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# Public confusion mounts at island hospice proposals

## There will be no designated hospice room

**REPORT**  
 by JENNIFER LYON  
 editor@arranbanner.co.uk

'More confused than ever!' That was the opinion of members of the public who attended a special meeting of the Arran Hospice Fund on Monday night. The public meeting had been called to address the concerns of some contributors. But after just 45 minutes, people left more confused than when the meeting began. 'So there will be no actual hospice room?' asked the Reverend Elizabeth Watson. 'Why does it have to be a

limited company?' queried Sandy Lammie. 'Surely this is duplicating the work of ArCaS and the Hospital Supporters League,' said Donald Cowan. Brenda Stewart of Lamlash told the Community Council meeting on Tuesday night that the meeting 'wasn't well run'. 'It wasn't clear who was the chairman,' she said. 'One woman said it's all going round in circles and she got up and left.'

**Attempted**  
 The newly appointed Hospice Fund directors attempted to explain the current situation.



Arran War Memorial Hospital. 02\_b04hos01



John McFaul of the Arran Hospice Fund. 02\_b01joh01

The meeting was told that John McFaul of Bogarie Farm established the fund after his wife Judy died in February 2008 having battled breast cancer for 18 months. The aim of the fund he said was to provide a facility at Arran War Memorial Hospital that will allow terminally ill sufferers to end their days here in dignity rather than dying on the mainland. 'It was my wife that died and I was the person left behind to make sense of it all,' said John.

'At that time I realised I had to go forward and setting up the Hospice Fund was a way for me to carry on.' In almost three years, the Hospice Fund has grown to just under £25,000 and some of the contributors have questioned the apparent lack of audited accounts.

**Complete Focus**  
 John said that in the three years that have followed he has had to 'rebuild' his life and as a result he did not give the management of the fund his

complete focus. 'Yes I accept that things could have been done better. But we were never hiding anything,' he said. 'We simply want to provide palliative care on the island

that is equal to that on offer at the Beatson (Cancer Clinic in Glasgow).' Alan Stout, manager of the Arran War Memorial Hospital, said the hospital now has plans

for four single rooms that will be used for a variety of uses, including palliative care. 'There will be no designated hospice room but we want to provide four rooms that could be used for palliative care when necessary,' he said. These rooms will cost the hospital £93,000 but it was still unclear at the end of the meeting whether the Arran Hospice Fund would contribute its entire balance of £25,000 to this project or continue fundraising.

The Hospice Fund has grown to just under £25,000 and some contributors have questioned the apparent lack of audited accounts

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## Multiple car bookings targeted

Ferry operator CalMac has plans to introduce a new car booking system involving payment of a non-returnable deposit.

Arran Ferry Committee chairman Ken Thorburn told the Banner: 'A new ticketing system is in the pipeline. The non-returnable deposit is designed to stop drivers making multiple bookings and only using one.'

'There are also plans for a 10-journey passenger book of tickets to replace the six-ticket book.'

Ken confirmed that the ferry committee had been assured that MV Saturn would 'in all probability' be returning as an additional summer ferry on the Brodick to Ardrossan crossing. He added that CalMac and NHS Ayrshire and Arran are looking at ways of improving the patient transfer system on the ferry.

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Council officers survey the damage at Pirmill last September. b04pir03

## Danger at Pirmill bridge

Pirmill bridge has become a hazard.

The adjacent footbridge was washed away in September when the Altgolach burn was swollen with floodwaters after heavy rain. After the floods, reinforcement work was carried out on the road bridge, but there is still no sign of a replacement footbridge.

On Tuesday night local community councillor Liz Evans told fellow councillors the area had become dangerous.

She said: 'The Improvements Committee is worried about safety issues at the road

bridge. The burn has changed course and there are fears loose boulders will push under the bridge and take the whole thing away.'

'Debris brought down by the flood has not been removed and the bank has been eroded. It could undermine the shop foundations. The centre of the village is just a mess and it is particularly dangerous for children.'

She pointed out it was difficult to raise a local work party because many of the villagers were elderly.

Charles Currie added: 'It is totally unacceptable. It's very,

very dangerous on the north side of the burn. It's no use sitting here and waiting for some child to die.'

Brodie Pearcey of NAC said: 'The landowner is responsible for erosion of the track and reinforcement of the bank. All debris will be removed by council workers. We are waiting for quotes for new fencing.'

Community Council chairman John Inglis asked Liz Evans to write to the landowner and suggested volunteer groups from other villages could be mustered for a work party.

## The Banner helps to lift Linda's spirits in flooded Australia

The devastating floods in Australia may have destroyed homes and businesses but they haven't cracked the spirits of Linda Buckingham and her family.

Linda lives in Goombungee, Queensland not far from the town of Toowoomba, which felt the worst of the rising water.

She is a subscriber to *The Arran Banner* and she contacted us after she received the first mail for weeks after the floodwaters hit.

'I have just had your beautiful Calendar delivered today, the first mail for a week,' she wrote. 'On Tuesday morning I woke up to water through my lounge, kitchen and dining area of my home but within two hours it was cleaned up and my home sandbagged by the State Emergency Services and help from neighbours.'

'I live about 20 minutes drive from Toowoomba and am so,

so grateful that I have lost nothing and gained friends unlike so many others in the area.

We have had no milk, groceries or fuel for a week as our little village has been isolated by floodwaters.

'Your lovely Calendar is like a new start to the year and I love your web site. Keep up the good work.'

The 61-year-old used to visit Whiting Bay as a child with her grandmother and despite now living at the other side of the world, she has fond memories of the island.

'I just loved Glen Ashdale and as I lived in Stevenston, as a teenager I enjoyed working holidays in Whiting Bay,' she told us.

'The floodwaters are now receding and we are to get fuel delivered tomorrow.'

'I am indeed fortunate to have survived unscathed after this dreadful event.'



The devastating floods in Queensland, Australia have seen many people lose their homes.



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### Police files

#### Car vandalised

A car was vandalised in Hillside Terrace, Lamlash on Friday 14 January. Police are following a positive line of inquiry.

#### Drug offences

A 24-year-old Lamlash man was arrested on warrant on drug offences on Wednesday 12 January.

#### Breach of bail

On Thursday 13 January an 18-year-old Whiting Bay man was arrested on warrant for breaching a bail order.

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## Arran cemeteries approaching saturation

Arran's cemeteries are getting full.

Shiskine community councillor Willie Kelso told Tuesday's Community Council meeting that the village graveyard was nearly full.

He said: 'There are at most 10 spaces left.'

'Considering the time it took for Kilmory to extend its graveyard, the council should be doing something about it now.'

Councillor Margie Currie replied: 'There is a programme to have more ground in two years.'

### 'No room'

She added this extension may not be operational until 2013 to which Charles Currie commented wryly: 'You can't say to folk 'you cannae die yet, there's no room'.'

Brenda Stewart pointed out that Lamlash cemetery was also almost full, but Councillor Currie assured her that the adjacent field was already manse land so it would be straightforward to extend the cemetery.

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# Fog bound ferry disrupted



Thick fog descended upon the island on Saturday morning. The Ross Road between Lamlash and Sliddery was one of the few places to be fog free. 01\_b04fog01

Thick fog disrupted the ferry service between Ardrossan and Brodick on Saturday afternoon.

The 3.15pm from Ardrossan and the 4.40pm from Brodick were cancelled and the MV Clansman was unable to dock for several hours on the mainland because of the weather conditions.

The 6pm and 7.20pm ferry sailings went ahead but the vessel didn't dock in Ardrossan until after 10pm.

Jane-Ann Liston from St Andrews was watching the ship's progress online.

She said: 'Not long after 8pm she slowed right down and it

was not until 10pm, one and three-quarter hours late, that the Clansman was able to enter Ardrossan harbour.'

She added: 'If even such a large and fast ferry as MV Clansman is unable to cope with such weather, it begs the question as how smaller vessels, such as are perhaps being proposed by potential private operators, could manage, not just in fog but during unfavourable winds, particularly getting in and out of Ardrossan.'

Douglas Adam of Corriegills said he was impressed with the way the CalMac staff handled the delays. 'I would like to

extend my grateful thanks to Donna Wallace of CalMac who looked after my mother and aunt and another couple on the 7.20pm ferry to Ardrossan on Saturday,' he said. 'Due to severe fog the ferry eventually berthed at Ardrossan shortly after 10pm. As my mother and aunt were due to travel back to Glasgow by train (that had already departed) they were stranded at Ardrossan harbour with no-where to shelter.'

'Donna kindly welcomed them back onboard the Clansman until the rescue party in the way of my father who drove from Glasgow to pick them up arrived.'

## Local MP seeks debate on closure of Greenock Coastguard station

Katy Clark MP has expressed grave concern about plans to close Greenock Coastguard station which covers the waters around Arran.

She has tabled an Early Day Motion denouncing the decision from the Government to reduce the number of Coastguard bases from 19 to nine across the UK.

The Government intends to close the Clyde Marine Rescue Co-ordination Centre,

based in Greenock, which currently covers the west coast and instead only have one base in Aberdeen to cover the whole of Scotland.

Ms Clark said: 'I am very disappointed at the Government's decision to close Clyde MRCC. I believe that to leave the West of Scotland without Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre is hugely irresponsible.'

'The current staff of Clyde

MRCC have an excellent knowledge of local coastal areas and I am very concerned about the prospect of difficulties occurring if an incident does occur off the West Coast of Scotland if a response has to be co-ordinated from as far away as Aberdeen. There is a very real chance that lives could be put at risk by this poorly thought out proposal. I am also very worried about the loss of jobs for dedicated

staff at MRCCC Clyde. A number of the staff at the Greenock coastguard station live in North Ayrshire and now face the threat of compulsory redundancy. The Government announced this decision in a written statement. I have been asking for a Parliamentary debate on the issue given the serious concerns which have been raised.'

## Phil Gallie dies

Former Conservative politician Phil Gallie has died suddenly at the age of 71.

Mr Gallie was selected as a possible Conservative general election candidate for Arran in 1989 but served as MP for Ayr between 1992 and 1997 before going on to represent the South of Scotland region in the first two sessions of the Scottish Parliament.

He was born in Portsmouth in 1939 and attended Dunfermline High School, in Fife, Scotland.

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## Salvation Army Befriending Service on Arran

The Salvation Army is the provider of a befriending service on Arran, which is currently delivered by a group of six excellent volunteers.

Each one of the volunteers has been vetted, trained and commissioned to operate this service to folks who are lonely, or simply need regular contact with someone because of life circumstances.

Referrals can be accepted from various agencies as well as family members or friends.

The volunteers and leaders have monthly team meetings to ensure that there is ongoing support and training in place.

### Recruit

Envoy Lexie Andrade of Arran and Irvine Salvation Army said: 'We have a number of service users already and so places are rather limited until we can recruit more volunteers.'

'If you know of anyone who would be able to give a few hours each week and who would be willing to provide references and disclosed, please get in touch.'

'All volunteers should be aware that the Salvation Army is a Christian Church and a charity, and we ask that volunteers respect the values of our organisation.'

'Also, if you know of someone who may need this service please ring 07726 695409.'

'All referrals are handled discreetly.'



## Friendly heron welcomes Brodick visitors

Trevor Bambridge of Shiskine took this photograph of a friendly heron welcoming visitors to Brodick on Friday afternoon.

'I was in Brodick and saw that a heron had decided to fly on to the wall right by the 'Welcome to Brodick' sign,' he told The Banner.

'The heron stayed there for quite a while - at least 15 minutes - and wasn't bothered in the slightest by everybody walking past it.'

He said that the visitors disembarking from the 3.15pm ferry must have been enchanted by the sight as there were many others taking photographs too.

## New workers to help fight plant disease at Castle

Brodick Castle Country Park and Gardens are preparing to welcome new members of staff.

Property manager Ken Thorburn said: 'We have a new estate team leader, Neil Lemmon, and he will be joined at the end of the month by two more estate workers.'

'They will be reporting to head gardener Colin Totty who will then have nine people in his team.'

Extra funding from the National Trust for Scotland has been matched by funding from Historic Scotland, enabling several projects to get off the ground.

Ken added: 'The three new estate workers will be on a two-year fixed contract which gives some degree of stability. They will be battling against the Phytophthora plant disease in the castle grounds, as well as doing essential ditching,

draining and fencing work. Government scientists are using this place as a kind of test bed to get a better knowledge of how the disease is transferred. But the extra workers will be a big help in dealing with the problem.'

With the increased funding, the Trust will also be upgrading Gardener's Cottage and refurbishing the Ranger accommodation at Shore Lodge. In the coming season the castle and gardens will once again be open seven days a week.

## Lardner refutes claims of legal action

Philip Lardner, Arran's former Conservative party candidate, has told The Banner he has no plans to sue the Tories despite a story stating this two weeks ago.

The report said that Mr Lardner was planning to sue the Scottish Conservatives after they dismissed him for refusing to back gay lessons in schools.

The primary teacher was suspended from his job on his 43rd birthday last April amid the furore, but reinstated following a written warning two months later.

He sparked the row by saying parents and teachers should be able to refuse to have 'their children taught that homosexuality is 'normal' behaviour or an equal lifestyle choice to traditional marriage'.

He told The Banner: 'During an interview with a magazine last September I said that I 'hoped' to sue the Conservative Party for defamation and breach of contract, arising from a statement issued in the week before last May's general election which ended

my candidacy for the Party in this seat.

'That interview was finally published this month; leading to the misunderstanding in your report. My personal circumstances have changed dramatically since September - I now have a young baby son and a family to take care of, and without a financial backer I had to show the kind of common sense missing from most of our politicians and abandon any legal action.'

He added: 'In my experience and without exception, the local Arran members of the Conservative party are some of the most honourable, well-intentioned and community-spirited people I have ever had the pleasure to meet.'

'May I wish them a very enjoyable AGM this Saturday and also add my own tribute and thanks to Lady Jean Fforde, who retires today after many years of service as the Hon. President of the Arran Branch. The Party hierarchy simply does not deserve the loyalty of such wonderful people.'

## Youth clubhouse for Brodick

On Tuesday North Ayrshire Council planning committee approved an application by the Arran Youth Foundation to build a clubhouse adjacent to Brodick bowling green, subject to three conditions.

An existing portable building will be removed as part of the development. The clubhouse will have an activity area, kitchen and toilet, and be used as a youth drop-in facility.

It will be open on Thursday and Friday evenings and intermittently during the day, and staffed by a trained youth worker with authorised part-time workers.

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# Bog restoration work continues

‘Blanket bogs are an important habitat for wildlife on an international scale’

- NTS Ranger Corinna Goeckeritz

Bogs on Goatfell are being brought back to life by a team of local contractors, hopefully creating a natural haven for plants and animals.

Over the past few years the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) Ranger Service has been working to restore two areas of modified blanket bog on the Goatfell property.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century large areas of the hillside were drained to improve the area for grazing.

**Significantly**

The water table was lowered significantly, leading to the degeneration of the bog habitat and the loss of associated flora and fauna.

NTS Ranger Corinna Goeckeritz

eritz explained that by damming the drainage ditches, the water table is raised to original levels.

‘Over time, typical bog species including the peat-producing *Sphagnum moss* and cotton grasses return, once more providing a diverse habitat,’ said Corinna.

‘Blanket bogs are an important habitat for wildlife on an international scale. They play an important role in maintaining drinking water quality and can have a role in flood control.’

‘Peat bogs also contain an incredible record of the environment since the last ice age. Not only can core samples reveal which plants once thrived in

the area, but peat conserves whole corpses – just think of the amazing ‘bog bodies’ discovered all over Northern Europe! Bogs also act as important ‘sinks’ for atmospheric carbon.’

In Coire a’Bhradain, where work began in 2007, plastic dams have been installed with the help of volunteer groups in an area of approximately 15 hectares.

On Maol Donn, contractors had the much harder task of building peat dams.

Within a few weeks, the hardy workers constructed 280 dams entirely out of peat blocks and turfs dug from the sides of the ditches.

Luckily, Scott Murdoch’s team is used to working in adverse conditions.

This summer, they repaired the mountain footpaths leading from the Saddle to North Goatfell and Cir Mhor, living in cabins in upper Glen Rosa.

But the bog restoration project proved to be even tougher.



Scenic but cold working conditions on Goatfell.

Scott, also known as ‘Swampy’, said he was very proud of his team, who couldn’t be stopped even by the freezing temperatures.

The men cut big blocks of peat with heavy purpose-made rutter spades based on the tools used a hundred years ago when the ditches were created.

**Dam**

A drag fork was used to haul the blocks out and to place them on top of each other to create a dam.

This was then compacted and topped with turfs, which hold the structure together. Over time, the dammed ditches will silt up and eventually disappear completely.

## Whiting Bay SWRI

Whiting Bay SWRI’s annual party was held on Wednesday 5 January.

There was a reasonable turnout of members despite the poor weather and it being so soon after the holidays.

After the business meeting it was decided to have the buffet before the fun activities to save anyone missing the organised events due to being on kitchen duty.

With such a delicious spread to be consumed amidst much ‘after tonight the diet restarts’ comments, and catching up on everyone’s news, the evening passed all too quickly.

There was just time to take part in Nancy’s novel way of distributing ‘Secret Santa’ parcels which meant that the prepared activities were kept for another time.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 2 February when the guest speaker will be Jo Totty with ‘Wildlife of Arran’.

The competition is for four scones and the exhibition is a photograph of a winter scene.

Please come along and join in for what promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable evening.



Shaun Shirkie and Rab McKay damming the drainage ditches.



Local contractors Alec McMullan and Scott Murdoch with peat dams on Maol Donn.

## Commerce customer care course on Arran

Lisbeth Kirsop of Lamlash has just taken over as Development Officer for the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce on Arran.

She said: ‘We have a Customer Care Course on Wednesday 30 March at Auchrannie. This course is aimed at helping everyone that runs or works in a business dealing with the public. This is the area of a business that can be developed without much cost and can be one of the most important benefits to that business.’

‘This course has been run on the island before and was a resounding success. Everyone said they definitely got a lot out of it.’

‘If anyone would like to come along themselves or send staff members, please contact Anne at acci-enquiries@ayrshire-chamber.org.’

The next meeting of the Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce on Arran will be at Lochranza Distillery at 7pm on Wednesday 23 February. New members are welcome.

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Donna MacDougall and Catherine Gallagher joined the four other branch secretaries who cover Arran and Argyll & Bute, along with Lucy Sumsion, Regional Manager. Lucy was delighted to welcome the pair to the team, saying their appointment is an indication of the Union's commitment to supporting all our members across the area.

Donna MacDougall joined the Union in April last year, having spent two years working for NFU Mutual senior partner, Euan Warnock at Oban's Livestock Centre. A local to the area, Donna grew up on a croft on Seil and returned to live there after going to university to complete a degree in politics. Her two years working with

Euan allowed her to build a good relationship with many of the members she now looks after on a day-to-day basis. Since becoming a group secretary Donna has looked after the Lorn and Mid Argyll branches from the Oban office.

Like Donna, Catherine Gallagher became a branch



NFU Mutual representative Donna MacDougall, is pictured with Cameron MacFarlane of Oban Argyll Agricultural Engineering. 15\_t04nfu1

secretary in April last year. Originally from Campbeltown, Catherine moved to Dublin after leaving Campbeltown

Grammar School to work towards a degree in sociology and social policy at the city's Trinity College. She returned

to her hometown in 2009 for a job with a housing association, before joining the NFU Scotland team at the Campbeltown

office. Catherine is responsible for the Kintyre area.

All the branch secretaries have a



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For membership information and local meetings  
please contact

Donna MacDougall Phone 01631 567036  
e-mail donna.macdougall@nfus.org.uk

Catherine Gallagher Phone 01586 552424  
e-mail Catherine.gallagher@nfus.org.uk

Eleanor McAllister Phone 01770 840235  
e-mail Eleanor.mcallister@nfus.or.uk

OR

Argyll & The Islands Regional Manager  
Lucy Sumsion  
Phone 01499 600154  
e-mail lucy.sumsion@nfus.org.uk

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NFU Mutual

We do right by you



**Cathrine Gallagher has joined the partnership and is now covering Arran.**

real understanding of the issues facing farmers, crofters and rural communities right now. So, whether a farmer or crofter, branch secretaries can offer you individual attention; from people living and working in the area. That means your branch secretary will be able to appreciate your exact circumstances and tailor support to precisely meet your needs.

In addition the head office team of specialists gives members instant access to agricultural expertise, helping out with all manner of business issues. NFU Scotland have helped countless members with subsidy appeal cases and returned huge sums of money to the industry. Lobbying activity takes place at every level of the Union. All issues,

no matter how big or small, are discussed from consultation at Branch level through the Union's Committees and Head Office.

And it works! In June last year Scottish Government's decision to adopt NFU Scotland's proposals for improvements to the delivery of the Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme (LFASS) will secure a significant uplift in funding to all those receiving LFA payments from the 2011 scheme. The LFASS modifications will now ensure LFASS payments, from the 2011 scheme, are targeted at those actively farming in LFA areas, wherever they are in Scotland.

However, there are issues that still need to be resolved. NFU Scotland joined other

industry stakeholders in briefing European Commission officials in October over continuing problems relating to the controversial electronic tagging (EID) rules for sheep. A paper prepared by NFU Scotland for the event tackled ongoing concerns around farm inspections and cross-compliance requirements with regards to the regulation. The Union also took the opportunity to call again for European tagging requirements to change so that they only need apply when an animal is leaving its holding of birth.

Members through the local branches raise many of the issues that NFU Scotland tackles, which is why the role of the branch secretary is so important in gathering your views. So whatever

issue you would like to raise the local branch secretary is the first port of call.

NFU Scotland and NFU Mutual are historically linked and have a strong working relationship to this day. NFUS Group Secretaries act as the local representative for both NFUS and NFU Mutual. Group Secretaries work with new and existing customers on NFU Mutual insurance and financial services, as well as promoting NFU Scotland membership and supporting existing members.

So if you live in the Argyll and the Islands area and would like to find out more about the benefits of membership, why not get in touch today with a branch secretary.

# NFUS - 9000 members and growing

**FOR** almost a century, NFU Scotland (NFUS) has been the lead organisation representing and promoting the interests of farmers and crofters. Since its formation in 1913, the organisation has been committed to influencing government, the supply chain and consumers in order to secure a

better future for all its members, the length and breadth of the country. Faced with falling farm incomes and an ever-increasing burden from paperwork and regulation, the need for strong, effective representation has never been greater. And the good news is that although

the number of farmers in Scotland is falling, the membership of NFUS is growing as more and more come to value the work the Union does on behalf of all those farming the land. Those 9,000 farmers and crofters who are members of NFUS get help and support on any issue affecting

their business with access to information and advice on all major policy and legislative matters. They also get the opportunity to influence government and, through NFUS, they have a voice. That voice can be heard nationally, using the policy staff at the Union's headquar-

ters near Edinburgh, or locally through the Union's unique network of 52 group secretaries and local offices. Your Regional Manager for Argyll and the Islands, Lucy Sumsion, is also on hand to help with any queries or raise any issues that you have. If you are already a member of NFUS,

thank you for your support. If you would like to join NFUS and want more details on what NFUS can do for you then please contact the local offices at Oban (01631 567036), Arran (01770 840235), or Campbeltown (01586 552428) or go to the Union's website at [www.nfus.org.uk](http://www.nfus.org.uk)

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# THE ARRAN BANNER

Arran Community Council is the link between the people of Arran and the local authority in North Ayrshire.

Politicians from Westminster and Holyrood may be high profile and make most waves in the national media, but it is the workers and officers of our local authority who have most influence over our day to day lives.

So this makes the role of a community council absolutely vital to the well-being of ordinary people here on Arran.

At Tuesday night's monthly meeting there was considerable debate about the role of the Arran Community Council. Two of the newer members felt that it was time to look at a wider picture than litterbins or potholes in the road and become more proactive than reactive.

They pointed out that the community council was a reflection of the community and suggested getting away from short-term issues and formulating a long-term strategy and future plans. All councillors did not necessarily agree, one saying that they could be in danger of setting themselves targets too high and achieving nothing.

But the newer members were just expressing a frustration at not being able to effect change, whether it be in housing, transport or public services. 'We should have a planned programme of development,' and 'its time we stood up on our feet and were counted,' were some of the comments around the table. For some time there has been an attitude of 'us and them' between the community council and the local authority, but with the help of much effort from Councillor Margie Currie, the relationship between the two seems to have mellowed to mutual benefit.

Community councillors felt that they were regarded as a nuisance in the corridors of power in Cunninghame House, but that seems to have changed for the better.

One of the recommendations for community councils is that 'they do not favour a particular political party, ethnic group or age group'.

No problem with the first two groups, but younger people never seem to take an interest at community council election time, so it is perhaps left to the more mature residents to represent their communities. And it can be a very public position. One councillor said that he couldn't walk through the village without someone telling him what was wrong with things. For years the community council met in Lam-lash council offices and despite being open meetings, not a single outsider ever turned up. Now they are convening in the Ormidale Pavilion and last Tuesday five members of the public attended. Could that be an indication that Arran people are taking an interest? And it was finally agreed on Tuesday to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss the future role of Arran Community Council.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Be imitators of God and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up as an offering and sacrifice to God." (Ephesians 5: 1-2)

## 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



## Sheridan's response

Sir,  
I feel I must respond to the letter two weeks ago from Alan McBain that made a number of criticisms of me.

Firstly, I would like to suggest that Mr McBain go back and read the original article, which made it quite clear that I was not questioning the skills of the volunteer advisors, but was criticising the structure that has now been put in place.

Without a paid worker on site, I do not believe that the volunteers will receive the support they deserve to deliver a quality advice service, or to further develop their own skills.

Perhaps if Mr McBain had finished his training and had more experience of advice services he would appreciate the valuable role an experienced paid worker plays in ensuring that the volunteer advisors have the support, up-to-date materials and knowledge necessary to deliver a high quality advice service.

It is also essential if an advice service is to carry out on-going casework on behalf of clients, that there is an experienced caseworker on site to manage this and ensure that all work is followed through.

With the best will in the world, a volunteer who is only in the office one day a week will not have this overview, and neither is it appropriate that they should be put in this position.

Again, this is a criticism of the structure and not of the skills of the volunteer advisors.

Perhaps Mr McBain is not aware that I often found myself working alone when volunteers were off sick or on holiday.

Without a paid worker on site to fall back on, I believe it is now inevitable that there will be times when volunteers find themselves working alone, or indeed when there is no one available at all to provide advice.

Secondly, I am intrigued that Mr McBain feels he is in a position to comment on my experience, or indeed that of

the other volunteers, given that he did not have access to our personnel files.

To correct the misunderstanding he appears to have about my CV, it is perhaps appropriate for me to outline some of my experience here.

Other than for a couple of years when I first moved to Arran, I have spent all my working life in the advice sector.

This has been as an advisor in an independent advice centre, as well as in two different CABs.

In addition, I spent nearly a decade as a Welfare Rights Officer for a local authority.

I feel that this 19 years experience allows me to comment with a good level of knowledge on best practise in advice provision.

Thirdly, I can assure Mr McBain that I have never put forward the view that I was indispensable.

I regard the role of an experienced paid worker as indispensable but am aware of a number of other people who are also capable of fulfilling this role.

Finally, if Mr McBain wishes to make further public criticism of me, he could at least do me the courtesy of using my correct title and spelling my surname correctly.

Yours,  
**Sheridan Waldon**  
**Lamlash**  
**Volunteers'**

## concerns

Sir,  
As you wrote the Banner article to which Alan McBain referred to so negatively two weeks ago I would like to assure you that it has not caused any offence to those of us with an honest view of the main issue - maintaining reliable access for clients to an advice worker with the necessary credentials and experience.

As a trained and experienced volunteer advisor with CAB, I fully support Mr Patterson's statement that the service will deteriorate as a result of the recent structural changes.

Attendance at the Save Arran Advice Centre meetings (at which Mr McBain was present) would suggest that many people share Mr Pat-

erson's concerns. The opening hours have been halved this year (this will hopefully improve in time, when new volunteer advisors become sufficiently competent and comfortable with advising clients) and the mainland-based manager has an extremely heavy workload, so recruitment and training will be no easy feat.

The unwelcome removal of the Arran manager's post will of course mean that the service will suffer.

Mr McBain might find the recent article less irksome if he remembered why we chose to volunteer in the first place - to provide access to correct information.

This is a task made much easier with clarity of mind, and Mr McBain's will not be fit for purpose if he carries grudges against Mr Patterson and his former manager with him.

Yours,  
**Morag Campbell**  
**CAB volunteer**  
**CAB sympathy**

Sir,  
Mr McBain finds my comments regarding deteriorating CAB service 'extremely insulting' to the volunteers.

Having checked with them, they aren't insulted and agree with my comments.

For the first time in this sorry saga, I have sympathy for the NACAS management. Mr McBain's letter displays naivety, sycophancy, flippancy and a lack of empathy-traits that will need to be reined in before he is unleashed on the public as an adviser.

Yours,  
**Dave Patterson**  
**Save Arran Advice Centre**  
**Triathlon welcomed**

Sir,  
As a regular reader of *The Arran Banner*, I feel compelled to respond to last week's negative headline.

The proposed Arran Triathlon was announced with a very negative headline relating to the 'traffic problems' it may cause.

Anybody proposing to hold an organised event that may possibly bring two thousand people to the island at the end

of the tourist season should be welcomed with open arms and fully supported.

This may be a 'mainland organised' event as the article mentioned, but the revenue it could generate would surely be beneficial to all.

For the local police to 'veto' the event before even meeting with North Ayrshire council, they, as public servants have no right to make this decision.

Hopefully the council and island residents will not be so short sighted and welcome the event.

There will undoubtedly be some minor traffic disruption but this is a small price to pay.

Who knows, this could even turn into an annual event and benefit the island for years to come.

I personally will be backing their bid to hold the event here and hopefully competing. Please check out the website at [www.arran-tri.com](http://www.arran-tri.com) and you can see what a well thought out and exciting event this could be.

Yours,  
**Ian Ford**  
**Berwyn**  
**Strathwillan**  
**Brodick**

## Rocky road

Sir,  
Now the recently resurfaced stretch of road between Lam-lash and Brodick is beginning to deteriorate again, is there a 'stitch in time' policy for its upkeep.

No doubt there are others like myself who have had to have springs replaced and one hopes, perhaps forlornly, this will be a thing of the past.

Yours,  
**Keith Cheshire**  
**Hérons Cliff**  
**Kildonan**

## Honoured thanks

Sir,  
May I take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to all friends who were kind enough to contact me with cards, letters and telephone calls on the occasion of my recent MBE award.

Due to the response being

Continued on Page 9

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## Letters to the Editor



so enormous, I am sorry that I could not thank everyone personally.

It does however confirm previous experiences of the generosity of spirit which so evidently still prevails on this island and makes it such a unique place to live.

Yours,  
**Iain Johnston  
Brodict**

### No Take Zone praise

Sir,  
Inhabitants and many visitors to Arran will know of the excellent work of Howard Wood and his colleagues in creating a no-take zone in Lamlash Bay.

But I wonder how many are aware of how much the ecology of the sea has changed in recent years.

In the close inshore waters off Whiting Bay only 40 years ago it was possible to catch haddock and whiting, flounder, plaice, skate, mackerel, cod, dogfish, conger eel, and saithe; crab and octopus also.

A boat with four lines and simple bait like cockle or lugworm could catch enough fish in two hours to easily provide a meal for two families, with sometimes enough to give away.

I remember 'the one that got away' at Kings Cross point when the line broke.

There was no shortage of molluscs like clam.

Arran is not the only place to have suffered from over-fishing but the performance of Howard and his colleagues is very encouraging for the future.

Perhaps the tide is truly turning.

Yours,  
**A C Simpson  
via email**

### No longer the good life

Sir,  
I think that I have finally decided that the Isle of Arran has pushed me to my limits one too many times.

I decided to drive into 'the big city' as my wife calls it, Brodict, to get some shopping, fill up on petrol and carry out one or two other essential errands.

It was this 15-mile journey that began the breaking of the camel's back.

I am referring of course to the roads that have become so unspeakably bad that it is now almost impossible to

drive above 20-30 miles an hour without fear of breaking my car, getting a puncture or simply running head-on into oncoming traffic also trying to avoid the cataclysmic pot holes and broken road sides.

What is even more terrifying is that they are getting worse at an alarming rate and if not repaired properly soon we are going to have deaths as a result.

As far as what it is doing to tourism it is quite unbelievable that an island where the main source of income comes from this industry is letting this happen before their eyes.

Years of neglect and shoddy repairs have left them in a state more accustomed to a third world country.

If this was not bad enough it is now compounded with the absolutely incredibly over inflated fuel costs.

Not only is driving a nightmare, we are being asked to pay more than anyone else to do so.

Add all this to the 80p a litre for fuel gas and the extortionate cost of shopping just for the basics like food and it has no longer become viable for my family and I to live here.

When will this island and its amazing people step up to the mark and say NO, we will not accept this, we want better.

I don't mind paying slightly more, but not more for less. If we all sit back and say nothing then we have no one to blame but ourselves.

Yours,  
**Name and address  
supplied**

### Misleading discount

Sir,  
Allan Wilson sets out to mislead the Arran public on ferry fares in referring yet again to his '40 per cent discount' scheme.

The facts are as follows: A 40 per cent fares discount is not Labour Party policy. It never has been. No funding has ever been assigned to it. Neither the Civil Service nor Calmac have been consulted on the matter or asked to advise on costings.

Between 1999 and 2007, eight years when his party held power, Allan Wilson didn't put the proposal to Parliament.

None of his MSP colleagues did, either. Since 2007 Labour in opposition has not raised

the issue once in budget discussion or in committee. The 40 per cent idea first appeared briefly during Mr Wilson's unsuccessful bid for re-election in 2007, then disappeared without trace, until late in 2010.

Before Christmas, Mr Wilson said that a delegation from Arran would be asking party leader Iain Gray to adopt the idea as Labour policy for the forthcoming election.

Has the proposed meeting taken place? If so, what was Iain Gray's response? What will it cost the taxpayer and

where is this funding to come from? These are reasonable questions to put to an aspiring parliamentarian.

Finally, for the sake of accuracy: though it may well be justified in these difficult economic times, free ferry travel for over-60s was abolished by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (dominated by Labour councillors), not the present SNP Scottish Government.

Yours,  
**Malcolm Kerr  
Cairndale  
Brodict**

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## Arran Index 2011

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Local sculptor Tim Pomeroy was commissioned to create the new font for Glasgow's Roman Catholic Cathedral more than a year ago.

# Font takes shape after 500 hours of work

Local sculptor Tim Pomeroy is at last putting the final touches to the new font for Glasgow Cathedral.

Tim was given the commission more than a year ago but carving the huge blocks of marble is time consuming and it has taken him many months to create.

'The font for the Roman Catholic Cathedral is all but finished,' Tim told The Banner.

'It will be installed on

Thursday with minor tinkering to do on site and the whole cathedral works will be handed over to the clergy mid-March with ceremonies of opening and consecration planned for April.'

Photos of the sculptor working on the font show that he had to climb inside the font to carry out some of the work.

He said: 'I had to core drainage holes from within and the easiest way to do

it was to climb inside - full immersion.

'The frieze itself took the best part of 500 hours.'

As well as the cathedral font Tim is also working on a major new bronze for Cawdor Castle near Nairn and in February he will begin carving the facade and entrance doorway for the new clubhouse at Carnoustie Golf Club.

But the icing on the cake for the Arran artist is another solo show in London in May.



Some of the work involves Tim having to immerse himself inside the font.

## Dog classes restart

Dogs and puppies are being sought for a new season of training classes on a Wednesday afternoon in Whiting Bay Hall.

Anyone interested in bringing their dog along should contact Margaret Kay on 600725.

**COFFEE MORNING**  
**Friday 4th February**  
**10am-12**  
**Corrie Primary School**  
**in aid of UNICEF**

**Shiskine & Machrie Senior Citizens**  
**COFFEE AFTERNOON**  
 Kinloch Hotel  
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**Admission £10 at the door.**  
 Licensed Bar.  
 Over 18s unless accompanied by an adult

## Around the Rurals

### Lamlash WRI

The next meeting of Lamlash WRI will be in the Fire Station on Wednesday 2 February at 7.30pm.

The guest speaker will be Jim Cassels, and his subject will be 'Birds of the Galapagos'.

We hope to see a good turnout of members, who in turn will extend a very warm welcome to non-members.

The competition is a

decorated boiled egg and the exhibition is a holiday postcard.

### Shiskine WRI

At the first meeting of the year on Wednesday 12 January, Jerry Arthur welcomed everyone and thanked those who had helped make the children's Christmas Party a huge success.

The guest speaker for the

evening was Jan McGregor whose subject was 'Fairtrade'.

After a brief introduction of the principles of the movement, Jan went on to entertain the ladies with a series of slides taken on her recent trips to India and Peru to experience various projects covering the production of crafts and food products, examples of which were on display.

After a question and answer session, Alice gave the ladies' heartfelt thanks for a very interesting and thought provoking evening which they all enjoyed thoroughly.

Competition for a thank you card: 1 Marilyn Woods, 2 Joan Stewart. Favourite fridge magnet: 1 Kate MacIntosh, 2 Mary Hamilton. Elinor Kinnaird won the raffle.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 2 February when the guest speaker will be Stuart Gough talking about

Old Arran/Shiskine. The competition is for tablet and the exhibition will be an old photograph.

### Kildonan WRI

The first meeting of 2011 was held on Tuesday 18 January when friends from Kilmory and Whiting Bay Rurals joined Kildonan WRI.

The entertainment was provided by Christine and Denise who had all the ladies racking their brains to come up with the answers to their excellent quiz. We must thank both Christine and Denise for taking the time to prepare all the questions. A very enjoyable evening was brought to a close with a supper of Cottage Pie.

Our next meeting will be held in Kildonan Hall on Tuesday 15 February at 2.30pm when the ladies will be given a cookery demonstration by Scotts of Corrie Golf Club.

**BRODICK GOLF CLUB**  
 EST 1897  
**CAPTAIN LOCI'S VALENTINE DISCO**  
**BRODICK GOLF CLUB,**  
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**DJ ROMEO RAB**  
**ALL MEMBERS, GUESTS AND FRIENDS WELCOME.**

## Arran Learning Disability Forum

Colin Turbett, operational manager for Arran's Social Services, is encouraging more people to attend the Arran Learning Disability Forum.

He said: 'The island's learning disability forum was established several years ago to give a voice to the carers of learning-disabled adults on Arran and help them shape the services they receive from Health and Social Services.'

'Up until now it has been a mainly representative group but at the last meeting it was decided to open up meetings to anyone with an interest who wants to attend. In the past, meetings have looked at various issues such as housing, respite services, employment possibilities, welfare benefits, provision in other parts of the country, recreational facilities and other matters.'

Meetings are held about six times a year. The next meeting will be in the Council Offices, Lamash, on Tuesday 8 February at 2pm (meetings usually last about an hour and a half). This meeting will feature a mainland speaker, Maria Smith from NAC Social Services, who will be speaking about Personalisation and Individualised Budgets.

If anyone has an interest in learning disability, they are very welcome to attend.

## Vital AGM for British Legion

The annual general meeting of the Arran branch of the Royal British Legion was postponed due to illness and will now take place next Thursday 3 February at the MacLaren Hotel in Brodick at 2pm.

If the Arran branch is to continue, it is vital that as many people as possible come along.



Hall manager Jean Clark, left, and Phyllis Picken, right, had to keep a close eye on the furious bidding for items. 01\_b04auc02

# Bidders flock to annual Kilmory Hall Auction

Kilmory Village Hall was packed to the rafters on Saturday afternoon with everything from children's bunk beds to wardrobes and bathroom sinks as the village held its annual auction.

The villagers had donated all the goods for the sale and there were some fantastic bargains up for grabs on the day.

There were beds, screens, televisions, computers, crockery, lampshades, curtains, paintings and even a pool cue among the hundreds of donated items.

### Prices

Auctioneers for the day were Ian Adamson and David Thomas and both did all in their power to get the bids in to push the prices up.

Despite this many items still went for knockdown prices like the eight boxes of brand new ceramic tiles sold for just £4 and there were wardrobes and kitchen appliances selling for less than £5.

However the auction was a great success overall raising £760 for hall and bunkhouse funds.

### Hard work

Jean Clark, manager of Kilmory Hall, said: 'I would like to thank Phyllis, John and Jamie Picken for all their hard work organising the auction, the superb auctioneers Ian

Adamson and David Thomas, the Knittery Knatterly ladies who served the tea and all the other people who helped set up the Auction.

'The biggest thanks must go to everyone who donated the items for sale and to everyone who bought the goods, we raised an incredible amount for the Hall/Bunkhouse funds.'



Auctioneer Ian Adamson. 01\_b04auc01

## Scout leader urgently sought

Lamash Scouts urgently require another leader to help with the group.

If you feel that you would be interested in taking an active part in providing a balanced, varied and exciting programme for boys and girls between 10½ and 14 please contact Hazel Mackenzie on 700348.

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\*excluding special events



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# “The Switchover Help Scheme made my switch to digital TV easy”

## You may be entitled to help, just like Jean if you're 75 and over or eligible disabled.

“I love watching telly. Feet up with a cuppa, watching Bargain Hunt. Paradise.

But something came between me and my telly. They call it ‘the digital TV switchover’. It’s when the analogue signal is turned off and you start to lose your TV channels, unless you’re ready. It comes to this area soon and will affect every TV in your home that isn’t ready for switchover. No point sticking your head in the sand hoping it will go away. It needs sorting.

### Help is at hand

As it turned out, there was no need for me to fret. I discovered that everyone 75 and over or eligible disabled was entitled to help switching one of their TVs to digital. I didn’t even have to ask. An information pack from the Switchover Help Scheme just turned up one morning in the post. It’s run by the BBC. For £40 they will arrange for an approved installer to supply and install everything. If you’re eligible and also on certain income-related benefits you don’t pay a penny. There are also other digital options to choose from, but they may cost a bit more.



Alan came and set everything up for me. He even took time to show me how to use it. He explained that there were no hidden costs either. In fact the only surprise I got was when Alan showed me all the extra TV channels I could watch for free. When he finished at mine, he went next

### Alan the installer

Well, they didn’t have to tell me twice. I rang up the freephone number and got the help I was entitled to. The lady at the Help Scheme arranged for someone to come round and a very nice fella called



door to Peggy’s. Although she already had digital on her living room telly, she was still entitled to help switching one TV, so he sorted out the TV in her bedroom which she watches a lot.

### The help continues

The help doesn’t stop there. There is an aftercare service which is very reassuring while you’re getting used to things. You can call up if you have any problems. So if you need a little extra help, it’s there.”



## What should you do now?

Everyone who is entitled to help will receive an information pack from the Help Scheme. But if you’d like to apply now, you can call free on **0800 40 85 900** or visit **helpscheme.co.uk**



Jean is a fictitious character based on real customers who have expressed similar views.



'Bad Girls - The Musical' will undoubtedly take the island by storm.

## Sweeney Todd axed as drama club look to Bad Girls

Arran's Music and Drama Club has swapped cannibalism for lesbianism after a lack of male actors meant the summer production of 'Sweeney Todd' could not go ahead.

The new choice is a very original show filled with humour, pathos and catchy music.

### Fictional

'Bad Girls - The Musical' is based on the hugely popular television series set in a fictional women's prison in Scotland.

Club member Jean Bowden said: 'The musical was developed by the creators of the

television series along with the composer Kath Gotts and director Maggie Norris.

'By the time this goes to press, a DVD of the musical stage version will have been shown to members in Brodick Hall.

'The auditions for principal roles will take place in early February.'

Also in February the club will be holding their annual fundraising event in Brodick Hall where there will be plenty of fun with Tombola Stalls, pancake making and soup and sandwiches.

## Mandate your MSP!

Arran's Scottish Conservative candidate has announced a new scheme to encourage members of the public to contact and ultimately direct their MSP on any issue.

'Mandate your MSP' will work, primarily via the internet, whereby 200 or more residents of a council ward could request their MSP campaigns or makes representations on their behalf on a particular issue.

The MSP would engage in the debate via public meetings and through the local media.

### Represent

The ideal result would be local communities mandating their MSPs to represent them on an entire range of issues.

This scheme could encourage more hustings and more public engagement throughout the electoral cycle rather than just near an Election.

Conservative candidate Maurice Golden said: 'This scheme would work particularly well in close knit communities such as Arran.

'Arran residents could mandate their Constituency MSP to take actions on a whole manner of issues from petrol



Conservative candidate Maurice Golden thinks that 'Mandate your MSP' represents a positive step forward in forging a better and stronger dialogue between MSPs and the local community.

prices and roads to the RET scheme and affordable housing.'

He added: 'We need new ideas and new ways for the public to positively engage with MSPs and politicians in general.'

'Of course, MSP surgeries and responding to focus groups still have a part to play but I believe we need the politicians who represent us at Holyrood to be forward thinking and proactively looking at new and better ways to represent the constituents who they serve.

'We already have a petition system for the Scottish Parliament and 'Mandate

your MSP' represents a positive step forward in forging a better and stronger dialogue between MSPs and the local community.'

## Arran Music & Drama Club

### WINTER FUNDRAISER

Sat. 5th February 2011

in Brodick Hall, at 12 noon until 3pm

Light lunches, home baking, books, toys, bric-a-brac, tombola

If you have items to be uplifted, phone 600344

No clothes please!

Scottish charity number 032386

# Hunterston Roadshow comes to Brodick

## Arran residents were encouraged to have their say on coal-fired power plans

The 'Say No to Hunterston' roadshow arrived in Brodick last Saturday in an attempt to give locals a chance to comment on the coal-fired power plans at the Clyde station. Campaigners were attempting to highlight the serious impact that the development will have on people, tourism and wildlife in North Ayrshire, ahead of the local authority's vote on the proposed development. Beth Stratford, Energy and Finance Campaigner for Friends of the Earth Scotland, said: 'A new coal-fired power station at Hunterston would make a mockery of Scotland's climate change commitments, pumping out at least 8million tonnes of CO2 every year.

'By 2020 that will be equivalent to a quarter of Scotland's entire emissions budget, hardly an inspiration for ordinary people to do their bit.' Scottish National Heritage have warned that the proposed power station will be visible from the Arran Coastal Path from Brodick to the Cock of Arran and at picnic areas such as in Sannox and on Goatfell. In their response they said: 'It will have an adverse visual impact on the views from the east side of the North Arran National Scenic Area, where settlements and tourist accommodation is focused.'

North Ayrshire's Conservative candidate Maurice Golden has said that the majority of local people would prefer to see another nuclear station at Hunterston rather than a coal-fired development.

The Power of Scotland Secured report released at the end of last year by Friends of the Earth Scotland, RSPB Scotland and WWF Scotland showed that Scotland does not need new coal to keep the lights on.

The report demonstrates that renewables could grow to comfortably exceed Scotland's electricity demand.

These conclusions are backed up by Scottish government research, which shows that even with poor deployment of additional renewables, Scotland will need only 2.5GW of thermal capacity by 2030, which is significantly less than at present, and could be met through refurbishment and life extension of existing fossil plants.

## Click your way to success

A new Beginner's Computing Course will start on Wednesday 16 February in Brodick Library.

The course will run for six weeks from 10am to 11.30am and is free of charge.

From learning how to use the web to sending emails, this course is a great opportunity for those who want to learn about new technology and don't know where to start.

North Ayrshire Council Adult Learning Team, in conjunction with Library Services will be utilising the BBC First Click programme to deliver the course.

To register for classes, contact Brodick Library on 01294 302835.

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# The Arran Banner 20 years ago

## Saturday, January 26, 1991

### First for Fiona

We said last year was one for the ladies – but now this year we have a woman ambulance driver.

Certainly a first for Arran, Fiona Simpson, of Lamlash, is part of a new pilot scheme, which is the first of its type in Scotland.

Fiona is the first of two new ambulance reservists picked from over 20 applicants.

She and Gordon Boyle are the guinea pigs for a scheme that gives more ambulance cover at a lower cost.



Shiskine held their Burns evening after a two year break. Here Duncan Drew pipes in chef Willie Murchie with the haggis. Charles Currie addressed the haggis and the Immortal Memory was by David Sibbald.

### Ring the changes

Arran telephone numbers will all be changed by the addition of prefixes over the next four years.

The first one to change will be Lamlash, which will coincide with the replacement of the telephone exchange in a year's time, and will mean the prefix 600 on every Lamlash number.

British Telecom say they are introducing six digits on a national basis as they are running out of codes.

### Ferry replacement

THE MV Isle of Arran will be replaced for the next three weeks by the MV Iona.

The Isle of Arran is off to have her annual refit.

The Iona is a smaller vessel but, unlike the Claymore last year, she is a roll-on-roll-off ferry, so should not lose time with cars turning and revers-

ing on.

Due to her smaller carrying capacity passenger embarkation tickets will be required in Fridays (3.15pm and 6pm) and Sundays (4.40pm).

### Road tax fraud

EIGHT people driving without road tax discs have been stopped by police this week and reported to the vehicle licensing authority.

Is it a blitz on people who have not paid?

'Not in particular,' said Sgt Jim Wilson. 'It's just that your eye spots them.'

### Company in crisis

Arran Property Development Ltd, a company less than three years old but which has made a name for itself in building luxury modern homes, went

into receivership this week.

All work has been stopped on their current developments and at least 14 men have been made redundant.

Operated by Norman and Linda McIver, they have announced debts this week of £490,000 and the company's bank have refused to honour their cheques.

### Lost

Bizarrely, a single contact lens



It was party time at Glen Estate, Brodick this week as Mrs Polly Middleton celebrated her 90th birthday. She was the first resident at the new Kirkcare houses when it opened a year ago.

has been handed in to police this week.

### Lagg book

Mr Berni Mitchell-Luker informs us that he is writing a history of the 200year-old coaching in, The Lagg Hotel.

He has already produced the 'Arran Bus Book' but he would welcome any information or anecdotes connected with the hotel.



A herd of fallow deer arrived at their new Arran home last week, Southbank Farm Park.



The bends on the hill down in to Lamlash are very treacherous in icy conditions. This car (and driver) were lucky when a spin just took them unexpectedly off the road but did no harm to person or property.

# Where's Archie?

Cottages & Castles



and **THE ARRAN TEAM,**

Arran's own property management specialists

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If you think you know then post your answer on the website

[www.arranbanner.co.uk](http://www.arranbanner.co.uk)

Or email us at:

[editor@arranbanner.co.uk](mailto:editor@arranbanner.co.uk)

Last week Archie was sitting at the top of the steps leading down to the Silver Sands at Kildonan. First correct answers came from Janette of Holmfirth, Shep of Crewe and Ann of Blackwaterfoot. This week he is on the steps, but where does that door lead to?  
02\_b04arc01



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# THE ARRAN BANNER

# - on holiday . . .

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

Arran residents and holidaymakers are making sure that they pack their copy of the Banner to keep up with local issues when they go on holiday.

This week we have photographs from America, New Zealand, Italy and Russia.

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

It could be from Sharm-el-sheikh or Sheffield, it really doesn't matter; we would love to see your photographs.

When space permits we will continue to print the photos that we have on file.

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



Allan Bailey, of Lamlash, and his daughter Alannah are pictured reading their Banner on New Year's Day while visiting the Colosseum in Rome.



Alison Craig of Slidery took her Banner to Nashville, Tennessee.



Bob and Val Lees from Corrie caught up with all the news from Arran while visiting the Kremlin in Moscow.



Enjoying their Banner on holiday at the Bay of Islands in New Zealand are Willie and Mary Tod of Burican. The couple were celebrating their Ruby anniversary a year late!



Elza Hislop took her Banner with her to the beautiful city of Florence in Italy whilst visiting her granddaughter Anna who was studying at the university there.

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**WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK**

Friday - Over 21s Disco 10pm  
Tuesday - Pop Music Quiz - 9pm  
Thursday - General Knowledge Quiz - 9pm  
Saturday - Over 21s Disco 10pm

Real Ale (Recommended CAMRA Good Beer Guide)

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# Region bowl win puts Arran boys in national rugby finals

## 'Our physicality and pressure in defence won us the game'



Arran High School under-18 team at Kilmarnock.

South West Region Bowl  
Arran High School 22  
Douglas Ewart 8

Arran rugby boys booked their place in the National Finals of the Schools Bowl last week.

The Arran High School first-15 defeated a strong Douglas Ewart side to become Under-18 South West Region Bowl winners and qualify for the national finals.

The region final was held

on Wednesday 19 January at a neutral venue, Kilmarnock RFC, against a physically strong and well-organised Douglas Ewart High side from Newton Stewart. Conditions were perfect, with the sun splitting the sky and firm ground underfoot.

From the kick off Arran collected the ball securely and ran it hard straight back into the opposition. This was to set the tone for the day. The first 20 minutes saw both teams' defences on top, with each allowing no space or time for the opposition. Arran's lineout began to dominate, continually stealing ball.

Arran managed to disrupt Douglas Ewart's lineout on the 22m line and gathered the ball into a maul. The maul drove forward creating a great platform for the backs.

### Converted

At number 10 Donald 'The Snake' MacEachern popped a short crash ball to Matt 'Battering Ram' Evans, who came up just 5m short. From the resulting ruck Stuart 'The Man Mountain' MacMaster picked up and drove over the line straight under the posts to be converted by Robbie 'High Hitchkick' Bayne.

Douglas Ewart responded well by putting Arran under severe pressure from the kick off, but their defence held tight and stopped the opposition getting any quick ball. A

penalty was conceded on the 22m line in front of the posts and Douglas Ewart elected to kick the three points.

From another turnover in the lineout on the 10m line by Iain 'The Burglar' Bayne, Arran hit the ball up in midfield and after a few rucks, Matt Evans spotted a gap and sent a chip through.

The opposition full back eventually collected the ball, but ferocious rucking by Arran resulted in turnover and after a couple of pick and goes, Ewan 'The Bruiser' Bulger, crashed his way through three or four tackles to score.

Half-time score, Arran High 12 – Douglas Ewart 3.

Straight from the kick off Iain Bain charged after the

kick and put in a gigantic hit on the opposition giving a scrum to Arran.

The local boys were keeping good possession of the ball and making good yards. The continued pressure on Douglas Ewart defence resulted in a penalty to Arran outside the 22m line.

### Offloading

This was taken quickly by Chris 'Babbies' MacNeil, who spun the ball wide out to the backs and it ended up with Jack 'The Sidestep' Barbour who beat a couple of defenders before offloading the ball to Ryan 'The Bulldozer' Boal who broke through two defenders to score in the corner.

However Douglas Ewart responded with a try through

good work by their scrum half to make it a nervous last 10 minutes. But the pressure was relieved when a good break by Matt Evans supported by Iain Bayne left Arran in Douglas Ewart's 22m line. Another turnover in the lineout enabled the pack to drive the ball forward.

After a couple of short pop passes and pick-and-go, the ball got passed to winger Robert 'Lighting Bolt' Taylor, who beat his opposite number with both speed and strength to score in the corner.

The final whistle went and the Arran team and small contingent of supporters celebrated a great victory. Final score Arran High 22 – Douglas Ewart 8

Coach Jamie Murchie said: 'It was a great achievement for the boys today; I'm delighted for them that they have something to show for all the hard work they've been putting in. Although we scored four tries it was our physicality and pressure in defence on top of our set piece which won us the game.'

Arran High now play Berwickshire High away in the quarter finals of the National Schools Bowl Competition.

Team: 15 Michael Jenks, 14 Robert Taylor, 13 Matt Evans, 12 Jack Barbour, 11 Peter Sell, 10 Donald McEachern, 9 Chris MacNeil, 8 Ewan Bulger, 7 Charlie Boal, 6 Alexander MacNeil, 5 Stuart MacMaster, 4 Iain Bayne, 3 Jack MacQueen, 2 Liam Boal, 1 Ryan Boal. Subs - Sean Higgins, Robbie Bayne, Ciaran MacMaster, Beau Gray and Jamie Miller.



Ian 'the burglar' Bayne stealing more lineout ball.



Chris 'Babbies' MacNeil passes from the scrum to Matt Evans.

## Arran Visual Arts hold AGM

The Arran Visual Arts group is holding a rescheduled annual general meeting next Friday 4 February in the Ormidale Pavilion.

Members of the group enjoy reduced rates for workshops which are nine or 10 a year, a free opportunity to exhibit material at the two exhibitions in Kilmory at Easter and Lochranza in summer plus 10 percent discount off art materials in Millers Art Shop and The Art Store in Glasgow.

The group members were sad to hear of Professor David Irwin's death. He was an active and enthusiastic member of AVA and his pastel pictures, mostly landscapes, were always much admired at the exhibitions.

The next AVA workshop is Colour Mixing in any Medium with Felicity Walker on Saturday 26 February in the Ranger Centre at Brodick Castle.

## Arran livestock sale at Stirling Agricultural Centre

United Auctions had forward 7,286 prime and store lambs, 882 store cattle and 148 cast cows at their Stirling Agricultural Centre last Wednesday.

### Cattle prices:

Aberdeen Angus cast bull £985, 104p/kg Hawthorn, Simmental cross cast cows £835, 114p/kg Birchburn, Aberdeen Angus cross cast cows £595, 102p/kg Auchenhew, £585, 87p/kg Hawthorn.

### Sheep prices:

Texel cross lambs £84 Craigdhu, Blackface lambs £60 Glenkiln, Blackface ewes £45.50 Glenkiln, Cross tups £82.50 Ceither Gaoithe.

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## EVERYDAY

Arran Brewery Open Mon - Fri 11am-12.30pm & 2pm - 4pm Sat 10am-4pm, Closed Sunday  
 Trout Fly Fishing Loch Garbad, Bank  
 Hawk Walks Lamlash  
 Brodick Castle, Gardens open daily 9am - dusk

## SATURDAY 29th JANUARY

Karate Auchrannie Games Hall, 11.30am - 12.30pm  
 Family Games 3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall  
 Fun In The Pool 4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool  
 Over 21's Disco The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Arran Dancers (4 years and up) Arran High School, 10am  
 Junior Badminton (5 - 11yrs) High School Games Hall, 1pm - 2.30pm  
 Music and Social Evening Pirmill Village Hall, 8.30pm

## SUNDAY 30th JANUARY

Alcoholics Anonymous Church Hall, Brodick, 4.30pm  
 Arran Fiddle Club- Childrens Classes Library Annexe, 1.45pm  
 Family Games 3pm to 4pm Auchrannie Games Hall  
 Fun In The Pool 4pm to 5pm Auchrannie Spa Pool  
 Quiz PHT, Lamlash, 9pm

## MONDAY 31st JANUARY

Over 50's Badminton Lochranza Village Hall 2pm - 4pm  
 Badminton Lochranza Hall, 6.30pm  
 Weight Wise Hospital Bungalow, 5pm - 5.30pm  
 Ladies Netball High School Sports Hall - Seniors 7.30pm - 9pm  
 Arran Junior Football Club Coaching & Games Ormidale Park, 6pm  
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm  
 Junior Basketball (P1 - P7) Games Hall, High School 6pm - 7.30pm  
 Senior Fitness 9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Gym  
 BreathWalk Class Kinneil, Lamlash 5.15pm  
 Quiz Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 8.30pm  
 Lamlash Bridge Club Lamlash Golf Club, 7.15pm  
 Circuit Training Auchrannie Gym, 6pm - 7pm  
 Table Tennis Corrie Hall, 6.30pm  
 Badminton Auchrannie Gym, 7pm - 9pm  
 Scottish Country Dancing (Beginners & Improvers) Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
 Mums and Tots Swimming Lessons Auchrannie Spa Pool, 11am

## TUESDAY 1st FEBRUARY

Lochranza Swimming Club Kinloch 11am - 12pm  
 Army Cadets Auchrannie Road, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
 Pop Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Alcoholics Anonymous Brodick Church Hall - 2pm  
 Citizens Advice Open 10am - 2pm  
 Youth Club Kildonan Hall - 6.30pm  
 Rotary Club Glencloy Suite, Auchrannie 7.15pm



Junior Hockey Club  
 Melody Movement. Ballet Class - 2½ yrs up  
 Dudes & Divas Funky Dance Class - 2½ yrs up  
 Scottish Country Dancing  
 Indoor Bowls  
 Youth Club  
 Cricket

Ormidale Pavillion, 6-7pm  
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 1.30pm  
 Auchrannie Dance Studio, 2pm  
 Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Corrie Hall, 2pm - 4pm  
 Brodick Hall, 6.30pm - 8pm  
 Arran High School, 7pm

## WEDNESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY

Coffee Morning Lamlash Church Hall, 10.15am - 12noon  
 Hockey Auchrannie Hall, 7pm - 8pm Games Hall  
 Tae Kwondo KA Leisure, Kids 6.30 - 7.30pm. Adults 7.30 - 8.30pm  
 Alcoholics Anonymous Lamlash Church Hall - 7.30pm- 9pm  
 Arran Brass Rehearsal Whiting Bay Hall 7.15pm  
 Selt Making Class Shipfield, Lamlash, 10am - 4pm  
 Musical Mayhem Class Parents & Little Ones Auchrannie Dance Studio, 10.45am - 11.30am  
 Yoga for Every Body High School Games Hall, 8pm - 9pm  
 Senior Badminton 10.30am - 12.30pm and 1.30pm - 3.30pm  
 Museum, Archives & Geneology Service 9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool  
 Aquafizz 9.30am to 10.30am Auchrannie Studio  
 Yogalates Auchrannie Games Hall, 6pm - 7pm  
 Circuit Training Lamlash Fire Station, 7.30pm  
 Lamlash SWRI - Guest speaker Jim Cassels

## THURSDAY 3rd FEBRUARY

General Knowledge Quiz Ormidale Hotel, 9pm  
 Arran Music & Drama Rehearsals Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
 Lochranza Craft Club Hall, 2pm  
 Coffee Morning St Molios Church 10.30am - 12pm  
 Table Tennis Kildonan Hall, 3pm - 5pm  
 Youth Club Youth Cabin, Lamlash 7-9pm  
 Brodick Bridge Club Golf Clubhouse  
 Athletics High School Games Hall, 4.45pm - 6pm  
 Senior Fitness 9.30am to 11.30am Auchrannie Spa Gym  
 Ladies Night Bar Eden, Whiting Bay  
 Pilates 6 pm to 7pm Auchrannie Studio  
 Pub Quiz Kinloch Hotel, 9pm  
 Ladies Night Bar Eden, Whiting Bay  
 Brodick Embroidery Group Library, 7.30pm - 9.30pm  
 Arran Youth Foundations Behind Library, 4.30pm - 6.30pm  
 The Wee Blether - soup & sandwiches Whiting Bay Hall, 12pm - 1.30pm  
 Arran Visual Arts AGM Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30pm  
 Royal British Legion - Arran Branch Rearranged AGM McLaren Hotel, 2pm

## FRIDAY 4th FEBRUARY

Arran Pipe Band Practice Brodick Hall, 7.30pm  
 Quiz Whiting Bay Golf Club, 9pm  
 Aquafizz 9.45am to 10.30am Auchrannie Hotel Pool  
 Yogalates 10am to 11am Auchrannie Studio  
 DJ Bar Eden, Whiting Bay, 9pm - 1am  
 Seniors Badminton (Over 50) Auchrannie Games Hall, 2pm  
 Ladies Indoor Bowls Brodick Church Hall, 2pm  
 Mens Indoor Bowls Brodick Church Hall, 7.30pm  
 Over 21's Disco The Ormidale Hotel, 10pm  
 Arran Ceilidh Dance Group Lamlash Church Hall, 8pm - 10pm  
 Arran Youth Foundations Behind Library, 7pm - 9pm  
 Coffee Morning in aid of UNICEF Corrie Primary, 10am - 12pm  
 Open Darts Championship Qualifying Night Kinloch Hotel, 7pm  
 Arran Visual Arts Rearranged AGM Ormidale Pavilion, 7.30pm

## SATURDAY 5th FEBRUARY

Shiskine & Machrie Senior Citizens Coffee Afternoon Kinloch Hotel, 2pm - 4pm  
 Arran Music & Drama Club Winter Fundraiser Brodick Hall, 12pm - 3pm

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

**Kildonan Village Hall & Improvements Committee**

**AGM**  
Is on  
Monday 7th February 2011  
At 7.30pm  
Kildonan Hall  
All welcome

**Arran Motocross Club**

**AGM**  
**Ormidale Pavilion**  
Monday 31st January  
7.30pm  
All welcome

**ARRAN VISUAL ARTS**

The re-scheduled Annual General Meeting will now be held on Friday 4th February at 7.30pm in the Ormidale Pavilion

After a brief business meeting Alison Prince will talk about 'mixing up the arts'

All welcome

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**7.30 in**  
**ARRAN HIGH SCHOOL**  
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- 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.
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**CHURCH NOTICES****ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Sunday 30 January**  
Shiskine, 11am  
Sunday School in the Church Hall  
(Church is between Machrie & Blackwaterfoot)  
Brodick, 7pm (Church is behind Post Office)  
Rev David Karoon  
All welcome

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

(in full communion with the Church of England)  
St Margaret's, Whiting Bay.  
**Sunday 30 January**  
Holy Communion 11am.  
Rev'd Doctor Hector Soga.  
Coffee after service  
**Wednesday 2 February**  
Holy Communion 12.15pm.  
ALL WELCOME

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(SCO15072)  
Kilmory linked with Lamlash  
"A faith to proclaim ~ a fellowship to share"  
**Sunday 30 January**  
Rev Gillean Maclean  
Kilmory 10am  
Lamlash 11.30am  
In both churches:  
All welcome, including families; children's area  
All welcome

**ARRAN FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND (continuing)**

**Sunday 30 January**  
Morning Service 11am  
Trust Housing Lounge, Glen Estate, Brodick  
Evening Service 7pm  
13 Glen Avenue, Brodick  
Mr G Furzer  
All welcome

**ARRAN BAPTIST CHURCH.**

Ormidale Pavilion  
Brodick.  
**Sunday 30 January**  
10.45 - Communion  
Tea and Coffee from 11.10am  
11.30am - For all the family  
Speaker: Rev Alan Thompson  
Everyone very welcome

**CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

North Arran: Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirrmill and Shiskine.  
*Independent but working together.*  
**Minister**  
Rev Angus Adamson.  
**Parish Asst**  
Mrs Jean Hunter.  
Worship will be conducted in the above churches at the following times, to which all are invited - Families, young people and children welcome  
**Sunday 30 January**  
Brodick Church 10.30am & 7pm  
Service of Prayers for Health & Healing

Corrie Church 12pm  
Lochranza/Pirrmill 10.15am at Lochranza  
Shiskine Church 12pm  
A service of Worship will also be held in Montrose House at 1.30pm

**WHITING BAY AND KILDONAN CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

(SC014005)  
**Sunday 30 January**  
Worship will be conducted by the minister, Rev Elizabeth Watson, at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be served

**HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Sunday Morning Mass  
11am

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**

**Sunday 30 January**  
Meeting for worship and discussion, 11am  
Dippen House, Dippin  
Special collection, Cup o Tea day for Homelessness.  
Enquiries to Judith 820223  
All very welcome.

**PERSONALS****Happy 21st Birthday Hollie**

*With lots of love  
From Mum, Dad, Grant and  
all the family*



**Happy 21st Katie, love from  
mum, dad, Rachel and James.**  
x

**Lamlash Bridge Club**

Lamlash Bridge Club results for Monday 24 January:  
N/S 1 T Martin and A Bilsland +1970, 2 J McArthur and L Paul +1640, 3 J McBride and E Sillars +1140.  
E/W 1 M and D Bruce +970, 2 B Livingstone and M Gardner +940, 3 M and E Jones -450.

**Golf****Brodick Golf Club**

Ladies: Tuesday 11 January, 18 ladies played in the postponed Captain v Vice-Captain team event. Everyone enjoyed the game that the Vice-captain's team won.

In the clubhouse 25 ladies met for lunch before taking part in the now traditional New Year Games Day. After some noisy and good humoured competitions the individual winners were: Putting - Jan Beattie, Pool - Brenda Livingstone, Carpet bowls - Gege Kroner and Dominoes - Gege Kroner. The overall winner was Gege who was presented with the Trophy by Fiona.

After being thanked for organising the day so successfully Fiona announced that the Ladies Prizegiving Dinner will be held in the clubhouse on Friday 4 February.

All past members are invited to the dinner and those wishing to attend should contact Fiona Crawford by telephone for more details. Please do this as soon as possible as she will need to know the final numbers by Wednesday 2 February.

Gents: Sunday 23 January, Brandon and Winter Cup, 25 played, CSS 66. Sweep results: 1 I Sillars 75(13)62, 2 L Keir 74(11)63, 3 D Rudge 80(15)65. Scratch E McKinnon 67.

There were six twos, Iain Sillars got two, John McKean, Bobby McCrae, Terry Raeside and Donald McKinnon got the others. First Class Brandon - L Keir. Second Class Brandon - I Sillars. **Fixtures:** Sunday 30 January, Clochendichter. Sunday 6 February, AGA Winter League at Brodick. There will also be a sweep, open draws at 9am and 12.15pm.

Wednesday Winter Cup. The second week into the New Year and the weather was kind again with a dry day.

Thirteen played in reasonably good conditions however this was not reflected in the scoring with all but a few playing reasonably well.

There were no twos so it is a rollover. Hopefully this will not lead to the controversy of last year.

In the sweep Eric Thompson with his fine showing was first 78-17=61, Andy Martin was second 75-10=65 and Hamish McArthur was third with an 84-15=69.

**Shiskine Golf Club**

Saturday 22 January, 18 Hole Medal, 1 M Hesp 83-21=62, 2 D Urquart-Dixon 78-



Members of Sannox Cricket Club at the indoor practice session in Arran High School last week.

**Arran's cricketers take cover for winter practice sessions**

With England's recent outstanding success in the Ashes cricket tournament Down Under it came as no surprise to the members of the Sannox Cricket Club that a large number of players attended their indoor practice night last week.

This was the first practice session of the New Year and they said it was encouraging to see so many people there.

**Happy**

Club secretary Tim Pomeroy said: 'The club is very happy that the first indoor nets of 2011 saw a good turnout of 12.'

'The club officials would like to encourage all those who have shown an interest through-

out last year to return to indoor practice or to warmly welcome newcomers.'

The indoor cricket practice takes place at Arran High School on Tuesday evenings between 7pm and 9pm.

'It involves one coaching drill, to remind people how to play shots, one fitness drill to help us remember what it is like to be knackered, and usually what's called a 20/20 match,' explained Tim.

'It's a full two hours of fun. Fancy a game?'

For more information including advice on doubling up on transport, phone 600287 or go to [www.sannoxcricketclub.com](http://www.sannoxcricketclub.com)

15=63, 3 S Kerr 78-13=65. Scratch D Pilkington 76. Magic twos from S Black, M Hesp and D Urquart-Dixon.

Sunday 23 January, Ryder Cup, Blackwaterfoot 2 ½ to Kilpatrick 1 ½, Torbeg 2 to Shiskine 2. Table after three games: 1 Torbeg 22 points, 2 Kilpatrick 16 points, 3 Shiskine 15 points, 4 Blackwaterfoot 11 points.

**Corrie Golf Club**

Saturday 22 January, 14 played, CSS 61. 1 A Napier 65-6=59, 2 D Price 71-11=60, 3 HB McKinnon 73-12=61 BIH, best scratch A Napier 65. There were twos from J McGovern, A McDonald, D Price, HB McKinnon and A Napier.

Monday 24 January, Monday Cup yellow tees, 14 played. 1 N Paul 78-17=61, 2 B Rooney 74-13=63 BIH, 3 D Crawford 76-13=63. Best scratch S Beardsley 73. There were twos from J Adams, A McDonald, A Smith and B Paul.

**Fixtures:** There is no game at Corrie on Saturday 29 January as the ALGU have use of the course. Closed from 9am until 3.30pm.

Monday 31 January, Monday Cup at 12pm.

**Machrie Bay Golf Club**

Tuesday 18 January, Lochranza Hotel Cup. 1 David Price 35, 2 Brian Sherwood 33, 3 David Wilkinson 32 BIH. Scratch Brian Sherwood 79.

**Fixtures:** Tuesday 1 February, Winter Cup, tee-off at 12pm. Saturday 5 February, Lochranza Hotel Cup, tee-off 12pm.

**Whiting Bay Golf Club**

Results: Sunday 23 January, 28 played in the second of the winter friendlies between Whiting Bay and Lamlash, at Whiting Bay in a fixture rearranged from December's snowy weather. The result was a reversal of the first match with Lamlash winning this time by 4 games to 3, levelling the series at 7 games each. In the individual Stableford the results were very close indeed with six players separated by only one point.

Danny Head 39 pts BIH, Andy Smith 39 pts BIH, Graeme Crichton 39 pts, Ian Bremner 38 pts BIH. There were magic twos by Nicol Auld and Andy Smith and Nicol also won scratch on the better inward half with 65. As always the games were

played in good spirit and the hospitality was enjoyed in the clubhouse afterwards.

**Fixtures:** Sunday 30 January, Bogey Competition, usual draws, Sunday 6 February, AGA Winter League at Brodick.

**Lamlash Golf Club**

Results: Thursday 20 January, no game due to severe frost. Sunday 23 January Whiting Bay v Lamlash winter friendly, W/Bay 3 Lamlash 4. Overall result 7-7.

Next game will be at Lamlash on Sunday 20 February 10.30am for 11am start.

**Fixtures:** Sunday 30 January Winter Stableford, 9.30am and 11am starts.

Please note as this will be a counting round, do not lift balls at 6th and 7th fairways.

Thursday 3 February 15-hole Medal - make up own group.

**Arran Golfers Association**

Winter League, Duncan Trophy 2010/2011. The fourth round will be played at Brodick Golf Club on Sunday 6 February.

Draw: Brodick v Shiskine at 10am, Whiting Bay v Lamlash at 10.50am, Corrie v Machrie at 11.40am.

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# Twenty-eight compete for Peggy Currie Cup

Seven teams of four competed for the annual Peggy Currie Cup at Lamlash Bridge Club on Monday January 17.

The winners were the team of Trish Martin, Douglas Hamilton, Anne McKelvie and Janie McLure with a total of 88 points.

### Runners-up

The runners-up who won the Anne Cook Tray were Jennifer McArthur, Liz Paul, Roddie

Thompson and Eendie Mc-Niven with 72 points.

Everything went smoothly thanks to Janie McLure who presented the prizes in place of president Margaret McGill who is recovering from a knee operation.

Everyone enjoyed the supper halfway through the evening provided by Janie and the committee. Thanks go to them all.



Winners of the Peggy Currie Cup: Anne McKelvie, Douglas Hamilton, Trish Martin and Janie McLure.

## Crawford retains open title

Crawford Duncan of Lamlash has become the first person to retain the Arran Pool Open title.

'Craw' as he is fondly known by his friends beat Jamie McKechnie of Whiting Bay 4-0 in the final at the Bar Eden on Sunday afternoon after five and a half hours of matches.

In an afternoon full of surprises, Euan Ingram the current Champion of Champions was put out in the preliminary round by youngster Danny Head. Danny then proceeded to knock-out the island's cur-

rent singles champion, Dougie Bell to make his way to the semi-finals.

Jamie McKechnie then defeated Danny in the semis after beating Jamie Ainsworth in the preliminary round.

But in his own words, Craw 'didn't miss a ball all day' and after defeating Max Worthington 3-2 in the semi-final he said he knew the trophy was his for the taking.

Pool League secretary Eddie Picken said he was pleased to see 22 people taking part this year including one woman.

## Arran Pool League

The first round of the Knockout Shield was played on Thursday 20 January and four of the eight teams have now gone through to the semi-finals on February 3.

Mac's Bar will play PT1934 and Bar Eden take on Catacol in a bid to reach the final.

The remaining four teams will play for the Second Chance Salver with teamGoil playing PHT and Drift playing Bar Eden B.

The results were: Drift Inn 3 PT1934 5, Catacol 5 PHT 4, Bar Eden 5 Bar Eden B 2, Mac's Bar 5 teamGoil 3.

The finals of the shield and salver will be played at the Drift Inn on Sunday 20 February.

The draw for the last 16 of the Arran Singles tournament has now been completed. These games should be played on or by Sunday 13 February: A Jeffrey (Cat) v D Hackett (Eden) at Mac's, M Worthington (34) v J Ferguson (Drift) at Kildonan, J Picken (34) v B Lewis (Cat) at the Drift, J McKechnie (Goil) v E Picken (34) at the Drift, S Scott (Drift) v J Green (Mac's) at PHT, D Head (Eden) v P Stewart (PHT) at Mac's, B McLaren v D Bell (Cat) at PHT, E Ingram (Eden) v A Picken (34) at the Drift.

## Brodick Bridge Club

The results from Thursday 20 January were as follows: N/S 1 J Maclure and A McKelvie +640, 2 T Martin and D Hamilton -690, 3 P Thomson and A Bilsland -850.

E/W 1 D Scobie and D Bruce +2090, 2 I McArthur and E McKellar +1420, 3 M Gardner and J Murchie -990.



Crawford Duncan of Lamlash is the first person to retain the trophy after winning the 2011 Open Pool Competition on Sunday. 01\_b040pe01



Runners-up and winners of the Anne Cook Tray: Jennifer McArthur, Liz Paul, Roddie Thompson and Eendie McNiven.

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