park Hotel in Kilmarnock last week.

AILN having been giving information and advice about Self-directed Support (SDS) to the people of Ayrshire and Arran for 11 years. If you're employing a personal assistant or want to use an agency for support, they have 11 years of experience, dealing with the safe recruitment of staff and can guide and advise you on the four SDS options.

After a referral, Evelyn or Jen from the SDS team catch the ferry over to Arran and meet with you in the comfort of your own home. They provide all the information you need to help you understand the SDS options. If you're on the mainland, you're welcome to pop into the accessible offices in Princes Street, Ardrossan.

SHERIDAN WALDON
Bookkeeping & Office Services

- Bookkeeping
- Invoicing
- Invoice payment tracking & follow up
- Office administration

Contact Sheridan:
Phone: 01770 600 090 Mobile: 07774 512 546
sheridanwaldon@yahoo.co.uk

Initial meeting free. No obligation.

Storm warning: high winds expected, power cuts possible.

Weather forecasts predicts storms in your area over the coming week. Gale force winds and driving rain can bring down power lines and cause problems in electricity supply. In the event of a power cut, our engineers turn out in all weathers to reconnect everyone as fast as possible. But it helps a great deal if you're well prepared for bad weather. Make sure your mobile phone is charged and that you have batteries for torches and radios. Take a note of our contacts now, and check our website for updates and advice.

ssepd.co.uk | Helpline: 0800 300 999 | Free download: **Power Track App**



Download our free Power Track app.
Available on the App Store | ANDROID APP ON Google play | Follow us on Twitter @hydropd
Follow us on facebook | www.facebook.com/hydropd

Got a story for The Arran Banner?
Call 01770 302142

GLENMAREE CONTRACTS LTD

- DRIVEWAYS • TARMAC
- MONOBLOCK • SLABBING
- LIGHTING

FREE QUOTES

Joe.glenmaree@hotmail.co.uk
Tel. 01292 282228 or 07801 847005

REMOVALS
REMOVALS : STORAGE : DISTRIBUTION
Local - Long Distance - Continental - Estimates Free
Contact Hugh McClelland on **840272**

HUGH McCLELLAND & SON Estd. 1886

UNIT 7, CADZOW INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, HAMILTON, ML3 7QU
Tel: (01698) 283314 - 283555.
Fax (01698) 286677



Ruth McMurdo, Karene Baird, and Claire Ireland of NHS Ayrshire and Arran launch the new passport at Prestwick Airport.

New passport will make it easier for joint replacement patients to travel abroad

Patients on the island who have undergone knee, hip or shoulder replacements are set to find travelling abroad easier thanks to an innovation by NHS Ayrshire and Arran – the first of its kind in Scotland.

The orthopaedic service at Crosshouse Hospital is launching the 'Ayrshire Arthroplasty Passport', which will identify to airport staff that the patient has undergone a joint replacement.

Patients have previously reported problems going through airport scanners due to the metal in their new joints.

But, while the cards will identify joint replacement patients to security staff, they will not exempt them from going through the normal security checks.

Consultant orthopaedic

surgeon Gavin Tait was one of the main driving forces behind the production of the new card.

He explained: 'We had a development day earlier this year with more than 100 of our patients.'

'One issue which emerged was patients had found airport travel was becoming more difficult for them due to lengthy delays.'

'Obviously it is completely understandable that airports require high levels of security, but our patients reported they were experiencing long delays because they needed to have their replacement joints verified.'

The new card will initially be given to patients who attend Crosshouse Hospital before they have a hip, knee or other joint replacement.

Patients will be asked to bring two passport-sized photographs.

One photo will be attached to the appropriate credit card-sized passport, signed by one of the orthopaedic staff, laminated and given to the patient.

The other photo will be kept at the arthroplasty clinic as a duplicate and as a record of the patient's 'membership'.

The new 'Ayrshire Arthroplasty Passport' is expected to benefit between 600 and 700 patients every year.

NHS Ayrshire and Arran chief executive John Burns, said: 'I am delighted that our staff have taken the initiative to help make our patients' daily lives that bit easier.'

'This new card demonstrates our commitment to providing person-centred care for all our patients.'

Arran's reptilian fossils shortlisted amongst country's best

A terrifying reptile which once roamed Arran is bidding to win a top fossil prize.

At more than twice the size of a man and with 'hands' equipped with lethal talons instead of feet, the animal lived some 270 million years ago long before Goatfell even started to form, and before the arrival of dinosaurs.

The discovery of dozens of footprints of the bizarre 12ft-long creature known as chirotherium, meaning 'hand beast', because its 'feet' are actually more like hands, caused great excitement when they were first discovered in Blackwaterfoot and later at three other locations in 2003.

The footprints, complete with large talons, are up to 40cm in length and are the largest chirotherium prints ever found.

Now the giant lizard has made it on to a list to find Scotland's favourite fossil but faces opposition from

huge Jurassic dinosaurs and the Irish elk to fossil trees and tiny prehistoric shrimps which swam in lagoons in ancient Scotland.

The bid is to find the country's most important five fossils, with the public being asked to vote online for their favourites in a poll organised by the Scottish Geodiversity Forum.

Similar survey

Angus Miller, chair of the Scottish Geodiversity Forum, a volunteer organisation which aims to promote Scotland's rocks and landscapes, said the idea for the poll stemmed from a similar survey on Scotland's best loved wildlife, which was won by the golden eagle.

He said: 'You don't tend to link Scotland with lots of fossils, but once we started putting it all together, we realised not only is there an amazing amount of fossils, but there is also stuff that is really interesting to the general public

and perhaps people just don't realise it is there.'

Mr Miller said research currently taking place in Scotland was putting the country 'more on the map' for fossils than ever before.

The survey will run until the spring and an open day will be held at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh on Sunday 18 January to encourage the public to vote.

For the full list and to vote visit www.scottishgeology.com/poll



like us on facebook

www.facebook.com/arranbanner

Car, Bike, Home and Van Insurance with Adrian Flux



Great Insurance deals for your Car, Bike, Home and Van

Adrian Flux Insurance Services offer a range of policies which reflect the low risk nature of highland life. We can offer you great insurance deals on your car, bike, home and van. Call us today for a free no obligation quote.

0800 081 8989
adrianflux.co.uk

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority



THE ARRAN BANNER

Is RET really working?

Hailed as the greatest thing to hit the island since double-yellow lines were introduced on Market Road in Brodick, the introduction of the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) ferry fares were welcomed with much jubilation back in October.

In the weeks that followed the island seemed unusually busy for the time of year as visitors took advantage of the cheaper fares to bring cars over packed with people for weekend trips away.

And in the lead up to Christmas it was difficult to get a car booked on to leave the island as locals took the opportunity to go away for the day to load up with supplies on the mainland - including incredibly cheap fuel at Ardrossan.

But what impact is RET really having on Arran?

This week it has been reported that Kenneth Gibson MSP believes that more needs to be done to promote the cut price ferry fares.

He believes that more than 99 per cent of potential visitors are unaware of the new RET fares which have slashed journey prices.

After discussions with VisitScotland and Caledonian MacBrayne, the MSP hopes to press for enhanced promotion of the route.

With New Year out of the way CalMac has started taking bookings for the summer sailings which start on 3 April.

The summer fares have also emerged which, despite fears, show only a slight increase from the introductory winter RET fares - 20p more for passengers and 50p for cars.

Since its introduction on 27 October last year there has already been a big increase in both vehicle and passenger traffic to and from the island with predictions visitors could increase by as much as 40 per cent over the summer.

Arran also has just nine months to pull in visitors before it will meet a challenge from Bute when RET starts there in October.

Despite a very obvious increase in visitors, many businesses report little change in their winter profits.

And since RET does not apply to commercial vehicles, the price of food, petrol and other essentials on the island has been unaffected.

Is it any wonder that locals are choosing to shop on the mainland more frequently when there is a clear saving to be made elsewhere?

It is still very early days for RET, but it remains to be seen whether it will have the desired effect on Arran's struggling economy.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said, 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in Me.' (John 14:1)

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.

The Arran Banner adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in *The Arran Banner* are not necessarily those of the The Oban Times Group.

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

Letters to the Editor



Transport links questioned

Sir,
Last Tuesday afternoon the 2.18pm train from Glasgow Central to Ardrossan Harbour seemingly broke down at Kilwinning and the train company organised taxis to take the people to the harbour for the 3.15pm sailing to Arran.

CalMac Ardrossan was advised by CalMac Brodick at 3.10pm and was told that the boat would be another 10 minutes loading but would not wait after that as the train company had not informed them of numbers involved.

I telephoned my daughter which was in one of 10 taxis heading for the pier and the driver said he expected to arrive at about 3.22pm.

I informed CalMac Brodick who immediately phoned CalMac Ardrossan (at 3.19pm) to be told the gangway was off and would not be going on again.

The taxis arrived with the boat still within the harbour. So who is responsible for the endless occasions such as this one?

I believe a Dutch company will soon take over the running of the railways here.

Any chance a Dutch ferry company could be found to improve things even more because CalMac simply don't care?

Yours,
Harry Anderson
Springbank Terrace
Brodick

Beach angst

Sir,
Is it not time to end the piecemeal expensive attempts to fix what ignorance caused i.e. the removal of sand from Brodick bay with no regard or knowledge of the consequences?

It is time for the agencies responsible to do as others who acted in ignorance; nuclear at Dounray, aircraft parts at Fife, phosphates leaching Scotland wide, to cite what a few are doing.

Why not put back in the bay sand from the Arran quarries or a few super bulk carriers of

sand from some other inland quarry.

This would stop the sea taking back what was robbed and allow permanent rehabilitation of the beach that I and others of my vintage remember. At the end of the day whether by birth or hard work we are given stewardship of a little or large part of this world we are only given it to look after and are required to leave it the same or better when we go than when we arrived.

Yours,
Campbell McKay
Forres
Moray

Room at the inn

Sir,
On Friday 2 January, my son, a friend, the friend's father and two husky puppies braved the inclement morning weather to take the ferry to Arran to climb Goatfell. The climb was a complete success, if challenged at times by the wind.

The amazing views and scenery made the experience one not to be forgotten.

However, the inclement seas had forced CalMac to cancel return sailings.

There was no provision made by CalMac for those left stranded. The hour was getting ever later and conditions ever colder and darker. There followed an urgent phone call to home for help in finding accommodation.

An anxious father (myself) scoured the internet for available rooms but everywhere was fully booked on this universally important time of year for gatherings of family and friends, heightened by an equally universal post New Year 'recovery syndrome' (whether through colossal catering extravaganzas that are now a blur as a result of cooking and catering concussion, imbibing on scales that may only be measured by the crash in the price of recycled bottled glass in late January, or both).

I found a phone number for Dunvegan House in Brodick.

The phone was answered almost immediately. The proprietor was a truly nice

lady who had a very obvious really bad cold/flu bug but advised that the hotel was closed to new guests due to her condition.

I apologised immediately for disturbing her and said that I would keep searching.

Within a minute I received a phone call back.

It was the proprietor of Dunvegan House. She insisted that she would make rooms available and the procedure to gain entry, keys and fees (very generously reduced) made with great trust on her part and left in a particular location.

My son, his friend, his friend's father and the two puppies found a lady also stranded by the ferry cancellation.

The lady proprietor of Dunvegan House (I think her name may be Helen realised from the information on Dunvegan House online) immediately gave sanctuary to this other 'casualty of the situation'.

The rooms were very well appointed, very generously heated, bathrooms that exceeded the needs of the guests.

On my son's return, in addition to all of the above commendations, I was told that everyone that the party met were so welcoming and 'dog friendly'. They all loved their unintentional 'two days rather than one' day on Arran.

A very sincere thanks to all the good folk on the Isle of Arran that make tourists feel so welcome and a very special thanks to the heroine who rescued the situation, the proprietor of Dunvegan House who, despite a really bad cold/flu bug, opened her beautiful hotel and rescued travellers in such inclement weather and circumstance at such a challenging time of year.

Kindest regards and very sincere thanks from a father whose son you made feel so welcome and gave sanctuary to in such challenging circumstance, may God bless you all.

Yours,
Gordon McGinn
Troon

Fifty year rainfall high

Sir,
It won't have escaped people's notice that we've had rather a lot of rain during December - actually 15.5 inches, the highest total in 50 years.

The average December rainfall is 7.3 inches.

The highest total for any month was in November 2009, 16.1 inches.

As a contrast, the lowest total during the same period was just 0.1 inch in February 1986.

I remember remarking at the time that you could walk all the way up Glen Ashdale with no shoes on and not get your feet wet.

Total rainfall for 2014 was 75.5 inches - quite a long way short of the highest annual figure - 90 inches in 2011.

The lowest annual rainfall was 47 inches in 1969.

When dealing with fluctuations of this order, one can well understand long range weather forecasters not wanting to be too specific in their predictions.

I should add that my figures apply to the Whiting Bay/Lamlash area - the peculiar topography of Arran results in rainfall being 10 to 20 per cent lower on the south and west coast and about the same degree higher in the Brodick area.

Yours,
Tony Smith
The Sheeans
Whiting Bay

New Year mix up

Sir,
With regards to your editorial on January 3, Katie and I went into the sea at Silver Sands in Kildonan to celebrate the Millennium on January 1, 2000 (not about 12 years ago).

It was cold!
Yours,
Sally Brookes
Shannochie

like us on
facebook

www.facebook.com/arranbanner

Arran Deliveries

Arran Deliveries
The Parcel Point
Harbour Road,
Ardrossan
North Ayrshire
KA22 8BZ

Open Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm
Daily collection throughout Ayrshire,
Glasgow and surrounding districts

Tel: 01475 676 255
Fax: 01294 469 492

Glasgow Depot
Arran Deliveries
149 Balmoral Street
Glasgow G14 OHB

Open Mon - Fri 8am - 5pm
Accepting goods destined
for the island

*We deliver the goods
not excuses*

Preparations begin for summer art event

Following another successful Arran Open Studios (AOS) weekend last year, organisers are planning a new art event in the summer.

Preparations are well underway and the AOS team is keen to know how many people are taking part this year.

Artists wanting to be involved should register their interest before the end of February with Ruth Mae at Southbank Farm, Shannochie, Kildonan, KA27 8SH (ruthmae.nagare@gmail.com)

For those new to the event a fee pays for an entry in the AOS brochure beautifully designed by participant Tony Van Breughel of Whiting Bay.

The entry has a photograph of the art work, a short mission statement by the artist, and directions how to find the studio.

It also includes a location spot on the centre page map.

Organisers also invite new interested parties to join the steering group to add their own comments or suggestions.

An AOS spokesman said: 'We hope that this year's event will be as big or bigger.'

'Artists new to the island or returning participants will all be warmly welcomed.'

'We are constantly trying to improve on the efficiency of every aspect of the event which ranges from the Art Bus through to the website, Facebook, wider publicity throughout Scotland and the children's art competition, and much more.'

The dates for 2015 are 14, 15, 16 and 17 August.

Participants can open the full four days or selected times within this time-frame – it's all up to the individual.

Renowned artist's work is helping orphans in Nepal

An exhibition at the Isle of Arran Distillery is helping to raise money for an important art project on the other side of the world in Nepal.

'A Year at Imachar' highlights the work of internationally renowned artist Gordon Davidson, who spent a year capturing the ever-changing moods and colours of the machair landscape on the west coast of Arran.

All the money raised by the exhibition will help fund the Gurka led Kalaa Jyoti art project supporting a group of orphans in Nepal.

Gordon has just left Arran for a fourth visit to help run the project but more funds are needed to keep it going.

The latest show at the distillery is the third time it has supported the project and Gordon is grateful for its continued backing.

In July and August this year the distillery hosted an exhibition which raised £1,700 selling paintings and cards by the children.

As a result Gordon has returned to Nepal armed with hundreds of pounds of art materials and enough money to take the children out for special trips, which normally wouldn't happen.

Before he left he said: 'Over the last few weeks people on the island have been so kind.'

'I've been given knitted hats, games, kites and a healthy donation after a talk



Gordon Davidson, left with Dr Suresh Chalise, Nepal's ambassador to Scotland and Mrs Sunita Podder at a similar exhibiton in 2013. 20_b02art01

I did for the SWRI. Some friends have also given me some cash. I have told the children about the kindness of the Arran people and they have asked me to send their thanks to everyone who has helped and they are all looking forward to the fourth year of the project.'

Own expenses

As Gordon does not get paid for this project he needs to raise the money himself for his own expenses which is why exhibitions like the one running at the distillery are so important.

Gordon painted one painting at Imachar on Arran's west coast every month for a year in storms, rain, frost and sun and the resulting exhibition is on in the lower gallery of the distillery visitor centre until the end of the year.

How he created the paintings is also available on the DVD 'A Year at Imachar', a documentary film and video diary produced by Keeper Productions of Gordon's work over the year.

All the money made from the sales of the exhibition and DVD will go to make sure

Gordon is financed properly to keep the art project sustainable.

Gordon studied at Glasgow School of Art and his work now mainly concentrates on Scottish landscapes and the landscapes of his considerable travels including paintings of Nepal.

Planning services celebrate awards commendation

North Ayrshire Council's planning services team has been commended at the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning, which took place last month.

The team celebrated its success in the 'Delivering in Partnership' category at the event, which has been running for more than 15 years.

Councillor Marie Burns said: 'This award highlights that North Ayrshire has a sector-leading team that is committed to developing new, innovative approaches to the delivery of quality in planning across North Ayrshire.'

'This collaborative approach has resulted in a residential layout that meets all of the different objectives of the design stakeholders involved.'

'It has also saved time and money and can be replicated across other council planning projects.'

'I would like to congratulate the team for their great efforts.'

subscribe to
THE ARRAN BANNER

DIGITAL OR PRINT
And receive a

FREE GIFT

WORTH
£22.00

tel: **01371 851868**

or visit: www.arranbanner.co.uk/subscribe
QUOTE AB1214

ARRAN AROMATICS

SCOTLAND

celebrating 25 years of gifting
www.arranaromatics.com

Terms and conditions apply. Minimum one year subscription costing £42. New subscribers only. Cancellation charges apply and no refunds can be given. UK subscribers only. While stocks last. Fragrances in this free gift may vary.

ISLE OF ARRAN MUSIC SOCIETY CEOL ALBA

A blend of traditional Scottish music and works by French composers Bizet, Debussy and Poulenc

SATURDAY 17th JANUARY, 1.30 PM
IN ARRAN COMMUNITY THEATRE, LAMLASH

TICKETS £10 INCL. TEA/COFFEE
(STUDENTS & CHILDREN PLUS ONE ACCOMPANYING ADULT FREE)
Tickets on door, or advance booking:
Inspirations of Arran & www.arranevents.com

Lamlash Burns Club No. 2197
(AFFILIATED TO WORLD BURNS FEDERATION)

Annual Burns Supper
Lamlash Golf Club Clubhouse

Saturday 24th January 2015
At 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Tickets at £20.00 each may be obtained by contacting the undernoted committee members:

Jock Kelso: 860318, Archie Nicol: 700279,
Willie Crawford: 810260,
Stewart Lambie: 302304 or Andy Martin: 700449



find us on
facebook

www.facebook.com/arranbanner



Some Antipodean convicts!



Clare Gilmore prepares herself for the leap into the water.



Lynn Raeburn wasn't put off by the cold weather.



More than 50 took the plunge on New Year's Day.

Dozens take at the Dougl

It is the instant hangover cure for the brave or the foolhardy.

And dozens braved the icy waters of Brodick Bay for the traditional Douglas Dook on New Year's Day.

Islanders joined the many Douglas Hotel residents, who make bringing in the New Year on Arran an annual event, meaning more than 50 took the plunge at noon.

With the hotel providing

robes, the seafront was a sea of white as the swimmers made their way in dank wet conditions from the hotel to the slipway where they were met by piper Calum McNicol.

Those taking part included the entire Arran Ladies Hockey Team - plus a couple of men - in their match day kit, members of RunArran and hotel guests dressed in Victorian bathing costumes.

Some of the swimmers wore wet suits but many walked or jumped into the icy waters in their swimming costumes and clothes. And while some had a quick dip others seemed determined to make the most of it.

A trail of dripping wet participants then made their way back to The Douglas for some hot soup and refreshments, with many vowing to do it all again next year.



Sean Henry - owner of The Douglas Hotel - leads by example.

Right: Faith McKelvie gratefully takes a warm towel from her husband Donald.



Angela Elliot-Walker was one of th

Cost effective advertising
365 days a year...
**Corporate Calendars
From Krisp Print**

Display & Promote
Your Business Everyday

How many times a day do you
glance at a calendar?

Take advantage of our excellent
offers to make sure every time
customers check the date they
get your advertising message
too.

Styles to suit any budget.

A useful gift for customers
and clients that also works to
promote your business.



For more details call

01586 554975

Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown
email: staff@krispprint.co.uk www.krispprint.co.uk





Elaine Campbell of The Douglas Hotel was persuaded to take part this year.



Gareth McNicol looked striking in his wife's hockey outfit for the dook!

the plunge as Dook



A proud Tanya Guthrie after the swim.



the first to jump.



Hockey players Lorraine Hewie and Gwen McNicol took the plunge.

Argyll College UHI Arran

**Full-time short course
January to June 2015**

- some evening study may be required

NC Business – gain a broad range of essential basic business skills

Part-time classes

Introduction to Digital Photography

Digital Skills Award

Basic Computing

Equido level 1 – *Horsemanship*

Intermediate Food Hygiene

English as a Second Language *ESOL*

Personal Licence Holders (SCPLH) 1 Day Course

Apply Today!

Your Local College

☎:- 01770 600 152 ✉:- Maureen.McKenna@uhi.ac.uk

www.argyllcollege.ac.uk

follow us on facebook 



'Congratulations to all the pupils and staff at Corrie Primary on your Eco Schools bronze award.
'Thank you to everyone who supported Eco Savvy last year. Here's to a green 2015!'

Spare a few moments to check if all your waste is going into the right bin as you may not be aware of some changes

Let's look towards a green 2015

Eco Savvy is desperate to help reduce waste on Arran after the festive season, so he will be happy to receive any two-litre plastic bottles, scraps of wrapping paper, used wrapping, unwanted decorations and Christmas cards.

These can be dropped into the staff at the Whiting Bay shop.

Spare a few moments to check if all your waste is going into the right bin as you may not be aware of some changes.

Flatten everything you can and make sure it is clean.

You can recycle all of this in your blue bin: glass bottles, glass jars and lids, plastic drinks bottles, milk bottles, water bottles, detergent bottles, washing machine liquid

bottles, and fabric softener bottles and any other plastic bottles.

Other rigid plastic and packaging can be recycled, as well as food and fruit trays, yoghurt pots, ice cream tubs and margarine tubs.

Plastic toys and hard plastics such as flower pots and trays can also be put in the blue bin.

Plastic bags, other plastic wrapping, polythene, cling film, brochures, leaflets, magazines and newspapers, telephone directories, books and catalogues, and shredded paper envelopes should all be recycled.

As should aerosol cans (body sprays and shaving foam must be empty), biscuit and sweet tins, food and drinks cans (aluminium and

steel) as well as metal pots and pans, clean aluminium foil, foil food trays, clean cardboard food packaging, cereal boxes, cardboard packaging, egg boxes, Tetra Pak juice containers, and milk and soup cartons.

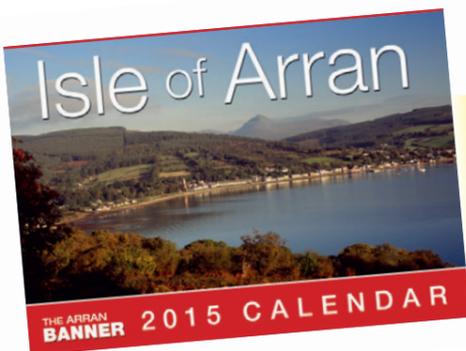
With such a large list for recycling all Eco Savvy wants now is environmentally friendly packaging, a food waste collection point on the island and soon black bins could be redundant on the island!

This is food for thought for Eco Savvy in 2015.

Meanwhile you can 'shrink your bin' throughout January with the rubbish diet - see www.therubbishdiet.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who has supported Eco Savvy this year, here's to a green 2015!

A new beginning 2015 Calendars



Arran Banner
Isle of Arran
£7.75 (inc. UK P&P)



to order visit www.scottishcalendars.co.uk
or call **01371 851 868**

Working hours for Arran's teenagers clarified

Concerns have been raised about teenagers working unlawfully long shifts on the island, despite still being pupils at Arran High School.

Getting a part time job is natural for most youngsters on Arran and while learning to earn their own money, as well as how to manage it, can be a valuable life lesson, it's worth checking the rules first so that both employers and employees don't find themselves on the wrong side of the law.

What age can children work?

They can't work until they are 13; that's unless your child is doing modelling, TV or theatre work, which are some of the specialist professions where younger children are allowed to work.

What work can they do?

From 13, teenagers can do 'light' work; that's things like paper rounds, car washing, working in local shops, hairdressers, cafés or restaurants, (although they can't be involved in food preparation).

How many hours can they work?

Children can work a maximum two hours a day outside

school hours, but not before 7am or after 7pm and only one hour before school.

During term time children can work up to 12 hours a week. This includes the maximum two hours on school days and on Sundays and up to five hours on Saturdays, or eight hours on Saturdays for 15 to 16-year-olds.

During school holidays this goes up to 25 hours a week for 13 to 14-year-olds; which means they can work up to five hours every day except Sunday when it's a two hour limit.

For 15 to 16-year-olds the holiday working limit is higher; up to 35 hours a week; with a maximum eight hours a day and up to two hours work on Sundays.

If they've taken on a regular part-time job there's probably pressure on them to keep it up during school holidays but under child employment regulations they must get a minimum two week break from work during school holidays at least once a year.

Does the minimum wage apply?

No, this doesn't kick in until you're over the school leav-

ing age so there are no set rates for children under 16.

While it's probably unlikely any part time work is going to take your child's earnings beyond their tax free limit of £8,105, (this limit includes any income but also interest on savings), if they do go beyond this limit they'll pay tax just like adults.

Who needs to know if they're working?

It's down to employers to tell staff at Arran High School if they're offering work to anyone under the school leaving age. The school will then issue the child with a 'work permit'. But if it is 'work experience', which is arranged through the school, then work permits won't be needed. And if anyone runs a family business and gets their kids to 'help out'; even if the work's not paid, they should still let the local authority know.

like us on
facebook
www.facebook.com/arranbanner

The Silent Man

The snow had stopped. The bright winter sun sparkled on the white mantel that clothed roofs, fields and roads; almost an Alpine scene, as the large yellow helicopter soared into the air above Kinloch.

The naval pilot chatted to Daley via the headset as they flew over the town. Those coordinating the search had been sceptical when Daley had first mooted the idea of looking for John Sweeney at Sorn Bay. However, with all hopes of finding the man virtually dashed, and nothing else to go on, they had let the policeman follow his instinct.

He looked down as a flock of sheep, a dirty cream colour against the white snow, scattered as the helicopter passed overhead. They made heavy progress through the thick snow, leaving pockmarked tracks in their wake.

'Inspector Daley, look!' exclaimed the pilot, his voice tinny through the headphones. 'There, smoke!'

Sure enough, a thin line of black smoke spiralled up from a little shack below them, plain against the white ground.

'I can see footprints in the snow,' shouted Daley. 'Can we land here?'

The pilot brought the helicopter gently to the ground, its downdraft scattering snow into the air like another mini flurry.

Daley, after being helped out of the aircraft, saw a small line of footprints that led away from the shack and over a small rise. He followed them, and on reaching the top caught his breath at the beauty of the scene before him. The vast Atlantic appeared almost motionless beneath sheer cliffs. And there,



Denzil Meyrick

'The old man didn't move, and for a moment Daley thought he was about to step over the edge of the cliff.'

A DCI Daley short story by Denzil Meyrick - part 3

dwarfed under the huge sky, Daley could see a figure in the distance.

He crunched through the thick snow, which was almost up to his knees, soaking his trousers. 'Mr Sweeney!' he shouted, the echo sending gulls screaming into the clear air.

Closer now, Daley could see the man turn around, look at him for a heartbeat, then step nearer the edge of the cliff, facing back out to sea.

'John, please! Come on, let's get you back into the warmth. We'll freeze out here.'

The old man took another step forward, now only a few inches from oblivion.

Daley was struggling to think what to say to prevent John Sweeney taking his own life, when a small voice rang out behind him.

'Grampa, come with me!' shouted the little boy, out of the helicopter now, and

wrapped up in a thick coat and hat, in his father's arms.

The old man didn't move, and for a moment Daley thought he was about to step over the edge of the cliff. But, slowly, he turned. Daley could see his jaws working, as he opened and closed his mouth wordlessly, then shook his head.

'Grampa, please!' Calum wailed.

Sank to his knees

John Sweeney looked up again. 'Calum, my wee lad, you're so bonnie,' he said, as he sank to his knees in the thick snow.

The wee boy had wriggled free of his father's grip and was doing his best to plunge towards them, his hat fallen off in the snow and his hair seeming even more red against it. Daley scooped him up in his arms and took him across to his grandfather.

'Grampa,' said Calum, holding his hand out. 'I don't

mind if Santa doesn't bring me a bike. Don't worry.'

Tears coursed down the old man's face as the little boy clung onto his grandfather.

'See, Daddy. Grampa does speak to me. I wasn't telling tales.' Calum beamed at his father.

Just as they were about to climb into the helicopter, John Sweeney stopped and turned to face the cliff once more.

'Maggie, I canna come with you, not now - one day, but not now.' He took a deep breath and hugged his grandson.

'Don't worry, Grampa,' said Calum, his face sincere. 'The girl with the red hair is waiting for you.'

Andrew Duncan looked, astonished, at the boy. 'He doesn't know anything about Maggie,' he said to the detective.

All Jim Daley could do was shrug his shoulders.

WIN! A copy of THE LAST WITNESS

We are offering two lucky Arran Banner readers the chance to win a copy of Denzil Meyrick's book, The Last Witness.



For your chance to win a copy of the book, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to

**The Oban Times
D.C.I. Daley Comp**
PO Box 1, Oban,
Argyll, PA34 4HB.

QUESTION:

What is the name of John Sweeney's sister?

- a) Molly
- b) Maggie
- c) Maisie

Entries must be submitted by Friday 30th January, 2015.

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. Competition will be drawn on Friday 30th January. Winners to collect their prize from the Arran Banner office.

AB Name:
Address:
Answer Telephone: Email:



SCOTTISH COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE
The voice of the countryside

ScottishField
Chiene+Tait
Chartered Accountants

STRATHALLAN
Opportunities for all to excel

www.scottishruralawards.org

TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE FOR THE AWARDS GALA DINNER

Thursday 26th March 2015
held at Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW



FREE LUXURY GOODIE BAG FOR EVERY GUEST

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS ONLINE AT:
www.scottishruralawards.org

or Tel: 0131 551 7933 email: info@scottishruralawards.org

All attendees will be featured in Scottish Field or online at scottishfield.co.uk and scottishruralawards.org



Bird notes
by Jim Cassels
JANUARY

This shows a large number of woodpigeon flying together.

Counting birds in a flock

Following a recent article in The Banner on birds flocking together, I was asked how to count the number of birds in a large flock.

Obviously you could try and count every individual bird but particularly in a flock flying around that would be extremely difficult.

One technique that is used is to count a 'block' of say 10 or 20 birds, judge how much space that the 'block' takes up in the flock and then scan the flock and estimate the number of 'blocks' in the flock.

By multiplying the number of blocks by the number of birds in a block, you get an estimate, often a good estimate of the total number of birds in the flock.

Here are a couple of photographs of flocks taken by John and Jean Fitzpatrick in Sliderry to practise the block technique on.

The image below is of golden plover and the one on the

left with the greater number of birds is of woodpigeon.

Taking photographs is a reliable way of obtaining the number of birds in a flock.

In the digital age with so many easily carried devices, like smart phones as well as compact cameras, it is relatively straightforward to take photographs of a flock of birds both in the air or on the ground, upload the images onto a computer screen and count the birds.

Enjoy your birding.

Please send any bird notes with 'what, when, where' to me at Kilpatrick Kennels, Kilpatrick, Blackwaterfoot, KA27 8EY, or e mail me at james.cassels@virgin.net . I look forward to hearing from you. For more information on birding on Arran purchase the Arran Bird Atlas 2007-2012 as well as the Arran Bird Report 2013 and visit this website www.arranbirding.co.uk



This image is of golden plover flocking.



I did my Tax Return early and found inner peace.

31st January is the deadline for your online Self Assessment Tax Return. If you miss it 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



krisp print

For a hassle free service throughout Mid Argyll and Kintyre call Krisp Print

Main Street/Longrow South, Campbeltown PA28 6JD
Tel: 01586 554975
 email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

- Design
- Copy
- Print

THE ARRAN

BANNER

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Saturday 14 January, 1995

It could be you

Now it really could be you who wins the lottery!

For at last Arran finally has a working lottery machine.

At 11.30am on Tuesday the machine at the Brodick Co-operative store suddenly leapt into action.

Nine weeks after people in other parts of the UK were able to buy lottery tickets, this passport to eternal hope is now available to the people of Arran too.

Grass roots

Alex Reid of Clauchlands has one of the most successful farms on Arran.

And his great attention to the details of every aspect of farming mean his silage could soon be named the best in Scotland.

On Tuesday a farming judge came all the way from Aberdeen to judge the Clauchlands silage.

When the winner was announced last night sadly it wasn't Alex's grass but he was still up there with the very best.

Village centre plans

Planners have failed once again to discuss plans for the village centre in Brodick after the sub-committee was unable to report their views this week.

Planning officer Mike Lee said that the likely date for the next meeting was February 2 when three councillors and planners would take an overview of the present village centre.

The Banner understands that after a number of site visits they will retire to Brodick Hall

to discuss what they have seen and members of the public will be able to sit in.

Holy Isle development

When planning permission was submitted for two retreat centres on Holy Isle, the Buddhists of Samye Ling mounted a small exhibition at the council office in Lamlash to give interested members of the public a better idea of what was planned.

The exhibition had been scheduled to move to a Brodick location just before Christmas.

However, as the result of someone in the consultant's office falling ill, this did not happen.

But this week we have been told that the exhibition has now been put up in the Tourist Information Centre and will be there for two weeks.

Travelcard discount

Arran's pensioners get a good deal with their travelcard, but only if they stay within Strathclyde.

Outside the region they receive no concessions - except in the most unlikely of places.

Mrs Ella McKechnie of Lochranza spent the festive season in North Holland with her only daughter and family.

Normally her daughter would have taken her to Amsterdam Airport or her return to Glasgow but bad weather had disrupted road traffic.

So Mrs McKechnie decided to travel from Zwolle to Schipol by rail, and when prompted by her grandson she showed the conductor her Strathclyde Travelcard.

With a smile the Dutch rail staff cheerfully gave her a half price ticket.



Colin and Martha Currie of Bridge Farm, Shiskine celebrated their ruby wedding anniversary this week. Married on 12 January, 1955, the couple have four children - Lesley, Myra, Elma and Colin. Colin himself was just married last year and is planning to take over the family farm. b02twe02



Robert and Tracey Murchie are pictured at High Feorline Farm with their grandfather Charlie Murchie's first lambs of the year. b02twe03



A 'stagger'? A 'measure'? Or a cocktail of publicans? Whatever the collective term, here's a 'barrel' of landlords at the Arran Licensed Trade Association annual dinner held last Wednesday at the Kinloch Hotel. Left to right are: John Dowson (Anchor Hotel), Russell Duncan (Duncan's Bar), Dave Ashcroft (Catacol Bay Hotel), Dave Hodkin (Ingledene Hotel), Brian Boal (Heathfield Hotel), John Carpenter (PHT), Joe Bulger (Corrie Hotel), Tommy Gilmore (Ormidale Hotel), Lawrence Crawford (Kinloch Hotel) and Ian McFadzean (Brodick Bar). b02twe04



Alex Reid of Clauchlands Farm, right, with silage judge Alastair Watt. On the left is Gordon Tiley of Auchencruive College, Ayr. b02twe01

What's on

in association with Isle of Arran Brewery

www.arranbrewery.com



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

RunArran
 Live Music
 Bridge for beginners
 Scottish Country Dancing
 Hatha Yoga
 Metafit

Hospital Hill car park, Lamlash, 5.30pm
 Fiddlers, 7.30pm
 Learning Centre, Lamlash 7-9pm
 All Stages, Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm
 Brodick Hall, 1.30pm - 2.30pm
 Arran High School, Lamlash 6pm

Saturday 10th January

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

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
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 11am

Wednesday 14th 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
 Yoga-Arran
 Drift Inn Quiz
 Mixed Hockey
 Coffee Morning

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
 Brodick Church Hall, 10.30 - 12noon

Sunday 11th 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 15th January

Morning Fitness
 General Knowledge Quiz
 Folk, Country, Bluesy Night with Cams & Friends
 Yoga
 Bridge Club
 Open Music session
 Ladies Hockey
 RunArran Beginners
 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 Pavillon, 7.30-8.30pm
 Auchrannie Car Park, Brodick, 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 12th 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
 RunArran Beginners
 Hatha yoga
 Lunch Club

Lochranza Village Hall, 2-4pm
 Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm
 Ormidale Pavilion, 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
 Whiting Bay
 Brodick Hall, 5.30pm - 6.30pm
 Brodick Sheltered Housing, 12.30pm

Friday 16th January

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

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
 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick, 7.30pm

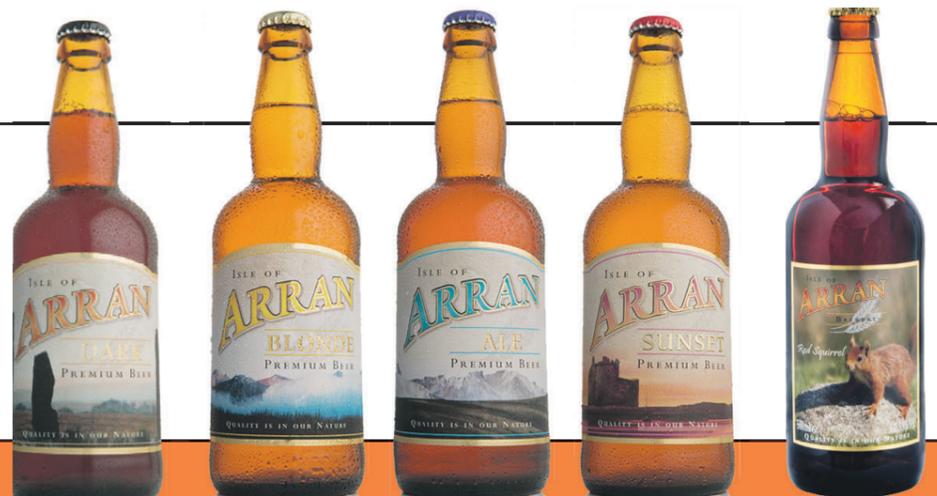
Tuesday 13th January

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

Ormidale Hotel, 9pm
 Auchrannie 7pm
 Brodick Church Hall, 2pm
 Kildonan Hall, 7pm
 Glenclay Suite, Auchrannie, 7.15pm
 10am-1pm NTS Ranger Centre
 Blackwaterfoot bowling club, 1.45pm
 Fiddlers, Brodick, 7.30pm



www.arranbrewery.com



Public Notices

**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)



North Ayrshire Council
Comhairle Siorrachd Air a Tuath

**ARRAN VISUAL ARTS
Annual General Meeting**
Friday 16th January at 7.30 pm
In the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Speaker Dr Michael Grant
"Creative Visualisation"
All most Welcome

**BANNER BANNER
PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES
BANNER BANNER
PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES**

Recruitment

**Reliable Cleaner
Wanted**
Saturday changeover preferred
Kildonan - 4 Bedrooms
Tel: Lesley - 07816779238



HOUSEKEEPERS REQUIRED
We are looking for reliable and conscientious housekeepers for various locations across the island. Competitive rates of pay.
If you are interested, please contact us on 303113 or call into our office at The Douglas Centre, Brodick.

VACANCIES

Groundworkers	Scaffolder
Labourers	HGV Driver
Joiners	Delivery Driver

Please apply to John Thomson Construction Ltd
Telephone: 01770 600242
Lamlash Isle of Arran, KA27 8NB

OFFICE ASSISTANT
Enthusiastic and committed office assistant required for busy office. Good typing, organisational skills and computer literacy are essential.
Competitive rates of pay.

**Applications in writing please to:
John Thomson Construction Ltd., Park Terrace,
Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8NB**

BEST WESTERN
**Kinloch
Hotel**
Isle of Arran

The BEST WESTERN Kinloch Hotel are looking for year round reception bank staff to join our busy team. The successful applicant/s will provide flexible cover for staff absence (eg illness, training and holidays) Previous reception/admin and hotel experience would be beneficial but not essential as full training will be given.

**Enquiries and applications to
hr@kinlochhotel.eclipse.co.uk**
Closing Date for applications Monday 19th January

**BANNER BANNER
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT**



First Previous Menu Next Last Zoom in Search

The New Instant

**THE ARRAN
BANNER**

Digital Edition

AVAILABLE NOW

Our new E-Edition is delivered direct to your inbox on the day of publication.

Receive it even when you're away from home - anywhere where you have internet access.

- User friendly, professional page viewer
- 'Flip' through pages
- Zoom in and out
- Print pages
- Search

Trade Classified

PAINTER AND DECORATOR



FULTON
decorators

LAMLASH
TEL/FAX 01770 600705
Est. 1985

- All paintwork undertaken
- Any job, large or small
- Paper hanging
- Floor sanding & sealing
- Phone Gavin Fulton for a free estimate

TREES

Tree & hedge cutting and clearing
Brush Cutting and strimming.
All types of fencing

Call Jamie McKinnon:
01770 810 222 or 07760 247201



find us on
facebook

www.facebook.com/arranbanner

COMPUTING SERVICES

Arran Computer Shop
Speedy computer repairs and upgrades

- Virus removal
- Laptop screen and keyboard replacement
- Operating system reinstallation
- Hard disk replacement
- Data transfer to new PC or hard disk
- Home networking
- Advice on backing up your data
- One-to-one tuition

Located in
Brodick Post Office
01770 303623
www.arrancomputershop.co.uk



INCIDENTALS
ARRAN

Happy computers on
Arran since 1983

Bill Stewart
T. 830343

BANNER
ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER
ANNOUNCEMENTS
BANNER
ANNOUNCEMENTS

SERVICE TO PROMOTE?

THE ARRAN
BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk



Drive Times

Mitsubishi Shogun Sport 2.5



Diesel VGC
05 Reg Tax @ Test 70,000m
Tow bar, Good tyres, leather seats,
Low tax bracket.

£4,700 o.n.o.

Tel: 01770 700597 - after 6pm (Arran)

Cars sell **QUICKER** and for a **BETTER PRICE** when accompanied by a photograph. Our staff can take these for you for **FREE**. Just drive to our nearest office to place your ad.

THE ARRAN BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk



CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

- 1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
- 2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
- 3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
- 4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
- 5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
- 6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.
- 7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
- 8 Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose.
- 9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
- 10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
- 11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
- 12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

Classifieds

FREE TO UPLIFT
Four plate stove, good working order Tel: 601226

WANTED
Arran Monopoly game, must be complete and in good condition. Tel: 01555 665488

OVER £30
Redring 12KW Powerstream Ascari wall hung electric boiler - very good condition £500 ono Tel: 01770302148

UNDER £30
Plush postman pat singing dancing toy 40cm high, sings 3 songs £10 brand new, chic-co talking kitchen 12 months £10 brand new Tel: 302530 or 07786192015

Gents kilt - 38-40 waist - brand new never been worn, standard length £25. Tel: 303550

Ronseal fence spray (in box - used once) - £15, Wooden picture frame, new in wrapper - 40 x 50cm - £8, Wall mirror, white wood frame, as new - 50 x 76cm - £15, Russell Hobbs Mini Cooker Oven Twin Hobs £30, Record 18" Stilson Wrench - £12 Tel: 600238

Point of lay Black Rock pullets from the original Black Rock hatchery. £18 each.
Five point of lay cuckoo marans £18 each plus one copper blue maran cockerel £5.
Three black marans point of lay pullets £18 each plus one copper black maran cockerel £5 Ring Terry on 700628 or 07802250241

BANNER CLASSIFIEDS
BANNER CLASSIFIEDS

UNWANTED ITEM TO SELL?

THE ARRAN
BANNER

Tel: 01770 302142
www.arranbanner.co.uk



ARRAN BANNER CLASSIFIEDS

TURN YOUR **UNWANTED ITEMS** INTO **CASH!**

UNDER £30 FREE!



Simply complete the form and return to the Arran Banner office

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE TUESDAY 4.00pm
NO MORE THAN 25 WORDS PLEASE

ITEM.....
DESCRIPTION.....
.....
.....
.....
PRICE..... TELEPHONE.....

ONLY ONE ITEM PER COUPON

The Arran Banner, Brodick, Isle of Arran KA27 8AJ
Tel: 01770 302142 Fax: 01770 302021
Email adverts@arranbanner.co.uk www.arranbanner.co.uk

The co-operative memorials



- Traditional and modern styles
- Free quotations
- Additional inscriptions
- Home visits

Visit our display area at Sorbie Road, Ardrossan opposite Cemetery Gates or phone

01294 461554



CHURCH NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(Part of the Worldwide Anglican Communion)

St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.

Sunday 11th January
Holy Communion, 11.00 am.
Mrs Janis Gallagher. Coffee after service.

ALL WELCOME

ARRAN CHURCHES TOGETHER

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN UNITY:

Sunday 18th January
at 12.00 noon in Brodick Church.

With Arran Brass
Preacher: Rev Jill Clancy.
Offering to Shelter Box Disaster Relief.

Everybody most welcome
Tea/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 11th January
Lochranza and Pirmill Churches. 10.15am Morning Worship in Lochranza Shiskine Church, 12noon Morning Worship.

Brodick 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 11th January
Kilmory 10am
Lamlash 11.30 am
Both Churches:

Mrs. Sharon MacLeod
All welcome, including families; children's area
Scottish Charity SC015072

ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(continuing)

Sunday 11th January
Morning Service 11am
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick
Evening Service 6.30pm
5 Glen Road, Brodick
Prayer Meeting
Wednesday 14th January, 7pm
5 Glen Road

WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Charity Number: SC014005)

Sunday 11th January
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am.
All welcome.

Tea and coffee will be served in the Transept after the service and everyone is invited to stay and enjoy more fellowship afterwards.

There will be a range of Traidcraft goods available for sale.

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Sunday mass 11am

ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Rev Vince Jennings

Sunday 11th January
11am Morning worship in the Ormidale Sports Pavilion, Brodick
Tea & 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 11th January
Shiskine 11am (Church on road between Blackwaterfoot and Machrie)

Brodick 7pm (Church behind post office)
Surag Kasula

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, QUAKERS

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

DEATHS

BARR - Dr Wallace
Paisley and Lochranza. Peacefully at the Royal Alexandra Hospital, after a short illness, on 27th December 2014. Memorial Service at Paisley Abbey on Friday 9th January 2015 at 11.00am

GILBERT - Sheena
Formerly "The Hayocks" Blackwaterfoot aged 95yrs, died peacefully in hospital in Aberystwyth on the 2nd January 2015.

HAMILTON - Archibald McMillan

Peacefully at Arran War Memorial Hospital after a long illness bravely borne on Sunday, 4th January 2015. Archie, aged 70 years, beloved husband of Gladys, much loved dad of Hazel and Bob, proud papa of Colin and Fraser, brother of Hugh, father-in-law of Alastair,

son-in-law of Agnes and special friend of Laura. Funeral service in Brodick church on Monday 12th January at 11:30am and thereafter to Lamlash cemetery to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to, Friends of the Beatson, ArCaS and RNLI.

STEWART - Margaret
Peacefully at Cooriedoon Nursing Home on Friday, 2nd January 2015. Margaret, aged 84 years, beloved wife of the late Daniel, loving mum of John, the late Diane and Evelyn and much loved Nana of Charlie and Duncan. Funeral service in Lamlash Church on Friday, 9th January at 11:30am and thereafter to Lamlash cemetery to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. With very very many thanks to all the staff at Cooriedoon for looking after my mum and making her very comfortable during the end and all the hugs received from you all, it gave me another strength to carry on - Evelyn

SYM - Donald
Peacefully at Cooriedoon Nursing Home on Wednesday, 31st December 2014. Donnie of Shannoche, aged 83 years, beloved husband of Dorothy. Funeral service in St Molios Church, Shiskine on Tuesday, 13th January at 11:30am and thereafter to Clachan Cemetery to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MCKELVIE - Iain, John, Lorna, Karyn and family would like to express their thanks to the Doctors and Community Nurses for their care given to Betty during her illness, also to family and friends for their support. We would also like to thank David and Clair Hendry and Jean Hunter for the services they provided. The retiral collection of £1053.97 has been donated to "Hospital Supporters League".

STRANG - The family of Colin Strang would like to thank all those who helped Colin recently - the doctors and paramedics who attended on the day of his death for their care and professionalism, Jean Hunter and the Hendrys for their kindness and consideration with the funeral. Particular thanks to David Napier for all his support and concern in the longer term, most notably in Colin's final weeks.



Arran Golfers Association

Fixtures: Sunday 11 January, Arran Golfers Association Winter League/Duncan Trophy third round at Corrie Golf Club. Draw: Corrie v Lamlash 8.30am, Machrie v Brodick 9.20am, Whiting Bay v Shiskine 11.50am.

Machrie Bay Golf Club

Tuesday 30 December, two club competition. Ladies: 1 Sally Brookes 37, 2 Elizabeth Ross 40, 3 Ester Henderson 41.5. Scratch Sally Brooks 48.

Gents: 1 Phil Betley 36.5, 2 Brian Sherwood 36.5, 3 Alastair MacDonald 36.5. Scratch Alastair MacDonald 41.

Annual eclectic winner Campbell Laing 42.

Twos winner Brian Sherwood 26 pts, 2 Elizabeth Ross 18pts, 3 Mark Sherwood 11pts.

Saturday 3 January, Lochranza Hotel Cup, stableford. 1 Phil Betley 37 points,

2 Brian Sherwood 36 points, 3 Ian Buchanan 31 points. Phil was also the winner of the annual 'freebie' competition and receives free club membership for 2015.

Fixtures: Tuesday 13 January, Winter Cup, tee-off 12noon.

Brodick Golf Club

Sunday 4 January, Brandon and Winter Cup, 18 played. 1 G Hendry 66-6=60, 2 B Smith 74-12=62 BIH, 3 I Sillars 77-15=62. Scratch G Hendry 66.

There were five twos, two each for R McCrae and G Hendry, and one for L Keir.

First class Brandon G Hendry, second class Brandon I Sillars.

Fixtures: Sunday 11 January, AGA Winter League at Corrie. There will be a sweep at Brodick, open draws at 9am and 12noon.

Whiting Bay Golf Club

The nine-hole cross country on Friday 2 January attracted a small but very select turnout in rather challenging conditions.

Up for the challenge however was Stan Rainey who walked/swam away with the first prize with an excellent score of 29.

On Sunday 4 January, 14 played in the fourth round of the Winter Cup, CSS-63. 1 Stan Rainey (12)61, 2 Jamie MacPherson (6)63, 3 Dave Hackett (12)64.



Shiskine Golf Club's Allan Smith Plate winner Elizabeth Kelso is pictured with runner up Jenny Geddes and scratch winner Sue Biggar.

There were magic twos by Dave Hackett and Wolfi Kroner and Jamie MacPherson won scratch with 69. Fixtures: Sunday 11 January, AGA Winter League at Corrie, against Shiskine at 11.50am.

Corrie Golf Club

Saturday 3 January, Winter Cup, white tees. An excellent turnout of 17 played. 1 Ian Bremner 32+32=64-5=59. 2 Alan Napier 39+30=69-7=62 BIH, 3 Euan McKinnon 30+30=60+2=62 BIH over C Pattenden. Best scratch Euan McKinnon 62.

Magic twos Euan McKinnon at the 3rd, Ian Bremner at the 17th, Alan Napier at the 13th, John McGovern at the 17th, Raymond Burke at the 4th and C Pattenden at the 15th.

Thanks to Pablo and Guy for the excellent condition of the course at this time of year.

Fixtures: Saturday 10 January, Winter Cup, white tees, 8.30am and 12noon. Sunday 11 January, Arran Golf Association Winter League at Corrie. Please note course will be closed from 8am till 3pm for the competition. Monday 12 January, Monday Cup at 12noon.

Lamlash Golf Club

Sunday 28 December, Winter Stableford (Par 64). 1 Douglas Macfarlane 34pts, 2 Todd Jameson 31pts, 3 Scott Campbell 30pts. Two from D Macfarlane at

the 13th. Friday 2 January, course backwards. 1 Paul Jameson 79-11=68, 2 Alan Smith 82-10=72, 3 Iain Murchie 77-4=73. Best Scratch Iain Murchie.

Sunday 4 January, Glenburn Cup. 1 Graeme Andrew 79-9=70, 2 Ian Bremner 76-5=71. Best Scratch Ian Bremner 76.

Fixtures: Sunday 11 January, Winter League, Lamlash v Corrie at Corrie Golf Club, 8.30am start. Thursday 15 January, Yellow Medal, draw at 11am.

Shiskine Golf Club

Saturday 3 January, Colditz, 28 played. First class: 1 W Kelso 46-5=41, 2 D K Henderson 49-4=45, 3 D Hardie 53-7=46.

Second class: 1 D Henderson 51-8=43, 2 M Ritchie 54-10=44, 3 A Bannatyne 58-13=45 BIH. Scratch W Kelso 46. Magic two from A Howie.

Well done to Willie for winning the Colditz Quaich and also to his wife Elizabeth Kelso who won the Alan Smith Plate.

Sunday 4 January, 12 hole medal and winter cup, 13 played.

1 B Sherwood 47-6=41 BIH, 2 C Laing 53-12=41, 3 J Morrison 47-5=42 BIH, Scratch J Morrison 42 BIH. Magic twos D Logan, A Napier, J Morrison, S Kerr and A Kerr.

Fixtures: Saturday 17 January, Lochranza v Shiskine. Saturday 24 January, 18 Hole Medal.



Shiskine club captain Martyn Ker presents Willie Kelso with the Colditz Quaich.

IN MEMORY

CHRIS STONE

Died 30-12-2013

Who has left many happy memories with love from all the family x

AFFORDABLE
Country Kiln
Starting from £299

Woodburning & Multifuel stoves
Nationwide Delivery • Local Installers
01560 483966
www.WoodburningStovesLimited.com

Sport

Arran's Weekly Newspaper

LAMLASH GARAGE
MOT DISCOUNT
Car MOT Fee - £50
24 HOUR RECOVERY
4 WHEEL LASER ALIGNMENT

- ✓ MOTs, repairs, servicing
- ✓ Full body repair service available
- ✓ Panel beating, spray painting

All your vehicle requirements under one roof
Contact Lamlash Garage on 01770 600328



Boxing Day bowlers (from left) Vic Iutz, Christine and John Robinson, Keith Thompson, Gina Brooks and Reuben Betley.

Bowlers brave the elements for Boxing Day challenge match

Six intrepid members of Blackwaterfoot Bowling Club braved the elements on Boxing Day for a bowls challenge.

Despite the cold, rain and the after effects of Christmas excesses, they did manage to survive and complete 11

ends, with Christine Robinson, who suggested playing the game in the first place, winning the magnificent £1.20 prize.

Members continue to play throughout the winter on Tuesday and Saturday

afternoons at 1.45pm, weather permitting. Non-members are welcome to come and join them for a game. Beginners are very welcome. Please phone Keith Thompson on 860463 or Peter Harper on 860333 for details.

Bonnie banks beckon for Arran's rugby boys

Arran RFC will be hoping to take the high road home this Saturday with a win on the Bonnie, Bonnie Banks against Loch Lomond.

This is the island rugby team's first game of the new year after a 57-7 defeat at the hands of Cumnock RFC on Saturday 6 December.

After a successful start to the season back in September, the team have been marred by bad weather cancellations

and have only played four times since the end of October.

Third position

But despite this, Arran are sitting comfortably in third position, on the same points as second placed Cumnock.

The first home game of the season is next Saturday (January 17) against Wigtownshire RFC.

Kick-off is at 2pm at the Ormidale Park in Brodick.

	P	W	L	D	Pts
Strathaven	10	9	1	0	44
Cumnock	8	6	3	0	23
Isle of Arran	8	5	3	0	23
Millbrae	8	5	1	0	22
Wigtownshire	8	5	3	0	21
Birkmyre	8	3	5	0	15
Isle of Mull	5	2	3	0	11
Lanark	8	1	6	1	9
Bishopton	7	1	6	0	6
Loch Lomond	8	1	6	1	5

Bridge club results

The results of the Arran Bridge Club Lamlash aggregate competition held on Monday 5 January. N/S 1 Tricia Martin and David Campbell, 2 Pat Adamson and Jean Barclay, 3 Margaret and Douglas Bruce. E/W 1 Vic and Michael Iutz, 2 Brenda Livingstone and Morag Gardner, 3 Margaret McGill and Elizabeth McKellar.

Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/arranbanner

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING



Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



Published by Wyvex Media, Brodick, Isle of Arran
Tel: 01770 302142 - Fax 01770 302021
E-mail: editor@arranbanner.co.uk



The Arran Banner's circulation is independently audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC Ltd) - www.abc.org.uk. The total average weekly net circulation for the 52 issues between 2nd January 2012 and 30th December 2012 for combined print and digital editions was 3,307.

The Arran Banner will continue to be independently audited.